



**The Christian Solution
for Addictions:
Jesus!**

"Ten Attitudes of Victorious Living" Lessons Developed by Pastor Rick McClung



ATTITUDE 8 ~ Faith

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Jesus said: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10

I trust in the power of Jesus Christ
when I face hardship and trials.

Am I prepared to let God make me real? Reality is the proof in my own experience as to whether or not I believe God. If I believe God, it will require me to be real with myself, real with God and real with others.

Questions I must ask myself: Is my life being adjusted to what I am learning? Will I act upon those things that I learn about myself when God teaches me through His word?

- If I do not act upon what I learn, I am either rebellious or I am in part saying that I do not believe it.
- If Jesus teaches that I can know the truth and the truth can make me free and I am not living in freedom, then I am either not acting upon what I believe or I do not believe it.
- If Jesus teaches that if I love Him I will obey Him and I do neither, I either do not believe Him or I refuse to follow Him.

The Christian life is made up of faith, trust and most importantly, responding to the Lord as He provides for us, the truth of His word. Many of us have said we believe and said we have trusted, but seldom respond to the truth of God's word.

What I believe will change me one way or the other. We will never know any more than we are willing to do. In other words, do what you know and you will know more.

John 7:17 - If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine (teaching), whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

God's intention for giving us a command and/or an instruction is that He might impart a blessing upon us for carrying it out. It is only by faith and obedience that we understand the teaching of God.

In other words, when I believe I should obey and when I do obey, I will experience the benefits of that obedience. When I experience His benefits, I will begin to trust God and His word more. We have to begin by exercising the faith to obey what we already know.

Luke 5:1-11 - And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon Him to hear the word of God, He stood by the lake of Gennesaret, ²and saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. ³And He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And He sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

⁴Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." ⁵And Simon answering said unto Him, "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Thy word I will let down the net." ⁶And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. ⁷And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

⁸When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: ¹⁰And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." ¹¹And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed Him.

1. **Vs. 1 - A GREAT MODEL TO IMITATE.**

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon Him to hear the word of God, He stood by the lake of Gennesaret,"

James 4:7-8a - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw nigh to God, and

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he will draw nigh to you.

John 6:25-29 - And when they had found Him on the other side of the sea, they said unto Him, "Rabbi, when camest thou hither?"

²⁶Jesus answered them and said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek Me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

²⁷Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed.

²⁸Then said they unto Him, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered and said unto them, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent."

Notice that it says that "the people pressed upon Him", not that He pressed upon the people. God will never enter a life or situation that He has not been first invited to do so. He will often remind us of His willingness to help by a conscious reminder of His ability to do so, but He will never invade our situations without us reaching out to Him by faith.

Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Psalms 119:10 - With my whole heart have I sought Thee: O let me not wander from Thy commandments.

It is pleasing to God when we are pleased to hear His word, and most pleasing to Him when we believe what He says!!

2. Vs. 2-3 - A GENUINE APPEAL ACCEPTED.

And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. ³And He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And He sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

- They came to hear and Jesus would not let them go away disappointed!!

Whenever we desire to hear from the Lord, He will never disappoint us. The timing may not always be the way we might think it should be, but nevertheless, He will always get His word

to us on time. Also notice that Jesus used natural means to communicate a supernatural message.

In the Gospels Jesus could be found in environments that involved the basic experiences of life. He taught from the deck of a boat in the midst of a storm and when the seas were calm, at a public well, outside the gates of the city by the way, in the house of friends and in the house of a Pharisee, to the thousands, to the twelve and to the individual like a man named Nicodemus. Wherever people wanted to learn about the Savior, the Savior was willing to teach them. The same teaching is still available today for anyone that desires to learn.

3. Vs. 4-5 - A SIMPLE INSTRUCTION FOLLOWED.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

⁵And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

- Do not always expect to fully understand God's will — only ask to be informed what it is. There will always be the danger of yielding to the temptation of the "short cut."

Note what Simon Peter did: he went to take up the net, but let it down into the sea as he said as naturally as possible, "**At Your word I will let down the net.**" He was then and there appealing to the strongest force which controls the universe and that force is "**At Your word.**"

"**At Your word**" space and time first came into existence and all things that are. By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, when the earth was formless and dark, God's voice was heard, saying, "**Let there be light,**" and, "**at Your word**" light leaped forth. "**At Your word**" day and night took up their places and, "**at Your word**" the waters were divided from the waters by the firmament of Heaven. "**At Your word**" the dry land appeared and the seas flowed to their channels. "**At Your word**" the earth was blanketed with green and vegetative life began. "**At Your word**" appeared the sun and moon and stars, "for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years." "**At Your word**" the living creatures filled the sea, the air, the land and man, at last, appeared. Of all this we are well assured, for by **faith** we know that the worlds were framed by the word of God.

Psalms 8:3,4 - When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast

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ordained; ⁴What is man, that Thou art mindful of him?
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalms 147:4 - He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names.

Jeremiah 31:35 - Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is His name:

It is not in creation, alone, that the word of the Lord is supreme. In Providence, too, its majestic power is manifested, for the Lord upholds all things by the word of His power! So too, all matters of fact and history are beneath the supreme word of God.

As Lord of All, all the events of the ages come marching by at His word, bowing to His sovereign will! **"At Your word,"** kingdoms arise and empires flourish! **"At Your word"** dynasties die, kingdoms crumble, mighty cities become a wilderness and armies of men melt away like the frost of the morning.

Despite the sin of man and the rage of Satan, there is a magnificent sense in which all things, from the beginning, since Adam inhaled his first breath in the Garden of Eden even until now have happened according to the purpose and will and word of the Lord.

Prophecy utters her forewarnings and history writes her pages, **"at Your word," O Lord!** It is amazing to think of the fisherman of Galilee letting down his net in perfect harmony with all the arrangements of the ages! **"At Your word,"** says Peter, as he promptly obeys, therein repeating the motto of seas and stars, of winds and worlds!

"At Your word" has been the password of all good men from the beginning until now. Saints have acted upon these three words and found their marching orders in them. An ark is built on dry land as the scoffing crowd gathered around Noah, laughing at him, but he is not ashamed, for lifting his face to Heaven, he says, "I have built this great vessel, O Jehovah God, **at Your word.**"

Abraham leaves the place of his childhood home. He leaves his family and takes his wife Sarah to a land of which he knows nothing! Crossing the broad Euphrates and entering upon a country possessed by the Canaanites, he roams as a stranger

and a pilgrim all his days. He dwells in tents with Isaac and Jacob. If any laugh at him for renouncing the comforts of a settled life, he lifts his calm face to Heaven and smiles, answering to the Lord, **"It is at Your word."**

Even when his face is wrinkled, and the hot tears are ready to force themselves from beneath his eyelids as he lifts his hand with the knife to stab Isaac in the heart, if any charge him with murder, or think him mad, he lifts the same composed face towards the majesty of the Most High and says, **"It is at Your word."** At that word he joyfully puts away his sacrificial knife, for he has proven his willingness to go to the utmost at the word of the Lord, His God!

If I were to introduce you to a thousand of the faithful ones who have shown the obedience of faith, in every case they would justify their acts by telling you that they did them **"at God's word."**

The power of the individual to please God will never be fully known till we get to the simple rule of our text, **"At Your word."**

"At thy word"....if ever we needed a response when the Lord tells us to do something, here is our response.

4. Vss. 6-7 - A MIRACULOUS RESULT WITNESSED.

And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. ⁷And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

Six times we see the word "they". He said it to Simon Peter and it was witnessed by everyone. The impossible became possible!

At His resurrection the angels proclaimed, **"He is not here, He is risen, even as He said"**. The disciples' common sense would tell them that what the angels just said was an impossibility.

Do we really believe the proclamation of the supernatural?

The world tells us, in part, that once an addict always an addict. By saying so, they are saying it's impossible to be like you once were ... free from the bondage of addiction because of what you have become.

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- It is impossible for God to be born in human flesh, but Jesus was!
- It is impossible for a dead man to rise again, but Jesus rose!
- It is impossible for a man, even if he rose from the dead, to ascend into heaven, but Jesus did!

When we reach the limit of what our common sense tells us can be done, then the word comes — **“with God, all things are possible.”** They all saw it because Simon Peter simply said, **“at thy word”!!**

5. Vss. 8-10A - A HUMBLE AND CONTAGIOUS REACTION.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”⁹For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: ¹⁰And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon.

Psalm 40:3 - And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

6. Vs. 8B-11 - A UNANIMOUS DECISION.

And Jesus said unto Simon, “Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.”¹¹And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed Him.

