

12.31.19

More Than... [intro]

More Than... In Biblical Assurances and Stronghold Strategies

Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 37: 23 – 26

The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; 24 though he fall, he will not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand. 25 I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not

seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.

Hebrews 12:4

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

James 4:7

He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us. But he gives more grace. Therefore, it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

2 Corinthians 12:9

My grace is sufficient for “you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation; who should I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom will I be afraid? 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. 4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. 12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. 13 I believe that I will look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Isaiah 54:13-17

All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be the peace of your children. 14 In righteousness you will be established; you will be far from oppression, for you will not fear; and from terror, for it will not come near you. 15 If anyone stirs up strife, “it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you will fall because of you. 16 Behold, I have

created the smith who blows the fire of coals and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy; 17 no weapon that is fashioned against you will succeed, and you will refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of God and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.

Deuteronomy 28:13-14

And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you will only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, 14 and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Psalm 18:1-3

I love you, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

Philippians 4:12-13

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Job 13:13-19

**Let me have silence, and I will speak, and let come on me what may. 14
Why should I take my flesh in my teeth and put my life in my hand? 15
Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his
face. 16 This will be my salvation, that the godless will not come before
him. 17 Keep listening to my words, and let my declaration be in your
ears. 18 Behold, I have prepared my case; I know that I will be in the
right. 19 Who is there who will contend with me? For then I would be
silent and die.**

1 Peter 5:6-11

**Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at
the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him,
because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your
adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone
to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds
of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the
world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace,
who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore,
confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion
forever and ever. Amen.**

Hebrews 12:12-14

**Therefore, lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13
and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be**

put out of joint but rather be healed. 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Ephesians 4:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” 3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. 5 You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your

side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. 8 You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. 9 Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place (the Most-High), who is my refuge—10 no evil will be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. 14 Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. 15 When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

More Than... Through Him Who Loved Us

One of the most common and well-known scripture from the bible is **John 3:16**. You all could recite it I'm sure. One of the lines from that well-known passage is also one of the most powerful assurances of security and conquest ever given to humanity..."for God so loved us, that whosoever believes in Him (God), will not perish but have everlasting life." I guess it's fair to ask (as believers in God, and followers of Christ), given such profound and predictable assurances... Why do we ever doubt or fear for our personal safety or ultimate outcomes? If we say it's because we just don't trust God, because of shaky faith then aren't we revealing ourselves to be a bit fraudulent or at the very least, confessing a contradiction? Neither is good. If however, If we say we doubt Him because we don't fully trust ourselves, at least we

have preserved some integrity, been honest (with self and others) and have opened the door for the Holy Spirit to increase our faith in Him - certainly making us strong candidates for teachable situations and circumstances where we can learn to fully trust in Him and Him alone. The scripture does in fact, tells us "lean not on your own understanding, but acknowledge Him in all your ways and he will direct your paths."

Without reading into it something that does not belong, it is safe to say this particular Proverb insinuates that our willful dependence on God gives us access to the guidance essential to navigating to our life. So, it seems that the most certain path to becoming **more than a conqueror in life, love, and the hereafter** would be to follow the advice of the wise man and other biblical insights just like it. Here are a few of the obvious ones:

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

1 John 5:4-5

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 Corinthians 1:20-31

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

More Than... In Life, Love, and the Hereafter

Attitudes

[attitude]; a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, a disposition or mindset impacting subsequent behavior

Key Words: Apathy - Anger - Doubt - Despair - Fear

Behaviors

[behavior]; the way in which one acts or conducts oneself, recurring responses toward others and self, an established pattern or habit of action or reaction

Key Words: Hurtful - Hostile - Learned - Passive - Aggressive

Cultures

[culture]; the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group - the attitudes and behavior characteristic of a particular social group - modern popular culture transmitted via the mass media and aimed particularly at younger people

Key Words: Illusion - Delusion - Influence - Insecurity - Identity

Demons

[demon]; an evil spirit or devil, thought to possess or oppress a person - a cruel, evil, or destructive person or thing - an evil force or foe, a dark or oppressive presence - the constant torment of failed past or the face of troubled and traumatic past experiences

Key Words: Tragedy - Triumph - Oppression - Possession - Curses

Emotion

[emotion]; a natural instinctive state of mind deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships with others – instinctive, protective, or intuitive feeling as distinguished from reasoning or factual knowledge

Key Words: Instinct - Instability - Sentiment - Sensation - Passion

1.5.20

Essentials for Becoming More Than: Three Heart-Felt Spirit-Led Mind-Sets

What I'm about to tell you should become our *Heart-Felt, Spirit-Led, Mind-Set*. Absorb that for a moment.

(ONE)

To Be More Than - Never Be Less Than

Because Jesus loves you and I, we are not LESSER THAN in ANYTHING. Because Jesus loves you and I, we are MORE THAN, in EVERYTHING.

This statement is 100% true because in Christ we find our security, identity, and ability. Find yourself in Jesus, and do not lose yourself in either the anti-christ sentiment or malicious strategies of this world. THEY ARE LESSER THAN the overcoming and conquering power that God has designed for our lives. In Christ who loves us we are MORE THAN and not LESSER THAN. That is precisely why Paul the great apostle of the New Testament, wrote these words to the church at Rome... [and yes, they are for us as well].

"No, In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Does any of this sound any less or lesser than anything other than being more than an overcomer, a victorious conqueror? Of course not, because it is not. Here are some key scriptural foundations for this point.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

1 John 5:4-5

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

(TWO)

To Be More Than - Two Are Better Than One

Not much more needed to say after that. The scripture has consistently placed an importance of two as opposed to one in the context of spiritual battles, spiritual agreement, spiritual strength and safety. As the narrator said, Jesus called His disciples and sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil and dark spirits (Mark 6:7-8). The wisdom of Solomon (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12) says,

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.
10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him-a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

In this journey to becoming "More Than" it is essential to have an encourager, a prayer partner, a confidant', a mentor, or even just someone to trust with your honesty and to spiritually have your back. **To be "More Than" you need "More Than."** Make sense?

(THREE)

To Be More Than - Conquering Won't Always Look Like Winning

To get this we need to set it up with these two passages written again by Paul the Apostle (one of the originators of the "More Than" way of life).

1 Corinthians 1:24-28

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame

those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. 28 God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. 8 Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. 9 Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. 10 That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

One last example. Do you remember story of the Roman crucifixion of Jesus led by the hypocritical outcry and fraudulent claims of the religious Jew? There is this moment of hopelessness and loss when Jesus cries out "*it is finished*" and releases his last gasp of air. Even though we know now in biblical hindsight that this was actually *a conquering moment* it certainly didn't look or feel like one. It looked and felt more like Satan and the Pharisees had won and Jesus had lost. It's right there we find our teachable and revelation moment. We must learn to live and walk by faith, not necessarily by what we see or feel. To be **More Than**, we must learn that Conquering doesn't always look like winning.

1.12.20

More Than... In Life, Love, and the Hereafter

ABCDE... To be **MORE THAN In Life, in Love, and the Hereafter, never be less than.** We can never settle for being less than we can be - or less than God intended that we be. To be **MORE THAN in life, in love and the hereafter two will always be better than one** and it will take the help and support of a prayer partner, a trusted friend, a good brother or sister in Christ. To be **MORE THAN in life, in love and the hereafter conquering won't always look like winning** but being more than a conqueror though Christ who loved us will always make us a winner!

More than... In life, in love, and the hereafter just about covers it all. To approach something of this magnitude with any sense of clarity and personal connection we have to define and process these very real obstacles to becoming **MORE THAN Conquerors in life love and hereafter.** They are simply **ABCDE!** Each letter represents the name of a critical and functional component of our life our love and our hereafter.

A = Attitude

B = Behavior

C = Culture

D = Demonic

E = Emotion

We will use a Sunday gathering for each one of these to define them with both a broad and narrow context, and as both obstacles and opportunities **in life, love, and the hereafter.** We will also identify a glossary of key words for each that can

personally connect us to each one as we own and learn to use in becoming **MORE THAN... In Life, In Love, and In the Hereafter.**

Attitude

[attitude quotes]

"Stop worrying about the world ending today. It's already tomorrow in Australia."
Charles M. Schulz

"The greatest day in your life and mine is when we take total responsibility for our attitudes. That's the day we truly grow up." John C. Maxwell

"Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." Viktor E. Frankl

"A bad attitude is like a flat tire. You can't go anywhere until you change it." -
Anonymous

[attitude defined]

[attitude]; a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, a disposition or mindset impacting subsequent approach and behavior towards life, love, and the hereafter.

[attitude]: a psychological construct, a mental and emotional entity that inheres in, or characterizes a person. Attitudes are complex and are an acquired state through experiences past and present (physical spiritual, emotional). It is an individual's predisposed state of mind regarding a value and it is precipitated through a responsive expression towards a person, place, thing, or event (the attitude object) which in turn influences the individual's thought and action.

[key attitude words]: Apathy/Passionate - Anger/Joy - Doubt/Belief - Despair/Hope - Pride/Humility

[biblical truth]:

Ephesians 4:17-32

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be made new in the attitude of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of

another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

[attitude content]

I guess we all have figured out by now that attitudes are important. For followers and believers' in Jesus - attitudes are a game-changer. For our context (more than), Paul listed **three virtues** that are available to our attitude to become **MORE THAN in Life Love and the Hereafter.**

The first - **BE HUMBLE.** In Greek culture, humility was thought of as a vice or weakness, to be practiced only by slaves or anyone considered by culture or class as lesser than. But Paul stated that Christians should be completely humble in their day to day lives. This is the opposite of pride. On the other hand Christians should not promote false humility, but should recognize who they are in God's program.

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

This virtue is listed first because of Paul's consistent emphasis on unity (pride destroys unity - humility builds unity) and to counteract their struggle with past pride, and to motivate and facilitate obedience and dependence on God. Christ was the supreme example of that kind of humility.

Philippians 2:5–8

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The second - **BE GENTLE**. The evidence of a right attitude in a Christian believer is to be gentleness or "meek" (prautētos).

1 Peter 3:13-17

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts

honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

This is the opposite of being abrasive, rude, and harsh. The expectation here is - keeping one's emotions under control (chill). Gentle or Meek - not soft or weak. Not looking for weakness or passivity here. Reach for balance - between one who is angry all the time and one who is never angry - somewhere between the "anger ball" and the "sponge-ball." Anyone who is controlled by God can be angry at the right time but never angry at the wrong time. Moses had the reputation for being a gentle or meek man (Numbers 12:3). But, he got angry when Israel sinned against God (Exodus 32). Jesus was both gentle and humble in heart (Matthew 11:29). But, He became angry because the Priests rented the temple space as a public E-Bay for thieves (Matt. 21:12-13).

The third - **BE PATIENT.** patience (makrothymias). Patience is the never give up, wait a little longer, persevering spirit of peace that gives us the attitude needed to become **MORE THAN** and not lesser than in times of frustration, difficulty, and adversity.

James 5:8-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about

it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

It is the faith and focus that trusts and believes and does not doubt and pout. This patience does not quickly and hastily retaliate or abandon God's plans and promises. Patience is evidence that we are becoming MORE THAN in Life, Love, and the Hereafter.

Colossians 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Paul gives these us these three attitudes (humility - gentleness - patience) to listen to, to learn from, and to love with. They are available to use to become the new us - MORE THAN and NEVER LESS THAN. These are available to unite the two of us to become better than just one of us, and to bring confidence and certainty to the fact

that conquering doesn't always look like winning. For us to become more humble, abandoning self-pride and arrogance, to embrace gentleness and reject being rude, harsh and abrasive, and finally to understand that patience is a complete virtue.

Patience is capable of leading us into an attitude that always gives us hope, help and the MORE THAN advantage in life, love, and the hereafter. Paul is saying...

bear with one another in love and make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. In our character and conduct reflect this new attitude. Be MORE THAN. Use your new attitude in your character and conduct to "protect this house" guard and represent what God made in creating the "one new man."

Ephesians 2:13-16

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

They are to keep this unity "through the bond" which consists of "peace." This attitude will mean that Christians will listen to, learn from, and love each other even in frustration, difficulty, and adversity.

The teachable moment for you and I becomes when we have been begun to be made new in the attitude of our minds; no longer futile in our thinking, darkened in

our understanding, and ignorant of God's truth. These are not commands and demands - these are attitudes needed to love, serve and lead as MORE THAN in Life, Love, and the Hereafter.

Romans 6:6

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

1.19.20

More Than... In Life, Love, and the Hereafter

[intro]

ABCDE... To be MORE THAN In life, love, and the hereafter - Never be Less

Than. We can never settle for being less than we can be - or less than God intended that we be. To be **MORE THAN in life, love and the hereafter - Two Are be Better**

Than One. It will take the help and support of a prayer partner, a trusted friend, a good brother or sister in Christ. To be **MORE THAN in life, love and the hereafter - Conquering Won't Always Look Like Winning.**

This is significant. To unpack something this significant with any real sense of clarity and personal connection we have to define and then process the opportunities, obstacles, and outcomes to becoming **MORE THAN Conquerors in life love and hereafter. Not to be cute (I was going for memorable)**, but I put this process in simple terms. **ABCDE** - each letter represents the name of a critical component that has shaped or influenced our life our love and our hereafter.

A = Attitude

B = Behavior

C = Culture

D = Demonic

E = Emotion.

Behavior

[behavior quotes and facts]

How do you change your behavior? Change what you worship. Timothy Keller

No one is born with greed, prejudice, bigotry, patriotism and hatred; these are all learned behavior patterns. Jacque Fresco

Christ changes men, who then change their environment. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature. Ezra Taft Benson

There is never a right way to behave the wrong way. Anonymous

A study on human behavior has revealed that 90 percent of the population can be classified into four basic personality types: optimistic, pessimistic, trusting and envious. However, the latter of the four types, envious, is the most common, with 30 percent compared to 20 percent for each of the other groups. Psychology Today

[behavior defined]: the way in which one acts or conducts oneself, recurring responses toward others and self, an established pattern or habit of action or reaction

[behavior key words]: Hurtful/Helpful - Hostile/Peaceful - Learned/Revealed - Passive/Aggressive - Mean/Kind - Good/Evil -

[biblical truth]:

2 Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Deuteronomy 28:13-14

And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you will only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, 14 and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

[behavior content]:

Right Thoughts - Right Heart - Right Behavior. It is in these simplistic yet profound truths of God's word that we get the revelation (discovery) and insight (answers) to our behavior. Although many would like it to be, our behavior is no mystery. It may be complicated, complex, and confusing but it is not a mystery. We know what we know about what we have thought - said - done. We know that when our thoughts are right, that our heart is right. And when know that when our heart is right our behavior is right. That is not a mystery. It is acknowledging ownership and taking responsibility for who we are and what we do. Are there complications, complexities and confusion to this kind of reality? Yes, without a doubt. However, none of this unique to you and I - this stuff goes all the way back to the garden - to

Adam and Eve. And in one of the most honest and God-breathed inspirations of the entire Bible, Paul the Apostle of Jesus wrote these words...

Romans 7:15-21

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me 21 So I find it to be a law - that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

Does that clear things up - LOL? This is not the place in scripture or life where we settle for LESS THAN in our behavior just because it demands we be MORE THAN. It is also not the place where we disengage, give in, or give up only because we don't understand. That is not the point Paul was making or place he was creating. His inspiration and messaging were directed towards a place of honest acknowledgement to a point of very real and present struggle with our behavior. It is a natural and spiritual reality that our behavior is directly impacted every moment of every day by the desires of both good and evil -they both show up for work every day. But... that is not the place God intended we stay - that would be accepting LESS THAN and not reaching for MORE THAN.

Right Thoughts

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Right Heart

I John 3:19-22

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Right Behavior

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

[behavior close]:

Here is the revelation/proclamation that God gave me to share with you in regard to becoming MORE THAN in our BEHAVIOR. This is the closer. You can leave here and use this - its real.

"With relentless resistance I am going to over-take what I have allowed myself to become - to be taken-over by who God has intended me to be. To honor God and the people I love with what I think, say and do I am going to trust His process - embrace the grind - and endure the struggle."

To BE MORE THAN Jesus Said...

trust His process... if anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. (Mark 8:34)

embrace the grind... work while it is day, because the night is coming, and no one will be able to work. (John 9:4)

endure the struggle... But he that endures to the end will be saved. (Matthew 24:13)