

Volume 11
Issue One

On Good Ground



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The Issues of Life

There's a modern-day pearl that says "our attitude determines our altitude." That's a cute way of saying that the spirit with which we go about a thing will determine how successful we will be in doing the thing. This is certainly true, and has its basis not in the creative mind of some motivational speaker, but in the timeless wisdom of God.

In Proverbs 4:23, the Bible says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Today, our lives are filled with issues – marital issues, family issues, health issues, job issues, financial issues – you name it. We have issues! How successfully we deal with those issues will not be determined by our talent or some external resource, but rather by the attitude we bring to the moment. It's this simple: if we bring a bad attitude to the table, we decrease the likelihood of a positive outcome and increase the probability of a negative one. Yet how many times do we have a rotten attitude about this, that or the other? And then we wonder why our lives are lacking in quality and contentment. It's not because of what we *don't have*, but because of what we *do have*: a bad attitude.

What does a bad attitude look like? A bad attitude has a wrinkly forehead and a scrunched up nose; it has a stiff back and an even stiffer neck; it has arms defiantly crossed and a set of "I-wish-you-would" eyes; it has pursed lips and sucking teeth. Bad attitudes are slow to get on board, but quick to argue the point. They're expert at seeing and speaking the problem, but lack the talent to come up with a solution. Bad attitudes find fault and want "nothin' to do with nobody." Bad attitudes are problem children, the seed of Chucky, Bebe's kids on steroids. And they're right here among us – even in the church!

How can a born-again, redeemed from the curse of the law Christian have a bad attitude? How can an "I can do all things through Christ" saint be so negative? How can a person who God always causes to triumph in Christ be such a loser? Simple: by not guarding their heart against the evil manipulations of the devil and their own flesh.

When God tells us to keep or to guard our hearts, He is giving us the key to success and prosperity in this life. Things will not always go right for us. In fact, during the course of our lives, many things will go wrong; sometimes terribly wrong. However, if we have the right attitude toward life, we will successfully navigate the rough seas and troubling waters and find a place of smooth sailing in God.

Having a right attitude starts with being in right standing with God. If you know God and obey His Word, your mind and your heart get renewed day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16). You develop a different perspective and speak with a different vocabulary. You begin to understand that the problems of this life are temporary, while the promises of God are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18). No matter what comes your way, you realize that you're a child of the King, so you boldly rush into the throne room of grace to get the help you need (Hebrews 4:16) instead of complaining or sitting around like a bump on a log. Christians with right attitudes are refreshing. They're winners who make great ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), Who is the ultimate winner! Christians with the proper attitude are blessed above measure!

In what camp do you find yourself today? The grumbling, "nothing-ever-turns-out-right, why-does-this-always-have-to-happen-to-me" camp? Or are you an overcomer who can run through a troop and leap over a wall through the power of God (Psalm 18:19)? The answer lies not in what you say with your mouth, but by what you allow into your heart. Make the decision to fill your heart every day with the things of God. Diligently guard your heart from every corrupting influence. As you refuse the things of the devil and feed on the goodness of God, you will see the issues of your life in a new light: as an opportunity to grow and to overcome and shine as a child of our great and mighty King!



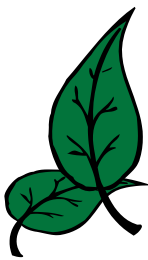
TRUE OR FALSE? This is a quiz that comes from the Book of 2 Samuel. Just tell us which of these statements are true, and which are false. (And you already have the Book, Bible Scholars, just tell us the chapter and verse). ©

1. David killed the man who told him of king Saul's death.
 True False
2. Abner came to David in peace but David had him killed.
 True False
3. Bathsheba did not mourn when her husband Uriah was killed.
 True False
4. Absalom had his brother Amnon killed because of his sister.
 True False
5. David gave seven of Saul's descendants to the Gibeonites to be killed.
 True False
6. David had a nephew named Jonathan.
 True False
7. Joab stabbed David's son Absalom with a sword.
 True False
8. The son of Shimeah (David's brother) killed a Philistine that had six fingers and six toes.
 True False
9. David drank water from the well of Bethlehem during battle and was strengthened.
 True False
10. David built an altar on a threshing floor.
 True False

(Answers on next page)


GRACE AND PEACE, READERS!

Was this newsletter passed on to you? If so, would you like to receive your own copy? Maybe you know someone who might want a copy. How about members of your church or customers in your store? Would you like to distribute it? Whatever the case, let us know. We'd love to include you in our mailing. **IT'S FREE!** Just log onto: www.ongoodground.org We'll be waiting!



A MOMENT WITH GOD


"Lord, I know what happens at the end of the Book... but help me to live through the Book."

THE WISDOM OF GOD

"And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond ...?"

Luke 13:16




Joy for the Spirit

"A merry heart does good, like medicine" - Proverbs 17:22

Attitude Is Everything

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and noticed she had only three hairs on her head. "Well," she said, "I think I'll braid my hair today." So she did and she had a wonderful day. The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. "Hmmm," she said, "I think I'll part my hair down the middle today." So she did and she had a grand day. The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that she had only one hair on her head. "Well," she said, "today I'm going to wear my hair in a pony tail." So she did, and she had a fun, fun day. The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that there wasn't a single hair on her head "YAY!" she exclaimed, "I don't have to fix my hair today!"

Attitude is everything. *Really.*

Just a little something to consider... And if we start out with the right attitude, each day WILL get better than the last.



SELAH.
Pause and calmly think about these.



REFLECTION

...As a man thinketh, so is He.

Don't try to be a blessing in your own strength.

When we grow up in God, instead of praying for what we think we need, we pray for what God wants.

OUR PAST IS NEVER ATTRACTIVE TO US UNTIL WE ARE STRUGGLING WITH OUR PRESENT.

What happens when push comes to shove, Jesus or the comforts of life?
Don't give the enemy an opportunity to gloat by giving in to your flesh.

PHARISEES FIND FAULT.

Somebody else's failure causes pain to somebody else's life.
We have to do what Jesus did with the same spirit Jesus did it.

A lot of people fall away from the Church because they are looking for God to do something for them, instead of doing something for Him.

We cannot get more revelation of God, without getting more revelation of evil.
Little enemies turn into big enemies... we have to totally destroy them!

Our reality must line up with our appearance. Jesus is looking at our fig tree.

The Prayer of Salvation

God, I come to You in the name of Jesus. You said that all have fallen short of the glory of God. You sent Your Son that I would be saved. Forgive me of my sins, Lord. I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus died for me and You raised Him from the dead. I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and believe that I have been born again. Thank You for loving me, for forgiving me and coming into my heart. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

Please be Praying with us for...

Beverlee Antonoff
David Brockett
Debbie Brockett
Ebony Brockett
Mark Brockett
Tina Brockett
Darryl Brown
Henry Brown
Melissa Buchanan
Jaison Carey
Steve Conley, Jr.
Art Corley
The family of Lisa Cosby

Alice Fannell
Cathy Fannell
Claude Faucette
Angelica Hackett
Isaiah Hackett
Myra Hackett
Sally Kelly
Tanya Shelton and family
Karla Unger
Donna Walter
David and Karen Witt

Finish The Job

The Lord declared in Isaiah that every person that is saved – everyone that is called by His name – was created for His glory (Isaiah 43:7). Most Christians have a sincere desire to fulfill this purpose by living lives that bring honor unto their Heavenly Father. Yet, just how to do that may sometimes seem elusive. Should we be active in multiple church ministries? How should we use our talents and our time? Are we sufficiently developing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives? These are all legitimate questions that we must answer. Yet in answering these larger questions, we must be careful not to overlook a simpler truth.

In John 17, the Lord Jesus prayed unto the Father, in what many people call the true Lord's Prayer. In His prayer, Jesus prayed for Himself, for his twelve disciples and for all who will believe in Him. It is a marvelous and touching prayer. Nestled within the 26 verses of John 17 is a key revelation for those who desire to glorify God in their lives. In verse 4, Jesus said the following: "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." These two small sentences pack a ton of power!

Read them again: "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."

In the first sentence, Jesus plainly states that He has brought glory to the Father during His time on the earth. In the second sentence, Jesus explains how He accomplished this: by completing the work the Father had given Him to do. Of course, we know that the Father sent Jesus into the earth to be the Savior of the world, and we are happy-glad that Jesus fulfilled His divine assignment. Yet it is the fulfilling – the finishing of the job – that Jesus identified as the key factor in bringing God glory.

Now, nobody will ever be given a greater assignment than Jesus was given by the Father. Yet, we know from Isaiah that God created each of us to be glory vessels unto Him. While we do not have the same assignment as Jesus, and while we may all have different assignments from one another, we all have the same calling: to glorify God. The way we do that is by obediently completing the assignments that God gives us to do – whatever those assignments may be. To glorify God, we must finish the job. It is our essential end.

Remember in John chapter 4, when the disciples returned from town with food and found Jesus talking to the woman at the well? They asked Jesus if he wanted anything to eat. Jesus replied, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34). By the time we get to John 17, Jesus declared that this ministry was finished. Here He was referring to His active ministry of teaching and healing. Note the sentence structure: "I have finished the work ..."

Later, one of His final words on the cross was, "It is finished" (John 19:30). By using the passive voice, Jesus was referring to His passive ministry through which He bore all the sins of the world on the cross. No matter which way you look at it, Jesus successfully completed the tasks – both active and passive – assigned to Him of God, and by doing so, He glorified the Father. Jesus did not leave anything undone. This is what we must set out to do if we are going to bring God glory.

Now let's be clear about one thing: glorifying God is not about the size of the undertaking or the so-called "importance" of the job. It's about completing the job, regardless of what it may be. If God calls you to do a certain task in your church or ministry, then get started and see it through to the end. If God tells you it's time to return to school and get your degree, then don't stop taking classes until you get that sheepskin. If God tells you to clean out your garage, don't do it half-way and say it's "better than it was." Finish it off! Finishing brings God glory!

Sometimes we can get overly spiritual and believe it is only the "weighty" things that matter to God. No, God is as concerned about how you go about ministry as He is in how you take care of your lawn or your little studio apartment. Whatever you do, do it to the utmost of your ability and do it to the end. In other words, finish the job. When we firmly get into the habit of doing this in ways great and small, we will be on our way to becoming the great glory vessels that God created us to be on the earth!

Answer Key

BIBLE 10T 24:24-25
9F 23:1-17
8T 21:20-21
7F 18:14
6T 21:21
5T 12:5-6
4T 13:28
3F 11:26
2F 3:27-28
1T 1:15

QUIZ



2ND ANNUAL Night of THANKSGIVING and PRAISE

Calling on all Christian singers, dancers, choirs, poets, rappers, comedians, step teams, musicians, praise and worship ministries, mime ministries, etc... Get your praise on however the Spirit leads, as we present an open mic to give God the glory for the great things He has done! *What will YOU render???* To sign up or for more info call, Sis. Brandi Fannell, (609) 372-7792 or Sis. Shayla Hargrove, (201) 686-3227

Saturday, November 12th 5:00pm

GIVING GOD THE GLORY

On Good Ground Christian Fellowship
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Wrightstown, New Jersey
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www.ongoodground.org

"But the ones that fell on good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." - Luke 8:15

Have you shared the Good News yet?



A FREE Christian Newsletter distributed by
Minister Jeffery B. Farnell
Sis. Evelyn Farnell

By inspiration of The Holy Ghost.

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If you would like to support the work of this ministry, have an article, testimony or thought to share, write us. Send your gift and/or letters:

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May the Lord God bless you in astonishing ways!

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Room For Jesus

In the gospel of Luke we're told that after Mary gave birth to Jesus, she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger "because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). From this simple sentence rises a sober question: if the innkeepers who turned away Jesus and His family knew who was asking for a room, would they have acted any differently? Instead of turning the family away, would they have done all they could to make room for the Lord, even if it meant displacing another guest? It's a question about which we can only speculate. When it comes to each of us, however, there is no need for speculation. For each day Jesus desires to enter our lives in a more meaningful way, and each day we either prepare Him room or we tell Him there is no vacancy at our inn (i.e., in our hearts). If we turn the Lord away we're telling Him that our other "guests" (our interests, hobbies, jobs, etc.) are more important than He is. I don't know about you, but I don't want that to be my testimony. Whenever Jesus comes a-knocking, I want to be quick to rise up, open the door and let Him in. No matter what else we have going on, there should always be room for Jesus in our lives.