

# **Attitude Towards God Part 1 — Do You Reverence, Love, Trust, And Thank Him?**

by

**Ellis P. Forsman**

# **Attitude Towards God Part 1 — Do You Reverence, Love, Trust, And Thank Him?**

by

**Ellis P. Forsman**

**October 6, 2011**

# **Attitude Towards God Part 1 — Do You Reverence, Love, Trust, And Thank Him?**

## **Prov 23:7**

The right attitudes are absolutely necessary.

*Psalms 100:2-4, “Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”*

The right attitudes are necessary for unity in a local congregation. All the talent in the world cannot make up for wrong attitudes that we may have. Prov. 23:7, “*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: ...*”

With the right attitudes, our efforts in service to the Lord are enhanced and live up to their full potential.

Attitude defined: A state of mind or a feeling, disposition.

In other words, One’s perception of something.

Religiously we can have an attitude that brings blessings from God, or one that brings disfavor from Him. We need to maintain the proper attitudes in this life if we expect to receive His blessings.

Let’s notice the some of the attitudes we need to have toward God.

## **We need the attitude of reverence.**

I once heard a man pray the following: “Yo, Big Daddy. You’re the man! How are things goin’ up there in heaven...”

What a disrespectful attitude!

## **Serving the Lord begins with an attitude of respect.**

*Prov. 1:7, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

## Serving the Lord begins with an attitude of respect because of who He is.

- Psalms. 89:5-11, “*And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O LORD: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints. For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm. The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.*” Reverence in this verse — 3372 yare’ – (Heb.) to fear; to revere; to be frightened.
- Matt. 21:33-39, “*Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.*” Reverence in this verse — 1788 entrepo {en-trep’-o} (Grk.) (1) to shame one (2) to be ashamed (3) to reverence a person (4) to turn about (KJV: reverence 4, regard 2, be ashamed 2, shame 1).
- Heb. 12:28-29, “*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.*” This is 0127 aidos {ahee-doce’} (Grk.) (through the idea of downcast eyes) (1) a sense of shame or honour, modesty, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect (KJV: shamefacedness 1, reverence 1). It has the same meaning as shamefacedness as this the following verse: 1 Tim. 2:9, “*In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety...*”

We are to show respect to God when we pray; we are do this in a very humble manner.

Psalms 95:2-7, “*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us **kneel** before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,*”. The meaning here is 3766 kara` (Heb.) to bend the knee; to sink, to prostrate.

Even at the time when we sing praises to Him and are joyful for the occasion, when we address God in prayer we are to humble ourselves before Him because of who He is.

Rom. 14:11, “*For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*”

In Paul’s farewell to the Ephesians , he was worried about their eventual falling away from God and he taught them with tears for three years. He called them together for one final time for he knew that he would be imprisoned in Rome. When he finished addressing them, note Paul’s attitude towards God when he prayed. Acts 20:36, “*And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.*”

By his kneeling down in prayer, he was humbling himself before God.

James 4:10, “***Humble*** yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” Humble has the following meaning: 5013 tapeinoo {tap-i-no’-o} (Grk.) (1) to make low, bring low (1.a) to level, reduce to a plain (1.b) metaph. to bring into a humble condition, reduce to meaner circumstances (1.b.1) to assign a lower rank or place to (1.b.2) to abase (1.b.3) to be ranked below others who are honoured or rewarded (1.b.4) to humble or abase myself by humble living (1.c) to lower, depress (1.c.1) of one’s soul bring down one’s pride (1.c.2) to have a modest opinion of one’s self (1.c.3) to behave in an unassuming manner (1.c.4) devoid of all haughtiness (KJV: humble 6, abase 5, humble (one’s) self 2, bring low 1).

Example: Luke 18:10-14, “*Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that **humbleth** himself shall be exalted.”*

Notice in this case that both the Pharisee and the publican were standing when they prayed. But the publican was more humble than the Pharisee. It was because he lowered himself in his spirit; his attitude was different.

Does this mean we have to always kneel down when we pray? Not at all; for it is our attitude that must be lowered. Notice the following verse: Mark 11:25, “*And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*”

We can find examples in the Bible of men praying standing, bowing, kneeling, and even on their face. What is important is that when we pray, that we do so in a humble manner. James 4:6, “*But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*”

## **Serving the Lord begins with an attitude of respect because of who we are.**

God made us and we were made to serve Him. Psalms 100:2-4, “*Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*”

Some people have the attitude that they don’t need God; that they can take care of themselves.

Napoleon had that very attitude. He had planned to invade Russia and defeat the Czar. Someone said in his presence, “Man proposes, but God disposes.” On hearing this remark, Napoleon replied, “I propose, and I dispose.” He deliberately left God out of the reckoning, and it proved fatal. For God dealt with Napoleon through one of His smallest and most fragile creations — the snowflake. His Corsican army was not prepared for the snows of Russia, and he was defeated. “Russia shall be mine,” his proud heart had said, but God was there.

Why do we all need God? Because we all have sinned. Rom. 3:23, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*”

There is none of us that can take care of our sins on our own. We all need God’s help to wipe away our sins. Acts 8:18-24, “*And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the*

*gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.”*

We can pray to God ourselves; we can ask others to pray for us; but only God can forgive our sins when that request is made. If we leave God out of our lives, we will remain in a sinful state. We cannot live with an attitude of “I can live without God” or “I don’t need God.”

## **Serving the Lord begins with an attitude of respect because of what He has done for us.**

Psalms 111:9, *“He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and **reverend** is his name.”*

Only God was accorded this name. He is to be respected.

- Eph. 1:3-7, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”*
- Titus 2:14, *“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”*

Because He is holy and He redeemed our sins by the blood of Jesus on the cross, we need to have an attitude of respect to Him in the way and manner that we live; we are also to be holy (purified) because He has redeemed us from the wickedness of the world. We are to be different than the world (peculiar), and have an attitude of being zealous of good Christian works.

Let us all have the proper attitude of respect for God in our lives.

## **We need the attitude of love.**

### **We must have the right kind of love toward God — it must be genuine.**

And our love must be total. Matt. 22:37, *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”*

We show our love to Him when we include Him in all phases of our life; we include Him in all of the decisions that we have to make. If we don't, our love is not complete.

#### **Our love must be obedient.**

- John 14:15, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”*
- John 14:24, *“He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.”*

When we are obedient to His word we show Him that we truly love Him. Let us have the attitude of a loving obedience in our lives, as David did.

Psalms 119:97, *“O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day.”*

#### **Our love must be imitated.**

Matt. 22:38-39, *“This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”*

If our love for Him is complete, it will also be reflected in our love for those about us.

### **Love must be the motive for everything that we do.**

1 Cor. 13:1-3, *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”*

We can have all the knowledge of the Bible we can possess and preach the word of God to millions of people throughout the world, but if we don't have love in our hearts to those about us, it is all for nought. John 13:35, *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*



## We must have the attitude of faith and trust.

Faith is strong conviction and trust in things one does not see. Heb. 11:1, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*”

### Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

Heb. 11:6, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”

The faithful of Hebrews 11<sup>th</sup> chapter were DOERS . . . Their faith WORKED!

Brothers and Sisters, unbelief, unfaithfulness, and disobedience are all versions of the same Greek word.

Unbelief - 0570 *apistia* {ap-is-tee'-ah}(Grk.) (1) unfaithfulness, faithless (2) want of faith, unbelief (3) weakness of faith.

Disobedient - 0543 *apeitheia* {ap-i'-thi-ah}(1) obstinacy, obstinate opposition to the divine will (KJV: unbelief 4, disobedient 3).

The obvious conclusion, then, we have to make is that belief, faith, and obedience are all related to each other, and can be used interchangeably.

Some in the religious world have the opinion that the book of James does not belong in the Bible because it says faith without works is dead.

Obedience is inherent in the word faith. All of the examples of faith in the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews included works.

- Heb. 11:6, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”
- Rom. 10:13-21, “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that*

*are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."*

*"All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a faithless and gainsaying people."*

*"All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a unbelieving and gainsaying people."*

*"All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."*

Faith can change our perception of God and how we react to His commandments.

## **Faith and trust empowers us to overcome our anxieties.**

*Matt. 6:30, "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"*

We sometimes become anxious about things and situations in this life, and go about worrying and trying to take care of things on our own. We may find ourselves in a situation where we're in need of a great deal of money; so we take on another job. The problem is that we have just removed our faith and trust in God who has promised that He would take care of us. We do what we can, but we shouldn't become anxious and worry about such things.

## **Faith and trust empowers us to overcome our discouragement.**

Listen to the apostle Paul who endured much, yet did not worry. 2 Cor. 4:7-17, *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your*

sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;”

If I should die while working for the Lord, I pray to God I would have that kind of faith and trust in the Lord to carry me through. We should all have the same kind of attitude that Paul had.

## **Faith and trust empowers us to overcome the world.**

1 John. 5:4, “*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*”

Have faith and trust in God to care for us.

## **The attitudes of thankfulness.**

Words are very important. They make or break us. I once heard, and I believe it, that the three sweetest words in the English language are: “I love you.” Likewise, the two sweetest words are said to be, “Thank you.”

“Thank you!” There is something unique about these words:

It has been called in recent years the “lost expression.” It is lost only because it is rarely used in our day.

For some reason — no doubt one is selfishness — people have abandoned these two precious words. Every Christian should have the attitude of gratitude, especially to God. Col. 3:17, “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*”

It’s not difficult to be thankful when we count our many blessings. Psalms 126:3, “*The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.*”

An attitude of thankfulness for the blessing we have:

- Will help to remove bitterness and apathy in our lives.
- Will help to instill consistent attendance, sincere worship, holy living, mercy, and love in our lives.

God’s wrath will be revealed toward men for many reasons, but the scriptures tell us that it will also be for those who have become unthankful.

Rom. 1:18-21, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in*

*them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”*

## **Conclusion.**

Is your attitude toward God what it should be?

- Reverence.
- Love
- Faith and trust
- Thankfulness

We determine our attitude!! The choice is ours!! 1 Sam. 12:24, “*Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.*”







