

Transformed

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- Change happens whether we want it to, or not
 - Its inevitable
- Some people are creatures of habit
- Doing things, the same way every time
- Others like to experience change and give their life variety
- We find that some things are easy to change
- Hairstyles, clothes, or what we eat for lunch
- However, the most important things are not what we eat and wear
- The important things are what we think and do

Conformed: to fit into a fixed pattern

Paul wants believers to know He doesn't think its acceptable for them to fit into the worlds pattern

- This pattern isn't God's pattern

God created all things in the world “good;” however, Satan has polluted the world through sin

- God wants us to act better, above the worlds standards
- He wants us to be transformed
- *Transformed*: “metamorphosis”
- A metamorphosis is a complete change
- When a caterpillar enters a cocoon and emerges a butterfly, it undergoes a metamorphosis
- Those two stages of life represent both a complete end and a new beginning

We are transformed by the renewing of our minds

- The mind is the part of our soul that activates or originates behavior

Our purpose, as humans is to do God’s will

- By renewing our minds, we can know and do *God’s good, perfect, and acceptable will*

Understanding God’s will for our life is the key element of spiritual maturity

You will learn how to live by Christ’s example, with the help and power of the Holy Spirit

You Can Change your Attitude

Changing your attitude is the precursor to changing your mind about anything

A change in attitude may have the greatest single effect on your behavior and successes in life

Romans 15:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:1–2 (NKJV)

⁴ Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves also with the same mind**, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

- An attitude can be a certain way of thinking or feeling about someone or something
- It can also mean “posture” or “countenance” or “expressions”
- It can also relate to the orientation of an aircraft

Attitudes tend to run in groups

They can be either good or bad

It is essential that we don't conform to other people's ways of thinking, but instead conform to biblical ways of thinking

“The Winning Attitude”, John Maxwell says:

- It is the advance man of our true selves.
- Its roots are inward, but its fruit is outward.
- It is our best friend, or our worst enemy.
- It is more honest and more consistent than our words.
- It has an outward look based on past experiences.
- It is the thing which draws people to us or repels them. It is never content until it is expressed.
- It is the librarian of our past.
- It is the speaker of our present.
- It is the prophet of our future.

As you look into your personal history and retrieve past events you will either be grateful and think about good things, or you will be ungrateful and think about the bad ones

- You will become forgiving or bitter
- You will always speak through attitudes
- If you have a bad attitude it will likely keep you from having the life God has for you

5 Truths About Attitudes

You Choose Your Attitudes

Victor Frankl – Nazi concentration camp survivor

- His wife, parents, and brother perished
- Only him and his sister survived
- He spent three years in four camps
- Endured forced labor and witnessed others dying of starvation and being murdered in the gas chambers

He made a choice to forgive and never to hate the Nazi soldiers or civilians who had given up their Jewish neighbors

- His life has become a monument to the human spirit amid suffering

“Man’s Search for Meaning,” which has sold over 12 million copies in 21 languages.

In the book, Frankl describes this key tenet of his philosophy:

Most important, however, is the third avenue to meaning in life: even the helpless victim of a hopeless situation, facing a fate he cannot change, may rise above himself, may grow beyond himself, and by so doing change himself. He may turn a personal tragedy into a triumph If ... one cannot change his situation, he can still choose his attitude.

Logotherapy – a widespread psychological treatment which emphasizes an individual’s search for meaning through spiritual values as superior to the search for power and possessions

Attitudes Are Not Caused by People or Circumstances

God created *Adam and Eve* as perfect people

- He gave them perfect bodies and placed them in a perfect paradise
- God lived with them
- He walked with them in the garden
- They had a perfect set of circumstances
- God told them there was only one thing they could not have
- Under the enemies influence they became ungrateful and rebellious
- They had a bad attitude which they chose with their free will

During the worst time of his life *King David* had a fabulous attitude

When Saul pursued him, and his life was in danger he wrote most of the Psalms

- He maintained a humble, godly, faith-filled attitude

In the best of times he had a bad one

- He sinned with Bathsheba and had her husband killed

His life illustrates that you cannot connect attitudes with people or circumstances

Happiness is a Chosen Attitude

The devil will always tell you that you can **find** happiness

- He will tell you that you can travel to it
- He will tell you that you consume it or wear it

Truth: *“If you don’t have happiness right now, then you will also not have it when those things come”*

Philippians 4:12–13 (NKJV)

¹²I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- **Acts 16** – Paul and Silas in prison
- Beaten shackled and left to die
- Start to sing praises
- The prisoner’s chains are broken, and they are set free
- The Jailor comes to Christ

Through a spiritual transformation you can begin to live every moment with gratitude to God

- It is an attitude
- It is a choice

You can be as miserable as you want to be, or you can be as happy as you choose to be

God Rewards Good Attitudes and Disciplines Bad Ones

James 4:6, 10 (NKJV)

⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*”

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- Is pride an attitude?
 - Of course, it is!
- We can choose to be prideful or to be humble

When we are prideful we are saying that our circumstance is greater (*truer*) than God's promises to us

- In other words, we know better
- When we are prideful we are resisting God
- God still loves us when we are proud, but He will discipline and correct us

Sometimes all God is waiting for is a change in attitude so that He can bless us and give us the things we desire

- As a Father, God will discipline us
- He does this because He loves us
- Everything God does in our lives is for our good
- Discipline is a mark of sonship

Hebrews 12:7–13 (NKJV)

⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹² Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be *dislocated*, but rather be healed.

- He is disciplining attitudes
- Remember attitude can affect our posture or body position
 - “*Strengthen the hands that hang down*”
- God deals with us as children – *Zander: “Time Out”*
- You know discipline is over when you have learned your lesson
- God wants us to recognize what attitude and bad behavior can lead to
- God wants us to grow up and act like Him

He wants us to be responsible, mature people, so that we can live victorious lives

Attitudes Precede and Predict Your Future

Good attitudes lead to success, favor and promotion

Bad attitudes predict a future of failure, disfavor, and demotion

- Your attitude affects your altitude
- When you are going through difficulties don't trust your emotions or someone else's opinions

God's word is your attitude indicator

- When you are experiencing bad times and can't see clear, turn your eyes to the word of God
- It will predict whether you get out of your situation or not
- It will help you pick the right attitude rather than the wrong one

Psalm 42:5, 6, 8, 11 (NKJV)

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him *For* the help of *His countenance*. ⁶ O my God, my soul is cast down within me; Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, And from the heights of Hermon, From the Hill Mizar.

⁸ The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song *shall be* with me— A prayer to the God of my life.

¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of *my countenance* and my God.

Abraham Lincoln. If you want to learn about somebody who didn't quit, look no further.

Born into poverty, Lincoln was faced with defeat throughout his life.

He could have quit many times – but he didn't and because he didn't quit, he became one of the greatest presidents in the history of our country.

- 1816: His family was forced out of their home. He had to work to support them.
- 1818: His mother died.
- 1831: Failed in business.
- 1832: Ran for state legislature – lost.
- 1832: Also lost his job – wanted to go to law school but couldn't get in.
- 1833: Borrowed some money from a friend to begin a business and by the end of the year he was bankrupt. He spent the next 17 years of his life paying off this debt.
- 1834: Ran for state legislature again – won.
- 1835: Was engaged to be married, sweetheart died, and his heart was broken.
- 1836: Had a total nervous breakdown and was in bed for six months.
- 1838: Sought to become speaker of the state legislature – defeated.
- 1840: Sought to become elector – defeated.
- 1843: Ran for Congress – lost.
- 1846: Ran for Congress again – this time he won – went to Washington and did a good job.

- 1848: Ran for re-election to Congress – lost.
- 1849 Sought the job of land officer in his home state – rejected.
- 1854: Ran for Senate of the United States – lost.
- 1856: Sought the Vice-Presidential nomination at his party's national convention – got less than 100 votes.
- 1858: Ran for U.S. Senate again – again he lost.
- 1860: Elected president of the United States.

Psalm 27:1, 6, 14 (NKJV)

¹ The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?
The LORD *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore, I will offer *sacrifices of joy* in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

¹⁴ Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

- We often hear that attitude is more important than aptitude for success in life
- Even if other people have more gifting, talent, intellect, or beauty, you can succeed over them with attitude

Quote: *“a smooth sea never made a skilled sailor”*

- It's during the most difficult times we learn the most
- Its during those times that choosing the right attitude is most important