

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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ATTITUDES NEEDED TO RECEIVE THE TRUTH

John Edwards

Could you speak to a tree and cause it to be moved or make any changes? You could speak to it as long as you wanted, till you could speak no more, in all the ways you wished, and it would not be moved or change. Is it possible that we are like that? Folks can try to talk to us, we can hear preaching and teaching, and yet not be moved to obey or make any changes. Why is that? The problem is on the receiving end. The proper attitude is needed that we might receive the truth. Here are some attitudes needed to receive the truth.

CAUSE ME. Job said, “...*cause me to understand wherein I have erred*” (Job 6:24). It is written in Psalm 143:8, “*Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning... cause me to know the way wherein I should walk....*” Is this our thinking?

GUIDE ME. “...*guide me*” was the request of the Psalmist in Psalm 31:3. Psalm 73:24, “*Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*” Remember the answer of the eunuch, when asked, “*Understandest thou what thou readest?*” He said, “*How can I, except some man should guide me? And he*

desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him” (Acts 8:30-31). We read where this man obeyed the gospel because he had an honest and good heart. Do we desire that some man should guide us?

LEAD ME. Are we willing to be lead? The Psalmist expressed a great attitude when he said: “*Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness...*” (Ps. 5:8). “*Lead me in thy truth...for thou art the God of my salvation...*” (Ps. 25:5). “...*lead me in a plain path...*” (Ps. 27:11). “*O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles*” (Ps. 43:3). “*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting*” (Ps. 139:23-24). “...*lead me into the land of uprightness*” (Ps. 143:10). Will we be lead?

MAKE ME. “*LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am*” (Ps. 39:4). “*Make me to understand the way of thy precepts...*” (Ps. 119:27). “*Make me to go in the path of thy commandments...*” (Ps. 119:35). Do we have this “*make me*” attitude?

SHEW ME. Psalm 25:4, “*Shew me thy ways, O*

LORD....” We’ll never see, if we won’t be shown!

TEACH ME. The Psalmist expressed this attitude repeatedly: “...*teach me thy paths*” (Ps. 25:4). “...*teach me...*” (Ps. 25:5). “*Teach me thy way, O LORD...*” (Ps. 27:11; 86:11). “...*teach me thy statutes*” (Ps. 119:12, 26, 64, 68, 124, 135). “*Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end*” (Ps. 119:33). “*Teach me good judgment and knowledge...*” (Ps. 119:66). “...*teach me thy judgments*” (Ps. 119:108). “*Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God...*” (Ps. 143:10). Are we teachable? We will never be taught, unless we have this “*teach me*” attitude!

TELL ME. When we really want to know, we will want to be told. The Shulammite exclaimed, “*Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon...*” (Song 1:7). She wanted to know where her love was that she might be with him. Do we have that same desire to know the truth? If I am in error, tell me. If there is some correction that I need to make, tell me. I want to know. Would it do any good for folks to tell us, if we don’t want to be told?

Will we receive the truth (1 Th. 2:13)?

IF IT HAD NOT BEEN THE LORD

Nicolas Edwards

This statement is found twice in Psalm 124:1-2. It is a "Song of degrees of David." This Psalm praises the Lord who was on Israel's side. It recognizes the great dependence they had upon God. If it had not been the Lord, they would have been swallowed up by their enemies. If it had not been the Lord, they would not have escaped. Today, we depend upon God! We must have Him on our side. Our help must be "in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Ps. 124:8). Today, if it had not been the Lord, then:

WE WOULD BE SWALLOWED UP. This Psalm suggests if it had not been the Lord, Israel would have been swallowed up quick, overwhelmed, given as a prey; they would not have escaped. Being swallowed up means "to cover, destroy, devour, eat up, be at end, to be ended." It suggests destruction that is quick, without help, with no escape. If it had not been the Lord, we would be swallowed

up: **1. In sin.** "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). "For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). **2. By death.** "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). "Sin bringeth forth death" (Jas. 1:15). Sin separates us from God (Is. 59:2). Without the Lord, there is no life nor reconciliation (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:21; 1 Jn. 5:11). **3. In hell.** Hell is reserved for "Them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Th. 1:7-9), workers of iniquity (Mt. 7:21-23), those who die in sin (Jn. 8:21, 24), the wicked (Rev. 20:12-14; 21:8).

If it had not been the Lord, there would be no salvation from sin, death, or hell. We would be wretched men (Rom. 7:24) with no hope (Eph. 2:12).

THERE WOULD BE NO ESCAPE. In Psalm 124, praise is given. "Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped."

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Ps. 124:6-8). Today, the Lord has made it possible for us to escape sin and destruction. We too can escape and praise the Lord just as they! The snare of sin can be broken, we can be "freed from sin" (Rom. 6:7). We can escape spiritual death by being reconciled to God and obtaining life in Christ (Rom. 5:10; 1 Jn. 5:11). We can escape hell and obtain eternal life in heaven (Rev. 22:14).

How? God gave His Son (Jn. 3:16), Christ sacrificed Himself to put away sin (Heb. 9:26), the gospel has been revealed (Rom. 1:16-17). By hearing the gospel (Rom. 10:17), believing it (Rom. 1:16), and obeying it (Mt. 7:21-23, 2 Th. 1:7-9; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 22:14), you can escape!

You can be freed from sin and walk in newness of life today by being baptized! (Rom. 6). Then you can say, "Blessed be the Lord", "Our soul has escaped", "the snare is broken, and we are escaped", "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

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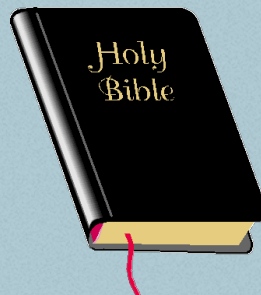
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