

## KNOWING THE YOU IN YOU

## CHARACTER

We are going to consider two guys, one is called Sammy and the other called Jossy. This will help me drive home this teaching on character. The impact of character on influence is very significant; you cannot be a person of influence without character. Character remains exclusively the foundation of influence.

One thing I have learnt from God is that He does not use a man He hasn't prepared. There is something that God is preparing us for. The first guy in my illustration is Samson (Sammy) has body strength, well-built muscles, looks fresh and has everything good on the outside. On the other hand, Joseph (Jossy) has no physical strength, fairly developed muscles but looks very good on the inside. Samson had all the physical strength outside but lacked character on the inside; Joseph on the other hand, had a developed character.

Samson was a Nazarene i.e. He was separated from birth. He was the first of the other Nazarenes recorded in the Bible. *He died like a chicken, a very shameful death.* The character of Joseph exposed Him and he became a generation. ***They were both exposed to the same temptation-women*** but Joseph accepted the prison over pleasure.

## THE POWER OF CHARACTER

1. ***Character is better and more important than rules:*** a man of character is disciplined, even when there are no rules and regulations, a man of character will stand out. A man of character places certain restrictions on himself all because of the glory that lies ahead of him.
2. ***Character outlives Vision/goals/purposes:*** Samson was born as ***a Jesus to His generation*** but died as a Gentile. The enemy he was sent to kill killed Him through the means of deficiency of character. Joseph on the other hand outlived His generation. When a man of character leaves a place, his assignment will still be speaking. *What will you be known for? That you have a vision or character?*
3. ***Character always shapes an organization/system/nation and ultimately a generation:*** the character of Joseph rescued the whole world from serious economic depression. The deficiency of character of Samson destroyed a whole generation.

Get back to your assignment and understand you are ruling a generation. Any change you respond to under pressure or test exposes your true character. The real you emerges under pressure. Your character will be tested through Power (Money), Fame and Sex. Proverbs 27:21(TPT).

If we were to make further references, you will agree with me that Joseph was richer than Samson, he was the Prime Minister of Egypt, and he was put in charge of Egypt's treasury. Meanwhile, Samson's riches was with women. Joseph saw a generation ahead of Him and He chose prison over pleasure.

4. ***CHARACTER IS PERSONAL BUT NOT PRIVATE:*** there is nothing like private life, whatever you do will still be exposed. You might have a personal life but not a private life, there is nothing new under the sun. Anything you intend to do that you wouldn't want anyone to make reference to in the future, don't do it! Consequences are more powerful than convictions. Whatever becomes of you will ultimately affect others!
5. ***Character is louder than words:*** Men and woman of character don't talk too much they just show up.
6. ***Character predicts you:*** Get back to your assignment and be known for your character, let your character define you. What will you be known for? Your character will always implicate you, it will surely speak. The things you do today are going to speak in the future.
7. ***Character is more important and stronger than power:*** Samson impressed men but Joseph impressed God. Power impresses men but character impresses God. Samson died by power but Joseph died in the position of power. Power killed Samson but Joseph lived in power and died in the seat of power. The things you do today will have an impact on your future generations positively or negatively.

## **PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE/ HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CHARACTER IN VIEW OF WHAT LIES AHEAD**

1. I will not violate my values
2. I will not sell my convictions
3. I will be a fixed person( you must be a predictable person, an unmovable person)
4. I will not change my stand based on pressures

5. I refuse to compromise my moral standards
6. I will be known for ***one thing*** (*I will be one in my thoughts, words, and actions*). When you change your convictions under pressure, you become schizophrenic!
7. I will be true to myself. The ultimate expression of trust is truthfulness and the greatest strength of leadership is trust.

**The Journey to character development begin this way:**

- i. Be truthful to yourself: Be real and sincere, don't bring people into lies
- ii. Be truthful to every situation: See the situation as it is, be real to every situation, don't pretend over any matter
- iii. Be truthful to people: don't deceive people, say it the way it is over every situation. Most people don't like truthful people but they cannot deny their truthfulness.
- iv. Be truthful to a system (organisation, system, family, marriage)
- v. Be truthful to God: Maintain your constant walk with Him. Let God be able to vouch for you like He did in the case of Job (Job 1:8)

Pressures, temptations and trials must come, but you must develop the habit of seeing the positive side of it

James 1:2-4(TLB), Romans 5:3-4

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God's best to you!

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