

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

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1. THE TWIN FORCES OF PATIENCE

Lets turn to the book of Rom 5:1-5. “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith that this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulations produces perseverance, and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

One more little passage in Rom 8:29-30. “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

This morning we are starting a new series on the Christ like character we have to develop in our life. Many times we speak about revival. But when I question people, what do you mean by revival? They don't really have a definition. For some people, revival means having a lot of people, and all the meetings are packed. I want you to know that there are cycles of growth and in all revivals there are cycles of growth. In fact we are going to do a series on revival to show the characteristic behind revival and show forth that there are 4 different phases of revival. And we need to understand how to flow in those phases at each time. Without quoting church history yet just looking at the Bible, the people of God have different phases of revival. Sometimes a revival is already taking place in an individual but it is not time to bring it to the forefront yet. We have to learn how to be faithful in our walk with God.

For example, God was already doing something in Joseph's life when he was in prison before he was brought before the Pharaoh. A revival has already taken place in his life behind the scenes. And when Joseph desired to be released 2 years ahead of time, telling the cupbearer to remember him when he is released, the cupbearer forgot about him until the right time when Pharaoh had a dream. And when he was brought before the Pharaoh to explain his dreams, it happened suddenly. It was a sudden process, so to speak. There is always a preparation before the publicity. The private must take place before the public.

In the same way, a lot of things had taken place for many years before the Pentecostal Revival in Azusa Street burst out. God was already doing a revival and working in the life of Charles Parham and his students for many years. No one heard about it. And then among some of his students was a man named Seymour and they were faithful to God. They walked with God and then there came a time when God brought them to the forefront. When people talk about revival, they more often speak about the publicity and fame rather than the silent years of walking with God and preparations.

Even the Indonesian revival that took place in the time of Matari, there was a great period of being hidden before they were publicized. After they were publicized they needed to consolidate the fruits of the revival. Unfortunately they didn't do so. Today the revival is gone. Just about 3 years ago, I was speaking to one pastor in New Zealand and there was a tremendous growth in his church. His church almost doubled just suddenly within 3 months when they moved into something new. Within a year the church split into 3 parts and is back to where they were. And they have to build it

up again. Let us recognize the fact that when people say revival, they are talking about the multitudes of people. Before Jesus reached to the multitudes, He was walking alone for 30 years. Before Paul reached the multitudes he walked alone with God, and after the multitudes he continued walking with God alone again.

Secondly, when people talk about revival, they talk about signs and wonders. If you examine the Bible, signs and wonders are there potentially for God's people. But there are times when His glory manifested and you have abundance of it. But there are times when nothing seems to be happening you are supposed to live in hope on the promises of God. We need to balance the two. For example, the glory of God was manifested in the tabernacle of Moses and when Aaron offered the offerings for the first time, the glory of God manifested. And we know that when the tabernacle was dedicated the glory of God manifest. But after that manifestation, we don't see the glory of God, but we see that the glory has receded into the Holy of holies. The work continues as usual. The daily work that they have to do can be quite tiresome and they have to have what I call the abiding presence, knowing that they are doing what God wants them to do. And that is why when I see people misunderstand what revival is.

Let me give you some of my little definition. No.1, revival is simply walking in God's perfect will. If God's perfect will for your life at that particular period of time is to be walking with God in His preparation, to you that is revival. The first question is are you walking in God's perfect will. You could be a Joseph walking in God's perfect will unknown, unseen by people. In the same way, I mean nowadays we could go to a place to conduct a convention, we could have thousands of people come, we could have signs and wonders, but nobody knows the amount of preparations over the years that have taken place when you walk alone. The most important thing is to hear God. For example, if right now God tells us go to Papua New Guinea and I obey God's voice, I would go. We may have 5000 people; we may have signs and wonders. The important thing is not the outward manifestations; the important thing is to be in God's perfect will. Being in God's perfect will, brings you to position where you could demonstrate God's anointing and power. Signs and wonders may bring 1000 people to accept Christ. But what happen after that and what happen before that? That is why I feel that as people begin to run after manifestation that they must remember something. The most important thing in our life is to know God's perfect will in your life, walk in it. And the important part necessary for revival is to have the character of Jesus.

If you win 1000 people to Jesus and you're not like Jesus, there is no meaning. It is possible to win 1000 people to Jesus through a ministry gift without having a personal transformation in your life. And you know what happens? You don't have that much reward in heaven. Paul said that we could have faith to move mountains, we could have prophecies to understand all things and if we don't have love, we are nothing. It puzzles me sometimes why people place higher priority on the outward things than on the inward things, when it is the inward things that's more important than the outward things. Not all of us have the opportunity to travel or be recognized and conduct conventions or preach to thousands of people. But all of us have the opportunity to have our character transformed in our daily lives.

There are two main points that I want to bring forth before we look at the character of Christ. No.1; all the power of God must first flow through the character of God. The signs and wonders, the true manifestation of God that comes, flow in proportion to the

character of God in you. We have ministered to people, we have seen cancer healed, and even in this place we have seen the power of God flow. And let me explain something. The times when it flows most powerfully are when I could feel that compassion and character of Jesus for people most. The more I could feel it in my heart and life the greater the power God chooses to move. It is proportional.

Kathryn Khulman speaks about how she felt for the people in her biography, 'A Glimpse of Glory'. And when people hear about Kathryn Khulman they only hear about the word of knowledge and the miracles. But how many people hear about the cry that she has in her heart for the sick? And the many times when she left the auditorium and she continue to cry for those who were not healed. We humans are so obsessed with the outward manifestation that we forget that it's the inward character that is important.

The first major point is that having the character of Jesus in us allows the power of Jesus into our life more powerfully. The same gift could work more powerfully if we allow the character of Jesus to flow through our life. It is possible to have a gift of God without the character of Jesus, because the gift is a gift. The book of Corinthians proves it. You could have the gift of God without the character of Jesus. The Corinthians have the gifts of the Spirit flowing. In no way did Paul say that their gifts were just the flesh or it was just their own doing. He recognized that it was the gifts of the Spirit. But he said it was profiting nobody. When Paul says I could speak in tongues without love, he never says that the tongues was not of God. He was saying that the gifts were ineffective.

There may be a lot of manifestations and gifts and people may say that God has sent a revival but the test is whether they have become more loving. Have their character been changed? But if they work along with pride and say you must have this, you must have that, something is still missing. They have a manifestation without a revival. It is possible to have a manifestation without a revival, but if you have a revival you would have the manifestation. We need to understand that we are judged by the fruit not by the power. We are judged by the fruit in our lives.

Second major point, the Bible does tell us that all the commandments of God will bring blessings. Book of Deut. 23 says if you hearken to all the commandments of God, all these things will be upon you, health abundance, prosperity abundance, life and everything will come upon your life. In the New Testament we are told that love obeys all the commandments. Therefore when you walk in love and keep the commandments of God you will receive all the blessings of God.

The second major point is that to have the character of Jesus is to have prosperity. Cause when you walk in love and keep the commandments of God, God will make you the head and not the tail. The health laws and all the other laws flow with the blessings and the promises of God.

Maybe we add a third point. Of all the important things that Paul wrote about in the epistles in the New Testament, what do you think is the most important thing? If we were to summarize Matthew to Revelation, Jesus' life, and all the writings of Paul in one sentence, do you know what is the most important? The most important role of the apostles, evangelists, prophets, pastors, and teachers is to bring the church to be like Jesus in character, in walk, in faith, in power, in everything. And being like Jesus

starts in our hearts, in our soul and in our life. The power of God that is in Jesus begins with us becoming Christ-like.

Some of us may not be called to be a five-fold evangelist to win 100,000 people to Jesus. If you are called to be an evangelist to win 100,000 people to Jesus and God hasn't open the door for you, do you know what He is doing? He is building the character of Jesus in you first. So when the gifts flow it will have the effect and impact. Maybe some of you are not called to the five-fold ministry, but you are called to bring forth one million dollars to the kingdom of God through your life and the time hasn't come for you to do that. You know what He is doing now in your life? What is the revival doing in your life? He is making you like Jesus through your situation. We don't relate the two.

Just like long ago we shared about how world weather patterns were related to what happen in the shedding of innocent blood or unrighteousness or sin within a nation. We showed from the book of Deut how God said that if the Israelites disobey Him the heavens would be like brass. Look world weather patterns are related to the righteousness or sin in a nation. There is no way scientifically you could link them together. But the Bible links them together.

When we were doing a series on why bad things happen to good people, and why good things happen to bad people, we predicted that based on what happened in China where innocent blood was shed in Tienanmen Square and based on the book of Genesis where when Abel's blood was shed, God made a statement saying that the earth will no more bring forth its fruit. Based on these principles we predicted there would be a famine in China. It has taken place this year. And in that series we showed how that sometimes when things are done and people asks, "Why do bad things happen to good people and why do good things happen to bad people?" We showed that some of those things take a long time to have a cycle back. By the time it comes back, human memory is so short they have forgotten that it was actually brought by man. God is not to be blamed. Its man reaping what he sows. And by the time ten years later the famine has taken place, a lot of people have forgotten about Tienanmen Square and the innocent blood being shed. But the Bible says these are the result. Anytime innocent blood is shed on this planet earth famine results. It is a Bible principle. It's good for businessmen to know this because you are putting your investments here and there in different countries. You have to check whether innocent blood is shed there that has not reaped yet its due punishment in famine.

Of course with Jesus things can be atoned and redeemed. But people must atone and redeem through the Blood of Jesus. In the Old Testament time, David was a good man. He has his fault but he was a good man. Do you know why bad things happen to good people? Why did the famine occur in David's life? There was a famine in David's reign. And when David asked the Lord why was there a famine, God said because Saul killed innocent people. And that is when David found out that the famine came because Saul killed innocent people. Look Saul had died long ago and his kingdom was gone. But the results of innocent blood came forth in David's time. Why do bad things happen to good people? David is a good man, what did he do? He redeemed it. He asked the Lord how to do it. The Lord showed him and the proper judgment took place and the land was free from the famine. Human memories are so short.

If it takes about 50 years to kill people, nobody would realize it. But if it kills a person within one day or two, they said that it is toxic. There are a lot of things that are killing people slowly. It takes a whole generation to kill them and they don't realize it.

Let's look at the book of Romans very carefully. Having emphasized the fact that the development of Christian character is perhaps and in fact the most important goal of Christianity, we need to be taught how it works in our life and how it can take place. And remember the character of Jesus is not some dull subject. It has to do with your prosperity. It has to do with your health. It has to do with your five fold ministry. It has to do with the power of God in your life.

Let's see the development of the character of Jesus in our heart and in our life. In Rom. 5:3-4 "and not only that, but we also glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope." Now I just want to see the flow from tribulation to character. Between tribulations to character is the word called perseverance. The developing of character comes by experiencing tribulation and tribulation comes from being on this planet earth. Jesus said in the world you shall receive tribulations but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.

There is no other way we can develop Christian character without the interaction or inter reaction with the people around us or in the world that we are living in. We can not learn how to love and to forgive unless we interact with others. If you are all shut up on a mountain or in a cave with no one to make you angry, no one imperfect around you except yourself with all the animals and you are the jungle king. All you have is a pack of wolves, you can call your pet dog fatty, black lips and all sorts of names, but still the pet dog will look at you lovingly. But try calling a human being those names, "Hello black lips," you will get a black eye in return. Human beings are different.

It is when we interact with people that you actually experience the tribulations. You can't develop your character unless you have that tribulation in this world. Tribulations can only come as you inter react in this world and the strange thing is character only comes by tribulations. Look at it tribulation work patience, and patience develop character in us. There is no short cut. We need those kinds of experiences. In life there are always things that work character in our lives.

I'd like to make a few statements at this point. No.1 Tribulation works character in our lives. But it may not be good character. Whether its good character or bad character is determined by how we react to the tribulation. If in the tribulation or difficulty, we react wrongly and keep on reacting wrongly, it becomes a part of our life and character. Tribulation can change a person. If you want to see a person's character, watch them when they are under pressure. That is when the real self comes forth. I like to watch people under pressure. When we look for people who are strong we look for them under pressure. Not when there is no pressure. When the pressure is there, the real character comes forth, and it is possible that sometimes when people react wrongly to tribulation for too many times, their character changes.

I wonder how many of you have lost good friends and good people because of some hardship or hurts. Sometimes all it takes is one broken situation. Maybe somebody may have lost a loved one and don't understand why that happens. Somebody has

knocked your father down in an accident and he has died. You feel angry with the person who did it. Your reaction under these circumstances is finding it hard to forgive. You want to be a forgiving person but that one incident may change you into a hard unforgiving person.

I mean think about people like Monica Seles, the tennis player who got stabbed in the back. Some of you tennis players may know her. That one incident when she was stabbed in the back because somebody didn't want her to win has changed her whole character. She used to be a bubbly character but she is no more that way. She may still smile but it is not the same way. Isn't it sad because of one incident in which she was not guilty? A fanatic fan wanted another person to win and stabbed her to prevent her from playing. That one incident had almost changed her character.

Thank God for Jesus. With Jesus no matter how hard the tribulations, you don't have to change; you can be a better person. And there are countless people who have changed because of one incident. Tribulation produces character. But it is not necessary the good character. Whether its good character or bad character depends on how we react to the tribulation, if we react correctly.

Now how do I know how to react correctly? I give you in one little sentence how to do it. Always choose the reaction that is the most loving. Choose how love will respond and your character will be blessed. When you choose how other areas of your emotion respond, it won't come out right. How will love respond and follow after love. Tribulation only works the right kind of character in our life, if we react correctly in love. If you don't react correctly in love, it actually destroys our character. We become a totally different person from before. It's this point that is very important for us to consider.

Having established the fact that tribulation definitely works character, whether its bad character or good character we can't change it. Incidentally all of us have our trials and tribulations in different forms. We all have them. And even though you may be praying for God to send revival to your church, right now the main revival in your life is learning to hear God, to know God, to walk with God and be in His perfect will. You may not have the chance right now to minister to 100,000 people, but you will have the chance right now to react in love in your circumstances.

That's where the revival starts. Whether we are changed in the wrong character or changed in the good character is determined by how we react. How we react is determined by our understanding of choices that are available for us. There are always many ways we can choose to react in response. Now you may have natural feelings and emotions being human in all kind of tribulations. But we are old enough in life to know that we don't need to yield to our emotions or to react with our emotions.

Now here is where our consideration is. Between tribulation in Rom 5 and character is one little word here. It says tribulation produces perseverance. The word perseverance is the Greek word hupomone. Hupomone is the word translated as patience. Tribulation works patience, and patience produces character.

The word hupomone comes from two Greek words hupo and mone. The word hupo talks about over upon, like something resting over a situation or over something. And if my Bible is on the pulpit, then it's just upon the pulpit. If my coat is big enough to

cover the whole pulpit, then my coat will be hupo on the pulpit. Its not just on, its on plus its over the thing. That's first part of the word Hupomone.

The other part mone comes from Greek word meno. Meno is the same word that Jesus used when He says, "Abide in Me and let My words abide in you." The word abide is the word meno. Abide in Me, meno in Me and let My words meno in you, and you will bear much fruit. Knowing that the word meno is where we get the word mone in the word patience, you begin to see that when Jesus spoke in Jn. 14 and 15 about abiding in Him, He is talking about the power of God in our life and the character of Jesus.

Lets look at Jn.15 and put the word meno where it is Jn. 15:1 onwards. "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit." He is talking about being fruitful, being successful, now by fruit He talks about the character of Jesus.

The fruit that we bear has to do with the character of Jesus in our lives, and the character of Jesus will result in the power of God and prosperity and healing in your life. These things flow from that fruit that is developed in our life. It's according to the strength of your inner man that the outward man can function. And the strength of our inner man is determined by the amount of change or the transformation of the character of Jesus in our inner man. How transformed are we to be like Jesus on the inside. So He is talking about bearing fruit.

Verse 3, "You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you." Verse 4 & 5, "Meno in Me and I in you. As the branch can not bear fruit of itself, unless it meno in the vine, neither can you, unless you meno in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who meno in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. Verse 7, "If you meno in Me, and My words meno in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

Can you see how powerful "meno-ing" in God is. If you meno in Me and I meno in you, whatever you ask it shall be done. That's why I am taking about the character of Jesus. If you walk with Jesus you are in perfect will of God. And you're doing God's perfect will. You could go to a convention and 100 000 people there, and you say, "O God in the Name of Jesus we command healing to flow forth," the power of God will flow because you have meno in God and God meno in you and He grants you all your desires.

When we meno in God and God meno in us and you have a business problem, you have a situation in your life, and you cry out to God and say, "God I have loved You, I have followed after You, O God I require your supernatural help now," and bang, the supernatural help comes.

It flows forth from your meno-ing in Christ; your abiding in Christ and the word patience is the combination of the word hupo with the word meno, hupomone. Which mean that you have abided in Jesus and your abiding covers all your beings. Your abiding is so strong and the character of Jesus is so strong that you could be poked left, right and center and it doesn't change your life. You know how to abide in tribulation; you stand like the rock of Gibraltar, against the storm.

Lets look at Col.1 where Paul is talking about being fruitful. Col.1:9 onwards, “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Understand that the true sense of revival is not depending on outward circumstances. Its just like success is not dependant on being famous. Revival is inner walk with God or walking in His perfect will. Sometimes you’re walking with God unknown. Sometimes you’re walking with God well known. Sometimes you’re walking privately; sometimes you’re walking publicly. Can you understand what the true sense of revival is? We are walking in revival. When you do a good work for God, sometimes people hear about you and sometimes they don’t. When we hear a well-known evangelist coming to town, what is important is whether he is walking with God. Are you able to say you’re walking in God’s perfect will.

Let me quote the life of Jesus. Is Jesus with the multitudes all the time? Was Jesus healing 24 hours a day? Sometimes Jesus was famous, but there were times He was alone and unpopular with the authorities. Was Jesus affected? There were times when He woke up early in the morning, He went out alone and He prayed. There were times when He went away from the crowd. The crowd wanted to make Him King after the miracle of the loaves and fish. Jesus said, no, thanks and He walked alone.

How could we define a revival by the multitude of people? There need to be a cycle of growth, structure, expansion and consolidation. We got to make sure that the externals do not affect us. I mean I am not affected by the fact of whether I am preaching in a convention or when I am not preaching in a convention. I still live my life with God. Sometimes when you are in a convention, people treat you like a celebrity. I mean people come just to see you or touch you. But when I am not in the convention, I am still the same me.

The most important thing is that I am walking with God. Whether I am walking out in the field or have a small little Bible study with my family or preaching to 10 000 people, it makes no different. It is not when I am preaching to 10 000 people and having the sick healed that I have revival there. No, if with my family I am having a family devotion I am walking with God, that’s also revival. The true sense of revival is that you have found your God and you walk with your God and you know what is happening. God tells you, God speaks to you and you speak with God. You know who you are and you know what you are doing.

You know when the multitudes left Jesus? It was when He said, “Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you can not have any part of Me.” The multitudes left Him. That’s been the first time the multitudes left Him. And He turned to His disciples and asked, “Do you want to leave too?” Do you think Jesus was having revival? Yes, He was. Let me point to the fact that the true essence of revival is the reality of Christ’s love in our life, and Christ’s presence that flows because we are doing what God wants us to do.

I am encouraging those of you who have home meeting; revival in your home meeting doesn’t mean that 100 people trying to cram into your home that can hold only 20 people. Revival means that when you are in your home, you have these 20 people who

are regularly with you. That the love of Jesus and the presence of God in your life is flowing and the 20 of you are doing God's perfect will and you are ministering to one another. That's a revival. Revival can mean that you are taking care of a prayer meeting. You only have those 10 faithful people who continue to pray and great things are happening in the realm of the Spirit.

The most important thing is not 1000 people trying to squeeze into your prayer meeting but the most important thing is when you lead those 10 people, are you doing what God wants you to do and is that in the perfect will of God. As long as you are doing God's perfect will and doing what God wants you to do, there is revival. A lack of revival is that you don't hear God. God is no more a living person to us. We don't walk with Him anymore. Revival is just walking with God. God is real in our lives. God is speaking in our hearts.

When Jesus came to the last supper, almost every one of those who followed Him had left. When Jesus was on trial, only Jesus knew that He was doing God's perfect will. Everybody else thought that He has failed, until the resurrection. We must have the steadiness of our character. To know God, to know what He is saying, what He wants us to do.

Some of the good work you do, nobody may hear it. When the church was having a mighty revival, when Peter was having great signs and wonders so that even his shadow healed the sick, but behind the scene was a little lady whose name was Dorcas, she was not a great healer nor a great teacher. Neither was she a church leader, but she had good work. She was only good at sewing and she sewed many cloths and went to the widows and gave it to them. Do you think she was having revival? She was.

Where do we get the impression that revival is just manifestation? When revival is walking in the perfect will of God. If the perfect will of God is to be a tailor to the widows, you don't lead a prayer meeting. You don't have a manifestation like others have. But you are doing the perfect will of God in your life. That's revival.

Whatever good work you can do in your life that's flows from your character. Whatever good things come from your life that God places in you and it is God's perfect will for you to fulfill it. When you fulfill it, that's revival. The true sense of revival is when the members of the Body of Christ find their place in the Kingdom of God and do what God requires of them. That is why when people do as they like it is disaster. But when people are able to hear God and do what God tells them to do, that's revival.

There are times when God says to gather together. God may then say be scattered to all the 4 corners of the earth. And if you don't do that you may miss God. Its important to discern what is revival. To me revival is when you are hearing God. You do what God wants you to do. You walk with God and God flows through your life.

Col. 1:10-11 "Being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy." Now He says that we are strengthened with might according to His glorious power for all patience and longsuffering with joy. Do you notice that the word "for" that connect the sentence in verse 11. The word

strengthened with power is the Greek word *dunamis* and that's talking about the manifestation of God. That the *dunamis* of God comes on your inside and changes you, transform you, but for what manifestation? What's the purpose of all the power of God coming into your life? It says there, for all patience and longsuffering. It's for you to go out into your world, your working place, and your ministry and live out the Christ like in your life. To show that all that you are receiving you could go out and contend and stand firm in the tribulation that you're overcome in your life.

Now the word 'for' is followed by two Greek words. The first we've come to know in verse 11, strengthened with all might according to His glorious power for all *hupomone*, for all patience. All the power of God is to transform us so that we may become a patient person. Therefore if anyone receives a manifestation of God and they become impatient, something is wrong. The flesh has taken over. Pride has taken over. We can have the gifts of God, but it's nothing for us to be proud about. It's a gift of God. We need to walk with God and have the love flow through our lives. Then can the gifts really flow.

Now there are two words that I like to share before we continue next week. It says here for all *hupomone* and *makrothumia*. *Makrothumia* is the other word for patience. In the New Testament there are two Greek words for patience. One is *hupomone* and the other is *makrothumia*. I just quickly summarize the difference between them. *Hupomone*, there are two types of patience.

Just like there are two types of confession. There are confessions of faith when you are confessing the Word of God in order for the Word of God to build faith in your life. That's called meditation. And everyday you meditate on the Word and the Word produces faith in your life. There's the first form of confessing the word. The second form of confessing the Word is the Word is already on your inside and you are decreeing to the mountain. And what you decree you believe that your words will come to pass. And so you tell the mountain, move from hence forth to yonder. And it hasn't moved yet. But you exercise your faith upon your confession of your words. That is what we call decreeing, like a king decreeing to the mountain. So in confession there are two forms. One is the confession of the Word in order for the Word to be built into your life. The other is a confession over circumstances where the Word comes out of your life and you make a decree.

In the same way there are two types of patience. One is a patience, which you endure in order to allow the character of Jesus to be formed in you. That's the first type and that's the type where Rom.5 talks about. By enduring, not trying to overcome anything, but allowing those circumstances to awaken more love in your life. Will you make a choice to allow love to awaken in your life? You react in love. And you so endure patiently. Then there comes a time when the character of Jesus is so formed in your life that your patience now becomes a force to overcome the tribulations of life and that patience comes out in your life.

And instead of enduring now you are overcoming. That's the second form of patience called *makrothumia*. When it comes out of your life it begins to dominate your circumstances. Your patience become a force that flows out of your life and you could say, "Peace be still." And your circumstances are overcome by the stillness in your life.

Let me illustrate with the book of Heb. 6:12 “that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and makrothumia inherit the promises of God.” So there is one area where you got to allow that patience to work in your life. This is where you don’t try to change the circumstances around you but you must change your character first. If your character changes first then later you can change the circumstances. So the first part is the change in you.

The second part of makrothumia is you have changed and now you can change the circumstances because you have formed the character of Jesus. So let me point to a typical example. Lets say that there are circumstances that irritate you and make you loose your temper. Obviously if you want to do that, you haven’t changed yet, you have still not crucified your old man. You know the Word of God and say no, I will not yield to my bad temper, I will not yield to my irritation and you choose to walk in love. At first the feeling doesn’t come, so you walk by faith and later the feeling comes. After sometime it becomes a part of your character. People can do nasty things to you and you still can walk in love.

You enter the second phase. Now your character rises up. You will be able to overcome. First you change, and then secondly your circumstances changed. Makrothumia is you have already changed and you are now changing the circumstances. Abraham believed God for a long time, 20 over years before God fulfilled His promise. What was God doing? God was changing him first. When Abraham changed then he was able to change his circumstances.

The apostle Paul in 2.Cor. 12, he was having tribulation and all kind of difficulties because of the messengers of Satan. And he says, O God I can’t take it, Lord help and God says My grace is sufficient for you. Three times he cried, three times God replied the same answer. In the end Paul changed on the inside. The grace of God came. He was strengthened; he was able to take it. When he was able to take it that was when he was able to change his circumstances. Many Christians want to change the circumstances before they are changed. We must change first, and then you have the power to change the circumstances.

There must be hupomone that is the abiding force, standing firm and then something in you changes and then makrothumia starts flowing out. Thumia is a word comes from the word fire or heat. And then it comes burning out of your life. You are able to change the circumstances around you. We will consider more of these but for now we see the character of Jesus and what God’s will is in our life. Whatever circumstances you are going through, remember you run for your circumstances. Christians don’t run from the devil, Christians don’t run from difficulties, Christians don’t run from hardship. What happens? We allow our tribulations to change our inside. When the change is settled and sealed, God allows you to change the circumstances around you.

2. DEVELOPING HUPOMONE

Lets look at Rom.5 as we left off in the last message. We are doing a series on the character of Christ. The reason that we go on this series is because many Christians do not place a high priority on the character of Jesus. I believe that having the character of Jesus in our lives and our personal transformation in order to be conformed to His image and being like Jesus is more valuable than silver and gold. It is more valuable than being successful in life. It is more valuable than any of our answered prayers. In fact if we have the character of Jesus in our lives, we could be the answer to our own prayers, because God will put the ability of Jesus in our life and we could go forth and bear fruit and results and success.

And we have mentioned last week perhaps the result that we want in our lives or profession or ministry is because of a lack of Christ likeness in our lives. The proportion that you allow Christ to be established in you, you would have that same proportion of His strength in you. Being Christ like is not being weak. The proportion to which we are like Jesus is the same proportion to which the authority of Jesus rules in our life. The greater the Christ likeness you have in your character, the greater His authority and power in your life. The power of Christ flows in direct proportion to His likeness of character in you.

Rom. 5:1-5 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Notice that character development is also the working of the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit who empowers us to cast out devils and heal the sick is the same Holy Spirit who comes upon our lives and cause the character of Jesus to be developed in our lives. We see the process all over again. First we see tribulation. Tribulation produces perseverance and the word perseverance is the word hupomone, which is, translated patience many times. Hupomone produces character, which in Greek is the word dokime and then character hope. And then hope works with love. You see a progression from tribulation to hupomone, hupomone to character or dokime and dokime to hope which is a Greek word elpis. There we have a progression of tribulations, perseverance and character.

Last week I mentioned that these are two Greek words in the New Testament for the word patience. One is the word hupomone, the other is the word that is found in Heb. 6:12 “That you do not become sluggish but imitate those who through faith and makrothumia inherit the promises of God.” Now notice here there is faith and patience. But the word patience is also found in another Greek word makrothumia. We have the usage of a combination of the two Greek words for patience.

Lets look at Phil. 1:10 -11 “That you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” He

is praying for the believers to be filled with the fruits of righteousness. We have gone to say that the fruit of righteousness are the result of your right standing with God.

In Rom. 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith.” Therefore being made righteous by faith, what must happen? We have peace with God. And out of the walk that we have with God and as we go through tribulations, God begins to work something inside us. As we walk with God, remember all the days of your life this phrase; it always starts with the invisible realm before it comes to the visible realm. God made the invisible before He made the visible. God made the spirit realm before He made the physical realm. The Bible tells us that when God looked at the void that was all over the universe, God said let there be light. Now that was not the sunlight or any natural light. God has not made the sun, the moon, and the stars to shine in the void yet. That was the spiritual realm that was brought into existence before the physical realm. It was only in the next couple of days that God brought forth the physical lights, the greater light and the lesser light as you read in the book of Genesis one. The invisible always come first before the visible.

And to bring it closer home we say that the internal must come before the external. Therefore before God works anything in our external lives, He deals with our inner man. Our internal things must be dealt with before He deals with the external. For too many people they want the external to take place without yielding to the internal. There will be no external change unless there is an internal change in our life. If you are praying about circumstances in your life to change, remember that changing the external circumstances is directly proportional to the internal change in your life. It is a direct proportion and not an inverse proportion. Which means that the more change you have on your inside, the more change there will be on your outside. This is the supreme law of the Spirit of God. Never ever forget that all your life. This is an important principle that must be ingrained in us. Men, who walk in the flesh, like to change their outward environment without first wanting to change their inward parts. We must be established in the fact that there must be internal change before external change can come forth.

And as we look at internal change we look at the two key words, hupomone and makrothumia. As we have mentioned hupomone and makrothumia work together. But these two words for patience are different.

Makrothumia comes from the word makro, which is greatness inside and thumia means heat or sometimes is translated as fire. And so makrothumia put together is macro-fire. It's big, something burning out from your inside.

And hupomone is the opposite. The word mone, which is from another Greek word mano, which means abide. You shall abide in me and my Word shall abide in you, Jesus says in Jn.15. Abiding is a sense of standing, holding fast, remaining steadfast, immovable. So there is an expectancy of endurance and an aspect of overcoming. Hupomone gives a picture where you are standing still and everything around you is coming against you. But yet there is an internal strength of endurance. Hupomone seems to be an ability to endure.

Makrothumia is an ability to overcome. Before you overcome you must endure. And it seems that we must reach a point of total endurance before we reach a point of being able to overcome totally. The things that you are running away in your life will

weaken your endurance and will not help you to overcome. Trying to overcome before you endure is not God's will for you. We need to learn endurance. The people who can overcome the storms are the people who have endured these storms. The people who can overcome financial hardships and come out in life are people who have endured hardships. People who can overcome sickness and sins are people who had endured all these kind of things and remained steadfast without falling and they overcome.

It seems there must be an intake before there is an output. Hupomone is an intake whereas makrothumia is an output. There must be an endurance that is built in our life. We don't try to change the circumstances. Instead we allow ourselves to be stronger and stronger without trying to change our circumstances. Its almost some sort like a exercising or lifting weight or going on a physical program of health. Lets say that everyday you run about 2 kilometers. Day by day as you are doing your running, you don't realize what is happening. What is happening is new blood vessels are formed throughout your body, and there is an internal change taking place as you endure that 2-kilometer run. After sometime that 2 kilometers run is nothing for you. And then you increase it to 5 kilometers. What is happening is that your muscles began to develop. There is an internal change after 1 year of running 5 kilometers. You may not even see the change. Most people who don't exercise don't realize the change. When you exercise there are actually new blood vessels being formed. New canals are formed that could convey the blood throughout your body. In fact if there is not enough exercise or resistance the muscles will atrophy. The greater the resistance the greater the internal development. We don't realize it. If one day there is an earthquake and you need to run at least 10 kilometers you could make it. The other guy who had not exercise will find it difficult to run. You are able because you endured and the endurance produces muscles in your body that helps you to overcome physical challenges. The same endurance that enables you to endure running 5 kilometers becomes also the same ability to overcome the running of 5 kilometers.

It's directly proportionate, as we apply that spiritually. There is a necessity. The internal development is call hupomone. The external use of the muscles, which you developed into the spiritual muscles is makrothumia. If you endure 20 kilograms of tribulation, you can overcome 20 kilograms of difficulties. It's directly proportional.

Lets look at Col. 1 and see how both hupomone and mikrothumia work together.

Col. 1:9-11 "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience (hupomone) and longsuffering (makrothumia) with joy."

The word strengthened with all might comes from the Greek dunamio with all dunamics which may be translated as powered with power.

Look at the usage of both words together. As the power of God comes upon our lives we are strengthened. Now look at the strengthening. The strengthening is taking place from the inside and that strengthening is there with His glorious power. What purpose is it for? For hupomone and makrothumia with joy. You have an overcoming ability.

The power of the Holy Spirit is working in our lives, first for hupomone and then for makrothumia. You can not have it reverse. We have to develop hupomone, the ability to endure before we develop makrothumia, the ability to overcome. It's the enduring part that is difficult. The overcoming part is no problem. It's a by- of your endurance.

Here looking at the hupomone and the endurance part is where we are going to focus on in a little while. Hupomone means dying completely to self. It is a complete emptying of our self and being filled by God. Many times we sing the song God fill me with your power. Remember this whenever you create a vacuum, you create a force to move into that vacuum. Winds, storms and waves result from differential of pressure, and the wind moves from a high-pressure area to a low-pressure area. In the same way if you want to have more of God, you just have to have less of yourself. The more we die to self, the more God can fill us. Then the greater the power of God can flow through us. It's directly proportional. If you want the presence of God, the power of God in your daily life, all you have to do is everyday to seek out Christ first. Any selfish thing must be put aside. You have to die to those things and choose against those things. He who denies himself will find life. He who seeks after his own life will lose his own life.

This principle is impounded by Paul in the book of 2 Cor. 4:7 onwards. Talking about the life and ministry. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed - always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus Christ."

In other words dying to self for Jesus that the life of Jesus may also manifests in our body.

For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus Christ. Do you notice that, as he delivers himself to die for Jesus, that everything he does he thinks about Jesus. Everything that is selfish he puts down, as he takes up the cross and die for Jesus.

That the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. That's the power of God coming in the physical body.

So then death is working in us but life in you. In other words the life of Jesus flows through him in direct proportion to him dying to himself. The more we die to ourselves and own motivations, our own selfishness, our own ambitions, our own desires, the more the power of God fills our lives. It's directly proportional. Now its ok to sing God fill me once in a while but in your understanding you must remember what is happening. That He can fill you to the proportion to which you die to yourself.

Dying to self is the hupomone part. You would be surprised that sometimes that self is still turning up and sometimes a whole different area and you keep dealing in your life until self totally die. You can run from these circumstances but it will be like a wilderness. You will have the same situations over the next year. You will find different actors, different people, except that you are the main star. And you can't take the difficulty you run to another place. Behold you are still the star but different actors, different circumstances arise, and the same kind of pressure still is exerted on you, until you learn to die to some of these things.

What happens if we never get through? We remain where we are until Jesus come. Physically we grow older but spiritually we are stagnant. I am not sharing this as a teaching. Let me tell you that it is true that God can still find things for you to die to. Abraham has so many things that he has given up for God. But God still found something in his life, where God ask for his son. As you go on in life, you ask why is it continuous? You see Abraham never had a son before when he first came out from the land of Ur. Now that he had a son from God, he had more to surrender to God. That's the hupomone part. The patience, endurance, until we totally die and there are many areas we totally die to. Sometimes we have died to some areas but not other areas and God will keep dealing in our life until the endurance and the hupomone is established in those areas and is direct proportion to the fact that you die to those things. Something else fills your life. The Spirit of God fills your life and there is an internal muscle, faith muscle that is working in your life that establishes it.

Let me show you what was happening in Abraham's life. In Rom. 4:17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him who believed - God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things, which do not exist as though they did. So God made him a promise and said I have made you a father of many nations.

Look at verse 18, there was no natural way that could be fulfilled. Who contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body already dead (since he was about a 100 years old) and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.

The word strengthened is the word endunamo. It's from the word dunamis with the word en in front. The word en means inside. Which means he was dunamis from inside. He has the power of God strengthening his inside endunamo. He was strengthened on the inside by faith giving glory to God.

Abraham having been strengthened on his inside, is now enduring. Through the years he was enduring, walking and believing in God. Sometimes he doubted but slowly faith rises in him. He was carrying his weight and sometimes even though he didn't feel like it, he still carried it. Sometimes it is painful as you begin to exercise that faith you never discover before. Try climbing the steps to the 15th floor. You suddenly discover muscles that you never have. It's a different set of muscles. Climbing stairs and running use different set of muscles. You could be running 15 kilometers a day, but try climbing up 15 stories and you will find that there are still muscles that you haven't exercised. A different exercise works different type of muscles. He was continuing to exercise his faith and the muscles in his internal spiritual life was being developed. His faith muscle was being developed and there came a point in his life where his endurance was complete.

And that's verse 21, and being fully convinced. He was no more half convinced. Do you know a lot of people have half developed muscles? We don't send out half trained doctors to the hospitals. We send out fully trained doctors. We don't send our half trained accountants to do company accounts. We send out fully trained accountants. And we should not be sending out half trained people to plant churches. We should be

sending out the best. Do you notice that in the book of Acts the most experienced go out?

There was a time when Abraham was not convinced. There was a time he was half convinced and there was time where he was fully convinced. It was when he was fully convinced that what He had promised; He was also able to perform. And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness with God.

Brethren its not that God did not reveal His perfect will to our life. God has revealed some areas of His will to all of us. The problem is not that we don't have some conviction in our life. The problem is that we are not fully convinced. It is when we are fully convinced that you burn your bridges and you go forth. And in life the lions and the bears and the Goliaths can only be defeated when you handle them with a steady hand. David didn't go to the lion and the bear half convinced that he could win. David didn't go to Goliath half convinced. He didn't say, "I am not sure whether it's going to be ok, but I will give a try" because God's name was at stake. He goes out and Goliath laughed at him, "You come to me with stones and sticks." He said, "I'm just a little shepherd boy who loves God. You come against God and I don't think its right." David was firmly convinced.

Why do we need to be fully convinced? It only takes a small little virus to kill that 6 feet tall body. A small little virus of doubt is all it takes to spread an infection throughout your body. We humans are of a certain size. How about you ladies? You are big, I mean compared to some of the little animals. Big, strong, 5 feet 3, 5 feet 5, working in your kitchen with enough muscles to lift a table and then coming across the kitchen is this little 6 legged creature called a cockroach. You yell, you have enough muscular force to lift up your legs and squash that thing flat. In fact it is the little cockroach that looked up from eating its food and seeing this great monster 5 feet 3, it should be this little cockroach who yells. In fact they should be running away from you, but you end up running away from them too. We have enough energy to destroy that cockroach but one tiny little bit of doubt is all it takes to make you fearful of them.

Peter was walking on water very well, but just one doubt was enough to sink him. One little leaven can raise the whole dough. Here is where we make this statement. As far as the realm of faith and the Spirit is concerned, there is no difference between a quarter conviction, a half conviction, and 90% conviction at all. The only difference is between 100% and the other percentages. There is no difference to your ability in your performance as far as God is concerned. It is all written off. Because a person who is half convinced, or even 90% convinced, he will still have the element of fear. And when fear comes faith goes. And the person who is 99% believing still fails.

Let me give you an example in the natural world. You can study hard for your exams. If the passing mark is 80%, it makes no difference whether you got 79% or if you got 20%. You said but I missed by one point. Lets say some of you lawyers studying to get into the bar. They have a quota. They raised the standard accordingly. If they said that the passing mark is 90, it makes no difference whether you got 89 or 50, to you it has a difference, because the one who score 79 works very hard or does his best to do it and was so close but yet so far. It makes no difference. You still didn't qualify. Whether you get 79% or 20% you still got to sit again for the examinations.

It makes no difference as far as changing circumstances and makrothumia is concerned. Makrothumia or the ability to overcome in any area can not come out until you reach 100% conviction, until you are like Abraham, fully convinced. That's the passing standard to overcome whatever things. In the Olympic Games you have the prizes as gold, silver and bronze. Do you know that sometimes people spend their entire life training just to win an Olympic medal? It makes no difference whether you turned out no.4, no.5 or no.6. You never got a prize. But you say that you were only 0.1 second behind the third athlete. Great effort, but you got no medal. When it comes to spiritual things, it makes no difference if your faith is 90%, 50% or 20%. It is still not enough. When it comes to some of the things that God has told you to do and to achieve, God demands that you be fully convinced.

That word fully convinced is used in the book of Heb.6. That fully convinced comes through endurance. Abraham was absolutely sure that is going to take place. Heb. 6:15, and so after he had makrothumia he obtained the promise. He went through hupomone and when hupomone was completed in his life, he was fully convinced. What are you like when hupomone is established in your life? You never ever doubt again. You know it and you are convinced of it.

Turn to Rom. 4:18, consider the meaning of these words, "who, contrary to hope, in hope believed." The Greek word for hope is the word Elpis that also means to trust; against all evidence that he should trust God. He trusts that. My friends, if there is anyone in heaven, earth or hell, you should ever believe in, it is God. Humans may let you down, but God never lets you down. And if God told you something, make sure you hold on to God. Which is why when people come and say God told me to do this, God told me to do that and 3 years later they have changed. I question whether God spoke to them because if God spoke you wouldn't change. You will hold fast to it. Maybe God did, but you were not fully convinced. The most important question in our life is not whether we can do it. The most important question in our life is whether God has told us to do it. Whatever area in your life, people in the Bible from Gen. to Rev. have always been told to do what they couldn't do themselves. And if God tells us we have no rights to doubt but to trust.

I have found that Christians don't settle this in their lives. They don't settle the fact whether God told them to do it or not. All the time they are moving in half conviction. That is why we are not changing the world. If Christians will walk about knowing what God told them to do, this world will be changed because we are not moving in our ability but in God's ability. It says here, against hope. How could Abraham do it? Hupomone and makrothumia were working in his life.

In Rom.5 you read about the third thing that results. Tribulation produces perseverance, perseverance character, and character hope. Now look Abraham has moved into hope. Against all hope, yet he hopes. Abraham has reached beyond perseverance into dokimia, the area called character and from character he went into that hope which doesn't disappoint.

Now back to Heb.6. What I am trying to show is the entire same subject. The progression is from tribulation to perseverance to character to hope. And Abraham started with faith. His faith was tested until he was fully persuaded against hope. No hope, he yet hopes. He held on to the string of hope and he pulled himself through. In Heb. 6:15, when he had patiently endured makrothumia, he developed hupomone and

makrothumia. Now look at verse 11-12 “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope.” That word full assurance is the same word used in Rom. 4:21 ‘clariofolio’ which means totally and firmly convinced. Not just a half conviction, 90% conviction. You are totally and absolutely sold out to that conviction of what God said. It is a process for that fullness to develop in our life. And that’s why hupomone is important. When every one of us start with what God tells us, we don’t straight away have a full conviction. We learn, we walk, we endure and we become more and more fully convinced. There is hupomone working in your life.

Remember the more you die to the impossibilities around you, the more you die to self around you, the more you die to circumstances around you, the hope rises until one day it comes and you pass the passing mark of God, 100% fully convinced. That hupomone will began to turn around and becomes makrothumia coming out of your life and changing your circumstances around you. You have the full assurance of hope.

Heb. 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.” Now the problem with many Christians not achieving what they want in life is not because they never had faith. They have had faith followed by doubts and then after that faith again. Then doubt, then unbelief, then emotion, then faith, then doubt. They never have full assurance all their lives. Are we going to walk about life in this manner? Remember the Christian life is a life of God living on your inside. And if we are to live that kind of Christian life, we become full-blooded Christian for Jesus, surrendering our heart, life, mind, soul, strength, energy, might, everything to Him. Anything less is not worthy of what Jesus gave to us. Give out your best to the Lord. When Jesus saved us, He didn’t half save us. He absolutely gave Himself to us. There was no half measure in His love for us. Full assurance.

Turn with me to the book of James and see the progression here. James 1:3 “Knowing that the testing of your faith.” The word testing is the word ‘dokime’ which is from the word character in Rom. 5. In other words your faith produces patience and patience produces character. I will put it this way, patience is necessary for the bringing out of character in your faith, the dokime of your faith.

Remember Rom.5. Tribulation produces hupomone, hupomone produces dokime. Dokime produces elpics, which is hope. When you put pressure on hupomone, dokime comes. So here in verse 3, knowing that the testing (dokimeo) of your faith produces hupomone. As you start with faith what God draws up is the testing (dokimeo) of your faith. And as He draws the dokimeo, your faith must pass through hupomone before it becomes a dokime. The dokimeon is the process of changing your faith to dokime. It was patience. Let patience have its perfect work.

Let patience have its perfect work. The word perfect means complete. When hupomone is complete, you have enduring power. Then you act. If you haven’t completely endured, you don’t act yet. You see a lot of times we are acting out of our self more than out of God. Lets say that a storm would come against your life when you are in a boat. And the boat is shaking. You are in a little boat, and you are out fishing in the Straits of Malacca, and the boat began shaking and sinking like it happened to Jesus and His disciples in their boat in the Sea of Galilee. Then you cry out to God, “Help in Jesus’ Name.” It looks like you are exercising faith but actually

you are exercising panic. You may be using religious clichés like using the name of Jesus, calling upon God, etc but still nothing happens. It's different from someone who had endured storms. And the boat is rowing to and fro and you endure it. Until you absolutely know whether the boat will sink or the boat won't sink. You know that your life is in God. And you know that it won't sink. You know that you won't die. Even if the boat sink you won't die. Is the knowing on your inside? Its no longer you who live. That's the hupomone part.

But Christ who now lives in you. That the makrothumia part. And the boat can shake; you endure and endure until there is no more fear in you. You endure until there is no hurt in you. You endure until there is no sense of emotion or panic in you. And by the time you endure until you really enjoy it and it doesn't bother you whether you get wet or not. Whether there are sharks nearby or not. That is when suddenly your makrothumia rises on your inside. You have endured completely and something from your inside tells you to speak to the storm and by the time you speak to the storm, it doesn't bother you at all. You are just saying it because your makrothumia has risen up. For the sake of the others who are now nearly half drowned, you say, "Be still" and the storm obeys you. If you have done that earlier when you haven't hupomone or endured yet, your makrothumia or overcoming ability wouldn't be able to rise up and overcome that situation.

Now you understand why Paul in Acts 16, when he was preaching in Philippi, there was a girl possessed by demons disturbing him. Some people don't have endurance at all. A little bit of difficulty comes by their way, and they quickly launch their verbal commands, "In Jesus' name" here, "In Jesus' Name" there. Any problem comes, In Jesus' name. Yes they have learned their authority but they have no endurance. Any problem comes, they cry, "Satan get thee behind me." They never develop endurance. They are missing one of the weapons that God gives. Paul had the authority, but he endured the disturbance coming day after day from that girl who possessed by demons. These are the men of the Most High God. Paul endured until the endurance was full. He could have cast the demon out the first day but what was he practicing? Endurance until God said it is no longer Paul who lives but Christ who lives in him on the inside.

If Paul were to cast out the demon just for his own comfort, he doesn't want to do it. But when Jesus on the inside says cast it out now. No problem, in the name of Jesus out and he leaves. He was casting out the demon not for himself. He was now doing it because Jesus in him rose up. Let me tell you that Jesus in us doesn't rise up on every situation, because sometimes the Jesus in us says take a rest. And He is sleeping in the boat. On the inside, you are the boat. And you are panicking and Jesus is still sleeping on the pillow because Jesus had not told you to do anything. Far too many times we do it out of flesh. We use spiritual things and we clothe it with the flesh when God wants us to learn endurance.

There are many occasions in the bible. For example, the devil come and say turn this stone into bread. Jesus could have done it, but He didn't. Only 3 temptations are recorded, but do you know that Jesus was tempted for 40 days and 40 nights. Even at night the devil never give Him rest. Let me ask this question. Why didn't Jesus command the devil to leave Him on the first day? Don't tell me that He can't, He could. I mean that there were not just 3 temptations. 40 days 40 nights can see several hundreds, several thousands temptations. Why wasn't the devil chased away? Because

God never told Jesus to do it. So as long as God never told Him, He endures. The devil will say a lot of things. We only think about stone turning into bread and the mountain top experience when he tempted Him to have all the gold and silver and the entire world and also to worship the devil.

There was more than that. There were many temptations that you can not dream about. Jesus could have told him to shut up. It is time for me to sleep. I don't think Jesus did it. Why didn't Jesus do it? Because He was enduring until the Father tells Him to do so. At the end of the 40 days and 40 nights, the Father said it is now enough, tell him to get out. Because we learn in this life, that the anointing of God and the power of God are not for selfish use or for our own comfort. The power of God is used to glorify God. The authority of Jesus is to bring forth the rule and reign of Jesus. It is no longer that I who live but Christ who lives on the inside. We must get the first part right first before we get the second. Far too many times it is we who are living. We who are doing those things, and Christians don't practice endurance. Only when the work is perfect, complete then makrothumia will flow out. Let patience have its perfect work.

James 1:4 "that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." Look at verse 12 "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life." That means when you reached dokime you must have gone through hupomone, and then you receive your reward. To every reward there is a test. In every test there is a need of endurance. Are we Christians who can endure? Some of the reasons why your prayers are taking time to get answered are because God wants you to practice endurance and be fully convinced in that time. When you have been fully convinced that live or die, this is the way to go. And you are firmly persuaded that you are not turning back on what God called you to do. That's when hupomone is full on your inside and you began to have the makrothumia and authority to change the circumstances.

3. HUPOMONE AND MAKROTHUMIA

We have been teaching on a series on the character of Christ and development of character in our Christian life. We believe that one of the most important developments in our Christian lives is being Christ like. We were predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ Jesus in Rom.8. Since we make Jesus Christ as Lord, He can give us spiritual success, emotional success, physical success, material success in this earthly life to succeed and do and fulfill all that He wants us to do in this life. But the most important is the development of our spirit being. Remember that no matter how successful you are in this life, you can't take your success to heaven. What you finally take to heaven is your developed Christian life and character. How your spirit man is and what your spirit man is like - that's the part we take to heaven. You can't take your house, your car, your money, etc. It is the development in our life that we can take to heaven with us.

Rom. 5:1-5 "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

It tells us that we start first with faith. We are justified by faith and when we add to the faith tribulation, tribulation produces perseverance. We had studied the word perseverance in Rom. 5 and the word perseverance in verse 4 and 3 is the word translated patience, many times is the word hupomone. The root word of hupomono is meno, which means abide. The word meno occurs many times in Jn.15. Jesus said abide in me and My word abide in you and you will bear much fruit. So when you add the word hupo, which is like a preposition, it is abide upon. Hupomono means a continuous abiding upon something, upon the word of God.

Hupomone is only aspect of the development into the next part which we call character. Perseverance produces character. We are not able to study the word character yet, which is a Greek word dokime, which we will look at in this series later. But we want to wrap up what we've been studying about the word hupomone, which has been translated as patience in the New Testament. There are as we've mentioned two Greek words for the word patience. One is the word hupomone, which is found here. The other is the word makrothumia, which is translated usually as long suffering. Sometimes the translators mixed up both words. And makrothumia translated as patience, sometime hupomone is patience. So there is a two-fold relationship between these two words.

Makrothumia is from the word thumia, which is translated as heat, hot or sometime in reference to fire. We have brought that to the English meaning and a lot of English words are borrowed from the Greek. One of those words is the word thermos, a thermos flask. The word makro is a preposition, which is a magnification of that fire. So makrothumia is a sort of burning heat and fire that is coming out of our lives. Strangely the bible translates it as long suffering. And long suffering is not the ability to endure. The ability to endure is more accurately from the word hupomone. Hupomone is like you are surrounded by the waves around you and you are on a huge

rock. And you are somehow steadfast on that rock. And the waves keep coming and going and the storm keep coming and going. But like a wise man whose house is founded on the rock, you are founded upon something. You are abiding upon something and it is more or less the English meaning of the word endurance. You could endure. One day the storm die, the waves die, you are still there. That's the word endure from the word hupomone.

The word makrothumia is not just endurance; it is an ability never to let your fire die. As you can picture it, its different type of endurance. It is endurance, you are challenged by circumstances, but instead of the circumstances causing the fire to go out, the circumstances cause your fire to build hotter. It is almost like forest fire, where normally you light a little match, or you are lighting the candles over the birthday cake. One of the things they often do is to switch off the fan. Why do they do that? Because when they light the match or light the candles, the wind will blow out that tiny little flame. How many birthdays that you celebrated when you switch off the fan and when you try to light the candles with a match while the fan or the wind is blowing, it puts out the fire. That's called being quenched. Some people get quenched. They got no ability to keep the fire going. The slightest wind and the fire goes out of their lives. They have no endurance.

But makrothumia is a different type of endurance. It's an endurance not to remain the same but an endurance to keep the fire going and brighter. Now you translate that to a forest fire. What happen when it is a dry weather and part of the forest catches fire and the fire starts burning one or two trees? And the wind comes; the wind doesn't stop the fire. Now, when the fire reaches a certain level the wind doesn't stop the fire, it helps the fire. The stronger the wind, the more the fire spread. And the more material you use to smother the flame, the more things you throw into the fire, wood etc, the bigger the fire grows. That's what makrothumia is. It's a different type of endurance. It's fire endurance where you have the ability to keep the fire. But it is also the ability that the more circumstances you go through, the more tribulation you go through, the more difficult things that are thrown at you, your fire grows bigger. It is the ability to increase your fire through times of endurance. As we can see hupomone gives a picture of keeping. You are able to keep everything. Hold fast to everything without losing one tiny bit, remaining the same, season and out of season. There is a sort of endurance and stability in your life.

Makrothumia is a type of endurance, but its an endurance that grows stronger. The stronger the wind, the bigger you spread, until in the end the fire is so big it consume even all the circumstances around you. That's where we call breakthrough. That's where you break through into the next level. That's where you break through and we use the word overcome. Hupomone is like a rock standing against the waves. Makrothumia is like a forest fire that's burns and can not be put out by strong winds, unlike a candle fire that is snuffed out by the wind or the air movement. But the air movement now helps your makrothumia and delivers a kind of endurance.

Now lets try to understand the relationship of these two words, because in Rom. 5:3-4, it tells us that somehow tribulation produces character. It tells us that hupomone produces character. Lets cross reference to II Peter chapter one and see a development of hupomone here. II Peter 1:5-7 "But also for this very reason giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance (that word perseverance is the same word hupomone. It should

be translated as patience), to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness love (or agape).

Do you notice that Peter had a different flow where more virtues and characteristics are mentioned? But it starts at the same point. It starts with faith. And then from faith it takes more steps. Lets take faith as the starting point. First step virtue, second step knowledge, third step self-control, and fourth step perseverance, fifth step godliness, sixth step brotherly kindness, and seventh step love. So developing from faith to love takes seven steps.

When you look at Rom.5 verse one, you notice that Paul starts with faith. So lets also start from the same base faith. Then it says having been justified by faith we have peace, which is step one.

To whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Rejoice is step two, which we didn't consider earlier in our teaching. We started from faith to tribulation.

Now verse 3, and not only that by we also glory in tribulation, third step; knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, fourth step; perseverance character, fifth step; character hope, sixth step; hope love seventh step.

Romans 5:1-5 also have seven steps, but when we compare it with 2 Peter 1:5-7 in, we see that they take slightly different roads to travel. But the end result is still love. I Cor. 13, declares that the greatest is love. There is definitely a relationship between all these Christian characteristics and virtues. We don't have time to consider all these relationships. But there are relationships. In the natural world the same atoms can be formed differently to produce different molecules and molecular structures. Diamond and graphite are from the same element. They are all carbon, but the carbon atoms had joined together differently. And if they join together in a certain pattern it becomes graphite, which is a very weak substance. You could break it with your hand. But under pressure and great heat the atoms joined together to form a different set of molecules and we call it diamond. They are still the element carbon.

In the spiritual world is the same way. Between the processes of faith in God to agape love, there are many different combinations that the characteristics of Jesus in our lives can take. We need to develop all of them. We need the diamond hardness or steel in order to confront difficult situations and cut through them. We need the softness of phileo in order to relate and be tender to one another. It's important to have those balances. We are not able to consider all those balances but I share those little words to encourage you to study deeper and it's not possible on one Sunday or even on a series to cover everything. What we are doing is to stir your love for the Word. There is so much in the Word that could read and found out and discovered in the revelation God has placed there for our lives.

We are going to consider the fact that hupomone need to be developed into character. Or hupomone also in II Peter chapter one needs to be developed into what he calls godliness. That is II Peter 1:6 add to hupomone godliness. And dokime or character is not mentioned. But other things that are added on in II Peter 1:4-7 (as compared to Romans 5:1-5) that just to prove to us the fact that there is not just one single road that hupomone can take to become love.

It is just like you could take many routes to our church here. Some of you could take the new expressway. Some of you could have taken the Federal Highway. These are some of the major routes that you have taken. We all end up in the same place. But based on the road you travel you face different circumstances. In the first place you pay different rates, the different amount of toll based on which route you took. Some of you try to avoid the toll and you go a slightly roundabout way and your experiences are different.

Now the question is, is it God who wants us to take a certain route? Somehow in our Christian life He wants all of us to be complete in Jesus Christ. Although together we may need different experiences based on our call, our ministry and our personality. Yet there is something that must be common so that we develop properly. In fact in the natural world if you are a swimmer and you specialized in swimming, you are like a fish in the water. Do you know that if all you do is just swimming and you develop only in that place, you can actually be clumsy on the land? It's a different set of muscles that you develop. If you are a runner, you develop a different set of muscle. If you just specialize in one you may develop different muscles. To prove it, climb a 17-story building by the stairs. You could be someone who walks 15 kilometers a day. But if you climb 17 stories, you will find that even though your muscles are very well developed and you may start feeling the ache on the 6th floor. How can you feel the ache when you are so well trained in walking? It's just a different set of muscles.

I am using a natural illustration to show that although in one sense, God wants us to develop our specialized gift, yet there is something that must be basic. Before you can be a specialist you must have the basic. Before you could be a medical specialist, you have to go through a general practitioner course. So there is an area where He allows us to specialize. That is after developing certain characteristics. There are certain characteristics in our Christian life that are basic, which we all must have. Beyond that we can learn to develop specialized characteristic according to your call, ministry or profession that God has called you to be.

Remember that what we consider basic is sometimes very advanced for the average Christian. It is because people have not looked into the Word to study what we should have. A lot of the doctrines that are taught are very basic. Divine health, laws of healing, all these are supposedly basic. But some Christians are finding it very advanced. Because they never have the basic and we are talking in this series only about the basic characteristic that we all must have. We all must have the basic Christian exercise in the development in the Christian character in our life. And we are considering the road that hupomone must take.

Hupomone can take the road through character (dokime) and hope (elpis) to divine love (agape). Or hupomone can take another road of godliness (eusebeia) and brotherly kindness (phileo) and then to divine love (agape) as found in II Peter chapter one. They are different roads. We are saying that you need both roads, because it's included among the basic development of phileo. Not the specialized development of phileo. These are basic roads that we take. We want to summarize some of these basic roads we take.

Even though you may have 3 very reasonable routes to come to church, the new express way or the Federal Highway, or the smaller roads, there is something that is basic to all of them. They all go in roughly the same direction to reach this church.

But it does not mean that we will be going in the same direction all the way. Even though there may be different paths that we take, there are some basic directions that are governed by the compass. Now the compass is the Word of God.

Hupomone has different highways to agape. The key is that we need to experience all of them to develop different spiritual muscles in our lives. One is the swimming muscle, one is the walking muscle and all these muscles are basic to our Christian life. We need to learn all of them. We are just concentrating on the hupomone development into the next step and how hupomone develop together with makrothumia.

If you are just someone who has developed hupomone without makrothumia working in your life, you are a very steady person but you would seldom change things. And if you have makrothumia without hupomone, you will find that you can change things too much. In the end you could be changing or opposing the very thing that you should be because you keep changing and moving in a different direction.

You need both. Hupomone needs to be developed first before makrothumia. Patience needs to be developed first before long-suffering. I don't know why they use the word suffering, because the word makrothumia conveys no sense of the word suffering. It conveys more of the idea of heat that is coming forth. So we have hupomone together with makrothumia.

Lets look at Col. 1 where we see the two principles working together. Col. 1:9-11 "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience (hupomone), and long-suffering (makrothumia) with joy."

Here you find that hupomone and makrothumia work together to help you fulfill the walk that is pleasing to God in verse 10. What was Paul's purpose that you may walk worthy fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work increasing in the knowledge of God? It is hupomone and makrothumia working together, patience and long suffering working together. How do they work together? What do they produce is what we are going to consider this morning.

First of all we study those words and find out how they are used in other places. The word makrothumia is actually the word used in Galatians 5:22-23 in the fruit of the Spirit. If your Bible translates it as patience, it would be the wrong translation. It should be the word long suffering. Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (in the old King James translation the word patience is used and is a wrong translation since the word here is makrothumia. The word patience could be used if it was the word hupomone), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such there is no law.

I studied the word makrothumia through the whole New Testament. The word makrothumia seems to be expressive of a quality of your human spirit and of the Holy Spirit imparted into your life. There are some people who argue that the word fruit of the spirit should be used here, with the word spirit having a small s and not the capital

S. Some would say this is the fruit of the human spirit, small s, and some would say this is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, capital S. I take the view that is both. It refers to both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. That oneness together produces this fruit of the Holy Spirit and the human spirit.

The word longsuffering or makrothumia have been used for spiritual attributes. And that's how we can understand that it has an overcoming quality, not a stabilizing quality. It's an overcoming enduring and not a stabilizing enduring. And that's the same one we quoted earlier in the book of Heb. 6:12 That you do not become sluggish but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises and verse 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. Here is where they should have put it as longsuffering and not as patience. The King James translators are not very consistent in their translation. It is not faith and patience (hupomone). It is faith and long-suffering (makrothumia).

Makrothumia is like a fire that overcomes and the more things you throw into the fire the bigger it grows. It doesn't grow smaller neither can it be quenched. The more experiences, the more persecutions you throw against it, the greater the fire. It is a different type of endurance; it is an overcoming endurance. That's why it inherits the promises. It reaches a stage of overcoming. Verse 15 talking about Abraham and also after he had patiently endured, now here is the word longsuffering again. After he had long suffered makrothumia he obtained the promise. It is a different realm altogether, and makrothumia is a result of the development of the human spirit with the Holy Spirit enabling them.

The difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is not that they don't have a human spirit. Human beings are tripartite beings; they are a spirit, they have a soul, and they live in a body. The difference is that we have a new human spirit born again. Theirs was under the law and under a different dispensation. That is why God can not dwell in them. He can only work through them here and there. You will find Old Testament references about the spirit and their understanding of it. In Ps. it says the spirit of man is a lamp. It's like a candle. So they do have some understanding about the human spirit. And the difference between them and us is not that they don't have a human spirit. All human beings are tripartite type. Those who don't know God, their spirit are dead. The Old Testament through the blood covenant has a certain measure of access into the human spirit. But it's still the old human spirit. Whereas the New Testament saints have a spirit man that is born again. That's why only then could the Holy Spirit come and dwell in us permanently.

Lets go back to this point on the longsuffering. Makrothumia is an attribute and development of the Holy Spirit and the human spirit in our life. Our human spirit needs to be perfected, needs to grow forth and this can only be enabled by the Holy Spirit.

What about hupomone? I've studied hupomone and it seems to be a development of the human soul. It is a steadfastness that needs to come into the human soul. Let me give you a few cross-references. Lk. 8:15 "But the one that fell on good ground are those who have heard the Word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience (hupomone). So there is a relationship between hupomone and the Word of God.

There is a relationship between makrothumia and the Spirit of God. Based on Gal. 5:22-23 there is a relationship between makrothumia and the Spirit of God. Based on Lk. 8:15 there is a relationship between hupomone and the Word of God and all through the New Testament hupomone and the Word of God have a very integrated relationship. Abide in Me and let My word abide in you and you shall bear much fruit. Jesus is using the word meno which is the same root word of hupomone in Jn.15.

And all through the New Testament there is a relationship between makrothumia and the Holy Spirit. When both work together you have the balance of the Word and the Spirit.

Lk. 21 Jesus was talking about the end time. But in the process He gives a revelation of something that is useful for us. Lk. 21:18-19 But not a hair of your head shall be lost, in your patience (hupomone), possess your soul. In your hupomone control your soul. I repeat again, there is a relationship between hupomone and the Word of God and the human soul. And there is a relationship between makrothumia and the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. Both are integral to the development in our life in order to be the person God wants us to be and do those things God wants us to do.

Heb.10, he is writing to these people encouraging them. The author of the Hebrew whom we believe to be Paul, even though his name was not mentioned and his style of writing is quite different. That's why some scholars think it was not Paul who wrote Hebrews. It has only been over the last couple of hundred years that people didn't think that it was Paul. However the traditions as given in church history and the early fathers and all the early groups of people in the first 100, 200, 300 AD recognized that this was Paul's epistle. It was only during the last 100, 200 years that people thought that it was not he. When Kenneth E. Hagin saw the Lord Jesus Christ in a vision, he did ask the Lord this question. The Lord told him that it was indeed Paul who wrote this epistle.

Heb.10, he is writing to people who are being tested, going through tribulations, discouraged and down. He was trying to encourage them. First of all he showed what makrothumia could do in the life of Abraham and other people and then now he comes to them in Heb. 10:35 "Therefore do not cast away your confidence which has great reward. For you have need of hupomone, patience, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

If you don't read it in the Greek, you wouldn't realize that Heb. 10:36 receiving the promise is different from Heb.6 on receiving or inheriting the promise. You wouldn't realize it because Heb. 6 uses the word makrothumia, and Heb. 10 uses the word hupomone. But hupomone is used in a different development, that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise. Earlier in Heb. 6 verse 12 that through faith and makrothumia inherit the promise. But there is a difference between receiving the promise and inheriting the promise. One is more of manifestation and one is you still got to hold on.

Then he continues in verse 37-38. For yet a little while and He who is coming will come and will not delay and the just shall live by faith, (another word hold on be stabilized). But if anyone draws back My soul has not pleasure in him. But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. Again you find hupomone related to the soul.

Let me just summarize some of the studies we have done. Hupomone is the development of your human soul in relation to the Word of God. Since the fall of man the soul of human being have been wavering. Doubts come from your soul, distress come from your soul and emotions, and all the wrong things that is coming from your soul. The human soul needs to be girded with the Word of God to be stabilized. An unstable soul will not receive the promises of God. Remember Jesus said, that if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can tell the mountain remove from here to yonder and it will be removed. But when you speak do not doubt in your heart. One tiny doubt will cancel the whole process. Doubt is the quality of the fallen soul. And that is why we need the renewal of the mind and the Word of God to stabilize our soul. You notice, the more Word we have in our life, the more we are stabilized in our soul. Hupomone takes a special form. A patient soul is an attribute that you want to have. Hupomone patience is not an attribute of your human spirit. Its an attribute of a renewed soul and renewed mind. Patience is an attribute of your human soul according to the Word of God.

Having understood that hupomone relate to the Word of God which needs to come in to stabilize our soul and makrothumia as an attribute and quality and fire of the Holy Spirit that needs to come in to give a certain quality to the human spirit, we now look at James chapter one and see the process taking place.

In verse 2-4, “My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (hupomone), but let patience (hupomone) have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. Now notice hupomone is not enough or otherwise James wouldn’t have written let patience (hupomone) have its perfect work.

Having hupomone is not enough in verse 4 let hupomone have its perfect work. That means you can not just receive it once. When you receive the Word of God be ready for the Word of God to be challenged, tested until the Word of God is digested and become a part of you. If you eat a piece of bread, the bread enters into your mouth and you chew it. It enters your stomach, and then your gastric juice comes and digests it. The bread had to be digested so that it can become a part of your body.

The Word you receive needs to be digested by your spirit but it needs to renew your soul until your soul is steadily held by the Word of God. This means when the Word of God comes it produces faith in your human spirit. But faith in your human spirit must become trust in your soul. Your soul must develop a sort of faith and confidence in the Word of God. Faith is an attribute in the human spirit. Trust is an attribute of your soul. You trust with all your heart.

Heart is spirit and soul working together.

It says in Heb. 11:1-3, verse 1 says faith is a substance hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Then he goes on to say that by faith we understand. Why do people doubt? It is because their soul hasn’t been under girded by the Word of God. The Word of God needs to come constantly.

In the parable of the sower and the seed, what happens when the Word of God comes? Remember one type of ground, they rejoice, rejoice but they have no root in themselves. He is not just talking about the root in the human spirit. They need to

have the Word of God rooted in their soul. The book of Proverb says the Word of God can become flesh to your bones. But it had to flow through our soul. When the Word of God becomes a part of our thinking life, the way you think is according to the word of God. There are a lot of us when we grow up; we have a different education outside the Word of God. We are brought up by the world system. We are taught the world system and principles. We are taught the worldly ambition.

When we are born again, our spirit was regenerated but our mind is still not renewed yet. This mind of ours, this souls of ours need to be taught to function like the Word of God says. We got to renew ourselves to how the Word of God say and function. It got to be re-educated. And when the soul began to obey God's word, hupomone begins to be perfected. The soul believes to the saving of the soul. He is not talking about being lost in hell, because when you are born again, you have a ticket to heaven. But he is talking about the renewal.

The word save is the word sozo, which means the complete salvation for the spirit, soul and body. The Word of God affects all three parts of the human being. Why do people who are born again still look like not born again by the look on their faces? I mean Jesus is your Lord, Jesus is your savior, He is the Lord but you look like He is not the Lord of your life. Nobody likes me. Is He the Lord or not? You don't know my problem. Is your problem the Lord's or is it only your problem? Is Jesus truly the Lord? See, our soul needs to be renewed, to be re-adjusted to think like the Word, to feel like the Word and when our soul is renewed hupomone is steadfast. Hupomone is complete. Where there is incomplete hupomone, you will not have what we call the full assurance of faith. You have only partial assurance, half assurance, quarter assurance. We need the full assurance of faith.

When hupomone in James 1:4 "let hupomone have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." When it have its perfect work then you have a perfect and complete answer to all your prayers, all the things that you want. Your soul is now lined up with your human spirit, which is born again. God can not come forth to overcome the circumstances in your life. It goes on to say in verse 12, "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who loved Him." It goes on to tell how temptation is not from God and how it is more our own internal inclination and weaknesses that need to be overcome. The temptation is not found in your spirit. The temptation is found in your soul and your flesh.

When those areas are conquered by hupomone, renewed by the Word of God, your human spirit can now work together with your soul. The Holy Spirit becomes available. He is the free gift of grace and promise of God to our lives. But why can't the Holy Spirit work mightily in our lives? He is limited according to what we ask or think, limited according to the limitations of our soul. You can have a fantastic reservoir, but if all you have is a rusty old pipe, you will still not have the fullness of the reservoir. Our human soul is a conduit by which the Holy Spirit flows through in this pipe. Therefore we need to develop our soul in the Word of God. It is the natural attribute of the fallen nature for our soul to be wavering. You talk to the average person; their thought life is not in their control. You talk to the average Christian, their thought life is only sometimes in their control. But if you talk to a real man or woman of God who is like Jesus, all their thoughts are always in line with the Word of God. The closer you are with Jesus the more your thought conforms to His image. Day and

night your thinking is about Jesus and it's so easy for Jesus to flow through your life and work in your life and do all that He wants to do.

4. THE ROLE OF EMOTIONS

We have been looking at the character of Jesus in this series. We have taught on many topics. For example, we have about 16 tapes on love. From time to time we touch on different topics as the Holy Spirit impresses upon our hearts. I believe the topics on love and the character of Jesus are vitally important. They are even more important than topics on prosperity, healing or any thing else. This is not to say that we don't need those things, but when we all get back to heaven, we will discover that the only thing that we bring back is not our wealth, not all that we possessed, not all that we gained, but the only thing that we will bring back to heaven is truly and only the character development in our lives. All the other things are only temporary for our comfort that God has provided for us on this planet earth. We need to major on those things that the Word of God says are major. And minor on those things that the Word of God says are minor. We need to know what our priorities in life are. And one of the reasons why we have gone on this series is that as we taught on other topics and we developed in them, we need to remind ourselves of the importance of holding fast to Christian principles and Christian character while pursuing life's goal in our personal life.

Lets look at the book of Acts chapter 8 for a moment. Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great. This was before he was born again. After he was born again, the bible tells us that certain things happened in his life through the preaching of Philip in verse 13 Then Simon himself also believed and when he was baptized he continued with Philip and was amazed seeing the miracles and signs which were done. Simon became a believer, born again, baptized in water.

Do you know that there are a lot of believers who can believe, are baptized in water and even baptized in the Spirit and even been reading the bible and even been doing things in Christian fellowship, even been active in different areas, but there may be problems in their lives. That is why we are talking about Christian character. Such a person was Simon the magician and there were certain things that he desired wrongly. That is what we want to point out why our Christian character needs to be developed.

What consist true Christianity? I think there are more people who are stumbled by Christians then people being witnessed to by Christians. If all the Christians who are supposed to be Christians live like Christians, evangelism would be a normal affair. There are more Christians stumbling people than Christians who are witnesses to Jesus. And even new Christians who join a church sometimes are stumbled because there are varying standards even among Christians. We need to establish the standard in the bible, see how far we want to go with God.

In the book of Acts 8 there was the conversion of Simon. But apparently there was something not right in his life. When he saw the power of God that was demonstrated through Peter and John when they laid hands and the people received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, Simon in verse 18-19 offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone that I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit". He offered money for the power. That was the way he used to operate. What were the purpose and the motivation, why does he want such power? No.1, he still wanted to have attention he had before he was born again. Remember it says here in verse 10 & 11 that he was a sorcerer, a magician who was used to the business of entertainment. He

was almost like a Hollywood star and he was so used to that kind of attention. Now that he is born again, he was no more the star. Somebody else is now the star. Philip was the star. Peter was the star. John was the star. They were stars for God. He wanted the same thing, the same power but he had the wrong motives. His heart wasn't right. His method was also wrong. You can't purchase this kind of thing with money; you can't bribe God. All the silver and gold on this planet earth mean nothing to God. God could have easily created the whole world made from gold. Money doesn't move God. So his methods were wrong. His heart was wrong. And yet he was born again, baptized in water.

Today we have Christians who were baptized, born again, baptized in the Spirit and know the Word of God, yet they would have problem in bringing forth the character of Jesus in their lives. That's why we are teaching this series. What was the problem? In Acts 8:22, "Repent therefore of this your wickedness and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you." Then verse 23 is the revelation of what was going on in his life, For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.

The bible in other passages like Hebrew talks about the root of bitterness. If you look carefully bitterness is an emotion that affects the mind. And then there was sin and iniquity in his life. And all these things caused wrong thoughts to enter his heart and mind. Many modern people will deny it because our present world system is based on the intellect and education. But many people's decision-making is based on emotion. Some of it is based on intellectual processes but a lot of it is based on emotion.

When we are born again we need to differentiate between our emotion, our intellect and the Spirit of God guiding our lives. Many times we confuse the leading and missed the whole leading of the Spirit, even to the extend of putting the name of God in it. Saying that the Lord spoke to us. The Lord moved us. But it was our emotions and our own intellect guiding us. And what's the problem here. We need to point to a key role here. I will show you in the book of Acts that while the Spirit of God was moving, while the Word of God was being preached, the revival was going on, and the church was growing, emotions were still ruling people's lives.

Emotion can affect a person's intellectual process wrongly. Some of us may say that some people are just intellectually guided. And between intellect and emotion, let me tell you emotion wins. Emotion can cause your analytical processes to go in a certain direction. Between fear and intellect, fear wins. When you believe in something that is wrong, your mind operates and tells you the reason why it's wrong. When you believe in something that is right, faith reasons and tells you why it is right. Thus we see that both fear and faith have their own reasoning.

When the people did not want to enter the land of Canaan, they reasoned, they gave valid reasons and natural reasons. Let me encourage you in a fact that our intellectual finite mind is to be subservient to God's Word. We don't reason ourselves into the things of God. We allow God to give us revelation and understanding for our own education spiritually. But we don't depend on our mind. Otherwise Proverbs 3:5-6 doesn't fall through. It says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path."

It's important for us to take note of the fact there in the world between emotion and intellect. I have known the most intellectual people. When they fall in love with someone who is wrong, their reasoning is more often than not also wrong. The most intellectual people when they get emotionally involved in a property deal or in a financial deal, their intellectual powers go berserk. They reason their way into a wrong thing. The ability to reason is no guarantee that we will make the right decision in life. There is something bigger than our reasoning processes.

There are certain things that are directing our life and our decision making today.

No.1 There is a biological process that gives us energy to live day by day even as we obey natural laws and we feed our body.

No.2 There are emotional feelings that we have, which stem from our likes and our dislikes from our past, in our present and looking towards the future. We all have emotions and we feel those emotions.

No.3 We have the intellectual capacity to process information. We agree, we disagree, we see it, we don't see it, we rationalize, and we don't rationalize. Something we see we agree. Something we don't see we disagree. Whether we have sufficient information will hinder the analytical process. Sufficient or insufficient information will hinder our intellectual process.

Let me tell you, the most important guideline in our Christian life is something in the invisible realm beyond our natural body, beyond our intellect, beyond our emotion. It is called our conscience, which is guided by the principles of God. The one direction in our life in all these decision making must be our conscience.

Let me just run through the book of Acts to show you how much emotion was involved. And how the devil uses emotions to mislead and misguide people. Apparently even in Acts 8 that we saw that Simon was basing whatever he had on an emotion that he was feeling. The emotional need for recognition and the emotional need for greatness almost cost his life. Peter told him he was bound by iniquity and poisoned by bitterness even though he was a born again Christian in the church in Samaria. The revival was going on but his emotions were still there.

As we progress through the book of Acts we will show how emotions affect decision-makings. Although this is not in black and white, the undercurrents are there. Acts 4:1-2 "Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, the Sadducees came upon them, being disturbed that they taught the people and preach in Jesus the resurrection from the dead."

Why were they disturbed? Because of the preaching about Jesus. Why were they so against Jesus? From the gospel they felt that Jesus might take over all their authority. And if everybody believes Jesus there will be no more necessity for their existence. In fact one of them in the gospel stories says that if they don't stop Him, the whole world will go after Him. They have developed an irrational mind based on this emotional fear and jealousy. Many times emotional feelings cause the mind to be irrational. Don't try to use your mind when you are emotionally affected because your mind doesn't work properly during this time. Your mind began to reason wrongly. I mean people who want to sin reason themselves into sin. A thief will rationalize why he

should rob. Don't try to use your mind when you are emotionally affected. Get your emotion settled first before you tap on the mind and allow God's Spirit to deal with your mind.

So as we look into the renewal over the last week we saw hupomone in the development of the soul and makrothumia in the development of the human spirit. How must these two forces develop our lives? Now we are getting into the details of it. As we deal with our lives, the first area to deal with is not just the mind, even though we have been preaching on the renewal of the mind. Let me express the fact that we need to renew our emotion. If your emotion is not dealt with, your renewal of your mind will still be affected because your reasoning will keep reasoning the wrong way. We need to be stabilized in our emotion before the renewal of our mind can take place. People who are emotionally unstable become mentally unstable and that's a fact.

It looks like it were just based on a doctrinal issue that these Pharisees were persecuting the apostles. If it were just a doctrinal issue, they would be willing to debate and reason it out. They had been emotionally affected, so that they tried to stop these people preaching. Look at it this way. If they were intellectually correct and if it were just a doctrinal statement that was different, why didn't they just stand up while apostle Peter was preaching and began to show forth from the scriptures that there was no resurrection from the dead? Why do they have to secretly pull these people aside and tell them not to speak about Jesus anymore? It was not an intellectual battle; they were emotionally motivated. These were the greatest intellectual people of those days; they were doctors of the law, yet they were ruled by their emotions.

Acts 5 in verse 1 we see a Christian named Ananias. "But a certain man named Ananias with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it on the apostle's feet. Why did he lie? He sold a piece of land and could have given part of the property and tell the truth that this is only part of the property. I have kept the rest for myself because I want it. Why do you think he lied? He did give something. What did he give? He gave a portion. Would there be anything wrong if he had told the truth and said this is a portion of the proceeds that I received. God blessed me with this land and I sold it. This is part of the money. Nothing wrong. It would be well accepted. God didn't compel everybody to give 100%.

But there was an emotional need for attention. Why do you think that they lied? They wanted the glamour from the people. They had an emotional need for attention and the devil used it to his advantage. The devil uses people's emotional needs all the time. When the devil wins your emotion he wins your intellect. Even in the study of the physical brain, the intellectual connective part of the brain is more in the cerebral cortex. The base of our brain has a stem, which rises into the intellectual part, which is over the forehead area. But do you know the base stem of the brain is the part that controls your emotion? Your intellectual physical position is resting upon the emotion. You could say that the intellectual part of the brain can suppress the emotional part. Try it, but after sometime it explodes. Emotional victory is not won through intellectual suppression.

Why do some of the most intelligent students who score 'A's all the time, crack under examination pressures and become funny? We have ministered to some. They scored

‘A’ all the time and yet suddenly they cracked. Was there anything wrong with their intellect? Let me tell you what was wrong. Their intellectual part was trying to suppress their emotional part and it doesn’t go for long. You may get away with it for a short time. But in the end the emotion will explode and the intellectual doesn’t function anymore.

We need not only the renewal of the mind, but we also need the renewal of the emotion in God to develop the character of Jesus in us. I am sure Ananias and Sapphira used their minds. They used their minds to plot. They used their mind to cheat. They used their mind to reason out. They used their mind to rationalize. But their intellectual reasoning was motivated by their emotional need for recognition. That’s all - they just needed to be recognized. Satan used it. Now we begin to see why some Christians’ characters need to be dealt with. We need as much renewal in our emotion as our intellect to live a Christian life.

Let me show you problems in the book of Acts arising from an emotion not properly dealt with. In Acts 6:10, And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he (Stephen) spoke. They could not match Stephen intellectually. Stephen’s emotions have been dealt with; he was filled with the Spirit and he was a good man. His intellect has been renewed and he could reason the work of God calmly. Now the Pharisees and the Sadducees of his time opposed him. They could not intellectually rise to his level because the Holy Spirit has anointed him. The Holy Spirit can easily anoint your intellect as well as anoint your emotion if you learn how to yield.

And then in Acts 7:54, “When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.” People who gnash their teeth don’t do it because of their intellect. When someone gnash his or her teeth that is not an intellectual argument. That is an emotional distress signal. When Stephen won the battle through the word he spoke and by the intellectual wisdom given by the Holy Spirit, their emotions were stirred up. That was when they were so angry. They wanted to kill Stephen. People who kill people don’t do it because of intellectual reason. They do it because of emotional affection. When people kill one another, murder one another and plot all these things, they use their intellect. But their intellect was being governed by emotional need.

In Acts 7 it was stirred up emotion that caused the outrage. In verse 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord. People who are not emotionally affected do not raise their voice. They were emotionally affected in verse 57. If they were not emotionally affected they would say that they will now deal with Stephen very calmly. That’s all – they would be very intellectual and objective about it. They would just surrender him to the proper authorities, find proper legal grounds to prosecute him and get him appropriately sentenced. No, they had been emotionally affected and they dragged Stephen out, took stones and threw at him and killed him.

Let me give you a little observation here. Crowds are affected more by emotion than by intellectual arguments. When you have a big crowd and you want to affect the crowd, don’t affect the crowd by intellectual arguments alone. You affect the crowd by emotion. That shows you how at the base of all human civilization are the emotional needs that only Jesus the Prince of Peace can meet.

Acts 9:1 Then Saul breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord. Saul was a very intellectual man. He had reasons and he had great reasoning powers and he did not accept the disciples of Jesus. The great intellect among the greatest at Paul's time was Gamaliel and he knew that in the end the truth would win. You don't have to get emotional about it. Why didn't Gamaliel go about killing people? He was one man who did not allow his emotions to rule him. In fact Gamaliel was one of the keys to release the apostles. Acts 5:38, "And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you can not overthrow it – lest you even be found to fight against God. That is a very reasonable man and a man unaffected by emotions.

That should have been the stand of the Pharisees and Saul if they were unemotionally affected. But apparently their intellectual argument was not enough. Saul was also emotionally affected. He went around killing people. It is the emotions that come from the base stem of our brain that are ruining many peoples' life.

The reason why we are teaching this is, if we are Christians, born again, these things should not govern us. The Spirit of God who resides even deeper than the base stem of our natural mind and brain should govern us. We must learn to tap on that and not on those emotional things or wrong rationalization.

(Interestingly, for a very long time I have always wondered why in many cases of people who come to me for deliverance, I see a demon attached to the base of his or her neck. Now I understand that if the demon can control the base of your brain stem, he can then control your emotions, and thereafter he can then control your decisions and choices you make. If you have spiritual eyes that can scan the spiritual realm, you would be able to see a demon or demons holding tightly onto the base of the neck of emotionally troubled individuals. One of the areas that should be prayed over when people come to us for deliverance is the back of the neck. In many deliverance and ministering sessions on a one-to-one basis, this area is often overlooked. The person should be asked to repent of any action or ground that he has given to evil or to the devil emotionally. Wrong emotional choices. Emotional outbursts. Emotional depression. Covetousness, avarice, lust, sloth, vanity, pride, have their roots in unhealed emotional needs, and must be renounced and repented. Then authority can be taken over the demon and his controlling activity over the patient can be broken off.)

Acts 9:39, "Peter arose and went with them and when he had come they brought him to the upper room and all the widows stood by him weeping showing their tunic and garments that Dorcas had made while she was with them." Here is a scenario of a good woman who died and those lives that she touched have been emotionally affected. They were weeping and crying because now they missed her. Emotions were involved and in verse 40 Peter put all of them out. Because when you get emotional you can not listen to God. Peter had to listen to God whether God wanted Dorcas to be resurrected or not. And if you don't put aside emotion you can not discern God's will. Forget about trying to discern God's will. Forget about your intellectual argument and your rationalizing even if you quote the bible. You get emotionally about it and you quote the bible, it is useless. You are twisting and turning the bible for your own end. Get your spirit and your heart right with God first. That is why among the hardest things for you to discern in your own life, are the things you get emotionally affected with. Better get an outside person who is not emotionally

affected to give the view. And don't try to get other people who are emotionally affected too to side you. Don't play with emotion. In the end when the dust has settled only the Kingdom of God rules and reign. And only the truth prevails.

Acts 10:46 "For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Peter answered can anyone forbid water that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." Now if it had been a group of Jews he wouldn't have said that. He would say straight away, baptize them with water. They were Gentiles and Peter had an emotional affectation toward the Gentiles. In fact he argued with God, when God was trying to show him that He had accepted the Gentiles as part of His plan of salvation. Acts 10:14 it talks about the 3 visions he had. In the end in verse 21, three Gentiles came to see him. The first thing that Peter said when he preached the Word in verse 28 was motivated by his emotional upbringing to regard the Gentiles as unclean people. Acts 10:28, Peter said, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation." That was an unnecessary statement, a statement based on tradition and based on the fact that he was still a bit fearful.

I need to point to Gal.2 to show the extent that fear can play in his life of being a Jew mixing with Gentiles. Peter was so fearful of the Judaizers (that is, Christians who believe that they must keep the Jewish laws) that when he saw them coming, he purposely kept away from eating with the Gentiles. Paul had to rebuke him for this hypocrisy. Gal 2:11-12 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. Peter in a sense can't help it because he was brought up as a Jew. The things that we find hardest to overcome are emotions that are ingrained in our lives over 20 years or 30 years. It's very difficult to deal with deeply ingrained prejudices. That's why Christian character is slow in being perfected in Christian life. There are things we are so steeped in, in a wrong way.

Peter was emotionally affected. On one hand he eats with the people, when the Jews came he suddenly doesn't want to eat with the people. He was not basing his action on biblical reasoning. His action was based on emotional response. And this is a great apostle we are talking about. Even apostles have emotions. We need to understand how the character of Jesus can be developed in our lives. But lets watch the people in the bible and learn from them. If Paul didn't stood up to Peter's fear-motivated hypocrisy, his action of not eating with the Gentiles may have become an example, a method and even a denominational doctrine. All because of one man's emotion. How we need to renew our emotions as much as we need to renew our minds.

Acts 13, as Paul begins his first missionary journey, they had the first measure of success when they preached in the synagogues. Acts 13:15, Paul on a Sabbath day after the reading of the law and the prophet and he was given a chance by the rulers of the synagogue to preach. Paul rose up and started preaching. When Paul started preaching in verse 42, So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them on the next Sabbath.

Look at what happen in verse 43. Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. Nothing happen the first day. Verse

44, On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the Word of God. The Jews had been existing in the city for many years. They have never got such crowds before. Suddenly overnight these unknown fellows called Paul and Barnabas were getting tremendous result.

What were the human emotions? In verse 45, But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy. This was their secret reason. They were filled with envy. The real reason was that they were jealous of Paul. Sometimes you can discern that there are emotions running wild among the members in a particular church or fellowship, especially if someone among them is greatly used by God. The emotions are so wild that the Spirit of God can not anoint the church or fellowship. The devil is able to use such wild emotions to further his dirty tricks. Sometimes if you don't realize it, the devil uses our emotion to trap us and bring disunity and strife to the church. He can not get us at our minds because we can reason with God's Word. But our emotion is a trap door and through it he finds a secret door to our life. And through our emotion he begins to rule and reign in our life and we become unwittingly the instrument of Satan to prevent somebody else from doing God's will, God's work. How dangerous emotions are if we don't allow Christian character to rule and reign there.

Here is the main reason, the bible says so and we can't question the bible. The bible says the main reason is that they were envious and jealous. They never tell people, "I am jealous that's why I don't like Paul." But it says contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. They started using the intellectual processes to argue, to go against, to reason, to blaspheme, to use scriptures, to use Old Testament against Paul. Anybody with a normal IQ is capable of doing these things. But underneath are envy and jealousy, the unspoken reason. How dangerous emotions are. The devil uses it to hinder. We are all reading the book of Acts. We all know who the hero is and who the bad guys are. We all know but in life today there are heroes and there are bad guys. We know in life there are good people and there are bad people. There are emotional people, intellectual people, and all kinds of people. Your life story hasn't finish yet. We need to know how not to be affected by the wrong thing in order for God to perfect His will. Because in 20 years' time we may discover what the good way was and what the bad way was. It may be too late. Our stories may be recorded like this and we are shown as a bad guy, all because of emotion. Such a simple little thing as emotion needs to be dealt with so as to allow God's character to grow in our lives.

Lets look at the book of Acts. The same Jews became envious of Paul's success. In Acts 14:19, they followed Paul everywhere he went and they persuaded the multitudes to stone Paul. They traveled all the way, and that cost money, that cost planning, that cost intellectual rationalizing to do that. All because of their jealous emotion they go so far. When people get emotionally affected they use their I.Q. for a wrong thing. They reason, dot upon dot, letter upon letter. A lot of people fighting in the courts today are not fighting what is right and wrong in principle. A lot of them are fighting because of emotional stress and emotional disagreement. They are using intellectual processes. They are using the legal system; they are using the brainiest lawyers. They are using all these things because their emotions have been affected. The whole wastage of million of dollars over an emotional need. We Christians should not be that way. We need to know that we should not be that way. And show that we should

be prepared to let the Christ like character come in our life. We don't need just the renewal of the mind. We need the renewal of our emotion.

In the book of Acts, in the second missionary, in Acts 15, but just before it began in Acts 15:39, then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another and so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus. If I were to quantify the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas, the intellectual argument was that Paul didn't want Mark to follow them because Paul wanted someone who was steady. Mark had earlier abandoned them during a missionary journey and had returned to Jerusalem. But Barnabas wanted to take Mark along. Paul was arguing along intellectual lines, but Barnabas was arguing along emotional lines. You see, Mark and Barnabas were related. When you are related you see things differently. For example, if somebody is your friend, you have been eating with him every Sunday, or you have been meeting 3 days every week over lunch. There is no doubt if somebody says something wrong about that person, the first thing you do is to get emotionally affected before you get intellectually affected. Because of our emotional bonding, we click together.

We need to mature enough to be able to respond to things beyond our emotional bonding around us. Look at things that are alike in the scriptures. To me that is an emotional based argument. Paul must have got affected emotionally also because later on Paul wrote that Mark was a benefit to him and somehow they got over it. That just tells me that in the midst of revival the human instruments have emotion and sometimes they argue, sometime they fight, sometime they don't show their Christian character and this is the book of Acts we are talking about. The greatest revival was going on and Paul and Barnabas were having one of their arguments over Mark. Was God still there? God is still there, but God all the time has been working in our lives trying to perfect our lives to respond in a right way. Let me say something here. It's not possible to have an argument with somebody who doesn't want to argue. How do you argue with a person if the people don't want to talk? It takes two to fight.

Acts 16, we read about the Philippi church having the gospel. And there was this small little girl in verse 16, slave girl possessed with a demon. And the demon was sort of recognizing the authority on Paul's life. The masters in verse 16 made much profit by fortune-telling, when Paul cast out the demon, verse 19, But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. I want you to know that the book of Acts is very brutal in presenting the facts. The real reason is that they got no more profit from the girl but the legal reason they give to have Paul in prison are these. In verse 20-21, "These men being Jews exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." There was nothing in their reasoning that mentioned their grief and their hope of gain gone.

If you experience life long enough, you will know that deceptive people will never give you the real reason for their actions. The thing about people who are immature is the thing that such people don't know their underlying emotional motivations. Listen very carefully; you can try to convince human beings. Sometimes you can even succeed, but you can never outwit God, He sees right into the heart. The reason why you do something, there may be a hidden reason that is emotionally motivated but outwardly there is a legal reason you can give, an outward reason and a nice reason. Lets not fool ourselves. When will we be honest inside and outside? When will we

call a spade a spade? When will we be truthful to ourselves and to those around us? And the story of Christianity is a story of truth and honesty. Not lies and deception.

Acts 19, there was a revival going on. But underneath the revival there were also different things involved. The emotions of people were being affected. Acts 19:24, one of the biggest revival taking place, but the devil was going to stir up opposition through emotions. “For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation and said, “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.” Verse 27, “So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed.”

But the real reason is because their profit is being affected. Who is to fool whom? The real reason is that their sales volume is being affected. If Paul was making money for them or helping them make money and Diana was still being reduced, they would not have said a thing. Money was their god; Diana was not their god. Diana was an excuse to make money. Money was their god. And when they started losing money, it is when, look at verse 28, “Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath.” Now, their emotions were stirred up.

An example of one who can be intellectual without emotion is found in verse 35-38. And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Therefore, since these things can not be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. He was trying to calm their emotions. For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. Therefore if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. Go and judge them, see them in the court. Why cause this riot? Now this city clerk was a fine example of someone who disagreed with Paul, who may not be with Paul, who may be against Paul. But who was not emotionally affected.

The difference between him and the others was that these other fellows in verse 28 were full of anger. They were emotionally affected and they cried out and they said, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!” So the whole city was filled with confusion and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul’s travel companions. And then they all gathered together. No one knows the reason for what was happening. It was just confusion.

In verse 31, Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theatre. In verse 32, Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the whole assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. In verse 34, But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians. It was all emotion and the devil was using it. These are rational intellectual people. Some of them may be people of high I.Q. but it was emotions that rule the day.

Verse 34, they cried with one voice for about 2 hours. Imagine for 2 solid hours saying this silly statement great is Diana of the Ephesians. These must be mad people, chanting away. They were not doing that due to an intellectual argument, they were doing that based on emotional display.

Now I have rested my case. There are others too. I can trace through the book of Acts and show you how emotions have affected the work of God. Sometimes among God's people and sometimes among the opposition of God's people. At the root of things there is not only the need for the renewal of the mind but also the renewal of the emotion. How then shall we rule our life? To remove our emotions is to be less than a human being. We can't exist without emotion.

It is important to know where our major life force must come from. Where does our major life force, which is invisible come from? The key is the conscience. When you get emotionally affected by your business, by a deal, and your intellectual mind is "tick-tocking" away, calculate 3 to 5 years time, you would have that answer. Have you listen to your conscience and asked whether this or that is not right? Yet how many businessmen would rather ignore their conscience and rationalize away their actions? They are emotionally affected by greed, compromise, but they don't tell you as such. But they never listen to their conscience in their heart that says wrong, wrong. They never listen. Let me encourage you the basic of Christian character revolves around the development of our conscience. You can still have your emotions but you learn to put them under control. The basic is your conscience feeling or sensing what is right and putting aside your emotional feeling and rational argument.

Let me just ask you. As you stand naked in the light of God's presence, do you really think that this is right? If we were to guard our lives that way, we will be a better people. Not only that, God will bless you.

Now that was the way Paul run his life. He may have emotion, but at the root of it, this was his life: he listened to his conscience. Acts 23:1, "Paul looking earnestly at he council, said, 'Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.'" His conscience was his guide.

Lets us tie up to where we have been teaching on hupomone and makrothumia and show how these two forces affect our lives. It has to come to this point in Heb. Chapter 9 and 10. Heb. 9:14 before you can do any works for God. In verse 14, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." There is no way you can serve God in this life without your conscience. If you want to serve your own life go your own way with your emotion. If you want to live your own and be the god of your own life, live your own way intellectually. But if you want to serve God, there are many times where our emotions have to bow to our conscience. There are many times where our intellect have to bow to our conscience. Where intellectually you can't really see it because we look through a glass darkly. Emotionally you can't really feel that but you know deep in your conscience what is right and what is wrong. And you keep to the level in your decision's making. Sometimes against your own emotion you make the decision, because you know in your conscience what is right and what is wrong. That's the way to guard your Christian life.

Heb. 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in, here’s the key word, full assurance of faith. Remember we said that hupomone and makrothumia work together to give us that fullness necessary for developing the Christian character in us. And part of the achieving of that fullness is through our conscience. If you do it through your emotion in the end it becomes empty. You do it through your intellect in the end it becomes empty. When your conscience began to rise, there will be a sense of godliness, a sense of deity, a sense of God’s nature in your life, sense of the character of Christ operating through your life. And you will be filled with God’s presence. Heb. 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Our conscience needs to be trained by the Word of God and by the Spirit of God. The Christian life is a story of training of the conscience and as the conscience is trained, it becomes godliness.

II Peter 1:3-4, “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.” The purpose of God is that we be conformed to Jesus Christ. You partake of the divine nature and the same process as we saw in Rom.5.

Now coming to II Peter 1:5 onwards, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance (that is hupomone), to perseverance (hupomone) godliness. Godliness is where hupomone has its perfect work. Your emotions are held steady by godliness. Remember hupomone is a process in your soul. And here the word godliness is not from the word theosebeia but is from the word eusebeia which means godliness. It is from the word eu, “well,” and sebomai, “to be devout,” denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him. That is a devoutness and devotion that comes from a true godly character. This godliness is from the human response or from the human angle. The divine angle is the one with the word theosebeia. Theosebeia denotes the fear or reverence of God, and is from theos, “god” and sebomai, “to be devout”.

Here is the word ‘Eusebeia’. And that’s where hupomone develops your character and your conscience develops until your conscience follows after God. One step at a time we begin to learn the process. It is not easy on your emotions or all your intellect when you begin to follow what is right. The world may think that you are foolish, the world may think that you are doing the wrong way, but our advice to you in all your decisions of life, if you want to develop Christian character, let go of your emotions, let go of your reasoning and follow your conscience. You will never be wrong. Your conscience has to be trained by the Word of God and through the Spirit of God through prayer.

5. DOKIME (CHARACTER)

We have been looking at the character of Jesus as applied to our lives and the importance of developing Christian character. I believe it is the most important goal that we should have in our Christian life. Thank God for meeting our physical needs, for financial needs and the desires that we have in our life. Above these things is the need to grow into the character of Jesus. This is the highest calling. Rom.8 tells us that we are chosen and predestined to be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that's the highest purpose of God. When this life is over, when Jesus returns again, when we all return to Him, to be with him forever, it will not be what we have gained, what we have accumulated in this life that is really important, but it will be how much our spirit and our soul have been transformed until it is in the image of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. That is the highest treasure. We need to be reminded of that. We need to set our goals for that and that's why we are doing this series.

Rom. 5:3 onwards, "Not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulations produce perseverance (The word perseverance we have learned is the word *hupomone*.) character, and character hope and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our heart by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

We have looked last week at the important of the renewal of our emotions. We have always talked about the renewal of our mind. Our mind, our thought patterns need to firmly grounded until our minds are thinking like onto the mind of Christ. But another aspect that we have shown last week throughout the New Testament is how emotion can rule peoples' life. How we need our emotions to be renewed.

If we were to place it in a sort of order in which we have to deal with them, I would think that before we can seek guidance from God, before God can really speak into our life we need firstly to deal with our emotions, to calm and smooth our emotions, secondly the mind and thirdly only can we really hear what is in our Spirit. We do not try to calm the emotions or renew our thought pattern by our natural method. We definitely need the Holy Spirit to do it for us.

And when we say that they are in this order, it doesn't mean that the emotions of the mind are more important than that of the Spirit. But we place them in the order that the Spirit of God needs to deal in our life in those areas and in that order. And the Word of God needs to deal in our life in that order. The Spirit and the Word need to deal with our emotions before our mind, because our mind has the capability of thinking and analyzing with great intelligence all those things that our emotions cook up.

If you have fear your mind will tell you 20 reasons why you should have the fear. When they did not cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, the Israelites reasoned with their mind. They said that there are giants and they are like grasshoppers. They gave reasons. There is a wrong reasoning. The more intelligent you are, the more reasons you may give. So we know that it is not mental capability or I.Q., because some of the most intelligent people use their intelligence to fulfill emotional needs.

The first thing to be dealt with in our lives with the Word and the Spirit should be our emotions, unless your emotions are already dealt with. In fact you can't even hear

God unless your emotions are dealt with. And every time you want to seek God's guidance whether for a business, a life partner or any decision, if your emotions are involved in the process you will never really hear from God. You can never really interpret your dream, interpret your vision or interpret a manifestation or a prophecy or even hear God's voice clearly. For your emotional screen will be louder on your inside blocking out every other interpretation.

Therefore to live in a perfect will of God, the first and foremost important thing is to let the Word of God and the Spirit of God into our lives as much as possible. This is best done through meditating on the Word and praying a lot in the Spirit until your emotions are filled with rest. When your emotions are dealt with, something on your inside enters a rest, a rest so calm that no storm can stir it any more. And that's the rest that many times is missing in many Christians' lives, because their emotions are like little storms on their inside.

We must learn this pattern in our Christian life before making any decision. If our emotions are not calmed and rested by the Word of God and the Spirit, we will miss God. Some people happen to hit the bull's eye once in a while, in spite of their emotions. But that's never the way to operate. Which is why one of the hardest thing to hear God for are the things you get emotionally involved with. The moment emotionally you are involved with something the harder it is to be neutral. The harder it is to be neutral the harder it is to hear God because the only place to hear God is the place of surrender. Any other place that is not a place of surrender is impossible to hear God.

After our emotions are dealt with, we enter into a rest and then our mind begins to be dealt with. When the emotions are dealt with, your old thought pattern and unrenewed thinking can be dealt with by the meditation in the Word. And you begin to think in line with the Word. When something contradicts the Word you refuse to go into that area. You will say no, I will think in line with the Word and your thinking pattern began to follow the Word of God and follow the mind of Christ. That is the second area we deal with, which is the renewal of the mind. When you achieved the renewal of the mind, you experience something called the peace of God, which guards your heart and your mind. Sometime you have peace in your heart. That's in the Spirit realm. But we need peace in our mind. I know a lot of people who sometimes get sleepless nights. If you have sleepless nights that are troubled, you haven't settled either your emotions or your mind into the Spirit of God.

The Spirit within us must rule and rein our soul. And when He does rule over the emotional part of our soul we get spiritual rest. When He deals with your mind, you get spiritual supernatural peace in your mind. You're never troubled, never worried because there is a deep internal spiritual rest that you have entered into.

And as we progress, these are areas that we say these are the working of hupomone and makrothumia in our lives. And hupomone comes from the root word meno which Jesus used in the word abide in Jn.15. Abide in Me and let My words abide in you becomes a permanent feature in your life when you are established in hupomone. When those things succeed you enter into a realm called in verse 4 character. Rom. 5:4 and perseverance character.

The word character is the word dokime. Now the word dokime is not normally translated as character. But it is translated character here. The root word of the word dokime is the word proof. You become the living proof of Christ, of God. Just for come cross-references in II Cor. 13:3, Paul using the word dokime. "Since you seek of proof of Christ speaking in me." Dokime or character is something real from the time we have faith in God. Being justified by faith we have peace with God and in the process of God's dealings in our life the invisible realm becomes written into our very heart and our very life. We become quote and unquote, the living proof.

What is the definition of proof in the English language in the normal circumstances? If a brother said that he has deposited \$1000 in his bank, I would reply, "Brother prove it to me." What am I saying? I am saying show me that is real. That means that I am not going by his word; I want some evidence. Something that is truly real. He may take out the deposit slip and he may show it to me and say look, this is the proof that I have deposited on such and such a date into such and such account with such and such an amount into the bank. And if that is not enough, he pulls out his bank statement and say look these are my monthly bank statements. This is the proof.

What is he doing? He is giving proof. What is a proof? Firstly, proofs involve the truth. It's something that is the truth. Not a lie. The ultimate reality. In other words it is something dependable upon. Everything else can change but this is the truth. Jesus said, I am the way, the truth and the life.

No.2, dokime involves the understanding that is reality. It's for real. It is something real. Something tangible. Not something imaginarily. Nowadays you have brochure reality and you know how brochure reality affects you. It causes your emotions and your mind to react in such a way like what you are looking at is real. But it's not real. It is only simulated, but you react in the same way. Just like sometimes your car is parked next to another car. Your car stops next to another car at a traffic light, you just happen to look at the car next to you and suddenly you feel yourself going backwards and you react. Actually it's the other car going forward. It's a form of false impression. That is not something real. It is all in the mind. But we are talking about the ultimate reality. Something true, something tangible. That's what the word dokime mean.

I believe that the root form of the English word document comes from the Greek word dokime. Something authentic that settles a case. The real thing, not a duplicate but the real thing, which is the original document. The interesting thing about all these things is that the ultimate truth and ultimate reality that God was trying to establish from the start of the universe is in living epistles. Truth is not just a creed, a set of principles or precepts although it includes that. Truth is life, its living.

When Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the life, He is not saying that He is a walking book. He is saying that this is the ultimate reality. Now lets look at this fact that God wants to establish us a living epistles. That is His prime goal. In Heb.8 and 10. He says that this is the new covenant that he will write his law in our hearts and in our minds so that we began to become the living proof of dokime of God. We become the living epistles that other people read. Therefore if the Christianity you know is only in your head but not in your life, it is a lie. It hasn't become a dokime in your life if you know what you ought to do but you are not doing it. It is a lie. Your Christianity is a fuss. It is something false. True Christianity is not the establishment

of a great theology, a great creed or precepts or principles, although it includes these because these are the part that renew our mind.

But true Christianity is when you become the living proof of your theology, in your action, in your words, in your believe. And up to this day if you believe in something in Christianity but you are not practicing it you are a lie as far as God is concerned. You haven't reached dokime yet. The hupomone hasn't completed its work yet until and unless that dokime is established then only it is a reality. Until then it is as far as God is concerned are mental imaginations of what you ought to be. Until we become what we believe, until we practice what we believe until the fruit of our life become the personification of the principles and precepts that we believe in. That's dokime, living proof, living epistles, and the ultimate reality.

Now we see what the goal of hupomone is. That ultimately when hupomone succeed in your life, you're abiding in the Word, you become Jn. 1:14. "The word of God made flesh" The Word of God is not just a Word of God in your mind. The Word of God is not just a Word of God in theology. The Word of God is not just a Word of God in ink on paper. The Word of God becomes flesh. It becomes a part of your life, a part of your personality. Let me point to some of the great precepts and great principles that the bible has come up with. Sometimes philosopher or people in this world who had gone through hard times are able to come up with some wise sayings. Where does the great wisdom of the sages come from? From their lives. As they observe life they understood something from the reality. And they put it into a form, which our mind can comprehend, but it comes from the original reality in their lives.

Many times Christianity in the modern era can become a mental religion. And we think that just because we have heard something we have gathered the information that we have got it. You haven't got it until it's in your life. If you believe that by the stripes of Jesus we are healed, you acknowledge the principle, you understand the theological significance of the atonement and the propitiation of Jesus for your sin and for your sickness, but you are still sick. Dokime hasn't come yet. It is only in your mind and your imagination.

You need to hupomone on it long enough until it is an automatic factor in your life. That's what we are talking about and if you believe that God supplies all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus, but you are not experiencing it yet, you are still in the realm of hupomone. Because the moment you start experiencing it, dokime has taken place. You become the living proof. If you say I believe that God supply all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. But your rentals are not paid, many bills in your life you are still struggling with and you still believe it. There is nothing wrong with believing, because believing is the process of entering into dokime, but you are still in the hupomone stage.

We are not saying it is wrong to confess, to believe all those things. But I am trying to show that we should not stop there. Many people stopped there and they achieved some results once or twice. They think they have got it. You don't get it just once or twice. When it becomes automatic and normal in your life only then has dokime taken place.

Lets say that you say that God supply all your need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. But you are struggling with putting food on your table, with having a

proper car in your life and a roof over your head. And then you say that God supplies your needs. You believe it with all your heart and your mind. You confess it with your mouth but you are still in hupomone stage.

If you are at that level, are you a living proof that God supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus? The answer is still no. When will you be the living proof? When your faith breaks through, when the supplies start coming forth and you have the supply in your life so much that you began to supply other peoples' needs. You become the living proof, the dokime of Phil. 4:19. The powerful concept is you understand is dokime. When dokime comes faith has completed its job. We need to know that dokime is the Word becoming flesh.

Now Jesus Christ never had any problem with health or supply. He lives as a living proof of God supplying all His needs. Even when it comes right down to 5 loaves and 2 fishes, all He does is He looked up to God and gave thanks and He had enough to supply 5000 people. That's the living proof. God wants our life to reach into the living proof. Until what people are talking about are what we are living. What Christian is theologizing about, we are living. And when people say by His stripes I am healed, but they are not fully healed. They are still not living proof of the divine healing of God. There is nothing wrong if we keep on believing, keep on confessing, but understand where we are, that we are still at the hupomone stage.

The key behind it is to put to practice what God has told us. And see what I call the actualization of the words of God given to us. There is a period of time. When it is just word without manifestation, but as you hupomone all the way, it reaches a place of substantialization. It becomes substance in the living realm in the natural world. And you become a living proof to the natural world of all God's principles. That's what God wants us to do. God wants us to be living epistles of Christ. He doesn't want us to just go around with written epistles. Although that's good but He doesn't want us to just go about with mental understanding. That's on the way, on the process. He wants us to become the living epistles of all that Jesus said. That's dokime. From the time you start receiving what you ought to be to the time you are what you ought to be, is the process called hupomone. But there are factors that are involved in it being actualized in our life.

Looking at James from the Greek New Testament. There is a lot of play on the words hupomone and hupomano. Hupomano is actually the same word. The word abide found in Jn.15 is the word meno. And the word meno means to abide as if you are abiding in a house. You can not use the word meno when you are going to a hotel and you are going to stay there for a few days. You can not say in the full sense that you abide. Because the word abide also mean a home. But the full sense of the word abides means that it's permanently dwelling there. If that is not your permanent dwelling, you are not abiding, you are only lodging temporarily. The word abides talks about it being at home in your life. Not just hearing it on Sunday or in your devotional life. It becomes a living part of your daily life, your thought life. That's the word meno, abide, being at home in, with.

And then when you add the word hupo, the word hupo means upon. You abide upon. It is a preposition that emphasize in a continuous sense of abiding. You are in a place. You are upon a place. This is upon. Something you have entered into and abiding upon. And so it starts with hupomeno, which is more the verb form.

Like you say I will run in the 400 meters race in the festival of sport. Then you say the run was very good. You have changed the word run into a noun. The run has come. Are you in the run? It has become a noun. From a verb it has become a noun. So it starts with hupomone, which starts with meno, meaning abiding. And then it enters into hupomone, which is a noun. Hupomone is the noun of the process. The verb to hupomone means just to abide upon. But when you call something by a noun, you are including the whole process. When you use the word hupomone as a noun, you include the whole process of hupomone and everything behind it. Are you running in the race? I am running in the 100 meters and running is only one part of the race. The beginning part is to sprint. The ending is to cross the finishing line. The run includes everything, from the beginning to the end. Hupomone is a noun for that abiding process and that's why hupomone has been translated as patience. It is the noun patience the attribute that enables you to run the race.

James chapter one. I am showing you where all these things occur in verse 3. Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience or hupomone. A quality in your life. Let me bring it further. If you say, someone has the run in him. You are saying he has the quality to be able to run. Someone has an artist on his inside; he has the ability to do art. It's a whole thing produced into a substance and put on your inside hupomone patience. But let patience or hupomone has its perfect work that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing. Look at verse 12, "Blessed is the man who endure all temptations." The word endure is the word hupomone the verb. Hupomone produces hupomene, you are enduring. It's a process of it.

Now there is something very interesting here that he is bringing forth. There is a difference between success and failure in this hupomone process. It says in verse 2 my brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials. The word trial is the same word translated temptation. He is saying count it all joy when you are being tempted, being tested, being tried. We all know that temptations alone in themselves have not produced strong people. There must be something in the person being tempted to rise above the temptation, overcome it and have something. Because for every person who overcome temptation there will be 9 others who failed. So the temptation or the trials in it self is no virtue. It's what you do in the trials, what you do in the temptation with the weapons that you have, that God has provided that enables you to go through. And the word is the word dokime.

Look at verse 2-3, "My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials or temptations, knowing that the testing (dokimeon, which is one of the words of dokime, dokimeon) of your faith produces patience. Dokimeon is bringing out dokime from your faith. I put it in a different way. It says the dokime of your faith through hupomone, or producing hupomone. There is a process. Faith is in the spirit world. If you can see it you don't need faith. If you can taste it, you don't need faith. Faith is what we believe in the spirit world in the Word of God. You can't see it, you can't feel it, and you can't touch it with your 5 senses. And hupomone is a process in which it converts faith into dokime, the living proof.

You see how important hupomone is. It is through the process of hupomone that you turn a non-reality into a reality in a natural world by some substance in the spirit world. How can we convert what you believe into a natural truth? Then in verse 12, "Blessed is the man who endures (hupomone) temptation for when he has been tried

(dokime) he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

You notice something here, that there is a process of dokime that is brought forth through hupomone. Now not everybody has that. Not everybody who goes through temptation is able to come out with dokime, living proof that it works. Why is that so? The next verse tells us. In verse 13, verse 13 in an important key. “Let no one say when he is tempted I am tempted God.” All temptations in James 1:13 Arise from your own heart. Something is not a temptation if you don’t have a desire inside. It is only a temptation when you have something on your inside reciprocating to what is offered.

Lets look closely. For God can not be tempted by evil nor He Himself tempt any one. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires. Then when desire has conceived it gives birth to sin. And sin when it is full grown, produces death. Let me illustrate from the negative point of view so that you could understand the positive. When you have a flower, this flower was once upon a time attached to a plant somewhere. When I pluck this flower do you know that it starts dying? Its life has been cut. The process of death is already there over the next couple of days it will die. It will not produce seeds. It will be unfruitful. If this flower has not been plucked out in its natural form, it will reach its full bloom. It will produce seed and those seeds have the ability to produce another plant. But that process has been halted, stopped. Almost like Jesus cursing the fig tree. The day Jesus cursed that fig tree, it actually died. It took the next day for them to see that it died when it becomes visible.

Sin starts as a seed. Most people don’t realize it. The seeds of sin are in our heart and in our mind. Thrown by the enemy and if you receive them and you allow it to develop in your life, that seed of sin will become fully bloom and kill you. It will kill you spiritually first and then it will kill you naturally. In the air right now, there are a lot of bacteria and viruses are not killing you. Because when they come into your body, in body there are white blood cells, which destroy all that is around you. When somebody comes into the church and they are having a cold, every time they sneeze at your direction, they had just donated to you a few thousands bacteria or viruses. It doesn’t mean you will automatically be catching a cold, because you sat with somebody next to you. You will only catch it if that seed of that cold which is a virus is allowed to be full bloom in your body. But if it enters your body and your white blood cells say lets go and destroy all the viruses. There was never a chance for the virus to reproduce. A virus is so small that the ordinary microscope can not see. Only bacteria can be seen. Viruses are so tiny. How can it be so powerful? It is not powerful. It is like little ants only when they work in numbers can they be powerful to destroy human body. You and I are so much bigger than a virus. But when the virus becomes millions and millions, that’s when you began to feel it.

There is such a thing as sin growing until its visible. Do you know that sometimes people already send in their heart is a seed. If you don’t deal with that seed it will grow and become harder and harder to deal with. If you are out in your garden and you see the seeds of weeds growing in your lovely grass and if you don’t start pulling out those tiny little fellows, it’s going to be a hard time for you when they are fully-grown. Now all these processes are taking place on your inside. Temptations arise from own desires and when the desires conceived, they give birth to sin. In other word you act on those desires. You allow desires to guide your life to help you make those

decisions. Actually it's just a desire. And when they begin to guide and make you to make those decisions, you are allowing death to come in your life. Spiritual death comes first and then later natural death.

Now the opposite is also true. The principle works both ways. That when God's Spirit come into your life, He puts desires on your inside, He draws you on your inside. And so you are like Adam to represent the human race. You have all those things and desires on your inside. What happen is that the enemy inside all of us is the fallen nature inherited from Adam. But thank God inside all of us is the seed of God when you accepted God. But there are only seeds and so Satan comes and he tries to encourage the wrong seed to grow.

I repeat this truth is James chapter one. You are only tempted when you have something inside responding. Let say some people can not resist smoking because they are addicted to smoking. They can't go without a puff. I am not tempted because there was nothing in me that respond. You are never tempted by something that your inside never responded to. There are a lot of good things that God has placed into each one of us. What Satan does is he draws those wrong things, the good things into the wrong avenue. And he either gets you in the bondage physically through natural addiction or in the soul addiction.

People sometimes get into wrong relationships. Many homosexuals lack a father figure. Inside them they are looking for a real good father figure. When they lack this father figure they began to seek out men. But in their heart what they wanted was a relationship with a father figure. But because of lack of morality they think they can get that father figure by their physical satisfaction. What they are getting is not just physical satisfaction but it is their soul craving for a father figure. There was a vacuum in their life. The tendencies will be there but it has been perverted into something else. Somebody taught them first and maybe the first man that they look up as a father figure was someone in authority who abused them sexually. They began to put 2 and 2 as one and think that homosexuality and the father figure is one. They had their needs met in a wrong way. Many lesbians too may lack a mother figure in the same way.

Its just like some people who associate water. Maybe when they were small they fell into water and they nearly drown and then when they grow up for some reasons they don't like water. They associate water with the horror and the fear they had. Thus water becomes a psychological object and not a physical object.

And so as a result of that Satan twisted it into something wrong. And they can not tell the difference between their homosexual desires and the need for a father figure which has been merged into one by the enemy. So Satan takes those desires in our life that are not met and he starts twisting and turning them into the wrong avenue and gets us locked into a physical addiction, psychological addiction and every temptation since then. Every temptation in your life has become a temptation because there is something on your inside that responds to it. And that something on your inside that responds to it was a seed that the enemy has nurtured to a different level.

Some of you before you come to know Jesus may have fallen into temptations and now you have more things to uproot. Some of you may have allowed the bad seeds to be matured to a small little shrub. Some of you may have little seeds that are not dealt

with. Some of us are born without a father figure. When we are born again we still need those things to be dealt with and to be healed.

Let me make a very strong statement here. If despite all our inadequacies and imperfections, we have been brought up properly by good Christians fathers and mothers, we may never have the faults and weaknesses that we have now. We are not saying they are not there, but they would have been dealt with. We were not perfect but the imperfections would have been dealt with properly by godly parenting.

Children have different personalities and each different personality can either be brought up correctly or wrongly. Suppose one of your children is very adventurous but you didn't nurture that attribute correctly. You never encourage that adventurous spirit. You suppress that. Every time your child does something adventurous you whip and beat him up. As a result, the good nature gets twisted into the wrong thing. Something good has become something bad.

On the other hand, instead of suppressing that adventurous spirit all the time, you go to the opposite extreme and you give too much liberty without control. You are an absentee parent. Your child began to mix with people and you as his parent don't even ask what time he comes home. You are not concerned about the friends he mixes with. And you let him go wild. When your child grows up he becomes wild. You didn't bring him up properly.

Both are extreme. Every attribute in your life God has placed on your inside the moment you are born, if you had a perfect Christian environment filled with God's Word, and the fellowship of godly man and woman, no matter what kind of weaknesses you were born with, you would have been a godly person in the Lord today.

And a lot of temptations today would not have been temptations if they had been corrected properly early in your life. But not all of us have that kind of ideal godly environment. So here we are with our imperfections nurtured by an imperfect upbringing. We have to deal with such faults. It's never too late. Some of us by now are adults; we have our own children to deal with besides our own life. It's never too late.

What we need to realize is that the process to deal with the seeds that attract temptations in our lives is taking place. Every time there is a temptation there is something in your life to be dealt with. Understand that Satan has no power. He only seems to have power because of something in your life that responds to it.

Remember Jesus said that before He went to the cross, that the prince of this world has come and he has nothing in me. That's found in the gospel of John. He has nothing in me. There is nothing in His life that attracted Satan's offer. He has been brought up correctly.

In the same way my friend, when you have faith in the seed of God's Word in your life for different things and allow that seed to nurture in your life, hupomone starts developing in your life. Maybe you have the desire is just to be with God's people, a desire to be in church, a desire to be in the prayer meeting, you could have it clouded

by other things, but when you begin to respond, you are developing hupomone in your life.

The Spirit of God doesn't force you to choose, but He draws out from your life the right things. When you respond correctly to the right promptings and the drawing of the Spirit, you allow the Holy Spirit to develop your hupomone. Good friends also do the same. Good and Spirit filled Christians make you want to love God more. It draws something out from your life that is good. It makes you want to pray more; it makes you want to read the Bible more. So we should allow ourselves to be exposed more to godly fellowship. If you are very weak and can't overcome temptation alone, then get together with a fellowship that could draw out the best in you. Because in all of us there is something good that God has placed inside us that can be drawn out. And He draws out from your life. And then as you began to respond to the right thing and flow in the right thing, hupomone starts developing in your life. An ability comes into your life to develop. And what you believe slowly becomes part of your life. And you don't understand how you changed but you have changed.

James chapter one, it says, let no one say when he is tempted that he is tempted by God. Where is the secret to victory over the enemy on your inside? We are saying now that the real power in the Christian life is in the character of Jesus. When your emotions are dealt with, when your ungodly desires are dealt with, your mind is dealt with on your inside, the more you overcome the inside, the greater your power over the devil and over circumstances.

Here is an important secret too. If there is nothing placed on our inside, there is nothing to grow. You can tend your garden but if you don't put the seed in, it's a wasted effort. There are a lot of Christians who have not the right seed sown into their life yet. Who grow apple trees without planting apple seeds? We need that seed to be sowed, the seed of God, which is the Word of God in our life for healing, righteousness, health, etc. The Word of God contains all the seeds of every need in your life.

If you have a problem with alcoholism, you got to find the root of that seed. Why did you go into alcohol? There is something in your soul that was drawn into that. It is not just a physical problems, it is the emotional problem deeper than the physical. God will reveal to you the root cause of your problem. And He will replace it with different seed. Every time you got into alcoholic addiction there was always a regret in your life. How you wish you could be free from it? Now that's a good desire, that's a desire that God has placed on the inside that can be nurtured into the positive side. Why do people get overcame by temptation or trial? It is mainly because they have no seed to nurture in the hard time.

If you know what God's Word say, you can be in the worst financial crisis in your life now, but there is a revelation of God like a seed that comes into your life where you know that God can never fail. You know you have given your life to God, you know you obey God, that is a seed. You throw out the hard time and hold on to that seed. You say that you know that God will not let you down. And you say it in your mouth you and believe it in your heart and you have the spirit of faith. You throw out those things thrown against your life. Your friends laughed at you. The people around you mocked you, but you keep saying you know God is not a lie. You know His Word. His Word is true. You are holding on to the seed and through time that seed becomes

dokime. When the first result comes, it becomes a part of your life. As you keep on doing that over and over again, it becomes sealed on your inside. Suddenly you can never be shaken in that area anymore. Dokime has entered.

Let me show you some people who have entered into that realm in II Cor.8:1-2 “Moreover brethren we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia, that in a great trial of affliction, the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.”

The word trial here is not the word temptation. The word trial is the word dokime. If it were just a trial and temptation, they wouldn't have the result that they have. So it is not the temptation that benefits people. It is what you have on your inside during the temptation that you hold through that helps you to overcome. Temptations in themselves neither help nor hinder, it is what is in your inside that either helps or hinders. It hinders when you got something on your inside that respond to it. And you are able to overcome. The temptations seem to make you a better person. Not because of the temptation but because during the temptation you held on to the word of faith and it become a dokime in your life. Temptations in themselves are nothing.

So I would like to encourage you, don't blame your circumstances. Don't say if you were in a different situation it would be different. All your temptations and your trials have nothing to do with who you are and what you can be. Don't think that if your circumstances are different, you could be like somebody else. Don't ever blame your circumstances. The worldly circumstances around you may be the enemy's attacks on your life, but the enemy has no power over your life except what is on your inside. In whatever circumstances that come to your life, deal with your inner responses to the devil and shut them and pulled out the root causes whether in your emotion or intellect and hold on to what is the right desire.

Remember in this series I said yield to the deepest instruction on your inside when you are under the greatest pressure of decision-making in your life. May be you are tempted in the area of finances; you are tempted to do the wrong thing, to bribe or to steal. May be you are tempted to lose your integrity and to let go your Christian principles, but on your inside there is something rising forth, and that is your conscience. Although its not easy but you yield to your conscience. Suddenly the scriptures come through. Whatever you yield to that will be your master. If you yield to sin in your life, sin becomes your master. But if you yield to the righteousness and the morality in your life that rises forth, at first is a weak yielding, but if you yield, according to the book of Romans, righteousness becomes your master. When righteousness becomes your master, being righteous is an easy thing. We were slaves of sin then we become slaves of righteousness. Being holy, being righteous, doing the right thing, being prayerful, reading the Word, walking in integrity become as easy as ABC, because we are yielding to righteousness on our inside. Every time whatever circumstances you are in now, look for the seed on your inside and this is the promise of God in your life. I Cor. 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

My friend, in every temptation that you are going through right now, there is a way and a provision God gives. I don't care how difficult your circumstances are, but let

me tell you, you have an answer on your inside. People have looked for a way of escape on the outside, but they are looking in a wrong direction. Remember James chapter one the temptation is only powerful because of the response on your inside. It's a wrong response. But if you are Spirit filled, you pray in tongues, you read the Word, you meditate on the Word, you get into the right atmosphere of Christian fellowship and you hear on your inside, there is a right desire to yield to. You yield to the right desire and the right desire will give you the strength to overcome. It's not the strength to push it out; it's the strength to root it out.

Many people have been trying to fight it as an outside battle. Alcoholism is not an outside battle. Smoking is not an outside battle it's not something that is outside. They are looking in the wrong direction. Trying to resist. It's on your inside. When the root is dealt with and then something on your inside there will always be the answer of God in every temptation and trial. And you will find the key on your inside and you yield to that key. Yield to that word and the key that God gives you. And as you yield to it there will be progressive strength. Suddenly when you yielded a few times, there is no more desire for the wrong thing. When there is no more desire on your inside, no matter how great the temptation is, it makes no difference because your inside has been dealt with.

Hypomone doesn't work on the inside. The key in Christian life is this: we only change the outside in proportion to what we change on the inside. The key to answered prayer, if your prayer in your life that is not answered, whenever you pray actually God starts changing you first before He answers your prayer. The key to all of Christianity and Christian life, the key to all the promises of God and all the blessing that God have is you change on your inside and God changes on the outside. We take care of our change on our inside and God will take care of the change on the outside.

6. DIVIDING SPIRIT AND SOUL

Lets turn our Bible to the book of Romans chapter 5. We have been teaching on Christian character and how to develop Christian character.

Rom. 5:1-5, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

We have mentioned that the word perseverance found in verse 4 is the word hupomone. And we have touched on the fact that there are two Greek words for the word patience.

One is the word hupomone and the other is the word makrothumia. Makrothumia comes from a combination of two words, makro and thumia. We have also mentioned that makrothumia relates to the work of the Spirit of God in our life, the development of the human spirit. Hupomone has reference to the development of the soul.

Last week we talked about dokime, which is the Greek word for the word character. Think of dokime as a document. We are the document of God. We are the epistles of God. The Word of God becomes flesh and people read our lives. The more your character becomes a dokime in God, the more you become an epistle of Jesus. Not all of us are 100% epistle in our lives. All of us can live a kind of Christianity, a Sunday Christianity, or once a week or twice a week kind of Christianity, where people see our lives only one or two days. But the test of true Christianity is when someone lives with you 24 hours. Then they will see whether you are a real Christian or just a plastic Christian. We all need to grow until our lives are the same inside and outside. What we are in public and what we are in private is consistent in our walk with God, in our principles we hold to. The more consistent we become in our lives, the more the glory of Jesus, that is dokime, building the character of Jesus in our lives.

We have mentioned also last week that there is a word for trial and testing. Sometimes the word trial comes from the word dokime, which is not just a simple temptation. The word temptation, which sometimes is translated as trial comes from the word piraso. That is just talking about the situation, whereas the word testing is sometimes translated as trial that has to do with the work of hupomone and makrothumia coming out and becoming permanent in your life. Not just once in a while but permanent.

And we have quoted II Cor. 8, how the Macedonians and the great trial of affliction.

The word trial is not the word for temptation. There is some confusion in the translation. Sometimes the word piraso has been translated as trials, sometimes as temptation. But that word trial in II Cor.8 in reference to the Macedonian churches is from the root word dokime. It has to do more with something coming in their life. How they remained strong and firm, in season and out of season they continue to bring forth the character of Jesus.

The true test of your character is not when there is no pressure, its when the pressure is on, that's when your character is tested. It is that kind of trial they were having. Where everything outside look like its bad but because of the consistency they were still able to give to God. Sometimes people give and they are steady givers. Only when they have good times, but the test of whether you are a real giver is not whether you have a good time. It's when you are in affliction and yet because of what you have vowed, what you have promised to God, you keep giving into the Lord.

The test of your giving is living a life style of giving. For example you made a covenant with God that you be a giver. Sometimes you have abundance, sometimes you have needs in your life, but because of your integrity, what you said you still give. May be you are supporting a missionary, may be you are supporting people in the ministry. Whether you have abundance or not, one of your priorities is that what you promised you will perform. You will give what you have promised, whether you are in need or not. We do that to our children. We do that to our loved ones. Why can't we do that for the Kingdom of God?

I know parents who will sacrifice whether they are in need or not in need. Whether they have enough food or finances for food or not, they will always sacrifice in order that their children would have enough. If there only enough food for their children and not for them, many parents would be willing to sacrifice and fast in order for them to eat. If we could do that for the family, if we could do that for our loved ones, we should be able to love Jesus more. And we do that because we love Jesus. That is character in our lives. Where in season and out of season you remain the same. You remain steadfast and that is the dokime kind of trial. It is not the trial that determine your success. It is what you have on your inside that determines the success in a trial.

An interesting development and we were teaching on how God will deal with our emotions and our life. And I made a statement where I gathered from my own studies and from the studies of the Word of God that I do sometimes in my private scientific research and I have reached some conclusion. Like for example some of the things I get curious about is if people live in outer space and a child is born in outer space or lets say they colonize one of the moons of Jupiter which has a very great gravitational pull. What kind of development would they have? How tall or how short will they be? My personal evaluation is that if someone is born in a place without much gravity that they will be very small in size. If someone is born in a planet with heavy gravity they will be big in size because of resistance. These are some of the things.

Among other things that I have done research in is that in the Word of God emotions as we have shared two weeks ago plays a role in decision making, and in fact I have studied the structure of the brain and in the brain stem are the deepest recesses of the brain that contain the emotional faculties. The intellectual part is more in the cortex area where the lower animals do not have and I have mentioned that our emotions are the root of our realizing. For example if you have fear about certain things in your life, because of your fear your mind will tell you 10 reasons why you need to be fearful, but when you remove your fear and replace it with faith, your mind will work with your faith and tell you 10 ways in which you can achieve what you need to achieve.

Supposing that there are two students one with fear and one with faith who are both struggling and have the same circumstances, same finances and same amount of

talent. One is full of fear and gives 10 reasons why he can not continue his studies. Another is full of faith and gives 10 reasons why and ways in which he can continue his studies. The difference is not because of the ability, not because of the talent, not because of the circumstances. The difference is their emotions. One has allowed the emotion of fear to dominate their lives. The other has allowed the positive work of faith to dominate their lives. Their mind is just a servant. Their intelligence, their I.Q., their ability to reason is just a servant to their emotion and their emotion to their spirit. How we need to not only to renew our minds, we need to renew our emotions too in order to be successful.

Believe me, people struggle trying to remember things, trying to have a good mind. The secret is in enjoying what you are trying to do. You never struggle to remember something you like. And the key to getting your children to remember facts that they learn is to help them to enjoy study. If they enjoy study and enjoy Mathematics, they will never struggle to study. The key is more the emotional factor that will stimulate their minds.

Now, recently last week there was an article from Times Magazine. Quoting from July 1995 Time Magazine issue, it says something about a connection between the emotion and the intelligence.

There is a man named Elliot, Elliot was an intelligent businessman who has a record of success. To all outward appearance Elliot is a perfectly normal middle age businessman. Despite an operation a decade ago for removal of a brain tumor, the size of a small orange, he remains intelligent and rational. The operation did not touch any part of his brain that affects his intelligence or his rational thought. Yet after his operation, his behavior makes it clear that there is something very wrong. After years of rock solid competent Elliot now has trouble keeping appointments, making decisions, etc. He has squandered much of his life saving on a series of bad investments. And strangest of all the very fact that his self-destructive behavior doesn't seem to bother him. And he keeps on making the same mistakes.

What happened to this Elliot? His intelligence was unaffected by the operation, but something else was taking place which I like to quote from.

What happened to this Elliot is this: Elliot has an operation of his brain tumor and as the tumor was removed part of the brain that controls the emotion was affected. Elliot was not able to feel emotion as he used to.

Let me read some of the things about Elliot and some of the research they have done on the connection between emotions and intelligence. It seems that No.1 when you have an emotional shock it can actually affect your memory physically not just mentally. They have found that it actually physically destroyed your neurons. Emotions are powerful. It can actually physically destroy your emotion. People who allow themselves to sink into hatred, rage and all the wrong emotions can actually destroyed their capacity to think and to function. Physical trauma can distort memory presumably by destroying all or part of one of these memory-processing structures.

But other sort of shocks strong emotions for example can do the same. Virtually any American over the age of 10 when John F. Kennedy was shot in 1963 or when the challenge Space Shuttle exploded in 1986 remember precisely where he or she was

when the news arrived. Why, because of the emotions. Severe stress can change the way your brain function biologically. I have said that emotions can affect your intellectual functioning. Now they go further than that. The emotions can actually affect the biological function of your brain.

Lets quote a little bit more.

It stands to reason that human will have a specialized region of the brain for processing emotional perceptions. Lets look at this Elliot character. Why was he a normal businessman who keeps appointment competent, rock solid and able to do investments correctly, suddenly he squander all his life saving, misses his appointments and then, worse than that he doesn't even fear any remorse and he keeps making the same mistakes. After a brain surgery Elliot can not behave rationally even though his intelligence was not affected by his tumor. That part of the brain destroyed by invading tissue was in the region of the pre-frontal cortex essential to decision making. But what ever Elliot lost psychologically, psychological testing revealed that he lost the ability to experience emotion. Elliot lost the ability to experience emotions.

Emotion is the key element of learning and decision-making. It is when you enjoy reading the Bible and feel the emotion of it that you will remember what you read. We will look at God's Word afterwards. Let me quote you from natural examples first. Here are statements that are important. If an investment goes sour, you feel bad about it and act more carefully next time. Something that Elliot could no longer do after his injury. See that's what makes you making the wrong decision. When you missed an appointment and people are disappointed you also feel bad. So you make sure you don't miss your appointment. When you make a bad investment and you feel the emotion, you lost some money. And because of your emotion, you try to be more careful and don't do the same mistakes again. But Elliot was not able to feel all these things. He could feel no emotion when he does something that is a mistake. And therefore he keeps doing the same thing and repeats the same mistake. He lost all his money and he doesn't feel anything. If a lot of people lose their life's saving they will feel bad. Something in them feels very rotten, stupid or bad or just something terrible. But he couldn't feel all these things and therefore he became a different person. His intelligence, his ability to analyze was not affected. So if an investment goes sour you feel bad about it, and act more carefully next time.

We can't decide whom we are going to marry if you don't feel emotion. You can't decide what saving strategy to adopt, I mean if you have several. And you don't feel good about any. You can't decide where to live if you don't feel where its good to live. Your feeling still comes in. Why is it that you buy a house in a certain area? Not only your mind, your mind can argue and rationalize, but something on your inside feel nice. You like the place. None of you will buy a place you don't like, unless of course you don't have a choice. But supposing that you have multiple choices, your emotion still affects your buying decision. Where you are going to live, why do you live, where you live? Some people live where they lived because they have lived there all their life. Why is it so hard for people to move from one town to another? That is an emotional tie. If you argue rationally and intellectually almost every place has is pros and cons. In the end your emotion has to make the decision where to live. We don't make the decision of where to live, what saving strategy to adopt, whom to marry base on reason alone. We do it based also on emotion. That's just what science is saying.

As we examine the Word of God we have realized that emotions play a role in our decision-making and in fact a greater role. Emotions come first and then the intellect. Remember we have said that pattern before. In order to make a decision or hear God's voice we need to smooth or calm our emotions first, and not let our emotions be unruly or let our minds go astray in all directions. Only when the Spirit of God calms your emotions can the Spirit of God and the Word of God renew your mind and after that can you really hear God. Which is why it is very difficult to hear the voice of God in an area where you get emotional about, because when you get emotional about that area your reasoning will also support your emotion. Our reasons support the emotion.

As we look at the Word of God, God says something about how to handle all these emotions and intellectual rational function in our life by the Spirit of God.

Heb. 4 How do we handle all these things and get renewal from the Word of God? Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of joints and marrows and is a discerner of the thought and intent of the heart."

There is something that it says of the Word of God. The Word of God separates all the integrated parts of your soul and your spirit, of your bone and of your marrow. It separates the different parts of your physical biological process and the intents of the thought processes of your heart. All these things are vital. As you look at this question here in Heb. 4:12. Look at the statement of fact. It states here as a fact, that the Word of God separates soul and spirit. It separates between your thoughts and intents to help you discern or help you to know each one of them. The question here is this: if we have the fact presented that way, our next question is this. Why do we need them to be separated? Why do we need to separate between the spirit, the soul and all our different thoughts that arise from different parts of our being? Why do we need to separate them? In order to exist and allow the right kind of spiritual guidance from our human spirit that God has given new birth to and our character development we need to separate them.

In order to understand why we need to separate them, let us show you how the devil work. The devil works the opposite. He confuses and he tries to merge your spirit, your soul and your body together so that what comes from your body you can't discern. What comes from your soul you can't discern. He will give a soulish reason to pursue the spiritual thing. He confuses between the spirit and soul. Remember the devil does the opposite and he causes your reasoning to be befuddled so that you can not discern which is spirit, which is soul.

Now the reason God separates them is not that God reduces us to a creature of spirit without soul and without body. As long as you are on this earth, you have a body and you live in a body. You have a soul and we just need to put it in its proper place. There is nothing wrong with your soul or your body. As long as you live with the Word, we just need to put it in its proper place. Renewal is not removing. Renewal is putting something in its proper place. You can't remove your body. The key in Christian development and character is in putting your body in its proper place. For example, you may be having a craving in your physical area. It could be sex, it could be an area of food, but somehow you gain control over those things. And you put it in its proper place. You say look in this occasion it is not viable and it is not correct and you may tell your physical body. Your physical body may be mad about alcohol, mad

about certain food. Maybe all you struggle with is you are mad about bread. In case you didn't know it, Kenneth Copeland was mad about bread and buns. He couldn't go to a bakery before he was successful in the ministry without stopping by and eating a few loaves. In fact Kenneth Copeland now you see him nice and fit, before that he look like a big round fellow. You wouldn't believe it, but that was how he started. Bread was his weakness, he couldn't resist when there's freshly baked bread. You know how good bread smell when it's fresh. He doesn't just take a small slice but he eats the whole loaf. He struggles but he learns to control that appetite of his body. He learns to put that in its place.

Noel Hayes does it differently. Noel Hayes shares how sometimes he eats some food that he likes and in case some of you are wondering why we are talking so much about eating. Do you know that the first fall is through eating? Noel Hayes mentioned that he liked coconut pie and how God had to deal with him. One day as he was eating coconut pie, he took one piece, oh that's nice and he couldn't resist. Instead of just buying one he bought one whole basket. He ate it and the rest of the week he got sick and his body said: give me another one and he told his body shut up, one coconut pie is good enough for you. We have to know where all these desires arise. What happen if Noel Hayes does not know that, that is his body and he hears this voice from his inside. His desire rising give me another one. He thinks that the Lord is speaking through his spirit that he needs to eat more coconut pie and he says thank you Holy Spirit for your guidance. What happen if he doesn't discern where all these desires and thoughts were rising from? His character would be twisted.

So, Satan works by confusing spirit, soul and body, merging them into one so that we can not differentiate which is which. But God develops our character by teaching us how to divide where each one of the things come from, which of your desires come from which section of your being so that you could put it in its proper place. Renewal of our emotion and character is not very hard. I know some of you struggle and you say O God it takes so long to change. After 15 years I only changed so much. I would need another 120 years and I don't have 120 years because now I am 70 years old. Renewal is not hard. Don't let the devil deceive you that is very hard to have a good Christian character. The secret is to put everything in its proper place. You have been trying to overcome instead of trying to classify. You will not yield to it. If you know a desire or a thought is arising from a wounded part of your soul or from a inordinate craving from your flesh, it's easier to resist and put it down. You could renew your mind and your mind will have all the reasons to say no to that unlawful desire. It's not will power but its spirit power.

Let me show some Bible examples of Satan confusing people with their thought. He tries to mix it up together. Acts 8; this person called Simon the magician. What was his problem? Why was he this kind of character? Even after he was born again and baptized in water, Acts 8:13 tells us that Simon believed and he was baptized. That tells you that Simon was now a Christian. Although he was Christian, he was still a worldly Christian. Let me tell you that there are a lot of Christians who are worldly Christians. The way they think, the way they talk, the way they function, they are still worldly. Their characters have not changed.

Here is Simon, why is his character not changed? You can see that he still had the desire for attention, desire for self-glorification, because once upon a time in verse 11, he used to do sorceries and everyone would say this is a great man. He is used to that

life style. Now after he was born again, those things that he had fed on are still there. I believe Simon had paid a lot of money for that. He must have used money to buy his way to learn different types of witchcraft from the masters and buy the necessary accessories to perform his sorceries. He has been using that process, using his money. Money was his god. He got used to that kind of thinking.

And now he is born again, baptized in water and he saw Peter, John laying hands on people and people receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He straightaway began to desire for this power in verse 19. "Give me this power that also anyone on whom I lay hand may receive the Holy Spirit." What was wrong here? He had carnal desires for spiritual things and has confused the spiritual method with the physical method using money to get the spiritual gifts. All these are wrong. There is confusion here. Using carnal principles with a carnal desire for spiritual gifts. All these are mixture. And Peter says here in verse 21, "Your heart is not right." See his motives, his intentions are not divided. He hasn't separated the spirit and soul. Maybe Simon thought that now he is a new Christian, every desire in his life would be of God. I mean he can use money to do this. He may be thinking of really using the gift to get people to be baptized in the Spirit, but at the same time he also get some glory. He may have been mixed up in his thinking. This kind of thinking is a confusion of spirit and soul and body. He is not dividing all his desires correctly.

How do we divide all his desires correctly? No.1: His desire for spiritual power can be harnessed for the Kingdom of God. But he must learn that the desire must be a desire to help people and not just to gain attention. Power to help is not power to dominate and rule and get attention. Let me tell you frankly, his desire may actually be from God but have been mixed up and confused with the soul. Paul says in the book of I Cor.12, "desire after the best gift." Your desire for spiritual things is fine. His desire for spiritual gift is fine, but that desire was confused by the soul. His soul desires for attention. His soul wanted to use money to get the spiritual gift. So there was the wrong motive. There was a right desire but a wrong motive and a wrong method. There are all mixed up. This is his character. Wrong characters are people who do certain things wrongly and everybody knows that is wrong except them, because they justify it. They think it's from the Spirit of God or some principles that come from their spirit but that actually came from their body or soul. If they could divide it by the Word of God, there would be no mixture in their work for God. This is why the Word of God is important. When the Word of God comes it lay bare our heart. You can hide from people but you can't hide from God. Every time you pray, God will say deal with that area in your life. That is not right in My sight. There are other people who confuse all these other areas too. Let me quote you a few more.

I Sam. It tells us here I Sam. 8:4-5 "Then the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, 'Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.'" The thing displeased Samuel when they said give us a king to judge us so Samuel prayed to the Lord. Verse 7 "The Lord spoke to Samuel, heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you. For they have not rejected you. They have rejected Me that I should not reign over them." What had happened here? The people's desire for a king could be correct. It may be time. Actually it is time for a monarchy coming up but their reasons for wanting a king was wrong. You know what they should have done? They should have just come to Samuel and say look, your sons are corrupt. Can you do something

about it? Can you find an alternative? Can you find another way of doing this, so that we can get justice? The people could have approached Samuel that way instead of suggesting a solution that was carnal. You know their desire for a king was carnal. Their main reason is so that they can be like all the other nations. There is a mixture of carnality with spirit. The desire can be of God, but the reason for the desire is wrong.

How do I know that God may desire for them to have a king, because God said it in the Bible. In the book of Exodus He even prepare for time that there will be a kingdom. There was a proper time. Lets say your son comes to you, your son has grown up and say to you, daddy, get me a car like your car. It was a desire. You say, no, why do you want a car? Your son said, so I can show all my friends. That's the wrong reason for the desire. But the desire to drive a car can be harnessed. He can be told look, now you are too young and you know the character of the son. You know he can't handle this yet. You want to postpone it to another 3 years. Teach him to handle a little bit more responsibility and you have reasons for that but he may not know. So he may be confusing the right desire because when it comes time for them to grow up, they may need to do certain things on their own. It may be good for them to be adventurous, to go forth to launch their life. It is their life that they must build up. You can not keep them in the children coop all the time until they are 30 and open the key and say now you can go. By then they are too old. They have not seen the world. They have not experienced things for themselves. They need to experience a lot of things to be adults. You need to prepare them but to give them the freedom to make their decision. They have the right desires but will struggle with the wrong reason for the desire and the wrong ways to achieve the desire.

Now here the Israelites came and they actually wanted to be like all the nations in the world. Samuel kept trying to tell them to reason and say, look if you have a king, this will happen, in verse 19. They still refused. You know what I believe. It was a wrong timing. Why, because they insisted. God says they have rejected Me.

Lets look at a different situation. Let say it is like an organization and the president is the head of the organization. There is a time coming for the president to retire and another one to be elected to be president. What happens if people get impatient and replaced the president sooner than expected. They could have waited until it is the proper time. But they were in a hurry. Maybe it could be true. That fellow is getting old and can not lead properly and its time to replace him. But there are some people who wants the replacement done for the wrong reason because they want to be the president themselves. If you get the wrong people to do it, they are president not because they want to help the company but because they wanted that role. When such persons become the president you begin to feel the wrong domination coming down on you because people who are in a hurry to replace others are not patient and do have hupomone. They do not wait on God. Instead of allowing God to work on the circumstances, they do it themselves for the wrong reasons. This is where the character is a fault. They don't divide all the different desires.

Every wrong thing that is done many times there is some right elements in it. Why do a lot of people get deceived into the wrong thing? Because there is some right in it. The problem is the confusion of spirit, soul and body; they are all messed up. And people don't discern carefully. Personally I believe we must only do the right thing at the right time in the right method with God's guidance. If God doesn't say it, it means

silent, it is time to exercise hupomone and makrothumia. We need to learn to be patient with God and with people. We don't take things into our own hand.

Verse 22, the Lord says get them a king and in the end a king was chosen. Saul was chosen. But Saul made many mistakes. So they found that Saul also make mistakes. Samuel's sons made mistakes. Now they have Saul the king and Saul started making blunders. See, if you get in a hurry to replace something, you may put somebody wrongly and they will make as many mistakes as the first one. Which is why I don't believe in getting in a hurry to make any decision. I believe that when you solve something it must be solved permanently and a permanent solution need to be prayed over, brooded over, meditated over and it must come from God.

When Saul started making mistakes God rejected him. In chapter 16 of I Samuel, God chose David and anointed him. God started promoting David and we know the rest of the story how David slew Goliath. In Sam. 18:1-2 "Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore."

At first Saul liked David, but then things started happening and in verse 5 David went out wherever Saul sent him and behaved wisely. But one day when he came back in verse 6-7 that the women were dancing and rejoicing and they were singing Saul slays his thousands and David his 10 thousands. Verse 8 Saul was very angry and the saying displeased him. He said they have ascribed to David 10 thousands and to me they ascribed but thousand. What more can he have but the kingdom. Verse 9 so Saul eyed David from that day forth.

Lets look at the two situations. David served God with the right heart and served Saul with the right heart. He never wanted the kingdom. God may have given to him but he will not have it by his own hand. And all the time when Saul chased him, two times which were recorded, David let Saul go. Not only that, he says his servant David, he humbles himself and what was the problem with Saul? He began to see reasons why David should be eliminated. He began to think and brood over those things. What has happened? Saul still has his intelligence and his mind. His emotions have now been affected. Saul felt emotional displeasure over one incident but he allowed the emotional displeasure arising from the one incident to be his life force. And from that day onwards, he was jealous.

Then in verse 12, he was afraid because he saw God was with David. There developed a mixture of jealousy and a mixture of fear in Saul towards David. In verse 15, when Saul saw how he behaves very wisely, he was afraid of him - jealousy, envy and fear. Let me tell you, one more thing is coming now. He began to plot evil. He began to wish that David would die. In verse 17 onwards it tells you how he offer his daughter. He was not really offering his daughter. He was offering his daughter as the bait. He wanted David to be killed by the Philistines. Look, jealousy, envy, and fear, when you are afraid of something, there are two reactions. Attack your fear or run away from your fear. You can attack wrongly. When you are afraid of people, there are 2 things. You either avoid them or if you act wrongly, you try to get rid of them by the carnal way. Saul reacted by trying to get rid of David. He is afraid David will take his kingdom. Get rid of David and you will have not more fear. Instead of dealing with

his fear, he deals with circumstances out of emotional fear and jealousy and he used his reasoning to justify his actions.

Look at that. He is quite intelligent. He plotted, he strategized but it's springs from an emotional base. He was confused, mixing right desire with wrong desires, right thought with wrong thought. Spirit, soul and body has become one. He has no more purity of his heart. To be pure means to allow only the pure things that God put in our life to come out. Put down every other thing. Put it in its proper place. In the end, those thoughts became thoughts of anger.

In chapter 19 verse 17, Saul said to Michal, why have you deceive me like this and let David escape. So he got worse and worse. Do you know what happen in the end? He actually destroyed his own life. Look at it this way. What's the benefit of having a bad character? What's the benefit of doing the right thing in the wrong way? In doing that we destroy ourselves. What's the benefit of trying to argue and win an argument and lose your own peace? It's better not to argue. Because if you win an argument, you are hot temper and you are shouting, you actually have lost yourself. You won the argument but you lost your character. Which is more precious, character or just one incident? See, we need to learn to divide spirit, soul and body. Saul was not able to divide.

You see verse 17, he accused Michal of deceiving him. Now, who was the one being deceived? He said, why did you deceive me and let David escape. He never saw for once that he was the one who was wrong. He accuses others of deceiving him when he himself is being deceived by his own emotion.

As we look on, when David escapes him in chapter 22 verse 7, Saul was becoming more and more carnal. He told his servant when David escaped. Hear now you Benjamite will the son of Jesse give every one of you, fields, vineyards, make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds. He is using his position now wrongly. As king, he is using bribes to win over people to his side against David. Be on my side and I will make you captains. Be on my side and I will give you vineyards. He is now trying to use power and money to get his own way. The problem was that his own way of doing things was wrong. There are a lot of people out there in the world who use their power and position to get their own way.

What happen if your own way is wrong? Let me tell you brutally and honestly and firmly I respect everyone regardless of his position, title, or wealth. But I will not respect the person who throws his weight around, uses his position to intimidate others and flashes money to buy people up in order to have his own way. In the Word of God, in the principle of God, in the church of Jesus Christ or the principles of the Spirit of God, it is important for us to know that carnal methods and ways are still carnal whether 1000 people agree or disagree, it is just carnal. We need to be brutally honest to understand this fact, that power and position should not be used because of emotion. A lot of people are using their power and position because of their emotional need to get their own way, to punish, to justify. Whatever it is, don't use all those methods. Keep emotions in their proper place. Saul was using power and position to win loyalty. In the end it's a false kind of loyalty. If you let people love you and be loyal to you because of your enticements the day will come that they will drop you like a hot potato when you run out of candies. Why have false friends when you can have true friends?

Look at verse 8. He accused them, all of you have conspired against me. No one conspired against him. Many people should go to the mirror and say mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the one who is really wrong? The mirror will answer the one who is looking in the mirror now. Learn this principle. Every emotion in our life that is wrong arises from a fault in our life and not in other people's life. When we can be honest with one self and look in the mirror and say the real person to deal with is you, not your foes. Jesus said, love your enemy. Your real enemies are not your enemies. Your real enemies are the wrong things in your life. Don't trust any reasoning when you feel the wrong emotion, because when you have an emotion, your reason will let you down. Think of the emotional rejection that Saul had, he thinks people are against him. I think he needs help. He needs counseling. Do you know that right now you can believe that there are people who are against you and it may be false but it is you who are having a problem? It is your fear nerve that is sensing wrong things. In the end Saul showed symptoms of anger. What had happened is he has confused his soul with his spirit. The Bible tells us that its alright if you feel all the various expressions of your soul. But keep them in their proper place. Bible says in Eph.4, "Don't let the sun go down on your anger." It implies that you can feel angry and irritated and all these human emotions but you put them in their proper place. You learn how to ensure that they don't get out of the box that they are supposed to be in. Let God deal with the root causes of them all.

The secret of dealing with these areas is to learn how to get the good emotion working for you. You see, we say the Spirit of God leads us; the human spirit guides us. We also say we are like a train. Faith is the engine of the train. Your emotions and your feelings are the other carriages that the train pulls. Let me be honest with you, my friends. It is still important that you feel good when it is good. We are creatures of emotion. We can't do things without emotion. Our emotions need to be renewed. The secret is to learn to get rid of wrong emotions and replace them with good emotion. When you feel down, you learn to pray yourself up. When you feel discouraged, you learn how to encourage yourself. When you feel bad or you have done some wrong things, you learn to confess your sins and pray through and meditate on the Word until you feel good again. Do you know that inside each one of us there is a feeling of goodness and there is a sense of well-being? There is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness and faithfulness. The key thing about Christian life and Christian character is you learn how to generate the good emotion yourself with the Word of God and prayer.

You don't need to get it from anywhere else. I know people who try to feel good. Why do people turn to alcohol so that they can feel good? Drown all their wrong feelings and feel good. Why do people relax by unlawful things? Long ago I met a man of God, a pastor. I stayed with him in Australia and after ministering he went back and he sat in front of his TV and just watch, I said: shouldn't w pray first? I am not against TV if we know its proper place, but he is watching all these dumb programs. And do you know what he told me? This is my way to relax. I don't know about your way to relax. My way to relax is to go for a prayer walk. Pray in tongues, meditate on the Word. That's my way of relaxing. My way of relaxing is not going to a pub. Not going to do all these worldly things. We must learn the right way to get our emotions in line. Its just like, its hard to get rid of a wrong thought. The best way to get rid of the wrong thought is to replace it with a good thought. You can't have an empty mind. You can't have an empty emotion. The best way to get rid of wrong

emotions is to generate the good emotions. How sometime when you go to deep worship and you worship God. You really give yourself to worship God and you praise God. How good it is after you prayed in tongues one or two hours. You sense the emotions are being tuned to. Although you pray by faith, and when you started praying, you don't feel like praying but after praying in tongues for an hour or two, you feel on top of the world. You feel good. When you feel good about your well-being, you will be good to others.

The reason why we can not have good character and we failed other people, we react, we lose our temper, we lose our cool is because you didn't feel good in yourself. If whatever happen on the outside, you feel this peace, love, joy and goodness, I don't think you could ever be angry. You are angry because something inside snapped. When you learn how to generate the good emotion from the Word of God and from the Holy Spirit of God, first you need to divide that from the wrong thought that are generated by the wrong emotions. These wrong emotions need to be dealt with. Separate them and allow God's Word to come and God will say all right his desire is correct. But this thing is wrong here. This one is wrong. This is from your soul. This is from your body. This is from your own mind. And you know where it all stands and then you pray in God and allow God to generate all the right emotions on your inside. And you learn a key secret in Christian life, how to feel good in the presence of God. Pray in tongues, meditate on the Word. Whenever you have a bad day, don't go and sit in front the TV until you feel good and get over. That's not the way. You will get worse. Go aside have some time of prayer or go for a walk. Go for a prayer meeting or a worship service. At the end of it all your emotions will get dealt with. You feel good. The key is being Christ like 24 hours is in learning how to keep that goodness flowing in your life. That sense of well-being. So that in every situation that sense of well-being is flowing on your inside and you could deal with every situation with the character of Jesus Christ.