

Lasting Results
The importance of Character development
“Tilling our life” (Part 17)
(Short review from Part 16)

1. The purpose of this teaching is for long lasting results.
2. Our main verse has been Psalms 32:9.

Psalms 32:9

Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not keep with you. RSV

3. For lack of understanding people will get worn out. (Reminding/Reminded)
4. Therefore, we need more understanding today.
5. Understanding causes a person to be established.

Proverbs 24:3-4

3 Through skillful and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation],

4 And by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. AMP

6. Not only do we need **understanding** but also God’s **wisdom** and **knowledge**.

The Importance of Character Development

7. **So today** by faith I will present to you some wisdom, more understanding and knowledge in the areas of character development.
8. Why, because I believe that character development is one remedy for many problems.
9. Not just to avoid the bit and bridle but other areas as well.
10. Time needs to be spent on character development.
11. Not only that, but if anyone desires to become believable the character of Jesus must be developed in a person's life.
12. One of the enemy's tactics is to keep the believers busy or distracted (in world affairs) to avoid this type of development.
13. Allow me to bring something into focus.
14. There is a difference between being busy and productive.
15. Consider this verse which is now our main verse.

Proverbs 12:11

He who tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits is lacking in sense and is without understanding. AMP

16. Spiritually speaking tilling our life is an ongoing business.
17. Tilling is a process for character development.
18. Tilling is a process needed in all areas of our life.
19. If we delay the tilling process on a farm, the land will become compressed, and the weeds will entangle the crops.
20. The outcome will be a non-productive farm.
21. If we delay the tilling process in our life, it will yield the same results.
22. In other words, if we delay the process for character development, we will be non-productive.
23. We and others will suffer for it.
24. Keep in mind this parable as we move forward.

25. Notice the process or progression in this parable.

Mark 4:26-29

(The Parable of the Growing Seed)

Decision

And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should **scatter seed** on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: **first** the blade, **then** the head, **after that** the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." NKJV (**Productive**)

26. Statement do not get discouraged if character does not happen quickly.

27. Start today to have something tomorrow.

28. Let us take another glance at Proverbs 12:11.

Proverbs 12:11

He who tills his land shall be **satisfied**^{#7646} with bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits is lacking in sense and is without understanding. AMP

29. Notice that there is a result if we till our life. (Satisfied with bread)

30. "shall be satisfied" **#7646**: to be satisfied by nourishment

John 6:51

I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." NKJV

John 6:57-58

As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven — not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." NKJV

- Till our life and we will be satisfied (Filled, have plenty) with Jesus. (Spiritual Bread)
- Spend time with the Bread-Jesus
- Be nourished by the Bread-Jesus
- Use the Bread (Name of Jesus in all areas of life)

31. Keep in this in mind.

32. There are **three** main **principles** in "**tilling**". (For long lasting results)

2 John 8

Look to yourselves (take care) that you may not lose (throw away or destroy) all that we and you have labored for, but that you may [persevere until you] win and receive back a perfect reward [in full]. AMP

33. Developing character will take these three principles.

- (1) **Plowing** steadily (in our life) (Give some attention to our life)
- (2) **Scattering** seed (God's word) (In our case in this teaching it is character)
- (3) Proper **cultivation**
 - Cultivation means: Improve, prepare, promote growth, form, refine as by education, feed, train, care for and enrich.

34. All three principles require consistency, time, and a decision.

35. Question, are we following worthless pursuits or worthwhile e pursuits?

Proverbs 12:11

He who tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits is lacking in sense and is without understanding. AMP

36. If we choose worthless pursuits, we are lacking in sense and are without understanding.

Proverbs 24:3-4

Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; 4 By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches. NKJV

37. Wise choices need to be made to be productive for our heavenly Father.

38. We all should know that there are many things to keep us  busy and distracted in the world.

39. If the enemy can cause the believer to be  busy or distracted with other things other than God's agenda, we will see more of what we see today in people.

40. And that is character deficiencies.

Mark 4:13-20 (*The parable of the sower explained*)

13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. 18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the **cares of this world**, the **deceitfulness of riches**, and the **desires for other things** entering in choke^{#4846} the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." NKJV

41. Greek definition for the word “**Choke**” #4846: to strangle completely, to drown, crowd, suffocate, and overpower.

42. In God's word we see the character qualities of Jesus and others played out in life situations.

43. Therefore, the word and character qualities go hand-in-hand.

44. Here is one example in scripture of how God's word and character go hand-in-hand.

1 Timothy 6:9-11

But those who crave to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish (useless, godless) and hurtful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction and miserable perishing.

10 For the love of money is a root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have been led astray and have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves through with many acute [mental] pangs.

11 But as for you, O man of God, flee from all these things; aim at and pursue righteousness (right standing with God and true goodness), godliness (which is the loving fear of God and being Christlike), faith, love, steadfastness (patience), and gentleness of heart. AMP

45. Does anyone see any character qualities in these verses in God's word?

46. Once we become mindful of character, we will begin to see it in God's word.

47. The "other things" that we allow to enter in can choke the character qualities we need.

48. If this choking occurs, we will: **Consider the opposite as well.**

- Become unfruitful to our heavenly Father. (**Fruitful**)
- Become unbelievable to the world. (**Believable**)
- Become ineffective for the kingdom. (**Effective**)