

“LORD, CHANGE MY ATTITUDE (Before It’s Too Late)”

By James MacDonald

[Reviewed by Mark A. Besh - June 2015 - mbesh@comcast.net]

Overview Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFESKZRJzgM>

ENTIRE BOOK’S CONTENTS:

- Replace a Complaining Attitude...With a Thankful Attitude
- Replace a Covetous Attitude...With an Attitude of Contentment
- Replace a Critical Attitude...With an Attitude of Love
- Replace a Doubting Attitude...With an Attitude of Faith
- Replace a Rebellious Attitude...With an Attitude of Submission

INTRODUCTION:

- There are consequences of rejecting God’s ways and benefits of accepting His ways.
- Life change can never begin until some circumstance brings you to the unalterable conclusion that your current course is taking you somewhere you don’t want to go. Sometimes it’s a tragic event or a relational breakdown. Sometimes it’s a profound internal emptiness or a devastating personal failure.
- You can stop the flow of negativity that causes happiness to hemorrhage, and you can start the flow of good attitudes that causes abundant joy to overflow.
- Just because God is working in your ‘heart’ today regarding a specific matter, does not guarantee that He always will be. There’s not always time for change: “Today, if you would hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” [Psalm 95:7-8].
- It’s our attitudes that turn our lives into a “wilderness experience.”
- God absolutely hates a contrary, doubtful, rebellious attitude. He despises it. He simply will not tolerate it (He sent the Israelites into the desert for 40 years until every one of the rebellious people were dead---then only Caleb and Joshua were allowed to enter the “Promise Land”).
- God doesn’t thrust us into a physical wilderness anymore, but He does cause

our lives to become like a wilderness---a dry, hard, joyless, parched experience.

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REPLACE A COMPLAINING ATTITUDE...

[Numbers 11:1-3]

- Complaining is an attitude choice that if left unchecked will wither my capacity to experience joy and genuine thankfulness.
- When we express resentment over circumstances that are beyond our control and about which we are doing nothing, we are complaining.
- Complaining satisfies our sinful natures. It releases negative emotional energy in a way that provides momentary relief from a situation or circumstance that may be frustrating to us. That is why we find it hard to resist.

“Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the Lord; and when the Lord heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp” [Numbers 11:1]

- People become like those who complain.
- Attitudes are ‘patterns’ of thinking---a way of approaching life.
- Patterns of thinking are so deeply ingrained in our hearts that we hardly even notice them. We get so used to reacting a certain way that our choices become automatic, and in time we cease to see them as actual choices. We feel like we are trapped, but we are not. Tragically, the ‘consequences’ are also automatic!
- It won’t be automatic or overnight, but if you stick with it and remain sensitive to what God is teaching you, lasting joy and true “Promise Land” living are not as far as you might think.
- You can make a choice to reject complaining and trust God. Patterns of thinking can change!
- God wants to give you the fullness of “Promised Land” living, and He will as

you allow Him to change your negative attitudes.

- When you complain, you are choosing a response that does you harm rather than good. Our complaints may even lead to anger, bitterness, and even depression. Beyond this, when you complain, you're not just hurting yourself but God indirectly---because complaining questions God's sovereignty!
- In addition to that, we hurt the people around us. We affect others with our 'stinkin' thinkin'---bringing them down.
- Complaining is expressing dissatisfaction with a circumstance that is not wrong and about which I'm doing nothing to correct.
- Expressing a "legitimate grievance" is not complaining (a meal served cold to your table; picket an abortion clinic; etc.)
- Criticism involves people; complaining involves circumstances.
- Complaining is not just the outbursts of frustration, but it's also those things that we think.

"God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" [1 Samuel 16:7].

- The worst kind of complaining there is: complaining about adversity ("Why do I have to go through this? When will this end? etc.). God is using adversity to 'discipline' you. God is allowing just the right amount of adversity to accomplish the eternal purposes He has for us in our lives.

"For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness" [Hebrews 12:10-11].

- Instead of rejoicing in all the good things that God has done in our lives, we complain about that 'one thing'. You are forfeiting the grace that could help you through the trial by complaining about it.
- That very adversity that you so often complain about is the thing God wants

to use to keep your heart close to Him.

- There's a connection between a life that feels like living in the wilderness and the attitudes of resentment and complaining that put us there.
- You can complain so long that you can completely lose perspective and start 'melting down'.
- God can embrace us and forgive us eternally, but judge us in the moment because of our attitudes that are not pleasing to Him.
- Complaining is an attitude choice, that if left unchecked will wither my capacity to experience joy and genuine thankfulness.

...WITH A THANKFUL ATTITUDE.

[Luke 17:11-19]

- Thankfulness is the attitude that perfectly displaces my sinful tendency to complain and thereby release joy and blessing into my life.
- Thankfulness is the perfect replacement for complaining.
- No one has an acceptable excuse for ungratefulness. Everyone can make the choice to give thanks and acknowledge the goodness and the grace of God.

"Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, 16 and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him" [Like 17:15].

- Only when we acknowledge God as the gracious provider of general blessings, like life and breath, food and shelter, do we begin to comprehend our need for God in a personal way, and begin to express faith in Him.
- Thankfulness is far more than saying the right words.
- The kind of life-changing heart attitude that God desires is much deeper than surface verbal gratitude.
- "Mind and Body" magazine: 20 Ways to Feel Calmer, Happier, and Healthier"
--- Number one answer: "to be thankful for all the good in your life"

- Genuine gratitude requires that we get past obligation and somehow show that we deeply appreciate what we've received.

- Somehow we still make the choice to turn from all that we've received and focus on what we still want to have. That's where complaining comes in. We minimize the blessings of life and magnify every negative circumstance we encounter.

- We can decide to always find something to be thankful for.

"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name" [Hebrews 13:15].

- But if you want the real joy, be thankful for ALL things (even the 'bad' stuff!)

"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus" [1 Thessalonians 5:18].

"Be filled with the Spirit...giving thanks always for all things of God [Ephesians 5:18,20].

- Thankfulness is a deliberate choice---a life-changing decision! [Psalm 107: 8, 15, 21, 31 - (repeated)].

"Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them."

- Gratitude is the attitude that sets the altitude for living!

- When thankfulness is part of the discipline of our lives, we will see increased joy and happiness.

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REPLACE A COVETOUS ATTITUDE...

- Covetousness, rampant in the Western world and in the evangelical church, blocks the flow of God's fullness in our lives

- We are far more infected with materialism than we realize, and some of the worst victims are the ones who think they're living in history.

- You don't have to tell a group of people who are drowning in a sea of covetousness that we have a materialism problem.
- First, covetousness is wanting wrong things.
- Second, covetousness is also wanting right things for wrong reasons.
- Covetousness is also wanting right things at the wrong time.
- Finally, covetousness is wanting right things but wanting them in the wrong amount.
- To summarize: Covetousness is wanting wrong things, or wanting right things for the wrong reasons, or at the wrong time, or in the wrong amount.
- Covetousness becomes active sin when we yield,
- When we dwell on desire, yielding is only a matter of time.
- At the root of covetousness is a rejection of God's sufficiency.
- Nothing is essential but God. Things were never designed to take God's place. When we do this, God will often allow us to experience firsthand the consequences of substituting anything for Him.
- In time we may hate what we had to have.
- Enough is never enough.
- There is no direct correlation between wealth and covetousness. There is no direct connection between what you have and what you desire. It has everything to do with your attitude. Do I love people or do I love things?
- Covetousness was never an issue in my life until I had enough income to think about it.

...WITH AN ATTITUDE OF CONTENTMENT.

- A consistent attitude of contentment can bring lasting joy and lead you out of the wilderness of covetousness.
- Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion,

that I not be full and deny You and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God." [Proverbs 30:8-9].

- If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
- Contentment is a satisfaction with God's sufficient provision.
- Contentment is a settled sense of adequacy.
- Contentment's partner is godliness.
- That desire for your life to improve, that passion to "gain," is not only not wrong, it is God-given!
- Often the desire for gain causes many people to desire wrongly. We exercise desire in the wrong ways because our minds are depraved.
- Godliness + Contentment = Great Success
- Godliness + Prosperity = Great Gain. NOT! This is the false 'prosperity gospel'.
- Godliness + Poverty = Great Gain. NOT! Those in poverty have not immunity to covetousness!
- Godliness + Power or Influence = Great Gain. NOT!
- First of all, you will never be able to control all that is around you; God will see to that. Second, even if you could, it would not make you happy.
- Godliness + Family Harmony = Great Gain. NOT! You will never have a perfect family.
- Godliness + Ministry Success = Great Gain. NOT! No amount of ministry fruitfulness will satisfy my heart.
- Contentment Step One: Look to Eternity---you're leaving this world with just as much in your hands as you had when you arrived. Nothing!
- Contentment Step Two: Let Enough be Enough
- All you need for contentment is room and board
- God never promised the people with Moses a good balance of the four food

groups---just manna and water. We don't have to have a fancy diet and wonderful delicacies, or have to have a buffet.

- Just shelter to protect our heads, and clothes to help warm our bodies. I'm not saying a larger home or a second home is wrong. I'm just saying you don't have to have it, and the pursuit of it often leads to misery!
- Money is like seawater; the more you drink, the thirstier you get.
- Contentment Step Three: Learn by Example---Learn from others' lessons.
- Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare [1 Timothy 6:9].
- Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also [Matthew 6:21].
- For the 'love' of money is the root of all sorts of evil [1 Timothy 6:10].
- Money is no more evil than chocolate chip cookies. The problem is the 'love' of money.
- Contentment is choosing to be satisfied in what I do have and not expending my best energies pressing for more.
- Contentment brings blessings. Blessings such as joy in the present, and health and satisfaction in the simple things of life.
- You have life. What a privilege to be alive in this world!
- Contentment also builds our capacity to enjoy ordinary pleasures.
- Contentment is something you can learn!

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REPLACE A CRITICAL ATTITUDE...

[Numbers 12:1-12]

- A continuously critical attitude toward those around me will consume all that is healthy and joy-producing in my life.
- The attitude that we choose, has direct bearing on how we experience reality.
- Maybe you grew up in a home that was forever picking at the imperfections of

others and finding fault with anyone and everyone---and maybe you were endlessly criticized yourself.

- All you have known to do is inspect and examine and form opinions about what you see and experience.
- You grew up learning to criticize the speck in others' eyes while a logjam formed in your own.
- Criticism is dwelling upon the perceived faults of another with no view to their good.
- Criticism is destructive.
- If you are an analytical person, there is a lot of data surfing on those brain waves. The problems come when you chose to dwell upon your observations--when you can't put them aside.
- It's not criticism to dwell upon a fault you observe in someone, provided: 1) you're going to pray about it; 2) you're going to pursue a solution.
- It's not a critical conversation when your goal is trying to help.
- A critical attitude is a choice to dwell upon the perceived faults of another with no view to their good.

“Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?” So the anger of the Lord burned against them and He departed. But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow” [Numbers 12:8-10].

- Criticism ruins our fellowship with God. It doesn't 'destroy' it, but it changes our capacity to sense His love and presence!

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” [1 John 1:9].

- Our critical attitude hurts us.
- In many studies, those who suffered from extreme tension had a single trait in

common---they were habitual faultfinders, constant critics of people and things around them.

- A critical attitude destroys our fellowship with others.
- Criticism is a 'petty' issue that is covering up for the real heart issue.
- Unforgiveness and bitterness fuels criticism---causing wounds to fester rather than heal.
- Criticism masks envy, jealousy, and resentment.
- Criticism is personal failure---being discouraged about the direction in your life, or what you have accomplished so far.
- How easy it is to become critical of others to sort of level the playing field.
- People find it much harder to see my life if I am shining the glaring light of criticism on others.
- The effect of criticism can knock all of the confidence and power out of a person's life.

“For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ” [Galatians 1:10].

- Center your attention on what God thinks of you, and life will be better.
- Our verbal missiles are not targeted for intentional injury, but loose lips often do damage we don't anticipate. On a better day, filled with the Holy Spirit and focused on what's right, we would never choose to say those things.
- Criticism plugs the flow of God's blessings.
- Criticism makes us hard, vindictive, and cruel.
- If criticism from past emotional injuries has leaked into your family, you must find a way to apply healing.
- We need to confess and forsake this wilderness attitude, and replace it with a “Promised Land” attitude.

...WITH AN ATTITUDE OF LOVE.

[1 Corinthians 13:1-8]

- The only attitude big enough to replace a critical attitude is an attitude of love.
- Church of Corinth: What was missing, however, was love, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing” [1 Corinthians 13:1-2].

- No matter how clearly you understand God’s truth or how capable you are of bringing truth to bear upon a person’s life, if you don’t love the people you’re talking to, if you don’t have a broken heart for the people that you are trying to share truth with, you are wasting your time!

- People care how we say it as much as what we say.

“And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing” [1 Corinthians 13:3].

- We get into a balancing act of love and truth, truth and love.
- We need to make a complete ‘paradigm shift’ in how we look at truth and love.
- On the majors: Action; On the minors: Acceptance; In all things: Love

“...does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth” [1 Corinthians 13:6].

- Without truth, any expression of love is crippled. Love cannot rejoice in sin, or iniquity, or unrighteousness. Love can only be fired up about what is true and what is right.

- Love takes actions on the things that are major---if the sin they are involved with could destroy them, or if it's a chronic pattern.
- Genuine love reminds me not to act unbecomingly.

“Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered” [1 Corinthians 13:4-5].

- Love is kind. It looks for ways to express acceptance to people that we might otherwise choose to be targets of our criticism.
- Displace a critical spirit with an attitude of love!
- Love bears the weight of misunderstanding, and it defends the heart.
- Love always believes the best about people.

“...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” [1 Corinthians 13:7 .

“Love never fails...the greatest of these is love [1 Corinthians 13:8,13].

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REPLACING A DOUBTING ATTITUDE...

- Those who make doubting their lifestyle will spend their lifetimes in the ‘wilderness’.
- Doubt is the absence of faith. Doubt is lack of confidence or assurance that God will keep His promises.
- Doubt involves a settled and persistent choice to live with uncertainty.
- Doubt is dangerous. It's destructive and completely detrimental to any kind of relationship with God. I mean, if you don't have confidence that God will keep His promises, what do you have?

- Maybe God won't provide for all my needs. Maybe I'll end up poor, and even destitute. That's doubt.

- Maybe God won't protect me. Maybe something awful is going to happen. That's doubt, for sure.

- Your life will not lack one single thing that could increase your happiness if you will walk uprightly with the Lord. Now either you believe that or you don't.

- Doubt is a lack of confidence or a lack of assurance that God will keep His promises.

- Principle One: God Places Regular Tests of Faith Before His Children---Faith is so important and doubt is so detrimental that God places 'regular' test of faith in front of His children. These are not intended for failure, but for our success.

- It's a choice: Will they trust and conquer, or will they doubt and despair and be defeated?

- The Hebrews failed their 'wilderness test' because they wouldn't trust God.

- Are you going to trust Me, or doubt Me?

- But more than a choice, they were expressing an attitude. Doubt is an attitude; faith is an attitude.

- Maybe your life has been about doubting for so long that it has hardened into an attitude.

- Faith is not just a part of the Christian life...it's the whole thing!

- If you can't trust God; if you can't lay hold of His promises, expect a lot of defeat in your life!

- Faith in a person is like water in a bucket---you find out how much is inside when you 'bump' it. When circumstances bump you, you spill what you're full of.

- The purpose of the test isn't just to reveal your faith; it's also to refine your faith. God tests your faith so that you can know how much is there and see it grow

- God refines our faith because He loves us and wants to bless us more and more.
- Principle Two: The Circumstances of Life Will Either Shrink or Stretch Your Faith
 - What's going on in your life that's shrinking or stretching your faith?
 - Crucial choice: Either you let your faith grow and flourish, or you choose doubt.
 - The circumstances of life either shrink or stretch your faith. Either you get better or you get bitter. The choice is yours.
- Principle Three: Doubt Sees the Obstacles; Faith Sees the Opportunities
 - One heart filled with doubt focuses only on the obstacles. Another person, looking at the same situation, not filled with doubt but filled with faith, can only see the opportunity. What you see is what you get!
 - The Hebrews in the 'wilderness' had a lack of confidence that God would keep His promises
 - Doubt sees the obstacles; Faith sees the way. Doubt sees the darkest night; Faith sees the way. Doubt dreads to take a step; Faith soars on high. Doubt questions, "Who believes?"; Faith answers, "I."
 - Doubt has many 'disguises': Fear; Anxiety; Frustration/anger; Withdrawal; Bitterness
 - God will go a long way in revealing Himself to a person who honestly wants answers.
 - Those who choose doubting as their lifestyle will spend their lifetimes in the 'wilderness'
 - Those who study human experience agree that life is really not about the difference between our circumstances. They also say that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you choose to respond.
 - My attitude choice is more important than my circumstances. Attitudes keep me going or cripple my progress. Attitude alone fuels my fire or assaults my hope. When my attitude is right, there is no barrier too high nor valley too deep nor dream too extreme nor challenge too great for me.

- Principle Four: When Surrounded by Doubters, Doubting Comes Easily
- Doubt catches some people by surprise.
- Instead of talking often about God's grace and recalling His miracles and thinking about all that God has done, people choose to focus on the obstacles, and they welcome doubt.
- Reasons why doubts come so easily: Contagious; Passive; Satisfies our tendency towards self-protection; Easier to find people that doubt.
- Principle Five: It's a Short Journey From Doubt to Despair
- Doubt never stands still. It's always sliding somewhere worse.
- The Hebrews had forgotten God's provisions: A Pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, diving the Red Sea, daily manna, and on and on. Had God not provided for them every step of the way?
- Desperate plans come from despairing hearts.
- The Hebrews made desperate plans because, like a tumor growing out of control, their doubt had ballooned into despair.
- You will never, ever regret from trusting God!
- There are many times when I have chosen doubt and missed incredible opportunities to prove the faithfulness of God.
- In spiritual matters, doubting is death!
- We must ask God to grow a heart of faith, because we cannot do it on our own.

...WITH AN ATTITUDE OF FAITH.

- Only when faith replaces doubt in the life of a believer can the joy of knowing God become a reality.
- Incredible blessings await you if you persevere.
- Put on attitudes that bring peace and satisfaction regardless of my

momentary circumstance.

- We may decide to change during a crisis, but we actually change moment-by-moment in the process of living. Every decision we make contributes in some way to the pattern of thinking that becomes your attitude.

- What is Faith?: Not an ostrich, head-n-the-sand and denying the obvious or the inevitable; Not a warm feeling that requires you to check you intellect at the door; Not a stained-glass and dreamy sort of Little-House-on-the-Prairie escapism; Not some motivational seminar; Not some stupid positive mental attitude believing thing; Not ignoring the pain and embracing optimism regardless of the evidence in front of you.

- Faith is rooted in a God who is real!

- God has proven Himself 'real' again and again.

- What we base our faith on is ultimately what makes the difference---a faith that turns away from placing our trust in circumstances or our own abilities, which always fail us.

- My life goes much better when I place my deepest faith and confidence in a sovereign God!

- My faith, my active confidence in God, is the thing that I hold on to while I wait to see how the Lord is going to answer what I've brought before Him. If I have a painful circumstance in my life and I'm asking God to change that or change me, my faith is the substance that I hold while I wait upon God to do the things that I've asked Him to do. So faith is 'substance'.

- Faith is the evidence that God is faithful

- The faithfulness of God---not just in generations past, but in my own life---provides me with evidence. God has met your needs in the past.

- Faith is active confidence in God.

- Faith is believing the Word of God and acting upon it, no matter how I feel, because God promises a good result.

- Faith is believing the Word of God

- Believing is: I have all my eggs in that 'basket'. I've got all my dreams in that place. I'm 100% in---and I don't have an escape route!

- Everything God has said is true, and it will happen exactly as He said. So it's not foolish at all to put your confidence in a God like that!
- By acting upon it. Faith without works is dead.
- Genuine faith always 'downloads' into life. There are all kinds of things that we say we believe---but must not really believe them because they don't show up in the way we live.
- Clearly, there's a difference between saying you believe something and really believing it.
- It's only when you're willing to put yourself at risk---that faith is active with God.
- Only when you come to the place where you say, "I know God's grace is my only option---I've cut off all other 'backup' plans. I have thrown myself upon God's mercy.
- The litmus test of genuine faith is: Do I act upon what I say I believe?
- Acting upon our faith will impact every area of life, including our families, finances, and even our sense of fulfillment.
- In finances, we will trust God to meet our daily needs, while giving tithes and offerings---having all sufficiency in everything; having an abundance for every good deed. [2 Corinthians 9:8].
- If you're not sure where to turn when you have an overwhelming sense of loneliness or are discouraged about your life, and you're not sure what to do, Jesus says, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" [Matthew 11:28].
- Faith is believing the Word of God and acting upon it!
- The next phase in our definition of faith is: No matter how I feel
- Maybe you're at a place of real financial hardship, and you feel giving a consistent tithe or offering to your church is unrealistic.
- Those were real feelings of fear and frustration, but they were nonsense compared to God's faithfulness.
- God's Word can be trusted to meet all of our needs if, by faith, we choose

obedience and refuse to be guided by emotion!

- God promises a good result!
- Catch a glimpse of the forest of faithful ones---Though discouraged at times, they all trusted God, and kept on keeping on: Abraham; Sarah; Isaac; Joseph; Jacob; Moses; Rehab; Gideon; Barak; Samson; David; Samuel;
- From weakness they were made strong; gained approval through their faith [Hebrews 11:32-34].
- Every good thing that God brings to us comes through the funnel of faith.
- You will be able to do even greater things “if you have faith and do not doubt”
- Faith is not a part of the Christian life; it’s the whole thing!
- Genuine believers trust God and exercise active confidence in God. They believe the Word and act upon it no matter how they feel, because God promises a good result.
- Love is the greatest thing ‘relationally’, and builds the foundation of faith.
- Love for others flows out of our relationship with God.

Without faith it is impossible to please God [Hebrews 11:6].

- Every good thing that God wants to bring to our lives comes through faith!
- How on earth does faith give us victory?
- When I look at what I see, I am filled with doubt. But when I disregard what I see and focus my thoughts on a God who has promised to ultimately triumph.
- My small circumstances suddenly fit into a much bigger picture! Faith trusts a God who has promised to balance all the books of justice.
- Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. There is no other way.
- Cultivate your faith: “Come from hearing, and hearing by the Word of God [Romans 10:17].
- Confess your faith: I am trusting the Lord. I’m waiting on God. I’m believing God for this!

- Corner your faith: Choose to live your life in such a way that God has to come through for you. Make decisions that will cultivate and build your faith during rough times.
- If you're not suffering in the world, it's because you're not choosing to walk to places where you have to trust God.
- Allow God to lead you, then willingly go by faith into situations where you have no way out but with God. "All things are possible to him who believes." [Mark 9:23].
- Commit your reputation to God.

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REPLACE A REBELLIOUS ATTITUDE...

- Rebellion against proper authority reveals a deeper rejection of God's authority, which brings devastating consequences to our lives.
- When rebellion is against God and His ordained authority structure, the consequences can be devastating.
- The Hebrews' rebellious attitudes extended their 40-day trip to 40 years of wandering!
- Rebellion exists in every human heart---a desire to go our own way.
- Rebellion is "I won't, and you can't make me!"
- Rebellion has many sources: Jealousy; Delusions; Ungratefulness; Stubbornness; Disappointment; Distrust
- Rebellion has many consequences: Leadership withdrawal; Innocent people are injured; Guilty will be condemned; Infection spread;
- The root of bitterness will defile many people [Hebrews 12:15].
- Rebellion is ultimately against God
- If the powers that be are ordained of God, then to resist and rebel against the established authorities is to resist and rebel against God.

...WITH AN ATTITUDE OF SUBMISSION.

- Submission, when properly understood and applied, replaces the pain and strife of rebellion and greatly increases human happiness.
- Principle One: Submission is Duty to God
- Forced submission from the top down is not taught anywhere in the Bible.
- The leader is called to win the favor of those who are under him through serving and selflessness.
- Submission is a choice---not top down, but bottom up
- Submissive: Finding your place of humility and cooperation under the influence of others.
- Everyone who resists the established authorities is resisting God.
- Principle Two: Submission is Protection by God
- God will punish the evildoers and praise those who do right.
- People in authority can be foolish. But God's desired response from us is "doing right"---no matter what!
- When you choose to live under the 'umbrella' of God's protection by submitting to God's plans and doing what right, all the promises and blessings of God are yours in abundance.
- Behind that person is God, and if you pridefully resist that person's authority, God Himself will oppose you, He's going to make sure that attitude of rebellion never takes you to a good place!
- If you submit to God's established authority, God is on your 'team'. But if you rebel, He joins the other team!
- Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time [1 Peter 5:6].
- Get before the Lord on your knees and lay this matter before the throne of grace. Then wait upon and trust Him. He will not disappoint you. Submission is

protection by God.

- Principle Three: Submission Has Limits Under God
- Submission is not 'slavery' or giving up personal responsibility.
- Well, then, how much submission is too much?
- Depends on the 'source', 'severity', and 'frequency'.
- The Biblical teaching on submission does not encourage staying in a relationship that destroying you and others you love.
- God love justice.
- Principle Four: Submission is Favor From God
- God loves heartfelt willing humility.
- God loves a gathering of humble, submitted hearts.
- Principle Five: Submission is Intimacy With God
- God is so capable of pouring favor into our lives if we live in submission to Him. This means submitting even when we don't see His actions on our behalf; even when submitting brings suffering and heartache. God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.
- If there is anything in my life that will stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ, I trace it directly to those choices of submission and the favor of God that followed abundantly those seasons of hardship.

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EPILOGUE: CHANGE...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

- Attitude is everything!
- Attitude determines outcome, so make sure yours is good. God will honor that in His time and in His way.
- The world is a very cold place and will do all it can to push and pressure you into a miserable attitude.

- There will always be enough injustice and irritation to keep you in the 'wilderness' if you choose to murmur and complain and criticize and covet and doubt and rebel.
- On the flip side, though, life also has plenty of people and situations to generate thankfulness and love and faith and submission and contentment; attitudes that cause life to flow with the "milk and honey" of God's blessings and abiding presence
- The choice is yours!
- The only thing we can always control is our attitude. You can 'choose' your attitude.
- We all face those times when we have little control. During those times, the only thing that will separate us for good or bad is our attitude. We can choose to respond with "Promise Land" attitudes.
- First of all, the attitude reveals the true person. "The things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart" [Matthew 15:18].
- Your attitude reveals the person you truly are!
- The goal is not a makeover but real heart 'transformation', and that requires us to work on our attitudes.
- Attitudes predicts the future. "As a person thinks in his heart, so is he" [Proverbs 23:7].
- God is very concerned about our attitudes, because you become what you think about.
- God is focused upon heart attitudes because they are primarily 'vertical'.
- Say to God: "My attitudes are wrong. I have no excuse for them. I am done with all my rationalizations!"
- Repentance from 'murmuring' will bring access to God's provision for victory.
- God seldom removes the hard thing in our lives that brought us to our 'knees'. Instead, He gives us the grace and the strength to endure in daily doses and keeps us at the place of dependence.

- With god's help, you can change!
- If you are a Christian, and are trying to do this ourself, it won't work! "Christ in you is the hope of glory" [Colossians 1:27].
- A personal, intimate, daily 'walk' with Jesus is the ONLY thing that can fuel the fire of your spiritual victory!
- God alone can lead you out of the 'wilderness' of your murmuring attitudes and lead you into the joy and fullness of God's abiding presence!