

Lasting Results Part 17

The importance of Character development

Tilling our life

Hey there,

I hope this message finds you well! I wanted to take a moment to talk about something super important, **character development**. It's one of those things that doesn't just help us avoid mistakes but also helps us grow into the best versions of ourselves. Plus, it's key to living a meaningful and purposeful life.

The Bible gives us some great insights into this. Take **Psalms 32:9**, for example, it's a reminder not to go through life without understanding. When we lack wisdom, we end up frustrated and stuck.

That's why gaining understanding is so important. It helps us build a solid foundation for our lives, just like **Proverbs 24:3-4** says: wisdom builds, understanding establishes, and knowledge fills our lives with good things.

So, what's the deal with character development? It's not just about avoiding bad choices; it's about becoming more like Christ and living out our faith in a way that's real and relatable. But let's be honest, it takes effort.

Life is full of distractions, and it's easy to get caught up in being busy instead of being productive. **Proverbs 12:11** puts it perfectly: "He who tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits is lacking in sense." Basically, we need to focus on what truly matters.

Think of character development like tilling a field, it's a process. **Here are three key steps:**

- 1. Plow Steadily:** Pay attention to your life and work on areas that need improvement.
- 2. Plant Seeds:** Fill your heart with God's Word and let it shape who you are.
- 3. Cultivate Growth:** Take time to learn, grow, and refine yourself.

This takes **patience** and **consistency**. Growth doesn't happen overnight, but every step forward counts. Remember the parable of the growing seed in **Mark 4:26-29**? It's all about trusting the process—**first** the blade, **then** the head, **then** the full grain. Change takes time, but starting today sets you up for tomorrow's harvest.

One thing to watch out for is distractions. The parable of the sower (**Mark 4:13-20**) warns us about how things like worries, chasing wealth, or other desires can choke out growth. It's a good reminder to stay focused on what really matters.

So how do we actually cultivate good character? **Here are some practical steps:**

- **Spend** time in God's Word, it's like a blueprint for Christlike character.
- **Pursue** qualities like righteousness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness (**1 Timothy 6:9-11**).
- **Watch** out for distractions that pull you away from what's important.
- **Commit** to the process, keep plowing, planting, and nurturing growth.

At the end of each day, developing our character isn't just about us, it's about becoming fruitful for God's kingdom and making a positive impact in the world. Let's not let life's distractions derail us from this important journey. Instead, let's be intentional about growing into people who reflect Jesus in everything we do.

Keep pressing forward and trust that every little step adds up.

Philippians 3:13-14 (AMP)

13 I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and **straining forward** to what lies **ahead**,
14 **I press on toward the goal** to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us **upward**.

Structured Summary

In this teaching, we explore the significance of character development as a foundation for achieving long-lasting, meaningful results in life. Drawing from biblical wisdom, we aim to deepen our understanding, gain knowledge, and apply godly principles to cultivate character that reflects the qualities of Jesus Christ.

Key Takeaways from Previous Lessons

Our foundational scripture, **Psalms 32:9**, reminds us not to be like a horse or mule lacking understanding, which must be controlled by bit and bridle. A lack of understanding can lead to frustration and weariness. Therefore, gaining wisdom and understanding is essential for establishing a stable and productive life (**Proverbs 24:3-4**).

Character Development: A Remedy for Many Challenges

Developing character is not only about avoiding pitfalls but also about becoming more Christlike and believable in our faith. It requires intentional effort and focus, as the enemy often seeks to distract us with worldly pursuits. We must distinguish between being busy and being productive.

Proverbs 12:11 emphasizes this: "He who tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits is lacking in sense and is without understanding." Spiritually speaking, our lives are like fields that require tilling, a process of preparation and cultivation for growth. Neglecting this process leads to stagnation and unproductiveness, both in our personal lives and in the kingdom of God.

The Process of Tilling: Key Principles

Tilling represents the ongoing effort required for character development. This process involves three main principles:

- 1. Plowing Steadily:** Paying consistent attention to our lives and addressing areas that need improvement.
- 2. Scattering Seed:** Planting God's Word in our hearts and allowing it to shape our character.
- 3. Proper Cultivation:** Nurturing growth through education, care, training, and refinement.

These principles require time, consistency, and deliberate decision-making. As **Proverbs 24:3-4** teaches, wisdom builds a house, understanding establishes it, and knowledge fills it with riches. Similarly, developing character demands wise choices and perseverance.

The Role of God's Word in Character Development

Mark 4:26-29 illustrates the progression of growth in the parable of the growing seed. Growth takes time and follows a natural process, first the blade, then the head, and finally the full grain. We should not be discouraged if change does not happen overnight; starting today lays the foundation for tomorrow's harvest.

The parable of the sower (**Mark 4:13-20**) further highlights how distractions—such as worldly cares, deceitfulness of riches, and desires for other things, can choke God's Word in our lives, rendering us unfruitful. The Greek word for "choke" (#4846) means to strangle completely or suffocate, emphasizing the destructive impact distractions can have on our spiritual growth and character development.

Practical Steps for Cultivating Character

To ensure we are fruitful and effective for God's kingdom, we must prioritize worthwhile pursuits over worthless ones (**Proverbs 12:11**). Spending time with Jesus, the living bread, nourishes our souls and equips us to live productively (**John 6:51-58**).

Here are practical steps to cultivate character:

- **Spend Time in God's Word:** Recognize how scripture reveals character qualities that align with Christlikeness.
- **Pursue Righteousness:** As instructed in **1 Timothy 6:9-11**, aim for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.
- **Guard Against Distractions:** Be mindful of "other things" that can choke the character qualities needed for spiritual growth.
- **Commit to Growth:** Embrace the process of tilling your life, plowing steadily, planting God's Word, and cultivating growth with consistency and care.

Conclusion

Character development is essential for becoming fruitful servants of God, **credible witnesses** with **His power** (Acts 1:8) to the world, and effective contributors to His kingdom.

Let us not lose sight of this vital process amidst the distractions of life. Instead, let us diligently till our lives, allowing God's Word to shape us into vessels of honor and purpose.

May we strive daily to reflect the character of Jesus Christ in all areas of our lives.

[Click here.](#) Original source.

[Click here.](#) Who are believers in Christ Jesus? (Video included)\