

How to Get a New Attitude for the New Year

(1 Pe. 1:3-5)

Introduction: The stress of the holidays and facing a new year can reveal certain attitudes in us. Attitudes, like problems in our Christian life that can either cause us to grow bigger and better or bitter. Our responses determine the results.

Peter is writing to Christians who are really struggling in the midst of heavy persecution (stress & problems) for their faith. And some of them needed a new attitude!

Today, because so many Christians find their faith under fire, and as we face the challenges of a new year, I think we need to be reminded of the same thing.

So, as Peter did, I want to talk to you about how to can get a new attitude for the new year that will help us deal with the stress of the holidays, facing the challenges of a new year, as well as problems in our Christian walk.

I. A new attitude must be determined:

Our attitudes are merely products of our perception.

A. We have a natural tendency – Our attitudes are often a product of our times. (Mk 14:66-72)

1. The problem was, Peter was focusing on the times instead of trusting on the promises of God!
2. Peter's perception was all hope is lost – and this led to a bad attitude... (Jn. 21:3) When we let our times determine our attitudes – hard times can leave us with some ugly attitudes!

B. We have a need for truth – Our attitudes must never be a product of our times, but rather a product of the truth!

1. Peter encourages his readers (in spite) of how things appear at this time – remember we have a “Living hope!” (in other words)
2. Don't focus on your current crisis – but rather remember the hope we have is based on the living Christ, in whom all the promises of God are yes and amen! (2 Cor. 1:20)

II. A new attitude must be directed:

Only you can steer your life and attitude! As much as we like to blame everyone and everything else, we're in charge.

A. Where we are looking dictates “where” we are going –

B. Where we are looking dictates “how” we are going - (v.23; 2 Cor. 5:17)

III. A new attitude must be developed:

A. developing a new attitude is a process.

1. There is only one catch to changing our attitude based on the power and promises of God – our faith!
2. But take heart in the truth God has a willingness to forgive and an ability to give strength in our times of weakness (1 Jn. 1:9; 2:1; Ph. 2:13-14)

B. developing a new attitude must be marked by progress – (2 Pet 1:5-8)

IV. A new attitude must be demonstrated:

A. You cannot fake it until you make it –

B. You must not only talk it, but you must also walk it – How does one demonstrate a new attitude?

1. Demonstrate it through an attitude of praise –
2. Demonstrate it through an attitude of hope –
3. Demonstrate it through faith –

Conclusion: We don't have to go through life with an ugly attitude because our faith is under fire, or we are experiencing stress. Rather we can make a choice –

- We can determine to have a new attitude by focusing on the truth about who we are in Christ instead of our times of crisis.
- We can direct our attitude toward the word of God to see where you're going! And focus on the power of God and His promises to get us there!
- We can develop our attitudes daily as we undergo the process and progress in our Christian walk. (and...)
- We can demonstrate our new attitude through praise, hope and faith in God's control of all things!

Let us choose to make this a Happy New Year!