



The Christian Solution
for Addictions:
Jesus!

"Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living"

Lessons Developed by Pastor Rick McClung



ATTITUDE 3 - Submissive

Watch Video: <http://www.tmewcf.org/video.html>

Jesus said: "Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

I give my will and my life to Jesus Christ.

MEEKNESS — mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit.

Gentleness or meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all. Meekness is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will.

- **SUBMIT** — to accept somebody else's authority or will; to defer to another's knowledge, judgment or experience.
- **SURRENDER** — to give in, yield, and agree to (opposite: resist).

This Biblical principle (like all other Biblical principles) is contrary to the condition and position of the natural man. We do not like — nor do we desire — to be submissive with regard to our flesh. When a person has a relationship with God through the finished work of the cross of Jesus Christ, they have all of the power within them to submit to the will of God. However, it would be pretentious to think that any person that has recently entered into that relationship — or has been in that relationship for a length of time — has full knowledge of how to live out the power to submit to the will of God. It is like other things in life, we learn how to do what we do. In this case, we learn how to live as we are, followers of Jesus Christ.

Consider the following verses concerning the will of God. All of these verses have a commonality concerning the person and teaching of Jesus Christ. When we are submissive, it can and will stem from our faith in Jesus Christ and His word.

John 2:11 - "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples BELIEVED on Him."

John 2:23 - Now when He was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many BELIEVED in His name, when they saw the miracles which He did.

John 4:41 - And many more BELIEVED because of His own word;

John 7:31 - And many of the people BELIEVED on Him, and said, "When Christ cometh, will He do more miracles than these which this man hath done?"

John 8:30 - As He spake these words, many BELIEVED on Him.

John 10:42 - And many BELIEVED on Him there.

John 11:45 - Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, BELIEVED on Him.

John 12:42 - Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many BELIEVED on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: ⁴³For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

John 21 - Jesus appears to seven of the disciples at the sea of Tiberias (which is also the Sea of Galilee). They fished all night and caught nothing. In the morning the Lord stood on the shore and asked them if they had anything to eat. He then instructs them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. Immediately following the instruction of Jesus, they were not able to drag in the net because of the number of fish. The Apostle John realizes that it is the Lord, and they gather on the shore where they find that Jesus has already built a fire and was preparing fish and bread. Jesus then instructs them to bring some of the fish that they caught and invites them to eat with Him. In verse 13 we see Jesus serving bread and fish to His disciples. Verse 14 says that this was the third time that He appeared to His disciples after He had risen from the dead. In verses 15-19 we then see a dialogue between Jesus and Simon Peter to confirm Peter's love for Jesus. Jesus concludes the subject with two simple words of instruction, "**Follow Me**".

Consider some of the other places in Scripture where Jesus gives the same instruction.

Matthew 4:19 - And He saith unto them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

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Matthew 8:22 - But Jesus said unto him, "Follow Me; and let the dead bury their dead."

Matthew 9:9 - And as Jesus passed forth from thence, He saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and He saith unto him, "Follow Me." And he arose, and followed Him.

Matthew 16:24 - Then said Jesus unto His disciples, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

Matthew 19:21 - Jesus said unto him, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me."

Mark 2:14 - And as He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, "Follow me." And he arose and followed Him.

John 1:43 - The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

John 12:26 - If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.

In verses 20-22, we see the reaction from Simon Peter followed by a reminder from Jesus. In verses 20-21, Peter "turns around" and asks, "what about the Apostle John?" In verse 22 we see Jesus' response, "what is that to you? ... Follow Me!!"

This is not the first time that Simon Peter was distracted — we see in Matthew 14:30 that he was distracted by the strong winds when Jesus allowed him to walk to Him on the water.

We see in Matthew 26:35 where he is distracted from believing that he had the potential to deny the Lord in spite of Jesus saying that he would. We might say that Simon Peter kept getting turned around. He went one way for a while and then another way.

I'm certain that all of us can relate to that on a personal level.

So then, we have "BELIEVING on Jesus" for salvation and "FOLLOWING Jesus" for our sanctification. When we turn from sin and self and we turn to Jesus, asking Him to forgive us of our sins

and receiving Him as our Savior we are saved. From that experience described by the Bible "born again," we are called to "follow Jesus". This involves our growing in the Lord and practically living out the Biblical expectations [and promises] of the Christian life.

It would be safe to say that Simon Peter was distracted by the things around him — so can we. I'm sure there were times later on in life for Simon Peter where he said, "I wish I knew then what I know now" — perhaps we can say the same thing. However, we can know a lot of things and not do them and still not be any better off.

If someone had told me about the potential distractions to the Christian life (and there are many), I'm not certain that I would have listened when I first was saved. However, I have learned about many distractions the hard way. I am responsible for passing those lessons along to others so they will have the opportunity to avoid learning the same way. We certainly can't cover them all but we can and should cover a few.

What are some of the things that distract us from **SUBMITTING** and/or **FOLLOWING** Jesus?

1. **DISTRACTED BY WHAT WE HEAR.**

John 10:1-5, 27 - Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ²But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. ⁴And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. ⁵And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.... ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me:"

Psalms 1:1,2 - Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful (who mocks or speaks arrogantly). But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law he meditates day and night.

- Do not be seduced by the voices who speak ignorantly and carelessly concerning the things of God without any knowledge of the Word of God. Although many of them may

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be well meaning, we will always need to practically and consistently submit to the will of God by the word of God.

- Do not trust your hearing to what appeals to your flesh. Making choices that will glorify God will not always come easy. Many are difficult during the process of making those decisions. Always remember, in spite of the challenge you will never go wrong by doing right; reaping and sowing work for the bad as well as the good.

John 10:10 - Jesus said: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal and to kill and to destroy; I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

- A thief does not and will not tell you the truth in order to get what they want. This verse is extremely clear that the objective of Satan is to take from you and he will use any means and any voice that he can in order to do it.
- It is also clear that the objective of Jesus is to give TO you, and He is very passionate that His voice should be the voice that has first place in our lives.

2. DISTRACTED BY WHAT WE SEE.

This distraction goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1-6 - What Eve saw with her eyes, appealed to her flesh, captivated her mind and consumed her desires. But what she thought to be good was quite the opposite. When she got what she wanted she lost what she had.

- One of the great dangers of the distractions of the eyes is that the eyes are able to see no further than the package. When obsessed by the package, we ignore the contents—the true heart of the person or the real danger of a thing. (Sometimes the sheep that appears in public soon reveals in private it is a wolf in sheep's clothing.)
- **For our learning:** Always pray that the Lord will show you things the way they really are. We will always have the need to see the truth because that is not what we are always provided.

Proverbs 14:15 - The simple (foolish) believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

- It is foolish to be gullible and naïve. All of us have been guilty of being foolish, but none of us have to stay that way.

Had I not believed everything that was told me concerning the lifestyle of drinking and drugging, I would have been a lot better off.

- We need to understand that we can believe God, who cannot lie. It is wise to be cautious. The wise person will weigh things out before they trust and act. Weigh out the credibility of a person and the probability of their testimony, and then make decisions as things appear — or don't make a decision until then.

Proverbs 4:25 - Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

- **For our learning:** The only thing in the past that is for my good are the lessons that I can learn from being there.

3. DISTRACTED BY WHAT WE FEEL.

This perhaps is one of the greatest causes of relapse that I have seen. When a person's feelings do not line up with what they are hearing or seeing, they get defeated.

- David anointed King and hunted like an animal by King Saul.
- Paul wrote from prison that God would finish the work that He has started.
- Peter wrote that we are to cast all of our care on Him, because He cares for us (he was later crucified upside-down).
- John the Baptist announces Jesus as "the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." Later he was imprisoned and sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He is really the Messiah or should he look for another. He was beheaded for his stand for Jesus.
- JESUS, hanging on the cross, said, "My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?"

Friends, I would beg you, if you are not feeling like it will ever make any sense and you are considering bailing out on Jesus after all He has already done for you — I beg you, stick around long enough to see the rest of the story. Perhaps the second part of your story has not yet started!

- WHAT are you following?
- WHO are you following?
- WHERE is it leading you?