



# “The Strength To Stay ‘Changed’ ”

2 Chronicles 16:7-9 Sermon Text: 2 Chronicles 16:9a

For the past two sermons, I have been speaking on the need for us to acquire the attitude of Christ (Philippians 2:5). When we have learned to reason and think like Jesus our attitudes are changed. We have established that an attitude dictates our behavior. We all need to become more Christ like. However, it is extremely difficult to change our attitude in this very complex society. Using the Word of God as an answer as to how we can change our attitude, I shared that criticism, problems, conflict of change, and negative thoughts can essentially limit God and our potential to change our attitude.

Trusting and depending on God is the one sure way to change our attitude. Lack of knowledge and understanding are self-made barriers, which block us from renewing our minds (Romans 12:1-2).

Once we have surrendered to the will of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit our attitude will drastically change our life to one of peace, joy and love. This change is not easy nor will it occur overnight. It is a constant daily struggle with forces seen and unseen that separate us from our source of strength—**GOD**.

When we feel that we have finally acquired “a new attitude” (i.e. the attitude of Christ), be on your guard because the attitude destroyer, our enemy the devil, will seek us out and find us to destroy (not cripple!) our newly changed being (1 Peter 5:8). Do not become angry. It is “his” job to keep us weak and confused about whose we really are during this earthly journey. This morning I want to share a simple message about how to maintain our new attitude. When we believe and act on Jeremiah’s words in Jeremiah 37:17—**WE CAN DO ANYTHING!!** After all, “The Lord is constantly watching everyone, and He gives strength to those who faithfully obey Him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9A)

There are two ways that God supports and strengthens our lives while we change:

## **I. Strength #1 – God’s Word**

We learn three important belief foundations for sustaining a positive Christian attitude. We read in Acts 16:25 that after Paul had acquired the attitude of Christ he faced numerous hardships. However, attitude teaches us to “rejoice always in the Lord.” The three foundations, which I share with you, are from Romans 8.

- A. First Foundation – “I am truly significant.” (verses 28-30)
- B. Second Foundation – “I am truly secure.” (verses 31-39)
- C. Third Foundation – “I can forget the past. (Isaiah 43:18-19)

## **II. Strength #2 – Prayer – Psalm 25:1-10**

Many outstanding prayers in the Bible are effective yet brief. Psalm 25:1-10 is a short, simple and sincere prayer; and it is successful. Life’s path is lined with enemies, but we must realize that when we walk with the companionship and friendship of God, and “keep the attitude of Christ,” the road is not too difficult. We can learn five lessons from the prayer in Psalm 25.

1. He knows in which direction to look for help (verse 1).
2. He knows in whom to trust. (verses 2-3)
3. He knows the purpose of prayer. (verses 4-5)
4. He knows the basis of prayer. (verses 6-7)
5. He knows the future of prayer. (verses 8-10)

The battle is not ours when we decide to change your attitude and surrender our lives to Christ. “En-Joy the Peace and Love of Your **NEW ATTITUDE!!**”

Pastor Gerald Durley