

## Attitude or "An Excellent Spirit" (Positive Perseverance)

### I. Introduction

- A. If Joseph, Job, or Daniel wrote an autobiography, they might entitle it: "The Secret of My Success."
- B. The late Zig Ziglar used to say, "*Your attitude, determines your altitude.*"
- C. What type of attitude do you think most have today? Why?
- D. What is most people's attitude dependent upon?
- E. Have you ever heard someone say "that guy or girl has a bad attitude"?
- F. What type of attitude would people say you have? Why?
- G. There is a debate in the business world whether a smile must be "*hired*" or if it can be "*trained.*" If I tell you how you can have a great attitude, would you want to?

### II. Scripture

- A. The wise and understanding have "*an excellent spirit.*"
  1. **Pro. 17:27**—"*He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.*"
  2. **Dan. 5:12**—"*Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.*"
  3. **Dan. 5:14** (cf. **4:8, 9; 5:11**)—"*I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.*"
  4. **Dan. 6:3**—"*Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.*"
- B. What is: "*an excellent spirit?*"
  1. **Rom. 8:28**—"*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.*"
  2. **1Th. 5:18; cf. Eph. 5:20**—"*In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*"
  3. **Mat. 6:33**—"*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*"
  4. **Php. 4:13**—"*I can do all things through Christ Which strengtheneth me.*"
- C. How do you get: "*an excellent spirit?*"
  1. **1Jo. 5:13**—"*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*" **Eph. 5:18-19**—"*18-And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19-Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" cf. **Mat. 5:3-16**—"Blessed be..."*

2. **Luke 11:2**—"And He said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth." **Gen. 50:19-20**—"19-And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? 20-But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."
3. **James 1:5**; cf. **Dan. 7:15; 9:3f**—"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."
4. **1Co. 13:4-7**—"4-Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5-Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6-Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7-Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." **James 1:2-3**—"2-My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3-Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."
5. **Php. 4:6-7**—"6-Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7-And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
6. **Php. 4:8**—"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
7. **Php. 4:11**—"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

### III. Application

- A. Step through ways of getting an excellent attitude and discuss specifically how you can and will do these.
- B. Pray and ask God to give you an excellent attitude.
- C. Remember to confess your bad attitude when you take your eyes, ears, mind, affections off Christ and put them on circumstances or anything else.