

Overcoming - *When You Are Between the Frying Pan and the Fire*



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How are you doing, today?





Input = Outlook





Battle – Flesh vs. Spirit



SELF-talk of the **FL**ESH

- **E**xaggerates
- **E**xtols comfort over work
- **E**ncourages selfish ambition
- **E**xposes old misdeeds
- **E**scapism – over enduring
- **E**stablishes “victim” status



Never a victim – always conquering



A True Story - I Sam 30

It took David and his men three days to reach Ziklag. But while they had been away, the Amalekites had been raiding in the desert around there...attacked Ziklag, burned it to the ground...had taken away the women and children.

When David and his men came to Ziklag, they saw the burned-out ruins and learned that their families had been taken captive...David was desperate. His soldiers were so upset over what had happened to their sons and daughters that they were thinking about stoning David to death.

But David found strength in the LORD his God.



A True Story - I Sam 30

David led his six hundred men to Besor Gorge, but two hundred of them were too tired to go across. So they stayed behind, while David and the other four hundred men crossed the gorge.

Which group do you want to be in?

David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back.



How Did David **C**onquer?

- **C**risis management- *he called out to God*
- **C**haracter molding - *he was a “man after God’s own heart.”*
- **C**onfession modeled – *his character was shaped by repentance*
- **C**ourage managed – *in any circumstance, please God, not man.*



***NOT A VICTIM –
ALWAYS CONQUERING:***
**9 STEPS TO CHARACTER-
BUILDING**



Paul – Master of Crisis Management

- Former religious leader
- Became a “marketplace relationship” leader
- Epitaph written by his enemies
 - “ These men...Paul and Silas...have turned the world upside-down, and now they are here!”

Paul's Crisis Management Techniques

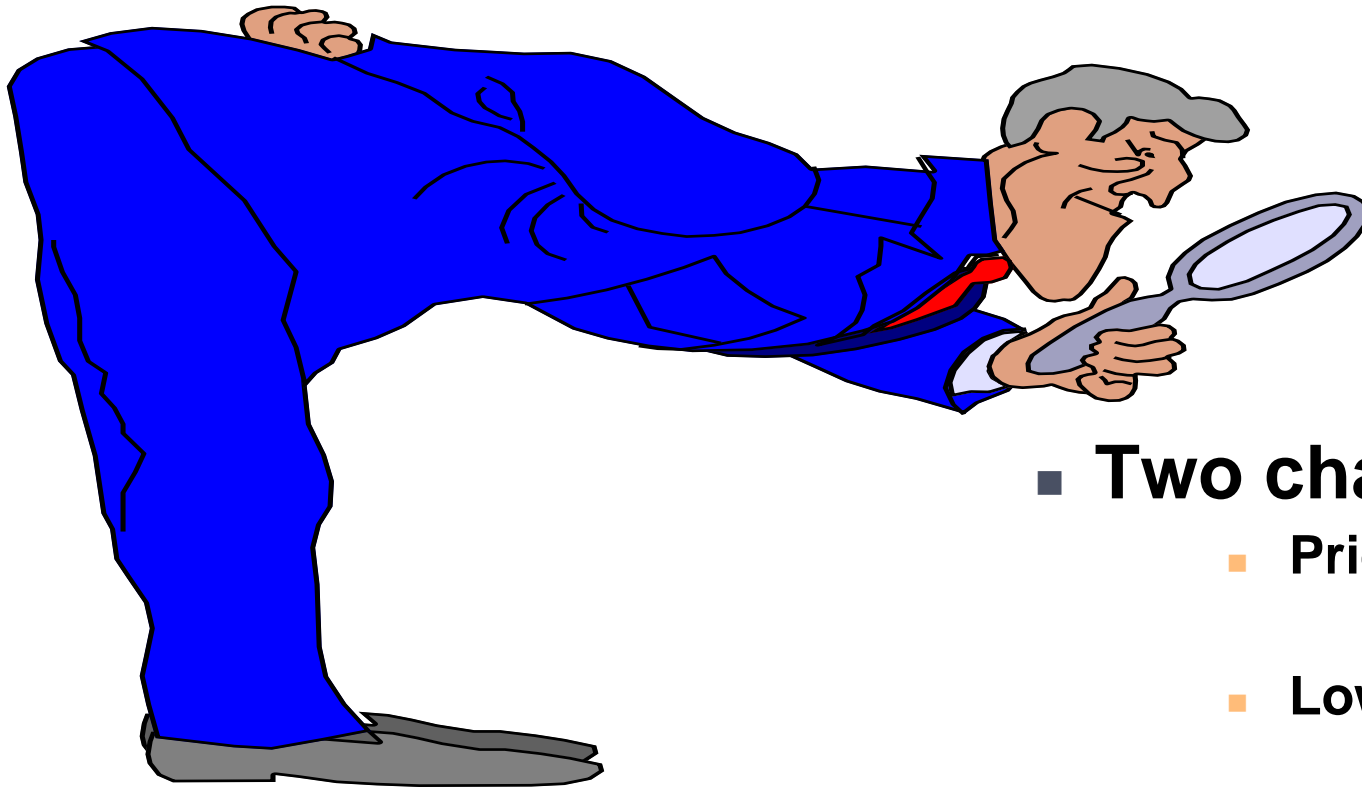
“I don't mean to say I am perfect. I haven't learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be.

No...I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing; forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.” Philippian letter

Character Building #1

KEEP AN ACCURATE VIEW OF YOURSELF

“I don’t mean to say I am perfect...”



- **Two challenges**
 - **Pride**
 - **Low self-esteem!**

Character Building #2

***REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE STILL
LEARNING***

**“I haven’t learned all I
should even yet..”**

- Are you familiar with the current lesson-plan God has on the desk of your life today?
- Are you enduring?



Character Building #2

*REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE
STILL LEARNING*

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the **endurance** taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

2 Corinthians 6:4

Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great **endurance**; in troubles, hardships and distresses;

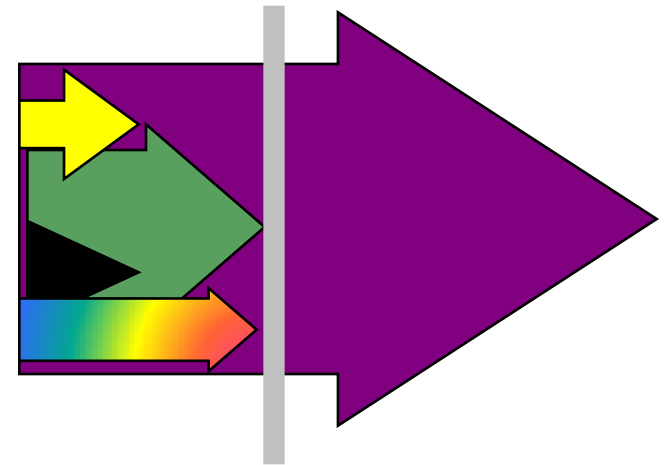
1 Thessalonians 1:3

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your **endurance** inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Character Building #3

IDENTIFY YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE.

- “...be all..that Christ saved me for...”
- Purpose
 - extends beyond life
 - defines direction of life
 - never attained
 - shapes our **values**





Prayer

“We want the right **values**, those that make us a healthy community in which achieving our goals is our means of becoming better people and a better organization. So these values must move us toward the right goals. Guide our selection of these values. If we blunder here, nothing else will work right.”

From Richard Kriegbaum, *Leadership Prayers*



A Thought

“Changing organizations begins with changing people and changing people begins with changing self.”

Peter Senge, The Fifth Discipline

Character Building #4

KEEP YOUR OBJECTIVES IN CLEAR VIEW

- "...looking forward to what lies ahead..."
- Walking the tightrope of life--end view



Character Building #4

*KEEP YOUR OBJECTIVES IN
CLEAR VIEW*

Hebrews 12:2-3... **fixing** our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he **endured** the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who **endured** such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

2 Corinthians 4:18

So we **fix** our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Character Building #5



Be in Community

“...I strain to reach the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.”

Paul & Silas

Paul & Barnabas

Paul & Timothy

Paul & Philemon

Paul & Titus

Paul & John Mark

Paul & Pricilla and Aquila

Paul & and the church

“You are part of a community – “The God who was never alone, became alone so that I might have fellowship with Him [and you].” – Dr. Doug Webster

Character Building #5



Be in Community

- ...be likeminded [with fellow believers], having the same love...of one mind..
- ...let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit...
- ...humbly, let each esteem others better than himself...
- ...look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others...

Character Building #6

*DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME
RELIVING PAST FAILURES*

“...forgetting the past...”

- New creation
- Freedom in Christ

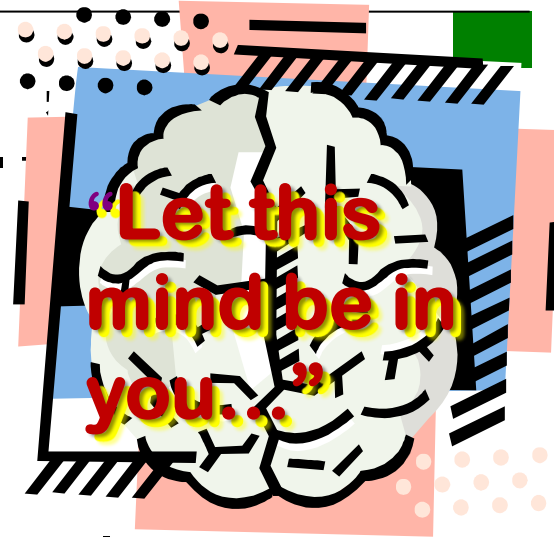


Character Building #6

*DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME
RELIVING PAST FAILURES*

“...forgetting the past...”

- New creation
- Freedom in Christ
- Bringing all thoughts under control



Character Building #6

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME RELIVING PAST FAILURES

- "...let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ...
- ...let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...
- ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...

Character Building #6

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME RELIVING PAST FAILURES

- ...rejoice in the Lord...
- ...stand fast in the Lord...
- ...let your gentleness be know to all...
- ...be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be mad know to God..."

Character Building #7

*USE THE LAW OF FOCUS TO
INCREASE YOUR IMPACT*

“...bringing all my energies to bear on this **one** thing...”

- Do you understand the law of limited resources?



Character Building #8



Marshal Your Resources

- “...bringing **all my energies** to bear on this one thing...”
- Committed what resources he had.
 - Did not focus on what was missing
 - Used what God’s gave him
- Be open to God’s methods
 - 5 smooth stones changes a nation
 - Using a boy’s lunch
 - 6 jars with dirty water

Character Building #9

Persist

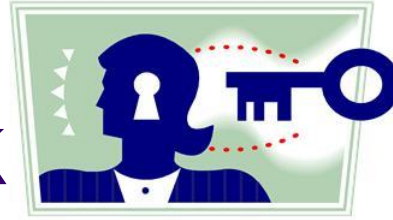
- It takes hard work!
 - “I *strain* to reach the end of the race and receive the prize!”



- “No gain without pain”
- ...do everything without complaining or disputing....



Input = Outlook



■ Winning the battle takes character

1. Keep an accurate view of yourself
2. Remember that you are still learning
3. Identify your purpose in life.
4. Keep your objectives in clear view
5. Be in community
6. Don't waste your time reliving past failures
7. Use the law of focus to increase your impact
8. Marshal your resources
9. Persist



Character

- What are people going to say about you when you are “put in that final box?”
 - Will you be recognized as a person who knew where you were going--after this life? OR
 - Will they be struggling to find accolades that suit the moment, but betray the insignificance of your life?