

FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade

Pastor Dave Evangelista ~ December 27, 2009 ~ 1 Thess. 2:13

“Good Attitudes Will Bring Success”

1 Thess. 2:13 “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”

Attitudes will determine the difference between success and failure in any endeavor. The church at Thessalonica had its share of success because of proper attitudes. Paul urged these folks to live and work in the light of Christ’s coming. In just one month’s time Paul had taught them many doctrines of the ‘Faith’. They, in turn because of proper attitudes were found doing the following things:

First, they received the Word of God—obviously a priority and the one greatest need for a healthy spiritual walk. Unfortunately, some clergy do not have this attitude and a wrong attitude toward the Word of God will impair any spiritual growth—not only in those in positions of spiritual leadership but all people.

So, the Thessalonians received the Word as God’s Word, not man’s word! James said the Christ chose to give us birth. This means that the Word of God gave us our new beginning. By his word we were brought out of spiritual darkness. Another consideration is that the Word of God was often received in much affliction! See 1 Tim. 1:6. Persecution had already begun and many of God’s people suffered. The reception of the Word was a result of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is God, the Spirit who prepares the heart for the incorruptible seed of God’s Word. Then we read of the Thessalonians turning to the living God; this is a second, humble and appropriate attitude. The idols they formerly worshiped were of their own creation, representing the carnal desires of their flesh.

May we never allow anything or anyone to take first place in our hearts, this belongs to God. The human heart or soul could never be satisfied with anything short of God Himself—He made us this way. We need to turn from the idol of self and worship only the true and living God.

Check out this list which you need to **avoid** in order to maintain healthy attitudes:

1. Constant preoccupation with self.
2. Constant reference to yourself.
3. Using the “I” word often, both written and oral.
4. Mirroring yourself in the opinion of others on a continuum.
5. Listening too much, too often to what people say about you.
6. An expectation of being shown appreciation.
7. Having jealousy and envy of others.
8. Being sensitive to others who may offend you.
9. Never forgiving or letting go of a criticism.
10. An unwillingness to trust anyone but yourself.
11. Insisting upon others considering you and respecting you.
12. Demanding others agree with your views on everything.
13. Sulking if people are not grateful to you for the favors you’ve done for them.
14. Never forgetting a service you may have rendered.
15. Being on the lookout for a good time for yourself way too often.
16. Shirking responsibilities.
17. Doing as little as you can possibly get away with for others.
18. Loving yourself in a narcissistic way.
19. Carrying around selfishness and greed in your heart.

If you choose to nurture the above attitudes you will ultimately be miserable.

We also read of the Thessalonians dwelling in God—this is attitude number three. Dwelling in God shows a new relationship between God and those who believe in Him. Having received the Truth, they turned to God and found their abode and resting place. Those of us who turn to Christ with all our hearts will never seek to turn from Him because in Him, we find our strength and our life, even as the branch

does in the vine. See *Jeremiah 17:7*. We also read of the Thessalonians and how they served the living God. They had the attitude of servants, this is attitude number four. Their service is a noble pattern for us and is spelled out clearly in *1 Thess. 1:3*. “*We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

This was a work of Faith and relates to the past. It was a labor of love that was the present tense. It was done in “patience of hope” which related to the future. Their service was done for the Lord Jesus and in the sight of men and God. This service was not done just for the sake of being seen but to please their master. We also read of them waiting for the Son of God. This was attitude number five. Jesus said He would come back again and they believed Him and they looked for and waiting for His return. *Titus 2:13* “*While we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,*”

Active service is most consistent with patient waiting. They not only waited but they served while they waited. They were animated with an earnest desire to do good, just as their Master did good. What a powerful influence the Rapture has on those who believe it and look for it! And then we read of them learning of God—this is attitude number six.

When we daily sit at Jesus’ feet we learn from Him and about Him. People who learn at Jesus’ feet are wise in eternal / spiritual matters, unlike their untaught counterparts. The most important lesson our Lord Jesus taught for this life was to love one another. We also learn that they walked worthy of God—attitude number seven. We are to walk worthy as sons of God, like noble men and women. We are to walk worthy of His love, showing kindness, telling others of His love, His holiness and His grace.

How do we apply what we’ve heard today?

Let’s take a look inside ourselves; if our lives are dissatisfied, powerless and fruitless, it means we are not walking worthy of God. Surrender to the Holy Spirit is the only way we can accomplish this. Our attitudes for the future will determine a great deal in our lives and the lives of others.

May we ask God to give us the godly attitudes that the believers at Thessalonica had for His glory:

1. They received the Word.
2. They turned to the living God.
3. They dwelled in God—a new, fresh relationship with Him.
4. They served God.
5. They waited for Him.
6. They learned of Him.
7. They walked worthy of Him.

Let’s also fulfill the scriptural advice to “*exhort one another daily...*” and to encourage one another in developing these healthy attitudes!

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