

## Chapter 9

### Theme:

Create a positive atmosphere in your classroom every day, or Ten Days Out of Ten

### Single Best Quote:

“Great teachers create a positive atmosphere...they treat every person with respect...they understand the power of praise.”

### Points:

1. Ways of creating a positive environment everyday:
  - a. Treat people with **respect**
  - b. Act like you **like** each of the students
  - c. Use the **praise** as a way to encourage, motivate, direct and interact with students. Five things necessary for praise to be effective:
    - i. Authentic – it cannot be fake, but instead genuine and recognizing something that is true
    - ii. Specific – a general, unspecific compliment really has nowhere to land. Identify the target area you are praising.
    - iii. Immediate – timely reinforcement of a behavior
    - iv. Clean – do not connect anything to the praise comment. State the praise and leave it alone. Do not expect it to have a manipulating effect and do not include other motives or statements that begin with words such as “if”, “but”, “then”, etc. Cut and say it clean, then let it be.
    - v. Private – a public statement or demonstration of praise brings with it peer evaluation and peer value. Keep it private so you and the student are establishing the value system of the praise comment. Do not give others the chance to skew the value of your positive praise.

### Self-evaluation and application as a:

- **Shop teacher** – Praise is easy and natural for a teacher working in the shop with students who are constantly engaged in production.
- **Bible teacher** –
- **Parent** – As a parent I always tried to make sure I balanced a critical comment on a 3 to 1 ratio with praise. I tried to avoid saying one negative comment until I had made three positive comments to my son(s). Make sure you say 3 positive things to a child before you allow yourself to say 1 critical correction. This is not a law, but a personal commitment I made to keep my relationship with my son(s) positive.
- **Person** – Sometimes the most positive thing I can do with some people is avoid them!

### Questions/Criticisms/Evaluations/Comments of Whitaker’s presentation or perspective: