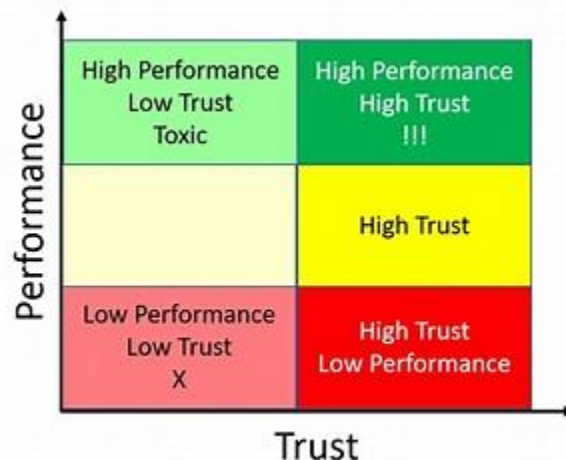


High Performance is Supported by Quality Relationships. (August 20, 2026)

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize?
Run in such a way that you may obtain it.” (1 Corinthians 9:24)

The Bible is filled with exemplary individuals with remarkable character who performed great exploits. People like Joseph, Daniel, Mary, and Jesus Himself show us how to accomplish great things without sacrificing our soul in the process. But there are also some tragic figures, like Samson, Solomon, Judas, and Demas, who were truly gifted individuals that were sadly undone by low character and unhealthy relationships.

Many seem to believe that all that is necessary for a successful life is hard work, skill, education, and the ideal opportunity. Yet sadly, these people are often undone by their own character and broken relationships. If we want to obtain “the prize,” we must develop the character necessary to use our God-given gifts to benefit others. That character is developed in a relational process and must be prioritized, so that it does not get overlooked. Consider the performance-trust matrix:



Performance – Trust
The Work I Do – The Person I Am
Skills & Tasks – Character & Relationships
IQ (knowledge) – EQ (emotional intelligence)
Truth – Grace
Boundaries & Limits – Bonding & Love
Obedience & Discipline – Safety & Care
Unyielding Demands – Unwavering Support
Fruit (Outer Life) – Abide (Inner Life)

To avoid the incompetence of the low-performance/low-trust box and the toxicity of the high-performance/low-trust box, develop your character, relationships, EQ, and inner life.