

The Promises of the “Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living”

God’s Transforming Changes with Promises!

As a babe in Christ, I listened to my pastor, Chuck Smith, on the radio everyday. He was teaching Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. I had been sober about three months after spending three weeks in a hospital rehabilitation program, where I was indoctrinated with the 12 steps of AA. My sobriety maintenance strategy included daily does of Antabuse and weekly AA meetings. Immediately after becoming a Believer, I began ingesting the Word of God with an insatiable appetite. AA meetings were replaced with three Church meetings each week.

Six years later, the Lord called us to begin a drug and alcohol ministry in our church in San Diego. Since the AA model was familiar to us and seemed to be the universally accepted method to reach addicts and alcoholics, we “Christianized” the 12 steps and named the ministry Living Water. It worked! The meetings grew in number — word spread throughout the community that people were getting clean and sober at Horizon Christian Fellowship.

Our pastor, Mike MacIntosh, told Glenn not to build on another man’s foundation, which led us to produce a brochure that explained the vision and method of the ministry.

In those days, producing a brochure required designing by hand, ordering text from a typesetter, and tedious paste up for printing — a very slow process compared to the ease of production today’s computers and programs provide.

After finally completing the artwork late one night, I took a relaxing hot bath and praised the Lord for His help and guidance. It was done!

Well, not quite! The Holy Spirit impressed upon me that changes needed to be made — “Get your

Bible — we’re going to make changes.”

I’m convinced that because Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount had been the Bible study that most impacted my new life in Christ, the Holy Spirit wanted to use it as the model for change in this new ministry.

When I surprised Glenn in the morning with the *good* news that the brochure needed more changes, his frustration quickly turned to confirmation as he read the “Ten Attitude of Victorious Living.” (Attitude One resembles to AA’s first “step” description because many who attend and came into the ministry had experienced AA and were familiar with being powerless.)

God had a plan. The ministry “slogan” was inspired by Pastor Jerry Cook’s book “Love, Acceptance and Forgiveness.” The book confirmed how we were to reach those in bondage to their addictions — with the love of God.

Finally, the last brochure change was the ministry name. God is love ... we are commanded to love God and one another ... 1 Corinthians 12:3-8 explains God’s *agape* love. It’s God’s love that calls sinners to repentance. It’s God’s love that changes hearts. God’s greatest Love Gift is Jesus! A word study produced the ministry’s name: (And now I will show you) “The Most Excellent Way” (Love), 1 Corinthians 12:31 NIV.

The Promises

The “Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living” not only contain the character changes that ALL disciples of Christ should desire, they provide the promise that results from the changed attitude. When we put-off self and put-on Christ, we receive the promises that ...

- the kingdom of heaven is ours,
- we are comforted,
- we are filled,
- we obtain mercy,
- we will see God,
- we are sons of God,
- we will receive rewards in heaven,
- and we have the privilege of glorifying God.

This is new life worth living and celebrating!

Removing the Veil

Today’s popular recovery programs focus on physical, outward change as though life on this earth is all that is important. I believe when Christian ministries use the “blessed” portion of the Beatitudes as recovery principles and ignore the promises, they place the focus on *recovery of self* — the self life before addiction. Recovery is not glorifying God and developing a deeper, spiritual relationship with Him. A life dedicated to one’s recovery is a life dedicated to self.

Jesus heals! And He recovers sight of the blind. As Christians, we must remove the veil of man’s philosophies that separate new creatures in Christ from seeing and experiencing the full, pure counsel of God. Just as the enemy of God contradicted God’s Word in the Garden, he is contradicting God’s Word within the Church.

Our continual hope and prayer is that when God leads people to “The Most Excellent Way” they will first and foremost experience His Love through us. We surrender to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, welcoming those seeking freedom with the Love of Christ.

It’s His ministry — we’re just His stewards.

~ Judy Wright
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