

Developing Jesus-Shaped Character

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:29

1. Spending Time Alone with God *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35*

2. Spending Time with Others with God *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42*

3. People: Godly Examples *Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." Job 1:8*

4. People: Positive Feedback *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:21*

5. People: Negative Feedback *"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. Matthew 25:26-27*

6. My Mistakes and Failures *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 52:10*

7. Struggles *Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3-4*

Destroying Jesus-Based Character

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." I Corinthians 15:33

Developing the Integrity of Jesus

Integrity: living out God-given principles and directions without being hindered by distractions or obstacles

Inconsistency: haphazardly living life which is constantly being altered by distractions and obstacles

Spiritual Disciplines: all nine spiritual disciplines

Jesus:

*By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. **John 5:30***

*He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. **John 7:18***

*So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. **John 8:28***

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. **Hebrews 4:15***

Inconsistency:

*But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. **James 1:6-7***

Spiritual Disciplines

Spending time in God's Word, Fasting
Spending time in God's Word, Listening to God
Intercession, Listening to God
Listening to God, spending time in God's Word
Prayer of humility, Personal Worship, Fasting

Character Qualities

Responsibility & Diligence
Deference & Meekness
Compassion & Justice
Discernment & Alertness
Humility & Self-Control

Every area of our lives demands integrity: Every Relationship, Every Action, Every Thought, Every Attitude

Indications of Inconsistency:

1. pride
2. self-righteousness
3. laziness
4. lying
5. dishonesty
6. not listening
7. cheating
8. non-love
9. gossip
10. fear

Personal Character Assessment and Plan

| Connection | Negative | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Positive | Connection | Spiritual Disciplines |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|--|---|
| Ignoring the Call | Unreliability | | | | | | Responsibility | Proactive Action | Spending Time in God's Word, Fasting |
| | Slothfulness or Laziness | | | | | | Diligence | | |
| Hurtful of Others | Rudeness | | | | | | Deference | Surrender | Spending Time in God's Word, Listening to God |
| | Anger | | | | | | Meekness | | |
| Zeal for Self | Indifference | | | | | | Compassion | Serving Others | Listening to God, Intercession |
| | Corruption | | | | | | Justice | | |
| Thinking Only Right Now | Shortsightedness | | | | | | Discernment | Paying Attention | Listening to God, Spending Time in God's Word |
| | Carelessness | | | | | | Alertness | | |
| Self-Worship | Arrogance | | | | | | Humility | Interdependent (must have both to do well at either) | Prayer of Humility, Personal Worship, Fasting |
| | Self-Indulgence | | | | | | Self-Control | | |
| Foundational | Inconsistency | | | | | | Integrity | Foundational | All Nine |
| Plan: | | | | | | | | | |

Spiritual Discipline Survey

One-on-one times with God

(Circle the one statement for each line that describes your current practice. Also circle one statement that describes where you would like to be.)

| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1 | Reading God's Word | average less than once per week | 1 - 2 times weekly | 3 - 4 times weekly | 5 - 6 times weekly | daily |
| 2 | What % of God's Word do you read each year? (NT is about 25%) | None | 25% | 50% | 75% | All |
| 3 | Studying God's Word (not for teaching purposes) | average less than once per week | 1 - 2 times weekly | 3 - 4 times weekly | 5 - 6 times weekly | daily |
| 4 | Memorizing God's Word | average less than a verse per year | 1 - 12 verses per year | 13 - 26 verses per year | 27 - 52 verses per year | more than 52 verses per year |
| 5 | Meditating on God's Word (a time of reviewing a passage to understand its meaning) | average less than once per year | 1 - 5 times yearly | 6 - 11 times yearly | monthly | weekly |
| 6 | Prayer of Humility (confession, repentance, submission, obedience) | typically do not pray | 1 - 2 times weekly | 3 - 4 times weekly | 5 - 6 times weekly | daily |
| 7 | Intercession (praying unselfishly for others) | I pray sporadically. It only produces guilt & frustration. | I pray regularly but it is mainly all about me and for me. | I combine prayer with fasting, listening, God's Word, etc. | I consider intercession a powerful ministry by praying daily for others. | I join with others to pray over a campus, church, or community. |
| 8 | Fasting (going without food for a day for spiritual purposes) | average less than once per year | 1 - 5 days per year | 6 - 11 days per year | at least once per month | weekly |
| 9 | Listening to God (purposely getting quiet before God and waiting) | average less than once per year | 1 - 5 times yearly | 6 - 11 times yearly | monthly | weekly |
| 10 | Personal Worship (attributing worth to God - not asking Him for anything) | average less than once per week | 1 - 2 times weekly | 3 - 4 times weekly | 5 - 6 times weekly | daily |

This chart is an indication of spiritual activity but not necessarily spiritual health. If spiritual activity leads me to pride, it will not produce spiritual health. The religious leaders of Jesus' day would have scored quite high on spiritual activity but not on spiritual health. If spiritual activity leads me to humility, it will produce spiritual health. Spiritual health increases as I spend quality time "one-on-one" with God and my heart connects with His heart.