



Episode 005

Personal Character and Intercession

Introduction

Intercessors are to be rich in faith and character. This is what God desires of us. How can we grow in godly character? How can the words we say and the way we live demonstrate holiness and humility?

How does our character affect the way we pray? When we discover the beauty of humility and brokenness and learn how our tongue can bring grace into the lives of others, we also discover joy in the secret place that breaks through into fruitful and effective prayer.

1. A Humble Heart

Walking in humility is essential for those who want to touch the world through prayer. Walk in the very humility in which Jesus walked. If we walk in humility instead of pride, then God will raise us up and use us for His glory. He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Am I willing to go through pain, misunderstanding, and brokenness for Him as He did for us? May God give us a revelation of how essential humility is for effective prayer and intercession.

Isaiah 57:15

For this is what the high and lofty ones say – He who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit. To revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite”.



It is the painful, humiliating “Not I, but Christ” and “Not my will, but Yours be done.” Let God touch your heart deeply as you grow in intercession. Let Jesus clothe you with this beautiful gift of humility so that He may release powerful prayers through you for all the downcast, poor and brokenhearted around the world.

Jesus is our example, having the attitude of a servant and humbling Himself on that cross.

Philippians 2:3-8

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

When we are confronted with His living word, we see our own failures in light of His purity, and we are humbled.

Suffering brings forth godly character if we handle it correctly.

Romans 5:3-4

“we... rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope.”

Brokenness and humility come when we see where our own way has taken us. Sin shows us we have fallen short of God’s best: I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. (Psalm 51:3)

Character Traits of Brokenness:

- They don’t defend themselves. They trust God to defend. “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” Says the Lord” (Romans 12:19).



- They are ready to be honest about themselves. “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1John1:8-9).
- They quickly admit they have sinned. Pride will deny that there is the possibility to sin. “Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight” (Psalm 51:4).
- They are ready to make restitution. “If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23-24).
- They are convinced of their inability to serve God on their own. They realize their dependence on prayer because they know they can do nothing without God. “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).
- They are able to rejoice and weep with others. They have compassion on the broken in the world and are able to enter into their pain. “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn” (Romans 12:15).

If you want to know what a person is really like, find out what makes him or her laugh and weep. A person who knows true brokenness knows how to do both.

2. Words that Uplift and Bring Grace

The words we use have tremendous power. The bible says that life and death are in the power of the tongue

Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.



Jesus's prayers were heard because of His reverent submission

Hebrews 5:7

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Those who desire to have an effective prayer life, learn to be watchful with our speech.

The Power of the Tongue.

The tongue has a powerful influence on others. God is looking for a holy life, and one of the key areas that we must guard with all diligence is our tongue.

If we guard our speech, we can win a great victory. When we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, we defeat the Enemy.

When we abide in Christ, His Spirit can flow from our lives in word and deed everywhere we go. When we enter a place where fear is evident, we can come in the spirit of peace. We can speak words of peace. Where there is hate, we can come in the spirit of love and kindness. Our words can be kind and full of love. Our actions demonstrate love even in the midst of our enemies. Galatians 5:22-23, Fruits of the Spirit.

3. Joyful in Prayer

Philippians 4:4-6

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.





It is certainly not easy to rejoice in certain circumstances of life, but we have a choice of how we will view those circumstances.

God has an answer for everything, even when we don't see it through our human eyes.

Joy is a fruit of the spirit. It is not something we can create ourselves- it comes from God. It's supernatural and persists in a deep, abiding way, even when we are in the midst of hardship. But rejoicing always is learning to let God's spirit fill you with His unquenchable joy, regardless of your circumstances. If you're joyful, your life becomes a testimony of Christ's light for a world looking desperately for hope.

Joy in the Secret Place of Prayer

There is joy in the secret place prayer. There is joy as we choose to center our life in God and knowing Him. There is joy and breakthrough even in the darkest of circumstances when we choose to make Jesus our highest ambition, our deepest desire, and our greatest goal.

It is a joy that is grounded so firmly in a relationship with God that no change in circumstances could ever shake it.

The enemy uses destroyers of joy to try to diminish our power in intercession.

Anxiety

“Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (4:6-7).

Self Righteousness

“Be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith” (3:9).



Disagreement and poor relationships

“I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord” (4:2).

Difficult circumstances

“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances” (4:11).

Wrong thinking

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things” (4:8).

Complaining

“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe” (2:14-15).

Pride

‘Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and become obedient to death –even death on a cross!’ (2:8).

Discussion Questions

1. What aspect of personal character is God showing you that needs transforming from the lesson above?
2. What would it take for you to see faith filled changes be made so that your prayer life may be more effective?





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