

The Character Test

Rom. 5:1-5



Romans 5:1 - 5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have **access** by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but **we glory in tribulations also**: knowing that tribulation worketh **patience**; 4 And patience, **experience**; and experience, **hope**: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Rom. 5:3-4

- Tribulation (Suffering) →
- Patience (Endurance) →
- Experience (Character) →
- Hope → Does not disappoint.

What Is Character?

- ❑ Character is the one thing we make in this world and take with us into the next.
- ❑ Reputation is what you have when you come to a new community; Character is what you have when you go away.
- ❑ Reputation grows like a mushroom; Character grows like an oak.
- ❑ Reputation makes you rich or makes you poor; Character makes you happy or makes you miserable.
- ❑ Reputation is what men say about you on your tombstone; Character is what is revealed about you before the throne of God.
- ❑ Your character is what God knows you to be. Your reputation is what men think you are.

William Hershey Davis (edited)

The Character Test

- ❑ How do I respond to a command that may be contrary to my thinking or personal feelings?
 - ❑ The necessity of obedience. (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; Jn. 14:15)
 - ❑ Do I ignore it, argue about it, compare my actions with that of others, say "its just too hard" or simply comply.
 - ❑ Some examples:
 - ❑ Rich young ruler, who disobeyed: (Matt. 19:16-22)
 - ❑ Naaman, who reluctantly obeyed: (II Ki. 5:10-14)
 - ❑ Abraham, who obeyed God: (Gen. 22:1-5)
 - ❑ Jesus, who became obedient unto death. (Heb. 5:8-9)

The Character Test

❑ *How do I act when I am alone – away from home?*

❑ Do I do things that I know are sinful, thinking no one will know – or do I strive to live with a constant consciousness of God's presence.

❑ **Ps. 139:1-12** → You are aware of everything I do (3)

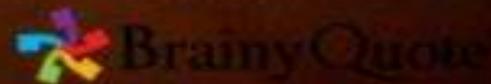
❑ **I Pet. 2:19** → An awareness of God and allegiance to him.

❑ **Eccl. 12:14** → God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing.

The Character Test

Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught.

J. C. Watts



The Character Test

- Some who found themselves alone or away from home:
 - Daniel → "...purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself..." (Dan. 1:8)
 - Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego → "...we will not serve thy gods..." (Dan. 3:18)
 - Ruth → "...thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God..." (Ruth 1:16)
 - Peter → "...I know him not..." (Lk. 22:54,57)

The Character Test



The Character Test

- ❑ How do I respond when I'm treated unfairly, criticized, or persecuted?
 - ❑ If I am living a godly life it will happen. (II Tim. 3:12; Jn. 15:18-22; Matt. 5:10-12)
 - ❑ Do I respond in a way that is spiritually destructive? (seek revenge, become bitter, give in or give up, etc.)

The Character Test

Do I recognize...

That life is not always fair. (Eccl. 9:11-12; Lk. 23:4)

What I have control over is how I respond, and others are watching as I do so. (Acts 16:19-25)

That vengeance belongs to God. (Rom. 12:18-21; Matt. 5:44-45)

Do I strive to steadfastly persevere in serving the Lord? (Acts 4:17-21,23-31; 5:40-42; Acts 8:1-4; Heb. 10:32-39)

The Character Test

□ How do I respond when I sin?

- The problem of sin. (Rom. 3:23; I Jn. 1:8-10; Isa. 59:1-2; Eph. 2:1-2)
- God wants none to be lost, but all to come to repentance. (II Pet. 3:9)
- Do I accept wise and godly counsel or do I simply resent it?
 - Gen. 4:4-8
 - Prov. 25:11-12
- God's terms of forgiveness: Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38