

EPHESIANS 4:23 (THE LIVING BIBLE)

REVIEW: Our attitude can make or break us, hurt or help us. If we desire success, our attitude must be changing for the better.

CONTINUE: Defined – An attitude is a firmly held point of view or way of regarding something; a mental stand or position.

- Is the glass half empty or full? The question shows that a situation can be viewed in different ways, depending on ones perspective.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE – NUMBERS 13

1. **NUMBERS 13:1-2** – 12 spies are sent to spy out the promised land. What was seen revealed two powerful attitudes. One was a defeated attitude and one that was victorious.
 - A. **DEUTERONOMY 1:20-22** – God didn't send the spies. He already gave them a detailed report of the land and its inhabitants. **EXODUS 33:1-3** His visible presence was with them in a cloud by day and fire by night.
 - B. God's honoring their request was similar to honoring their request for a king. He gave them what they wanted and let them have their own way. Both requests cost them plenty.
 - C. There was no need to confirm things on their own. All that did was open the door to fear and a defeated attitude. **EXODUS 23:23** Did it really matter who the enemy was?
2. **NUMBERS 13:27**
 - A. The first part of what God said was confirmed by all 12 spies. Why would they doubt that God would drive out the people?
3. **NUMBERS 13:28-29**
 - A. Nevertheless: "Despite all that" or "despite God's promises!"
 - The people who dwell there are strong.
 - The cities are fortified and strong.
 - The giants are there.
 - The land is completely occupied. "no vacancy"
4. **NUMBERS 13:30** – Caleb saw the same sights, men, cities, land, but His attitude was a victorious one, not one of defeat.
 - A. Caleb's attitude reflects – **ROMANS 3:4**
 - B. **NUMBERS 13:31-33** – Despite the facts, they wouldn't believe!
 - **DEUTERONOMY 1:26-33** – If they would've gone directly to the land without sending spies, it would've helped their bad attitude.
 - **DEUTERONOMY 1:27** – They thought God hated them. God loves us.
 - **DEUTERONOMY 1:29-33** – God fights for us.
5. **ROMANS 12:2** – Our mental attitude needs repaired, renewed and restored. This is our responsibility. It also requires discipline.
 - A. Do we see negative situations as obstacles or opportunities for God to intervene
 - B. If we see them as insurmountable problems, they become obstacles that impede our success.
 - C. If we see them as no match for our God, they become opportunities to witness God's miraculous power.

CONCLUSION: 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14 – Paul possessed a victorious attitude. His attitude was rooted in God's promises and the finished work of Christ in redemption. What about us? Are we going to allow the emotional giants of depression, fear, compromise; and the other "ites" to control our attitude, or will we follow Paul and declare "thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ?"