

KEEPING YOUR WORD **Required Christian Character** **Part 1**

- **And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it. Colossians 4:17**

Christians are God's representatives in the earth to both the heathen and other saints. Therefore, a Christian's life must be as much like Jesus Christ as possible. God is a God of integrity and commitment. His ministers should be as well. God keeps His Word and finishes what He starts. He expects His ministers to be like Him. You must be like Him to fulfill His call.

DO YOU HAVE A GOOD NAME?

- **A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold. Proverbs 22:1**

The name you have made for yourself is your testimony in the earth. A mere "good" name (not even an excellent name) is better than great riches. What is your name? What is your reputation? In the end, your reputation is all you've got and God does not promote people of ill repute into ministry. What is your reputation among the saints? What will you do to improve it?

ARE YOU KNOWN FOR YOUR INTEGRITY?

Integrity is not just honesty on the job. Integrity is keeping your word. Integrity is being faithful. Integrity is being dependable.

- **LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. Psalm 15:1,4b**
- **And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2**

(Faithful: trusty, can be relied upon, of persons who have shown themselves faithful in the transactions of business, the executions of commands, or the discharge of official duties).

- **Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten [*I am alert and active, watching, Amp.*] my word to perform it. Jeremiah 1:11, 12**

To bring your words to pass you must stay alert and active, diligently looking after them. Are you known as a man or woman of their word? Do you fight to keep your word even if it costs you? Can you be trusted with official duties?

KEEPING YOUR WORD IS FINISHING WHAT YOU'VE STARTED

- **For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Let haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.**

Luke 14:28-30

You cannot live commitment-free; however, before you commit, you should weigh the cost and make sure you can finish what you have begun. If you don't keep your word, you will be mocked. Keeping your word will build great things in your life.

DO YOU HAVE GOD'S CHARACTER?

Christians are to be holy as God is holy. One of the less observed character traits of our God is that of "finisher." Our God finishes what He begins.

- **Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.**

Genesis 2:1,2

If God had left creation up to man, we'd still be working on it and using the excuse, "I've been meaning to get to that." God did not rest until it was completed. We would rest six days and plan to create it all on the seventh day.

- **In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. 1 Samuel 3:12**

Even God's prophecies have beginnings and endings. Notice that an ending must be "made." Most men are very successful at making a mess and not very successful at making an end.

- **Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. John 4:34**

Our meat (our source of energy) is doing and finishing the will and work of God. Meat is not just deep teaching, it is actually doing what you have been taught and finishing what you have been taught. How many Christians do what they've been taught? How many of those doers complete what they've started?

- **But I have greater witness (*weightier testimony*) that that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. John 5:36**

Our ability to finish the work we have been given creates for us “weighty testimonies” that glorify Jesus Christ. May God help us to finish the works He has assigned us!

KEEPING YOUR WORD **Required Christian Character** **Part 2**

If we are going to honor God, we must live a life that honors Him. We must keep our word by finishing the things we have committed to. The work we are called to do will be our testimony, but only if we finish them. Talking about the work we are called to do will not prove God has sent us. Doing the work and finishing the work proves that you are endorsed of God.

- **When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.** **John 19:30**

God gave the Law to Moses and diligently watched over His Word for 1,524 years until this moment when He could finally say, "I have completed that which I have started. It is finished."

- **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith . . .** **Hebrews 12:2a**

Jesus did not begin something and then get bored and start something else and then get bored and then start something else and then get bored . . .

- **Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform (*finish*) it until the day of Jesus Christ.** **Philippians 1:6**

Jesus performs and finishes what He begins until the end. We should be found faithful performing the work that we begin.

- **Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.** **2 Corinthians 8:6**

Paul desired that Titus finish what he had started at the Corinthian Church.

YOUR WORD IS YOUR VOW

As men and women of integrity, we should not require a contract, a promise, a vow, or even a handshake in order to keep our word and bring it to pass. Our word alone is our vow. We fight to bring it to pass that God Himself would be exalted by our life.

- **If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.** **Numbers 30:2**

This chapter is referred to as the “Law of Vows.” Thirteen times this chapter refers to making a promise as “binding your soul.” Your soul is not free until you fulfill your promise and bring your words to pass.

- **And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. Leviticus 19:12**

The swearing of oaths was used to add credence to a man’s word. It was a type of verbal contract. Invoking God’s name in your promise to get people to trust you and then failing to deliver was called “false swearing” or “profaning the name of God” or actually “blasphemy.” Today we might say, “You can trust me, I’m a minister,” or “I’m a Christian.”

- **But I say unto you, That every idle [*slow, barren, free from labor, lazy, shunning the labor one ought to perform*] word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. Matthew 12:36**

Failed promises are idle words—barren, lazy, and free from labor. Idle words aren’t produced when they are spoken. Idle words are produced when the declarer of such has shunned the labor they should have performed in order to bring the promise to pass. We will have to account for this laziness on judgment day.

- **But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. James 5:12**

James adds another dimension—mean what you say and say what you mean. This is described as being “above all things.”

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Poverty rarely finishes what it starts; “I’ve been meaning to do that.”
- Excellence will finish what it starts. Excellence is a finisher.
 - “We’ve lost the art of finishing.” –Ps. Mike Campbell
- Take pride in your work. Master it.
- God finishes everything He starts. Do you?
- God gives His word and then follows through. Do you?
- God keeps His vows. Do you?
- Anyone can start a race, but will you finish yours? (Excitement)
- Anyone can start to build, but will you finish your tower? (Money)
- Anyone can start a war, but will you fight to the finish? (Endurance)

A Christian is only as good as their word. Make sure you reflect the character of Christ by keeping your word.