

Attitude

Chapter 11

Repent is to change the attitude and the spirit by which you live by.

Attitude and motive work hand in hand together.

Your attitude controls your motives and your motives control your actions.

Largely, if your attitude is for worldly things then your motive will be to please the world.

If your attitude is for the flesh, then your motive will be to do things of the flesh.

If your attitude is to crucified with the flesh on the cross, then the motive will be pure and holy and be things of God.

If your attitude is to love God, then your motive will be to obey His commands.

If the attitude is to please God, then the motive will be to follow the ways of the Kingdom of God.

Dictionary definition of attitude.

at·ti·tude   **Pronunciation Key** (ă't 1-tōd', -tyōd')

n.

1. A position of the body or manner of carrying oneself: stood in a graceful attitude. See Synonyms at posture.
2.
 - a. A state of mind or a feeling; disposition: had a positive attitude about work.
 - b. An arrogant or hostile state of mind or disposition.
3. The orientation of an aircraft's axes relative to a reference line or plane, such as the horizon.
4. The orientation of a spacecraft relative to its direction of motion.
5. A position similar to an arabesque in which a ballet dancer stands on one leg with the other raised either in front or in back and bent at the knee.

attitude

n 1: a complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings and values and dispositions to act in certain ways; "he had the attitude that work was fun" [syn: mental attitude] 2: position or arrangement of the body and its limbs; "he assumed an attitude of surrender" [syn: position, posture] 3: a theatrical pose created for effect; "the actor struck

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just the right attitude" 4: position of aircraft or spacecraft relative to a frame of reference (the horizon or direction of motion)

Motive

mo·tive   **Pronunciation Key** (mō'tīv)

n.

1. An emotion, desire, physiological need, or similar impulse that acts as an incitement to action.
2. (mō'tīv, mō-tēv') A motif in art, literature, or music.
adj.
3. Causing or able to cause motion: motive power.
4. Impelling to action: motive pleas.
5. Of or constituting an incitement to action.

motive

adj 1: causing or able to cause motion; "a motive force"; "motive power"; "motor energy" [syn: motive(a), motor] 2: impelling to action; "it may well be that ethical language has primarily a motivative function"- Arthur Pap; "motive pleas"; "motivating arguments" [syn: motivative(a), motive(a), motivating] *n* 1: the psychological feature that arouses an organism to action toward a desired goal; the reason for the action; that which gives purpose and direction to behavior; "we did not understand his motivation"; "he acted with the best of motives" [syn: motivation, need] 2: a theme that is elaborated on in a piece of music [syn: motif]

JAS 2:14 "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? [15] Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. [16] If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? [17] **In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**"

JAS 2:18" But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."
Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. [19] You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder."

JAS 2:20 "**You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?** [21] Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? [22] You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. [23] And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. [24] You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone."

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JAS 2:25 “In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? [26] As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”

As we have mentioned many times that faith without works is dead. God is not going to judge you on your belief alone but by what you did based on your believe—or on your faith, which includes actions as well as belief.

RO 2:5 “But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when His righteous judgment will be revealed. [6] **God "will give to each person according to what he has done."** [7] To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. [8] But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. [9] There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; [10] but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. [11] For God does not show favoritism.”

So what is important, in the end, are your actions or lack there of.

MT 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. [32] All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

MT 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, [36] I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

MT 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? [38] When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? [39] When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

MT 25:40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

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MT 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42] For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

MT 25:44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

MT 25:45 "**He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'**"

MT 25:46 "**Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.**"

JAS 1:26 "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. [27] **Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**"

MT 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. [16] By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? [17] Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. [18] A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. [19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them."

MT 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.** [22] Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' [23] **Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!'**"

MT 7:24 "**Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.** [25] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. [26] But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on

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sand. [27] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Above it says, "Only those who do the will of My Father in Heaven will be saved". Doing things just to do them because you think it is what God wants or else you will go to Hell, will not do—as you see in this parable of Jesus.

They did to have the right attitude. The right attitude is to do the Will of God not because you **have to** but because you **want to**. Then your motives will be pure and so will your actions.

So it is what you do that is what God cares the most for.

JN 14:15 "**If you love me, you will obey what I command.** [16] And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. [18] I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. [21] Whoever has My commands and obeys them, He is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love Him and show myself to Him."

So, He is saying that obedience is most important. And to be correctly obedient, we must have the right attitude, then we will be considered righteous, which is to honor God and be willingly obedient to God.

JAS 4:1 "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? [2] You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. [3] When you ask, you do not receive, **because you ask with wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

As we see here that the motives were based on quarrels and fighting. What is causing these quarrels? The wrong attitude maybe?

JAS 4:7 "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. [9] Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. [10] **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.**"

What is to be humble? Is it not living with a humble attitude? And a humble attitude toward God. God never asks us to be humble to man, but to God.

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A double-minded person is a person who allows the circumstances to influence your attitude. It is a person who knows what they should do, but has not repented their attitude so as to change the attitude to be aligned with God. They in their mind what to follow God, but they still have not removed their old worldly spirits, which influence your attitude, and to you have mind that wants to follow God, and an attitude of the world. Hence you want to pray for Godly things but your motive is wrong because your attitude is wrong.

EPH 4:1 “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. [2] Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. [3] Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [4] There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- [5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism; [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

EPH 4:7 “But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. [8] This is why it says:

"When He ascended on high,
He led captives in His train
and gave gifts to men."

EPH 4:9 “(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? [10] He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) [11] It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, [12] to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

EPH 4:14 “Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. [15] Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. [16] From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

EPH 4:17 “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. [18] They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them **due to the hardening of their hearts**. [19] Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.”

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EPH 4:20 “You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. [21] Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. [22] You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; [23] **to be made new in the attitude of your minds**; [24] and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

EPH 4:25 “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. [26] “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, [27] and do not give the devil a foothold. [28] He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.”

EPH 4:29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. [30] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [31] Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. [32] Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Again you need to ask, “What is a hard heart? It is having a stubborn attitude?”

PHP 2:1 “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, [2] then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. [3] Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. [4] Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

PHP 2:5 “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

PHP 2:6 “Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

PHP 2:7 but made Himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.”

PHP 2:8 “And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled Himself
and became obedient to death--
even death on a cross!”

PHP 2:9 “Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place

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and gave Him the name that is above every name,

PHP 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

PHP 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.”

PHP 2:12 “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

PHP 2:14 “Do everything without complaining or arguing, [15] so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe [16] as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. [17] But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. [18] So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.”

PHP 2:19 “I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. [20] I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. [21] For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. [22] But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. [23] I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. [24] And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.”

PHP 2:25 “But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. [26] For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. [27] Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. [28] Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. [29] Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, [30] because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.”

He shows here again that to repent is to change the attitude of our mind, from the ways and teaching of the world controlled by the devil to one of the mind of Christ. We should change to the attitude of Jesus, who had the attitude of following the will of God even if that meant that He was to die the most horrible of deaths. He had the most humble attitude, because He has the most humble spirit.

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1PE 4:1 **“Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.** [2] As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. [3] For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. [4] They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. [5] But they will have to give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. [6] For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, **but live according to God in regard to the spirit.”**

1PE 4:7 “The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. [8] Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. [9] Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. [11] If anyone speaks, **he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.** If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

1PE 4:12 “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. [13] But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed. [14] If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. [15] If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. [16] However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. [17] For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? [18] And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

1PE 4:19 “So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

Here Peter understands and is using what Jesus said to them about the Holy Spirit guiding and leading, teaching and reminding, for He is the Helper.

LK 12:8 "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. [9] But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. [10] And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will

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be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

LK 12:11 "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, [12] **for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.**"

And also:

JN 14:23 "Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. [24] He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me."

JN 14:25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. [26] **But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.** [27] Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

It is by our attitude that is in agreement with our will, that allows the Holy Spirit to be free to teach us, to guide us, and to remind us of all things God has taught us.

Here is Jesus' preaching on attitude. See what you think?

MT 5:23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

MT 5:25 "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. [26] I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny."

MT 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' [28] But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. [29] If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. [30] And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

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Is not looking lustfully anything but an attitude?

MT 5:31 "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' [32] But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery."

MT 5:33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' [34] But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; [35] or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. [36] And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. [37] Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

MT 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' [39] But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. [41] If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. [42] Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

MT 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. [46] If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? [47] And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? [48] Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

MT 6:1 "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

MT 6:2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. [3] But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, [4] so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

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MT 12:33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. [34] You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. [35] The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. [36] But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. [37] For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

MT 13:14 "In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
" `You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

MT 13:15 "**For this people's heart has become calloused;**
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them."

Here Jesus is showing us many different attitudes and all of which will cause damnation.

MT 15:3 Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? [4] For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' [5] But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' [6] he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. [7] You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

MT 15:8 " `These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

MT 15:9 "They worship me in vain;
their teachings are but rules taught by men.' "

MT 15:10 "Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. [11] What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him unclean.' "

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MT 15:12 "Then the disciples came to him and asked, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?'"

MT 15:13 He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. [14] Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

MT 15:15 Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

MT 15:16 "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. [17] "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? [18] **But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man `unclean.'** [19] For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. [20] These are what make a man `unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him `unclean.' "

Now that we have seen attitudes lets gets see what influences our attitudes. I have often envisioned being influenced like in the cartoons where an angel sits on one shoulder and the devil on the other. And as circumstances occur, the angel starts to whisper in one ear that is the will of God for me to do and the devil is whispering in the other ear other things that I should do, and of course it was all bad. But the bad things are or were very appealing to my flesh. So if I have the attitude of following the will of God, then it is easy to follow the angel's advice, but on the other hand if I have not put the flesh on the cross, then my attitude is easily drawn to listen to and then act on the suggestions of the devil. He has not changed my motive, because my attitude was of the flesh and not God.

GAL 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

GAL 5:2 "Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. [3] Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. [4] You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. [5] **But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.** [6] For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

GAL 5:7 "You were running a good race. **Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?** [8] **That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.** [9] "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." [10] I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. [11] Brothers, if I am still preaching

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circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. [12] As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!”

GAL 5:13 “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. [14] The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” [15] If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”

GAL 5:16 “**So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** [17] For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. [18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.”

How do you live by the Spirit? You live by it by having the attitude of following the will of God and to follow His commands, and this is one of them. This attitude allows the Holy Spirit to live in you and guide you. Then as you live the influence of the Holy Spirit will come over you and produce wonderful fruit in you.

GAL 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. [24] Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. [25] Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. [26] Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

These feelings will then naturally influence you to follow God and His ways of doing things. But if not then other influences will come over you and you know the result of that.

GAL 5:19 “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; [20] idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions [21] and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

GAL 6:7 “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. [8] The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; **the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.** [9] Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. [10] Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

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Now how do we control this attitude? It is done the same what we have faith, by making the decision to want to have the attitude of the Mind of Christ. Then you put your faith in God that He will fulfill His promise of giving you the Mind of Christ and to give you Holy Spirit to help you as He promised.

MT 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

MT 7:9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? [10] Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? [11] If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!** [12] So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

And also:

LK 11:9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. [10] For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

LK 11:11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? [12] Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? [13] If you then, though you are evil, **know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!**"

In conclusion, God says that we must first repent from our attitudes and to accept and have the attitude that is of the Mind of Christ. Then this will guide our motives, for now you have a pure heart. And your attitude should be that of love, love for God, which then means that your attitude is that of wanting to follow His commands.

MT 12:33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. [34] You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? **For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.** [35] The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. [36] But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. [37] For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

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Out of the abundance (overflow) of your heart your mouth speaks, so your actions come out of the attitude of your heart. When you are “Born Again”, God gives you a new spirit, one that is from Him and so it is pure and holy, which of course lives in your heart. Then when you ask for the Holy Spirit to come and live in you, He too lives in your heart. Now with right attitude, the Holy Spirit will fill your heart abundantly with His influences and so based on that abundance your mouth speaks or influences your motivation to do good works for God and to obey His commands.

But if you do not have the Holy Spirit in you, but you still have your flesh as your attitude, then it will naturally open your clean heart to all of the evil influences (spirits), which will change your motivation for evil.

What does this mean?

1TH 5:16 “Be joyful always; [17] pray continually; [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Be joyful. How? How do I be joyful? What is joyful? So how can I be it? Well after many, many, and many years of prayer and searching, I think I found it. It is an attitude.

He is saying to have a joyful attitude. You can decide to do that. When you decide to have this attitude, the Holy Spirit then gives you the joyful feeling out of obedience.

EPH 4:29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. [30] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [31] Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. [32] Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

How do you be kind and how do you be compassionate? They come from the attitude of love. Love is doing.

1CO 13:1 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1CO 13:4 “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5] It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6] Love does not delight in

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evil but rejoices with the truth. [7] It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1CO 13:8 “Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. [9] For we know in part and we prophesy in part, [10] but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. [11] When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. [12] Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

1CO 13:13 “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1CO 14:1 “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. [2] For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. [3] But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. [4] He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. [5] I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.”

Where does it say here that love is a feeling? I feel that I love you. It does not say that here. He says that love is patient, love is kind, love is not envy, love is not boastful, love is not proud, love is not rude, love is not self-seeking,...

To love is to act loving. These are all actions or the lack of actions—“is not”. Love is an attitude. If you do not have the attitude of love, you will not be motivated to act loving. It is a decision to be a certain way; it is an attitude of being.

What are faith, hope, and love? Are they nothing but attitudes? Yes. So with the right attitude will create the right motive and from the right motive you will act and with a righteous motive you act naturally righteously and so you will be obedient and being obedient to God’s commands is to love God.

And only those who love God will live with Him in heaven.

AC 8:18 “When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money [19] and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.””

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AC 8:20 "Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! [21] You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. [22] **Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord.** Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. [23] For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.""

AC 8:24 "Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me.""

REV 9:20 "The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues **still did not repent of the work of their hands**; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood-- idols that cannot see or hear or walk. [21] Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts."

Here He is saying to repent from you wicked ways. But that means that they have to repent from their motives, which is controlled by their attitudes. So it must start with repenting of their attitudes then the rest will follow.

Psalm 91

PS 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

He starts this message from the Lord saying that if you have the right attitude with God, then you will set you life on the right path. Here is the attitude of trust and safety in God, then God will reward this attitude with rest.

PS 91:2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

How can you say, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." If you do not have the attitude of trust in God? Is trust an attitude?

PS 91:3 "Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence."

PS 91:4 "He will cover you with His feathers,
and under His wings you will find refuge;
His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

PS 91:5 "You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

PS 91:6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,

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nor the plague that destroys at midday.”

PS 91:7 “A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.”

PS 91:8 “You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.”

PS 91:9 “If you make the Most High your dwelling--
even the LORD, who is my refuge--

PS 91:10 then no harm will befall you,
no disaster will come near your tent.”

“If you make the Most High your dwelling”, is it an attitude? How can you make Him a dwelling, a place of living? Is it not just a way to show you how and what attitude to have towards God and now to love Him in your trust of Him?

PS 91:11 “For He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;

PS 91:12 they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

PS 91:13 “You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.”

Is this not a reward for you being obedient to God, by trusting Him and in Him.
By setting your attitude to love, trust and obey Him?

PS 91:14 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue
him;

I will protect him, for he acknowledges My name.

PS 91:15 “He will call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.”

PS 91:16 “With long life will I satisfy him
and show him My salvation.”

This is ultimate reward to your faithfulness and righteousness. But again what are these but attitudes towards God.

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