

SERMON

Character is the real you. The bible refers to it as “The hidden man of the heart”, It sometimes referred as the soul of man, which is made up of the mind emotions and will.

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV): "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

1 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV): "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

Godly character is not fulfilling the default state of the flesh, submitting to the holy spirit, its involves resisting the desires of the flesh and submitting to the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-17 (NIV): "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want."

Romans 8:5-8 (NIV): "Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God."

God's Character:

1. **Attribute of Love:** "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Throughout the Bible, we witness God's unfailing love for His creation, displayed in His mercy, compassion, and grace.
2. **Attribute of Holiness:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty" (Isaiah 6:3). God's character is pure and set apart from sin, calling us to emulate His holiness in our lives.

Why Do Are We Need Talk About This Character

Reasons Why people or believers are stuck; people want help but does not want to pay the price of godly Character

Hosea 4:6 (NIV): "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children."

Examples of people with Godly character in the bible, and how it helps.

1. **Joseph:** *Godly Character:* Joseph demonstrated integrity, humility, and faithfulness, even in the face of adversity and temptation. *How it Helped Him:* His godly character enabled him to withstand Potiphar's wife's advances, leading to his promotion to a position of authority in Egypt. *Bible Verse: Genesis 39:9b (NIV)* - "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"
2. **Daniel:** *Godly Character:* Daniel exemplified unwavering faith, obedience to God's commands, and courage in the midst of persecution. *How it Helped Him:* His commitment to prayer and adherence to God's dietary laws resulted in favor with God and man, leading to his promotion in Babylon. *Bible Verse: Daniel 6:10b (NIV)* - "Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."
3. **Ruth:** *Godly Character:* Ruth displayed loyalty, humility, and sacrificial love, particularly in her devotion to her mother-in-law Naomi. *How it Helped Her:* Her godly character led to her favor with Boaz, who eventually redeemed her and Naomi, and she became a part of the lineage of King David and Jesus. *Bible Verse: Ruth 1:16b (NIV)* - "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."
4. **David** (in his early years): *Godly Character:* Despite facing many trials and challenges, David exhibited a heart of worship, humility, and dependence on God. *How it Helped Him:* His godly character enabled him to defeat Goliath and navigate difficult circumstances, leading to his eventual kingship over Israel. *Bible Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV)* - "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
5. **Esther:** *Godly Character:* Esther demonstrated courage, obedience to God, and a willingness to risk her life for the sake of her people. *How it Helped Her:* Her godly character allowed her to find favor with King Xerxes, leading to her appointment as queen

and her ability to intercede for the Jewish people. *Bible Verse: Esther 4:14b (NIV)* - "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

6. **Job:** *Godly Character:* Job demonstrated unwavering faith, perseverance, and trust in God, even in the midst of extreme suffering and loss. *How it Helped Him:* His godly character allowed him to maintain his integrity and devotion to God, despite facing unimaginable trials. In the end, God restored Job's fortunes and blessed him abundantly. *Bible Verse: Job 1:20-22 (NIV)* - "At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.' In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing."
7. **Abraham:** *Godly Character:* Abraham demonstrated unwavering faith and obedience to God's commands, even when faced with uncertainty and challenges. *How it Helped Him:* His godly character led to God's covenant with him and the promise of descendants as numerous as the stars. Abraham's faithfulness ultimately resulted in blessings for all nations through his offspring, Jesus Christ. *Bible Verse: Genesis 15:6 (NIV)* - "Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness."
8. **Jesus:** *Godly Character:* Jesus embodied perfect godly character, characterized by love, humility, compassion, righteousness, and obedience to the Father. *How it Helped Him:* His godly character enabled Him to fulfill His mission of redemption by offering Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for humanity's sins. Jesus' obedience to the Father's will led to His resurrection and the salvation of all who believe in Him. *Bible Verse: Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV)* - "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

Bible whose character flaws led to their downfall. Here are a few notable examples:

Certainly, there are several individuals in the Bible whose character flaws led to their downfall.

Here are a few notable examples:

1. **King Solomon:** Despite his initial wisdom and favor with God, Solomon's character was compromised by his indulgence in wealth, power, and foreign wives, which ultimately led to his spiritual decline and the division of Israel after his death (**1 Kings 11:1-13**).
2. **Samson:** Blessed with great strength by God, Samson's character was marked by impulsiveness, arrogance, and a lack of self-control. His weakness for Delilah's deceitful charms led to his capture, blindness, and eventual death (**Judges 16**).
3. **King Saul:** Initially chosen by God to lead Israel, Saul's character was plagued by jealousy, disobedience, and a refusal to repent. His insecurity and envy of David's successes drove him to pursue David relentlessly, leading to his tragic demise on the battlefield (**1 Samuel 15-31**).
4. **Judas Iscariot:** As one of Jesus' disciples, Judas' character flaws, particularly his greed and lack of faith, led him to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. His betrayal ultimately resulted in Jesus' crucifixion and Judas' own despairing end (**Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-5**).
5. **Ananias and Sapphira:** This couple's character flaw was deceitfulness. They conspired to deceive the early Christian community by withholding part of the proceeds from the sale of their property while pretending to give the full amount. Their dishonesty led to swift judgment from God, resulting in their deaths (**Acts 5:1-11**).
6. **The Israelites on their way to the Promised Land:** Despite experiencing numerous miracles and demonstrations of God's power, the Israelites repeatedly displayed a lack of faith, grumbling, and disobedience during their journey through the wilderness. Their constant complaining and rebellion against God and His appointed leaders delayed their entry into the Promised Land, and an entire generation was barred from entering due to their lack of faith (**Numbers 13-14, Deuteronomy 1:26-36**).
7. **King David:** While David was described as a man after God's own heart (**1 Samuel 13:14**), he was not without flaws. His affair with Bathsheba and subsequent murder of her husband Uriah revealed the darker aspects of his character—lust, deceit, and abuse of power (**2 Samuel 11**). Despite his genuine repentance and restoration, these actions had profound

consequences for David and his family, including rebellion within his own household (2 Samuel 12-20).

8. **Lucifer (Satan):** Originally created as a glorious angel named Lucifer, he fell from grace due to his pride and desire to exalt himself above God (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:12-17). His rebellion against God led to his expulsion from heaven, and he became Satan, the adversary and tempter of humanity. Lucifer's character flaw of pride continues to drive his opposition to God and his efforts to lead others astray from the path of righteousness (**Revelation 12:7-9**).

9. **Peter:**

10. **Two thief at Jesus feet. It was their character and nothing more.**

Helpers can run from you because of your character, don't come to church cry and prayer, rather work on the ungodly character

One thing about God is consistency you need to keep renewing your mind, just like when you stop learning or stop eat, you what? Today fire won't carry you tomorrow! You need to Keep Burning

What Are the Things to Learn from This People? Consequences of not having a Godly character with bible verse

Certainly, Scripture provides insights into the consequences of not having godly character:

1. **Straying from God's Path:** Proverbs 14:12 (NIV) - "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end, it leads to death."

Consequence: Without godly character, we may be deceived by our own perceptions and desires, leading us away from God's path of righteousness and ultimately toward spiritual death and separation from Him.

2. **Destruction and Ruin:** Proverbs 11:3 (NIV) - "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity."

Consequence: Lack of integrity and faithfulness can lead to destruction and ruin in various aspects of life—relationships, reputation, and even one's own well-being. Duplicity and deceitfulness often result in broken trust and damaged relationships.

3. **Foolishness and Consequences:** Proverbs 13:15 (NIV) - "Good judgment wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful leads to their destruction."

Consequence: Choosing to live without godly character can lead to **foolish decisions** and actions, ultimately resulting in negative consequences and hardship. Without the guidance of wisdom and discernment, we are more susceptible to making choices that bring harm rather than good.

4. **Separation from God:** Isaiah 59:2 (NIV) - "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

Consequence: Sin and disobedience create a barrier between us and God, hindering our relationship with Him and preventing us from experiencing His presence, guidance, and blessings. Without godly character, we risk alienating ourselves from God and missing out on His abundant life.

5. **Judgment and Accountability:** Romans 2:6-8 (NIV) - "God 'will repay each person according to what they have done.' To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger."

Consequence: Scripture teaches that God holds us accountable for our actions and the condition of our hearts. Those who persist in self-seeking behaviors and reject the truth of God's Word will face His judgment and wrath.

How Do We Activate Godly Character?

Activating godly character involves intentional steps toward aligning our thoughts, words, and actions with the principles and values found in Scripture. Here are some key verses and practical ways to activate godly character:

1. **Be Born Again:** The phrase "born again" comes from a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee and member of the Jewish ruling council. In John 3:3-7 (NIV), Jesus explains the concept of being born again to Nicodemus:
2. **Repentance and Restoration:** Despite their failures, many of these individuals experienced God's grace, forgiveness, and restoration when they repented of their sins. King David's genuine repentance after his sin with Bathsheba and Peter's restoration after denying Jesus three times demonstrate God's willingness to forgive those who humbly repent and turn back to Him. These stories remind us that no matter how far we may have fallen, God's mercy is available to all who seek it.

- 3. Submit to the Holy Spirit:** Submitting to the Holy Spirit is essential for a Christian's spiritual growth and alignment with God's will. Here are several Bible verses that emphasize the importance of yielding to the Holy Spirit:

Ephesians 5:18 (NIV): "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Application: Being filled with the Spirit involves allowing the Holy Spirit to control and guide our thoughts, actions, and decisions rather than being influenced by worldly desires.

Galatians 5:16-17 (NIV): "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want."

Application: Walking by the Spirit means living in a way that is led by the Holy Spirit, which empowers us to resist sinful desires and live in accordance with God's will.

Romans 8:14 (NIV): "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."

Application: Being led by the Spirit signifies our identity as God's children. It involves following the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of life, demonstrating our relationship with God.

Romans 8:5-6 (NIV): "Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace."

Application: Submitting to the Holy Spirit means setting our minds on spiritual matters and allowing the Spirit to govern our thoughts and actions, resulting in life and peace.

John 16:13 (NIV): "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

Application: The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth, revealing God's will and leading us in the path of righteousness. Submitting to the Spirit involves listening and responding to His guidance.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV): "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Application: Allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us produces the fruit of the Spirit, transforming our character to reflect the nature of Christ. Submission to the Spirit leads to the development of these godly attributes.

Acts 1:8 (NIV): "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Application: The Holy Spirit empowers us to be effective witnesses for Christ. Submitting to the Spirit enables us to fulfill the Great Commission and share the gospel with boldness and clarity.

By submitting to the Holy Spirit, we allow Him to lead, guide, and transform us, enabling us to live in accordance with God's will and reflect Christ's character in our lives.

- 4. Renewing the Mind:** Romans 12:2 (NIV) - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is His good, pleasing and perfect will."

Practical Application: Regularly immerse yourself in God's Word through reading, studying, and meditating on Scripture. Allow the truths of Scripture to shape your thinking and worldview, leading to a transformation of your mind and character.

- 5. Practicing Love:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) - "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Practical Application: Cultivate a lifestyle of love by actively demonstrating patience, kindness, humility, and forgiveness toward others. Seek opportunities to serve and show compassion, even to those who may mistreat you.

- 6. Developing Self-Control:** Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Practical Application: Allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate the fruit of self-control in your life by exercising discipline over your thoughts, emotions, and actions. Practice moderation in all areas of life and resist impulses that lead to sinful behavior.

- 7. Seeking Wisdom:** Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Practical Application: Develop a habit of seeking wisdom from God through prayer, meditation on Scripture, and seeking counsel from mature believers. Trust in God's guidance and submit to His will in every area of your life.

- 8. Living with Integrity:** Proverbs 11:3 (NIV) - "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity."

Practical Application: Commit to living a life of honesty, transparency, and moral uprightness in all your dealings. Let your actions align with your beliefs, and be a person of integrity in both your public and private life.

By consistently applying these biblical principles and verses to our lives, we can activate and cultivate godly character, reflecting the image of Christ to the world around us.