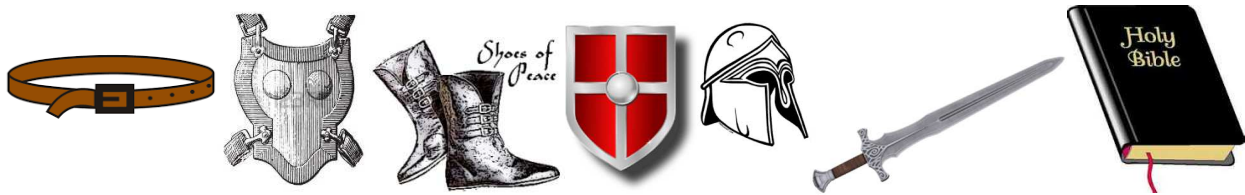


Spiritual Strategic Warfare



*”Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place” **Ephesians 6:14***

*”And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” **Ephesians 6:15***

*“above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts (arrows) of the wicked one” **Ephesians 6:16***

*”And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ...” **Ephesians 6:17.***

*“For the word of God is quick (alive), and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow (bone), and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart...” **Hebrews 4.12.***

Zidkiyah Yisrael

What does the Bible say about Godly character?

Answer: Character is defined as strength of moral fiber. “the excellence of moral beings.” As the excellence of gold is its purity and the excellence of art is its beauty, so the excellence of man is his character. Persons of character are noted for their honesty, ethics, and charity. Descriptions such as “man of principle” and “woman of integrity” are assertions of character. A lack of character is moral deficiency, and persons lacking character tend to behave dishonestly, unethically, and uncharitably.

A person's character is the sum of his or her disposition, thoughts, intentions, desires, and actions. It is good to remember that character is gauged by general tendencies, not on the basis of a few isolated actions. We must look at the whole life. For example, **King David was a man of good character (1 Samuel 13:14) although he sinned on occasion (2 Samuel 11).** And although **King Ahab may have acted nobly once (1 Kings 22:35), he was still a man of overall bad character (1 Kings 16:33).** Several people in the Bible are described as having noble character: **Ruth (Ruth 3:11), Hanani (Nehemiah 7:2), David (Psalm 78:72), and Job (Job 2:3).** These individuals' lives were distinguished by persistent moral virtue.

Character is influenced and developed by our choices. Daniel "resolved not to defile himself" in Babylon (**Daniel 1:8**), and that godly choice was an important step in formulating an unassailable integrity in the young man's life. Character, in turn, influences our choices. "**The integrity of the upright guides them (Proverbs 11:3).** Character will help us weather the storms of life and keep us from sin (**Proverbs 10:9**).

It is the Lord's purpose to develop character within us. "The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart" (**Proverbs 17:3**). Godly character is the result of the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification. Character in the believer is a consistent manifestation of Jesus in his life. It is the purity of heart that God gives becoming purity in action. **God sometimes uses trials to strengthen character: "we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4).** The Lord is pleased when His children grow

in character. “You test the heart and are pleased with integrity” (**1 Chronicles 29:17**; see also **Psalms 15:1-2**).

We can develop character by controlling our thoughts (**Philippians 4:8**), practicing Christ like virtues (**2 Peter 1:5-8**), guarding our hearts (**Proverbs 4:23**; **Matthew 15:18-20**), and keeping good company (**1 Corinthians 15:33**). Men and women of character will set a good example for others to follow, and their godly reputation will be evident to all (**Titus 2:7-8**).

Character is what defines you. It’s what people see in you. It’s what people will say about you after you pass away. Character is one of the most important things you have. How are you investing in yours? Do people see your faith in what you do? Is your character reflected in how you serve the Kingdom? Remember that when you pass away, Jesus will either say, “welcome brother/sister; job well done” or “I never knew you; be gone!” You have right now to decide where your future is.

Scriptures defining character

Romans 5:3-5 – “More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

Romans 5:3-5 shows us that in suffering true character is formed which pushes us to hope because we have God’s love “poured into our hearts”.

Galatians 5:22-23 – “But **the fruit of the Spirit** is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law.”

True character is shown in how you act in any situation. Actions do speak louder than words in many circumstances and you and I have to be on guard against the devil so that when adversity comes our way we can still exhibit the fruits of the spirit in word and deed.

Colossians 3:12-15 – “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, **holy** and **beloved**, **compassionate hearts**, **kindness**, **humility**, **meekness**, and **patience**, **bearing with one another** and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other**; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these **put on love**, **which binds everything together in perfect harmony**. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

character is shown in how you deal with things. These verses are great to show us all how to treat each other.

Proverbs 28:6 – “Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.”

The poor man who walks with Jesus is going to rejoice in his passing. The rich man who is “living the life” and boasting in his sins will die in his sins and face God’s wrath.

Matthew 12:35 – “The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.”

*Are you making an effort daily to be a **blessing** to those around you or a stumbling block?*

Titus 1:15-16 – “**To the pure, all things are pure**, but to the defiled and unbelieving, **nothing is pure**; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. **They profess to know God, but they deny Him by their works.** They are **abominable**, **disobedient**, unfit for any good work.”

character is shown by actions. You can say you believe in God, but your works will prove whether you really do or not. (Side note: The

*devils also believe in God, but does not follow him. **James 2:19** “You believe that there is one God; you do well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”)*

Acts 20:36-38 – “And when he (Paul) had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.”

Paul’s character is easily seen by how the people reacted to him having to leave. They were extremely sad. This shows that Paul was a man of integrity and character. How would people react if you told them you were leaving, never to return again? If you have an idea of their response, then you have an idea of your own character and integrity.