



Pt 5: **By Becoming Like Him**

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## Connecting with God - *“Getting to know God in a meaningful and life changing way.”*

We all expect and value good character in those whom we mix with, live with and work with. We are disappointed in those same people when they show a *‘lack of character’*.

We all value good character, the problem is, we can value character more in other people than we do in ourselves!

Good character is something we are not always willing to pay the price to get for ourselves.

Here is the problem. Our society promotes achievement and accomplishment over good character. God rewards character before achievement!

When we choose accomplishment and fulfilment over character and integrity, the key area in our lives that suffers the most, is in our relationships.

Character is the oil of relationships!

Extract the oil of character from any relationship regardless of how perfectly the two people are suited and eventually there will be a breakdown.

People that were designed for each other minus the oil of character – destroy one another!

**Definition of Godly Character:** *“Godly character is the will to do what is right as God defines right, regardless of the cost!”*

God desires for us to choose what is right because it is right unto Him, and not choosing what we determine is right because it benefits us.

It is not about what we get out of doing right – it is about pleasing God!

**Proverbs 11:1-3** *The Lord abhors dishonest scales...*

The idea behind this word *“abhors”* in the original Hebrew writing is a *‘gut wrenching hatred’* for dishonest scales.

There is something in us that attracts us to dishonesty when it benefits us.

God cannot stand it when someone acts dishonestly at the expense of somebody else.

...*But accurate weights are His delight.*

We bring a smile to the *face* of God when our decisions reflect His character. Firstly, God delights in our honesty. Secondly, He blesses us with humility.

**2:** *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*

There is always a consequence to pride. But the consequence of humility is God's rewarding of wisdom.

Humility is viewing ourselves and our achievement through the lens of who God is and who we are in relationship to Him.

Thirdly, God will guide us in integrity when we become a man or woman of Godly character.

**3:** *The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.*

Men and women of great integrity don't agonise and struggle like so many people struggle in decision making.

Because 9 times out of 10 God's will is found in the pursuit of Godly character simply doing what is right!

We understand from the Scriptures that as we allow Jesus to live through us, our character will be conformed to His.

Jesus models the character that God wants in us. The character of Jesus is not something we can manufacture but something that is produced through us.

**Romans 8:29a** *For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son...*

## Conclusion

God responds to us in three ways when we pursue Godly character over achievement, accomplishment, pleasure and fulfilment;

1. He will delight in us when we are honest.
2. He will give us wisdom when we are humble.
3. He will guide us for being men and women of integrity.

Regardless of how bad you have messed up your life and regardless of how distant you feel away from God, our heavenly Father is always willing to step in where we are and begin with us where we are.

He will begin to work in our lives partnering with us to develop in us the character of Jesus and to empower us to have the will to do what is right as Jesus guides us and shows us what is right.

**I encourage you to memorise this prayer. *“Lord. Give me the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do what is right, no matter what!”***