

GROWING IN CHRIST LIKENESS

EPHESIANS 4:14-16



THE WORD
OF GOD
IS LIKE
A SEED.
PLANT IT
IN YOUR
HEART.

1 Peter 1:23

LESSONS 33-36

WEST JACKSONVILLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

CATHEDRAL OF FAITH CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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Lesson 33

Enthusiasm vs. Apathy

“Expressing joy in each task as I give it my best effort”

Character Thought

Develop the internal fortitude to give light and warmth to those around you.

Character Scripture

Mathew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Character Points

- Have a purpose (understanding purpose helps a person select the best options from among the good)
- Make commitments (individuals earn trust by showing consistent commitment to tasks)
- Develop a will-do attitude (inspire others by taking hold and not complaining or demand special attention)
- Have the perspective to sustain your efforts

Balance Enthusiasm

- Be Gentle (show consideration and personal concern for others)
- Maintain Order (think through methods to accomplish your goal, prepare for setbacks)
- Tell the Truth (tell yourself the truth, don't imagine a situation better or worse than it is)

Five Keys to Building Enthusiasm

- Know your Purpose (genuine enthusiasm must have a clear direction)
- Treat every Job as important (identify how each task's completion effects the final result)
- Do your Best (pay attention to each detail so that you can look back with satisfaction)
- Motivate others (communicate goals, praise other's contributions)
- Overcome Discouragement (refocus on goals, modify methods, try again)

“I Will” Declarations

- I will be an “energy-giver”.
- I will smile.
- I will treat every job as important.
- I will put my whole heart into what I do.
- I will not be discouraged by setbacks.

Lesson 34

Flexibility vs. Resistance

“Willingness to change plans or ideas without getting upset”

Character Thought

Remain faithful to your principles as you weather the storms of life.

Character Scripture

1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.

Character Points

- Get Ready — Flexibility begins with clear vision and willingness to apply principles of good character
- Make Adjustments — When the unexpected or the inconvenient happens, take responsibility or your part
- See Benefits — a clear goal and firm commitment to practice integrity will help you identify and take opportunities

Balance Flexibility

- Pursue Virtuous Goals — without virtue , flexibility degenerates into a lack of direction
- Use Truthful Means — Individuals cannot effectively adapt to new situations if they do not first tell themselves the truth.
- Be a Dependable Person — a flexible person must have the commitment to fulfill obligations and understanding to know where and how to make adjustments

Five Keys To Building Flexibility

- Anticipate Change—develop the character to respond constructively when change comes
- Adjust the Plan—change plans without losing sight of what is right
- Look for the Benefits— recognize the new opportunities that changes bring
- Respect Authorities— prepare to adjust your plans when your authorities change direction
- Get It Done— press on until you finish the job

Evaluate Your Flexibility

- Do you maintain readiness for change?
- Do changes derail you or do you look for ways to work with what you have available?
- Can you see the opportunities that come with change?
- Do you respect the goals of your authorities?
- Do you make excuses when you face obstacles?

Lesson 35

Discernment vs. Shortsightedness

“Understanding the deeper reasons why things happen”

Character Thought

Look beyond your perception to the underlying causes and effects.

Character Scripture

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.

Character Points

- Discipline your mind to look beyond the surface.
- Observe and pay attention to habits and preferences of others
- Avoid thinking in terms of your persona experience alone
- You will never have enough information to make a perfect decision, but discernment helps you make good a decision.

Balance Discernment

- Exercise Discretion — consider what you have a responsibility to say and do and what you should avoid saying or doing
- Be Humble — do not let understanding lead to arrogance
- Follow the Truth—do not distort facts to fit your perceived ideas

Five Keys to Building Discernment

- Ask Why—stop, step back, and give yourself time to ask tough questions
- Establish the Facts—do not speculate about others’ motives
- Judge Carefully— look for verification and be ready to adjust your thinking

Evaluate Your Discernment

- Can you see past symptoms and identify root problems?
- Do you consider all the facts or only your perceptions?
- Do you carefully check your conclusions, or do you assume you are right?
- Do you find yourself repeating mistake?
- Do you consider the consequences of your actions?

Lesson 36

Security vs. Anxiety

“Structuring my life around that which cannot be destroyed or taken away”

Character Thought

Build your life on value that circumstance cannot wash away.

Character Scripture

Psalm 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Character Points

- Build your life around what really matters.
- Individual should maintain relationships, build integrity, and manage resources wisely.
- Do what is right despite unpleasant circumstances
- The secure person does not give up on what he or she knows

Balance Security

- Stand Alertly—alertness prevents security from become isolationism
- Think Creatively –creativity keeps security from becoming stagnation
- Live Joyfully— joyfulness makes the difference between someone who succeeds and someone who merely survives

Five Keys To Building Security

- Lay a Foundation—Adjust your thoughts and attitudes so that you can value what really matters
- Build by Principle— make daily decisions that reflect good priorities and values
- Make Necessary Repairs—excuses and denials will undermine the whole structure
- Weather the Storm— do not abandon commitments or relationships
- Be a Refuge—invest in others needs and lives even if it means going through their storms

Evaluate Your Security

- Have you defined what you should value most?
- Are your decisions guided by principle or by impulse?
- Do you respond with integrity when something needs to change?
- Have you persevered long enough to experience rewards of integrity?
- Do you make efforts to help other in their crises?