

Attitude #1 - Humility

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

I admit that I am powerless over the effects of drugs, alcohol and self-centered behavior, my life is unmanageable.

All my life I have struggled with the challenge of thinking that I could do everything on my own without the help of others and sometimes even without the help of God. Many challenges were big, but perhaps not too big to overcome and caused me to think that I am as strong and self-sufficient as I need to be. Adversity comes our way and somehow, we think because we weathered one storm that we can weather them all. We do not seem to understand why some people crumble under a light load while we stand under what we know is our heavy load. Before we know it, we have become, or we think we have become, good at not needing God.

This may not be the description of everyone, but it is the description of many. There have been and there are many Christians who began their walk with the Lord fully dependent on His power and His direction, but before too long they got good and are doing good and forgot the source of their strength and the need of their life. One of the tactical strategies of our adversary the devil is to tempt us to grow more familiar with our plans than we are with God's plans. When he is successful in that strategy, he knows that we are more likely to get out of God's will and become self-reliant; when we do, we are no match for him in and of ourselves.

The follower of Jesus Christ should grow more dependent on the Lord as he grows in the Lord. The awareness of our need for God in the beginning of our relationship with Him is an indication of our constant need of Him. Show me a man that drifts away from his awareness of his need for God and you will eventually see a man that will be reminded of His need for Him eventually. It is a safe place to be when regardless of how long you have known the Lord you have a keen awareness of your constant need for Him. God is a loving Father and He is a perfect Father; He does all things well. His desire is that we look to Him for direction, protection, and provision. He will grow us up so that we might be all that He has created us to be when we humble ourselves and allow Him to work in and through our lives.

It appears that we will always have flaws in our armor, and we will always have need of something in our lives for God to work on; it appears that way because it is that way. The sooner we come to terms with it the better off we will begin and continue to be. The word of God is the only solution for man to become strong whereas he was at one time weak.

Our Biblical example and its application:

Psalms 73:26-28 - My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever. 27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

1. Vs. 26a - A humble admission. My flesh and my heart faileth (falter, waver, in weakness):

The sooner we get this the better off we will be. Our flesh and our heart do fail, have failed, and will fail again. The objective is that we might give in less to our flesh and surrender our lives daily to the leadership of God's Holy Spirit. Admission to the weakness of our flesh is the beginning of overcoming those weaknesses. We need to understand that our flesh cannot and will not change; the change that can and should take place is where we become stronger and stronger in and because of the Spirit that lives in us.

Romans 7:18a - For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:

John 6:63 - It is the spirit that quickeneth (gives life, make alive); the flesh profiteth (to be useful or advantageous) nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

There is no way to win a spiritual battle by fleshly or carnal means. There must be a change from within in order that we might be able to understand spiritual things.

1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (examined, judged).

For the unbeliever this is impossible but for the believer all things are possible. Jesus spoke of the contrast concerning the flesh and the spirit.....

Matthew 26:41 - Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing (ready), but the flesh is weak (frail, feeble).

When we read what Jesus said it brings to light what John spoke about when he said.....

1 John 4:4 - **Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**

2. Vs. 26b - A humble provision. But God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

The writer clearly speaks to the source of our strength and speaks to the depth of our strength.

Psalms 18:2 - The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalms 18:32 - It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

Psalms 18:1 - I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

Psalms 29:11 - The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

.....and my portion forever!!!!

God and only God, who made man, can make man content; there is none in heaven, none in earth that can pretend to do it instead.

3. Vs. 27 - A humble awareness. For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

The writer was fully convinced by his observation of the miserable condition of all the wicked. Those that are far from God by their own desire for God to depart from them will in fact and forever perish that way. They choose to be far from God and they will be far away from Him forever.

Hebrews 10:31 - It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

4. Vs. 28 - A humble position. But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

When all the experiences of life are added together, the conclusion of the matter should always be the same, **"but it is good for me to draw near to God"**. The truth of this promise lies in

the application of it; when I draw near to God not only will He draw near to me (**James 4:8**), but it will be good for me. Anyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ would agree that it will be good for us when we draw near to God. Knowing is the first part, the doing of that which we know will usher in the experience of being the recipient of the promise.

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