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# James Macdonald Lord Change My Attitude

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## A CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION: UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF ATTITUDE

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Every human being knows the struggle. Some mornings, the alarm clock feels like an adversary. The commute is a trial. The coworker who never listens becomes a source of daily irritation. In moments like these, the quiet groan of the heart often sounds like a desperate prayer: **James Macdonald Lord Change My Attitude**. This plea is not merely about feeling happier; it is a deep, spiritual cry for a fundamental shift in perspective. We instinctively know that our external circumstances do not dictate our inner peace, yet we find ourselves chained to reactions of anger, jealousy, worry, and complaint. The journey toward a godly attitude is not a simple task of "positive thinking." It requires a deep, heart-level surgery that only divine intervention can perform.

The phrase "change my attitude" is common in self-help circles, but when coupled with the name of a respected Bible teacher like James Macdonald, it takes on a weight of biblical authority and practical wisdom. James Macdonald, the founding pastor of

Harvest Bible Chapel and a prolific author, dedicated a significant portion of his ministry to helping believers break free from the toxic patterns of negative thinking. His landmark teaching series and subsequent book, *Lord, Change My Attitude: Before It's Too Late*, has become a touchstone for Christians who feel stuck in a cycle of spiritual defeat. This article explores the core principles of this transformative message, delving into how a change in attitude is not just a behavioral adjustment, but a spiritual revolution.

## The Spiritual Gravity of a Bad Attitude

Before diving into the solution, it is vital to understand the severity of the problem. We often dismiss a bad attitude as a minor personality flaw or a "rough day." However, in the biblical worldview, as taught by James Macdonald, a poor attitude is a serious spiritual issue. It is a direct challenge to the sovereignty and goodness of God. When we grumble about our circumstances, we are effectively telling God that He has made a mistake in our lives. We are questioning His wisdom, His timing, and His love.

Consider the Israelites in the wilderness. Their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land was short in distance, yet it took them forty years. Why? The Bible is clear: it was not because of their lack of military skill or resources, but because of their attitude. They grumbled, they complained, they murmured against Moses and against God. This attitude of ingratitude and distrust disqualified an entire generation from entering God's rest. Macdonald uses this historical narrative to show that attitude is not a secondary issue. It can literally determine whether we enter our "Promised Land" of spiritual blessing and purpose, or whether we wander in the wilderness of defeat.

The "Lord Change My Attitude" prayer, therefore, is a prayer of humility. It acknowledges that our default setting is often sinful self-centeredness. We are naturally wired to focus on what we lack rather than what we have. We are quick to find fault in others and slow to examine our own hearts. By praying this prayer, we are essentially handing over the remote control of our emotions and reactions to God, admitting that we cannot fix ourselves through sheer willpower.

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### THE BIBLICAL BLUEPRINT: REPLACING THE BAD ATTITUDES

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James Macdonald does not leave the believer in a state of despair, cataloging their flaws. Instead, he provides a powerful, biblical blueprint for transformation. The core of his teaching is based on the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5, specifically the attitudes that Jesus blessed. Macdonald famously outlines five primary bad attitudes that plague believers and the

corresponding godly attitudes that must replace them.

## 1. The Grumbling Attitude vs. The Thankful Heart

This is perhaps the most common struggle. The grumbling attitude manifests as chronic complaining about traffic, weather, church services, or family members. Macdonald teaches that this is not just a personality quirk; it is a form of rebellion against God's providence. The antidote is a thankful heart. The book *Lord, Change My Attitude* challenges readers to see every circumstance, even the difficult ones, as a gift from God designed for our growth. When we intentionally practice gratitude, we starve the spirit of complaint. Instead of praying "Lord, change my circumstances," we learn to pray, "**James Macdonald Lord Change My Attitude** so that I can see Your hand in this trial."

## 2. The Rebellious Attitude vs. The Submissive Will

A rebellious attitude resists authority. It argues, pushes back, and refuses to submit to God's Word or to the leaders God has placed in our lives. This is the attitude of the Prodigal Son who demanded his inheritance and left home. The cure is a submissive will. Macdonald emphasizes that submission is not weakness; it is the strongest act of faith. It is saying, "God, I trust

Your plan more than my own." This internal shift from rebellion to submission is the heart of the attitude change that the book champions. It acknowledges that God's ways are higher than our ways.

### 3. The Angry Attitude vs. The Meek Spirit

Anger is a powerful emotion. While righteous anger against injustice has its place, the "angry attitude" is a chronic state of irritation and resentment. It is a hair-trigger response to being inconvenienced or offended. Macdonald explains that this anger often stems from a wounded ego or a perceived violation of our "rights." The godly replacement is a "meek spirit." Meekness is often misunderstood as weakness, but in the Bible, it is "strength under control." It is the willingness to absorb an offense rather than retaliate. It is the attitude of Jesus, who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return. This is a supernatural attitude that only the Holy Spirit can produce.

### 4. The Critical Attitude vs. The Merciful Heart

This is the attitude of the Pharisee. It looks down on others, judges their motives, and is quick to point out flaws. It is a spirit of superiority and condemnation. The critical attitude creates

division in churches, marriages, and friendships. The cure, as taught by James Macdonald, is a "merciful heart." Mercy is not giving people what they deserve. It is extending grace and forgiveness just as God has extended it to us. When we truly understand how much mercy we have received, we can freely give it to others. The prayer for a merciful heart is a prayer for God to soften our hard, critical edges.

### 5. The Selfish Attitude vs. The Pure Heart

A selfish attitude is entirely self-focused. It asks, "What's in it for me?" It seeks personal comfort, recognition, and pleasure above all else. Macdonald identifies this as the root of many other sins. The divine replacement is a "pure heart." A pure heart is a heart that is single in its devotion to God. It is not divided between love for God and love for the world. It seeks God's glory above personal gain. This is the attitude of the Apostle Paul, who counted all things as loss for the sake of knowing Christ. A pure heart is the ultimate destination of the believer who persistently prays, "Lord, change my attitude."

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#### **PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR A LASTING TRANSFORMATION**

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Understanding the biblical pattern is one thing; living it out daily is another. James Macdonald does not offer a magical formula, but he does provide practical, actionable steps for those serious

about change. The journey requires discipline, honesty, and a reliance on the Holy Spirit.

**1. Daily Examination of the Heart:** The first step is awareness. We cannot change what we do not acknowledge. Macdonald encourages a daily "attitude audit." At the end of each day, ask yourself: Did I grumble today? Was I rebellious? Did I hold onto anger? Did I criticize someone? Was I selfish? This honest inventory, done in the presence of God, brings hidden sins to light.

**2. Verbal Confession and Repentance:** Once a bad attitude is identified, it must be confessed as sin. We often make excuses for our attitudes ("I'm just stressed," "They provoked me"). Macdonald calls believers to stop making excuses and start calling sin what it is. Confession is agreeing with God that our attitude is wrong. Repentance is making a decision to turn away from it and walk in the opposite direction.

**3. Saturating the Mind with Scripture:** Attitude is a product of thinking. To change our attitude, we must change our thoughts. Romans 12:2 speaks of the "renewing of your mind." Macdonald strongly emphasizes the importance of memorizing and meditating on Scripture. When we fill our minds with God's truth, it crowds out the lies and negativity that fuel bad attitudes. For example, when a grumbling thought arises, you can immediately counter it with a verse on thankfulness.

**4. Practicing the Opposite:** This is a powerful psychological and spiritual principle. If you are struggling with a critical attitude, intentionally practice mercy. Find something to praise about the person you are tempted to criticize. If you are feeling

rebellious, practice submission by serving someone in authority. This "act as if" approach, done in faith, slowly retrains the heart and mind. It is the active, physical expression of the prayer "**James Macdonald Lord Change My Attitude.**"

**5. Cultivating a Life of Praise:** Praise is the most potent weapon against a bad attitude. When we focus on the greatness and goodness of God, our problems shrink in comparison. Macdonald often teaches that praise shifts our perspective from the temporal to the eternal. It realigns our hearts with the reality of God's sovereignty. A praising heart cannot simultaneously be a grumbling heart. This is why corporate worship and private praise are essential for long-term attitude change.

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## THE URGENCY OF CHANGE: WHY IT MUST HAPPEN NOW

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The subtitle of James Macdonald's book is crucial: "Before It's Too Late." This introduces a sense of urgency. The danger of a bad attitude is not just that it makes us unhappy; it has eternal consequences. A persistent, unrepentant attitude of complaining, rebellion, and unforgiveness can harden our hearts to the point where we can no longer hear the voice of God. It can destroy our marriages, ruin our relationships with our children, and make us ineffective for the Kingdom of God.

Furthermore, our attitude is our number one witness to the world. A world that is watching Christians is looking for something different. If we have the same complaining, critical, and anxious attitudes as everyone else, we have nothing to offer. But when we demonstrate a spirit of gratitude, forgiveness, and trust in the

midst of trials, the world takes notice. A transformed attitude is the most compelling sermon we can preach.

The time for change is not tomorrow. It is not when you feel like it. It is today. The moment you become aware of a bad attitude in your heart, you must deal with it immediately. Letting it fester only gives it more power. The prayer for a new attitude is not a one-time event; it is a daily, moment-by-moment dependence on God. It is the cry of a heart that desperately wants to honor its

Creator.

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### **CONCLUSION: THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME**

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In conclusion, the profound message behind the popular teaching from James Macdonald is that attitude is not a small thing. It is the thermostat of the soul, setting the temperature for our entire lives. The prayer, "Lord, change my attitude," is not a request for a superficial makeover. It is a plea for