

Characteristics of a Disciple

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I. Introduction.

A. A disciple of Jesus ought to do what Jesus did. (John 20:21; 1 John 4:17)

II. The true shepherd that God looks for has a skillful hand and a true heart. (Matthew 5:8)

A. A true heart is prepared. (Ezra 7:10)

B. A true heart is guided. (Proverbs 4:23)

C. A true heart is whole-hearted. (Psalm 119; Revelation 3:15-16; 2 Chronicles 20)

D. A true heart is teachable. (Proverbs 10:17)

E. A true heart is cleansed. (Jeremiah 4:3-4)

F. A true heart is trusting. (Hebrews 1)

III. Strengths of character that help a man move on with God.

A. A positive attitude. (Philippians 4:13; 4:8; Titus 1:15; Proverbs 15:15)

1. It has a glad heart regardless of circumstance.

2. It has an expectant spirit. (Hosea 12:6)

B. A strong drive. (Job 13; Psalm 18)

1. A clear objective is necessary. (Matthew 28:19-20)

2. Faith is necessary. (Job 23)

3. Enthusiasm is necessary. (Proverbs 15:30)

C. Persistence. (2 Corinthians 4:18; Romans 4:20; Joshua 3; Luke 5)

1. Persistence is getting our feet wet.

2. Persistence is being patient. (Hebrews 10:36; 2 Peter 1:4; Luke 2:52; Hebrews 5:8)

3. Persistence is developed in testing. (James 1:2-4)

4. In trials recognize the opportunity, ask God for wisdom and endure. (James 1:5)

5. Persistence is being steadfast.

6. Persistence is being panic proof. (Isaiah 8:12-13)

- a. Believe that God is sovereign.
- b. Believe that God is all-powerful.
- c. Believe that God knows everything that is going on.
- d. Believe that God loves you.

D. A mature personality. (Ephesians 4:13)

- 1. Reliability. (Proverbs 25:19)
- 2. An ability to think through. (Proverbs 22:3)
- 3. Decisiveness. (1 Corinthians 14:8)
- 4. A servant attitude. (1 Corinthians 9:19)
- 5. Stability. (Isaiah 33:6)
- 6. Getting along with other people.

Application questions:

1. How would you evaluate your heart based on the true heart God looks for?

2. How can a Christian develop persistence?

3. What will you do to obtain a more mature personality in your Christian walk?
