

Bible Notes



"Exert every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. - Luke 13:24 NET

KINGDOM OF GOD – PART 10: OUR POSTURE

From the Lord's teaching, it appears that just "trying" to enter is insufficient. This is a paradox. Our diligence is necessary, and "many" will not give their diligence to the Kingdom as a gift to God. Not that we can earn His favor; but we do present ourselves before Him as His child. Although we are not judged in terms of performance or merit according to our deeds, our attitudes, mannerisms, conversation, speech, conduct—in other words, our entire lifestyle—directly relates to our progress in fulfilling the Father's plan for our individual lives. He loves us with perfect love and acceptance, but He seeks that we live in the fulness of character that exemplifies His divine nature, while being the unique expression of His person that each one of us was intended to be from our creation. God has been thinking about you and me from the beginning. This is an amazing verse:

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, - 2 Timothy 1:9 KJV

This is God's posture towards us. What is our posture towards the Father in response? A person's posture speaks loudly. Yeshua said: "but you seek first the Kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). The act of "seeking" is to seek in order to find, aim at, strive for, require, demand, or crave. This is "hunger and thirst." Posture is:

1. Noun: the position in which someone holds their body when standing or sitting;
2. Noun: a particular way of dealing with or considering something; an approach or attitude.
3. Verb: to behave in a way that is intended to impress or mislead.

Therefore, posture can be sincere, or it can be phony. God seeks sincere and true worshippers. Most people return to Him only "lip service." I do not want to be only an "actor" which is the root meaning of hypocrite. I want to be authentic. I want to be "an Israelite in whom is no guile" (John 1:47). Then I will see...

My posture is my **approach to the Kingdom of God**. The Bible relates a person's posture to their "mind." That is, their attitude is the essence of their response to the Lord. It is how they position themselves in relationship to God, the Kingdom, and to others. Yeshua demonstrated to us the godly posture of a Spirit-minded child of God. Thus, the "disciples indeed" (John 8:31) first believe on him, but then continue in his word. They have the "mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). Here are various Scripture passages that relate to this concept:

- We are never alone, for the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit are always with us. John 8:16, John 16:32
- We are connected within the Body of Christ in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:2-6, 5:30, Romans 12:5
- We are to be an imitator of God, Ephesians 5:1; treading in Yeshua's footsteps, 1 Peter 2:21
- We are to have the "mind" which was "also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5, 1 Peter 1:4, 1 John 3:16
- Have salt—devotion to God—within yourselves and have peace one with another. Mark 9:50
- Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. 1 Peter 3:11

In other words, the battle is within ourselves to wrestle against the flesh, but we are to not strive with one another. Just as a dedicated athlete works on their own body, we tend to our own business. In pursuit of the mastery in spiritual living, we strive diligently, but we do not strike out at those around us. Paul said it:

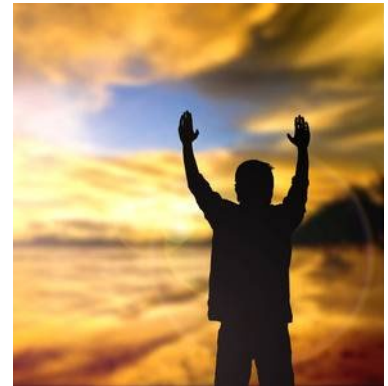
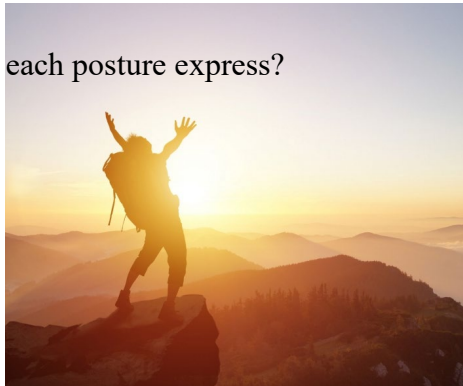
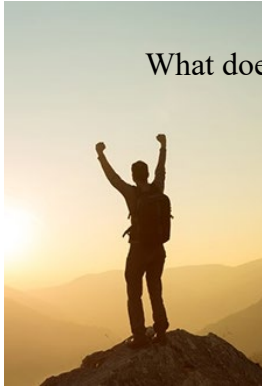
And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. - 2 Timothy 2:5 KJV

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. - Ephesians 6:12 KJV

We are “true Israelites” wrestling in the matters of our own character with God until we overcome. Not people.

He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. - Matthew 12:19 KJV

Reading Postures



What does each posture express?



Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. ... And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, - 2 Timothy 2:14, 24 KJV

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; - Philippians 1:27 KJV

