

The Five R's – Session 2 Part 5

The Outcome of a Developed Memory Verse Arsenal and Character Arsenal Bearing Fruit Through Proven Character

Based on the Haggen Testimony

Introduction: Every Investment Produces a Result

Every person who diligently develops a skill eventually sees results.

- A football player develops his abilities and bears fruit on the field.
- A doctor develops his practice and bears fruit through helping people.
- An artist develops skills and produces beautiful works.
- A musician develops talent and creates music that impacts others.

The same principle applies to believers.

If we take the time to develop the character qualities of Jesus Christ and fill our hearts with God's Word, there will be fruit. There will be results.

Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)

"That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

God never intended Christianity to be fruitless. He desires believers to be fruitful in every area of life.

I. Fruit Reveals What Has Been Developed

Jesus taught that people are recognized by their fruit.

Matthew 7:16

"You will know them by their fruits."

Fruit is evidence.

- Good roots produce good fruit.
- Good character produces good results.
- A life rooted in God's Word eventually reveals itself.

Character is not proven when everything is easy.

Character is proven when pressure comes.

When storms arrive, what is truly inside us comes out.

II. Trials Produce Proven Character

The Haggen testimony demonstrates a powerful spiritual principle:

When the company entered bankruptcy and stores began closing, faith and patience were tested.

Yet instead of panic, there was stability. Instead of fear, there was endurance.

Romans 5:3-5

"Tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

James 1:2-4

"The testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work."

Key Truth

Many believers want proven character without enduring tests.

However:

- Faith is tested.
- Patience is tested.
- Character is tested.

A muscle only grows through resistance.

Likewise, spiritual character grows through pressure.

III. Build Your Arsenal Before the Crisis

One of the greatest lessons from this testimony is:

Do not wait until a crisis to prepare.

The reason there was peace during uncertainty was because a memory verse arsenal and character arsenal had already been built.

When difficulties came:

- God's Word was already in the heart.
- Faith was already established.
- Character had already been developed.

Luke 6:45

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

Whatever fills our hearts will eventually come out of our mouths.

And what comes out of our mouths often directs our path.

IV. The Power of Tongue Control

One of the major keys during difficult times was controlling the tongue.

James 3:2-5

James compares the tongue to:

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

Though small, the tongue determines direction.

Principle

A believer can either:

- Speak fear
- Speak doubt
- Speak frustration

Or

- Speak faith
- Speak God's promises
- Speak hope

The direction of life often follows the direction of our words.

V. Refuse Desperation

The testimony repeatedly emphasizes:

"I was not desperate."

Why?

Because God's Word provided answers.

The world becomes desperate when hope disappears.

But believers have hope.

1 Timothy 1:1

"Christ Jesus, our hope."

Philippians 4:6

"Be anxious for nothing."

Acts 18:9-10

"Do not be afraid... for I am with you."

Lesson

Desperation often comes from a lack of preparation.

The time to store God's Word is before the emergency.

Noah built the ark before the rain.

Joseph stored grain before the famine.

We must build our spiritual arsenal before the battle.

VI. God's Word Gives Ready Answers

A developed memory verse arsenal allows believers to help people quickly.

Sometimes we only have:

- Ten seconds
- One minute
- One conversation

To direct someone toward Christ.

Luke 19:10

"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

John 17:18

"As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

The better we know God's Word, the more effectively we can help others.

VII. Character Qualities That Produced Results

The testimony highlights several developed character qualities that produced fruit.

1. Initiative

Initiative vs. Unresponsiveness

"Recognizing and doing what needs to be done before I am asked to do it." (IBLP)

Instead of sitting helplessly, applications were submitted, opportunities pursued, and doors were sought.

Matthew 7:7

"Ask... seek... knock."

Faith is not passive.

Faith moves forward.

2. Punctuality

Punctuality vs. Tardiness

"Showing high esteem for other people and their time." (IBLP)

Being on time demonstrates honor, respect, and reliability.

3. Responsibility

Responsibility vs. Unreliability

"Knowing and doing what both God and others are expecting from me." (IBLP)

Responsible people can be trusted.

God often promotes trustworthy people.

4. Dependability

Dependability vs. Inconsistency

"Fulfilling what I consented to do even if it means unexpected sacrifice." (IBLP)

The work at Haggen was completed faithfully despite difficult circumstances.

2 Timothy 4:7

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Dependable people finish what they start.

5. Endurance

Endurance vs. Giving Up

"The inward strength to withstand stress to accomplish God's best." (IBLP)

There were moments of uncertainty.

There were feelings of instability and displacement.

But feelings were not allowed to determine direction.

2 Corinthians 5:7

"We walk by faith, not by sight."

Galatians 6:9

"Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Endurance keeps us moving until harvest arrives.

VIII. God's Word Produces Stability

Psalms 119:89

"Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven."

A powerful statement from this testimony is:

"If we are firmly fixed on His Word in heaven, we will be firmly fixed on earth."

The world may shake.

Circumstances may change.

Jobs may come and go.

People may fail us.

But God's Word remains settled forever.

IX. Strength for Every Season

God supplied strength throughout the transition.

Isaiah 12:2

"The Lord is my strength and my song."

Nehemiah 8:10

"The joy of the Lord is your strength."

Psalms 46:1

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Strength is not the absence of weakness.

Strength is God's ability working through us in weakness.

X. New Seasons Require Continued Growth

The testimony concludes with a new beginning:

- New location
- New people
- New opportunities
- New victories
- More pruning
- More fruit
- More glory to God

Every season of faithfulness prepares us for the next season of usefulness.

Philippians 3:13-14

"Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal."

Conclusion: Develop Both Arsenals

The lesson of this testimony is clear:

Build a fruitful memory verse arsenal.

Know God's Word well enough to stand firm and help others.

Build a fruitful character arsenal.

Allow God to develop Christlike qualities within you.

When trials come:

- Faith will stand.
- Hope will remain.
- Words will be controlled.
- Character will be proven.
- Fruit will appear.

Main Principle

What you consistently develop today will determine what comes out of you tomorrow.

Develop God's Word.

Develop Christlike character.

Then when life's storms come, you will not merely survive—you will bear fruit that glorifies the Father. Amen.

[Click here.](#) Main resource.