

Our Cave Of Character (Pt.1) *Where Destinies Are Determined*

“...we rejoice in our tribulations, because we know that **tribulations produce perseverance: perseverance, character; and character, hope**. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” **Romans 5:3-5**

I. Introduction

- ✓ **Character is defined** - The pattern of behavior or personality found in an individual or group; one’s moral constitution.
- ✓ How a Christian deals with the circumstances of their life speaks of their character.
- ✓ Crisis doesn’t necessarily make character, but it certainly does reveal it.
- ✓ Adversity in our lives serves as a crossroads where a person chooses one path or the other: ---Character or Compromise.
- ✓ *“If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of me.”*---Dwight L. Moody

II. What Does The Lord Use In His Character Development Program?

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

III. Critical Observations on Character

1. Character is something that requires our intentional _____. “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” **II Peter 1:3-8**

“I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.” — George Washington

“Show respect even to people who don't deserve it, not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours.” ---Dave Willis

2. Very often, the greatest character test has to with _____. “...after David had killed Goliath...the women came out from all the towns...to meet King Saul with singing and dancing... As they danced, they sang: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.” This got Saul very angry... “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. Next they’ll be making him their king!” ***From that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David. The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul...*** I Samuel 18:6-10

Key question: How do we handle the feeling of being slighted when we’re not promoted or used in the manner in which we think that we should be?

“A man took his daughter to the carnival, and she immediately ran over to a booth and asked for cotton candy. As the attendant handed her a huge ball of it, the father asked, “Sweetheart, are you sure you can eat all of that?” “Don’t worry, Dad,” she answered, “I’m a lot bigger on the inside than on the outside!”

3. Never forget that while you’re _____ God is _____.
“...The LORD has ***called*** me from the womb; from the matrix of my mother He has made mention of my name. And He has made my mouth like ***a sharp sword***; in the shadow of His hand ***He has hidden me***, and made me ***a polished shaft***; ***In His quiver He has hidden me.***” “And He said to me, ***‘You are My servant...in whom I will be glorified.’*** Isaiah 49:1-3 (NKJV)

- ☐ **David**---called and anointed for Kingship—I Samuel 16:5-13
Passed submission test---I Samuel 18:10-16; I Samuel 19:9-11; I Samuel 24:3-7
Key Point: David waited 15-20 years for his time of prophetic usability to arrive.
- ☐ **Joseph**—receives dream from the Lord---Genesis 37:5-11
Passes the heart-attitude and integrity test---Genesis 37-50:20; Gen.39:7-12; Ps. 105:16-21
Key Point: Joseph waited 12-13 years for prophetic fulfillment of Divine purpose.
- ☐ **Joshua**---called and anointed by God as a mighty and skilled warrior---Exodus 17:8-16
Passes the servanthood and preparation tests---served Moses and God’s people faithfully
Key Point: Joshua waited for approximately 35-40 years---loving God, not position---before his personal leadership opportunity emerged to succeed Moses as leader of all Israel---Joshua 1

“Martin Luther did a work that probably no one else in his highly gifted age could have done. He did it because he had the required combination of learning, insight, character, and faith. When under God the hour struck in 1517 for the world to change, the man for the hour was there and prepared. The Reformation that had been arrested so long could no longer be delayed.”---G. Bromiley

“The true turning points of lives are not the great moments. The real crises are often concealed in occurrences so trivial in appearance that they pass unobserved.” — George Washington

Answer Key (Part 1):

II. What Does The Lord Use In His Character Development Program?

Pain

Disappointments

Failures

Successes

Waiting/Delays

Offenses (attitudes)

III. Critical Observations on Character

1. participation

2. emotions and ambitions

3. waiting----working