

## The Most Excellent Way

### Attitude #1 - Humility

**Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**I admit that I am powerless over the effects of drugs, alcohol and self-centered behavior, my life is unmanageable.**

Anyone that desires to live for the Lord will find out sooner than later that there are many things they may have assumed regarding the Christian life that they may have been wrong about. Admitting when we are wrong is the beginning of learning what is right. The Bible is full of instructions, principles and examples of the blessings of God upon the life of a person that admits their faults and weaknesses and places themselves under the authority of God and His word in order that they might become strong.

There are no places, there are no rooms, and there are no ministries where there are no people who do not have weaknesses. The admission of weakness is the very beginning to being made strong. When a person denies their weaknesses they open themselves up to greater temptation in that area of weakness. If I won't come clean regarding the weakness it obviously means that I will continue participating in the behavior. If I am weak and I know that I am weak and I do not want to stay weak, it's only then that I can activate the help of God in order that I might overcome and get the victory. In other words, I acknowledge my weakness, I confess my weakness to God, if it is sin I confess it as sin and ask God to forgive me for continuing to give in to it; and then ask God to help me to forsake it and help me to learn how I can become stronger in that area of my life.

To admit is to agree that something is true. How many of us stayed the way that we were simply because we would not admit the truth regarding our need to change? Humility opens the door to honesty; the humble man will be honest and the honest man will be humble. Our struggles are real and we need to be real in dealing with them.

As we look at a particular time in the life of King David we will see his admission to the circumstances of his life at the time. Psalm 63 was penned by David when David was in the wilderness of Judah, either the forest of Hareth (**1 Samuel 22:5**) or the wilderness of Ziph (**1 Samuel 23:15**). During this time in his life David was being hunted by Saul. Saul was in a jealous rage because David had been anointed king over Israel and because of his early success in defending the nation against the likes of Goliath. Whether it was the forest of Hareth or the wilderness of Ziph we see David's deep longing for God. We will hope to learn from what he said and most importantly hope to have the same longing for God as he did.

**Psalms 63:1 - O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;**

**1. A personal declaration. O God, thou art my God....**

**Psalms 31:14 - But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.**

**Psalms 118:28 - Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee.**

**Psalms 140:6 - I said unto the LORD, Thou art my God: hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD.**

**Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.**

The reality that God is our God is based upon the reality of a decision to make Him our God. We cannot call someone else's father our father anymore than we can call God our God if we have not been born into His family. God does not become personal until we make Him personal. The foundation of David's declaration was his personal relationship with God. There were in his day as there is in our day many "gods" to choose from. There is the god of self, the god of indulgence, the god of self-reliance, the god of materialism, the god of pleasure and the list can go on and on.

Until we get to the place where God told us to get, when He said.....**"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3)**.....we will never have the stability that we need in order to practically and consistently succeed in the Christian life.

**Psalms 86:10 - For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.**

The Apostle Paul said, **"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day". (2 Timothy 1:12)**

It should truly humble us to know that the God of the universe is our God. So many paths to choose and God has led us to the right path. So many choices to make and God has led us to the right choice. The humble man says without reservation that God is my God and only by the grace of God can I say it!!

**1 Corinthians 15:10a - But by the grace of God I am what I am:**

**2. A personal commitment. Early will I seek (look earnestly or diligently for) thee....**

David confesses his personal responsibility and committed himself to live up to *his* responsibility to seek the Lord. But we notice that he would not just seek Him at any time, he would seek Him early. This speaks to the fact that David would seek God before he would seek anything or anyone else.

**Psalms 9:10 - And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.**

**Psalms 5:3 - My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.**

**Psalms 9:10 - And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.**

**Isaiah 26:9 - With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early:**

David knew that if he would seek the Lord and seek Him early; he would not seek Him in vain. This is not necessarily referring to the particular time of the day although we would be very wise to seek the Lord at the start of each day. Notice again "when" David would seek the Lord.....*early*. It will always be to our advantage when we seek the Lord before we seek anything or anyone else. The temptation to avoid is making God or last resource instead of making Him our first resource. A good rule of life would be to seek God first in all things.

**Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

A good question to ask ourselves would be.....Of all the things that I seek after where does God fall on the list of things that I seek?

**3. A personal admission. My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee....**

Our tendency is to think that we do not need God until we are truly needy. David acknowledges his need for God as a constant need for God. To suffer thirst requires a specific solution; many of us have been thirsty and tried in vain to quench our thirst with things that never satisfy. God's provision is a provision that truly meets the need of the needy. David admitted that his spiritual life had a thirst that only "his" God could satisfy.

**John 4:13,14** - Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Whether or not we acknowledge it, we all have a need for God. The sooner we come to that conclusion the better off we will be. Knowing our need for God should compel us to seek the Lord when things are going our way so that we might be better equipped to handle things when they are not.

**4. A personal awareness. In a dry and thirsty land, where no water is:**

Remember that David was in the wilderness and the wilderness is a picture of the world. There are no verses in the Bible that promise continued smooth sailing through this life, only promise of a safe landing. David describes himself as thirsting and his flesh longing for God. Then he describes his current condition as one that appears to be a condition that provides no relief for his needs. Yes, this life that we are promised by is best described by Jesus as "abundant". It is in fact complete and full; the life He would desire and provide for us to live. But it is also a life that will be and must be lived in this world before we get to the next and it is indeed at times a world of a dry and thirsty land, where no "spiritual" water is.

The late Charles Spurgeon described it best when he said, "Sweet rest is to be had in the Palace Beautiful, but there is also a Hill Difficulty to be climbed". This world is a world of tears and smiles and when we have a firm awareness that our life consists of more than what we have but most importantly consists of "who we have", we will handle the wilderness with more peace and joy.

David gives his solution with his first statement where he says, "Oh God, thou art my God".

The humble man does not say that his wilderness is based on his condition. The humble man bases his condition on God's love for him. It is not possible that God's love to His people should change with their condition. Be of good cheer, in whatever state of unhappiness or rebellion we may have wandered to in the past or even in the present, God does not and will not condone the rebellion, but His love does not depend on our condition. When the Lord first loved us we were in a worst state than we are now and even if we are better, our "better" condition has nothing to do with His love, and He loves us anyway.

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