



**The Christian Solution  
for Addictions:  
Jesus!**

## "Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living"

Lessons Developed by Pastor Rick McClung



### **ATTITUDE 9 ~ Perseverance**

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

Jesus said: "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:11-12

I stand firm in my faith that Jesus is  
in control of all things.

**Anyone can give up and many people do.  
Anyone can persevere but many people don't.**

To persevere is to persist steadily in an action or belief, usually over a long period and especially despite problems or difficulties. Persist, continue, keep at it, keep on, carry on, keep trying and stick with it.

I don't think we can narrow down to any one reason why people seem to give up. There are various reasons why people believe they cannot continue on the path they are on, and for one reason or another they just give up.

What we are giving up on will always be a defining factor as to whether or not we should have given up in the first place. For example, had I given up on the relentless pursuit of obtaining my drink or drug of choice the many times I chased it, I would have been much better off. For too many years, I chased what I wanted and I got it. So then, we can all agree, there are harmful and hazardous things that we persevere in order to get only to find out that we are worse off by obtaining them.

If that is the case and many of us agree that it is, what are the things that will help me to "go after" that will be for my good? It's easy to say, because it is true, everything that comes from God is good and I should focus my time and energy in the pursuit of God Himself and what He has in store for my life.

**James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**

## 2 ~ ATTITUDE 9 ~ Perseverance

NOTES

When I pursue Him, I can be certain I will never be ashamed or disappointed when I receive what He has for me. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Church at Galatia concerning their pursuit of godliness and living out the doctrines of the Christian life which was all new to them. Their pursuit was being challenged by false teaching and it was beginning to take its toll on them.

The churches in Galatia had come into being as a result of the missionary labors of Paul. Soon after, Paul learned there were Jewish Christians who were circulating among the Gentile converts and imposing upon them the Mosaic law as a requirement of salvation. Paul in no uncertain terms met this error squarely and made sure it was corrected before it had the time to spread like sacrilegious wildfire. In Chapters 5 and 6, he teaches that beyond receiving the Gospel is the necessity of living it out.

Many people have been either misled or have a misunderstanding of thinking that since they are saved it becomes "what God can do for them," and never becomes "what they can do for God." Our activity for God is a direct result of our faith in God and our love for God.

**James 2:17 - Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.**

**John [14](#):15 - If ye love Me, keep My commandments.**

So then, we see that there is an expectation of obedience and service. These are expressions of our faith and love for God, and are not simply meant to keep us busy in order that they might keep us out of trouble. They reveal our motives whether they are right or wrong.

Obedience and faith reveal where our hearts really. When they are in the right place, we will press on in spite of the circumstances and the obstacles in our way.

In Chapter Six, particularly in verses 1-9, Paul teaches what we can describe as "applications of new principles". In verse 9, he sums up the text with what I believe to be a twofold statement of warning and encouragement.

**Galatians 6:9 - Let us not be weary (to be utterly spiritless, to be wearied out, exhausted) in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**

NOTES

**1. THE IMPLICATION.**

**"Let us not be weary in well doing" implies that it can happen.**

The experience of personal strongholds, which is commonly described as addiction, is certainly not a life that would be described as a life of "well doing". At times it would be described as anything but that.

When we first begin to gain a little ground and perhaps a little time of sobriety, we often focus more on the bad than we do on the good; by the bad I am referring to the addiction. I am not in any way implying that we should not focus on the addiction. What I am saying is that if I do not begin and continue to focus on my relationship with God and allow Him to lead me and teach me how to experience the good, my pursuit of success might be a greater challenge than I anticipated.

I have personally experienced the "weariness of well doing" and watched many others do the same. As I have considered some of these experiences, I have developed a level of understanding concerning some of the reasons people can become "weary in well doing". We certainly cannot create an extensive list, but for our better understanding and help we can mention a few.

**Several reasons people can become weary in well doing:**

- We may have anticipated more support from the people who are close to us.
- We may have anticipated a different reaction from the people who are close to us.
- We may have thought things would move along faster than they have.
- We may think that we have done well long enough to do a little bad and no one will notice.

All of the above reasons are what we might describe as negative experiences. The Christian life can be described as a journey and in most cases the journey can be lengthy. As in all other journeys of life there can be bumps along the way, some of which we might be able to anticipate and some we cannot. The Christian journey is quite the same; we won't always be able to anticipate when we are going to have negative experiences but we can learn how to respond to them when we have them, because as we have learned, we will have them.

**Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," saith the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."**

God never owes me an explanation for everything that I am going through, but I do believe He does want to teach me through every adverse experience in life. Will I always know why God is doing what He is doing? No, not always, but I can know how to go through these experiences when they come my way.

Most incorrect responses to adversity can be avoided if we will simply have a greater desire to learn from the adversity than our desire is to rebel against the adversity. Whatever God is doing, He is doing it for my good.

## 2. The Obligation.

**"Let us not be weary in well doing ..."**

Notice that Paul does not say, "doing well," but he says, "**well doing**". In verse 10 he speaks of "**well doing**" concerning others.

Part of the Christian life (a BIG part), is serving the Lord by serving others. In my experience (and in many others I have served the Lord with), there appears to be a direct connection regarding our "well doing" with regard to serving others, and our "doing well" as a direct result of that.

In other words, when I begin to step up and meet my God given obligation to serve God by serving others, it will in turn help me to do well in other areas of my life where I may have struggled in the past. In many of the serving experiences, I will begin to see where God uses my struggles of the past to help others overcome them in the present.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.**

The previous two verses speak to our being comforted by God in order that we might have the ability (**that we may be able**), by that experience, to comfort others. The obligation for doing so

will come from a grateful heart concerning the many things that God has done for us.

### 3. The Motivation.

**"... for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."**

If we give up, we will never see the "due season." God assures us that there is recompense (reward) in the reserve of His warehouse of blessings for all who sincerely involve themselves in "well doing." This reward will no doubt come our way in the proper season, if not in this world, undoubtedly in the next. However, we must bear in mind it is reserved upon the assumption that we "faint not" in the way of our duty to God. If we grow weary and withdraw from it, we will not only miss the reward but also lose the comfort and advantage of what we have already done. If we hold on and hold out, though it might appear at times to be delayed, our reward will surely come and will be worth all the pains and struggle of our perseverance.

#### **Something to consider:**

- If I give up now, why? What would be my reason for doing so knowing that God has brought me thus far?
- If I give up now, what? Not what will I lose, I am sure to lose.....but what will I miss if I give up now?
- If I give up now, when? If I had persevered, when would God have showed up and showed out on my behalf? If I give up I may never know the answer to that question.

**Isaiah 40:28-31 - Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding.**

**<sup>29</sup>He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.**

**<sup>30</sup>Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:**

**<sup>31</sup>But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**

