

An Excellent Spirit - Attitude

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10 X

Text: Daniel 5:12, Philippians 2:5 (NKJV, NLT, AMP)

Daniel was known as a man with an excellent spirit or an excellent attitude. You could say, in everything that he did, he had a spirit of excellence. That is one of the qualities that made him stand out as 10X better than the other advisors that the king had.

~ Lou Holtz, the famous coach from Notre Dame, said... “Ability is what you are capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”

~ Chuck Swindoll ~ The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes.

Attitude is a mindset. So, where we “set” our mind on determines our attitude. **Colossians 3:2**

We are learning how to be a 10 X Christian. Attitude is vital to moving forward and advancing to where God wants us to be. You can be talented, beautiful, and gifted, but if you have a bad attitude, it will make you ineffective, hold you back and ruin you every time.

Nothing that we do determines the outcome of our life and our influence more than our attitude. It is amazing what can happen to steer our lives, marriages and influence when we have an attitude adjustment. Attitude is not a given in any situation. Our attitude is not just what we are feeling but what we do with those feelings.

We determine our attitude. We choose our attitude in every circumstance. Feelings are our impression, but attitude is our response.

Our attitude determines our altitude. How high and how far we will go. Our position is determined by our disposition. The fact is successful people have a good, healthy, Godly, positive attitude. The way you think, the way you feel and the way you look at others makes up your attitude. What lies before you and what lies behind you are tiny compared to what lies within you.

Seven Godly Attitudes

1. No problem is too big for God.
 - A. Attitudes are more important than facts. Facts are important but they don't change, attitude can.
 - B. Three Steps to a Positive Attitude

- **Think** - don't react. When difficulty strikes, the tendency is to panic or to be upset. The Bible tells us how to think and on what to think, and these thoughts determine our success.
 - Look for **Jesus** in every situation. **Luke 24:13-15,32**
 - **Believe** you can, and you can. **Matthew 7:7**
 "If you think you are beaten then you are. If you'd like to win but think you can't, it is almost certain you won't. Life's battles don't always go to the strongest or the fastest man, but sooner or later, the man who wins is the man who thinks he can."
2. Keep **enthusiasm** on your side.
 "It's not what happens to me that matters but what happens in me."
 Enthusiasm means "inspired by God." When David was down, he encouraged himself in the Lord. How do you keep your enthusiasm?
 - Start the day right with prayer **Psalm 5:3**
 - Get into the word every day, "through the washing of the water of the word."
 The Word will bring enthusiasm to your world. The word is life. It is inspiring.
 3. Love life and **people**; if Jesus died for people, then we can love them. Do you?
 4. Allow **peace** to rule your heart, not **fear** and **worry** **Psalm 23:4**
 You can see attitude in the countenance of a person. Make sure your attitude produces confidence. Ask yourself WWJD?
 5. Expect your **future** to be better than your **past**.
 The media doesn't give much hope, but the Word of God is Hope.
 We cannot choose how many years we will live, but we can choose how much living those years will have. We cannot control the beauty of our face, but we can control the expression on it. We cannot control life's difficult moments, but we can choose to make life less difficult. We cannot control the negative atmosphere of the world, but we can control the atmosphere of our minds. Too often, we try to control things we cannot. Too seldom, we choose to control what we can... our attitude.
 6. Every problem has a hidden **possibility**. **Romans 8:28**
 Problems are one of the best things that can ever happen to you.

Daniel was a Problem Solver – He did not allow problems to be a Problem Problems are....

P – **predictors** - They have the ability to predict what you're going to be.

R – **reminders** - They teach us that we need God.

O – **opportunities** - They allow great solutions to arise.

B – **blessings** - They allow us to grow more.

L – **lessons** - They teach us something.

E – **everywhere** - They are common to man.

M – **messages** - They give us signals about our lives.

S – **solvable** - There is a way out.

Those who are 10X are **solution** driven. They keep going until they find an answer. They serve their guts out doing whatever it takes. Apathy and inaction are not an option for the great; even while waiting they are serving God and people.

7. Your attitude is a **choice**
 - If you believe, it is because you chose to have faith. Make up your mind. If you don't like the situation that faces you, change it. You cannot determine what happens to you, but you can choose to have the attitude of faith. This is the victory that has overcome the world. **1 John 5:4**

Eight Attitudes to Guard Against

1. **Resentment** - The feeling that you are not being recognized, you are being used or you're not appreciated.
2. **Discouragement** - This happens when you see little or no fruit in your life. Everybody can catch fish when the fish are biting. Sometimes you go fishing and nothing is biting.
 - God didn't tell you to succeed but to do His will.
 - Endurance is the key to success. In life victory often looks like endurance.
 - Our timing is usually different than God's.
3. **Self-pity** - Many times, we can get to thinking "Lord, I'm the only one!"
4. **Rejection** - When you feel everyone is against you.
 - You are not confident in people's acceptance of you.
 - Everyone needs to feel accepted or needed.
 - Rejection demands rejection.

5. **Correction** - One of the marks of someone who is 10 X is how well they receive correction.
 - People point things out in us, and we think they are of the devil. This is a bad attitude.
 - Jesus constantly corrected and challenged His disciples. Being 10 X means being teachable.
 - When we become insecure, we will defend ourselves rather than receive.
6. **Temptation** - Remember 10X means you realize that people are watching your example
 - Realize the devil is looking for a way to discredit your life and witness.
 - The Lord is calling us to a higher standard of living. Receive this joyfully.
7. **Confusion** - You are focused on what you are doing, and suddenly you lose your focus.
 - Your ax becomes dull. Take time to sharpen your ax. Rest, learn and retool if needed.
 - Confusion is a spirit from the devil. Take authority over it. Remember to walk in the light.
 - Every Christian will have seasons of planting, watering, harvest and winter.
8. **Distraction** - It usually begins with a longing for material things.
 - We all need rest and recreation, but not forever.
 - Don't get distracted. Keep your life simple. Wear things of this world like loose garments that fall off easily. Live on purpose and stay intentional.

Interesting Points about Attitude

- Attitude determines our **approach** to life.
- Our attitude determines our **relationship** with people.
- Attitude is often the only difference between success and failure.
- Our attitude at the beginning of a task will affect its **outcome** more than anything else.

People who **excel** maintain a positive attitude. Even under pressure... change... or unrealistic demands, they do not allow themselves to become negative. Complainers never excel at anything except complaining. Remember - Crisis doesn't create character. Crisis reveals character.

People with a correct attitude have **possibilities** thinking. Look for the positive and you will find it even in negative situations

Before a person can achieve the kind of life they want, they must think, act, walk, talk, and conduct themselves in all of their affairs as that person they wish to become or goal they desire to accomplish. **Philippians 4:8, Proverbs 23:7a** Moses, David, Joseph, Daniel are notable examples.

Recognize our attitude will never be perfect this side of eternity.

Part of a good attitude is to look for the good / rest in people and in situations.

Radiate the air of confidence that comes from a person who knows where they are going. Nobody wants to follow somebody who is lost unless they are lonely.

Our attitude determines the attitude of those we are helping. People catch our attitudes like they catch our colds. Your attitude is caught quicker than your actions. Attitude is a subliminal message sent regardless of words or deeds. Remember, most everyone can read us. Think atmosphere.

Our attitudes determine our potential and, to a great extent, the potential of those around us.

Results of Negative Thinking

- It creates clouds in your thought process.
- It is contagious.
- It blows everything out of proportion.
- It limits God in your life and situations.
- It keeps you from enjoying life.
- It affects other's response to you.

Ephesians 4:23NIV- *“And be renewed in the attitude of your mind.*