

# 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 25-28**

WEST JACKSONVILLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
CATHEDRAL OF FAITH CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
BISHOP GARY L. HALL, SR.

## Lesson 25

### Meekness vs. Anger

“Yielding my personal rights and expectations with a desire to serve”

#### Character Thought

Temper your emotions when faced with difficult situations.

#### Character Scripture

Titus 3:2

#### Character Points

- Be Constructive (respond to emotions don't be controlled by them) ?
- Recognize Reality (emotions are a normal part of expression)
- Respond Positively (exercise restraint to avoid hurting others)
- Benefit Others (meekness shows itself in relationships)

#### Balance Meekness

- Act Justly (take personal responsibility to be fair/just)
- Proceed Gratefully (let others know by words and or actions how they have benefited your life)
- Continue Joyfully (focus on the big-picture/stay positive)

#### Five Keys To Building Meekness

- Identify Feelings (do not ignore what you feel deal with it)
- Define the Problem (problems arise when assumptions replace facts)
- Gain Perspective (compare your ideas with what you know to be true)
- Yield Rights (become meek but not weak)
- Control Responses (see the root issues and respond with grace)

#### I Will” Declarations

- I will be slow to get angry.
- I will listen more than I talk.
- I will put others ahead of myself.
- I will stop arguments by yielding rights.
- I will control my reactions .

## Lesson 26

### Benevolence vs. Selfishness

“Giving to others’ basic needs without having as my motive personal reward”

#### Character Thought

Benefit others, even when they cannot benefit you in return

#### Character Scripture

1 Corinthians 7:3

#### Character Points

- For the Right Reason (look for opportunities to bless others)
- Consider Others (consider the relationship)
- Practice Every Day (give daily: time, talent, treasure)
- Maintain Sincerity (check your attitudes and motives)

#### Balance Benevolence

- Act Responsibly (knowing and doing what is expected of me)
- Use Discretion (recognize and avoid words, actions and attitudes that bring undesirable consequences)
- Build Enthusiasm (expressing joy in each task as I give it my best effort)

#### Five Keys to Building Benevolence

- Choose to Care (pursue the good of others through daily habits)
- Make Others Successful (look for ways to help others succeed)
- Discern True Needs (harsh words/actions reveal unaddressed concerns)
- Take Personal Interest (you are uniquely valuable beyond your job performance)
- Give Freely (what is your motive: do not look for any personal reward)

#### “I Will” Declarations

- I will be look for people in need.
- I will treat others how I want to be treated.
- I will give food, clothing and shelter.
- I will be patient with others.
- I will give more as I get more.

## Lesson 27

### Diligence vs. Slothfulness

“Investing my time and energy to complete each task assigned to me”

#### Character Thought

Thought Whatever the mountain in your path, apply your whole self to the task at hand.

#### Character Scripture

2 Peter 1:5

#### Character Points

- Be the engine that can (stay on track)
- Focus Effort (see it through to completion)
- Set Priorities (steady application is best)
- Get it Done (recognize the details of life as part of the process)

#### Balance Diligence

- Remain Available (make my own schedule and priorities secondary to the wishes of those I serve)
- Practice Tolerance (realize that everyone is not at the same level in character development)
- React Wisely (see and respond with wisdom; set priorities and place setbacks in perspective)

#### Five Keys To Building Diligence

- Understand the job (Clarify the methods, envision the finished product, devise a strategy, and anticipates additional steps)
- Get Started (starting can build confidence and encourage new ideas)
- Focus Your Energy (a lot of good ideas can distract you from what's important)
- Maintain Quality (anything worth doing is worth doing your best)
- Evaluate Your Work (avoid confusing busyness with productivity)

#### “I Will” Declarations

- I will finish my projects.
- I will do a job right.
- I will follow instructions.
- I will concentrate on my work.
- I will not be lazy.

## Lesson 28

### Loyalty vs. Unfaithfulness

“Using difficult times to demonstrate my commitment to those I serve”

#### Character Thought

Support others in good times and in bad times.

#### Character Scripture

Luke 16:10

#### Character Points

- Soldier On (make choices for the benefit of others)
- Sacrifice daily (where there is no loyalty, order breaks down)
- Value Others (every day you have an opportunity to show concern and commitment for others)
- Stand Firm (silence implies agreement)

#### Balance Loyalty

- Pursue Justice (without justice, loyalty loses direction and purpose)
- Find True Security (structure your life around that which can not be destroyed or taken away)
- Practice Alertness (Stay alert to what is taking place around you)

#### Five Keys to Building Loyalty

- Make People a Priority (set aside time for others)
- Expect Hard Times (avoid using difficulties and excuses to retract)
- Support One Another (encourage others with what has encouraged you)
- Keep Commitments (each relationship involves certain obligations)
- Stay Connected (be committed to resolve conflicts)

#### “I Will” Declarations

- I will serve my family and others.
- I will encourage others during hard times.
- I will not mock authorities.
- I will point out the good in others.
- I will honor my country.