Character Building Training

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Dear Friend, Prospective Character-Building Student

Thank you for your interest in taking this character building training with us. Honestly, our hearts thrill every time we see someone starting out in this journey, and we are committed to support you every step of the way. We cannot do it for you, but coaching is all about supporting you, encouraging you and motivating you not to give up in this effort.

Be aware, this journey leads us inevitably through Jesus' Golgotha. All eternity we will study the mysteries of the cross of Jesus and yet never exhaust them! Here is the secret of our victorious life.

Our starting point is equal for all: we all were born with selfish nature. That is the root cause of our problems on this planet Earth. Many people are suffering, born with strong passions and inclinations toward harmful things, raised in broken homes, perhaps married into dysfunctional and draining relationships. One way or another, we are all damaged and have to suffer the consequences of our own or others poor choices.

This program is offering you key principles to help you rise above this miasma of darkness surrounding us within and without into the light and glory of Christ. (Is 60:1-2) More than that. It is helping you to be actively engaged in applying these principles into your life. We go through it with you.

We all crave love, understanding, acceptance and support. But the price is not cheap. If we want to see real changes in our life, we need to face the reality of our fallen condition and be willing to do something about it. That's the price!

There is no higher desire than to become like Christ. Jesus Himself longs for such souls, though they are very rare. You are truly precious in His eyes:

"When the fruit is brought forth, immediately He puts in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. {Christ's Object Lessons, p. 69.1}

We ask the prospective students to commit to a regular number of hours each week to pursue this training and to let us know, how many hours you are willing to commit. The reason we ask this information is that the secret to success in character building is the same as most other endeavors in life: and that is CONSISTENCY.

Take courage - if you will just be consistent you CAN deepen your relation with Jesus, with your closest family, friends and perhaps even help others grow as well. That is our prayer for you. John 20:21: *Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, so send I you.'*

Here you can read little bit of about us and see our faces. My wife Sylvia is from the USA, I am from Slovakia.

Here are some basic things related to our Character-Building Coaching:

Part I. What is done for us

The first section includes lessons 1 - 16 (there are 18 lessons because lessons 9 and 14 have two parts). We are all prone to try to "save ourselves" by our works, yet we need to realize what is provided for us, outside of ourselves, by our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Only then can we learn how to cooperate with God in His GREAT PLAN OF SALVATION.

We must learn to first focus on the provisions God has made available for His glory to be restored in us. This part of the course will help us to build the good and solid foundation underneath for what comes next.

Part II. What is done through us (there are 22 lessons, 17 - 37)

We have an absolutely essential, active, cooperative role to play if we are going to be changed by God's Spirit! But what is our part? What must we do? Here is a thought from L22B:

You cannot divide Christ! You cannot say, "Listen, I'm interested in the righteousness part, but don't bother me with the Lordship. I don't want to have to live the sanctified life." You can't do that! It's a package deal. The same God who, at infinite cost to Himself, made it possible for you to be set free from the condemnation of sin by His imputed righteousness, makes it possible for you to be set free from the control of sin by His imparted righteousness; and the same faith that is sufficient to justify you will be sufficient to cooperate with God's Spirit that you might be sanctified.

The program itself has five components:

- 1) There are 40 lessons in our character-building seminar. The speed of progress is entirely up to you. But practically speaking, if you are busy, one or two lessons a week is doable and it keeps you on track. But ideally, you could dedicate about an hour as your morning or evening devotion time, which we normally do anyway. Your first assignment is to **watch half of the lessons**, about 30 minutes. While you do it, take notes that you can catch the main principles presented in it. They will serve for your outline and following assignments. In the best scenario in 80 days you can complete the program. Two lessons a week would take you about a year.
- 2) In each 30 min lesson, there will be a **simple quiz.** It is yours to answer and it is designed to help you gain important insights from each study. Quiz will be automatically evaluated for you and you can see what to correct if needed.
- **3)** In order to see how well you comprehend the content of each lesson, we ask you to send us your own outline of it. **In your own words** try to express the main principles presented. Please, use bullet points. This will also help you to share with others what you are learning. In fact, this training is built on the principle that **the best way to learn is by sharing or teaching others**.

Be aware that at the end of Part I. you will be asked to summarize all 18 lessons in one outline. Save each section's outline, so that you can see the flow of the character building process. Just like no one would start at the roof when building a house, we also need to recognize that there is a certain order in the development

of character. It is extremely important for us to understand this process in the home, at work, or church, and wherever we have an influence on others.

- 4) After two parts dealing with theory, next comes the real thing! Please write three very short stories just the main idea from your own life or from observations of people you know. Ideally, something fresh from the past week or two. These stories have to be relate to some principle presented in the assigned lesson. This activity will help you to develop the ability to see God's glory in your daily life and in the life of those around you. To make this training truly valuable, it has to be connected with your day to day life.
- 5) Lastly, share some of the insights that you gained in the given lesson, or one of your stories with someone by email, phone, social media, or in person, and let us know how people reacted to it. Some might not be interested, but you may just find opportunities to encourage a friend in making some choice, or to focus more on Jesus in some difficult situation. And such blessings are invaluable! So again, three short stories containing the **reactions** of those with whom you share the principles you learn from a given lesson. One way you could do it might be something like this:

"Dear ...

I recently started a character building training program and one of the assignments is to share some principles from it. Would you be willing to be "my feedback person" or "a sounding board"? (use the most fitting phrase for a given person) I will send you some thought or principle I am studying and would simply like to know what you think about it. Perhaps it will bring some inspiration into your life too! Here is my first one - ..."

Or, for a one-time contacts:

Hi my friend, I recently read this thought provoking statement: What do you thing about it?

You have two options: you can share with some people occasionally or you can find a willing friend who will be your "long term" contact. Obviously such a person would be very blessed by your sharing. Do you see the value in such effort? We pray you will a great pleasure in sharing what you are learning.

"Deny self, ye must step fast." I saw that some of us have had time to get the truth, and to advance step by step, and every step we have taken has given us strength to take the next. But now time is almost finished, and what we have been years learning, they will have to learn in a few months. {Early Writings, p. 67.2}

We did this seminar in our church during our Friday evening vespers program. We also divided each lesson into two parts, each about 30 minutes long. After watching the first half, we discussed with our guests the questions you have in your quizzes. Thus we fit into one hour. The next week we would cover the second half.

Now, the best way to stay on track is to start this character building training with someone near you. If your local church would be interested, you can do it like we did. You can stream the video from our website. Or, you can find a few friends who are spiritually minded and do these studies together in someone's home or online (Zoom, Google Meet) and hold each other ACCOUNTABLE as you work through the course. Do you have friends who would be interested in studying this seminar with you? Why not invite them to join with you!

Here are a few thoughts concerning the price of this training:

You can use our <u>online version of the seminar</u> where you have the video with subtitles, and a transcript of the lesson in pdf completely for free. You can also <u>listen to all the lessons online</u>.

We want to offer this training free of charge, especially for those who cannot afford it, but it takes time and money to make it available. If you can help and wish to sponsor a student, we will appreciate your support. But we also know from experience that when people don't invest anything on their part, they tend to lose sight of the value of it and tend to give up after awhile. By contrast, when a program costs us something, we don't want to lose the invested value. But again, if for any reason finances are a hindrance to you, feel free to begin your training without any obligation. Just go online and use the resources and do it on your own or with some friends as described above. We look forward to hearing from you how it goes.

If you decide to enter into this coaching program consider lesson one for free. This way you can try it out. For the following lessons, our suggested price is \$15.00 each. It takes time to review your assignments and write you a feedback. If you decide to pay for the lessons in **Part I** (18 lessons), the price would be \$250.00. It will include 10-day Health Challenge as an extra bonus. If you wish to have a **personal face to face meetings**, we can set them up as often as you need. Each would cost \$20 per one hour.

For **Part II** (next 22 lessons), the price is **\$300.00.** If you choose to pay for the whole training, then the price is the best - **\$499.00.** If you find, besides you, one or more friends, each of you would pay only **50%** of presented prices. If you wish to pay only one lesson at a time then it remains \$15.00 each. Each student get's personal responses to their assignments.

Pastor Wallace, the speaker, spent **more than 30 years** researching this profound subject and shared it personally as he traveled **around the whole world.** The sponsor, lovely couple, who are papa and mama for us, who paid to professionally record the seminar you see on the web (in 2006), the equipment along with the cost of people who worked on it, invested **about \$250,000!** This shows **the value** they saw in this information (*they don't want to be mentioned*). Ultimately, it was **Jesus** who paid for the heart of this message with His own blood. Remember, that character building is the most important work ever entrusted to us because it contains the core of the whole gospel.

God provided the means to record this seminar and we know it helped thousands before and helps thousands more today as others watch it or read it online. The main difference between watching the seminar on the web or entering into **the character building coaching** is the active engagement. We passively watch many different things but our program helps you to **internalize** the principles presented into your own life. Just as listening to a nice music is one thing, but learning to produce music is another, so to get the most out of this program will require effort, consistency, motivation and determination. Yet what marvelous fruits it will produce! Every one around us will be blessed by engaging in such process! One of my student said, even my wife notices I am much kinder.

Therefore we would like you to be aware of the other price on your side: it is your time invested into this training and consistency to keep advancing in it and to live and share what you learn.

The coin, though lying among dust and rubbish, is a piece of silver still. Its owner seeks it because it is of value. **So every soul, however degraded by sin, is in God's sight accounted precious.** As the coin bears the image and superscription of the reigning power, so man at his creation bore the image and superscription of God; and though now marred and dim through the in-

fluence of sin, the traces of this inscription remain upon every soul. **God desires to recover that soul and to retrace upon it His own image in righteousness and holiness.** {Christ's Object Lessons, p. 194.3}

2 Cor 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.**

You should keep off from Satan's enchanted ground and not allow your minds to be swayed from allegiance to God. Through Christ you may and should be happy and should acquire habits of self-control. Even your thoughts must be brought into subjection to the will of God and your feelings under the control of reason and religion. Your imagination was not given you to be allowed to run riot and have its own way without any effort at restraint or discipline. If the thoughts are wrong the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character. When you decide that as Christians you are not required to restrain your thoughts and feelings you are brought under the influence of evil angels and invite their presence and their control. If you yield to your impressions and allow your thoughts to run in a channel of suspicion, doubt, and repining you will be among the most unhappy of mortals, and your lives will prove a failure. {Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 310.1}

But the infinite sacrifice of God in giving Jesus, His beloved Son, to become a Sacrifice for sin, enables Him to say, without violating one principle of His government: "Yield yourself up to Me; give Me that will; take it from the control of Satan, and I will take possession of it; then I can work in you to will and to do of My good pleasure." When He gives you the mind of Christ, your will becomes as His will, and your character is transformed to be like Christ's character. {Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 2, p. 686.1}

To form a character that God will approve requires persevering effort. {The Watchman, Sept. 22, 1908 par. 4}

If we would develop a character which God can accept, we must form correct habits in our religious life. Daily prayer is as essential to growth in grace, and even to spiritual life itself, as is temporal food to physical well-being. We should accustom ourselves to lift the thoughts often to God in prayer. If the mind wanders, we must bring it back; by persevering effort, habit will finally make it easy. We cannot for one moment separate ourselves from Christ with safety. We may have His presence to attend us at every step, but only by observing the conditions which He Himself has laid down. {The Sanctified Life, p. 93.1}

Aren't these amazing promises?

We need a constant sense of the ennobling power of pure thoughts. The only security for any soul is right thinking. As a man "thinks in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7. **The power of self-restraint strengthens by exercise. That which at first seems difficult, by constant repetition grows easy, until right thoughts and actions become habitual.** If we will, we may turn away from all that is cheap and inferior, and rise to a high standard; we may be respected by men and beloved of God. {The Ministry of Healing, p. 491.3}

Are you willing to pay this price also?

Are you ready to start building your character? Please, let us know.

We pray blessings upon you and that you decide to join us,

Ludo 🗞 Sylvia Prikler

