

HOPeBOX

# CHARACTER FORMATION OF CHRIST



There is a place for you

# CHARACTERISTICS OF CHARACTER

*This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.  
(Ephesians 4:13 NLT)*

**ILLUSTRATION:** *The majority of people worry much about protecting their home, families, and valuable things to them. This is why many install alarm systems, and it's good. If technology exists, we should use it. Nowadays, with so much evil and so many things we see in leadership, we should install a device for our character and use it when we have an emergency to alert us of things that are not good, lead us to danger or think bad things. It's important that, as children of God, if we want to have success in life and leave a legacy of blessing, we should have character as our device. It'll alert us of anything that is poisonous, toxic or won't help us in life.*

**INTRODUCTION:** *We are all leaders in one way or another. We lead at home with our children, lead a House of Peace, etc. At church, we use the phrase: "Each believer a leader." There are people who don't believe in that, but we all lead in some area. That is why it's important for us to protect ourselves from intruders, negative influences, toxic relatives, and internal and external influences that want to ruin our reputation. We have an attack from the enemy everyday, we deal with our emotions, confront argumentative people that offend and shout, and that's why it's important to have the device that is character to have a good reputation wherever we go.*

## 1. WE DEAL WITH GREAT POWERS:

- **Internal powers:** *(1 Peter 5:8)* They are attacks of the enemy, negative thoughts, desires to do bad things, nightmares that instill fear, etc. There are bad influences that hate the good things we do on this earth and if we are not aligned to God, the voice we will hear will be the enemies. That's why we need to be alert of these constant interior battles that we daily confront. They rob us of our strengths, energy, they stop us, and deviate our focus from what we truly should do in life.
- **External power:** *(Ephesians 4:22)* Here is where temptation to talk badly comes from, to argue with the old person we used to be, because of the daily pressures of life and difficulties. This removes our focus from what we want to do in life. That's why we see in society, the government, education, etc. so many leaders and famous people fall, because they lacked character. Yesterday they were famous, and now they have nothing.

## 2. LACK OF CHARACTER IS A STRONG PROBLEM IN ANYONE'S LIFE.

- What's bad is that we don't even realize when we have bad character. Those who do see it are those around us, and when they want to correct us, we defend ourselves and put up a wall. That is the sign of a bad leader that does not want to learn. We see it in the news every day, that an influential leader was fired because they didn't want to grow or develop character. They didn't want to change or be teachable, and they didn't have or want a leader or mentor to correct them. We all need to have a mentor and be teachable. We cannot learn everything alone but should learn from someone else who can align us and be a spiritual guide.
- Those influential leaders believed that they could not fall. Many were at their peaks and ended up in jail. Leadership is not just a role to work in; it is an art where we must constantly be growing and improving to be a blessing. Let's be open to being taught by others.

## 3. IT IS BETTER TO MAINTAIN CHARACTER THAN TO RECOVER IT.

*(James 4:4)*

- It is better for people to know the real us than for us to fake being someone we're not. What are we doing hanging out with drinkers? Be careful of where you go. Our reputation is important, and we need to take care of it. If we love God, we will have convictions. Having convictions is having character and maturity. If we have weaknesses, it is best to ask for help and not hide them. *(Proverbs 28:13)*
- That's why we need to think before sinning, before we ruin our

testimony, because it can damage others as well. If you do something wrong in your family, your children, spouse and family are damaged. If you are a leader, your disciples become damaged and it's a shame to shatter the authority that new people would see you with. That is why there are so many hurt people who want nothing to do with God, because Christians themselves have pushed them away with their bad testimony.

**CONCLUSION:** *It is very normal to offend and shout at people in the world. It's normal to take something that is not yours, sleep with someone else's spouse, neglect one's home and abandon one's children to party, flirt with others, etc. But, not for us. We should have the power of testimony and be an inspiration. We are the salt of the earth and the Lord needs us. We are those who light up the earth, and that is why we should build our character, because it will help us to not fall.*

**SALVATION PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

### INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

What power do you battle with the most in your character?

Have you given a mentor permission to correct you?

Are you giving a good testimony with the way you live your life?

### PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Self-examine yourselves in regard to your character and if you need help, speak with your mentor so they can help you grow and be teachable.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CHARACTER II

*This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.  
(Ephesians 4:13 NLT)*

**INTRODUCTION:** *It is important to put into practice Christ's character. It is not acceptable to say, "That's just how I am" since all of our negative behavior can have bad consequences and weaken our leadership. In whatever area we serve in, it can cause damage, sickness, shame, depression, bitterness, discouragement, etc. The price of immaturity is high.*

### **A. TO HAVE CHARACTER IS TO HAVE MATURITY.**

- Even if we're in the process, we have to want to improve. Growing on a daily basis should be a lifestyle. Ask yourself, is it necessary to improve this area? Our best critics are our families, husbands, children, etc. because they know us best.
- Being angry drains us, steals our energy, and takes away our strengths. It weakens us and then we regret saying what we shouldn't have, and we feel ashamed because we should ask for forgiveness. It's happened to all of us at some point.
- We need to be full of the Holy Spirit. When we are full of the Spirit, everything changes. He transforms us. But, when we are argumentative and always fighting or negative, we look bad and ugly, but the Holy Spirit corrects us and breaks us down.

### **B. THREE THINGS THAT HELP US AS LEADERS IN FORMING OUR CHARACTER:**

- 1. Having a purpose that guides us.**  
When we have a purpose in life, we do whatever it takes. For example: When a woman becomes pregnant, she stops eating what is not good for her baby for its own good. She eats what is healthy even if she doesn't like it. When Jesus called His disciples, they left everything: families, jobs, etc. They let themselves be formed by Him, and we can see the reward they got that only Jesus can give. That is why we should always remember that what we do has a reward. Our purpose should generate a passion to fulfill it. We should be passionate about what we do, and not be forced to do things. We should do it with passion, enthusiasm and love and change whatever we need to change for that purpose.
- 2. Values, ethics, and principles.**  
This brings order to our lives, helps guide us wisely wherever we go, and develop our leadership. These are all important principles, and even if one of them is missing, it can ruin our potential.
  - If you don't have ethics and are imprudent with others who are teaching you, they will fire you at any time. If you don't respect the leader that has been placed to lead you, that

leader will not recommend or empower you and no one will trust you.

- When they delegate something to you, do you do it with love or do you complain? When a creative idea is brought up to improve the team, do you get happy or complain? There is always someone on a team who has a bad attitude, and this closes the opportunities to go to the next level.
- When you have values and ethics, you will respect the people who work with you. If any of these three things lack in your life, you will lose your reputation at any point. How do you feel when someone speaks badly about you? That is why we shouldn't give anyone a reason to speak badly about us, because then we'll be tempted to criticize or speak badly about someone else. We should take care of our mouths because God has given us influence and we should use it for good.

### 3. RECOGNIZE TALENT.

- **Recognize the innate talent God has given you.** You can develop your gifts and abilities and fill up on resources. Ask yourself: How can I improve in order to give my best in what I do as a mentor, elder, leader, employee, spouse, preacher, etc. This will help you grow.
- **Talent does not validate character.** There are many people with much talent who know how to speak well, but there are few people with character. *Good personality will open doors, but having a firm character keeps them open.* We

should be aligned in growing in our character.

- Jesus took his twelve disciples and had them very close because He wanted them to be better. There were many people that followed him. Some wanted a miracle, others because they wanted food to eat, but He had His twelve to disciple. That is why they cried when Jesus left, because He was their mentor, and He trained them well. (1 Corinthians 13:1-6) Who is discipling you?

**CONCLUSION:** *It is not easy to be a leader. Sometimes people will make you feel bad and you'll want to defend yourself, but that is exactly where you should take care of yourself and be firm on what you want in this life, the purpose you have. What does God think about you? He dreams big, so align yourself with His purpose and let Him transform your character.*

**SALVATION PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

#### INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

Are you the type of person that is hungry to grow and learn?

Do you know God's purpose for your life?

Are you interested in forming your character?

#### PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- Write down what areas you need to grow in and begin to ask the Holy Spirit for help. Make prayer a lifestyle.

## DEVELOPING THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach the new disciples to obey all the commands I have given them. And be sure of this: that I am with you always, until the end of time. (Matthew 28:19-20 NTV)*

**INTRODUCTION:** *In the Bible we learn about Esther. She was a Jewish woman, chosen as the wife of King Ahasuerus and as the Queen of Persia. God put her in places of influence and gave her favor with the King to save the Jewish people from an extermination. Esther was never forgotten because God had given her influence; The Word teaches us that she had to hide her Jewish identity, because the Jews were not accepted in Persia, even so, she risked her life, position and reputation for the salvation of her people. During our walk with God, we can forget the reason behind why God has given us influence. Let's remember that on earth we're to fulfill a heavenly purpose, destined at a specific time that only we can achieve. The key is: "don't forget why God has given us influence." Today we're going to learn about responsible discipleship, and what we need in order to sustain it in our lives.*

### 1. **CHARACTER OF CHRIST.** (2 Tim. 2:2)

- There are three things that are needed to develop the character of Christ: **Purpose, Character, and Vision.** We need to understand and focus on our purpose. Our purpose is written in *Matthew 28:19-20* where our mission and vision come from; it's our duty to rise as Esther did, to guide and defend God's people. Christ's character is formed when we make the decision to have faith and obey his calling.

- **God-given gifts and talents empower us to fulfill our purpose.** Many haven't discovered their gifts and talents, therefore don't know their purpose. All of us have at least one gift and talent that's useful in serving God; there's not one human being who doesn't have the potential to serve God and make a difference in this world. We are loved, and because we are loved we are called, and because we are called, we are blessed.
- **Character vs temperament.** Character should not be confused with temperament. Temperament is inherited from parents, but the character of Christ is formed in us. Character is how you react when you are under pressure, when you're going through or facing a difficult situation. It's necessary that character be tested, because then, it can be refined and more Christ like.
- **What you hear determines your character.** If one listens to negative things, then character will be negative and if one listens to positive things then character will be positive. It's very important we pay attention to the things we listen to, because the Word says in *Romans 10:17* that, *faith comes by hearing.* Faith and hearing have the

potential to develop the character of Christ.

## 2. FAITH, LOVE AND PRAYER. (*Ephe. 1:15-20*)

- These must be rooted in Christ's church to maintain responsible discipleship. Discipleship is a relationship between the teacher (who disciples) and the student (the disciple), and there will come a time that through these three, the disciple will have to rely entirely on God.
- **Faith:** Is the anchor that keeps and leads us to the fulfillment of our purpose, successfully. (*San Marcos 11:24*). **Love:** It's when we see people as God sees them. (*1 Corinthians 13:7*) understanding that God's truth surpasses the reality we see in the natural realm. **Prayer:** it must be the main thing in our lives and church, because that's where we give birth to many answers. We win the greatest battles on our knees. Prayer is the foundation that sustains and activates the church; it's what brings God's sudden intervention.
- While these three things are essential to maintaining responsible discipleship, the person's decision is also very important. There are things that God cannot do for us and it's up to us to do them. For example, a person cannot stand in front of a mirror and say, "In the name of Jesus I wash my teeth, bathe and change my clothes. amen." Washing our teeth and changing clothes is our own decision and it's something God will not do for us. So, it's our decision to

allow the Holy Spirit to form the character of Christ in us.

## 3. RENOVATE OUR MIND (*Ephes. 4:22-23*).

**Our actions are the results of our thoughts.** We cannot change our course if we don't change our way of thinking, because our way of thinking determines how we feel, but the way we think is only changed through the relationship we have with the Holy Spirit, so if I want to change my lifestyle, it's very important to allow the Word of God to take control of my mind, if not, my mind will be occupied by the system of this world.

**CONCLUSION:** If we want to fulfill God's purpose in our lives, it's necessary to be responsible disciples, *with the character of Christ formed in us, full of love, be a people of prayer and faith. For that, we must give the Holy Ghost permission to do so, constantly renewing our way of thinking.*

**SAVING PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so that you may be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.*

### INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

Why do you think God has given you influence in an area? How do you react when you're under pressure? Is the Word of God in your mind? What is God waiting for you to do?

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION:** If you're not part of a discipleship, talk to your mentor and show him or her interest in attending.

# MATURITY

*You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. (Hebrews 5.12 NLT)*

**INTRODUCTION:** *When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we experience rebirth. In other words, we become like spiritual babies and the growth process immediately begins. This cannot only be determined by how long we've been on God's path, but by the maturity we have reached through His Word. The word "mature" comes from the Greek word "Teleios" which means "perfect and complete." Let's look at some normal stages a Christian goes through in development.*

## 1. NORMAL STAGES OF A DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN.

- **One who hears.** A person who simply gets along with the Gospel and assists church every once in a while.
- **Believer:** He who believes in Jesus as his Savior, assists church, but does not get involved in anything. *(Hebrews 2:41 and 4:4)*
- **Disciple:** He who has made a commitment with God and participates in his local church. *(Acts 6:1)*
- **Servant:** He who has responsibilities from God, but only does it when ordered to. *(Luke 17:7-10)*
- **Friend:** He who knows the will and desires of God and fulfills them out of love. *(John 15:14-15)*

## 2. STAGES OF CHRISTIANITY ACCORDING TO APOSTLE JOHN. (1 John 2.12-14)

- **Children:** Those who recently experienced forgiveness of their sins when receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- **Teenagers:** Those who begin to bear fruit. In other words, those who begin to be used by God by leading and fulfill a function within the church.
- **Parents:** *Those who have developed and serve as teachers to those who need to be taught.*

*We should ask ourselves, in what stage do we identify ourselves in? How much have we matured as a person?*

## 3. SIGNS OF LACK OF MATURITY:

- **No understanding or wrong understanding of God's word.** One of the signs of not having matured is when we don't understand the lessons the Bible teaches. Lack of understanding is not synonymous with lack of intelligence, rather lack of intimacy with God or lack of prayer. *(Hebrews 5:12)*
- **Jealousy:** *(1 Cor 3.3)* Jealousy is a clear sign of immaturity. Small children get jealous when someone takes their toys, or their parents play with another kid. In a marriage where there is jealousy in



one or both spouses, there are signs of immaturity.

- **Arguments:** When a person or Christian wants to argue about every topic, it simply shows immaturity.
- **Gets offended by everything.** Because they weren't greeted, weren't given credit for what they do, aren't taken into consideration, etc. They take everything personally and react wrongly to correction.
- **Division:** (1 Corinthians 1.12) I follow Paul's: Those who are only interested in novelties, knowledge, etc. (Acts. 17:18-21) I follow Apollos: Those who are only drawn in my how well a preacher can speak. (Acts 18:24-26). I follow Peter: Those who believe that they were the founders of the church and because of their long-time experience, they have every right. (Acts 1:21-22) I follow Christ: People who do not acknowledge authorities or accept covering from anybody.

#### 4. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF A MATURE CHRISTIAN

- They receive God's word with maturity and trust. In other words, they understand and receive the Word of God without question. (Hebrews 5.13-14)
- Their spiritual senses are developed. In other words, they

can discern God's will for their lives.

- They don't speak or give advice recklessly but ensure to guide their families and others through God's word. (1 Corinthians 2:6-7 & 14)
- They don't want to compete with anyone, they simply want to serve God. (Philippians 1:15-16)
- They are interested in prospering in every area of their lives and continue growing, having perfection in Jesus Christ as a goal.

**CONCLUSION:** *Everything has a beginning. When we were children, we would do everything a child does, but now, the fruits of maturity should be shown in our lives. If we are missing maturity in our lives, we can gain it through His guidance and Word.*

**SALVATION PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died on the cross for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.*

#### INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

In what stage do you identify yourself in as a Christian? Which characteristics apply to you most, an immature or mature Christian? In what areas do you recognize you must mature? Have you given your leader permission to correct you?

#### PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

Make a commitment to take some time to pray every day, read the Bible, and take a lesson out of it to apply to your life. Let your mentor know that you want to grow and give them permission to help you.

# HOW DOES REBELLION AFFECT CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT?

*Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. (Romans 13:1-2 NLT)*

**INTRODUCTION: What is rebellion?** *The dictionary defines it as: an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler. Other definitions tell us that rebellion is to revolt, to rise up, resist, and lack obedience where it is required. Rebellion was the cause of Satan's fall. Rebellion exists as part of our sinful nature as humans and it is intrinsic to rebel against all established authority with the goal of owning what is not ours.*

1. **SOMEONE WHO IS REBELLIOUS DOES NOT RECOGNIZE AUTHORITY.** (*2 Samuel 15:1-6*) Absalom was King David's son, which meant that he was under his authority and served him in some areas. But, although he had access to almost everything as the king's son that he was, he also had the desire in his heart to usurp his father's throne and obtain all the acknowledgement and attributes his father had. So, he decided to give himself attributes that didn't belong to him.
  - Walk through with authority in areas that were not delegated to him.
  - Defame the king's authority.
  - Gossiped against authority.
  - He would manipulate those who would come to him with needs and make the decisions only his father could make.
  - We can also see how Absalom's attitude contaminated Adonijah, who ended up acting in the same way as his brother (Absalom). But, in both cases, the Bible

tells us that their end was death. (*1 Kings 1:5*)

2. **REBELLION IS THE RESULT OF THE ABSENCE OF FEAR OF GOD.** (*Romans 13:2*)

- It's the manifestation of the flesh that does not submit to the Spirit. We need to learn to respect our authorities without exception (unless they're going against the Word of God). There are moments when it seems as if authorities delay or don't do things the way we expected them to, so we think the best solution is to intervene and "help them." But, is that correct? Is that our responsibility? Are our motivations correct?
- Sometimes people think that God will not give them an answer to their situation and rush to make decisions that are out of God's will, right as God was about to give them an answer. That is where many have lost blessings, opportunities, ministries and special callings due to their desperation and wrong attitude towards their authorities.
- There are people that are used to fighting for their rights. There are people who fight for a position when it could've been God himself moving people around. We shouldn't look to be defensive. God is the one who sees all situations and He is in charge of bringing justice. (*Romans 12:19*)

### 3. HOW TO RECOGNIZE A REBELLIOUS PERSON?

- **They don't recognize authority.** - "I don't think the pastor, elder, mentor, boss is the right person for this job. They should choose someone else."
- **They are jealous:** There is favoritism here! I could do the job better than my leader!
- **They are ambitious** "If I were the leader, I would do things very differently."
- **They are proud:** They don't like to be corrected, don't ask for forgiveness, don't accept direction. "No one can tell me what to do."
- **They gossip:** When they are given direction, they gossip and criticize authority. "The leader is not doing their job right!"
- **They are slanderous.** "I think the boss or leader is sinning!"
- **They question everything:** "Why did they make that choice? Why do they have to do things like that?"
- **They don't follow orders:** "I don't want to teach this topic! I don't want to serve!"
- **They are liars:** - "You see, brother, I received an unexpected visit so I can't make it to the HOP or church."
- **They are hypocrites:** In front of their leaders, they are kind and friendly, but when they're not there, they speak badly about them.

**CONCLUSION:** *If we learn these concepts and put them into practice, not only will we be blessed, but we will leave a legacy of blessing for our children. Our society would be very blessed because we would empty out courtrooms and prisons by being able to obey and follow laws and rules that govern good behavior. Surrender your life to Christ today.*

**SALVATION PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died on the cross for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness, I give you my heart and my life so you can be my Lord and personal savior, amen.*

#### INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

- Do instructions have to be constantly repeated to you or do you obey your boss without complaints or excuses?
- Are you obedient to what you are asked to do? Do you accept correction?
- Do you struggle with recognizing authority?
- Do you honor your authorities or speak badly about them behind their backs?

#### PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- If you believe that you have struggled with submitting to your authorities whether it be at home, work, church, or earthly authorities, repent and ask God for forgiveness and the Holy Spirit for help to be free from all spirit of rebellion.
- If you have dishonored your authorities or disobeyed them, speaking badly about them, criticizing or judging them, ask them for forgiveness.

# CHARACTER AND ANOINTING

*Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. (Judges 16:20 NIV)*

## ILLUSTRATION:

*God gave Samson special talents, anointing and purpose, but because of Samson's lack of character, and not knowing how to control his emotions, God at a determined time, departed from him. We can conclude that the gifts from God are free, but they are not necessarily a sign of high spirituality.*

## INTRODUCTION:

*There are people within the body of Christ who have received gifts from God, and they use them in a very special way within the spiritual camp in healings, prophecies, words of knowledge and wisdom, etc. However, certain situations in their lives make people wonder, "If God uses them in their gifts, why do they act dishonestly? For example: We've witnessed people dancing and receiving from the Holy Spirit during the time of praise, but once that moment is over, we later see them angry over a situation or feeling resentful by something that was said or done. Why do so many very capable and charismatic leaders, entrepreneurs, politicians and athletes collapse when they've achieved success? They grow in ability and charisma but forget to grow in character.*

## 1. SAMSONS LACK OF CHARACTER:

- He was unpredictable. He decided to take a worldly woman (*Judges. 14:3*)
- He was a lion slaughterer (*Judges 14:6*)
- Vengeful. He trapped some foxes in order to burn the Philistines crops, because they had taken his girlfriend. (*Judges 15:4*)
- He was a womanizer. He had a relationship with a prostitute. (*Judges 16:1*)
- He fell in love with the wrong person (Dalila) (*Judges 16:4*)
- He played with the anointing. He jeopardized God's anointing by opening his heart to the wrong woman. (*Judges 16:17*)
- He lost God's anointing. (*Judges 16:20*)
- He lost his vision and became a slave. (*Jud. 16:21*)
- He became the devil's toy. (*Jud. 16:25b*)

## 2. HOW TO DEVELOP CHARACTER?

- ***Put limits on your destructive emotions ahead of time.*** Emotions that do not lead us to draw closer to God and to do His will, come from the flesh and not from the Spirit. Therefore, we must not live according to what the flesh dictates, but according to the Spirit of God who dwells in us. Decide in advance that there will be no physical aggression in your home, no shouting, no offending when angry. (*Rom. 8:9*)

- ***Put limits on your actions ahead of time.*** We must be careful to not be led by emotions, because if we let them govern us, they will lead us into making wrong decisions with irreversible consequences, that in some cases of which we will regret the rest of our lives. Decide in advance not to get into situations that might be tempting and pose a challenge to control your destructive emotions and hence your actions. EX: If you have an extreme weakness for the opposite sex, you don't have to "resist", just don't get to the point where you must resist. Don't get into situations where you know will lead you to sin.
- ***Put your emotions in the hands of the Holy Spirit.*** The Spirit itself gives us the power to dominate and distinguish whether our emotions are of God and help us to grow in our Christian life; or if they are of the flesh and we must discard them. There isn't a more easy and natural way to have a balanced life than to allow God to develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Give your emotions and your temperament to the Holy Spirit, who imparts to us what we cannot produce on our own, this will make you an extraordinary leader with anointing and character. (2 Timothy 1:7)

3. **YOU NEED THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** It's not the fruit of motivating conferences that forms good character, nor is it the result of years in prison, psychotherapies don't achieve this, it's not our superhuman effort. The key is to surrender and allow the Holy Spirit to develop His fruit in our lives. (Gal. 5:22-23)

#### **CONCLUSION:**

*Emotions can draw us closer or away from God, the same emotions that can lead us to seek God, can later lead us to deny God. While emotions are good, we need to be careful and not cement our faith in these, for as the waves of the sea come and go and so our faith will come and go. It's better to give our temperament and emotions to the Holy Spirit.*

**SAVING PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so that you may be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.*

#### **INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:**

- What problems have caused you to be led away by your emotions?
- Do you get resentful or explode easily?
- What have you lost by being out of control with your emotions?

#### **PRACTICE APPLICATION:**

- Pray and give your temperament and emotions to the Holy Spirit.
- If you have sinned because you let your emotions out of control, ask God and those affected for forgiveness.



There is a place for you