

## A Worshipper's Character Session 5

### 1 Chronicles 15:13–15 (NIV)

It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it (*the ARK of God – the presence of the Lord*) up the first time that the Lord our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of Him about how to do it in the prescribed way. So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded them in accordance with the word of the Lord.

What is God's prescribed way of ushering in the tangible, manifested presence of God?

- It is on the shoulders of consecrated character, not concentrated human strength.
- It is in accordance with the word of the Lord.

### I. What is Character?

*In the home, it is kindness;*

*In business, it is honesty;*

*In society, it is courtesy;*

*In work, it is thoroughness;*

*In play, it is fairness;*

*Toward the fortunate, it is congratulations;*

*Toward the weak, it is help;*

*Toward the wicked, it is resistance;*

*Toward the strong, it is trust;*

*Toward the penitent, it is forgiveness;*

*Toward God, it is fear and love;*

*What is character? It is \_\_\_\_\_.*

Character is Christ-likeness.

Character is what you are in the dark.

Talent will bring you a reputation—that is what people think of you.

Character is what God thinks of you.

Christ-like character = \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. Why Character?

#### 2 Timothy 2:20–21 (NIV)

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the

latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. (*emphasis added*)

1. Character is a \_\_\_\_\_ to being an instrument of God.

The responsibility of purification is ours.

**2 Corinthians 7:1** (NIV)

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (*emphasis added*)

Sanctification, consecration and separation from the impurities of the world make us holy, useful and prepared to do any good work.

We must clean the inside of our vessels, not just the outside.

**Matthew 23:26** (NIV)

Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

What we are on the inside is revealed as He shines through us. Our vessels need to be clean, pure and uncontaminated.

*People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed from the light within.*

2. Your \_\_\_\_\_ will take you places your character cannot hold you.

Your gift will elevate you in man's eyes.

This is automatic. It may not be the Kingdom way, but it happens.

God does not promote gifting or talent, He promotes character established through a lifestyle of obedience. This takes time and process.

Man promotes gifting and talent because it brings \_\_\_\_\_.

If you want to find out what someone is really made of, give them a fulfilled dream.

You are never more like the devil than when you think you are your gift.