

Attitudes

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Introduction.

A. I wonder what is really going on with the people right here.

1. Some of you are carrying burdens.
2. Some of you need to share your heart but you haven't yet.
3. You are willing to share but you're somewhat depressed.
4. Some of you might be feeling good, perhaps too good and you're in danger of getting cocky.

B. Faith and emotions go hand-in-hand.

1. Most people don't leave the faith because of reason; they drift away from the faith.
2. They might think they have reasons to leave the faith but they really don't.

I. Let's talk about the subject of attitudes; the most important attitude in life.

A. Attitudes are abiding conditions of the mind.

1. It's not necessarily an abiding condition of emotions because emotions change.
2. Let this attitude be in you, that of a servant.
3. The abiding condition that stabilizes you is looking unto Jesus. (Hebrews 12:2)

B. Let's talk about traps that can happen in the emotions and attitudes.

1. If you feel good today you might get presumptuous.

- a. I used to think that if I got victory in an area I would get stronger.
- b. But when we think we stand we need to be careful lest we fall.
- c. The flesh never gets better.

1. I heard about an evangelist lately that was murdered by the husband of the wife he had been sleeping with.

2. How did that happen? It happened in one of two ways.

- i. It happened in the mind of the evangelist over years and years.

ii. It could be that he fell into the trap of thinking that his present victory would establish him for life.

3. The flesh does not get better.

4. I'm old enough to realize we must depend on Jesus Christ every day.

5. If we launch out in our own strength we fall flat on our faces.

6. The successful Christian life is entirely dependant on Jesus Christ.

7. In me, in my flesh, dwells no good thing.

8. We must keep looking to Jesus every single day.

d. Not only does the flesh never get better but you never get stronger.

1. The eyes of the Lord look throughout the earth to show Himself strong in those whose heart is perfect toward Him.

2. It does not say that the Lord makes strong the one whose heart is perfect toward Him.

3. It is Christ in us who is strong, not we ourselves.

4. Many Christians think God's power is a packaged gift given to us, but we are channels not receptacles.

5. Keep your eyes on Jesus Christ.

6. The more we go on with Christ the more we need to realize our need for Christ.

2. Many of you are not feeling good today; you're lonely, not feeling good at all.

a. Many of you are discouraged because you're lonely in the midst of people.

b. Moses got discouraged in his task of serving God. (Numbers 11)

1. There were 600,000 men under Moses' charge.

2. It was too heavy for him and he asked God to kill him.

c. Elijah got discouraged and asked God to take him.

1. After his victory at Mt. Carmel he fell into depression.

2. We are all susceptible to the downs of life and need to learn how to deal with spiritual discouragement.

d. John the Baptist got discouraged. (Isaiah 40)

1. He ended up in prison.
2. He began to doubt Jesus was the one.
3. Have you ever got to that place of doubt?

3. What are the remedies for spiritual depression?

1. Moses needed to get his eyes off himself.

- a. Moses wondered, “How I can lead these people, how I can feed them?”
- b. The Lord answered that His hand was not short.
- c. He told Moses that he would the Word of the Lord come to pass.
- d. We need to look to the Word and wait for God to keep his promises.
- e. This is another reason we need to **memorize Scripture**.

2. Elijah needed to rest and to eat for nourishment.

- a. Sometimes we just need a good night’s sleep and some exercise.
- b. Sometimes rest and exercise is spiritual.
- c. Maybe we don’t need to pray but to rest.
- d. When we get fatigued our sense of timing gets perverted and we think everything needs to be done now.
- e. Write down what you really have to do today.

3. John the Baptist needed to reflect on the works of Jesus.

- a. Jesus told him to think about how the blind see, the lame walk, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.
- b. Think about your testimony or that of someone else.
- c. Reflect on how God transforms lives.
- d. Reflect on the works of God and praise Him for who he is.
- e. This turns your eyes off self and gets them focused on God.
- f. This transforms your soul and helps you live in dependence on Christ.

II. Whether you’re up or down keeping your eyes on Jesus is the way to walk through life every day.