

THE ATMOSPHERE OF FAITH

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The atmosphere you create determines your experience. The atmosphere around you can boost your faith or choke it.

Atmosphere is the air in any place. It is the feeling of good or evil that the mind receives from a place or condition.

- The air or feeling of evil – doubt, disappointment, “it won’t work” and “no one to help me”, hinder faith from taking root and yielding positive results.
- The feeling of good – faith, optimism, excitement, enthusiasm, expectation and success enhances faith and creates miracles.

Anyone who wants to achieve something in life therefore must be concerned about the atmosphere he creates and permits around him. Atmosphere can aid and can kill faith.

KNOW THIS

- 1. The people that surround you create your atmosphere.**
 - The things they say to you help to form your thoughts and opinions, and these create the atmosphere around you.
 - The things they do can make you happy or sad, excited about your vision, goal and life, or make you dull, depressed, sad, discouraged and faithless.
- 2. The music you listen to and the programmes you watch create your atmosphere.**
 - Music leaves an impression on your mind which affects everything around you.
 - A Christian music will create a holy, praiseful and faith lifting atmosphere which is very good for miracle and relaxation.
 - A love and erotic song will arouse your desire for love and sex. It will fill your heart with lust if you are not married.
 - The programmes you watch plant images in your mind which influence your thoughts, which in turn influences and controls your words and actions. Never forget that your life is a reflection of your thoughts.
- 3. The thoughts you think (your mental disposition) create your atmosphere.**

Prov 23:7

7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

KJV

Prov 27:19

19 As in water face answers to face, so the mind of man reflects the man.

RSV

- People and the things you see and hear have strong impressions on your mind. And the things you think based on your interactions with this people and the things you see and hear create your atmosphere. And your atmosphere creates your experience.
- You will always react or respond to the atmosphere around you.

FAITH IS IMPORTANT

Hebrews 11:6 has made it clear that without faith, it is impossible to please God. So you the believer must create a conducive atmosphere for faith to thrive and produce the desired result.

Heb 11:6

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

NIV

1. The Shunamite Woman:

2 Kings 4:8-37

8 One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. 9 She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. 10 Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us." 11 One day when Elisha came, he went up to his room and lay down there. 12 He said to his servant Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her, and she stood before him. 13 Elisha said to him, "Tell her, 'You have gone to all this trouble for us. Now what can be done for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or the commander of the army?'" She replied, "I have a home among my own people." 14 "What can be done for her?" Elisha asked. Gehazi said, "Well, she has no son and her husband is old." 15 Then Elisha said, "Call her." So he called her, and she stood in the doorway. 16 "About this time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a son in your arms." "No, my lord," she objected. "Don't mislead your servant, O man of God!" 17 But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her. 18 The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. 19 "My head! My head!" he said to his father. His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." 20 After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. 21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out. 22 She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return." 23 "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath." "It's all right," she said. 24 She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." 25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite! 26 Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?'" "Everything is all right," she said. 27 When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet.

Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why." 28 "Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes?'" 29 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face." 30 But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her. 31 Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened." 32 When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. 33 He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. 34 Then he got on the bed and lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out upon him, the boy's body grew warm. 35 Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out upon him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. 36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." 37 She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

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- This woman knew the husband's level of faith and mental disposition as far as natural circumstances are concerned.
- She didn't tell her husband the son had died, so he will not discourage her from going to the man of God and in believing for his resurrection.
- It is not everybody you share your dreams or problems with. You need those who will encourage and motivate you to victory.
- Surround yourself with faith people who think, talk and act faith always in every area of life.

2. Elisha the Prophet

Elisha put the woman and his servant Gehazi outside while he ministered to the boy in his room.

2 Kings 4:32-37

32 When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. 33 He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. 34 Then he got on the bed and lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out upon him, the boy's body grew warm. 35 Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out upon him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. 36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." 37 She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

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Elisha wasn't sure of their level of faith, and he didn't want anyone breathing out fear, panic and unbelief around him.

- Faith was important for the miracle to happen.

- Gehazi didn't qualify to be there though he was his assistant, because he had already told Elisha, *"The boy has not awakened."*
- The atmosphere around him was important to the miracle being sought.

3. Jesus Christ the Lord

Jesus put out the mourners at Jairus' house to enable him heal and raise Jairus' daughter from the dead.

Luke 8:51-56

51 When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. 52 Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." 53 They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. 54 But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" 55 Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. 56 Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

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- He couldn't tolerate unbelieving people in the same room where he needs faith to perform the miracle.
- Having unbelieving people with you while you are trying to muster faith to change a situation will make developing strong faith very difficult.
- Atmosphere mattered to Jesus. Let it matter to you if you want result.
- With the doubters who believed that Jairus' daughter was already dead firmly locked out, Jesus Christ raised the girl from the dead.

4. The woman with the issue of blood

The woman with the issue of blood did not share her faith in Jesus Christ with another to avoid discouragement.

Mark 5:24-34

4 So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. 30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" 31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" 32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

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- She did not discuss her plan or faith with anybody to avoid people telling her how it will not work and why it will not work.

- Because she said in her mind to herself what will happen if she could touch his garment, nobody could stop her, or remind her that the law did not permit her to mix with the crowd because she was unclean. She didn't even care how fragile her body was as a result of twelve years of loss of blood through continuous menstruation.
- Her faith worked. She went home healed.

5. Peter the Apostle

Acts 9:36-43

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" 39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. 40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

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- Peter put every body out before raising Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead.
- The atmosphere in the room the dead body laid was very important. Since he didn't know who had strong faith or not, he had to put everybody outside.

CONCLUSION

1. Create always an atmosphere that will enhance faith.
2. Surround yourself with faith thinkers, talkers and actors.
3. Avoid negative thinking and talking people so they won't influence you and make you like them.
4. Feed your spirit with the word of God that will build your faith.
5. Play and listen to good and inspiring Christian songs that will strengthen your faith.
6. Don't share your dreams or problems with people who will discourage and put fear and doubt in you rather than faith. You need faith to succeed.
7. Create an atmosphere within you (your mind) your office, school and home that will inspire your faith, and stir up your creativity.
8. Watch and listen to programmes on Television, Radio and Video that will inspire faith.
9. Guard your faith jealously. Make it grow, nourish it, and make it strong.