



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – January 8, 2012

Heart to Heart...

The greatest threat to one's spiritual life is a wrong attitude. Bad attitudes make one miserable! We have seen it in young people and we see it in people's everyday lives. Bad attitudes create complaining and ungrateful hearts. Bad attitudes blind us spiritually. We need to make certain our attitudes are in line with the Lord. Listen to these words: *"I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining every day; Still praying as I onward bound, Lord plant my feet on higher ground. I want to scale the utmost height, and catch a gleam of glory bright; but still I pray till heaven I've found; Lord plant my feet on higher ground."*

You might recognize those words from one of the spiritual songs we sing. Do we really believe what we sing? What is the Lord hearing from us? Our lips expressing words, while the heart doesn't really mean it because our attitudes aren't right? Are we really engaged with the Lord? Sometimes things don't go the way we would like. What is our attitude at those times? If we are reaching and gaining every day and pressing toward the upward way, our attitude will be like Christ. Isn't that what He did?

Paul encouraged the Philippians: ***"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus."*** (Philippians 3:12) Paul was pressing on, reaching and still growing upward into Christ Jesus even in some of the most difficult situations. Some were trying to hurt Paul, causing him distress but Paul wasn't allowing those people to affect his attitude in Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:15-18). It seems there are those who think because their years in the church equate them with having arrived spiritually yet in attitude aren't mature at all. Paul met many obstacles, people trying to hurt him and yet he continued his upward progress with a proper attitude. ***"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*** (Philippians 3:14) When things weren't going smoothly in his life, Paul still pressed toward Christ and his heart and attitude were set on Jesus and it showed. That's what children of God do!

What about us? What is our attitude? ***"Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us."*** (Philippians 3:17) What was Paul's example and pattern? CHRIST JESUS! Could any of us ever see Christ walking around upset about things not going His way, carrying an attitude of discontent? Paul wasn't ashamed of anyone to follow his lead as he followed Christ! ***"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."*** (I Corinthians 11:1) Paul patterned his life and attitude after that of Christ Jesus. ***"The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."*** (I John 2:6) The apostle John taught those words.

Our attitudes are most serious to the Lord. Attitudes reflect the heart. We need to have one purpose and that purpose is to press upward to the goal in Christ Jesus. In order to do that, it takes a proper attitude and our attitudes will determine if this will happen or not: *"Lord plant my feet on higher ground!"* Think about it!!!