



# LORD, CHANGE MY ATTITUDE

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

James MacDonald

Foreword by Erwin Lutzer



---

# *Replace a Complaining Attitude...*

---

## SESSION ONE

When you get out of bed in the morning, what's your attitude? Is it a good indicator of your attitude for the day? Of your outlook on life?

Find one or two more people in your group with a morning attitude like yours. Commit to pray for one another throughout this study.

## **QUESTIONS:**

- ⇒ Look at the outline of this study. You'll see five negative attitudes and five positive attitudes that outline this 10-week study. Which one negative attitude and one positive attitude do you most want to (or need to) study? Why?
  - Replace a Complaining Attitude / with Thankfulness
  - Replace a Covetous Attitude / with Contentment
  - Replace a Critical Attitude / with Love
  - Replace a Doubting Attitude / with Faith
  - Replace a Rebellious Attitude / with Submission
- ⇒ Do you think most people are aware of their attitudes or think about them often? How do you think people develop positive or negative attitudes?
- ⇒ Do you think it's easy or difficult to change an attitude?

## **VERSES:**

**Numbers 14**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-3, 6, 9-11**

**Numbers 11:1-3**

**Numbers 11:10, 33, 12:9, 25:4, 32:14**

**Psalms 105**

**Numbers 14:12, 15:24, 16:3, 17:3**

**Hebrews 12:6**

**Hebrews 13:8**

**Psalms 7:11**

## **Session One—TEACHING:**

Those who choose murmuring as a lifestyle will spend their lifetime in the WILDERNESS.

### **We CHOOSE our attitudes.**

Attitudes are PATTERNS of thinking formed over a long period of TIME.

### **Complaining is SIN. (to miss the mark, fall short).**

Complaining is to express DISSATISFACTION with a circumstance that is not wrong and about which I am doing nothing myself to CORRECT.

### **God HEARS our complaining.**

God is displeased when you complain about your LOT in life, the circumstances that are unique to you.

Whatever God has allowed, that's the thing He wants to grow your FAITH through.

### **God HATES our complaining.**

### **God JUDGES our complaining.**

Am I a COMPLAINER?

Am I reaping the CONSEQUENCES of complaining in my relationship with God?

Am I willing to REPENT?

## **DISCUSS:**

1. How did James MacDonald define attitude? Why is it important to realize that we choose our attitudes?
2. Complaining is a good place to start this study because we all complain. What do you complain about most often? Why is it so easy to complain? What does complaining reveal about our hearts?
3. Why is it important to understand that God hears, hates, and judges our complaining? Why does He respond in those ways? Which response did you most need to hear today?
4. The wilderness will be a common theme throughout this study. How would you summarize what James said about the wilderness?
5. What did you learn from the biblical examples used in the video teaching? How can you apply those lessons to your life today?
6. Have you ever considered complaining to be sinful? How does that change your perspective? What complaining attitude can you repent of?
7. What will you do to guard yourself from complaining this week? Whenever you catch yourself being tempted to complain, deliberately choose to stop yourself and ask the Lord to change your attitude.

We either get BETTER or we get BITTER.

We are often so blessed that we should know better.

We get on the ONE THING that has happened and miss the blessings, it's like God doesn't ever provide enough.

---

## *...With an Attitude of Thankfulness*

---

1. What are you most thankful for? Why?
2. In what areas of your life or for what specific things have you grown more thankful over time? Is there something in your life that you took for granted at one point but are now thankful for? What changed your perspective?
3. In general, would you say you're a thankful person? Why or why not?

After reflection on being robbed... in his prayer journal, Matthew Henry wrote: "I thank Thee first because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed and not I who robbed."

### VERSE USED

- Luke 17:11-19
- Romans 1:18-21
- Ecclesiastes 3:11
- Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31

### THREE SCHOOLS OF THANKFULNESS

- Hebrews 13:15—Elementary School
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18—High School
- Ephesians 5:18-20—Collegiate Thankfulness

Those who choose complaining as their lifestyle will spend their lifetime in the wilderness.

Your attitude brings you to a fork in the road—we must choose.

No one actually desires to live in the desert.

## **Session Two—TEACHING:**

**Attitude is EVERYTHING (Luke 17:11-19)**

**Everyone needs the LORD.**

**Only a few thank Him PERSONALLY.**

They had to ask, they had to go in faith, and then the  
MIRACLE happened. (Luke 17:14—as they went)

**Only a few experience Him POWERFULLY.**

Thankfulness leads to greater TRANSFORMATION.

The walk of faith begins with a CHOICE.

GRATITUDE is the attitude that sets the altitude for  
living.

Gratitude is to show that a kindness received is VALUED.

**Thankfulness is a DECISION.**

**Thankfulness is a decision based on REALITY.**

**Thankfulness is a LIFE - CHANGING decision.**

Am I a THANKFUL / GRATEFUL person?

We can't just stop complaining, we must replace a  
complaining attitude with an attitude of thankfulness.

Faith grows in the soil of gratitude.

God deeply despises a negative, fault-finding, faithless  
attitude.

## **DISCUSS:**

1. What did James MacDonald mean when he said attitude is everything? Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. In general, why should Christians be thankful? What specific things are you thankful for as a Christian?
3. How does thankfulness lead to greater faith?
4. In what ways have you experienced the relationship between faith in God and an attitude of thankfulness? How does thankfulness affect your relationships with other people?
5. In what ways is a thankful attitude a blessing in and of itself?
6. What did James mean when he said ungodliness flows from ungratefulness? How has your life been affected by the cycle of ungratefulness and ungodliness?
7. What Scripture or biblical example in the video most effectively helped you recognize the contrast between complaining and thankfulness? How did it provide insight into the value of thankfulness?
8. How can an attitude of thankfulness be applied to specific areas of complaint you've identified over the past week?
9. Is there anyone to whom you need to express thankfulness this week? What specific things will you do this week to grow in an attitude of thankfulness?

---

## *Replace a Covetous Attitude...*

---

When, where, or about what do you still struggle with complaining? Give an example of a way you've asked the Lord to change your attitude and how you've tried to be intentionally thankful this past week.

1. Covet isn't a word we use often today, if at all, but it's no less a sin than in biblical times. How would you define covetousness?

2. Would you say our culture encourages or discourages covetousness? Explain your answer.

Their needs were met but they still wanted more. North America is drowning in a sea of covetousness. Kids have their sights on the same bondage as their parents. Dave Ramsey says, "kids want now what took their parents 35 years to build."

### **Session Three—TEACHING:**

ACT 1: Yielding to Covetousness and Why God Hates It

#### **1. Covetousness becomes sin when we YIELD.**

Numbers 11:4

Covetousness is wanting **WRONG** things.

Covetousness is wanting **RIGHT** things but for wrong reasons.

Covetousness is wanting right things for right reasons but wanting them at the wrong **TIME**.

#### **2. When we DWELL on desire. yielding is just a matter of time.** (Numbers 11:4-5—dwelling on items/desires).

The longer you dwell on something, the more you'll begin to **CONVINCE** yourself that you have to have it.



**3. At the root of covetousness is a rejection of God's SUFFICIENCY.** (Numbers 11:6-7, 8-10, God's anger).

Why did God provide manna? (Exodus 16:4—to test them! Would they gratefully accept God's provision for them or would they covet more and better and different?).

ACT 2: A Gift from God You Don't Want

**1. Beware of begging God for NONESSENTIALS.**

Numbers 11:18-20, Psalm 106:15

**2. In time we may HATE what we had to have.**

Numbers 11:31-32

ACT 3: The Consequences of Covetousness

**1. Enough is never ENOUGH.** (Numbers 11:31-32)

**2. Life in the WILDERNESS.**

Am I a COVETSOUS person?

Am I reaping the CONSEQUENCES of covetousness in my relationship with God?

Am I willing to REPENT? (Psalm 62:10)

Beware of "Jesus and Stuff." God then become insufficient.

Having stuff creates in us a desire for more stuff.

On what do we think ... people to impact or things to get?

Am I seeking things to gratify me or actions to bless others?

Could covetousness be the reason I am spiritually dry?

## **DISCUSS:**

1. Hate is a strong word James MacDonald used to describe God's perspective on our bad attitudes. Have you ever considered that God hates certain attitudes? In what ways is it helpful to use the word hate to describe His perspective?

2. What's the danger of materialism in our daily lives? In our relationships with God?

3. James defined covetousness as wanting the wrong things, the right things for the wrong reasons, or the right things at the wrong time. How did these three desires help you better understand covetousness? Which of the three points was most convicting and why?

4. When have you dwelled on something in a way that grew into covetousness?

5. In the video James said covetousness becomes active sin only when we yield. What did he mean? Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

6. What warnings did James give about the things we want?

7. When have you had a negative experience with getting what you thought you had to have? What effect did it have on you, your relationships with others, or your relationship with God?

8. What Scripture or biblical example in the video most effectively helped you think about covetousness?

9. About what specific things or in what areas of your life do you already recognize a tendency to covet?

10. What will you do to guard yourself from coveting this week? Whenever you catch yourself being tempted to covet, make the deliberate choice to stop yourself and ask the Lord to change your attitude.

---

## *...With Contentment*

---

Have you noticed when you're most prone to covet? If so, what do you covet, and why do you think that's a struggle for you? Give an example of a way you've asked the Lord to change your attitude and what you've done to resist covetousness this past week.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What would you say our culture's general attitude is toward being content with what we have? What values might influence that perspective?
2. Describe a time when you felt most content. Why were you so content at that time?
3. In general, would you say you're a contented person? Why or why not?

### **Session Four—TEACHING:**

#### **The opposite of covetousness is CONTENTMENT.**

Contentment is satisfaction in God's sufficient PROVISION; to rest in what one has and seek nothing more; a settled sense of adequacy; the attitude of heart that says, "I have ENOUGH."

James mentioned the idea of "settled adequacy."

Desire for gain is not wrong, but it does cause many to desire **WRONGLY**.

#### **Godliness + CONTENTMENT = great gain.**

False Formulas for Happiness

1. Godliness + PROSPERITY = great gain
2. Godliness + POVERTY = great gain
3. Godliness + POWER = great gain
4. Godliness + family HARMONY = great gain

5. Godliness + MINISTRY success = great gain

**Look to ETERNITY—See 1 Timothy 6:6-7, James 4:14**

**Let enough be ENOUGH—See 1 Timothy 6:8**

How to Gain Contentment:

- SEEK it.
- SAY it: "I have enough."
- SETTLE it. (Psalm 62:10)

It's not wrong to have things. It's wrong when things have you.

**Learn by EXAMPLE— See 1 Timothy 6:9**

Money allows you to go places and do things and experience pressures to SIN that someone in poverty can never really understand.

Our possession can keep us from following through on our commitments to Christ and his church... boat, cottage, etc.

Misquoted verse in the Bible—1 Timothy 6:10—money is not the root of evil, but the LOVE of money is A root of all sorts of evil, not even THE root of all sorts of evil.

Am I a CONTENTED person?

Am I seeing the BLESSINGS of contentment in my life?

Am I choosing CONTENTMENT over covetousness moment by moment? (Philippians 4:11)

## **DISCUSS:**

1. Honestly, how often do you think about the blessings God has provided in your life? What things first come to mind as God's provision in your life? What things do you most easily take for granted?

2. How is James MacDonald's clarification helpful that the desire for personal gain isn't wrong? Is it surprising to anyone? If so, why? How would you explain to someone the formula "Godliness + contentment = great gain"?

4. Which of the five faulty equations for happiness have you encountered most often in our culture? In popular Christian thinking? In your own life? What makes each of those formulas faulty?

5. What Scripture or biblical example in the video most effectively helped you think about covetousness and thankfulness? How did it provide insight into the value of thankfulness?

6. What specific things will you do this week to strengthen an attitude of contentment?

Can a rich man go to heaven? Certainly, but it is hard to have everything this world has to offer and also know how much you need God.

Bible—"This book will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from this book."

How many gases can you breath and still be OK? One. Equations and laws are absolute, like gravity. Yet we think spiritual absolutes are divine suggestions. How many ways are there to eternal life? How many books reveal who God is?

---

## *Replace a Critical Attitude...*

---

Give an example of a way you've asked the Lord to change your attitude and how you've made an intentional decision to be content this past week.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What would you say the difference is between recognizing that something could be better, or is actually wrong, and therefore are being critical?
2. Would you say criticism is rebuked, discouraged, encouraged, or celebrated in our culture? How often do you see criticism in the media and on social media? What might be the effect on our culture from our exposure to critical attitudes?
3. How can criticism affect a person's day or even his or her life (either being critical or being criticized)?

### **Session Five—TEACHING**

Criticism is to dwell on the perceived FAULT of another person with no view to their good.

#### **Criticism is WRONG.**

Criticism is wrong for your FELLOWSHIP with God.  
Isaiah 59:1, 1 John 1:9

Criticism is wrong for our relationship with OTHERS.  
Critical people are often lonely people.

Criticism is wrong for us PERSONALLY.

Choose to sin; choose to SUFFER.

#### **Criticism is PETTY.**

**The Real Issue:** (it was not about Moses' wife, but about status with the congregation—jealously of Moses—Numbers 12:1-2).

UNFORGIVENESS.

ENVY, jealousy, resentment.

PERSONAL FAILURE.

**The Point:** What is really bothering you?

How About Criticism...

- Criticism is self-EXALTING. Proverbs 3:7
- Criticism is PAINFUL. (Moses' feelings?)
- Criticism is often INADVERTANT. We had acted foolishly (Numbers 12:11).

Every time I throw dirt at others, I lose ground.

Am I a CRITICAL person?

Am I reaping the CONSEQUENCES of a critical spirit in my relationship with God?

Am I willing to REPENT?

Verses in this Session:

Numbers 12:1-15

Matthew 18:15-20

Exodus 15:21—Miriam was a godly woman, so this tells us that no one is beyond battling a critical spirit.

The Lord HEARD (Numbers 12:2)

Many people are critical and never even aware of it.

When God says, "DON'T" - he means, "Don't hurt yourself."

Forgiveness = releasing the other person where they are no longer under obligation.

Absolute truth in the hands of absolute sinners can be absolutely brutal.

Criticism plugs the flow of God's blessing in your life.

## **DISCUSS:**

1. What did James say happens when we choose to sin? How have you seen that to be true of someone with a critical attitude?
2. What three issues were identified as the real problems underneath a critical attitude? Which of those issues have you experienced to be true in your own heart? In the lives of people around you?
3. Why is it important to recognize that our own attitudes and the attitudes of others are rooted in deeper issues?
4. What Scripture or biblical example in the video most effectively helped you think about a critical attitude? How was it helpful?
5. Which of the five affirmations most effectively helped you identify ways you can begin to replace a critical attitude? Why?
6. About what specific things or in what areas of your life do you already recognize a tendency to criticize?
7. What Will you do to guard yourself from being critical this week? Whenever you catch yourself being tempted to criticize, deliberately choose to stop yourself and ask the Lord to change your attitude.



---

## ...With Love

---

Give an example of a way you've asked the Lord to change your attitude and what you've done to resist criticism this past week.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How does our society define and portray love? What are some examples of an ideal love in our culture? Why might people view love that way?
2. How can love, the lack of love, or a misunderstanding of love affect a person's life?
3. In general, would you say you're a loving person? Why or why not?

### **Session Six—TEACHING:**

**Action in one thing, but God is concerned with the heart.**

**1 Corinthians 13—the "love chapter" - in a world of spiritual gifts, love was lacking.**

**1 John 4: 7-8, 16—God is love, love is from God.**

**All truth and no love is BRUTALITY.**

**Psalms 119:126/Psalm 119:136—a heart like God.**

- Agape views love as a DECISION, as an act of my will.
- Agape love is all about YOU before ME.

Absolute truth in the hands of absolute sinners can be absolutely BRUTAL. **John 1:14—Grace & Truth**

**All love and no truth is HYPOCRISY.**

**Radical liberalism (love) / radical evangelicalism (truth) - there is power in the balancing them both.**

Love that holds to the truth is BALANCED love.

**On the majors, ACTION. Love is not passive.**

Is This a Major? Do I speak up or not?

Romans 3:23, 3:10, Isaiah 53:6.

Is it critical PATH / FALLOUT?

Is it a chronic PROBLEM?

Is it close PROXIMITY?

Most things are not MAJOR.

**On the minors, ACCEPTANCE. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5.**

- **Cultural Differences**
- **Personal Differences**
- **Personality Differences**

**In all things, LOVE. John 13:35, 1 Corinthians 13:8**

**Am I a LOVING person?**

**Am I seeing the BENEFITS of love in my life?**

**Am I choosing love over a CRITICAL spirit?**

**Preaching is truth communicated through personality.**

## **DISCUSS:**

1. Before watching the video session, would you have thought of love as the opposite of criticism? What words would you have first thought of as the opposite of criticism?
2. James McDonald said truth without love is brutality. What was your initial response to that statement? After hearing his explanation, do you consider brutality an appropriate word choice? Why or why not?
3. Which example of being all truth and no love would you say is most common in our society? In your own relationships (no names)?
4. How would you explain the statement "All love and no truth is hypocrisy"?
5. There are times when something is 100 percent true but hurtful in the situation or in its lack of tactfulness. How have you hurt somebody or been hurt by somebody when truth without love was expressed? What was the result of that experience?
6. In what ways are the three questions helpful in distinguishing between a major and a minor point? Do you tend to major on minors and avoid dealing with majors? How does this tendency relate to love?
7. What are some examples of selfless, "you-before-me" agape love?
8. From whom have you experienced true (agape) love? What effect does this kind of biblical love have on you as the giver of love? On others as the recipients of love? On those who witness that kind of love?
9. What Scripture or biblical example in the video most effectively helped you think about criticism and love? How did it provide insight into the value of love?
10. What specific things will you do this week to intentionally show love, especially to people of whom you've been critical?

---

# *Replace a Doubting Attitude...*

---

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Does our society view doubt as positive, negative, or neutral? Explain. What might contribute to this cultural perspective?
2. In general, would you say you're a doubtful person? If so, in what particular areas are you more prone to doubt?

## **Session Seven—TEACHING:**

- **PLAN "A" - go on in and take the land.**
- **PLAN "B" - send in the spies.**
- **PLAN "C" - wander the wilderness until the adults die off.**

Doubt is the absence of FAITH.

Doubt is a lack of confidence or assurance that God will keep His PROMISES.

- God has promised to PROVIDE for me (Philippians 4:19).
- God has promised to PROTECT me (Isaiah 54:17).
- God has promised to PROSPER me (Psalm 84:11).

**God places regular TESTS of faith in front of His children.**

- Faith is a CHOICE.
- Faith is not a part of the Christian life. It's the WHOLE THING.

**The circumstances of life will shrink or STRETCH your faith. (Numbers 13:17-29, Deuteronomy 1:28-30).**

**Doubt sees the obstacles. Faith sees the OPPORTUNITIES.**

**Numbers 13:30-31—Caleb quieted the people. "However."**

## **Disguises for Doubt**

- People call their doubt FEAR: "God won't protect me."
- People call their doubt ANGER: "God won't solve my problem for me."
- People WITHDRAW: "God won't answer my questions."
- People get BITTER: "God won't heal my hurt."
- People say, "I just need THE FACTS."

"We're all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as unsolvable PROBLEMS." - Hendricks

**When surrounded by DOUBTERS, doubting comes easily.** Numbers 14:1-2 (all the people, whole crowd)

## **Why Doubting Is Easy**

- Doubt is CONTAGIOUS. (Numbers 14:2-3)
- Doubt is PASSIVE. Faith is active.
- It satisfies our tendency toward self—PROTECTION.
- Doubters are easy to find. Friends of FAITH are rare and have to be sought out.

**It's a short journey from doubt to DESPAIR.**  
**Numbers 14:3-4—totally spitting in God's face, a desperate plan.**

DESPERATE plans come from despairing hearts.

Am I a DOUBTFUL person?  
Am I reaping the CONSEQUENCES of doubt in my  
relationship with God?  
Am I willing to REPENT?

## **DISCUSS:**

1. Had you ever considered doubt as a lack of confidence in God's ability or willingness to keep His promises? How does doubt affect your perspective on a relationship with God?

2. Which of the promises mentioned in this video are you most grateful for? Which promises are you most prone to doubt, even if you wouldn't previously say so openly or hadn't previously recognized them as indicating a doubtful attitude toward God?

3. Which one of the five disguises for doubt was most surprising? Which do you most often hide behind and why? How has doubt affected your life in the past?

4. Why is doubt so easy and so common? How can doubt hurt your witness as a Christian?

5. What will you do to guard yourself from doubtfulness this week? Whenever you catch yourself being tempted to doubt, deliberately choose to stop yourself and ask the Lord to change your attitude.

"Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you respond to it." - Swindoll

Faith is How We:

1. Please God—Hebrews 11:6
2. Come to God—Ephesians 2:8-9
3. Continue in God—Colossians 2:6

God tests our faith to see how much we have. "Are you going to pass the test by faith?" "When you bump into a Christian, you find out what they're full of."

God sent in his "A" Team, not a "B" Team (Numbers 13:2)  
"God knows the temperature of the fire you're in."

---

## ...With Faith

---

Have you noticed when you're most prone to doubt?

Why do you think that is an area of vulnerability?

Give an example of a way you've asked the Lord to change your attitude and how you've tried to guard against doubtfulness this week.

**QUESTION:** What is usually meant in our culture when someone says to have faith or to believe? In whom or in what does our culture encourage people to have faith in or believe? Can that kind of attitude be helpful? Can it be hurtful? Explain.

### **Session Eight—TEACHING:**

#### **Faith is NOT:**

- **Anti-INTELLECTUAL.** This truth has stood the test of time. There are awesome answers to questions.
- **ESCAPISM.** This truth has substance.
- **Mind SCIENCE.** This truth is not a motivational seminar or possibility thinking.
- **There is SUBSTANCE—**Like having a receipt and knowing the product that you ordered is on its way.
- **There is EVIDENCE—**Understanding that you have ordered things before and they come, so you know this order will come too.

#### **The PRESCRIPTION for faith.**

- Faith is active **CONFIDENCE** in God.
- Faith is **BELIEVING** the Word of God and **ACTING** upon it, no matter how I **FEEL**, because God promises a good **RESULT**.

Believing and **ACTING** upon it: practical examples...

- **FAMILY** need. Preach and pressure, 1 Peter 3:1-2
- **FINANCIAL** need. Tithing when money is tight, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Malachi 3:10

- FULFILLMENT need. Matthew 11:28-29, Jeremiah 29:13

**The PROMINENCE of faith.** Bible history found in one chapter—Hebrews 11 (THE HALL OF FAITH)

The message of faith is found EVERYWHERE in the Bible—Matthew 6:25-34, 8:1-4, 8:5-13, 8:23-27, 9:1-8, 9:20-22, 13:53-58, 14:22-31, 15:21-28, 16:5-12, 17:14-23, 20:29-34, 21:18-22.

Faith is not a PART of the Christian life. Faith is the WHOLE thing. 2 Chronicles 16:9

**The POWER of Faith**—Hebrews 11:33-39

- Faith is the VICTORY that overcomes the world. 1 John 5:4
- Faith is greater than love? 1 Corinthians 13:13
  - HORIZONTAL - In the context of the Corinthians in their relationships (they needed love)
  - VERTICAL - In the context of our relationship with God (we need faith).

**The PLAN of faith.**

- WORD - CULTIVATE your faith. Romans 10:17
- WITNESS - CONFESS your faith. Romans 10:9
- WALK - CORNER your faith. Mark 9:23

**Verses in this Session:**

**Psalm 90:1**

**Titus 1:2**

**1 Corinthians 10:11**

**Psalm 46:1**

**Hebrews 11**

**Matthew 4**

Faith is “all in” there is no plan “B”

It is not faith when it is only in your head (that’s belief), we must act on it. The pendulum illustration—ever decreasing arcs.; will you act on it?

The Fact—Faith—Feelings illustration.

The challenge is to put off the old and put on the new: life, attitudes, habits, thoughts...



Just believe God for that. He will not disappoint you.

### **DISCUSS:**

1. How can there be evidence for something we can't see? Explain your answer with nonspiritual examples that any person would understand and agree to be true.
2. James also provided a definition of faith, explaining belief, actions, feelings, and the promised result. In what ways do you struggle with doubt in any of these areas?
3. Do you believe it's OK to ask God for certain things? Why or why not? Share examples of answered prayers that strengthened your faith.
4. What Scripture or biblical example in the video most effectively helped you think about doubt and faith? How did it provide insight into the value of faith? What other Scriptures do you depend on to strengthen your faith?
5. How important is community in developing your faith? Explain your answer. What specific things will you do this week to be intentional about growing in faith?

---

## *Replace a Rebellious Attitude...*

---

When, where, or about what do you still struggle with doubt? Give an example of a way you've asked the Lord to change your attitude and how you've been intentional in practicing faith this past week.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Name some famous rebels in history, classic literature, or popular media. What made them rebels?

2. Do you think being a rebel has a positive, negative, or neutral connotation in our society? Can you identify any specific examples? Why do you think rebels are viewed that way?

- The 50s = SURFACE Rebellion
- The 60s = STRUCTURAL Rebellion
- The 70s = SEXUAL Rebellion
- The 80s = SOCIAL Rebellion
- The 90s = SUPER Rebellion

We have gone from believing in the autonomy of the local church to believing in the autonomy of the local believer.

### **Session Nine—TEACHING:** Numbers 16

- **Rebellion is SERIOUS.** Romans 13:1 (authorities)
- **Rebellion exists in EVERY human heart.**
- **Rebellion is knowing but not DOING.**

### **Rebellion has many sources.**

1. JEALOUSY. Numbers 16:3
2. DELUSION. Numbers 16:5-7 (note the sarcasm)
3. UNGRATEFULNESS. Numbers 16:8-11 (position/privilege)
4. STUBBORNNESS. Numbers 16:12, 1 Samuel 15:23 (we will not...) = insubordination and idolatry.

5. DISAPPOINTMENT. Numbers 16:13-14—maybe they thought they should already have arrived in the Promised Land.

6. DISTRUST. Numbers 16:14—the blinding of eyes, blind to your own faults, blind followers.

### **Rebellion has many CONSEQUENCES.**

1. LEADERSHIP withdrawal. Numbers 16:20-21—killing the leaders rather than the congregation.

2. INNOCENCE defiled. Numbers 16:25-27—sins of the parents effecting the next generation.

3. GUILTY condemned. Numbers 16:28-40—when they despised authority, they despised God.

4. INFECTION spread. Numbers 16:41-46—did the people not learn from what happened just one day before?

**Rebellion is ultimately against GOD.** Numbers 16:47-48, 16:11, 16:49-50.

Am I a rebellious person and am I will willing to repent?

Korah = “bald one”

These rebels knew the truth, chose to rebel, and faced the consequences.

Let God be the judge of who are God’s people, not us.

Pride is a stage of anti-God.

## **DISCUSS:**

1. How and when is rebellion harmful? Is there a time when you think rebellion is good? If so, what's the dividing line between the two?
2. Had you ever considered rebellion as passivity—as knowing but not doing? In what ways is rebellious passivity equally sinful as rebellious activity?
3. When has your desire for control of a situation or relationship led to rebelliousness? What consequences did your rebellion have in those instances?
4. When have you rebelled against God? What consequences did your rebellion have in those instances? How did God reveal and convict you of your rebellious attitude?
5. James MacDonald mentioned six sources of rebellion. Which source of rebellion do you see most often?
6. How do these sources help you understand your own attitudes? How do they help you understand the behavior of other people in your life?
7. What Scripture or biblical example in the video most effectively helped you think about rebellion? How did it provide insight into the danger of a rebellious attitude? What other Scriptures help you understand the implications of rebelliousness?
8. About what specific things or in what areas of your life do you already recognize a tendency to rebel?
9. What will you do to guard yourself from rebelliousness this week? Whenever you catch yourself being tempted to rebel, deliberately choose to stop yourself and ask the Lord to change your attitude.

---

## *...With Submission*

---

Give an example of a way you've asked the Lord to change your attitude and how you've guarded yourself against rebellion this week.

1. What has been the most helpful truth you've learned during this study?
2. What has been the most significant change in your attitudes during this study?
3. In what area is God continuing to work in your life?

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you think of when you hear the word submission?
2. How does our culture view submission? Why do you think it's viewed that way?

### **Session Ten—TEACHING:** 1 Peter 2:13-23

You can't abandon a subject of Scripture simply because it's been HIGHJACKED by others. God gave commands for them to be a blessing.

### **Submission is DUTY to God.** Romans 13:1, Ephesians 5:21

- Submission is what respectful people offer in recognition that God has established AUTHORITIES.
- Submission is a choice we make. Do we fight or cooperate with authorities?
- Submission is a military term, like a chain of command
- Submission is, "to operate within the established authority, to be under the chain of command that God has established."

God does not want anarchy in society.

**Submission is COOPERATION with God.**

**Submission is PROTECTION by God.**

Doing what is right will silence the ignorance of foolish men.  
1 Peter 2:13-15 (the word for "muzzle").

When working properly, God's authority structure administers JUSTICE. The justice system has moved criminals from evil doers who need to be punished to victims who need to be healed.

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5). We are never told to "be humble" but to "humble yourselves" (1 Peter 5:6). But you don't know what I'm going through here, God says, "Don't worry about it" (1 Peter 5:7).

Submission passages: pride vs humility (1 Peter 5:5), humble yourself under God, spouse, or boss (1 Peter 5:6), and don't worry, he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7). There is tension in the truth.

**Submission has LIMITS under God. (Act as free men)**  
1 Peter 2:16, Acts 5:29 (obey men or obey God?)

Submission is VOLUNTARY. Submission is commanded by God by not demanded by others.

There is no forced submission, the Bible says to "submit yourself."  
Act as free men, not slaves.

### **Submission Limits**

It depends on the SOURCE. (From your boss or your spouse?)

It depends on the SEVERITY. Verbal vs physical, passive or active, neglect?

It depends on the FREQUENCY. Abuse: happened once or a repeated pattern?

Jesus has given us an example to follow. 1 Peter 2:21

## **Going to Extremes:**

Using the biblical teaching on submission as an excuse to STAY when it's destructive to you.

When the authority structure in the home fails, go to the authority structure in the CHURCH if it's not a criminal matter.

The Lord will fight for us, so submit to it rather than resisting it. (Deuteronomy 3:22)

## **Submission is FAVOR from God.**

1 Peter 2:19-20

**Submission is INTIMACY with God.** "Father, you see this and I still trust you." (1 Peter 2:21-25)

## **DISCUSS:**

1. Why should people feel an urgency about changing an attitude of rebelliousness?
2. James MacDonald identified several positive traits of biblical submission. How does each trait help you understand submission? Which was the most encouraging and why?
3. James suggested three limits to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy submission. How does each limit help you to understand a biblical view of submission?
4. How are submitting to God and submitting to people related? Why is this connection important to keep in mind?

## **King's Grant Baptist Church**

873 Little Neck Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Phone: 757-340-0902

E-mail: [scott@kingsgrantbaptist.com](mailto:scott@kingsgrantbaptist.com)

