



“Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude”

Bishop Frank and JoeNell Summerfield

Texts: Philippians 4:4-9, I Samuel 30:1-10, 17-19

No matter where you are in your life right now, you'll never go any higher than your attitude will allow you to go. A negative attitude causes a deflated, negative, and failure life, and a positive attitude causes an elevated and successful life. A negative, unpleasant, distasteful attitude promotes negative energy in your mind, will, and emotions which leads to doubt, fear, confusion, and discouragement. A positive attitude causes positive energy that leads to faith and works, courage, hope, clarity in thinking, and self-encouragement.

Notice how David while in a time of failure, terrible loss, and discouragement had to change his attitude to get a new perspective and outlook to rise up, pursue, and turn his situation around. We too must have a change in attitude if we expect to change our altitude in life.

I Samuel 30:1 And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; 2: And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.

3: So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

4: Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

5: And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

6: And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.

David and all his men were in defeat and failure, and victims of negative attitudes. But David rose up, changed his attitude to positive, and new energy came for him to encourage himself.

Please note that the two words: encouraged himself come from the one Hebrew word **khaw-zak** that means: to seize, to be strong, to be courageous, to strengthen, to cure, to help, to repair, to fortify, to be recovered, to become mighty, to prevail.

A New Positive Attitude causes New Positive Energy, New Enthusiasm, New Courage, New Desire, and New Pursuit.

Definition of Attitude

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Noun- a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person’s behavior; a mental position with regard to a fact or state; a feeling or emotion toward a fact or state. Attitude influences an individual’s choice of action and response to challenges. An attitude is somewhere between a believe, a stance, a mood, a pose; a way of feeling or acting toward a person, thing, or situation; and expression of favor or disfavor toward a person, place, thing, or event.

A negative unpleasant or distasteful attitude promotes negative energy which leads to discouragement, doubt, and fear.

Many people never experience the success, joy, and prosperity God has ordained for them because of a constant negative attitude that produces negative energy that drains, steals, blocks, and keep their faith from operating. Their negative attitude won’t even let them encourage themselves.

The following are a few scriptural reference statements that can help a negative attitude turn around into a positive attitude.

Psalm 9:13 Have mercy upon me, O Lord; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death:

14: That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.

Psalm 33:20 Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.

21: For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Psalm 68:3 But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

4: Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name Jah, and rejoice before him.

Praising and rejoicing in the Lord in spite of your situation can turn a negative attitude into a positive attitude.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

I Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.

Psalm 30: 11 Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that

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mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

Your attitude is your responsibility and must be controlled by what you choose for it to be regardless of what obstacles of experiences you're facing that are trying to affect you negatively. Your attitude can cause you to overcome obstacles, setbacks, failures, or falls and soar to higher heights or if negative cause you to stay down and never get back up.

Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Your attitude, when negative can prevent you from having enjoyable, productive, and fruitful relations with people, such as marriage and family, coworkers, business partners, friends, etc.

Your attitude when negative can cause you to close up and not let people with good intentions and your best interest at heart into your space.

In Genesis 37 Joseph could have had a negative, bitter, and resentful attitude towards

his brothers that wrongly sold him into slavery in a strange land he later ruled.

In Genesis 39 he could have had a negative, bitter, and resentful attitude toward those who imprisoned him unjustly. But his pure and positive attitude caused him to rise from the prison to the palace and become ruler of Egypt only second to Pharaoh.

The following are some things that help promote a positive attitude.

1. God's peace: See Isaiah 26:3 and Philippians 4:4-9
2. God's Joy: See Nehemiah 8:10
3. Constant focus on and continual engaging in confession of God's word. See Proverbs 12:14, Proverbs 13:2, Proverbs 21:23
4. Constant prayer and fellowship with God: See Psalm 16:11, Luke 18:1, I Thessalonians 5:17, Ephesians 6:18.

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