

4 Children 8 Objects Part 2 — Character Development

Till and Guard Your Life

Main Thought:

Character development requires more than hearing God's Word. We must **till our lives by consistently cultivating God's Word and guard our hearts by protecting what God has entrusted to us.**

Introduction

In Genesis 2:15, God gave Adam two responsibilities concerning the garden: **to till it and to guard it.** These two responsibilities provide a powerful picture of how we should approach our own spiritual lives.

Genesis 2:15 (KJV)

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it, and to keep it.”

The teaching in this part emphasizes that our lives require the same **two actions**:

TILL — cultivate, develop, work, and nurture.

GUARD — protect, preserve, watch over, and keep.

Just as a garden does not remain healthy without attention, our spiritual lives require consistent attention to God's Word.

1. TILL YOUR LIFE

Tilling requires work.

A farmer does not simply plant something and walk away. The soil must be cultivated and prepared so that what is planted can grow and eventually produce fruit.

The same principle applies to our spiritual lives.

God's Word must be cultivated in us.

This means we cannot depend upon occasional Bible study or sporadic spiritual activity. The teaching material specifically identifies **consistency** as a significant challenge for many Christians, particularly in their study time with the Holy Spirit.

Ask yourself:

- Am I consistently studying God's Word?
- Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to teach me?
- Am I cultivating what God has planted in my life?
- Is my spiritual growth intentional or sporadic?

Character Development Principle:

What we consistently cultivate has the opportunity to grow.

2. GUARD YOUR LIFE

Genesis 2:15 also tells us to **keep** or **guard**.

Our responsibility is not finished when we receive God's Word. We must protect what has been entrusted to us.

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

“Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”

Our heart matters because what is happening within us eventually affects how we live.

Therefore, guarding our heart means paying attention to what we allow to influence our thoughts, attitudes, decisions, and actions. The teaching material connects guarding the heart directly with consistently feeding ourselves with God's Word.

Tilling develops the garden.

Guarding protects the garden.

We need both.

3. GUARD THE WORD GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU

2 Timothy 1:14 (AMP)

“Guard and keep [with the greatest care] the precious and excellently adapted [Truth] which has been entrusted [to you], by the [help of the] Holy Spirit Who makes His home in us.”

God's Word is something precious that has been entrusted to us.

We should not treat it casually.

The Holy Spirit helps us **understand, retain, and apply** God's Word in our lives.

This gives us an important connection:

TILL → GUARD → APPLY → GROW

We cultivate God's Word in our hearts, guard what we have received, and then allow that Word to affect the way we live.

4. LET THE WORD DIRECT YOUR LIFE

Psalm 119:9 (RSV)

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to thy word.”

Psalm 119:9 (AMP)

“How shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed and keeping watch [on himself] according to Your word [conforming his life to it].”

God's Word is not merely information.

It provides **directions**.

The teaching describes Scripture as both a **mirror and a map**:

- A **mirror** reveals areas of our lives that need growth.
- A **map** helps direct us toward God's way.

This is where character development becomes practical.

We read the Word.

We see ourselves in the Word.

We make adjustments.

We continue walking according to the Word.

5. CONSISTENCY PRODUCES MATURITY

One of the important challenges identified in this teaching is that many people can begin studying God's Word, but fewer maintain a consistent, directed approach.

Character development requires **continuity**.

You don't develop character through one great spiritual experience.

You develop character through repeated decisions to:

Hear → Keep → Practice → Continue.

Luke 8:14–15 (NKJV)

The seed among the thorns was choked by the cares, riches, and pleasures of life and “**bring no fruit to maturity.**”

But the good ground represents those who hear the Word with a noble and good heart, **keep it, and bear fruit with patience.**

Notice the progression:

HEAR IT → KEEP IT → BEAR FRUIT → MATURITY

That is character development.

6. FIVE PRACTICAL WAYS TO DEVELOP CONSISTENCY

The teaching provides five practical steps for developing consistency in studying God's Word:

1. Establish a Rhythm

Set aside regular time for Bible study and prayer.

Consistency is more important than occasional intensity.

2. Use Accountability

Work with a friend, mentor, or group that can encourage you to remain consistent.

3. Make Your Study Interactive

Journal, highlight important passages, ask questions, and use study tools that help you understand God's Word.

4. Pray for Guidance

Invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate Scripture and give you understanding.

5. Reflect and Apply

Don't stop at understanding.

Ask:

“How does this Word apply to my life today?”

7. THE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

A good garden does not become productive by accident.

It requires:

Tilling.
Guarding.
Consistency.
Patience.
Attention.

Your life is worth the same kind of attention.

Personal Application

Take time to examine your spiritual garden:

What needs to be tilled?

What area of your life needs cultivation and development?

What needs to be guarded?

What has God entrusted to you that you need to protect?

Where do you need consistency?

Where have you become sporadic?

What Word are you currently applying?

What has God been showing you that needs to become part of your daily life?

Final Thought

God entrusted Adam with a garden, and Adam was responsible to **till it and guard it**.

God has entrusted us with His Word, our hearts, and our lives.

Therefore:

**TILL YOUR LIFE WITH GOD'S WORD.
GUARD WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU.
BE CONSISTENT.
KEEP THE WORD.
BEAR FRUIT WITH PATIENCE.**

Character development is not merely about knowing more.

It is allowing God's Word to become established in our lives until it produces lasting fruit.

The teaching's conclusion emphasizes that consistent engagement with Scripture, together with dependence upon the Holy Spirit, cultivates a life that reflects God's glory and stands resilient against the challenges of this world.

PART 2 KEY PHRASE

“TILL IT. GUARD IT. KEEP IT. LIVE IT. BEAR FRUIT.”

4 Children – 8 Objects

Part 2 – Character Development

Till and Guard Your Life

Character development requires more than hearing God's Word. We must till our lives by consistently cultivating God's Word and guard our hearts by protecting what God has entrusted to us.



1 THE FOUNDATION: GENESIS 2:15

In Genesis 2:15, God gave Adam two responsibilities concerning the garden: to till it and to guard it. These actions symbolize stewardship and vigilance and provide a powerful picture of how we should approach our own spiritual lives.

Genesis 2:15 (KJV)

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress (Till) it and to keep (Guard) it."

TILL



- Cultivate
- Develop
- Work
- Nurture
- Grow and produce fruit

GUARD



- Protect
- Preserve
- Watch over
- Keep safe
- Prevent corruption

2 TILL YOUR LIFE

A farmer does not simply plant something and walk away. The soil must be cultivated and prepared so that what is planted can grow and eventually produce fruit. The same principle applies to our spiritual lives.

God's Word must be cultivated in us.

A KEY CHALLENGE

The attribute of consistency seems to be very burdensome for many Christians, especially in their study time with the Holy Spirit. Many can begin studying God's Word, but very few can keep it directed; it's often sporadic.

3 GUARD YOUR LIFE

Our responsibility is not finished when we receive God's Word. We must protect what has been entrusted to us.

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."

Guarding the heart involves filtering influences, remaining vigilant against spiritual dangers, and aligning our thoughts and emotions with God's truth.

4 GUARD THE WORD

God's Word is something precious that has been entrusted to us. We should not treat it casually. The Holy Spirit helps us understand, retain, and apply God's Word in our lives.

2 Timothy 1:14 (AMP)

"Guard and keep [with the greatest care] the precious and excellently adapted [Truth] which has been entrusted [to you], by the [help of the] Holy Spirit Who makes His home in us."

5 LET THE WORD DIRECT YOUR LIFE

God's Word provides direction. It serves as a mirror and a map.

Psalm 119:9 (RSV)

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to thy word."

Psalm 119:9 (AMP)

"How shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed and keeping watch [on himself] according to Your word [conforming his life to it]."

6 CONSISTENCY PRODUCES MATURITY

You don't develop character through one great spiritual experience, but through repeated decisions to:



Luke 8:14-15 (NKJV)

"...bring no fruit to maturity... But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

7 FIVE PRACTICAL WAYS TO DEVELOP CONSISTENCY

- 1 **Establish a Rhythm** – Set aside regular time for study and prayer, even if it starts small.
- 2 **Use Accountability** – Partner with a friend, mentor, or group.
- 3 **Make Your Study Interactive** – Journal, highlight key passages, and use study tools.
- 4 **Pray for Guidance** – Invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate Scripture and provide clarity.
- 5 **Reflect and Apply** – Meditate on the Word and seek ways to apply it practically in daily life.

PERSONAL APPLICATION



What needs to be tilled?

What area of your life needs cultivation and development?



What needs to be guarded?

What has God entrusted to you that you need to protect?



Where do you need consistency?

Where have you become sporadic?



What Word are you currently applying?

What has God been showing you that needs to become part of your daily life?

CONCLUSION

Just as Adam was entrusted with Eden, we are entrusted with the Word, our hearts, and our lives. By consistently engaging with Scripture and relying on the Holy Spirit, we cultivate a life that reflects God's glory and stands resilient against the challenges of this world.



TILL IT. GUARD IT. KEEP IT. LIVE IT. BEAR FRUIT.