**Attitude Equals Altitude**

August 29, 2021

Rev. Dr. Tony Soldano

Attitude will always impact your behaviour and your future. In fact, they are so closely linked together that your actions and outcomes can be traced back to your thought life and the way you think. Our promised land and God are the apprehended that which we have been apprehended for.

**Central Truth**

**What you think, you will live out.**

*“You cannot rise above the plane of your mental conditioning. To change your life, you must change your mind”. ~Dr Myles Munroe*

*“You are what you believe…beliefs create your convictions, your convictions create your attitude, your attitude controls your perception, and your perception dictates your behaviors. What you truly believe about yourself, creates your world”. ~Dr. Myles Munroe*

**What do we mean by the term attitude?**

**Attitude** – a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person’s behaviour.

**Main Passage**

**Philippians 3:13-16**

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

**Report of the Spies**

**Numbers 13:25-33**

**25**And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. **26**Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land.

**27**Then they told him and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit. **28**Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. **29**The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.”

**30**Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” **31**But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we.” **32**And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. **33**There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

**Main Points**

1. An accurate assessment of every situation is required
2. When we lose sight of God, we magnify our environmental context
3. Our faith is voice activated
4. The target is the “Mind of Christ”.

**Main Points Expanded**

1. An accurate assessment of every situation is required
2. *When it comes to our thought life, a critical assessment is needed in order to be clear. In other words, are my thoughts and ideas correct?*
3. Key word –***PERSPECTIVE***
* The spies had the right assessment of their enemies but the wrong one of themselves.
1. **ACTION: The Buckets Principle** – In order to achieve a precise assessment, it is a good idea to assess our thoughts and break them down into three areas or, into three imaginary buckets:
* **Truth**: What is true about what we are thinking? Establish three to five action plans on how to address the things that are absolutely true.
* **Lies:** What is not true, in most cases? These things should be ignored. Refuse to spend energy, effort and time in things you cannot change.
* **Perspective:** Perhaps this is the most critical bucket of all because it is determined by the way we see things. Although perception becomes reality, our perception can be blurred and even be absolutely wrong. It is a good idea to surround ourselves with people that can provide us with perspective.
1. Insights from the story of the spies, consider:
* Joshua and Caleb never argued the point of view that the spies presented but they took exception with their perspective.
* It was true that the people were strong and that the cities were fortified, but it was not true that they were not able to defeat them and possess the land.

* Question: How were the spies able to gather the grapes if the giants were everywhere and that they devoured those that lived in the land?
1. When we lose sight of God, we magnify our environmental context
	1. In other words, when we turn our focus away from God, the circumstances around us not only become larger but our ability to see things straight becomes increasingly difficult.
	2. Key word –***FOCUS***
	3. “They are giants, we are grasshoppers.” Despite the overwhelming evidence that the spies brought back from the promised land and the word of the Lord to Moses, the ten spies decided that they would magnify the giants and the difficulties in the possession of the land. Consider how the children of Israel responded. They:
* Were defeated by a grasshoppers’ mentality; not the giants
* Could not be awakened to who they are
* Did not realize that their battle was not with the giants but rather with their lack of faith and obedience - attitude
* Stop hesitating – you are not a grasshopper!
* Paul says, “By whom, with whom, in whom” - in Christ, I️ am not a grasshopper!
	1. God is calling us to awaken to who we are in Christ
* Start living in a YES season
* Your objective is about the perception of yourself – “I️ WILL. I can”
* I️ am bigger on the inside than what I️ see around me
* You are not defined by opinions, finances, circumstances and so forth.

1. Our faith is voice activated

* 1. The heart is the seedbed of our beliefs – as your heart thinks, so you are (Proverbs 23:6-8). Jesus said that the mouth speaks out of the abundance of the heart, therefore, it is absolutely critical what we think about and ultimately what we believe.
	2. However, failure is also voice activated. The spies were able to derail an entire generation from the purposes of God simply because of their negative report and their poor attitude.
* *You “believe” what you “hear”.*
	1. Our faith is always voice activated
* If you are listening to the wrong voices, your mind will not know what to believe
* “We think” – “we believe” – “we speak”
* The Bible was spoken, then written, then spoken.
	1. Illustration: Motion-censored doors – as you move towards them, they open. The children of Israel failed to come into the promised land because they refused to move towards the door that God appointed for them.
* Possess and own things in 2022
* Move and act in a tangible way
* Move towards what God has apprehended you for.
	1. Observations from the passage
* Physical Evidence – Fruit of the land and the promise of God was not enough to dissuade them from a negative report
* They brought back physical evidence and a negative word
* Their spoken word was more powerful than the physical evidence
* They were moved more by what they heard than what they actually saw
* They responded to God out of their inadequacies, i.e., they said, “We are not able”.
* Joshua and Caleb
* They declared their faith and were immediately willing to go up and possess the land
* They were awakened to their assignment by declaring their faith in God and His ability
* They were willing to trouble their present in order to embrace their future
* Their faith rose—they were of the “We are able crowd”.
* Fear is faith with a negative influence
* The opposite of faith is sight – walking by what you see and what you believe
* What are you listening to and declaring?
* You will not walk into your promise in a negative atmosphere.
1. The target is the “Mind of Christ”
2. The mind of Christ is the attitudes, thoughts and ideas that God possesses. When we become born-again, we are given access to the very thought-life of Christ.
3. There are 55 verses that have the word “mind” in them within the New Testament:

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Colossians 3:2

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

1Corinthians 2:16

For "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Ephesians 4:23

…and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

2Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Hebrews 8:10

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**Main Passage Breakdown**

**Report of the Spies**

**Numbers 13:25-33**

25 And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. (40 = testing)

26 Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

27 Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. (TRUTH)

28 Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. (TRUTH)

29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan." (TRUTH)

30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." (PERSPECTIVE)

31But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." (PERSPECTIVE)

32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, (LIES) and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.

33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

**Closing**

**Philippians 2:13**

…for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

*\*You can never fight a battle you have already lost in your mind”. ~Bishop Tony Miller*

 “What apprehended me” – now I️ apprehend – Go after God.

**Awaken Us To You Oh Lord**

* Discover self/self awareness
* Seeds dominant inside of us – the true purpose you were born
* Sin is a mistaken identity – people act like fools because they do not know who they are
* I️ am chosen and I️ have a divine design
* Issue: Are we able?
* You can do anything through Christ who gives you strength!
* Purpose is the reason for the creation of something on a person
* Calling – invites you to fulfill the purpose.