

ATTITUDE 2 • “Repentant”

*Jesus said: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”
Matthew 5:4*

I believe Jesus Christ can and will create in me a new way of life.

I. PURPOSE:

- A. We need to help people understand that by believing in Christ Jesus they can be set free from the bondage of drugs and alcohol, or any other life-controlling sins.
- B. Christ came to die for our sins so that we could be forgiven if we are willing to repent. Therefore, if we believe that God loves us enough to send His son to die for our sins, that He is risen and lives, then we can be set free.
- C. This second attitude is to teach that sin must be dealt with and Jesus is the answer. He can make the difference. Having Him in our lives gives us the power and ability to be delivered from life-controlling sins.
- D. Those who mourn are mourning over their sins. The attitude is a repentant attitude because of sin — with forgiveness we are comforted.
 - 1. We are *blessed* to know our sins are forgiven — blessed, happy, joyful, to know our sins are wiped away.
- E. We are comforted because as a result of seeking forgiveness we receive comfort.

II. APPLICATION:

- A. The Word indicates that Jesus is *able*:
 - 1. **Matthew 28:18 KJV** — *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*
 - 2. **I Corinthians 5:17 KJV** — *Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
 - 3. We have found that if we have experienced rebirth by faith, we have a spirit that is alive to God and no longer God-rejecting — we have become sin-rejecting.

John 3:3-6 CSB — *Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 “How can anyone be born when he is old? ” Nicodemus asked him. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born? 5 Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*

Romans 10:9-10 CSB — *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

A. The Spirit of God indwelling us, empowers us to say “NO” to sin

1. He who is truly born of God will not habitually practice sin, i.e., continue using drugs, alcohol, any other addiction, or self-centered behavior.

I John 3:9 KJV—“Whoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

2. With acceptance and belief (trust) in Christ, we receive the power of His resurrection. Wherein we can use that power and authority He has given us to put to death the sins of the flesh and change our attitudes and behavior. This power and authority is the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:18-23 CSB—*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength. 20 He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens — 21 far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.*

- C. To believe is to have faith. To have faith is to trust in His resurrection power to restore us spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically to a sober life, a victorious life in Him. The ‘key’ then is having faith or trusting that God can and will deliver us from the bondage of drugs, alcohol, or other addictions.

Hebrews 11:6—*Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

- D. Recovery is part of the sanctification process, a functioning of the Holy Spirit in us. He is sanctifying and separating us from the world and desires of the flesh unto God, to serve Him and obey Him. Study of the Words sanctifies us.

John 17:17 NIV—*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is the truth*

- E. Jesus came to give life in abundance, not to take it away (or to make us miserable).

1. **John 10:10 KJV**—“The thief cometh not but to steal and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.”
2. **John 15:7 KJV**—“If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you.”
3. **Luke 11:9-10 KJV**—“And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given unto you: Seek and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh

receiveith; and that seeketh findeth; to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.”

Seeking through prayer and study of the Word opens the door to God, then we can ask, find, and receive

F. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

1. What does *mourn* mean spiritually? It means *sorrow for sin and condemning sin, grief, or lamenting for sin.*

- A. **Romans 7:24 KJV**—*O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?*

- B. The cry of a grief stricken man: **Romans 7:19 KJV**—*For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

2. Blessed is he who mourns. How can this be?

- A. This is known as a paradox: (A statement that is seemingly contradictory to common sense, yet it is perhaps indeed true).

- B. Having seen our sinfulness and hopeless quest to be righteous (sober, healthy, functional), we look for a Savior and repent.

- C. In repenting-for and mourning-over our sins we know it leads to salvation and hope for righteousness in Christ Jesus, NOT in ourselves.

3. Having Christ and His righteousness within us, we can be **free**—He sets us free to lead a productive, joyful, happy life in peace and hope.

- A. **John 8:31-32 CSB**—*Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. 32 You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

John 8:36 CSB—*So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free*

John 14:6 NKJV—*Jesus said: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

- B. We will be comforted by:

1. Our eternal hope:

1 John 3:2-3 NIV—*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

2. Our faith in Christ:

II Corinthians 5:7 NIV—*“We live by faith, not by sight.”*

3. Our knowledge that our sins are forgiven:

1 John 1:9 NIV—*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

4. Our knowledge that the indwelling Holy Spirit comforts us:

Romans 8:3-4 CSB—*For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, 4 in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

5. Encouraged by the things, our grief and mourning is replaced with faith and trust in God. We experience His comfort.



May God richly bless you as you choose to live His Way!