

## Character of the Believer

One area that is not talked about a lot is regarding the character of the Believer. This is one of the most important attributes of the believer.

By *definition*; Character is the behavior, moral strength, integrity, the description of a person's attributes, traits. It is the godliness and fruit of the Believer.

- a) The combination of mental characteristics and behavior that distinguishes a person or group.
- b) Moral strength; integrity
- c) Public estimation of someone; reputation:
  - The greatest reputation of a person is not their gifting, but rather their Character

### 1. God's Word is the Foundation to character

- a) Colossians 1:9-11 *"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, **being fruitful in every good work**, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;"* (Emphasis mine).
  - i) Knowledge of God's will is foundational in developing Christian character and conduct.

## 2. Relationship with God

- a) Character is going to be built stronger and thrives on our relationship with God.
- b) A person that does not have a vibrant relationship with God will be found wanting in the department of character.
- c) **As goes our relationship with the Lord, so goes our character.**

## 3. Success

- a) **Character is the key to your success.**
  - i) Instead of working to better our talent and gifting, we should first work and build our character.
    - The most important thing a believer should be building is their character.
- b) We call numbers and letters *characters* because they **never change**. Day or night, they stay the same.
- c) We call numbers an *integer* because they **are whole and complete**. They are one, not two.
  - i) You are integrated. You are one on Monday as any other day of the week.
- d) Character is a constant effort to integrate your words, actions, and deeds. If your actions and words are one, it equals character.

## 4. Character is based on principles, not popularity.

Because someone is popular, it does not mean that he has character. It doesn't mean they are ONE. It does not mean that their words are integrated with their actions.

- a) Fame or power reveals the true character of a person. They do not corrupt it.
- b) People will not follow you if they don't trust you.

c) Character is one of the most, if not the most important attribute of a leader.

5. **Character is a commitment to a set of godly values without compromise.**

a) Godly Values will protect you. It is a dedication to a set of standards without violating them.

b) **Character is a self-imposed discipline for the sake of moral convictions.** The true image of a person is their character.

i) *Genesis 37 – Joseph*

ii) *Daniel 3 and 6 – Daniel and his three friends*

6. **Everything hangs on your Character.**

a) Your future depends on your character.

b) Your ministry depends on the same.

- Are you for sale?

c) Marriage

d) Success

e) Everything!!

7. **Natural talent and gifts**

Praise God for people's natural talent and gifts, but do not be deceived.

a) Your character is more important than your charisma, gifts or talent.

i) If I had to choose one, I would rather have character and be lacking in giftings and talent.

ii) Celebrities such as Ball kickers, basketball throwers, actors, and many musicians have gifts, skills, and talent, but are lacking in the department of character.

- If you are not careful, talent and gifting can kill you if you are lacking in character. E.g. Jimmy Swaggart, Harvey Weinstein, Whitney Houston, Jim Baker, Ted Haggard, and so many other celebrities.
- Character can save your life and your name.

b) The only thing that can protect your talent and gifts is your character.

i) Your talent and gifting will be stronger and better with character.

c) Character is a sacrifice for principles. Character is simply Integrity.

d) Don't let your gifting and anointing overtake your character.

e) It is not what you do that makes you valuable, but rather who you are in Christ and your character.

## 8. Promotion and Attraction

2 Timothy 2:1-2 "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

a) Promote faithfulness not ability, giftings or talent. 2 Timothy 2:1-2. Faithfulness (Faithful men) comes before ability (able to teach).

i) Faithfulness is a character trait.

ii) Do not promote only charisma, looks, popularity, knowledge, money, education, and so forth

- b) Don't be attracted only to charisma, looks, popularity, knowledge, money, education, and so forth. We ought to seek out character more than anything.
- c) Our life is the weight of our words.
- d) A man of character doesn't have to speak.

9. **Five things will manifest your character:**

- a) Prosperity
- b) Poverty
- c) Hardships
- d) Power
- e) Money
- f) Sex

10. **One of the main attributes of the believer is his or her character.**

- a) Many believers are extremely gifted but are lacking in the department of character.
- b) We need to focus on building character. We should esteem character over giftings.
- c) **Your gift opens a door for you, but your character will keep that door open.**
  - i) Proverbs 18:16 "A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men."
- d) Your character will keep you where your gift takes you.

11. **Fruit vs Gift.**

There is a difference between a fruit and a gift. A gift is one that is naturally given to someone while a fruit is a byproduct of the existence of a root/relationship and a tree such as a vine (John 15). We become more fruitful as we stay connected and in relationship with the Lord and His Word.

We are called to be fruitful. The fruit we bring forth is for other people. We need to be fruitful. Trees don't eat their own fruit, neither should we.

Fruitfulness is measured by the fruit we bear that others eat from our branch.

Our good work ought to have fruit in it.

Galatians 5:22-23 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

a) Our fruit is a major part of our character.

- i) Love
- ii) Joy
- iii) Peace
- iv) Longsuffering
- v) Gentleness
- vi) Goodness
- vii) Faith
- viii) Meekness
- ix) Temperance

b) You may be naturally gifted, but it is crucial to remember that **your gift is not synonymous with your fruit.**

c) **We are called to bear fruit.** The Word of God has more emphasis on the fruit more than the gift. John 15:2 “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch that beareth fruit*, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth **more fruit.**” John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the **same bringeth forth much fruit:** for without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:16 “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and **bring forth fruit,** and *that your fruit should remain:* that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

- i) Fruit is superior to gift.
- ii) Your fruit is typically your character.
- iii) **Before you tell me about your gift, let me see your fruit.**

d) Our gift ought to be a supplement to our character, not the other way around.

e) We need to help people develop fruit and character. We can do this through teaching, discipleship, and accountability.

f) A tree is known by its fruit (Matthew 7:15-20). It is also described by its fruit.

## 12. Ministry and the platform.

a) Our actions on the stage are discredited or credited by our actions off the stage.

b) If you want to last in ministry, you want to build character.

c) The number one reason people leave the ministry is because of character issues.

i) Adultery

ii) Theft

iii) Deception

These are all character flaws.

## 13. There are certain things we can all do that requires zero talent, but Character.

a) Depending on the Lord.

b) Hearing God's Voice

c) Being led by the Spirit

d) Manifesting Jesus rather than the flesh.

e) Being in time

f) Work ethic

g) Energy

h) Effort

i) Passion

j) Being prepared

k) Doing more than enough

l) Good godly attitude

m) Teachable spirit.

Rich Kanyal