

# Leader Has a Positive Attitude

*Let's have an attitude of gratitude!*

*Our attitude dictates how we think and act every moment of the day.*

Our attitudes are our habit of thought, so if you want to change your attitude, you must change the way you think. We live in a negative world and we must guard against negative thinking. While we live in this world, we must remember we don't have to act like the world. The Bible instructs us to not be conformed to this world but "be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind". (Romans 12:2) As Christian's, we have a wonderful opportunity to show others how to live out the Word of God, by having and living with a positive attitude.

There is a story of the young psychology student serving in the Army. He decided to test a theory. Drawing kitchen duty, he was given a job of passing out apricots at the end of the chow line. He asked the first few soldiers that came by, "You don't want any apricots, do you?" 90% said, "No." Then he tried the positive approach: "You do want apricots, don't you?" About half answered, "Uh, yeah, I'll take some." Then he tried a third test, based upon fundamental either/or selling techniques. This time he asked, "One dish of apricots or two?" And in spite of the fact the soldiers don't like Army apricots, 40% took two dishes and 50% took one!" It's all about attitude! Wow! 90% stated "no" at the

beginning but later on 90% said "yes", why? It is all about influence and attitude.

In the book, *The Purpose-Driven Church*, there was an alarming statistic. When asked for the purpose of the church, 90% of many of the pastors stated that it was for reaching the lost, 10% stated that it was for the members. But when they asked the church membership,

90% stated that the church is there for them, only 10% stated that the church is there to reach the lost! You as a leader here at of River of Life church must communicate the vision, with a positive attitude, then and only then will people follow.

***Here are the effects your attitude has on you:***

*Your basic attitude affects your belief in your potential for success.*

A negative attitude causes you to doubt your ability to achieve, while your belief in your potential makes you willing to take the necessary actions for success. Positive attitudes breed positive results!

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*Your attitude determines how you perceive a challenge.*

A positive attitude lets you see a challenge as an opportunity rather than an obstacle or threat. Your attitude allows us to see the task much clearer with the energy needed to overcome and succeed.

*Your attitude determines your confidence.*

People with negative attitudes think, "I can't ..." or "I doubt..."

In contrast, each time you act from a positive attitude, your self-confidence is enhanced, your ability to achieve is proven, and you know you can succeed. Your confidence level rises as your faith rises.

*Your attitude affects how you see opportunity.*

People who have negative attitudes bury their ability to see opportunity. They only see roadblocks. By bringing glory to God, a positive attitude opens your eyes to so many opportunities. Your challenge becomes which opportunity you choose.

You see, a leader is not identified by his/her title, but by his/her fruitfulness. Which comes by having an optimistic and positive mindset proceeds into solid, concrete actions. These consistent, diligent actions brings unity. Unity is always necessary in the church. It is the mortar, which holds everyone together. Remember (YOU) leaders are in the people business. It is all about relationships. Godly leaders have an advantage that others in this world do not have. That "advantage" is God! When our hearts are close to God and are obedient to His direction, God can and will do miracles in us and through us. He wants us to be ever growing, ever changing, how we think, how we talk, how we act. It may be a gradual process of growth but you should

remember that the scriptures state, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13.

With God's help, we can and will change, grow our ministries and our church for His glory. With His help, we can do all things!

### **I. The first area of change is our thoughts.**

We need to avoid such thoughts as "I can't" or "I'm afraid". Look at all the people in the Bible who first thought they could not do anything, such as Moses, Gideon, Peter, etc. and later, see the powerful hand of God working in their lives. Before they were powerful, they had to first change the way they thought about themselves.

#### *God's Brainwashing*

How He changes our thinking is to apply the scriptures to our lives. Philippians 4:8 states, "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". Let me ask a question, "What do you we allow in our minds?" You have heard, "Garbage in, Garbage out," which is very true. As leaders here at ROL I need you to guard your heart and mind. Then

we can have His words challenge us and ultimately change the way think. So we can think with the Mind of Christ.

## **2. We need to change our speech patterns.**

How often do we use negative words in our everyday speech, to either explain a situation or even ourselves? As a Christian, our words should be full of grace, wisdom, and direction. Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. As we draw closer to God, our words should be distanced from those of this world. James 3:12 gives us an illustration of the normal course for the Christian Leader. "Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh." Our speech should always bring glory to God and be a good Christian example for Him.

## **3. Thirdly, we need to modify our behavior.**

If we are who we say we are, a Christian, then our behavior should be reflective of this. A leader exemplifies a pure behavior, not of anger, haughtiness, unforgiveness, nor an un-teachable spirit, dishonesty, etc. We should no longer be of this world but be producing fruit (our outward appearance and actions) that gives the glory to God.

*Attitudes are habits.* They are hard to change overnight. Psychologists estimate that we use less than a third of our actual potential. If we are now using only 30% of our potential, what would happen if we choose

to increase our potential only 3%, a total of 33%? This is really 10% more than what you were using before.

A successful leader continually measures his/her progress from time to time. The benefits greatly outweigh the challenge. All great leaders have to have a great attitude.

### **Benefits of having great attitude:**

*Increased enthusiasm.*

*Freedom from the limitations of fear.*

*Increased creativity.*

*Enjoyment in taking the initiative.*

*Joy when using more of your God-given potential.*

*Boundless opportunities.*

*Abundance of positive friends and colleagues.*

*Increased efficiency in utilizing your time and energy.*

*More friends.*

### **The last thing is to enjoy your leadership position.**

I have seen many leaders who looked as if they were sucking on lemons, sour-faced people who stated that they were full of joy, only to display inward and outward characteristics I did not want.

Laughter and being around those who are pleasant can bring enjoyment

in our leadership role. We can laugh and enjoy the position God has placed us with.

## **5 Reasons to Laugh:**

*Laughter is good for you.*

It is good for your health. Laughter and having a good time has shown to lower blood pressure, boost the immune system, and add years to your life.

*Laughter is powerful.*

Those who know how to use laughter usually know how to persuade others. The ability to use humor at times can defuse difficult and tense situations. The power of laughter can change your world.

*Laughter is fun to be around.*

It is fun to be around people who laugh a lot. They are upbeat and positive, rather than being discouraging and judgmental. Laughter breeds laughter.

*Laughter is a good teacher.*

One father wanting to teach his daughter a lesson on over packing for an overnight stay with her cousin, simply pouted and said, "I didn't know that you were planning on moving out." The girl laughed and agreed. There are many ways to teach someone, the softest way is usually the best.

*Laughter is better than tears.*

No life is perfect, but laughter is better than sadness. Find the positive in everything and laugh even at the things you have no control over. I'll choose laughter anytime.

### **HOW TO Positive Attitude Tips:**

*Learn to lighten up, live a little and laugh a lot.*

*Be flexible, do not take things so serious.*

*Be sensitive to differences in sense of humor.*

*Consider the timing of your humor.*

*Don't laugh at others, laugh with others.*

*Laugh when there is nothing you can do but laugh.*

*Laughter is more than good medicine—it is the best medicine!*

Christian leaders know they must pursue God in order to gain a better perspective on what they should do with the resources and opportunities entrusted to them by God.