

The Five R's – Season 2 Part 3

Proven Character

“When pressure comes, what is inside of us comes out.”

Based on the uploaded teaching material.

Introduction

Our goal in this series continues to be the development of godly character—the character of Jesus Christ formed in us. Character is not simply about appearing spiritual. True character glorifies God, edifies people, and remains strong when tested.

The Lord is not looking for temporary enthusiasm. He is developing proven character.

Key Scripture

Romans 5:3-5

“We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope.”

Notice the progression:

Tribulation → Patience → Proven Character → Hope

God does not waste pressure. Every trial becomes an opportunity for character development.

1. Pressure Reveals What Is Really Inside Us

The word "tribulation" carries the idea of pressure, narrowness, and being crowded. When life squeezes us, something comes out.

When:

- Pressure comes
- Circumstances become narrow
- Life becomes crowded

our words and actions reveal what is truly in our hearts.

Psalms 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight.”

Luke 6:45

“Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

The test is simple:

- What do we say under pressure?
- How do we act under pressure?
- Do our words honor God?
- Do our actions look like Jesus?

Caleb demonstrated proven character when ten spies spoke fear while he spoke faith.

Numbers 13:30

“Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.”

Pressure revealed faith, not fear.

2. Proven Character Begins With What We Place in Our Heart

If God's Word is placed in our hearts, God's words will come out of our mouths.

This is why staying in God's Word is so important.

James 3:3-6

The tongue is compared to:

- A horse's bit
- A ship's rudder
- A spark that starts a forest fire

Words direct lives.

A careless word can destroy.

A faith-filled word can build.

Our speech reveals our maturity and our character.

3. The Butterfly Principle: Place Before You Fly

An orange butterfly became a powerful illustration of spiritual growth. Before the butterfly could fly, it had to place itself upon a branch.

Likewise, before believers can spiritually fly, they must place themselves in God's Word.

Four Stages of Growth

Stage 1 – Egg

Decision

Choose to follow Christ and grow.

Stage 2 – Caterpillar

Selection

Choose God's Word over worldly influences.

Stage 3 – Pupa

Development

Allow God to transform your thinking and character.

Stage 4 – Adult Butterfly

Maturity

Manifest proven character and overcome life's pressures.

Many people remain unchanged because they never complete the process.

No development means no maturity.

No maturity means no proven character.

4. Build a Memory Verse Arsenal

One of the strongest themes in this teaching is the importance of storing Scripture in our hearts.

The teacher shared how Romans 5:3-5 took 49 days to memorize, yet it remained useful for over 27 years.

Why Memorize Scripture?

Because trials do not wait for us to find a Bible.

Jesus repeatedly said:

“It is written.”

A person cannot continually speak "It is written" if God's Word has never been placed in their heart.

The Process

1. Memorize it
2. Review it
3. Meditate on it
4. Practice it
5. Share it

This transforms information into character.

5. Faith and Patience Must Be Proven

James 1:2-4

“The testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

Faith that has never been tested has never been proven.

Patience is not developed in comfort.

Patience is developed in pressure.

Hebrews 6:12

We inherit God's promises through:

- Faith
- Patience

Without patience, faith often quits before the promise arrives.

6. Forgiveness Is Proven Character

When difficult situations arise, negative thoughts often appear.

The teaching shares how bitterness, resentment, and unforgiveness attempted to gain entrance during a season of uncertainty.

John 3:30

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

A practical application:

- Forgiveness must increase.
- Unforgiveness must decrease.

Ephesians 4:31-32

“Forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

A powerful definition:

Forgiveness is clearing the record of those who have wronged us and allowing God to love them through us.

Choosing forgiveness is proven character.

7. Develop Ready-to-Go Verses

When pressure comes, believers need spiritual ammunition.

The teaching refers to this as a "memory verse arsenal."

Examples include:

2 Corinthians 5:7

"We walk by faith, not by sight."

Psalms 56:11

"In God I trust without fear."

Isaiah 41:10

"Fear not, for I am with you."

Psalms 46:1

"God is our refuge and strength."

Galatians 2:20

"Christ lives in me."

These verses become spiritual weapons during difficult seasons.

8. Don't Wait Until You Are Desperate

One of the most practical lessons in this teaching is:

Build your arsenal before the battle arrives.

Many people wait until:

- Financial trouble
- Health issues
- Family crises
- Job uncertainty

before seeking God seriously.

By then they are desperate.

Psalms 119:11

"Your word I have hidden in my heart."

The Word stored beforehand becomes strength during the storm.

9. Memorization, Meditation, and Application

Joshua gives a complete formula for spiritual success.

Joshua 1:8

"Meditate on it day and night... observe to do according to all that is written."

Three essential steps:

Memorization

Putting God's Word in your heart.

Meditation

Thinking deeply on God's Word.

Application

Doing what God's Word says.

Without application, knowledge leaks away like water from a cup with holes in it.

10. Trust the Lord, Not What You See

The teaching reminds us that many things people trust can disappear:

- Jobs
- Savings
- Investments
- Possessions
- Insurance
- Retirement plans

All earthly things are temporary.

Psalm 20:7

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

Psalm 118:8

“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.”

Proven character trusts God even when circumstances look uncertain.

11. It Is Never Too Late to Develop Character

Many people think:

- "I'm too old."
- "I've missed my opportunity."
- "This is just how I am."

Not true.

When a person becomes a child of God, they receive a fresh beginning.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

God can develop the character of Jesus in anyone who is willing to learn.

The Holy Spirit is our Helper.

John 14:26

“He will teach you all things.”

12. Parents Must Pass Character to the Next Generation

Character development is not merely taught; it is modeled.

Deuteronomy 32:46-47

Parents are instructed to:

- Set God's Word in their own hearts
- Pass it on to their children

Adults must first develop godly character themselves before effectively teaching it to others.

Children learn far more from examples than lectures.

13. Ezra's Five Smooth Stones

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

Ezra 7:10

“Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach.”

Five smooth stones:

1. Make a decision
2. Set your heart
3. Study
4. Do it
5. Teach it

This is a biblical pathway to proven character.

Conclusion

Proven character is not developed in comfort.

It is developed when:

- Pressure comes
- Faith is tested
- Patience is required
- Forgiveness is chosen
- God's Word is applied

The question is not whether pressure will come.

The question is:

What will come out of us when it does?

If we place God's Word in our hearts, stay faithful in the process, and follow the example of Jesus, our lives will produce something precious:

Patience that becomes proven character, and proven character that produces hope.

Final Challenge

This week:

1. Choose one verse to memorize.
2. Meditate on it daily.
3. Apply it in a practical situation.
4. Share it with someone else.
5. Allow God to use that verse to build proven character in your life.

“Pressure reveals character, but God's Word develops proven character.”

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