

THE BLESSING OF CHECKING MY ATTITUDE – before either opening my Bible or attending a Bible study:

(a) **Am I in Forgiveness ?** - Bible study can be a total waste of time unless I am, right now, walking in the light of both of the following two truths: **“My Father ... forgive me my trespasses as I forgive those who trespass against me...”**(Mat. 6:12 & 15). Uncovered sin, which includes unforgiveness towards others, separates me from God, hardens my heart and makes hearing His word impossible. God cannot plant His seed in me, since hearing a scripture with my heart is the evidence that God has planted it in me.

(b) **Am I hungry for more of God and His goodness to me, as revealed in His words ?** - The desire of my heart ought to be **“My Father...give me this day my daily bread...”** (Mat. 6:11). Jesus, the Living Word, said **“Your fathers ate manna from heaven in the wilderness...I am the living bread ... from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live...”** (John 6:49 & 51). The spiritual equivalent of eating manna daily is eating the word of God daily, the bread of life. Only the hungry and thirsty of heart get filled with the blessing of God’s words. This is what seedtime means, and seedtime must happen first before there can be a harvest (that is- a promise of God fulfilled).

(c) **Do I have an expectation that I am actually going to encounter God?** It is essential, as I pick up my Bible, that my expectation be that I am going to seek and to make contact with God. Jesus promised that **“he that (truly with his whole heart) seeks (me, always) finds (me)”** (Mat. 7:8). He also said **“according to your faith be it unto you”** (Mat. 9:29). When I come to God I must believe that He is. The brain is incapable of making contact with God – **“Because the carnal mind (brain) is enmity against God; for is not subject to the law (rule) of God, nor indeed can be”**.

(d) **Is obedience the lovely word that it should be to me?** Finally, I must have the attitude up front that if during my Bible study God tells me to do something, my heart is already settled that I am going to do it, or at least I am willing for God to make me willing to do it. Jesus said **“If anyone is willing to do His will he will know of the teaching...”** (John 7:17). In other words being willing to obey God (or even being willing to be made willing to obey God) is a key to the Bible becoming real to me. There is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to hear (His word to me) and obey.