

Gifts and Character

Joshua, Aaron, and Hur (Exodus 17, 24, 32)

1. Moses gave commands to Joshua, Aaron, and Hur to test their faithfulness and character.
2. Joshua was faithful on the slopes being obedient to Moses.
 - a. He remained faithful to his post even though Moses was gone a long time.
 - b. He remained faithful when he thought he heard the sound of war in the camp.
3. Aaron and Hur were not faithful. The two events revealed their character flaws.
 - a. They were not faithful to Moses when he was away.
 - b. They catered to the people's opinions in a time of pressure.
 - c. Rebellious often go around leadership and directly to the people (Absalom).

Self-Love is the Root of All Sins

*"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will **be lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful (everything is owed to you), unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty (arrogant), lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..." (2 Timothy 3:1-4)*

*"Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, **all of you be submissive to one another**, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:5-6)*

*"...**Submitting to one another** in the fear of God." (Ephesians 5:21)*

*"Therefore, **submit yourselves to every ordinance** of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good" (1 Peter 2:13-14)*

Character and Gifts

1. Gifts come through birth or the Lord. You do not create gifts.
2. Character comes from submission. You do create character.
3. Your gifts can take you where your character cannot sustain you.
4. Even gifted children need to be disciplined.
5. God will not promote you when your gifts exceed your character.

6. Others will try to promote you, or you may try to promote yourself (Luke 14:11).
7. Many less gifted people go unnoticed in a world filled with others who are more gifted.
8. Gifted people often have short careers and are replaced quickly.
9. Many less gifted people rise to the top are blessed and prospered because they develop character.
10. Businesses seek people of character over gifted people.
 - a. The world does not owe you a job.
 - b. Your education or diploma does not bring you a job or keep it.
 - c. More people are fired for lack of character than education.
 - d. Christians should be the hardest workers and most dependable.
11. When your gift exceeds your character, you are proud, and God resists you (James 4:6).
12. When you are rewarded and promoted for our gifts you end up like many sports figures, actors, and musicians who are spoiled and arrogant.
13. An “elder” is not one who is old, but mature, despite his age.
 - a. There are many fifty-year old children.
 - b. There are also many twenty-year old adults.

How About You?

*“Humble yourselves under **the mighty hand of God**, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6)*

*“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore **whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God**, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.” (Romans 13:1-2)*

1. President, governor, mayor, police, boss, parent, superintendent, principal, or teacher. They all represent the hand of God.
2. Life is unfair. Things do not always go your way.
3. Determination to submit in unfair situations builds character.
4. Giving every wrong situation to God makes you Christlike.