

GROWING IN CHRIST LIKENESS

EPHESIANS 4:14-16



THE WORD
OF GOD
IS LIKE
A SEED.
PLANT IT
IN YOUR
HEART.

1 Peter 1:23

LESSONS 21-24

WEST JACKSONVILLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

CATHEDRAL OF FAITH CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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Lesson 21

Attentiveness Vs. Distraction

“Showing the worth of a person or task by giving my undivided concentration”

Character Thought

Understand and convey the value of others

Character Scripture

Luke 10:38-42

Character Points

Are You Listening?

- Use good listening mannerisms to communicate the worth of others
- Stop what you are doing (limit other activities when listening)
- Value Criticism (patiently listen to others and appreciate the value of their words)
- End Conversations Graciously (finish conversations in a manner that communicates appreciation)

Balance Attentiveness

- Be alert to surroundings (focus on the person or project before you)
- Speak the truth boldly (be ready to speak and draw attention to truths)
- Initiate Action (recognize and do what needs to be done before being asked to do it)

Five Keys To Attentiveness

- Look at people when they speak
- Learn To Listen
- Ask Questions When Unsure
- Align Your Spine
- Avoid Distractions

“I Will” Declarations

- Look at people when they speak
- Ask questions if I do not understand
- Sit or stand upright
- Not draw attention to myself
- Keep my eyes, ears, hands, feet, and mouth from distractions

Lesson 22

Patience vs. Restlessness

“Accepting a difficult situation without giving a deadline to remove it”

Character Thought

Overcome difficult situations by systematically working through them

Character Scripture

James 1:3-4 “Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

Character Points

Practice patience with the speed bumps of life

- Patience is a Virtue (the key to consistency)
- Get a Better View (don't focus on temporal things)
- Do What You Can (know what's out of your control)
- Maintain a Good Attitude (your response to a situation makes the difference)

Balance Patience

- Exercise Discernment (understand the deeper reason why things happen)
- Think Creatively (approaching things from a new perspective)
- Wait alertly (being aware of what is taking place around me so I can respond)

Five Keys to Building Patience

- Keep Your Cool (be flexible)
- Use the Right Process (avoid cutting corners without consideration)
- Pursue While You Wait (find a more productive way to improve things)
- Accept Reality (some things should change, some should not, some require time and effort in order for change) Be realistic
- Try Again (Know that your vision is worth pursuing)

“I Will” Declarations

- I will wait my turn
- I will make the most of my spare time
- I will not interrupt
- I will accept what I cannot change
- I will not complain if I do not get my way

Lesson 23

Alertness vs. Carelessness

“Being Aware of what is taking place around me so I can have the right responses”

Character Thought

Monitor your surroundings and recognize important details

Character Scripture

Ephesians 5:15-17

Character Points

Are You Ready

- Maintain constant awareness and be prepared to act
- Index information (ability to notice and file away information for future reference as needed)
- Get involved (stay involved and recognize which areas need support)
Respond to needs (distinguish between the most important and pressing needs)

Balance Alertness

- Taking Responsibility (Knowing and doing what is expected of me)
- Use discretion (be ready to speak and draw attention to truths)
Exercise Caution (recognize and avoid words, actions, and attitudes that could bring undesirable consequences)

Five Keys To Attentiveness

- Anticipate Obstacles
- Connect Signals with Meaning
- Tell those affected
- Act Immediately
- Take Time To Analyze

“I will” Declarations

- Keep my Eyes and ears open
- Recognize and heed warning signals
- Choose to do right before I’m tempted
- Tell others of danger
- Stay away from unsafe places

Lesson 24

Tolerance vs. Prejudice

“Realizing that everyone is at varying levels of character development”

Character Thought

Look for the best in others and give them room to grow

Character Scripture

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

Character Points

- Grow Up (learn to see the forest and the trees)
- Begin Where You Are (like a seed)
- Pay Attention (see the good in fallen leaves)
- Keep Growing (see the lesson in every encounter/situation in life)

Balance Tolerance

- Speak Boldly (confidence in what I say or do because its true and just)
- Emphasize Virtue (moral excellence is vital to abundant life)
- Exercise Discernment (understand the deeper reasons why things happen)
- There is a difference between tolerance and not caring.

Five Keys to Building Tolerance

- Look Beyond Appearances (discover the motivations behind a persons behavior)
- Give Room to Grow (initial mistakes can bring greater benefit than immediate successes)
- Examine Yourself (is it them or is it me)
- Maintain the Standard (you are not always right)
- Respond Appropriately (make an effort to live peaceably with others)

“I Will” Declarations

- I will look beyond appearances
- I will accept people for who they are (not necessarily what they do)
- I will help others grow in character
- I will look at myself first
- I will not confuse what is right