

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

Years ago I read a devotional titled, “Proper Christian Attitude.” The gist of the devotional showed how Jesus’ attitude was with others and how we should emulate Christ’s in that we are mindful of others and not focused solely on ourselves. In so doing, we, once again, position ourselves more in a servant’s state, as I’ve shared in a different article. This devotional hit closer to home as it was titled, “Attitude Adjustment.” I read this after my wife (of 29 years, bless her little heart) reminded me that I could use such a tune-up after an incident at our humble abode. Before we go there and now that I have your attention, let me share some tidbits from the devotional’s author. In Philippians 2:5, scripture reads, “Let this mind (or attitude, if you will) be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Webster’s defines mind as individual states for feel, perceive, think, will and reason. Attitude is a mental position with regard to fact or state; a feeling or emotion. Did you know that an airplane has an attitude indicator? It gives the position of an airplane in relation to the horizon. When the airplane is climbing, it has a nose-high attitude. When the airplane is diving, it has a nose-down attitude. Thus, the attitude of the airplane determines whether it is climbing or falling. The same is true of our attitude. A positive attitude, or climbing attitude, is an attitude or direction of life that is gaining ground.

Here’s the life experience: on Tuesday evening of a particular week. I decided I was going to spray the rose bushes to ward off insects and keep ‘em healthy. I un-reeled our ¼-mile long hose (ok, not that long but it was long), hooked it up to the sprayer and went to town, merrily spraying the roses and killing all pestilence. Wow, I had a nose-high attitude and my wife was going to be happy that I was saving her beautiful roses. Welllll, the water stopped before I finished getting to all the roses. First off, I thought my wife (of 29 years) was pulling a fast one on me so I would have to traverse the ½-mile long hose back to check the water source. I made the lengthy journey to only find the water was still on. I then checked to make sure there were no kinks in the hose, checked that the sprayer still had the juice, fiddled with the spray nozzle, then decided I would traverse the length of the ¾-mile hose again to check things out (yeah, the trek was getting longer). By the way, doesn’t Einstein say that is the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results? That’s another article, so back on the subject. By this time I was getting pretty ticked (hint, if I was an airplane, I was in dive mode and too much of this it was going to be crash and burn). At the height of my frustration I took the sprayer apart and slammed the nozzle and container hose on the ground ... in front of the wife (of 29 years). If you know Marina, she’s not bashful about sharing her thoughts and the fact – in so many words – that I needed an attitude adjustment. Yeah, right ... I REALLY didn’t care at that point and stated so. By the way, the slamming of the nozzle and tube on the ground fixed the problem; it must have dislodged whatever was stuck so I was off spraying again but I started replaying my behavior and knew she was right. The moral of this story – for all Christian men to reflect upon – is that if the Holy Spirit does not give you a check on your spiritual condition, your wife (of

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whatever years) certainly will ... and if she is of any Christian character that is not a bad thing. I needed the attitude adjustment regardless if the sprayer ever worked again or not.

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