

CHARACTER

SESSION 1: FOUNDATION

SESSION 2: 2 PETER 1:3-13

BREAK

**SESSION 3: DEVELOPING THE LEADER WITHIN 2 - CHAPTER 3:
THE FOUNDATION OF LEADERSHIP: CHARACTER**

BREAK

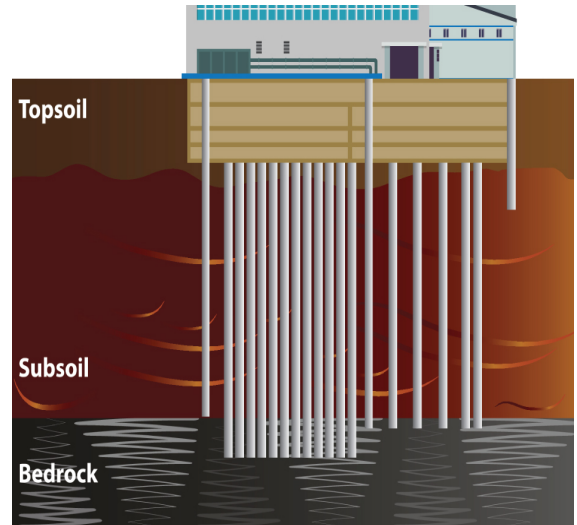
**SESSION 4: THE FOUNDATION OF CHARACTER: THE FRUIT OF
THE SPIRIT: GALATIANS 5:22-23**





PART ONE:
Building the Foundation:

The design required a basement 21 meters deep (68', 10.772"), and after surveying the site it was determined the building would need two foundation systems.



Lewis Sperry Chaffer, founder of Dallas Theological Seminary, used to tell students who came to Dallas Theological Seminary, "Don't study for a course, study for a lifetime of ministry. You have got to make a decision, it is a choice, because your objective always determines your outcome."

CHARACTER IS A LIFE TIME QUEST.

PART TWO PETER SHARES THE BEDROCK FOUNDATION TO BUILD UPON.:
2 PETER 1:5-14.



THE FOUNDATION OF MAKING DISCIPLES AND GODLY LEADERSHIP: CHARACTER

“...leading ourselves is often the most difficult task we face every day.”
- John Maxwell



PART THREE:

Developing the Leader Within 2.0 by John Maxwell, chapter 3.

Working on character is never ending, but worthwhile. It is a Journey.

The more we focus on valuing people, practicing self leadership and embracing good values the stronger our character will become.

You can't add value if you don't set value on people.
Focus on the practice of Self Leadership: Leading Yourself.

Focus on embracing good values. Do you know your values?

If you have not discovered your values, I have page on my website with a download which may help you discover your values.

gregwhite76.com/training/explore_your_values

CHARACTER VALUE STATEMENTS:

1. **Good Character _____ Strong Trust.**

So much of leadership relies on good character. Trust is _____ through it.
Talent is _____ by it. Internal peace is _____ by it.

Think of someone you trust the most,

what makes them so trustworthy in your eyes?

How can you protect your character to ensure your leadership effectiveness?

What do you actively do to develop the trust of others?

2. **Successful Leaders Embrace the Four _____ of Character.**

• _____

How would you define authenticity?

When have you experienced brokenness?

Max Lucado, "God would rather us walk with an occasional limp than a continual strut."

• _____

Discuss this statement:

We set young leaders up for a fall if we encourage them to envision what they can do before they consider the kind of person they should be. - Ruth Haley Barton

ANSWERS: BUILDS - CREATED - PROTECTED - FOSTERED - DIMENSIONS - AUTHENTICITY - SELF-MANAGEMENT -

To keep grounded, ask yourself these questions:

_____ : Am I the same person no matter who I am with?

_____ : Do I make decisions that are best for others even when another choice would benefit me?

_____ : Am I quick to recognize others for their efforts and contributions to my success?

• _____

How would you _____ humility? How do you _____ humility?

• _____

Courage makes character possible.

How has adversity shaped your character?

3. Character Makes You Bigger on the _____ than on the _____. Do you identify with the tension that John discusses in this statement?

The inner voice wants to make you bigger on the inside. The outer voice wants to make you bigger on the outside. The voice you listen to wins the battle. The outer voice encourages you to appear bigger on the outside, often at the expense of who you are on the inside.

PART FOUR:



DEVELOPING CHARACTER FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE:

DEVELOPING _____ CHARACTER expresses light in a world over taken with darkness...

There is a battle going on around us, an enemy wants to destroy godly character, he desires darkness to overcome the light.

God understands what our world needs and I pray these verses will open your minds to the greatness of God.

I want us to become aware of a quality, of character we need to live out in a world being overcome with sin, a world running to the _____ side

ANSWERS: CONSISTENCY - CHOICES - CREDIT - HUMILITY - DEFINE - DEVELOP - COURAGE - INSIDE - OUT - GODLY - DARK

GALATIANS 5:22-23

²² But the FRUIT of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith,

²³ Meekness, self-control: against such there is no law.

The Holy Spirit DEVELOPS Fruit of the Spirit in a believer's life.

WHY FRUIT?

1. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT POINTS TO THE _____ OF CHRIST
2. FRUIT IS _____ OF THE TREE

Matthew 7:17-20 (ESV)

¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.

¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

²⁰ THUS YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THEM BY THEIR FRUIT.

FRUIT DEVELOPS THROUGH THREE _____

I. FRUIT WHICH FLOWS THROUGH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD INTO OUR LIVES AND THEN THROUGH US TO OTHERS.

LOVE

Love is the root, the _____ of character

God's love is love in action

When God expresses His love toward us, he does not just give us something – He gives us _____!

The essence of the Christian understanding of love is that we _____ ourselves away.

But God demonstrates his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

There are opposing forces: one would think it is hatred and love, but it goes deeper than this, it is _____ and Love.

Selfishness takes... Love gives...

ANSWERS: CHARACTER - PROOF - RELATIONSHIPS - FOUNDATION - HIMSELF - GIVE - SELFISHNESS

Ephesians 4:32 - 5:2 (NKJV) ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

¹Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

²And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

STAIR STEP: Love then Joy...

JOY

...the Joy of the LORD is your _____. Nehemiah 8:10

Joy expresses the inner attitude of one connected to Jesus. It is love expressed in strength and attitude.

JOY FLOWS FROM A LOVING _____ WITH JESUS

"It is Joy unspeakable and full of glory."

The psalmist wrote,

...in your _____ there is fullness of joy... (Psalm 16:11)

PEACE

Jesus, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

The Greek New Testament: Tranquility

IT MEANS ... TO LIVE A _____ LIFE.

Peace comes as a result of Reconciliation

Rom 5:1 (NKJV) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Develop Peace: THE _____

ISAIAH 26:3 (NKJV) you will keep him in perfect peace, whose MIND is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

D L Moody, As long as our mind is stayed on _____, we will never have peace.

Romans 8:6 (NKJV) "...to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

ANSWERS: STRENGTH - RELATIONSHIP - PRESENCE - QUIET - MIND - OURSELVES

FRUIT THAT BRINGS LOVE, JOY AND PEACE INTO OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

PATIENCE

PATIENCE:

1. _____, in relation to things, circumstances
2. _____ - _____ -suffering, in relation to people

Patience is love expressed thru composure and endurance.

PATIENCE DEVELOPS RESOLVE

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. (Eccles. 7:8)

Patience is a "Hang in there" quality

LONG SUFFERING DEVELOPS STRENGTH TO _____

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that takes a city. (Proverbs 16:32)

John Ortberg,
The Life You've always Wanted.

A man asked, "What do I need to do to be spiritually healthy? "You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life."

What else? "There is nothing else." Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NKJV) Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, BE _____ WITH ALL.

KINDNESS

Greek word _____ with age

The _____ enables us to show kindness in all our relationships

Titus 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Philemon 1:7 NLT. LET THIS VERSE SINK IN:

"Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often _____ THE HEARTS of God's people."

ANSWERS: ENDURANCE - LONG-SUFFERING - ENDURE - PATIENT - MELLOWED - HOLY - SPIRIT - REFRESHED -

GOODNESS

Roger Cotton, Goodness, or the idea of being good, means that the thing _____ ITS PURPOSE or the expectations for it. Genesis 1, the Lord said, "It is good."

God's creation did what He intended it to do, accomplished His purpose.

Goodness includes the aspect of _____, and that is defined by God.

Scriptures Declare the Goodness of God: Nahum 1:7 The Lord is good, a stronghold in the time of trouble.

Psalms 100:5 (NKJV) For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

"God is declared to be good because of His redeeming love." Rom 2:4 (NKJV) ...the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

We are to be _____ of God's goodness.

Luke 6:45 (NKJV) A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

C S LEWIS, "...the Christian thinks any good he does comes from the Christ-life inside him. He does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us; just as the roof of a greenhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it."

Goodness is love _____ the goodness of God.

III. FRUIT FLOWING OUT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OTHERS AFFECTS OUR INNER SELF.

FAITHFULNESS

Faith·ful *adj.*

1. Full of or characterized by faith.
2. loyal.
3. Conscientious in fulfillment of duty, reliable

FIRM IN THE FAITH Determined

ANSWERS: FULFILLS - MORALITY - EXPRESSIONS - REFLECTING- GOD - PEOPLE

"Let us *hold fast* the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)." (Hebrews 10:23 KJV)

"I WILL NOT GIVE UP" Faithfulness is love not giving up!
Not giving up with _____ Not giving up with _____

*Others will trust Him if only you prove,
True, every moment you life...*

MEEKNESS

"Whosoever shall _____ himself as this little child, the same is the _____ in the kingdom of heaven."

Ivor Rosser, *in his book, the Fruit of the Spirit*: "The primary meaning of "meekness" is "to _____ and _____ in a liquid state," "to soften."

Meekness flows in the Spirit

Meekness grows by Submission to God

Opposite of hard, unyielding...

MEEKNESS IS _____ UNDER CONTROL

MEEKNESS IS AN _____ TOWARD GOD WHICH MANIFESTS ITSELF IN GENTLENESS TOWARD OTHERS.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Meekness is love expressing _____...

SELF-CONTROL

It is easier for man to control the world, than to control _____.

You have heard this before: Lead Yourself _____.

Paul in writing his second letter to Timothy wrote of the last days that men will be without self control. We are living in those days...

*A little kingdom I possess,
Where thoughts
and feelings dwell;
And very hard the task I find
Of governing it well...*

ANSWERS: HUMBLE - GREATEST - MELT - FLOW - POWER - ATTITUDE - HOPE - SELF - FIRST

*I do not ask for any crown
But that which all may win;
Nor try to conquer any world
EXCEPT THE ONE WITHIN.
-Louisa May Alcott*

Have we conquered the kingdom within?

Self Control is Love Conquering the kingdom within...

The word used in the Greek for temperance has at the root a verb which means to take hold of, to _____.

It illustrates a man getting a grip on himself so that he can restrain from evil.

1. Proverbs 16:32 (NKJV) *He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

**HERE ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS
OF THOSE WHO FOLLOW JESUS:**

Gal 5:22-23 (NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control.

Love God..., love your neighbor AS _____...

When we conquer loving ourselves through God's help we love our neighbor more than before...

TO SUM IT IN ONE WORD: The Fruit of the Spirit is **LOVE**

CHALLENGE:

John 13:35 (ESV)

³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, IF you have love for one another." Ask Yourself: On a scale of 1 - 10 Where do I measure up?

ASSIGNMENT:

Go practice these characteristics in your relationships...

You will battle the enemy
and attract his followers to come to Christ

END:

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity shall one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, By our love,
They will know we are Christians by our love*

ANSWERS: GRIP - YOURSELF