

# SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

## CLASS 4

### GIFTS VS. CHARACTER

**What is character?**

**Character**

**Origin:**

1275–1325; < L < Gk *charaktēr* graving tool, its mark, equiv. to *charak-* (base of *charáttein* to engrave) + *-tēr* agent suffix; r. ME *caractere* < MF < L, as above

1. the aggregate of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing.
2. moral or ethical quality: *a man of fine, honorable character.*
3. qualities of honesty, courage, or the like; integrity: *It takes character to face up to a bully.*
4. reputation: *a stain on one's character.*
5. a significant visual mark or symbol.
6. to engrave; inscribe.

Character is an engraved mark on your soul. The mark becomes deeper and more distinct as you continue to repeat a particular pattern of behavior.

The word character does not appear in the King James Version of the Bible; however, we see how character impacts the decisions and responses of people in the Bible.

An excellent book to explain character and how to develop it is entitled “Character is Destiny.” One of the chapters in the book is entitled “The Final Forming of a Person’s Character Lies in Their Own Hands,” which is a quote from Anne Frank. This means that I am completely and solely responsible for the development of my character. Each decision I make, each action I take, makes a deeper mark in my soul, whether it be good or not.

**An excellent spirit**

**Dan 5:12** - *Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.*

An excellent spirit can be developed by practicing excellence as a habit. It takes a lot of hard work and a commitment to doing excellent things. Most people practice excellence in an activity, but not many give time and consideration to developing an excellent character.

One study indicated that it takes approximately 20 hours a week, or 1000 hours a year of diligent, purposeful, specific practice for a period of 10 years to become excellent at something. How many people commit that kind of time to the development of their character?

Philippians 2:12-13 - *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which **worketh** in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

Work out - **G2716**

katergazomai

*kat-er-gad'-zom-ahee*

From [G2596](#) and [G2038](#); to *work fully*, that is, *accomplish*; by implication to *finish, fashion*:—cause, do (deed), perform, work (out).

## G2596

kata

*kat-ah'*

A primary particle; (preposition) *down* (in place or time), in varied relations (according to the case [genitive, dative or accusative] with which it is joined):—about, according as (to), after, against, (when they were) X alone, among, and, X apart, (even, like) as (concerning, pertaining to, touching), X aside, at, before, beyond, by, to the charge of, [charita-] bly, concerning, + covered, [dai-] ly, down, every, (+ far more) exceeding, X more excellent, for, from . . . to, godly, in (-asmuch, divers, every, - to, respect of), . . . by, after the manner of, + by any means, beyond (out of) measure, X mightily, more, X natural, of (up-) on (X part), out (of every), over against, (+ your) X own, + particularly, so, through (-oughout, -oughout every), thus, (un-) to (-gether, -ward), X uttermost, where (-by), with. In composition it retains many of these applications, and frequently denotes *opposition, distribution or intensity*.

## G2038

ergazomai

*er-gad'-zom-ahee*

Middle voice from [G2041](#); to *toil* (as a task, occupation, etc.), (by implication) *effect, be engaged in or with*, etc.:—commit, do, labor for, minister about, trade (by), work.

## Worketh - G1754

energeō

*en-erg-eh'-o*

From [G1756](#); to *be active, efficient*:—do, (be) effectual (fervent), be mighty in, shew forth self, work (effectually in).

## Nine Important Words

### Life is hard

Life is hard, but if I do the hard things in life, I will live.

Matt. 7:12-13

<sup>12</sup>Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

<sup>13</sup>Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

### Death is easy

I can choose to avoid doing the hard things in life and take the easy route, but the end result will always be death.

**Prov. 14:12** - *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

**Gen. 3:6** - *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

### I am responsible

This means that where I am today is the sum total of the decisions that I have made up to this point.

**Gal. 6:7** - *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

Character is what you do when no one is looking

Character is what you do in the dark

Character is what you do when you have power  
**Jas. 1:13-15**

Two examples of character  
**2 Sam. 11:2-5**  
**Acts 4:33-37, 5:1-2**

Sew a thought, reap an act  
Sew an act, reap a habit  
Sew a habit, reap a character  
Sew a character, reap a destiny

### **Gifts**

Little emphasis will be placed on the discussion of gifts for this class. The primary problem in organized religion is the focus is on the gift, rather than the development of a person. In the Kingdom of God, it is the exact opposite. The Lord desires that your character be developed first, so that the gift can be used to glorify God and draw people to the Lord Jesus Christ. In Babylon, a person with the gift of administration will be put into a role before the person's character has been tested. The Lord desires that our souls are brought into maturity so that we can submit to one another in the unity of the faith. A carving knife in the hands of a professional chef can be a tool of beauty. That same knife in the hands of a criminal can become a murder weapon. The principle is the same in the Kingdom of God. The gift of pastor in a man with character can be a wonderful thing, but in a man without character it can become a weapon of destruction.

### NOTES

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