

Thy Kingdom Come: Kingdom Character

Reflect

1. What does it mean to have character?
2. Are there such things as good character and bad character? What is the difference?
3. Have you ever said the phrase, "I am blessed?" What did you mean by this?

Read Your Bible

- Galatians 5:22-25
- Matthew 5:1-12

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Have you ever heard of the fruit of the Spirit? Can you name any of these from memory?
2. What does the Apostle Paul mean in Galatians 5:24 when he talks about crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires?
3. What is the difference between living in the flesh and living by the Spirit?
4. What are some tangible ways we can live by the Spirit?
5. Have you ever heard of the Beatitudes? What surprises you most about them?
6. Our world often thinks of blessing in terms of material abundance or a lack of bad circumstances. For example, my family is blessed because we all have good health. However, the Scripture says that we are blessed when we are persecuted and spoken evil of. After considering this, what do you think the term "blessing" truly means?
7. When reading the fruit of the Spirit, as well as the Beatitudes, which qualities on the list do you think you would like to work on? For example, maybe your actions cause lots of arguments with those around you. How could you work on being a peacemaker?

Conclusion

The life of a Christian is not one free from sin and brokenness. However, the life of a Christian is one lived by the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we need the Holy Spirit so that we can have the strength to put the works of our flesh to death. If you have ever felt a fight in your soul between having a desire to do something that is displeasing to God and putting that desire to the side to instead do something that honors God, this is the work of the Holy Spirit in you. The Holy Spirit is giving you Kingdom Character to reflect the life of Jesus Christ here on this earth. Even the Apostle Paul had this fight in his soul as he wanted to do what he knew he shouldn't do and didn't do what he knew he should do (Romans 7:15). But the Holy Spirit was working in Paul, and in you and me, to draw us closer to the image of our Lord and Savior for His glory.

Pray

Dear God, I often find myself doing things that dishonor You and avoiding the things that bring You honor. I feel pulled in the wrong direction and give into my earthly desires. Please forgive me and make me new by Your Holy Spirit's power. By this same power, You rose Jesus from the grave and can continue to conform me into the child of God You are creating me to be. I confess that I cannot make this transformation happen on my own but need Your saving and

transforming work in my life. Thank You for always taking me back and making me new. In Jesus' name. Amen!