

As we continue in the doctrine of mental attitude, point 6 is: The importance of understanding the Battle in the Soul. We are involved in a warfare and that warfare takes place in the soul where we do our thinking. The apostle Paul dealt with this principle in 2Co 10:3-6. The writer Sun Tzu (**"The Art of War"**), **held that the most fundamental principles for the conduct of war is that "All warfare is based on deception"**. The Bible prepares us for deception in many passages. Our real warfare in the spiritual life is neither physical nor fleshly; it is mental and spiritual and therefore found in the mentality of our soul. As our enemy and the god of this world, Satan's goal is to keep us off guard and deceived. Only the mind or the mental attitude of Christ can protect us from this deception. And that's why we are told in 2CO 2:11 **"in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes."** In 2Co 11:3, the apostle Paul said **"But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray [deceived] from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."**

No one understands the advantage of sowing discord and causing confusion and disorder more than Satan and the kingdom of darkness. Jam 3:16 **"For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder [confusion] and every evil thing or every form of evil."**

When your soul is united with doctrine, Satan and the kingdom of darkness will do what it can to divide your thoughts and confuse your mental attitude. When a local assembly is united and preaching the Gospel and teaching doctrine, Satan and the kingdom of darkness will try to cause divisions and attack and divide.

This quote from Sun Tzu's **"The art of war: "The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting,"** has a perfect analogy with the principles found in the word of God such as;

Eph 6:11 **"hold your ground against the strategies of the devil."**

Or Eph 6:13 **"hold your ground in the day that evil attacks you"**

As believers with positive volition towards doctrine we should not always look for the easy way out, but rather, realize that if we are going to live for God, there will be a battle and a fight. Paul said to Timothy **"Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."**

So we can say as Paul said in 2Ti 4:7 **"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;"**

A major victory can only be obtained by positive measures aimed at a decision, never by simply waiting on events. Many have a common habit to blame life upon the environment. Remember that environment modifies life but it does not govern life, the soul is stronger than its surroundings. Thinking clearly and effectively is the greatest asset of any human being. So one of the great factors in the believer who is advancing spiritually is a phenomenal mental attitude.

It is a system of thought we carry regardless of circumstances. It is this same consistency of thinking that provides true capacity for life, so that we face undeserved suffering with the same mental attitude we face in fantastic prosperity.

This leads us to Point 7 in our doctrine: The Mental Attitude can be a Source of Bondage or the Source of Liberation.

Gal 5:13 **"For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."**

Freedom is the right to be wrong, not the right to do wrong. The outward freedom that we shall attain will only be in exact proportion to the inward liberation to which we may have grown at a given moment. If this is a correct view of freedom, our chief energy must be concentrated on achieving liberation from within or how we think about ourselves.

To be bound to the things of this world is bondage, to be free of them is true liberation. Our mental attitude can be a friend or an enemy of our soul. If our mind is on that which is eternal, our mental attitude and our intellect will grow. Spiritual winners are those who see that the spiritual is stronger than the material. Thoughts lead to purposes; Purposes go forth in action;

Actions form habits; Habits decide character; And character fixes our destiny.

Character is the result of two things, Mental attitude and the way we spend our time.

Remember that our life is what our thoughts make it. Most people think of their lives in terms of the pleasure or the fun they can have, or something they associate with happiness.

However, the happiness of our life depends upon the quality of our thoughts. Negative thoughts will produce strange results and in turn bring about strange deeds.

Heb 13:9 ***“Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace,”***

Thought is a tremendous living force and gains strength only by repetition. Thought molds our character and shapes our destiny. In Mat 22:42 we see how thought determines our eternal destiny, ***“What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?”***

From our thinking comes our motivation, from our motivation come our decisions and from our decisions comes our lifestyle. What we think depends upon our attitude toward Bible doctrine.

Priority number one in the Christian way of life must be Bible doctrine with emphasis on the mystery doctrine for the Church-age. Then we concentrate on that priority, which means effective, Spirit-filled, perception, metabolization and application of Bible doctrine.

Joh 8:32 ***“and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”***

When we concentrate on that priority, we organize our life around it and develop our relationship with God through the study of His word. Once we begin to organize our life around that, we come to organize our thinking around it as well ***“As a man thinks in his right lobe, so he is.”*** When we organize our thinking around Bible doctrine, then not only do we have cognition, but we begin to advance using the ten problem-solving devices of the Pre-Designed Plan of God and reach the objective of spiritual maturity. So, you have to learn doctrine before you can think doctrine, think doctrine before you can apply doctrine. You live with your thoughts--so be careful what they are.

Point 8 in our doctrine is Rapport in the Royal Family Is Based on Divine Viewpoint in Thought and the Honor Code in Practice. This is the greatest rapport that can exist, especially in light of the fact that no two of us are alike, but there is a bona fide rapport. Phi 2:1-2 ***“Since therefore there is encouragement in Christ, since there is comfort from virtue-love, since there is fellowship of the Spirit, since there is tenderesses and compassions, Bring to completion my happiness by thinking the same things,”***

This happiness is a series of thoughts, not function or emotions. Emotion comes from thought, but thought is never derived from emotion. All true friendship is based upon thinking and thinking is the source of honor and integrity. Phi 2:3-5 ***“Do nothing motivated by contentiousness or ambitious pride, but with humility of mind [by means of grace orientation] let each of you keep on considering one another as more important than himself; do not merely be regarding your own personal interests, but also for the personal interests of others. Keep on thinking this [doctrine] within yourselves which was also resident in Christ Jesus,”***

Since doctrine is the mind of Christ in 1Co 2:16, our attitude towards doctrine determines our attitude toward The Lord Jesus Christ and our viewpoint in life. He was full of grace, grace orientation and doctrinal orientation, so magnificent was the power of His mental attitude that when He was on the cross receiving the judgment for every sin, past, present and future, of every member of the human race, He still had the happiness of God.

Phi 3:15 says ***“Therefore, as many as are spiritually mature, let us have this attitude or think objectively; and if in anything you have a different mental attitude, God will reveal that also to you;”***

Col 3:2 ***“Keep thinking objectively about the things above.”***

What your mental attitude is under normal circumstances should continue under great pressure or great emotional circumstances.

If it's not, then as Phi 3:15 says ***“if in anything you have a different mental attitude, God will reveal that also to you;”***

God reveals your wrong mental attitude to you through the teaching of the pastor. And the problem is easy to solve.

The problem solving devices are application skills of the spiritual life.

This application goes in three directions:

1. Toward God, Fellowship with the Holy Spirit, Personal love toward God the Father, and occupation with Christ are the problem solving devices directed toward God.
2. The problem solving devices directed toward people include: grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, impersonal love for all mankind.

3. The problem solving devices directed toward self include: rebound, a personal sense of destiny, doctrinal orientation, the faith-rest drill, sharing the happiness of God.

Phi 4:6-7 says ***“Stop worrying about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the prosperity from God which transcends human comprehension shall garrison your right lobes and thinking by Christ Jesus.”***

Phi 4:8 ***“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”***

This leads us to Point 9 in our doctrine of mental attitude: **Giving is a mental attitude.**

2Co 9:6 ***“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.”***

Paul says this because we are back to the importance of attitude. Giving graciously or sacrificially produces an attitude in the individual which allows God to pour more blessing to the one who gives. Giving produces capacity for receiving.

2Co 9:7 ***“Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful or grace-oriented giver.”*** With this attitude, God will provide you with the money you need to give. You may not have a lot now, but if that's your attitude the Bible says God provides the money for you to do what is right.

2Co 9:8 ***“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;”*** God graciously provides extra finances for grace givers to give.

2Co 9:10 ***“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food,”*** We are the sower, God gives us the financial seed and God supplies extra money to grace givers.

Result, 2Co 9:11-12 ***“you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.”***

When we give, we're to fully supply the needs of God's people, but it is also overflowing in many expressions to God. We should not give from mental pressure or compulsion of emotions, for God loves a grace-oriented giver. We are not to give because someone embarrasses us, or because we make a pledge or tithe. Everything you give always comes from God. The person who gives with the proper mental attitude will always have more to give; his resources never dry up. In giving, the believer supplies the mental attitude, and God provides the rest. The person who has the right mental attitude is well kept in funds to express his attitude in worship. It is not what you give, but what you are thinking when you give that counts. A confident mental attitude is the divine viewpoint from the perception of Bible doctrine.

However, giving is also for your benefit.

The correct attitude is that of David's in 1Ch 29:14 ***“But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from Thee, and from Thy hand we have given Thee”***

Paul's attitude, 1Co 4:7 ***“For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”***

Haggai's attitude, Hag 2:8 ***“The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' declares the Lord of hosts.”***

Our Lord's attitude Luk 6:38 ***“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”***

Having this mental attitude in the realm of giving is a vital principle for our benefit, our prosperity and our blessing, Phi 4:17 ***“Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.”***

Look at David's attitude in 1Ch 29:2 ***“Now with all my ability I have provided for the house of my God.”***

David's attitude again in 1Ch 29:12 ***“Both riches and honor come from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone.”***

If we believe the Word of God when it says ***“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”***

If we believe the Word of God when it says ***“that if you sin, and you name and cite your sin and confess your sin to God that God will forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.”***

If we believe the Word of God when it says ***"there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."***

If we believe the Word of God when it says in Heb 8:12 and 10:17 ***"God doesn't remember our sins anymore."***
If we believe the Word of God when it says in Heb 13:5 ***"He'll never leave us or forsake us"*** in If those passages are true, and they are, and we believe that, then it follows that we believe the Word of God concerning anything else in life. If you are going to trust God for the greater, which is your eternal destiny and where you're going to spend eternity, then you should ask yourself, ***"Do I trust God concerning such an important subject as my finances or my financial blessing?"***

When we don't give graciously and sacrificially, that produces an attitude that stops the blessing of God from coming into our lives. How many of God's people offer things to God that cost them nothing, those things being leftover. This is a reason that many people have a lack of blessing in their lives in many realms.

Giving reflects our attitude of thankfulness and gratitude, as Paul says in 2Co 9:15 ***"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"***

What is this gift? God so loved the World that He gave His uniquely born Son. What did this cost God? His Son and His life.

Therefore, giving is to reflect our attitude and gratitude towards all that God has done for us.