

Character

When we see the word *character* in the New Testament, or *approval*, it more or less means the same thing. Rom 5:4 talks about character — how we come to have character. We have been brought out of a wicked and perverse age, which has mutilated any character we had. The character of being made in God's image is stamped upon us. We were created in the image of God. Even though we have fallen from the fullest extent of that image of God in created man, we still see the character of God in man (although there are men who seem to have no character whatsoever, no stamp, nothing engraved upon them that would represent the true nature of God). Sometimes we see good things coming from people in the world and it causes us to give thanks. Even if a person is merely kind to you, it really speaks to you. It makes you think more highly of our Father. This is especially true for people in the world when *we* speak to outsiders as we are commanded to, for speaking to people ministers to them. It's such a simple thing to do, but sometimes we do not do it because His character is not formed in us.

My daddy always told me to *speak first* — greet someone first, don't wait for him to greet you. Greet him first; it is arrogance to wait for him to recognize you. Recognize him first.

Rom 5:4 — There is really no hope without proven character. There is no way we can really long for our Master's return without proven character because if we do not have proven character then we do not have hope. We do not live in hope without proven character; all we can do is shrink back from His coming.

2 Tim 4:8; Heb 9:28 — It says that He is coming back for those who eagerly await Him. There has to be a character formation in us in order for us to be in His image, before we can eagerly long for His return. And He cannot come back for us if we aren't eagerly expecting Him. And Rom 5:3 — “...*we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us...*” If our hope is not based on character, that hope is going to disappoint us. A lot of people

have hope, but it is going to disappoint them. Hope is based on proven character — approbation, approval.

Jms 1:12 speaks about approval. We are undergoing this time of approval right now. Something is happening to us, something is going on in us that is giving us character. We do not have much character. We can see that we do not have very much character because He has not yet stamped us. Jms 1:12 — We have to really love Him in order to allow that work to be done. 1 Cor 16:22 — We are cut off if we do not love Him, because we do not let His character be formed in us. We can be cut off and many of us have been cut off because we do not have that love to persevere under trial.

Let us use Havah as an example. Right now she is going through a great test in order to form the character of our Master in her. Can His character be formed in her by doing what she knows how to do, the same kind of work she did in the world? It is hard work, it is really trying, true, but it is going to be by the things she cannot do that His character is going to be ingrained in her. It is going to be through things that she cannot do, where she has to seek out for His grace. With the things she naturally knows how to do, she does not necessarily *have* to seek for His grace. But the things she is not able to do so well, she has to seek for His grace. So it is a wonderful thing that our Father sees us and is a good shepherd to us and a good Father and brings this work about in our heart.

Character here is *proven* character. The Greek says *approbation* or *approval*, a mark made by cutting or engraving on a stone, making the impression on a person's character. We are known to be His by the character that we have. It is in our character that we belong to Him. Our character shows that we belong to Him, that we are His, that we have been trained by our Father. Without this character we would never be distinguished as true sons. Hebrews 2:11 says that He is not ashamed to call us brothers - in the final day He will not be ashamed to call us brothers. *"Both the one who sanctifies (YAHSHUA) and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers."*

So, character is a stamp made on the forehead — it is the Father's name. The 144,000 are stamped on the forehead with the Father's name. We know *this* because that is what we live for, to raise up the 144,000. Without that vision we do not even know why we exist, why we are living, why we do the things we do everyday. This character distinguishes His sons from other people. If His sons constitute the real character, the quality that true sons are supposed to possess, then He is not ashamed to call them His brothers. *Character* is stable distinctive qualities that come forth from a person. We have or get this character from His Spirit who is at work in us and so we produce these characteristics, these qualities. Without proven character we cannot produce these qualities consistently, we cannot be stable in it — we always revert back to being without character and doing something that does not represent the character of our God, taking away someone else's character or hindering someone else's life.

In Gal 5:22 it speaks about these characteristics or qualities of a person who has character. It is impossible to produce those qualities in our life without character. The fruit of the spirit is what His sons produce and they are thereby distinguished from all the other sons on the earth. They are set apart by their character. They are esteemed or respected for the good qualities that the sons of God produce, like a good tree bearing good fruit. A bad tree cannot bear good fruit and a good tree cannot bear bad fruit because it has His stamp of approval on it. So character is what is engraved or inscribed upon all true sons.

We can see, in Heb 12:5-12, what true sons are made of, what true sons are, and how we become true sons, and how our character is formed so we can have proven character and thereby have hope, and that hope will never disappoint us. So if we are not going through this process, if we are not disciplined when we sin, if when you do something bad, someone else has to come to you and tell you and you do not know you have done bad, you are not a son at all — you are illegitimate. Heb 12:5-12 — You can see those who are disciplined and those who are not really disciplined when they do wrong. If you have a son and do not discipline him when he does wrong, he is an illegitimate son and you are an illegitimate father. Illegitimate fathers produce illegitimate sons. Many of us had fathers who did not father us because we came from a

perverse, fatherless generation. If you read Heb 12:5-12 you see how true sons come about. And then verse 14, *“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.”* We are sons if we will go through that and are being sanctified, made holy — whole. It is wonderful that our Father put that in there for us.

So *characterized* means ingrained, inscribed, distinguished by a particular mark. The sons of God are distinguished from all others by character — approval. Rev 14:1 — *“And I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.”* Look at the character of the 144,000 in verses 2-5. This is your offspring, what you are producing right now. This is your work, to produce this character in those 144,000 — your offspring, the woman's offspring (Rev 12:5). This does not begin in the third or fourth generation. It begins *now* at this very moment in time, in our own children right now, and with the work He is doing in our own life. Therefore if we never allow the process in Rom 5, it is not being done in us. You can see the result of whether or not you allowed this work in your life — it is in your own children's lives and their children's lives because the sins of the fathers are passed down to the third and fourth generation. That is a natural procedure, a natural order. Therefore we have to break that natural order which is passed down to the third and fourth generation. Your father's heart was not turned toward you so therefore your heart was not turned to your father. He did not bring you up in the way our Father in heaven wanted us to go. That is what fathers do — they bring their children up in the way they should go so they will not depart from it when they get older. Their heart is toward their son, and the natural recourse is that the son's heart turns towards the father. That is restitution, restoration. It is everything that is in the heart of our Father and His Son.

From reading Rev 14:12-13; 7:3-4; 20:4, you can see the character that must be produced in them in order for them to endure the times up ahead. If we do not produce that character in those children at the last moment in history, we would not be able to read about it in Revelation.

If we don't, we wouldn't be able to read about it in Revelation, but since we *can* read about it, it means that we *do* it. That means it *has* to happen.

Hakam: That's like going to the throne in His faith — you see His faith in the word of God, that He'll bring it about.

When you pray for your son, you have to go to the throne in *His* faith because there are many things that might take away *our* faith. The enemy wants to attack our faith all the time. So you have to go in *His* faith. *That's* the faith that is going to bring it about.

Hakam: I see so many lacks of character in me — ways, failure after failure, lack after lack. So this morning I read Romans 5 and I know how much I *lack* character. I can see how the evil one uses all our lacks to attack our faith, tear us down, and try to put us back under his dominion and make us into a worm again — as if we didn't have a God. Hearing this made me want it with all my heart. It made me want to let our God do whatever He has to do to put character in me. Because I know I don't have it but I do know that He disciplines me every single day. He puts pressure in my life every day.

Also I remembered that in printing, every letter is called a *character*. It has a distinct mark and that's how you judge how you lay out, how large the type is, etc. It goes by characters. It's the language of printing. That term is from printing. I know that a printing is going on in us. Our God is doing that printing. He's stamping something. Every now and then you notice it — something has gone into you. You don't have a grasp on it but *it's there*. It made me want to cry out to our Father that He'd be able to stamp us, that we wouldn't resist Him, so he could fully stamp us. And *His* faith is that He *is* going to put that stamp on us.

In Isaiah it says, “*I will help you, you worm Jacob.*” He knows we are like worms. But He says He is going to help us.

ha-Emeq: This really encouraged me when you read in Heb 2 how the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from the same stock. Yesterday when we took Adam [a young guest] back home, his house was like a castle. And it was a family gathering for Father's day and they were all there — exclusively rich, like a royal family. You could feel this politeness, people who were well trained. You could see they gave us enough time, but not *too* much. His grandmother was 100 years old. When we left, Yoneq said that he had sensed that Adam had a good stock. Usually in the world if a person has some kind of character, it's from his stock.

It reminded me of Joseph when he was in Egypt. They didn't know what they were getting when they got Joseph; they just bought a slave. But he just rose up. It was because he was from a stock, he had something in him that was different, some kind of character, because he had a father, a real father. And that's the same as our Master Yahshua. It says He is not ashamed to call us His brothers. Sometimes you read that and think, "How can He not be ashamed? We're such a wreck! He's got the worst brothers in the whole world!" But He's not ashamed. It's because of something that is going to happen in us. But actually it's because we have character. It's being proven in us all along so He's not going to be ashamed to call us brothers because it is going to be proven. And for sure it is going to be, because in Jms 1:12 it says, "*Blessed is the one who perseveres because **such** a person is of **proven** worth.*" Such a person who makes it through all the trials is of proven worth and he will win the prize of life — the crown that YHWH has promised to those who love Him. And I thought how right that is. That's why hope comes from when we get proven — because we're going to make it; something is going to come out of us through all this. And this kind of testing process for silver and gold, it proves if it's real or not. But there's this kind of gold that looks real nice, but you prove it a little bit and it doesn't stand up under the test.

So we *have* to be tested and for sure if we have proven stock we're going to make it — the character in us is going to make it. So if we love Him, it's promised to us — if we love Him. It's so hard to see when people give way under pressure and it's proven that they don't have what it takes, but others they continue and then you see something come out of them, proving the stock they are from.

I can see that when our stock went to Boston to work down there it was really a test for the brothers to not be caught up in the world and love the world there. Because in Boston you go right into Sodom and Gomorrah every day and you are liable to pick up the language of the world. You hear people calling each other things and then you bring that language into the community and start calling your brothers the things you heard people call each other on construction jobs! Of course *they* [whom you hear on construction jobs] don't have any character. Then you take your pick up truck and put pinstripes on it and pretty soon you'll be putting mud flaps on it and fox tails and all those manner of things from the world. It shows your stock.

And how is it, how could it happen that you could wear something around and advertise for Harvard University, which is specially designed by the evil one to educate His children and to destroy and to take away the image of God? How could it be that we would go around in shirts that advertise for Harvard or *Dunkin' Doughnuts* or something like that, without at least darkening it out with a magic marker. (Like, on shoes, sometimes you can darken out the name on it, so we don't have to walk around with Satan's character on our shoes. Someday we will have to make our own shoes.)

It seems like we go to Boston and Satan's character starts being ingrained in us and we start treating each other like Satan's children, like Satan's sons. But we are *God's* sons and we are held in high esteem and He is not ashamed to call us *His* sons. If you would have gone to Egypt like Joseph went to Egypt — read about it in the lost books of Eden, and see whether you have the character of Joseph, see the temptations he went through in Egypt — what would *you* have done?

Yet, here our sons go to Boston and then they start putting pinstripes on their trucks and start slicking it up, with leather dashboards, stereo speakers, playing country-western music. Where is their stock from? Where is the Holy Spirit? Where is that coming from? Why are we not a light to the nations instead of them being a light to us? *We* don't want to wear shirts advertising the world. We are not supposed to bring attention to ourselves, especially what shows the character of the world. We are not of the world. That is why in the last days there is going to be a great falling away. We are going to go along and the right pressure is going to come and all the people who love the world are going to fall away — as sure as anything — there is no hope for those who love the world. If you love the world right now, you will love it 50 years from now. If you love the world you have to be saved and receive the Holy Spirit because no one who *has* the Holy Spirit loves the world, nor has the love of God been poured into his heart. Whoever loves the world does not *have* the love of God in him. And if we do not have the love of God, we do not have God. So where does our love of the world come from — things of the world that fills our heart? Where is the character of God in that?

The day is going to come, the threshing, winnowing, sifting. He is going to sift everyone. We have to be saved *now*. We have to love our God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. If you don't, you will find He is not there, was never there, in your heart. The curtain will be torn, the day will come, and you will discover that He was never there. You cannot help but love the world if you are of the world. But if you are of God, you love Him with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, and all your strength. Anything less than that, you do not belong to Him. You are either here or there. You cannot walk two roads, drink out of two cups, eat off of two tables, the table of the Holy Spirit and the table of demons. And eating off of the table of demons is exactly what you do when you put pinstripes on your pick-up truck and doll it up so the world can look at it and you can get prestige from it — you know, you go down the street and they say, “Man, look at that truck!” That is the only reason you do it. It is pride — the pride of life, like all these things that go on in 1 Jn 2:15-17. Write to your brothers in Boston and warn them, if you feel like you've passed out of death and into life. They might have taken it off their truck, and obeyed their covering, but the pinstripes are still there in their heart. You can legislate things, but it's still there in their heart and it is going to come out someday.

If Joseph had to go to Egypt and go through all the things he had to go through without the Holy Spirit, but we *do* have the Holy Spirit, then I think we can make it. We have the Holy Spirit; we are in the new covenant.

Don't assume that you belong to our Master if you love the world and the things of the world — exactly the things that crucified our Master Yahshua. Don't assume, because it's a false assumption.

Shimonah: In Revelation it talks about the perseverance of the saints. This is at the height of when the world comes against our Master. If there is nothing in us to stand against it now, there won't be enough perseverance in us to stand then.

Ben Naby: We are investing into the 144,000 now. That's the test or proof or reality of how much we love our Master. How much we love Him or His purpose is how much we are investing into the 144,000. Because that's what He is going to use to put the enemy under His feet; that's the final judgment. And everything we are doing is for the sake of our children — so they can grow up to know our

Master. And how we discipline and train them, and the things we put into them is what turns their heart *from* the world. And it shows us in reality right where we are at. If there is nothing in us to turn away from the world, it is going to go right into our children. That's what brings conviction to my heart. Because when my child wants something from the world and asks me for that, it shows me that I'm putting something into him of the world. I want my heart to be turned totally to our Master's purpose — raising up that last generation. It's a great endeavor, a great calling and we can start investing in it right now. One time when Tsih-Tsah was here she said in tears, “I *want* to bring forth the 144,000.” And those who have that desire are going to do it. They are the ones who are going to do it. Those who love our Master are going to dedicate themselves for His purpose.