

The Five R's – Season 2 Part 2

Character Development: Producing Fruit That Remains

Based on "The Five R's Season 2 Part 2 Character Development"

Introduction

Our Heavenly Father is deeply interested in character development. Salvation is not merely about getting to heaven; it is about becoming more like Jesus Christ every day. God's desire is that we bear proper fruit, much fruit, and fruit that remains.

Key Text

2 Corinthians 13:5 (AMP)

"Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it."

Notice that Paul tells us to examine ourselves. God wants us to continually evaluate whether the character of Christ is being formed in our lives.

I. Character Development Is About Growth

What Is Character?

Character is the collection of qualities that distinguish a person.

What Is Fruit?

Fruit is the result or product of growth.

God is looking for spiritual growth that produces Christlike character.

Growth Scriptures

2 Peter 3:18

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 4:15

"Let us grow up in every way into Him."

Christianity is not stagnation. Christianity is growth.

If there is no growth:

- There is no change.
- There is no fruit.
- There is no maturity.
- There is little glory brought to God.

II. Developing the Character Qualities of Jesus

As we read God's Word, we should become character conscious.

We should not only see Biblical accounts—we should see the character qualities of Jesus being revealed.

Three Essential Character Qualities

1. Love vs. Selfishness

Definition:

Giving to others' basic needs without personal reward being the motive.

Ask yourself:

"Why am I doing what I am doing?"

God looks at motives as well as actions.

2. Truthfulness vs. Deception

Definition:

“Earning future trust by accurately reporting past facts.” (IBLP)

Truth today produces trust tomorrow.

A person who consistently speaks truth becomes trustworthy.

3. Attentiveness vs. Unconcern

Definition:

“Showing the worth of a person by giving undivided attention to their words and emotions.” (IBLP)

We must learn to be attentive to:

- God's Word
- Our thoughts
- Our speech
- Our spiritual condition

Attentiveness protects our lives.

III. Before Helping Others, Examine Yourself

2 John 1:8

"Look to yourselves."

Barnes' Notes point out that before confronting error in others, we must first make sure our own hearts are guarded.

Application

Before fighting spiritual battles:

- Get your own life in order.
- Guard your own heart.
- Maintain your own walk with God.

You cannot effectively help others if your own spiritual life is neglected.

IV. Humility: A Major Character Quality of Jesus

Matthew 11:29

"I am gentle and humble in heart."

Humility is not weakness.

Humility Defined

Recognizing that God and others have contributed to the achievements in our lives.

Paul's Example

Paul had:

- The Lord's guidance
- Gamaliel's teaching
- Ananias' help

No one succeeds alone.

2 Corinthians 3:5

"Our sufficiency is from God."

Humility keeps pride out and wisdom in.

Philippians 2:3

"In humility count others better than yourselves."

James 4:6

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

If we want more grace, we must cultivate humility.

V. Character Must Be Proven

Romans 5:3-5

Tribulation produces:

1. Patience
2. Proven Character
3. Hope

Pressure reveals what is inside us.

When:

- Life becomes narrow
- Pressure increases
- Circumstances crowd us

Whatever is in our hearts comes out.

Luke 6:45

"Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

The test does not create character.

The test reveals character.

VI. Prepare Before the Crisis Comes

One of the strongest lessons in this teaching is preparation.

The author shares how years of storing God's Word in his heart prepared him for difficult circumstances and uncertainty. When pressure came, Scripture came out.

Examples of Preparedness

- Faith instead of fear
- Trust instead of panic
- Hope instead of despair

Key Principle

Do not wait until you are desperate to prepare spiritually.

Build your Scripture arsenal now.

VII. The Wet Concrete Principle

A powerful illustration in this teaching is that of wet concrete.

Children Are Like Wet Concrete

When concrete is wet:

- It can be shaped.
- It can be formed.
- It can be molded.

When concrete hardens:

- Change becomes more difficult.

Spiritual Application

When someone becomes born again:

- They receive a new beginning.
- They become spiritually moldable.
- Character formation can begin.

It is never too late to develop character, but the earlier the process begins, the easier it becomes.

VIII. Grow Beyond Being Spoon-Fed

Ephesians 4:11-12

Pastors and teachers equip the saints.

Their purpose is not to create dependence.

Their purpose is to create maturity.

Eventually every believer must:

- Study personally
- Grow personally
- Apply personally
- Walk with God personally

Maturity comes when we move from being spoon-fed to feeding ourselves from God's Word.

IX. The Holy Spirit Is Our Helper

Many believers think it is too late to change.

The good news is that we have divine help.

John 14:26

The Holy Spirit is our:

- Teacher
- Helper
- Counselor
- Strengthenener
- Advocate

The Holy Spirit can rebuild weak areas and help develop Christlike character at any stage of life.

X. Maintain Your Spiritual Fizz

The teaching uses the phrase:

"Spiritual Fizz Level"

Many believers lose their spiritual enthusiasm because:

- They neglect God's Word.
- They neglect prayer.
- They drift from fellowship with God.

Romans 12:11

"Be aglow and burning with the Spirit."

Colossians 3:23

"Work at it heartily."

Character development requires spiritual passion.

Stay in God's Word.

Stay in prayer.

Stay connected to Jesus.

XI. Character Development and the Next Generation

Character is not merely taught.

Character is caught.

Deuteronomy 32:46-47

Parents must first receive God's Word themselves and then pass it on to their children.

The sequence is:

1. Receive God's Word.
2. Apply God's Word.
3. Model God's Word.
4. Teach God's Word.

Children learn far more from our example than our lectures.

XII. Ezra's Five Smooth Stones

One of the greatest patterns for character development is found in Ezra.

Ezra 7:10

Ezra:

1. Set his heart.
2. Studied God's Word.
3. Practiced God's Word.
4. Taught God's Word.

This is a model every believer can follow.

XIII. The Five R's Process

Character development is a lifelong process.

Stage 1 – Reveal

Allow God to reveal the problem.

Stage 2 – Repent

Agree with God and turn from the problem.

Stage 3 – Remove

Remove the old behavior or mindset.

Stage 4 – Replace

Replace it with God's truth.

Stage 5 – Remain

Continue in the truth until the new character quality becomes established.

This process is repeated throughout life.

XIV. Fruit That Remains

John 15:16

Jesus said:

"Bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may remain."

God is not merely interested in temporary change.

He desires lasting transformation.

Therefore:

- We must prepare as we go.
 - We must maintain to remain.
 - We must continue growing.
 - We must stay alert.
 - We must remain in God's Word.
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Conclusion

The goal of the Christian life is not simply knowledge.

The goal is Christlike character.

God wants us to:

- Develop the character qualities of Jesus.
- Allow those qualities to be tested and proven.
- Pass them on to others.
- Produce fruit that remains.

Final Challenge

Ask yourself:

- What character quality is God developing in me right now?
- What area needs the Five R's applied?
- Am I preparing now for future tests?
- Is my fruit remaining?

May we grow in grace, grow in knowledge, and grow in the character of Jesus Christ until our lives continually produce fruit that glorifies our Heavenly Father.

[Click here.](#) Main resource.