

# CHARACTER: BUILDING FOR BLESSING

## MAY 9, 2021

### I. INTRODUCTION TO CHARACTER

*A. God will often do the structural before He does the supernatural.*

*B. A lack of character leads to a loss of blessing.*

**Acts 6:1-3** In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.

### II. THREE LEGS OF STRONG CHARACTER

#### *1. Integrity Reveals Character.*

##### **A. Are you who you are known to be?**

**Proverbs 10:9** Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

**Acts 5:9-11** Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

##### **B. Few things are as impactful as consistency of character.**

#### *2. Wisdom Develops Character.*

**Acts 6:3** Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.

##### **A. Are you responding with wisdom?**

**B. Life comes with lots of pressure. Your character in times of pressure reveals your wisdom.**

**Proverbs 24:10** If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength!

- Wisdom reminds me that God is my sustainer in times of pressure.
- Wisdom reassures me that God is my strength in times of fear.

**Proverbs 29:25** Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

**Proverbs 9:10-11** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

- In times of pressure, wisdom leads us back to our sustainer.

### ***3. The Holy Spirit Empowers Character.***

**Acts 6:3** Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.

#### **A. Are you full of the Spirit?**

- How do I know if I'm filled with the Spirit?
- Is the fruit of the Spirit growing in my life?

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

#### **B. Do I allow the Holy Spirit to work through my life?**

- The Holy Spirit will lead you to eternal opportunities and divine appointments.

#### **C. Am I obedient to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in my life?**