

Developing strong character and finding God's will

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Introduction

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- Will you choose the upward way that lead to glory, or will you take the downward path to destruction?

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- This teaching will encourage you to develop good character traits and a pleasant personality.

- It will also provide nuggets of timely advice for good dating practices and for finding God's will in **courtship**.

*“Not enjoyment, and not sorrow;
Is our destined end or way,
But to act, that each tomorrow
Finds us farther than today.”*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Developing Good Character

- You have tremendous potential for good or evil-to serve God or the devil..” Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” *Romans 6:16*

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- But we are not saying it right. Only his personality is showing.

***• Character is the
way you are under
the surface.!!!!!!!***

- It's your moral strength and relates to standards of right and wrong. Character is like the steel rods in a bridge. They hold a bridge together. Bridges expand or contract, depending on the weather. Were it not for the steel rods in them, they would crumble. That's how character is. It's that inside part of us that makes us something.

What makes a good character?

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Let's look at five obvious good character traits:

1. *Honesty.*

- Hebrews 13:18 says, *“Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.”*
- Can you look your mother or your father in the eye and be completely *honest* and upfront?
- Can you look your minister in the eye without having to fear, “Will he ask something about my life that I don’t want him to know?”

- Are you *honest*? *Honesty* is basic and necessary in your relationship with God.
- It takes *honesty* to confess that you are a sinner and to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior
- A person who's not *honest* and upfront is very difficult to trust. If he/she is not to be trusted, it spoils their testimony.

2. Dependability.

- Do you have a character that your father and mother can *depend* on?
- “*He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much*” *Luke 16:10*
- If you make an agreement, do you keep it? That’s *dependability*. Does it mean something to you?
- God’s people ought to be *dependable*. Their word ought to mean exactly what it says. If they make an agreement, they need to keep it.

3. Unselfishness.

- Are you *unselfish*? Does it have to go your way when you play a game?
- Does it have to go your way when you're discussing something?
- Are you willing to help others even when you had something else planned?
- Can you give up your will if your parents ask you to, or do you get upset and say they don't understand?

4. Helpfulness.

- Will you help your brother or sister when he or she needs help? Can you see when your father or mother needs help? Can you see when they're overworked and tired?
- Do you tell Mother to take a nap or rest while you do the work?

5. Respectful

- Do you have a deep *respect* for God? Today we talk much more freely about God, but it seems we may have less *respect*. This is not to say that we should stop talking about God, but do you really *respect* God? This is the question we need to ask ourselves.
- Do you have a proper attitude of worship?
- Read Mark 2:27, Isaiah 58:13-14, and Genesis 2:2-3

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- We need to obey the law for our conscience sake
- We may disagree with the position a government leader takes on an issue, and it might be very difficult to respect him. But we still need to be very careful to respect those in authority. This includes the ministers in the church.

Do you *respect* your parents?

Bible Characters who were good examples of Good Character traits

- *Joseph* was an outstanding young man. He was only seventeen years old when he was sold to Egypt, and it seemed everything was against him. But Joseph didn't complain about all the things that were against him. Instead of becoming bitter toward his brothers, he said, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." He could take setbacks; they didn't bother him.

- ***Daniel*** “purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat” (*Daniel 1:8*) He had a purpose. We want our lives to be a challenge, not a compromise. Any dead fish can go down the river, but it takes a live fish to swim up the river. What did those people say when they wanted to kill Daniel? They said, “We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God(*Daniel 6:5*).
- Can your friends say that about you?

- **David** met Goliath's challenge. In *1 Samuel 17:33*, Saul told David, :”You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: you are but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.” Saul was responsible to take care of Goliath, but he reneged on his responsibility. What did David say? He told Goliath, “You come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield, but I come to you in the Name of the LORD.” If Saul had gone in the Name of the LORD, he too could have taken care of the job.

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 - *James 3:9* talks about "the similitude of God." To some degree, Christians are partakers of the divine nature.

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(*Matthew 12:35, 15:18*)
4. Man has an immortal soul. According to *Genesis 2:7*, God breathed into Adam the breath of life, and he became a living soul. A hundred years from now, you will exist somewhere because of this breath of life

100 YEARS FROM NOW ...



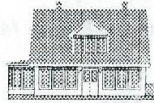
WHAT WILL MATTER MOST ?

100 YEARS FROM NOW...



What will it matter what cars you and I drove?
What color or how expensive they were ? *Or...*, if we even had a car ?

100 YEARS FROM NOW...



What will it matter how beautiful or expensive our house was ? *Or where it was ? Or if something got spilled on our carpet ?*

100 YEARS FROM NOW...



What will it matter how much fun, or impressive our toys were ? *Or if we could even afford such toys ?*



100 YEARS FROM NOW...

What will it matter how we spent **LEISURE TIME** on earth ?

100 YEARS FROM NOW...



What will it matter how much money we earned, spent or saved on earth ? *How much money will you have with you 100 years from now ?*

100 YEARS FROM NOW...



What will it matter if we lived for our family and loved people on earth... *if we did not make certain of our eternal destiny... and theirs?*

**Yes, we should enjoy life now to the fullest.
But, what a TRAGEDY if we FAIL or
NEGLECT to prepare for eternity. 100
YEARS FROM NOW... WHERE WILL YOU
BE ?**

Have you wondered, " Why was I born?"
"Why am I a living, breathing, human
being ? " Isn't life more than just mere
EXISTENCE for a few short years on this earth ? "



YES. EARTH IS ONLY PART OF LIFE.

The Bible, Gods Word, says when God created man, He breathed into him the breath of life and "**man became a living soul.**" (Genesis 2: 7)

Fact : All people have a natural body and a spiritual body.

1 Cor. 15: 44 *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

100 YEARS FROM NOW... all of us will still be alive... **IN OUR ETERNAL SPIRITUAL BODY.**

The big question is Where ?

Please read about your choices from the Bible,

Luke 16 : 19-31 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day; 20 and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be feed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angles into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flam. 25 But Abraham said. Son remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things. and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Which choice do you want ?

Now the Question is... **HOW** Can We be Sure of Heaven.

100 YEARS FROM NOW...

What if I've spent my life doing good and helping other people. Won't that assure me of Heaven ? That's what most people think... until they learn from the Bible, Gods Word.



Many people (even religious people) are with the crowd on a **BROAD** road to **SEPARATION FROM GOD FOREVER.**

Why Because they are trusting their own **GOOD WORKS** for their salvation (at least partly) Please don't take my word for this.

Please read it for yourself from the **Bible Matthew 7 : 13,14, 21-23** Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is

is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

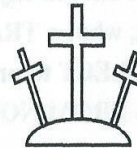
21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Now ... Here's some Good news >>>

100 YEARS FROM NOW...

(OR SOONER) You and I CAN be in Heaven because

2,000 years ago, God sent His Son, Yeshua Jesus the Christ to die for my sins and yours. **2,000 years ago**, Christ shed His blood to completely pay for our sins, past present, and future. **2,000 years ago**, He rose from the grave, proving to the world He finished the job God gave Him to do on that cross. **He's not on the cross now. He's not in the grave now.** He's in Heaven waiting for all who will **TRUST** Him as their Personal Savior.



100 YEARS FROM NOW...

You CAN be glad His hands reached down for you..

HE LOVES YOU very, very much !

He wants to save you from the penalty of your sins.



He wants to give you His **GIFT** of salvation and eternal life in Heaven. Please check out this **GOOD NEWS** as recorded in the Bible..

For the wages of sin is death (**HELL**); but the Gift of **GOD** is eternal life (**HEAVEN**) through Yeshua Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6: 23.

For **GOD** so loved the world (including you) that He gave His only begotten Son (Yeshua Jesus the Christ), that whosoever believeth **IN HIM** should not perish but have everlasting life (Heaven). John 3: 16

100 YEARS

FROM NOW... The only thing that will matter is... What have we done about the the **Lord Jesus the Christ ?**

He paid for our sins 2,000 years ago and we **cannot** even **HELP** pay for our own sins. **TRUST** the death of the Lord Jesus the Christ **ALONE.** (100%) as the total payment for your sins.

THE GREATEST JOY ON EARTH THAT WILL ALSO BRING YOU ETERNAL JOY... 100 YEARS FROM NOW... IS TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THIS GOOD NEWS ABOUT GOD'S GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE.

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM PSALM 122 : 6

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- Considering these basic facts, shouldn't you be looking ahead five or ten years? *Hebrews 12:16-17* tells us that Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup because he was hungry. He did not look very far ahead. Look ahead, don't just think about what is happening now.

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- Strong friends can often help weaker ones, but the weak ones seem to go off in their own group and turn away from the very ones who could help them.
- Be patient about the future. Wait. Lust says, "**Now!**" Love can wait. God is not in a hurry, but He is always on time.

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- Should we live it up and then pay for it later?
- Is living for pleasure all that the world says it is?
- Is it enjoyable to have your own way? No, it is not!

Tactics of the Enemy

- We have an enemy. Don't think for a minute that everything is going in our favor. It's not. The Bible tells us in *2 Corinthians 2:11* that we are not ignorant of Satan's devices. He is a real, evil spirit. "Resist the devil," *James 4:7* tells us.

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- Satan is furiously using the time he has left, because he knows that his doom is sealed and that he has only a short time.

- There is a story that illustrates how Satan gets you accustomed to sin. A poor boy lived close to a river where ducks swam. The river wasn't very deep, and the ducks would go into the weeds sometimes. The little boy tried to catch the ducks, but he couldn't. Finally he devised a plan to catch them. He floated pumpkins down the river. When the first pumpkin floated by, the ducks took off, but he kept floating pumpkins down the river until the ducks got so used to them that they no longer moved away.

- Finally this poor boy took a big pumpkin, carved it out, cut holes in it, and put over his head. Then he went under the water ,with only the pumpkin showing so that the ducks weren't scared of him anymore. He could get close to them, grab their legs, and pull them under the water.

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- He traps you into thinking that something done behind the ministers back or behind your parent's back is thrilling. But remember, it's all a trick of Satan.

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- You can be the life of the party when you're out in public. But how are you at home with your father and mother or with your siblings?

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- It's the window where people, can see what our character is unless we camouflage it and cover it up.

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- Ask yourself,

- “Why do I do silly things?”

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- Sow man's reasoning, reap despair and hopelessness.

- But look what it says about the other side.
“He that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (*Galatians 6:8-9*)

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- Sow temperance, reap health and strength

- Sow kind words,

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- Sow kind words, reap loving favor.
- Sow prayer, reap power and growth in the inner man.
- Sow Christian service, reap joy in this life and rewards in Heaven

END OF SESSION 1

SESSION 2

God Wants You

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- God wants your vision.

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- “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy Youth, while the evil days come not, or the years draw nigh, when you will say I have no pleasure in them” (*Ecclesiastes 12:1*)

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- He wants your heart filled with love and devotion to His cause.

- He wants your will, your time, and your talent.

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- Why would you want to come to the end of your life and say, “God, here I am, worn out, lived for the devil all of my life”?
- All Heaven rejoices over every sinner who repents, young or old, but God wants you when you are young. Few people choose to serve God after they get 50 or 60 years old.

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- God's plan is to grow out of childhood and youth and become mature Christians and take responsibility

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- Build strong relationships on love and trust.

A Code of Ethics

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- Sometimes people have the idea that the Christian life is a lot of do's and don'ts, but really it's a lot of will's and won'ts.
- You must decide for yourself that you won't do this and you will do that.

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- You will need a code of ethics for when you start a courtship or begin dating.
- Maintaining a hands-off courtship is strongly recommended. Someone said “It’s just natural for an eighteen-year-old boy to hold the hand of an eighteen-year-old girl.”

- Maybe it is natural, but it's not spiritually healthy and can lead to having an impure mind. (1 Timothy 5:22)

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- It is more urgent to be right with God than it is to find a life companion.

- Courtship or dating is a time of seeking companionship with the opposite sex
- A Christian uses God's methods.
- In Genesis 2:20, Adam recognized there was nobody he could relate to, but he didn't need to go looking for a wife. God brought him a wife.

Finding God's Will in Courtship (Dating)

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- How do you know God's leading?

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- You must be born again

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- You must be submissive to your parents and support the church and the church standards
- You must desire to maintain purity
- You must live a victorious Christian life
- You must be mature enough to bring your friend to a closer walk with God

Courtship Practices

- Courtship should take place in the afternoon (*Romans 13:12-13*)

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- Courtship should take place in the girls home.
- Love does not need physical touch.
- Loose courtship practices have caused many heartaches. Girls, your modest dress is a strong defense against the passions of wicked boys.

**What should you do on your
dates?**

- Boys, on the first date it's your responsibility to set some goals, some code of ethics.

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- Make it clear that you want to have hands off.
- Decide what kind of Bible study you want to have.

- Plan what you will do; don't just sit together.

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- Do things such as visiting the elderly.

Stay Pure

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- I’ve kept myself pure and holy.
- I’ve kept my body pure

Takeaway

- We need young people who have backbone

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- We need young people to help each other
- We need young people who are peaceable at home, who grow in grace, who are better doers than dreamers.