

HAVING A POSITIVE SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE

2 Corinthians 4:16

INTRODUCTION

- A. Attitudes determine destiny.
- B. If one were to study the life of Paul – starting with Acts 7:58 – they will see his change of attitude that determined his destiny – 2 TH 4:6-8.
- C. We have been bombarded in the field of self-motivation with developing a positive mental attitude. This training would make each of us a better person.
- D. But, what would make the greatest difference in our lives and everything that “we touch” is to develop a positive spiritual attitude.

DISCUSSION

- I. WHY WOULD A POSITIVE SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN’S LIFE?
 - A. The Christian is a spiritual being. 2 CO 4:6.
 - B. The Christian lives in a spiritual kingdom. CO 1:11-13.
 - C. The Christian is fighting a spiritual warfare. EP 6:10-20.
 - D. The Christian’s mission is spiritual. MK 16:15, 16.
 - E. Therefore, a carnal man can have a certain amount of positive mental attitude, but only a child of God can have a positive spiritual attitude.
 - F. God’s people have always faced the challenge of having a positive attitude. NU 13:1-33.
 - 1. 10 of these spies returned with a negative report because of their negative attitude toward the people of the land of the enemies.
 - 2. Two results:
 - a. This produces murmuring (complaining) among the people. NU 14:1-19.
 - b. This caused God to pronounce judgments upon them because of unbelief. NU 14:20-45.
 - G. Another example can be seen when the early Christians went about obeying the will of Christ.
 - 1. On one occasion they were told not to speak in the name of Jesus. Acts 4:18.
 - 2. Their answer: Acts 4:19-20.
- II. SOME KEYS TO DEVELOPING A POSITIVE SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE.
 - A. We must maintain a firm conviction in the existence of God.
 - 1. GE 1:1. Without such a conviction, you would not be motivated to obey God’s will and carry out the mission of the church.
 - 2. HE 1:1.
 - 3. JN 17:3; 20:30, 31.
 - B. We must maintain an unwavering faith in the power of God.
 - 1. GE 1-3 – The God who created the heavens and the earth is still in control of His universe.
 - 2. God is on our side as we do His will.
 - 3. 1 JN 4:4 – This is the key! Believe in the power of God!
 - C. We must have mountain-moving faith in our hearts (minds).
 - 1. MT 17:20. Context – MT 17:14-21 – Miraculous.
 - 2. It is not the literal mountains that are the most difficult to move but the ones that reside within the six inch span between our ears. Doubt, fear, unbelief, and etc.
 - 3. We will never do great things for until we have “mountain-moving faith.” HE 11:6.
 - D. We must remember that we have God’s resources available.
 - 1. With a positive spiritual attitude we remember that our Father owns – PS 50:10.
 - 2. God can, and He will, supply our every need IF we will trust Him. PH 4:19.
 - 3. Our challenge is to be good stewards of what God has given us.

- E. We must pray in faith.
 - 1. This was one of the keys to the 1st century church's success.
 - 2. JA 1:5-8.
 - 3. 1 TH 5:17.
 - 4. "7 days without prayer makes one weak."
 - 5. Great things are always born out of seasons of prayer.
- F. We must believe that we can do all things through Christ.
 - 1. Paul had a positive spiritual attitude.
 - 2. PH 4:13.
 - 3. This means that we cannot fail if we are doing the Lord's will.
 - 4. The Lord does not commission impossible missions – preaching the Gospel to the lost.
 - 5. No matter what the task may be, with this attitude, we will be victorious.
- G. We must believe that all things will work together for our good.
 - 1. RO 8:28.
 - 2. This is not saying that everything that happens to us is good, but that it will work for good (our good).
 - 3. The key is found in the phrase "to them that love the Lord."
 - 4. JA 1:2-5 - A positive spiritual attitude depends on believing this truth.
- H. We must remember that God has equipped us for all good works.
 - 1. 2 TI 3:16, 17.
 - 2. 2 PE 1:3.
 - 3. "Works" in Titus – 1:7; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 5, 8, 14.
- I. We must never forget that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.
 - 1. 1 CO 15:58.
 - 2. RE 2:10; JA 1:12.
- J. We must know of the assurance of salvation we have in Christ.
 - 1. 1 JN 5:13 – "know" - εἰδητε (οἶδα) - Verb, Perfect, Active, Subjunctive, Second Person, Plural – "to see" – "to know" – "Perfect" = The verb tense used by the writer to describe a completed verbal action that occurred in the past but which produced a state of being or a result that exists in the present (in relation to the writer). The emphasis of the perfect is not the past action so much as it is as such but the present "state of affairs" resulting from the past action.
 - 2. This keeps us going as we face a world of darkness – 1 JN 5:19.

CONCLUSION

- A. We need to move forward with a positive spiritual attitude.
- B. What will we see if we maintain a positive spiritual attitude:
 - 1. An atmosphere of success will be evident toward everything attempted.
 - 2. An optimistic attitude toward every phase of God's work will prevail.
 - 3. An enthusiasm that is catching will spread through our congregation.
 - 4. Encouragement of the weak and discouraged will be practiced.
 - 5. Courageous faith will move all programs forward. There will be a "we can do it!" attitude.
 - 6. "Can't" will be removed from our vocabulary.
 - 7. Evangelism will be the thrust of every program.
 - 8. Growth, physical and spiritual, will occur.
 - 9. Long and short range plans will determine the next steps.
 - 10. Love and friendship will be shown one to another.
 - 11. Christ and His Word will be honored and followed.
 - 12. The importance of each member will be realized. There will be work for everyone.