

CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

MODULE OBJECTIVES:

1. To equip you with the unseen ideals and the non-negotiable traits that guide people of Christ-like character, including humility, faithfulness, forgiveness, courage, integrity, loyalty, diligence, gratitude, compassion, and patience
2. You will learn how to tap into the power to always do the right thing.
3. You will learn to stay in a place with God where the anointing on your lives can flow and bring the unseen riches of the Kingdom of God to those around you.

RECAP

I. Introduction

- A. The struggle for character
- B. Honorable character comes from God.
- C. Character matters!
- D. The English word “virtue” derives from the Latin word for strength (“virtus”).
- E. We fear (reverence or highly honor) God by living life as He directs.
- F. Making the virtuous choice is always a walk of faith – we must believe that God will see us through and make everything turn out for our good.
- G. The virtues of humility, faithfulness, forgiveness, courage, integrity, loyalty, diligence, gratitude, compassion, and patience are the pillars of your Christian life.

II. Humility: The First of the Virtues

- A. Humility defined
 1. “A freedom from arrogance that grows out of the recognition that all we have and are comes from God.” – *Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*
 2. Scripture equates humility with lowliness of mind and meekness.
 - a. Meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness, self-interest, and pride.
 - b. It stems from trust in God’s goodness, in His ability to defend and provide for us, and even to bring good out of evil for us if necessary.
 - c. The meek person desires the will of God above his own will – Matt. 6:10.
 - d. The meek person is not pre-occupied with self.
- B. **Humility is exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ.**
 1. Although He was God, He became the “servant of all” – Phil. 2:5-7.
 2. Jesus instructs us to learn humility from Him – Matt. 11:29; John 13:14-15.
- C. **Humility is not shame or condemnation for sin.**
 1. Sin consciousness is a snare of the devil, a lie against the Scriptures which declare we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ – 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9.
 2. Humility is the one indispensable condition of true fellowship with our Lord.
- D. **True humility includes agreeing with God concerning all that He says about us.**

E. Our humility before God is measured by our daily lives with our fellow men.

1. The humble man seeks at all times to live by the Scriptures: “in honor pre- ferring one another”; “serve one another”; “each esteeming others better than himself”; “submitting yourselves one to another.”
2. “The humble man looks upon every child of God – even the feeblest and unworthiest – and honors him and prefers him in honor as the son of a King. The spirit of Him who washed the disciples’ feet makes it a joy to us to be indeed the least, to be servants one of another” (Murray 46).
3. The humble man overcomes jealousy and envy. “He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before him. He can bear to hear others praised and himself forgotten, because in God’s presence he has learned to say with Paul, “I am nothing” (2 Cor. 12:11). He has received the spirit of Jesus, who pleased not Himself and sought not His own honor, as the spirit of his life” (Murray 46-47).
4. We prove our Christ-likeness in forbearing with and forgiving one another.

F. Instruction in humility from the Scriptures

1. **Be teachable.**
 - a. Come as a little child – Matt. 18:2-4; Psalm 131:1-3.
 - b. Solomon humbled himself and asked God for wisdom to rule God’s people – 2 Chron. 1:9-12.
 - c. Moses was called the meekest man on the face of the earth – Num. 12:3.

Again and again, when faced with a problem, Moses fell on his face and sought the Lord for a solution – Num. 14:4-5; 16:3-4, 44-45; 20:6.
2. **Trust God to deal with your enemies.**
 - a. David knew God was his shield and protector. – Ps. 3:1-5.
 - b. Jesus trusted Himself to God – John 8:59; 10:39; Luke 4:30; 1 Pet. 2:21-23.
3. **Do not return evil for evil** – 1 Peter 3:9.
 - a. Turn the other cheek – Matt. 5:39; Rom. 12:19.
 - b. “We must learn to put aside our own feelings and human reasonings and just be obedient to the Lord. Jesus was telling us if we will turn the other cheek in meekness and in the power of the honor of God, we cannot be hit again” (Copeland 8).
 - c. “Even if others mistreat and abuse you, God will support you. They can- not steal from you fast enough to harm you. God will provide for you because of His honor” (Copeland 35).
4. **Prefer others** – Phil. 2:3; Col. 3:12.
5. **Give respect to employers** – 1 Pet. 2:18-19.
 - a. You will be an influence on your superior and may even win him to the Lord.
 - b. Believe God – and then act like you believe!

G. Meditate - and grow in humility.

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself (Phil. 2:3).

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Col. 3:12 NIV).

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me... for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5b).

H. Promises to the humble man or woman:

1. **Answered prayer** - O Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear (Ps. 10:17 NASB).
The humble will see their God at work and be glad. Let all who seek God's help be encouraged (Ps. 69:32 NLT).
2. **Guidance** - The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way (Psalm 25:9)
3. **Abundance of peace** - But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace (Ps. 37:11).
4. **Grace** - Surely He scorns the scornful: but He gives grace to the humble (Prov. 3:34).
But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble" (James 4:6).
5. **Riches, honor, and life** - The reward of humility and the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life (Prov. 22:4 AMP).
And whoever exalts himself will be humbled; and he who humbles himself will be exalted (Matt. 23:12).
Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up (James 4:10).
6. **Joy** - The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel (Isa. 29:19).

III. Faithfulness – Stewardship of the True Riches

A. Faithfulness defined

1. From *Merriam Webster's Dictionary*:
 - a. *obsolete*: full of faith
[NOTE: Though considered obsolete in modern usage, being full of faith is essential for developing faithfulness!]
 - b. steadfast in affection or allegiance: loyal
 - c. firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty: conscientious
2. Old Testament: the Hebrew word for "faithfulness" is used 49 times.
3. New Testament: the Greek word for "faithfulness" is used 67 times.
Expanded meaning: one who shows himself faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties – James 5:12b.

James 5:12b (Amp)

but let your yes be [a truthful] yes, and your no be [a truthful] no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

B. Jesus is our pattern for faithfulness.

1. **He is a faithful High Priest** – 1 Sam. 2:35; Heb. 2:17.

Hebrews 2:17 (Amp)

Therefore, *it was essential that* He had to be made like His brothers (mankind) in every respect, so that He might [by experience] become a merciful and faithful High Priest in things related to God, to make atonement (propitiation) for the people's sins [thereby wiping away the sin, satisfying divine justice, and providing a way of reconciliation between God and mankind].

2. **Now we are the priests of the new priesthood** – 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.

1 Peter 2:5 (NLT), 9 (NKJV)

⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests.^[a] Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

3. **We must now be faithful stewards of the priesthood we are placed in.**

- a. God has first called us to be stewards of our own lives.
- b. God has anointed believers for service to others.
 - 1) Jesus modeled this by healing the sick, feeding the multitudes, and forgiving sins – Acts 10:38.

Acts 10:38 (NLT)

And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

- 2) He gave His disciples the power to heal– Matt. 10:7-8.

Matthew 10:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven ^[a]is at hand.' ⁸ Heal the sick, ^[b]cleanse the lepers, ^[c]raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

- 3) Now He has anointed us as well (2 Cor. 1:21) – if people can get to us, they can receive eternal life, healing, and wholeness from God.

2 Corinthians 1:21 (Amp)

Now it is God who establishes *and* confirms us [in joint fellowship] with you in Christ, and who has anointed us [empowering us with the gifts of the Spirit];

- c. God simply asks us to guard our hearts and minds to protect the anointing, the treasure in us through which we minister to others – 2 Cor. 4:5-7.

2 Corinthians 4:5-7 (Amp)

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves [merely] as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give us the Light of the knowledge of the glory *and* majesty of God [clearly revealed] in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this *precious* treasure [the good news about salvation] in [unworthy] earthen vessels [of human frailty], so that the grandeur *and* surpassing greatness of the power will be [shown to be] from God [His sufficiency] and not from ourselves.

- d. The presence of the Holy Spirit and His anointing is the only guarantee that we can be successful as faithful stewards of the calling on our lives.

C. **Instruction from the Bible**

1. The biblical picture of faithfulness is “the faithful steward.”
2. As believers, we are entrusted with the goods of the Kingdom of God.
 - a. We are stewards of the multi-faceted grace of God – 1 Pet. 4:10.

1 Peter 4:10 (Amp)

Just as each one of you has received a *special* gift [a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God], employ it in serving one another as [is appropriate for] good stewards of God’s multi-faceted grace [faithfully using the diverse, varied gifts and abilities granted to Christians by God’s unmerited favor].

- b. To be a good steward means to watch over the goods of one’s master, to protect, invest, and increase them.

Example: Joseph was faithful in Potiphar’s house – Gen. 39:4-5.

Genesis 39:4-5 (Amp)

⁴So Joseph pleased Potiphar *and* found favor in his sight and he served him as his personal servant. He made Joseph overseer over his house, and he put all that he owned in Joseph’s charge. ⁵It happened that from the time that he made Joseph overseer in his house and [put him in charge] over all that he owned, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house because of Joseph; so the LORD’s blessing was on everything that Potiphar owned, in the house and in the field.

3. Jesus said, “If you are faithful in little things you will be faithful in large ones” – Luke 16:10 NLT.

Luke 16:10 (NLT)

“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities.

- a. The use of material wealth is a test of character.
 - b. Those who cannot use it wisely do not deserve to have spiritual responsibilities (the true riches) entrusted to them.
4. God wants His stewards to give the “true riches” of His kingdom away!
 - a. He wants us to forgive the debts and trespasses of those around us, restoring them to God – John 20:23.

John 20:23 (NLT)

If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

- b. In addition to forgiveness, God wants us to distribute healing, righteousness, peace, and joy! – Matt. 10:7-8.
5. In the parable of the talents, the servant who invested his talent increased his talents, while the one who buried his talent had it taken away – Matt. 25:28.
 - a. Gifts improve with exercise.
 - b. Those who do not “stir up the gift” (NKJV) that is in them – 2 Tim. 1:6 – find their gifts will rust and decay.

2 Timothy 1:6 (Amp)

That is why I remind you to ^[a]fan into flame the gracious gift of God, [that inner fire—the special endowment] which is in you through the laying on of my hands [with those of the elders at your ordination].

6. We must be faithful stewards of the specific ministry God has given us – 1 Cor. 4:1-2.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (Amp)

So then, let us [who minister] be regarded as servants of Christ and stewards (trustees, administrators) of the mysteries of God [that He chooses to reveal]. ²In this case, moreover, it is required [as essential and demanded] of stewards that one be found faithful *and* trustworthy.

NLT: ² Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.

- a. This can be a very specific word.
 - 1) Brother Kenneth E. Hagin: "Teach My people faith."
 - 2) Brother Oral Roberts: "Bring My healing power to your generation."
- b. As we obey God, He pours His power and anointing upon us to accomplish this word.
 - 1) We must not use this power and anointing for personal gain or position, but to serve others.
 - 2) We must be fair, just, generous, free of covetousness and greed.
 - 3) The kingdom of God is not about accumulating, but about giving out.

"I want to teach you everything it took me 50 years on ministry to learn, so you can go on from there and do much more." – Kenneth E. Hagin

D. Examples of faithful men in Scripture

- 1. **Abraham** was faithful and became God's covenant partner – Neh. 9:7-8.

Nehemiah 9:7-8

⁸You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him... (NKJV)

⁸When he had proved himself faithful, you made a covenant with him... (NLT)

- 2. **Moses** was faithful and was called a friend of God – Heb. 3:5; Ex. 33:11.

Hebrews 3:5 (Amp)

Now Moses was faithful in [the administration of] all God's house, [but only] as a ministering servant,...

Exodus 33:11 (Amp)

And so the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend....

- 3. **Paul** was a mighty conduit of the blessings of the kingdom of God.
 - a. Paul was a Pharisee, describing himself as "a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and a violent aggressor" – 1 Tim. 1:13 NASB.
 - b. The Lord chose him to be a vessel of honor – Acts 9:13-15.
 - c. God gave him mercy to be faithful, then counted him faithful, putting him in the ministry – 1 Cor. 7:25; 1 Tim. 1:12.

1 Timothy 1:12 (Amp)

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has granted me [the needed] strength *and* made me able for this, because He considered me faithful *and* trustworthy, putting me into service [for this ministry],

- d. God made him an able minister [sufficient, fit, equipped with adequate power to perform duties] – 2 Cor. 3:5-6.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 (Amp)

⁵Not that we are sufficiently qualified in ourselves to claim anything as *coming* from us, but our sufficiency *and* qualifications come from God. ⁶He has qualified us [making us sufficient] as ministers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not of the letter [of a written code] but of the Spirit; for the letter [of the Law] kills [by revealing sin and demanding obedience], but the Spirit gives life. Meditate – and grow in faithfulness.

E. Meditate and Grow in Faithfulness (Luke 16:10-11 NLT)

"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?"

F. **Promises to faithful men and women**

1. **Protection** - ...*He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord*

Psalm 31:23-24 (Amp)

O love the Lord, all you His godly ones!

The Lord preserves the faithful [those with moral and spiritual integrity]

And fully repays the [self-righteousness of the] arrogant.

Be strong and let your hearts take courage,

All you who wait for *and* confidently expect the Lord.

2. **Abundance** - A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished (Proverbs 28:20).

Proverbs 28:20 (Amp)

A faithful (right-minded) man will abound with blessings,

But he who hurries to be rich will not go unpunished.

3. **Expanded territory** - "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord'" (Matthew 25:21 NKJV).

Luke 12:42-44 (Amp)

Parable of the Faithful Steward

⁴²The Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise steward [of the estate], whom his master will put in charge over his household, to give *his servants* their portion of food at the proper time? ⁴³Blessed (happy, prosperous, to be admired) is that servant whom his master finds so doing when he arrives. ⁴⁴I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Last week's Quiz Link:

<https://quizizz.com/join/quiz/6825ddb92ecd95a8a9f658e8/start?studentShare=true>