

The Importance of a Positive Attitude to Spiritual Growth

Introduction

- AIB 75% legally blind
 - o Range from total blind to limited sight – still drive
 - o Deaf –blind and other handicaps
 - o Major difference in happiness and outlook on life is **not** severity of their handicap but their attitude!

The danger of a negative attitude – the 12 spies of Israel

Background

- lead out of Egypt bondage & shown miracles
- walked thru the Red Sea on **dry** land
- lead by a pillar of fire
- given bread and quail from to eat & water from a rock
- How often do we think what a negative attitude the children of Israel had after God had done so much for them?

Numbers 13:31-14:4

Numbers 14:26-14:33

How many times do you think God looks at us and thinks what a negative attitude we have after He has done so much for us?

Caleb & Joshua had a positive attitude

Numbers 13:27, 30

Joshua 14:7-8

The value of a positive attitude – rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem

Nehemiah 4:6

Nehemiah 4:1-3

Nehemiah 6:15-16

Choose to be positive

Clay Dyer is a professional sport bass fisherman who was born in 1978 in Hamilton, Alabama, with no legs and only half an arm. He refuses to use special equipment, saying, "I want to do it with one hand the way they do it with two." He casts by tucking the rod under his jaw and whipping it around with a quick left-to-right twist. He reels fish in while holding the end of the rod under his chin. He ties knots with his tongue and unhooks fish with his teeth.

Choose to be positive – Despite external circumstances

- II Corinthians 4:16-5:1
- II Corinthians 12:7-10 – Paul's thorn in the flesh
- Philippians 4:11-13
 - o Life is 1% what happens to you and 99% how you respond

Block out negativity – by avoiding negative people

- I Corinthians 15:33

Surround yourself with positive people

- who encourage you to do right
 - o Hebrews 10:24-25

Spiritual Growth shown in Attitudes of:

humility, meekness, longsuffering, forgiveness, & thanksgiving

- Colossians 3:12-17

patience, generosity, hospitality, compassion, & honesty

- Romans 12:12-21

renewal, kindness, & tenderhearted

- Ephesians 4:17-32

A Worldly Attitude opposes Spiritual Growth

- Romans 12:2