

## What are Attitudes?

### Chapter 4

As a reminder, the importance of understanding attitudes is that your attitude controls your motive, and your motive controls your actions, and it's your actions that God will judge you when you get to heaven. Your actions will determine your final resting place—Heaven or Hell.

Let's start with a little understanding of attitudes and then we will discuss what they are and then we will finally be able to understand how it controls us.

Let's read some scriptures to set a reference.

JAS 3:17 "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. [18] Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness."

JAS 4:1 "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your **desires** (attitudes) 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."

JAS 4:4 "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. [5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit He caused to live in us envies intensely? [6] But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud (haughty)  
but gives grace to the humble."

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."

JAS 4:11 "Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. [12] There is only one Lawgiver and

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Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you--who are you to judge your neighbor?"

JAS 4:13 "Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." [14] Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. [15] Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." [16] As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. [17] **Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."**

Above we read, JAS 4:4 "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?" He starts with adulterous people, would you consider a person being an adulterer, having an adultery attitude? And also with having friendship with the world? Is this not also an attitude? To repent is to change it, so you ask forgiveness for being a friend of the world and make the decision not to be that friend of the world, but to instead to be friends with God and to live in the Kingdom of God. You have now repented. But that then also means that you now have to find out how to be a friend of the Kingdom of God.

**What is a double-minded person? A double-minded person is a person who allows the circumstances and other people to influence their decisions. It is a person who knows what they should do, but has not decided to repent their attitude so as to change the attitude to be aligned with God. They in their minds want to follow God, but they still have not removed their old worldly ways and the evil spirits that are in their hearts, which influence their attitude. So to be double-minded is to have a mind that wants to follow God but to have an attitude that still loves 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

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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.”

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 (opportunity). [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, selfish, self-seeking, prideful and egotistical attitude.

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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 (ego), 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  
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.”

He shows here again that to repent is to be willing and allowing God to change the attitude of our heart, from the ways and teaching of the world controlled by the devil

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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 death. He had the most humble attitude, because He has the most humble spirit.

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.”

**So what are attitudes?**

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Attitudes are the way that we have decided what we want to be, what we want to have or do and to act; it is what we have decided is important in life, and to achieve our goal in life. In short it is what we desire most, it comes from what we treasure most, it is what we have decided we are.

For example, if we think that money is the most important thing in our life, then our attitude will be to always want money, and we will always try to get money any way, by any means or method. So our motive will always be to get money. We will always be looking for ways to make money, find money and accumulate money. Money is our treasure, our life and our hearts desire. You are a lover of money

Another example is love of another person. If your attitude is love of another person, then your motive will be to find, either seduce or befriend someone, and then to marry them. Your mind and heart will always be on the lookout for someone, you will always be checking for how you feel about people; your mind will always be searching for someone. Then when you find someone you think might be good, you are then always dressing for them, beautifying yourself for them, always thinking of ways to get into their life. Then when you get them, you are always thinking of how to please them, how to fulfill them, how to do for them. That is your treasure, your hearts desire.

Frankly both of these examples are idol worship. You are putting them before God and as such, you are sinning.

Lets try another example, is not looking lustfully, anything but an attitude?

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."

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."

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**Note:** If you think, feel or have an urge to explain yourself, you need to look at your attitude or motive behind it. For a Godly person, the yes or no is enough, for only when you have a wrong attitude do you need to justify yourself, for the Godly person the Holy Spirit will justify your attitude or motive, but for an evil person, only that person will have to justify for themselves for it really is a lie and like their father—the devil—they have to justify themselves in order to convince the others of their lie. The truth does not need to be justified—to go beyond a simple 'Yes' or 'No.' So then these thoughts, feelings or urges are not from God, and can only be from the evil one; they are, therefore, influencing your attitude.

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.**"

Here is the attitude of generosity, and for the mercy and grace for others.

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."

### **A Humble attitude toward God.**

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.**"

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**

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**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.' "

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."



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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.' "

Jesus is teaching that out of our heart—which is where your spirit lives, the Holy Spirit lives and any evil spirit lives—it is where your attitudes and desires come from. Your spirit is the key to letting in any other spirit, whether it be God's or the evil one's. But He says here that out of your heart come evil thoughts, the attitudes that your motives are based on. So out of your heart comes the attitude that creates the motive for murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony (libel), and slander.

And we have other attitudes that are not so evil such as the attitudes that motivate us to do our jobs. We often ask people what are you? And we answer I am an engineer, doctor, accountant, manager or technician. These are the attitudes of what we are or want to be. When someone goes to college, we ask them, "What do you want to be?" They will answer the same thing; I want to be a doctor, biologist, chemist or engineer. These are attitudes that they are trying to change into. Then once that attitude is set, it determines the motive behind what they do or need to do in order to be what they want to be.

So what is your attitude? What do you want to be? If you want to be a Christian, then you need to setup your attitude to be a Christian and then allow it to motivate you to act like a Christian.

## **INFLUENCES ON OUR ATTITUDES**

Now that we have seen what attitudes are, let's 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 whispering things in my ears. And as circumstances occur, the angel starts to whisper in one ear what the will of God is for me and the devil is whispering in the other ear other things that he thinks 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 influenced my motive, because my attitude was of the flesh and not God.

As an understanding, Paul is trying to explain that to the Galatians that they should not let others influence them to follow their way, which in case is the way of the Jews who were controlled by the Jewish law of Moses of which being circumcised was of

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essence. He is trying to explain to them that they only need to live under the obedience of God based on their faith in God, the mercy of God and to live by the Spirit of God allowing Him to be the only influence on them.

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 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."

Here God is reminding us that the only influence we need is to obey He because He is the only one who is looking out for our good.

MT 11:25 "At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. [26] Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

MT 11:27 "All things have been committed to me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

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MT 11:28 "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. [29] Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

So with this in mind you can then understand what He is saying here.

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."

This is the yoke He is talking about, obedience. He is saying that obedience is most important. And to be correctly obedient, we must have the right attitude, and then we will be considered righteous, which is to honor God and be willingly obedient to God. He then says that He will not leave us alone. He will provide a Helper, a Counselor

## **Spiritual Control**

Lets look at this scripture.

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."

So one day as I was reading this, God asked, "How do you know you have this peace? How do you know you have joy?"

I said, "I know I have peace because I feel peaceful, I do not feel fear or anything bad. I know I have joy because I feel happy. "

He then went on to say, "Then this list of things from My Holy Spirit are feelings. We have feelings, but we do not let feelings control us, but rather we control these feelings. Now if My Holy Spirit can give you feelings, then feelings are from the spirit world. Naturally, then, evil feelings come from evil spirits."

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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 (evil spirits) 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.”

Likewise He asked, “How do you know that you are jealous? How do you know that you hate? How do you know that you are drunk?”

I answered again. “Well, for jealousy, I feel that I was envious of them or I feel that it should be me and not them. I know that I hate some one, because I feel really angry at them and that I feel that I cannot stand them any more, and that I feel that it would be ok if they died. Finally I know that I am drunk because I feel light headed, I feel out of control, and I feel that I can do anything. Oh they are all feelings, God.”

What this all means is that the spirit world can have large influence over our motives based on our attitude. And what does the world say about that? They say, “If it feels good do it.” They say, “If it feels right, do it.” They say, “What do your feeling say, do it.” They say, “Get in touch with your feelings, they are never wrong.” The world teaches us that we should life by our feelings, that means that we should live by the evil spirits, and let the evil spirits control us.

It must be evil spirits because God says to live by faith and not sight (5 senses—one is feelings). God says that it is ok to have feelings, those from the Holy Spirit, for He only supports God and not evil. But feelings are supposed to be rewards for doing good. But it has been copied by the devil to reward for doing evil too. So if you live by the Holy Spirit influences, you will be influenced to do good and to follow God and the ways 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.”

Now that you know that evil spirits can influence you, you know who your enemy is and can control it with the power and authority of God.

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## How do we control attitudes?

God respects our free will. He will always allow you to have a free will. Whatever you want or do not want, He will respect and never force you. However, the evil spirits do not respect your free will, they will crash into at anytime, they will force themselves on you whenever they want to.

Remember:

1PE 5:8 “Be self-controlled and alert. **Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** [9] Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”

But God respects our free will so much, that rather than force Himself on us, He died on the cross. Therefore, God is willing to leave you rather than fight you. But the enemy will fight you just for fun. So God will honor our requests or decisions or attitudes and allow us to have it rather than fight us; that is how much He loves us. But He will request, suggest, lead, prod us and He will also send the Helper to guide us; He will send teachers, pastors, evangelists, and prophets and apostles to share and lead us, but never force us. Anyone or anything that forces us is not from God.

How then do we control our attitudes, it is done the same way we have faith, by making the decision to want to have that attitude or not. But to make that decision, you need to have the knowledge of that attitude that you desire, that treasure; hence, you need to have the knowledge of the Kingdom of God, to have the right attitude of the Kingdom of God. As He has said in the scriptures He says several time:

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.”

AC 17:29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone--an image made by man's design and skill. [30] **In the past God overlooked such ignorance,** but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. [31] For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him from the dead."

1PE 1:13 “Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus

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Christ is revealed. [14] **As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.** [15] But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; [16] for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

1PE 2:13 "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, [14] or to governors, who are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. [15] **For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.** [16] Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. [17] Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king."

2PE 3:14 "So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him. [15] Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. [16] He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. **His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.**"

2PE 3:17 "Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. [18] **But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

So to ensure that we are not ignorant, He has created the Offices of God for us.

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."

He wants us to all have the same unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God. He knows that you cannot make a decision about the Kingdom of God if you do not know about it. So He has given us these other helpers to bring us to the same unity of knowledge. But you must be willing and wanting to have this knowledge and so wanting to use it to change your attitude, desire and treasure of God.

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This is what it means to have the Mind of Christ, a person who wants to know about the Kingdom of God. Because if you want to know, then He will give you the Helper to help you learn it—John 14, 15, and 16.

Then you put your faith in God that He will fulfill His promise of giving you the Mind of Christ—to understand the Scriptures--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!**"

There are a couple of ways to control your attitude: 1. Learn, increase your knowledge of the Son of God—Jesus, and the Kingdom of God; 2. From the knowledge of Jesus, you repent—in faith ask for forgiveness and make the decision to not do it anymore; 3. Ask God for help—for a Helper.

The next way is to remove the bad influences in you. As He has said, that feelings are the results of spiritual influences. So if you are having bad feelings, then you need to find out what you did wrong to allow it, ask for forgiveness for doing that, and then use the authority God has given you to remove it.

MT 10:1 "He called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them **authority** to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness."

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MT 10:2 "These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; [3] Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; [4] Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him."

MT 10:5 "These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. [6] Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. [7] As you go, preach this message: **'The kingdom of heaven is near.'** [8] **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.**"

MK 6:4 "Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." [5] He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. [6] And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. [7]  
**Calling the Twelve to Him, He sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits."**

Since you know that feelings are from spirits, and you know that He has given you—as a child of God—the authority over them, then you can use that authority to remove that evil spirit feeling in you.

So one day I was talking to some people, and they were making me mad. I excused myself and went into the kitchen to do dishes and calm down. But while I was doing dishes I was praying asking for forgiveness for getting angry, and I was asking for help, from Him to remove this anger. I wanted to repent from getting angry and becoming angry—I wanted to change. Then the word of God came to me saying that He had given authority to me over them and that if I wanted to remove that anger, I had to do it.

I then said ok. I looked into my heart and said, "Anger, in the name of Jesus, be gone." This is what I was reminded of, what Jesus said to demon possessed people. I sensed that a black shadow came out of me. It looked at me and said, "No, I do not want to go." Well I will tell you the truth I was shocked. But I did not let him stop me. I said again with all of my sincerity, "Anger, in the name of Jesus, be gone." Then that shadow, turned, headed out the kitchen door, and said, "I will be back." then he slammed my screen door and was gone. At that moment, I was no longer angry. I received peace from the Holy Spirit instead. So I know first hand that feelings are spirits and that we can take authority over them.

God says that we must first repent from our attitudes and to accept and have the attitude that is of the Mind of Christ—the attitude of living as a Child of God, which is to



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be a Christian. 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."

But this only works when it is done with forgiveness.

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.**"

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.

## **How To Know Who is in Control of you?**

Now we know something of what attitudes are and how they affect us, so now lets see who is in charge of you or who controls you.

As we have shown, the spiritual controls the physical. So which spirit controls you?

One easy way to see is to find out what is behind your attitude, or who is controlling your attitude. All you need to do is ask why. Why did you act that way? What was your attitude when you did that? What was the purpose behind that attitude? So why is your attitude that way? What was your motive or intent of your action?

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You know that you should act nice and never say a bad word. So when you hit your thumb with a hammer, you start to scream and yell, “Praise the Lord!!!!!!” what is your attitude really? Do you have the attitude of giving your life for God, if so then this, “Praise the Lord” really means that in shock and pain, but if not then is truly is a curse, for the attitude is that of self and self-righteousness and that this “Praise the Lord!!!!!!” is actually a nice word for the anger in your heart; God takes these words to mean the same as any 4 letter foul word because your attitude is evil—Anger.

So you are saying nice words, but lip service does not please the Lord. He knows that your attitude at that moment is not of true praise for Him, but it is of anger, frustration and pain. He knows that your attitude is that you would be swearing 4 letter words, but you know that everyone will look down at you for that, so you say “Praise the Lord!!!!!!” That is in a sense worse because you are now lying too, giving lip service and not being honest.

This is the same if a brother did not return your lawn mover for months. So when you see him at church, you tell yourself to make sure you are nice to everyone, to say nice things and help them. But then you see this brother and automatically you are mean toward him, you say haughty things to him, and you really do not know why. Well you need to ask yourself, why is your attitude so mean toward him? What was the true motive behind acting this way? You told yourself to be nice to even him, but your mouth automatically starts to speak mean things to him.

What is your attitude toward him, what was the purpose behind those mean words? You will see that you have some resentment toward him; you will see that you hold something against him because he did not return your lawn mower. What was your attitude? Why were you mean? Once you find out what your attitude is and why you were doing that, then you need to be forgiven for your sin and to repent from it. Then you will release the Holy Spirit onto yourself, onto your brother, and the Holy Spirit will show him the error of his ways and that brother will then correct the situation—he will return the lawn mower.

But as you can see, this is the fulfillment of “Out of the abundance the mouth speaks.” If your heart was abundant of God and God’s love for other, you would forgive him like God forgives you and then your attitude would be of forgiveness and not bitterness or resentment toward him

You need to seek God as to why you had that attitude—what spirit was behind that attitude and remove it. Repentance asks God to remove that evil spirit from you and then He will help you change that attitude of resentment to love.

This is how you find out which spirit is in control of you—Your spirit, the Holy Spirit or an evil spirit.

Your attitude will allow the corresponding spirit into your heart and control you.

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Evil attitude will allow an evil spirit into you to control you, a selfish attitude will allow your worldly spirit to control you, finally holy attitudes will allow the Holy Spirit to have access to you and help your true Godly spirit to have control over you.

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. He also is showing how to change the attitude to that of the will of God our Father and to do His will.

Here are scriptures so show how God wants us to act before men, mighty or poor, strong or weak.

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 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 and mind which is of the Mind of Christ and with a Godly attitude, 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.

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

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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.”

As you read your bible, please pray that God would show you and teach you about your attitudes so that you can understand and repent from doing them, and not do them again.

For added information, see “What are Attitudes—Appendix.

What are Attitudes?