

# **"10 Attitudes That Will Make You a Star on the Drums!"**

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# Preparedness Plus Chance Equals Success

How many times has something good come into your life and you were not prepared to embrace it? This happens to so many people. When a special chance to do or have something great presents itself, most people will not be ready. How disappointing!

Preparedness plus chance equals success. Believing you can succeed and preparing to succeed go hand in hand. Both are an extremely vital part of winning in life. In fact, a person will not even prepare to win if he does not even believe he can. Otherwise, why would he put in all the necessary effort it takes to succeed if he really doesn't believe he ever will?

Many people want to win in life, but their self-image limits them on how far they actually go. Your self-image is how you see yourself, and if you see yourself as a loser you will not even prepare to win. The fact is a person will only prepare to succeed if he really and truly believes he can.

Part of preparation is seeing yourself as a winner. You cannot attract to yourself anything that is greater than the way you see yourself. Therefore, if you become, you can attract. Until you begin to think and act like the person who has the things you desire you will not attract those things.

A common misconception concerning success is that it comes from luck. How many times have you heard someone say something like, "He was just in the right place at the right time" to explain away someone else's success? It's a myth, just like the idea of the "overnight success." The chances of becoming a success due to luck are about as good as winning the lottery -- 50 million to 1.

When you succeed, because you prepared to succeed, others may explain it away as luck. How irritated will you be, knowing you have labored and sweated in order to prepare for the success you enjoy, and someone says you were just lucky?

One must understand that champions aren't made on the day of the game. That's simply the day the world recognizes all of the preparation that took place before that day arrived. In thousands of little ways, these champions disciplined themselves to do the things that everyone else could've done, but didn't.

The cheering crowds, television cameras, and reporters aren't around when champions are made because they're made in the early morning hours when everyone else is sleeping in just a little bit longer, and in the late evening hours when everyone else has given up for the day.

The will to succeed is obviously important, but what's more important is the will to prepare.

Preparing to win is not doing the big things most people think. It usually isn't the big things that will cause you to succeed in life anyway, but it's all of the little things that you can do over and over. For example, the discipline to plan each day's work the night before, no matter how tired you are, will have more to do with your success than any big thing you will do. Also, little things like hitting mute on the TV during commercials so you can grab a little reading time. Not a big thing, but a necessary thing in preparing to win.

Prepare to succeed by first believing that you can and then do the little necessary things required, for preparedness plus chance equals success. When the next chance to do or have something great presents itself, will you be ready? Life is way too short to be missing out!

So, what does all this have to do with your drumming?

EVERYTHING!

# Focusing on Your Purpose

So many drummers are tormented by fear and don't realize how negative thinking and poor attitudes affect them. They build a prison for themselves with suggestions of limitation, incapacity, and unworthiness. They don't think of succeeding, but of how they compare with other drummers.

A drummer will not develop his or her skills according to what he or she wants, but what he or she pictures. It's those dominate thoughts that are being attracted to you, not your greatest ambitions. So, the way to attract what you desire is to hold a mental picture of yourself possessing outstanding drumming skills as long as possible, and as often as possible. Feel that you already possess them with certainty and you will see them become manifested in your life.

It's a simple concept, and it's true. It's just not easy. It's not easy because we are bombarded daily with all kinds of negative thoughts, and then we are forced to decide what to do with them after they've entered our minds.

It's just a decision you make concerning what you dwell on. So whether you think success, or failure, that's what you will eventually reap. So remember, there is just no way a drummer can develop his or her potential to it's fullest with a head full of negative thoughts.

Because our thoughts are vibrating energy, we create what we want by focusing our thoughts on those things. So, a big mistake is trying to figure out how you are going to do something before you do it. Start by believing you can do it and the "how-to" will follow, for strong belief triggers the mind to attract the ways and the means.

# The Power of Our Thoughts

How often have you gotten started on something new with great positive energy and everything went well in the beginning?

Whether it was a new job, a new relationship, moving to a new area, a new project, anything. You started off with zeal and passion. But after a while you grew tired. Your positive energy began to turn negative and your thoughts began to work against you. Before you knew it you started creating things you didn't want.

It all started when you lost your focus on what you wanted. Instead of creating what you wanted you started saying things like, I hate my job, my wife/husband is difficult, I don't like it here anymore, and the pattern continued. Then things got progressively worse and you wonder what went wrong.

This is what went wrong, you lost control over your thoughts and stopped creating the things you wanted in your life.

Thoughts are powerful forces of energy and can only come from your own mind. Since you are the only one in charge of your mind, you create the thoughts that create the circumstances in your life. Since your thoughts create reality, *you* create your reality.

Just as the conscience mind is the source of thought, so the subconscious mind is the source of power. You give instructions to your subconscious mind through your thoughts. It doesn't know good from bad or right from wrong. It only follows your instructions, which are your thoughts. It will create anything you tell it.

Pay attention to your thoughts. Analyze them and listen to what you are thinking. Then decide if these are good thoughts, bad thoughts or needless thoughts. Decide if these thoughts work for you or against you.

You cannot change what you do not acknowledge, so you must be honest with yourself concerning your desires and thoughts. There is just no way you, as a drummer, will develop your potential to it's fullest with a head full of negative thoughts.

You must absolutely know where you are headed and have a fixed goal in view before you'll ever get there. You must be completely focused on your mission and pursue it with everything you've got, but in order to do that you must first learn to control and directing your thinking.

Within you right now is the power to be the kind of drummer you ever dreamed possible. This power becomes available to you just as soon as you change your beliefs by eliminating thoughts of limitation, incapacity, and unworthiness.

Remember, you do not get want you want, but what you picture.

# The 10 Attitudes

## 1. Love Your Drums

If any musician really wants to master their instrument they must absolutely love it. What do I mean "love it?" The best way to understand this is to relate loving your drums to loving a person.

Many people think "love" is a feeling, but it's not a feeling. For example, I love my wife, but I don't always like her (I suppose she can probably say the same thing about me).

Love is an action word. It means to adore, care for, learn about, edify, be loyal to, be devoted to, be committed to, support, protect, and promote. When you do these things the feeling of love automatically comes.

So, how can you tell if you really love your drums? You can tell if you love your drums by the priority you put on them. They must have some priority in your life otherwise your drums are just a little hobby that you will only be mediocre at.

## 2. Practice, Man, Practice!

Like I said, quality drumming skills require a combination of coordination and timing, and they will surely come with practice. The question is, will you endure the frustration you must go through while you develop them?

A key thing to remember is, when you feel yourself beginning to get really irritated... stop. Come back and try again later. Sometimes the more you try to practice through your frustration the worse you get. The best thing to do is go take a break, come back, and try again.

Another thing to remember about practicing your drums is, don't think you must practice for any certain amount of time. There really is a sort of magic that takes place if you can somehow manage to just drum for only a few minutes per day. And, if you are able to get a little drum practice session in everyday it will be easy to monitor how you are progressing because your improvements will be noticeable. That will definitely keep you inspired!

### **3. Be Patient!**

It isn't realistic to expect perfection overnight. It takes time to develop drum skills. Since it's a combination of coordination and timing, it will not come natural to you. That's why you must develop it. Sure, it's frustrating, but try to keep your cool. It will come with more practice.

Think about all the things you do everyday that take coordination, like walking, talking, and eating. These things were all learned. You couldn't do any of these things very well when you were a baby. But, you developed them. Sure you got frustrated, but you still learned them because you had to. There was no choice in the matter if you were going to survive as a human being.

Do you have a choice when it comes to your drumming? Sure you do. The question is how bad do you want to survive as a drummer?

### **4. Develop Confidence**

Many wanna-be musicians will choose the drums because they are shy and want to remain in the background (that's where I was when I started drumming back in 1976).

The truth is your body may be in the background, but your musical presence will definitely be noticed!

If you are going to be the drummer in a band, then you will be the anchor of the band. The other musicians will be relying on you to provide strong beats that will keep everything together. Everything you do behind your drum set will not only be heard, but felt, simply because you will be the all-important time keeper.

This notion of wanting to be a drummer so you can hide behind a drum set is ridiculous. You're gonna hide from no one! That's why it is imperative to develop confidence in your drumming, and the first way to do that is to forget about the notion that you are hidden. Your mind set should be to establish your place in the band. Know who you are and why you're there. The rest will then fall into place.

## **5. Be Organized**

What does it mean to be an "organized" drummer?

When your band plays a song, do you play that song the same way every time? If not, you should. Here's why...

It can all be summed up into one word called "predictability." So many drummers will never play a song the same way twice. This, many times, throws the other musicians off, potentially causing a drag in timing or increasing the chances of a missed cue.

As the drummer in a band it is your responsibility to provide the foundation for the music. This meaning that everything you do behind the drum kit is vital. Anything you do out of the ordinary, or something the other musicians are not used to hearing you play in a particular song really has the potential to screw things up.

Experimenting is definitely a good thing, and that's why we practice, but there just comes a time when experimenting is over. You must decide what you're gonna do and then stick to it. Never throw in something that the other musicians are not expecting or you can end up with some serious chaos.

Predictability is a must! The other musicians must know what you're going to do before you do it. An outstanding drummer is predictable, prepared and organized, ready to bring his or her goods to the table.

Personally, it has always bothered me when a band mate would come to play and he or she would just not be ready. Situations like that are just not fair to everyone else who *is* ready.

It's been said that when preparedness and opportunity meet, success occurs. I don't know what kind of "success" your hoping for, but one thing is for sure, you will more likely meet with it by being organized when opportunity knocks.

## **6. Be Yourself!**

For some reason drummers will always compare their own weaknesses with another drummer's strengths. There is really no way to feel good about yourself if you do that. It's just not fair, and there's no logic in it. So, just be aware of that.

Your style of drumming is your own, and you must develop it the best you can. You don't need to drum like anyone else. Sure, it's good if you can learn another drummer's cool tricks, but there are some cool tricks of your own that may be just lying dormant. Maybe if you stop concentrating so hard on being like your favorite drummer you can bring your own cool tricks alive.

Be your own best friend and realize you have something special the world needs to hear.

## 7. Be an Actor

After having played music with many different musicians on many different skill levels I have noticed something interesting among most of them. Each one will usually play his or her instrument according to his or her respective personality.

When this concept comes to drumming it is really noticeable.

I've noticed that drummers who are a relaxed type often play relaxed. A drummer who is a more bold person usually plays the same way... bold. A drummer who lives his or her life a little sloppy and wreckless will often play the same way. Likewise, a drummer who is a very organized individual will play rather consistently.

All this is okay to an extent. But, we just can't let our drumming be subject to our personality, feelings, or mood at any given moment.

Our instrument, the drums, are our expression in the band. They're our voice. And, many times, we must drum in a manner that does not line up with our personality, feelings, or mood.

Being an outstanding drummer requires becoming a bit of an actor. What I mean by that is, sometimes we have to play drums a certain way despite our true personality, or how we may feel at any given moment. That's what a good actor does, he temporarily forgets who he is and becomes someone else for a time so that he can pull off what he needs to pull off in order to get the job done.

As you know, sometimes we have to drum a little harder than we may feel like drumming. And then at other times we may have to drum a bit softer when what we really want to do is rock out.

In order to be an outstanding drummer we have to be able to put out what is required of us at any given moment. For example, sometimes a certain song needs to convey a certain message, feeling, or mood. But, your particular mood at the time does not jive with it at all.

If we want the song to do what it's supposed to do, we can't expect the song to submit to how we feel right then. We have to submit to the song and forget about ourselves by becoming a part of the song.

The bottom line is this... don't play your drums according to your personality. Play your drums according to each individual *song's* personality. Only then will your songs truly come to life.

## **8. Keep Your Passion Stirred Up!**

If you keep your dream of becoming a great drummer in front of you it will keep you on the road to where you want to go. It's when you get sidetracked by looking at the obstacles in your path is when you get discouraged, and then eventually give up.

Work, family, and responsibilities of all kinds manage to distract you from your drum time. Just become a good manager of your time and schedule yourself. Don't let the tail wag the dog! Stay in control.

## **9. Be More Than a Drummer**

How can you expand your opportunities to be the best drummer you can be? Most drummers will say by practicing... and by practicing a lot.

While it is true that practice is essential, the key to expanding your capabilities is by developing your versatility. It's all about using the skills that you already possess and channeling them towards related fields.

Since your most basic skill is playing the drums you will find that there are other instruments that you can easily adapt your skill to because you already possess musical ability. For example, instead of limiting yourself to just the drums, why not expand your talents to include the guitar, bass, or keyboard?

Why would you want to do this? Because you can increase your musical scope and be able to come to a greater understanding of music for one reason.

Another reason is to develop greater communication among your band mates.

You may think you may not have the time to become an excellent guitarist, or anything else, but that's not true. It's not true because you don't have to become excellent at anything else. You just need to develop a little understanding, that's all.

In my earlier days of drumming I was very frustrated with my band mates. I was full of ideas concerning the structure of our music, but I just couldn't get those ideas across. I didn't "know" their instrument, or the language they used for their particular instrument in order to get my ideas understood.

If I had taken the time back then to get a little understanding of the instruments they were playing I could have eliminated quite a bit of my frustrations. I may have been able to deliver my ideas and had them implemented without any problem, therefore, potentially improving our songs.

In my opinion it is very important to get a little acquainted with other instruments in order to be the best drummer you can be. Others may disagree! But, that's okay, it's just my opinion.

An argument could be made that a drummer should solely focus on just being that... a drummer. I agree completely! I believe part of focusing on being a great drummer is expanding his or her knowledge of music, not just their "playing" of the drums.

If we take our drumming skills and add some variety to it like learning a little guitar, bass, or keyboard we will be surprised at how much more rounded we will become and not be classified as "just a drummer."

I could go on and on about how you, as a drummer, can become more versatile. You must simply start with your most basic skill, which is playing the drums, and then expand on it by getting a little acquainted with some other musical instruments. This is an excellent way of ensuring that you develop your musicianship to it's fullest potential.

## **10. Be Humble**

If a drummer really wants to increase his or her level of playing it is critical to remain open minded.

The mind is like a parachute, it only functions when it is open. That's why it is so important to remain humble. Arrogant drummers never grow beyond their current level of drumming because they don't think there is any more they can learn. How foolish! There is always more to learn... and any advanced drummer can learn from an intermediate, or even a beginner!

As you continue to learn you will then be able to teach. When you begin teaching, you will be amazed at the additional things you will learn (if you are currently teaching you will understand).

It's critical to continue to learn and grow if you want to increase your level of drumming, and remaining humble is the only avenue through which you can do this. As with anything else, you must absolutely be confident in what you're doing and knowledge can make you confident.

Please don't mistake confidence with arrogance. Confidence is what makes a good drummer a great drummer. Arrogance is what makes a good drummer a lonely drummer! I don't know about you, but I certainly don't want to play music with some cocky jerk who thinks he or she is better than everyone else.

## **Conclusion**

There you have them: 10 Attitudes That Will Make You a Star on the Drums! Now... one more thing...

# **The Simplest Way to Get to Where You Want To Be**

Your current level of drumming is a result of your own thoughts. Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinks, so is he." Since your thoughts create reality, *you* create your reality.

I understand that it can be very difficult to change the pattern of thinking you may have engaged in for so long. It's only a habit, and like I said, habits can be changed with repetition.

Instead of thinking thoughts of limitation, incapacity, and unworthiness, think thoughts of "how to," "can do," and positive expectation. Easier said than done, I know. But, like I said, negative thinking is only a habit - a bad one.

It really takes no more effort to think positive than it does to think negative. Thinking negative is just a habit. A habit you must break if you ever want to bring your drumming skills up to their fullest potential.

Whatever it takes to break the bad habits of negative thinking and bad attitudes you must do it. Maybe it will mean you having to break off some negative relationships. Maybe it will mean you having to turn off the television, or the radio for a while. Understand that your association is vital to your well-being. Like attracts like and you must send out vibrations of thought at the same frequency as the things you want.

Thoughts are powerful forces of energy and can only come from your own mind, and we should understand things do not just happen accidentally. Everything that happens in your life happens for a reason. Since you are the only one in charge of your mind, *you* create the thoughts that create the circumstances in your life.

So, the simplest way to attract the things you desire is to hold a mental picture of what you want as long as possible and as often as possible. Feel that you already possess it with certainty and you will see it become manifested in your life.

Now, I hope you've enjoyed reading "10 Attitudes That Will Make You a Star on the Drums," and found some information in it that will take you to the next level!

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Keep drummin"!

*Danny Brown*

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