

The Importance of Attitude II

Norbert Bohnert—January 13, 2018

Good evening and good morning to all of you brethren! Happy Sabbath to you all! We had a nice visit with Roy and Manola Assanti and fortunately, now they have gone from the cold into the balmy weather, I am sure, in the Caribbean. Hope they're doing well.

I'm going to do a follow-up message that I gave on December 30, 2017. In the first message, I introduced the subject of *attitude*—the way of thinking of individuals—and the **three areas that we must be concerned about in developing a sound mind and a sound way of thinking, attitude-wise!**

Without going into too much detail from part one, we as Christians should be assessing on a continuous basis concerning the three areas of attitudes that we must contend with in our Christian walk with God.

Today I'll expound on the subject and take one aspect of attitude that becomes very prevalent in our lives, whether we realize it or not. It becomes so evident and detrimental to our Christian growth that it also jeopardizes our overcoming and conversion process. I want to cover a very specific aspect of attitude, the attitude that we have on a daily basis that comes to light, and concentrate on the causes and effects of the attitudes that we have in our lifetime. Of course, I will relate this strictly to the Word of God and the many Scriptures that are concerning this subject.

I'm sure many of you have experienced, after talking to a person and said, 'Boy! He's got a rotten attitude! He's got a bad attitude!' That's what I'm going to be covering, about **negative attitudes**.

Many of you have probably spoken to someone, or had a circumstance after discussion, and leaving that discussion, you've come away with the thinking, 'Boy, that person was a negative person.' It was a very unfavorable conversation and the attitude portrayed was less than admirable. Nothing but a negative attitude was reflected by the individual that you were talking to, and the character and behavior clearly indicated that there was great negativity in his life. Unpleasant 'vibes,' transpiring from that, go onto you and gives us an undesirable feeling and maybe even the one of not wanting to associate with that person. Any negativity that comes from the individual was certainly not refreshing after talking to them and basically reflected the opposite of what we are to do and possibly could affect us in a wrong manner.

So, the subject matter today in today's message, will be our way of thinking and our

negative thoughts that come across in our daily lives. I can probably safely say that in our lifetime, even since we have come to know the Truth, we have all experienced this or been actual portrayers, or doers of the *negative attitude or negative thinking*; some of course, more often, and some unfortunately, way too often, expressing or portraying this kind of negative attitude.

Arnold Palmer—a very renowned golfer—has this plaque in his office stating the following:

- If you think you are beaten, *you are!*
- If you think you dare not, *you don't!*
- If you like to win but think you can't, *it's almost certain that you won't!*
- Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or the faster man, but sooner or later, *the man who wins is the man who thinks he can win!*

A good principle, and this statement in itself does relate to the attitude a person has. Positive thinking is a big plus in achieving some goals and from what we can be rewarded. Positive thinking is very Biblical, whereas negative thinking is not. God has orientated us to think positively based on His Word.

I'm going to now outline some of the most common negative thoughts that we can have, and I can probably be assured that most of us have experienced these negative thoughts over our lifetime. Then we will reference from Scripture, promises as they relate to those negative thoughts, or negative thinking.

Negative thought #1: We think or make the statement that it's entirely impossible

We think it's impossible! I'm sure that we've experienced this negative thought many times in our life, even since we have come to know the Truth. We immediately question ourselves: Me, accomplish that? Or we have thought that it is impossible for us to do, whether it is an assignment, an employment offer, a request of some sort, 'I can't complete that. It's impossible,' can be heard from many of our discussions with other people. What does God state about this negative thought of *it's impossible*?

Luke 18:27: "But He said, 'The things *that are impossible with men are possible with God.*'"

Let's look at the context, v 25: "For it is easier *for* a camel to go through an eye of a needle than *for* a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God.' And those who heard *this* said, 'Who then is able to be saved?'" (vs 25-26).

Luke uses this expression to mean *with much difficulty*. Jesus was using a hyperbolic, so to speak, expression to show how difficult it would be for a man of wealth to accept discipleship with Him and to enter into the Kingdom of God, but as we read:

Verse 27: “But He said, ‘The things *that are* impossible with men **are possible with God.**”

Mark 9:23: “And Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, **all things are possible to the one who believes.**”

Nothing is impossible with God! Nothing at all is impossible with God. If we believe we also can be assured that with God’s help, *nothing is impossible!*

Negative attitude #2: I am too tired

Very frequently is—I’m very guilty of this, myself. I know that many times in my life that occurs. There are times when we don’t get a good night’s sleep or we don’t get the rest that we need. We awaken in the wee hours of the night unable to sleep, or possibly we have just overdone it throughout the day and then, of course, we are just too tired. What does God state about the particular statement, ‘I am too tired?’

Matthew 11:28: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are *overly* burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light” (vs 28-30).

Here we find the source of rest. We find our rest actually in Jesus Christ. He promises rest if we come to Him. If we come to Christ, He promises rest, if we take up His yoke. He promises each one of us *rest if we learn from Him*. If we come to understand and realize this then we can put our burden on Christ’s shoulders. He promises that rest for us.

Psalms 37:7: “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret yourself because of him who prospers in his way, because of him who carries out wicked schemes.”

We must rest on the Lord. God promises rest to all of us. We need not become tired if we have the faith that God can carry us, even through this physical flesh, which becomes very tired at times. If we seek God and ask for His guidance and direction He can provide that rest that we need.

Negative attitude #3: Nobody really loves me

This is so, so common. That statement is made countless times, ‘Nobody really loves me.’

Does that sound familiar? Whether you personally have made that statement or heard it from others? As it pertains to us, brethren, the love we are speaking about, of course, is brotherly love from one spiritual family member to another.

Don’t we at times fall prey to the ‘woe is me’ syndrome? I’m down, I’m down and out and nobody really cares or loves me; *a true, carnal reaction!* I will admit, although not too often, this has occurred to me. What does God promise? What does God have to say on this subject?

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world that He might judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him” (vs 16-17). In these two verses we find the ultimate act of love. Hold that thought.

John 13:34: “A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another in the same way that I have loved you, that *is how* you are to love one another.”

It couldn’t be made any simpler. Christ loves us, and based on His example we are to love one another. Why should we love one another?

Verse 35: “By this shall **everyone know that you are My disciples**—if you love one another.” So, it’s plain, we are to love one another so all men will know that we are Christ’s disciples. A rhetorical question that must be continuously asked and is continuously brought up as it’s the crux of our achieving the goal of working toward salvation: *As we first love God the Father and Jesus Christ, foremost, and then our neighbor as ourselves!*

This question has been asked many times, and we must continue to ask that question of ourselves. How are we doing on that? How are we doing at loving one another? It’s a crux that we should be paying much attention to. God states that He loves us, and we in turn should love one another. Thus, we should never have a negative thought that, ‘Nobody loves me.’ Even with life’s many burdens that we encounter, never, never stop and think that no one loves you.

Negative attitude #4: I can’t do it

A very common expression. Similar to the one that, ‘It’s impossible. I can’t do it.’

Matthew 14:28: “Then Peter answered Him *and* said, ‘Lord, if it is You, bid me to come to You upon the waters.’ And He said, ‘Come.’ And after climbing down from the ship, Peter walked upon the waters to go to Jesus. But when he saw *how* strong the wind *was*, he became afraid; and *as he* was

beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’” (vs 28-30).

Peter had, at this moment, a negative thought. A negative thought entered his mind. He was afraid and he began to sink and he cried out to the Lord. We too, at times brethren, from time to time, have moments such as this where we are going down. Whatever the case may be, I’m sure that I can speak to everyone’s behalf. There is absolutely no way of staying afloat in our mind. The pressure of life is so great all around us, that from time to time, we just throw our hands up in the air and say, ‘I can’t do it! I can’t go on!’ What does God promise us?

Philippians 4:13: “**I can do all things through Christ, Who empowers me.**” It’s referring to all of us, each one of us. We “...can do all things through Christ...” *Who strengthens each one of us, if we stay close to Him!* Christ is there for us.

1-Peter 5:10: “Now, may the God of all grace, Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after *you* have suffered a little while, Himself perfect you, establish, strengthen, *and* settle *you.*”

It’s very clear what Christ can do for us. God, through His mercy, His love for each one of us, *will establish us and will strengthen us*, so that no matter what the task is, no matter how heavy the burden is, we can and will be able to complete whatever the task may be.

Negative attitude #5: It’s not working out. I’m throwing the towel in because it’s just not worth it

Have you ever heard that expression? *or* Have you said that yourselves?

Luke 9:62: “But Jesus said to him, ‘No one who sets his hand to *the* plow, and looks back at the things behind, is fit for the Kingdom of God.’” ***No one! Not one of us should look back!***

Luke 14:27: “And whoever does not carry his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple; for which one of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has *sufficient* for its completion; lest perhaps, after he has laid its foundation and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build, and was not able to finish?’” (vs 27-30).

We must count the cost, and each one of us, prior to baptism counted that cost. So often it’s easy to say, ‘It’s not working out. I’m throwing in the towel. It’s not worth it.’ What does God say about that negative statement?

Romans 8:28: “And **we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**”

It’s important to understand that purpose! *Not our desire*, but His purpose; *not our wishes*, but God’s purpose for us. It will all work out. We don’t have to ‘throw in the towel.’

The God of this universe is guiding each one of us today. God is on His throne right now; He’s at the throne of grace. He’s guiding and directing each and every one of us. *Our job is to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit to do God’s desire for each of us, as His purpose is for each of us!* God is there for us and God will provide that for us. The problem is that we have to, at the same time, seek that guidance.

Negative attitude #6: I just can’t forgive myself

Have you ever use that expression? Psalm 38:18: “For I will confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin.”

We should be in anguish over our sins. We need to go before God and repent of our sins. We should have anguish over our sins on a continuous basis, but not to the point of not being able to forgive ourselves. We should never get to that point that we cannot forgive ourselves. We have to anguish over our sins, absolutely, to the point of repentance, but our anguish should not be to the point where we can’t forgive ourselves.

1-John 1:9: “If we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

God is willing to forgive us of our confessed sins. Should we not be able to forgive ourselves for something we have done? Taking that a step further, should we not be able to forgive others? That is so critical. We should not only forgive ourselves but it should be a task for us to forgive others. Sometimes it’s very difficult, and that, in itself, is a negative attitude that we carry forward.

Matthew 9:6: “But *I speak these words so* that you may understand that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins.’ Then He said to the paralytic, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’”

Hebrews 1:3: “Who, being *the* brightness of His glory and *the* exact image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His own power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at *the* right hand of the Majesty on high.”

1-John 1:7: “However, if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His

own Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us. If we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us” (vs 7-10).

We must remember that forgiveness is very important, not only for ourselves but also forgiving others.

Revelation 1:5: “And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”

We have been forgiven; upon repentance, we are forgiven. We must carry that forward and also forgive ourselves and at the same time, do not forget to forgive others.

Negative attitude #7: I’m afraid, I’m scared, whatever the case may be

Fear comes upon each one of us in our lives from time to time. It says, though fear is part of our physical makeup, Scripturally we find many instances of being afraid. Let’s look at a few of these instances. We find or experience fear, due to disobedience.

Genesis 3:10: “And he said, ‘I heard You *walking* in the garden, and I was afraid because I *am* naked, and *so* I hid myself.”

We also find fear due to *impending judgment*; Hebrews 11:7: “By faith Noah, after being divinely instructed by God about the things *he could* not yet see, was moved with fear *and* prepared an ark for *the* salvation of his house; through which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness, which is by faith.”

We also can fear, or find fear, or experience fear, by persecution. John 20:19: “Afterwards, as evening was drawing near that day, the first *day* of the weeks, and the doors were shut where the disciples had assembled for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace *be* to you.’”

Of course, we can also experience fear or find fear due to events in nature; Acts 27:17: “And taking up helps, they used *them* to undergird the ship; then, fearing that we would fall into quicksand, they lowered the sails, *and* so were driven.” So, physical events that happen in nature can cause us to experience that fear.

Verse 29: “And fearing that we would come upon rocky places, they cast four anchors out of *the* stern *and* wished *for* day to come.” Our life is full of

experiences, or things that we fear for whatever reason.

One other thing that we can experience and find fear is suspicion; Acts 9:26: “And when Saul came to Jerusalem, he attempted to join himself to the disciples; but all were afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.” They were afraid of Saul at that time. Did the disciples of Christ not fear Saul initially, as spoken of here? *Yes, they did!*

We experience and find fear also due to *uncertainty*. When we are uncertain of something, we tend to experience fear or find fear in our lives.

2-Corinthians 11:3: “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from *the* simplicity that *is* in Christ.”

As we can see, in our lifetime from things that we experience, there are a number of reasons that we become fearful, ***but God has this one thing to say to each one of us about fear:***

2-Timothy 1:7: “**For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of sound-mindedness.**” That’s what we have to look forward to about the subject of fear.

Psalms 27:1: “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid; though war should rise against me, even then I will be confident” (vs 1-3).

That’s what we must take to heart. We must put fear aside. These are very comforting words for us. God is there with us and we sometimes get away from that, but God is there with us.

Psalms 91:4: “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge. His Truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flies by day, nor for the plague that walks in darkness, nor for the destruction laying waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand; it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes you shall behold and see the recompense of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD, Who is my refuge, even the Most High, your habitation, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling, for He shall give His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways” (vs 4-11).

Very comforting words, in the hands of angels. God will be at our sides to protect us no

matter what. Of course, there's conditions there. **IF** we are there for God, *God will be there for us!*

Psalms 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." That is what we have to look forward to.

Matthew 14:22: "And immediately Jesus compelled His disciples to enter the ship and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the multitude. And after dismissing the multitude, He went up into the mountain apart to pray; and when evening came, He was there alone. But the ship was now in *the* middle of the sea, being tossed by the waves, because the wind was contrary. Now in *the* fourth watch of the night, Jesus went to them walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled and said 'It is an apparition!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Be of good courage; *it is I*. Do not be afraid'" (vs 22-27).

These are Christ's words, here. We are not to be afraid. We need not be afraid at any point in our lives ***for God and Christ are with us at all times!***

Negative attitude #8: I'm worried

I can relate to this very well. Always worried about something. We always have that worrisome feeling about us, I worry. I think it is natural for many of us to worry, some more than others. Sometimes I even worry about the little things. I stress myself out over something as we get caught up in what we are doing. We come to a state of getting caught up with the tunnel vision setting in and just can't 'see the forest for the trees.' This causes us to worry. We leave the focus that God is there for us to take some of that burden off of us. So, we just continue to worry. What does God say about worrying? I used to be a real worrier. I still am to a certain extent, but we have to work on this.

Matthew 6:25: "Because of this I say to you, do not be anxious about your life *as to* what you shall eat and what you shall drink; nor about your body *as to* what you shall wear. Is not life more than food, and the body *more* than clothing? Observe the birds of heaven: they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor do they gather into granaries; and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they? But who among you, by taking careful thought, is able to add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe the lilies of the field, how they grow: they do not labor, nor do they spin; but I say to you, not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed as one of these. Now, if God so arrays the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven,

shall He not much rather clothe you, **O you of little faith?**" (vs 25-30).

There, again, why worry? God is there with us. He's actually pointing His finger directly to me with what He states here:

Verse 31: "Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we be clothed?' For the nations seek after all these things. And your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things. But *as for* you, seek **first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you**" (vs 31-33).

That's what we must seek. Put all other things aside. That's what we must continue to stay focused on: ***seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness!*** It's so critical in our conversion process, our overcoming, that we continue to seek first the Kingdom of God and of course, righteousness.

1-Peter 5:6—this is where it's go to come to: "Be humbled, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you in *due* time; **casting all your cares upon Him**, because He cares for you" (vs 6-7)—*place upon!*

A synonym for worry is anxiety, as is expressed in the Scriptures. We can cast all our anxieties and all our cares, all our worries onto God's shoulders, for God cares for each one of us. We must continue to realize that *God does care for us!* That worrisome body that we sometimes have can be relieved if we leave it in God's hands.

Negative attitude #9: I don't have enough faith

This very, very important. It's probably the most critical one that we really need to be careful about. Isn't that a common thing that we ask ourselves in our Christian walk with God? It comes up time over time in our lives. We compare our faith to someone else's, or what we *think* the other person's faith is. What does God say about this feeling of lacking faith?

Romans 12:3: "For I say through the grace that was given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think with sound-mindedness, as **God has divided to each one a measure of faith.**"

Each one of us has a measure of faith. This in itself can be a sermon. There are countless Scriptures on the subject of faith. There are many attributes of faith. You can go and check all the Scriptures related to such and do an extensive study of what faith is and how we can have that attribute

of faith. What are some of the attributes of faith? We are to:

- live by faith
- walk in faith
- pray for faith
- resist evil by faith
- stand fast in faith
- continue in the faith
- be strong in the faith
- be grounded in the faith
- have the assurance of faith
- pray for an increase in faith

Faith is so important in our lives today. Unfortunately, it sometimes is lacking for whatever reason. Faith is something that we must continue to work toward and continue to build on those attributes of faith. We have all been given ‘a measure of faith.’ We can increase that faith, of course, through prayer, through applying faith in everything that occurs to us in our Christian lives.

Life is a burden, as we all know and understand. Life is hard, and it doesn’t seem to be getting any easier in this world today. As we get older and experience more things, things do not get any easier. We all face different challenges, challenges that sometimes seem never-ending. If it’s not one thing, it’s something else. If it’s not one challenge, it’s another or many occurring at one time.

With these many challenges that come upon us and struggles, it’s a natural way for us to think negatively. We get discouraged and we begin to take the attitude, or we dwell on the negative issues of life, whether it be health, whether it be our spiritual lives, or even physically. Negative attitudes are very prevalent in our lives. Life seems very confusing at times and overwhelming and sometimes very depressing. Life can be very depressing. How can we overcome these constant challenges that come before us? How can we overcome those constant challenges that come before us?

1. Let’s remember that a Christian keeps God’s Word foremost in his mind.

That’s what we must concentrate on, keeping God’s Word foremost in our mind and not diverting whichever way, but keep God foremost in our mind!

2. A Christian, of course, is to live by every Word of God, to seek righteousness and we need to meditate and think on God.

Focus is so important and should be our anchor.

3. A Christian anchor should be Jesus Christ and what He has done for us.

Revisiting and having daily study of God’s Word!

4. Most importantly, daily prayer is so critical in our lives.

The prayer, meditation and the fasting, that’s so critical!

5. Of course above all, keeping God at the center of our lives.

These five steps help us to move forward from all these negative tendencies we all encounter. We can move ahead by removing these negative attitudes to one of having a positive attitude. Continuing to practice what we have learned from God’s Word and following His teachings, repeatedly helps our spiritual memories and therefore, our ability to handle and overcome more quickly the challenges that we face in our life, the many setbacks that come in our life. Keeping God and God’s Word foremost in our lives is the solution to obtaining a positive attitude.

Proverbs 23:7: “For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he; ‘Eat and drink,’ he says to you, but his heart *is* not with you.”

We are *what we think!* We behave after the pattern that we think. If we think as the world thinks, *we become products of the world around us!* We actually become prisoners of the world. That, of course, is due to the course of the influence of Satan all around us in this society, today and this world and Satan’s society is full of negativity, extreme negativity.

A positive mental attitude comes from positive programming. It has to do with the sowing and it has to do with the reaping. ***We always get back in return, what we sow! It’s God’s Law! If we sow correctly, it is nurtured correctly!***

Galatians 6:7: “Do not be deceived, **God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.** For the one who sows to his own flesh shall reap corruption from the flesh. But the one who sows to the Spirit shall reap eternal life from the Spirit” (vs 7-8).

This law is irrefutable. It is something that we shouldn’t try to kid ourselves about. ***We will reap what we sow!***

In the parable of the sower found in the Gospels, Jesus indicates that the soil He uses represents our heart, represents our mind. It’s upon that soil, or surface if you will, within the gray matter that seed is planted. We are the sowers of the seed. Again, we reap what we sow. We reap what is put into our mind. What we put into our mind is what comes out of our mind. It’s that simple.

Here is the key of this principle. When a sower seeds seed, it takes time for the seed to germinate. It takes time for the seed to grow. It takes

time for the seed, through nurturing and proper nurturing, to become a full mature crop.

So, it is with us also in our spiritual lives. What we reap will be somewhere down the road. It will take time for the growing process and the developing process to take place. It does not occur overnight. Whether that process is negative or whether that process is uplifting and positive, it takes time. The important thing is to realize that ***we will reap what we sow!*** That's the ultimate. We will reap what we sow.

We must sow positive things *to reap a positive mental attitude!* With this positive mental attitude that we have, *we will reap positive actions*, which in turn *reaps a positive life!* ***Positive actions will reap a positive life!*** If we sow positive things into our mind now, we will reap positive things as time goes by, down the road. ***It's a Law of God!***

Christianity is just not an emotion or a feeling. Christianity is not some kind of a mental exercise that we go through. *Christianity is action!* It's doing. It's action. It's sowing. It's behaving. ***Christianity is following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ!*** It's not a warm, fuzzy feeling that the Protestants sometimes portray. It is real; it is led by the Spirit of God; it is an action led by the Spirit of God.

James 1:22: "Then be doers of *the* Word, and not only hearers... [we must ***do*** the Word and not only *hear*] ***...deceiving your own selves.***"

This Scripture emulates Christ. Christ did not just know and understand the Scripture, He obeyed the Scripture. ***He lived it!*** He just didn't 'talk the talk.' *Christ 'walked the walk!'* He lived in it entirely. Christ is our example to live by. We must be same. We are to 'put on the mind of Christ,' as we have heard many times. That mind is not a negative mind, but one of positivity.

Philippians 4:7: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever *things* are true, whatever *things* are honorable, whatever *things* are just, whatever *things* are pure, whatever *things* are lovely, whatever *things* are of good report; if *there be* any virtue and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. Whatever things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, you do also; and the God of peace shall be with you" (vs 7-9). ***Everything in these three verses is strictly positive!***

I hope that with this message we begin to realize the importance of having a positive attitude, and put the negative attitude aside in our lives. I know it's easy said, but let us use the power of the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures to bring us to that

point that we can stay positive as we have many challenges forward. Stay positive with our attitude.

We have a tremendous calling, brethren. We have been called by God out of this world and with the knowledge and teaching that we have, we can overcome with the help of God, of course. Those barriers that keep coming up in our lifetime can be removed. We are still human, still carnal, but we have a blessing beyond anything that anybody would ever comprehend or know of, except by the calling of God. Let us not forget that and use what God has given us to move forward and apply the principles that God has set forward for us. We live in a rotten, rotten society, but with the power of the Holy Spirit working within us and following God's Word, we can defeat any negative attitude that comes our way or prevails way too often. Negative attitudes do affect our spiritual growth.

Remember the ultimate Scripture and the promise God has given to us: Romans 8:31: "**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**" That, in itself, is a positive statement.

That is what should drive us to continue to dwell on God's Word and approach our life in a positive attitude and leave the negative attitudes by the wayside. Remember: ***God loves you! Don't forget that! What an awesome blessing that is!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Luke 18:27, 25-27
- 2) Mark 9:23
- 3) Matthew 11:28-30
- 4) Psalm 37:7
- 5) John 3:16-17
- 6) John 13:34-35
- 7) Matthew 14:28-30
- 8) Philippians 4:13
- 9) 1-Peter 5:10
- 10) Luke 9:26
- 11) Luke 14:27-30
- 12) Romans 8:28
- 13) Psalm 38:18
- 14) 1-John 1:9
- 15) Matthew 9:6
- 16) Hebrews 1:3
- 17) 1-John 1:7-10
- 18) Revelation 1:5
- 19) Genesis 3:10
- 20) Hebrews 11:7
- 21) John 20:19
- 22) Acts 27:17, 29
- 23) Acts 9:26
- 24) 2-Corinthians 11:3
- 25) 2-Timothy 1:7
- 26) Psalm 27:1-3

- 27) Psalm 91:4-11
- 28) Psalm 46:10
- 29) Matthew 14:22-27
- 30) Matthew 6:25-33
- 31) 1-Peter 5:6-7
- 32) Romans 12:3
- 33) Proverbs 23:7
- 34) Galatians 6:7-8
- 35) James 1:22
- 36) Philippians 4:7-9
- 37) Romans 8:31

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