



Quality Character!

“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. “

- Romans 5:3-5

**Jesus sets us free from the inside out.
He fills us with His character - and we become free.**

LISTEN TO THE [QUALITY CHARACTER VIDEO HERE.](#)

FOURTH STREAM FINDING HOPE

QUALITY CHARACTER!

Whether you aspire to the office of an overseer (elder) or not, the interior qualities displayed in Titus and Timothy can bring great strength and richness to your heart and home. Take the time to consider each one and investigate them as a standard for your own personal evaluation. May we be the kind of men and women who reflect *reliance* upon God's Word, being *led* by the Spirit, and *deep desire* for God's order and holiness in our lives! When I first became a Christ follower about 4 or 5 of these qualities were reflected in my life. The others have been solidified as my arduous journey has unfolded. So take heart - these are great interior standards for any serious man or woman of God.

Leaders and leadership office (elders, deacons) were given to the church by Christ (Ephesians 4) and pursued in Paul's teaching and direction to the church (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1) with definite responsibilities (Proverbs 25:23; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17; Ezekiel 33:6; Jeremiah 3:15; and 1 Peter 1:1-5). They are appointed by God (Ephesians 4:11; Titus 1:5); recognized by the congregation (Acts 14:23); submitted to (Hebrews 13:7,17); submitted (Ephesians 4:18-21; 1 Peter 5:5); ordained (Acts 14:23; 2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Timothy 5:22) and given to lead through delegated authority (not arbitration) and shepherding concern (Romans 13:1-6; Hebrews 13:7; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-11). They were to be men of character and to have become:

- Above Reproach
- Husband of One Wife
- Temperate
- Prudent
- Respectable
- Hospitable
- Able To Teach
- Not Addicted To Wine
- Not Pugnacious
- Gentle
- Not Contentious
- Free From the Love of Money
- Manages His Own Household Well
- Not a New Convert
- Good Reputation Outside the Church
- Not Self-Willed
- Not Quick-Tempered
- Loves What Is Good
- Just
- Devout
- Holding Fast the Faithful Word

FOURTH STREAM FINDING HOPE

THE QUALITIES AT A GLANCE

Here is a brief description of each interior attribute. A more in-depth treatment is available.

Above Reproach

This over-arching qualification is reflected in all of these heart character goals. It means you *can't get a handle on a flaw in his character*. An example of a man who was above reproach was Job: "...*there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.*" (Job 1:8)

Husband of One Wife

There are six possible interpretations here:

1. Prohibition against polygamy
2. Necessity of marriage
3. Prohibition of remarried widower
4. Faithfulness to one wife for life
5. Prohibition of divorce at any time in life
6. Faithfulness to one wife and prohibition of divorce while a believer view.

An example of a husband of one wife was the prophet Hosea who was married to a woman named Gomer who lived the life of a harlot. In spite of her adultery Hosea still loyally loved her (Hosea 3:1-3), just as God does with us.

Temperate

Moderate, well balanced, calm, careful, steady, and able to rule others because he rules himself. An example of a temperate man was Dr. Luke (Gospel of Luke), "...*having investigated everything carefully from the beginning.*" (Luke 1:3)

Prudent

Clear judgment and common sense. A man who can make decisions who is not given to quick and superficial decisions based on faulty or incomplete judgment. An example of a prudent man was King Solomon. "*When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king; for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.*" (1 Kings 3:28)

Respectable

This is the same root word used to describe clothes or outward appearance in 2 Timothy 2:9. When applied to character it means orderly in life - where everything isn't a mess within. It is much easier for people to show respect to a leader if he is responsible. A good example of a man who had an orderly life and was highly respected as a leader and administrator was Nehemiah, the re-builder of Jerusalem's walls (Nehemiah 2:4-18).

Hospitable

This word literally means a *friend of strangers*. He meets them at their point of need - physically, emotionally, and spiritually. An example of a hospitable man would be Abraham as he showed hospitality to the three strangers in Genesis 18:1-8, or of Onesiphorus whom Paul said *often refreshed me...* (2 Timothy 1:16). This is an important quality because it shows practical care for people. (James 2:16)

Able to Teach

This is not the same thing as the gift of teaching - but rather one who is qualified to teach. The minimal requirement here is seen in Titus 1:9 "*holding on to the faithful word which is in line with sound doctrine in order that he may be able both to encourage by means of his sound teaching and refute those who contradict it.*" An example of a man who was able to teach was Apollos. He was a gifted orator, mighty in the Scriptures, and instructed in the ways of the Lord. Yet was still willing to be taught by Priscilla and Aquila in order to learn the way of God more accurately (Acts 28:26). Apollos clearly shows us that to be able to teach, one must also be teachable. Another good example of one who was able to teach was the Apostle Paul about whom we are told *his personal appearance is unimpressive, and his speech contemptible* (2 Corinthians 10:10). Nice.

Not Addicted to Wine

The same inspired author who advises Timothy to use a little wine for the sake of his stomach and frequent illnesses (1 Timothy 5:23) also declares that one who fails to practice moderation has no right to be an elder. An example of those who were guilty of this addiction were the believers at Corinth where *one is hungry and another is drunk*. (1 Corinthians 11:21).

Not Pugnacious

Literally this word means *not a striker*. This can be in reference to either physical or verbal striking. An example of a pugnacious spirit would be James and John who wanted to call down fire from heaven on some Samaritans who rejected Jesus (Luke 9:54).

Gentle

The opposite of being pugnacious is one who is characterized by forbearance and tenderness. Though he or she never compromises with respect to the truth of the Gospel he is willing to yield when it comes to his own rights - in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 6:7: *Why not rather suffer wrong?* The word *yielding* corresponds with the root idea of gentle. An example of a gentle man was Joseph who was forbearing and tender to his brothers who sold him into slavery (Genesis 50:15-21).

Not Contentious

This word goes even deeper than pugnacious. It describes a person who does not necessarily strike out physically or verbally - but one who subtly, behind the scenes, seeks to *divide through innuendo, gossip, or selfish argumentation*. An example of contentious people would be the false teachers described in John 16, *“These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.”*

Free From the Love of Money

This person is not a lover of silver or stingy with his material possessions or blessings. He or she is not under the influence of affluence. We must be far removed from making the acquisition of earthly treasure our chief goal in life - even though the means employed may be honest. This is a character requirement because it indicates better than anything else *wrong priorities* in life (Matthew 6:25). An example of one who was not free from the love of money was Judas (John 12:6), the rich young ruler (Mark 10:21-22), and Demas who “loved this present world” (2 Timothy 4:10).

Manages His Own Household Well

This would include an orderly, well-managed household where a husband is submitting to Christ and cherishing his wife, a wife respecting her husband, and children obeying their parents. The home is a proving ground for a man's ability to give oversight. He will treat the church like he treats his family. An example of one who manages his own household well would be Philip the evangelist who had *four virgin daughters who prophesied* (Acts 21:9).

Not a New Convert

Not a baby in Christ. He must have been a Christian long enough to demonstrate the reality of his conversion and depth of his or her maturity. This will hopefully prevent one from becoming puffed up with pride. An example of *not a new convert* would be the Apostle Paul who probably spent three years in the desert of Arabia after his conversion before he did any work in his hometown of Tarsus and Antioch, and was not commissioned to go on his first missionary journey until ten years after he encountered Jesus (Galatians 1:17-18; 2:1).

Good Reputation Outside the Church

Unbelievers must also respect a person's character and integrity. Often such *outsiders* know more about the man in question than do the members of the church. The church seeks to exert a powerful influence for good upon the world by leading outsiders to Christ. An elder's bad reputation with the community will not be of any help in achieving this purpose. An example of a man who had a good reputation with those outside was Cornelius who was *“well spoken of by the entire Jewish nation”* (Acts 10:22).

Not Self-Willed

One who is stubborn and tries to have his own way is self-willed. This person is *insensitive* and seeks to *force* his own ideas and opinions on other people. An example of not being self-willed is seen in Daniel and his three friends who did not force their own ideas regarding wine and rich foods on others in their group (Daniel 1:10-13).

Not Quick-Tempered

This is a person who flies off the handle or gets angry quickly. An example of a quick-tempered man is King Saul (1 Samuel 20:30-33).

Loves What Is Good

A lover of good must be the kind of person who desires to do and see the will of God accomplished in everything and everyone. An example here would be Paul, *“my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is for their salvation”* (Romans 10:1/2 Corinthians 11:29).

Just

A just person is fair and impartial and able to make objective judgments based on principle. An example of being just is seen in 1 Corinthians 6:1-7 where believers should be able to justify or fairly judge those among them, when a true judgment needs to be made.

Devout

A devoted person is committed to truth and living separate from sin. An example of this quality is seen in Simeon, a man who was *“righteous and devout”* (Luke 2:25).

Holding Fast the Faithful Word

Stable in his faith and not hypocritical by teaching one thing and living another. An example of those who did not hold fast the faithful word were the scribes and pharisees about whom Jesus said, *“therefore all that they tell you do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds, for they say things, and do not do them”* (Matthew 23:3).

MY EVALUATION:

Use the following checklist to note the areas and issues where someone could get a handle on a flaw in your character (above reproach). Be honest with yourself, and set a course for growth in areas of weaknesses, and celebrate the things God is already accomplishing in your life!

What can you do to grow in these areas to become more like Jesus?

You may wish to seek some practical insights from someone experienced whom you respect! What and who?

FOURTH STREAM FINDING HOPE

MY PERSONAL CHARACTER QUALITY EVALUATION!

Are you still a child in Christ even though you may have been a follower for a number of years? Or are you experiencing solid growth and success from the inside-out?

Rate yourself by circling the number that best represents your self-evaluation of each of the qualities we have considered - rating from dissatisfied (1) to satisfied (7).

1. How do you evaluate your **reputation** as a Christ-follower among believers?
Are you a man or woman of your word?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
2. How do you evaluate your overall relationship with your spouse? If you are not married how well are you handling your sexual and companionship needs and desires? If you are married?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
3. What kind of overall perspective do you have on your spiritual life? Have you developed a measured philosophy of life? Does it reflect TEMPERANCE?
Are you calm? Do you rule yourself?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
4. Are you PRUDENT? Do you exercise common sense and biblical principles with your time, talents, and treasures?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
5. Are you RESPECTABLE? Do you have a well-adjusted life, adorning the Word of God? In what areas are you a mess?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
6. Are you HOSPITABLE? Do you use your home as a means to show kindness to other members of the body of Christ as well as unbelievers? Are you friendly?
Do you use your resources for the benefit of others?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
7. Are you ABLE TO TEACH? Do you have the quality of life that enables you to communicate the Word of God to others in a non-argumentative and clear manner?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
8. Are you ADDICTED TO ANYTHING THAT IS CONTROLLING YOUR LIFE?
Are you doing anything that is causing a weaker Christ-follower to stumble and sin against God (lust, drugs, alcohol, food, etc.)?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
9. Are you SELF-WILLED? Do you always have to have your own way?
Do you pout?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

10. Do you LOSE YOUR TEMPER easily? Do you harbor feelings of resentment over a period of time? Do you fly off the handle?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
11. Are you a PUGNACIOUS person? Do you verbally or physically strike out at others because of hard to control feelings of anger?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
12. Are you CONTENTIOUS? Do you purposely take the opposite point of view from others, stirring up arguments and destroying unity in the group? Or, are you a peacemaker, striving to create harmony and unity?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
13. Are you a MILD-MANNERED and GENTLE person, reflecting approachability, a forgiving spirit, and kindness?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
14. Are you FREE FROM THE LOVE OF MONEY? Do you seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness? Are you overly preoccupied with things or making ends meet? Do you control your budget?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
15. Do you have your HOUSEHOLD IN ORDER? That is, do your wife and children love and respect you and are they responding to Jesus and His authority over their lives? Is your household controlled and orderly?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
16. Do you have a GOOD REPUTATION with non-Christ followers? Do they respect you even though they may disagree with your views? What do your neighbors say about you? Your co-workers?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
17. Do you PURSUE AFTER WHAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT? Do you desire to associate yourself with truth, honor, and integrity and reject embracing things that have any appearance of evil?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
18. Are you JUST? Are you able to make objective decisions and be honest and impartial in your relationship with others?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied
19. Are you HOLDING FAST THE FAITHFUL WORD? Are you consistently and radically committed to living out your faith and calling out hypocrisy (that of yourself and others)?
Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

The content of this two-page character evaluation is based upon Gene Getz' book Measure of A Man.



Spiritual Warfare

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

- Ephesians 6:12

**We are born into a greater story.
We are born into a world at war.**

LISTEN TO THE [SPIRITUAL WARFARE VIDEO HERE.](#)

Two Fathers

According to the scriptures we have a heavenly Father, the Living God, who created us. He is perfect in every way. He walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden in the cool of the day. Our fellowship with Him was perfect in every way. Through the temptation in the Garden everything changed. Satan, one of three very powerful angels, used the arena of creation to usurp the Creator's authority. When Adam and Eve fell to temptation, we gained a new father through sin and rebellion. Satan has now made claim over all the earth (John 8:44).

THE PERFECT FATHER (My Creator)

Matthew 5:48

He is supreme in power. He is completely holy. He is filled with compassion. He is self-sacrificing. *The truth about us: "I am an adopted son, adopted into the Kingdom by the blood of Jesus Christ. Christ has gone to prepare a place for me."*

In what ways do you feel secure as a child of God?

THE IMPERFECT FATHER (Satan)

John 8:41-59

He is a deceiver and the father of lies. He clouds our true identity. He pushes our buttons to tempt us. *The twisted truth about us: "I am like God and His Word must be questioned. I take what is His and claim it as mine." (Genesis 1-3) The false truth about us: "I am a god."*

What do you know about our false father and how he works?

There is ample biblical data to paint the picture of this "two father" reality. Can you see the conflict?

God created the angelic realm (Psalm 148:1-6) and the affairs of men are linked deeply to the angelic dimension (Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 1:12).

Satan, Michael, and Gabriel appear to be archangels, and apart from the *angel of the Lord*, are the only angels named in the God-story. They are extremely powerful.

Demons (angels who fell in Satan's rebellion) appear do the will of Satan (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6).

Satan is the *originator of sin* (Ezekiel 28:15) and needs God's *permission* to tempt men (Genesis 3:1-19; Job 1,2). He is the *tempter* (1 Corinthians 7:5) who appears as an *angel of light* (2 Corinthians 11:14), *counterfeiting* the works of God to tempt and accuse man (Revelation 12:9,10). He is immensely *powerful* and is subjected completely only to the power of God (Jude 1:8-10). He was judged at the cross (Colossians 2:15) and his sentence will be executed in the future in the lake of fire (Revelation 2:1-3,10).

Which father do you choose for your father?

The **angels who kept their place** before the holiness of the Father and *did not follow Satan's rebellion* will remain eternally before the throne of God where they cover and magnify the holiness of the Lord (Ezekiel 1:4-21). There are also those who go out as *ministering spirits to those who will become heirs* of salvation in Jesus (Hebrews 1:14).

Man was created lower than the angels, and through the incarnation Christ subjected Himself to this lower place that He might *lift us with Himself above the angels* (Hebrews 2:9; 1:4). Satan's power is *formidable* - but is subjected in every way to the Creator's will.

We may live **wisely** (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11) and **without fear** (Luke 22:31) in the midst of this war into which we were birthed.

*“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels,
nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor
powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing,
shall be able to separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

- Romans 8:38,39

Other Passages

There is much to learn about the Prince of darkness. What do you see?

Luke 10:17-20; Job 1:6-2:10; Isaiah 14:3-19; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Zechariah 3:1-5; Matthew 4:10; 12:26; Mark 1:13; Luke 22:3; Acts 5:3; Romans 16:20; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 11:14; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 1 Timothy 1:20; Revelation 3:9; 12:9; 20:7

My thoughts about angels:

Demons and Deliverance

Some miracles included demons: (10 non-people, 6 demons, 5 sick, 4 blind, 3 death raising, 2 paralyzed, 2 lame, 1 leper, 1 deaf person)

Synagogue Demoniac: Mark 1:23-28; Luke 11:14

Blind and Dumb Demoniac: Matthew 12:22; Luke 11:14

Gadarene Demoniac: Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-29

Dumb Demoniac: Matthew 9:32-33

The Syrophonecian's Daughter: Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

The Demon Possessed Boy: Matthew 17:14-18; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:38-42

Demon passages and teaching: (James 2:19; 3:15; Leviticus 17:7; Deuteronomy 32:17; Psalm 106:37; Matthew 10:8; 1 Corinthians 10:21; Revelation 9:20)

My thoughts about Satan and evil angels:

Bringing down lofty things

“For though we walk in the flesh we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing that raises itself up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...”

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-7

There are *seven central strongholds* (the ravings of darkness) with their corresponding human *protectors* that obscure their existence. These protectors join with strongholds in producing an *enclave* (entrenchment). Many strongholds are rooted in our need for recognition or our personal obsessions.

Think about these strongholds and the impact of each one you have seen in your life and in the lives of those around you. How would each of these hold you back in your spiritual life?

IMMORALITY (vs. an occupying purity)
Protectors: pornography, obsession, and adultery

ANGER (vs. a trusting peace)
Protectors: criticism, deep discontentment, a biting or gossiping tongue, and abusive speech

INDEPENDENCE (vs. confident dependence upon God and realistically content with weakness)
Protectors: non-commitment, aloofness, disengagement, an isolated lifestyle, control and manipulation

FEAR (vs. quiet confidence and peace)
Protectors: anxiety, isolation, denial and disengagement, and lashing out

ARROGANCE (vs. humility)
Protectors: superiority in knowledge or insight, partiality with value judgments of other's worthiness, self justification, and self obsession

LYING (vs. speaking truth and being set free in conscience)
Protectors: slander, tall tales, twisted advantage, and flattery

GREED (vs. generosity and trust)
Protectors: anxiety and anger, hoarding, economic partiality, and workaholism

Weapons of a Warrior

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Read Ephesians 6

What are the items in the armor of God, and what is the function of each?

Which are the weapons, and what is their purpose?

Being a warrior is a choice and the armor works together to protect and prepare us!

Have you made the choice to be a warrior in the Kingdom?

Are you an experienced soldier?

Do you use your weapons for the right hand and the left?

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

is used to extinguish the missiles of Satan, launched upon our identity and our work.

Is your faith and your shield increasing in strength?

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

is used to “filet” and divide flesh from Spirit, good from evil, and heart from religion.

In what ways is the sword of the Spirit doing its work in you?

Do you know how to use the sword of the Spirit for the welfare of others?

Fortresses & Strongholds

Fortresses and strongholds are *carefully and personally crafted plans which are employed for the destruction of the will of God in our own lives as well as in our life together*. It is Satan's intent to *bind us in chains* for as much of our earthly life as possible, and to torment us with flaming missiles (the *burning castings* of Satan).

A Fortress: to make firm.

A strong place where Satan pushes my buttons *at will*.

A Speculation: human reasonings based upon conclusions of our fallen natures.

Unproven or untested things that *have to be true* or may be true because I am *so sure I am so right* (about myself or others).

A Lofty Thing: life issues elevated by human pride.

Attitudes and actions born of my unwillingness to experience the probing and/or pain of light entering my life.

How do each of the following "lofty things" tear us down?

Accusations...debilitating us because of guilt or time spent in self justification.

Deceptions...keeping us busy with non-kingdom pursuits and empty preoccupations.

Temptations...pushing harmful heart buttons that keep us in chains.

Divisions...destroying alliances of truth that would build us up spiritually.

The goal of Satan is to tear down, divide, and produce enmity.

The goal of God is to build up, unify, and produce love.

The Corinthian believers struggled with relationships - in that they *restrained one another before the light*. (2 Corinthians 6:11-13). They were *not picking up* the weapons for the left and right hand (6:7) but instead were using weapons of the flesh (10:3,7).

In order to take every thought captive and to be free from the ravages of arrogant speculation, the Corinthians were exhorted to respond to God's authority (the Light).

Disarming darkness in our lives

AN IDENTITY STRONGHOLD

One of the central strongholds implemented by Satan relates to our *identity*. We become confused concerning the perfect, pure, compassionate, kind-hearted, unchanging love of our Father for us. These are often in the middle of enclaves which hide the identity root.

“I must assert my worth and usefulness as a person. I must prove myself and work my way to acceptance through what I do so I can be esteemed and recognized.”

How familiar does the above stronghold feel to you? Have you seen this in yourself or others?

WHAT ACCOMPLICES DO TO COOPERATE AND ESTABLISH ENCLAVES

Strongholds are usually surrounded by an enclave, mostly to *hide a root* stronghold. They muddy the waters and obscure what is tormenting us. Do any of these feel familiar?

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| - Crushing emotions | - Impure defiling | - Deceptions and Lies |
| - Accusations | - Abandonment | - Anxiety |
| - Alienation | - Depression | - Inflated Egos |
| - Confusion | - Stealer of Hope | - Divisions |

“Strongholds leave us hurt and scarred, impaired in our ability to trust. We are never sure or secure as a saved, loved, and accepted child. There is agitation and fear rather than rest and peace.”

SOME TESTS FOR A PERSONAL IDENTITY STRONGHOLD

- ___ Am I comfortable with the fact that my parents are/were proud of me?
- ___ Am I doing what I do to feel like it elevates me in the eyes of God or others?
- ___ Am I doing what I am doing because I need acknowledgment, recognition, and association with *important* people?
- ___ Am I doing what I am doing to stay ahead of others so I can be perceived as a leader?
- ___ Do have trouble submitting to those in authority over me?
- ___ Am I a law to myself?
- ___ Do *kindness* and *truth* reflect my *deepest feelings* about other people?

The nature of an ENCLAVE (multiple strongholds) is that self-justification, inflated ego, judgmentalism, denial, failure to speak truth, strife, envy, factions, confusion, disorder, and secrecy - rule the day.

How does this concept rock your world? Seem irrelevant to you?

A summary of Warfare principles

- Our lives parallel and are inseparable from *other dimensions*.
- We are not supposed to be *ignorant* concerning Satan's *schemes*.
- Satan disguises himself as *an angel of light* because he is an angel of darkness.
- We make a huge tactical error when we choose to *war merely against flesh and blood*.
- God's *permission* must be obtained for Satan to tempt or torment - God is *always aware*.
- Satan and his demons are able and capable to *demonize* through temptation, oppression, manipulation of circumstances, and exerting control.
- *Self-will* is the human contact point for Satan.
- *Light* is the remedy for darkness.
- *Self reformation* is a key enemy of deliverance.
- Satan is our *accuser* and Christ is our *Advocate* (and Judge).
- Strongholds are Satan's foothold into our lives *employed* through *rebellion* and *lust*.
- *Speculations* are to be destroyed in the Spirit.
- *Lofty things* must be cast down by *faith* in order for us to *free*.



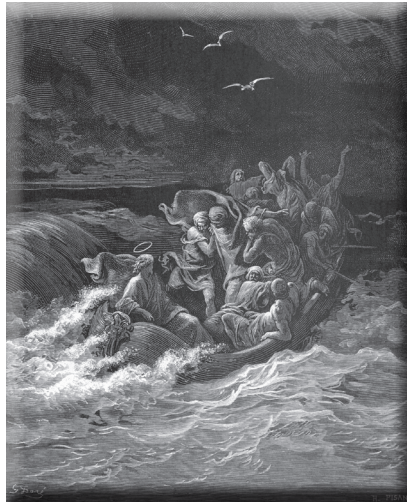
Talking with God!

*Let us therefore draw near
with confidence to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and
may find grace to help
in time of need!*

- Hebrews 4:16

**Christ-followers are friends of God.
God has spoken and still speaks to His friends.**

LISTEN TO THE [TALKING WITH GOD VIDEO HERE](#).



Lord, teach us to pray!

Prayer is talking to and with God. It is conversational and personal, is to be open and natural and even familiar - from the moment we awaken to the time we sleep (and even in our dreams)!

When we pray we enter the PRESENCE of God! In what ways do you *experience* the presence of God?

When entering His presence PROTECTION from sin, Satan, and self is offered as we face our personal weaknesses. How have you seen His *strength perfected in your weakness*?

In His presence HARMONY in the Spirit and Oneness of mind is found. In what ways do you experience *harmony* and *oneness* with GOD?

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In His presence JOY is kindled by the Spirit.

In what ways is your life reflecting joy?

A GRATEFUL HEART is unavoidable in His presence.

How does your life reflect gratefulness of *heart* and *action*?

Look for God's HEARTBEAT...listen for it!

Recall His works. *Recite* His character. This can help as you look for His heartbeat!

Then allow Him to guide REQUESTS on behalf of yourself and others.

How do you experience *praying in the Spirit*?

Remember:

The God-story is living, powerful and eternal.

The Spirit is willing even though our humanity is weak.

God is waiting for us. He wants us to desire Him.

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The teaching of Jesus about prayer.

“For the eyes of the Lord run throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is devoted toward Him.”

- 2 Chronicles 16:9

What do you see?

What do each of these passages teach you about talking with God?

Matthew 6:5-8

Matthew 6:9-13

Matthew 6:14-15

Matthew 18:15-20

Matthew 21:20-22

Matthew 26:36-41

Mark 11:15-26

Mark 12:38-40

Mark 13:33-37

Mark 14:32--42

Luke 11:1-13

John 14:1-14

John 15:1-11

John 16:23-33

Also note Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 - What do you see?

Paul's teaching and example about prayer.

*"I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with a clear conscience,
that without ceasing I have made mention of you in my prayers." - 2 Timothy 1:3*

Paul's Teaching

Romans 8:26,27

Romans 12:9-13

1 Corinthians 14:13-17

2 Corinthians 1:11

Ephesians 6:18-20

Philippians 4:6,7

Colossians 4:2-4

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1 Timothy 2:1,2

1 Timothy 2:8

1 Timothy 5:5

Paul's Example

Acts 26:29

Romans 1:8-10

2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Ephesians 1:15-23

Ephesians 3:15-23

Philippians 1:18-20

Colossians 1:9-14

Some thoughts to consider when praying alone or together as a group:

- 1) Requests to God are only a part of prayer. Prayer includes praise, remembering, and focusing upon the person of God as well as making requests of God. It is very appropriate to **read His Word back to Him as we pray to Him!**
- 2) When praying in a group it is easier to be effective in prayer when requests are clear and succinct. **Listen** to where God is taking the group - not just you personally.
- 3) Be selective but don't hold back. Learn to **be sensitive** to the Holy Spirit when making request for yourself or one another.
- 4) **Be bold.** God is not concerned so much with how we say things than with the heart that is behind our words. "Nice prayers" may do nice things for the listeners but not necessarily anything for God.
- 5) **Be honest.** Pray concerning issues in which God truly stirs your heart and conscience. Always be discreet in what you pray/share about others.
- 6) **Be quiet.** When God burdens your heart it does not necessarily have to be shared publicly. When we do pray verbally in a group we do so to honor God and to encourage those around us toward love and good deeds.
- 7) **Listen to the Spirit and to each other.** Approach God together and be responsive to the Holy Spirit as you pray. Ask God to give you the grace to come to God with "*one voice*" rather than as a group of individuals taking turns at prayer.

SOME DIRECTION FOR PRAYER:

- 1) Passion concerning others' belief in the Gospel
- 2) Moral, governmental, and quiet life issues in our culture
- 3) Pressing needs which put pressure on others
- 4) Confessing sin on behalf of myself or my culture
- 5) Praises which bless God for His greatness
- 6) Reading Scripture reflecting God's lovingkindness and character
- 7) Thanksgiving for specific mercies that you have observed
- 8) Success of the growth of the Good News through our lives and to our lost neighbors!

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO PRAY:

- 1... It may be time for you to *listen!* (Romans 8)
- 2... It is possible you are *too concerned about what others* think.
- 3... *Pray for those things that are prayed for in the Scriptures!*

