

ATTITUDE

- Performing at our best is a combination of skill, God-given gifting and attitude.
- Skill can be defined as having the knowledge and the ability to do something.
- As a rule, this is necessary before we can tackle any activity successfully.
- God has also promised that He will provide us with everything we need for life and godliness 2 Peter 1:3 “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”; as long as we submit our lives to His Will.
- To know God’s gifting is essential.
- However, although these two things are obviously very important, it is attitude that sets apart those who are going to be really successful from those who will simply be adequate.
- Attitude may be defined as thinking, outlook or perspective which motivates or disposes us to act in a certain way.
- It is our attitude that determines how well we use our skills and God-given gifting, and it even determines how well we express or use what we know intellectually.
- Our attitude influences our perception of any situation, i.e. it determines how we are going to view it, and it also determines how well we are going to perform in or handle that situation.
- It is very easy for an attitude problem to reap havoc in our lives.
- This is because it can cause us not only to do badly in one situation, but to do badly in every situation we encounter, for example a common attitude problem is an expectation of failure.
- This usually arises because of a past failure which causes us to feel badly about ourselves.
- This attitude is then carried into other things that we do and it causes us to fail there also.
- To be caught in such a cycle will cause us to continually perform poorly.
- People trapped in a vicious cycle like this in which they are going from bad to worse, need to break out, if they are ever going to be effective and successfully for God and in anything.
- To do this they will need to get help from God and other people.
- Simply to think positively is not the answer.
- The root cause of the problem needs to be dealt with, i.e. their attitude problem needs to be rectified.
- We need to go from good to better, if we want to be successful in what we do, and we need to see ourselves as God sees us and therefore, have a good self-image.
- If we are skilled and competent enough to be realistically confident in both God, and in our gifting, in any situation; if we are committed to what we are doing because we know it is God’s will for us at that time, and if we with God, are in control of the situation; then it should be possible to be continually highly motivated and successful in everything we do.
- Being successful will reinforce our right attitude and behaviour and enable us to continue it.
- Our attitude toward life will determine how we get on in life.
- We need to accept ourselves, knowing that God loves us and has chosen us.

- He knows what attitudes we harbour in our hearts. Hebrew 4:12, 13 “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any Two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of heart”.
- He knew what we would be like physically, emotionally and intellectually, and He has gifted us in a unique way so that we have the potential to do something for Him that no one else could do quite as well.
- God is able to use us as we are, but He wants us to progress and grow in maturity in Him so that He can use us even more in His service.
- We need to put of the old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires and by circumstances and influences and allow God to help us get the real attitude, which is created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24 “That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness”.
- We need to think, act, talk in ways characteristic of whom we ultimately was created by God, to think, act and talk like Jesus. Philippians 2:5-11 “Let this mind be also in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man. He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father”. 1 Peter 4:1,2 “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God”.