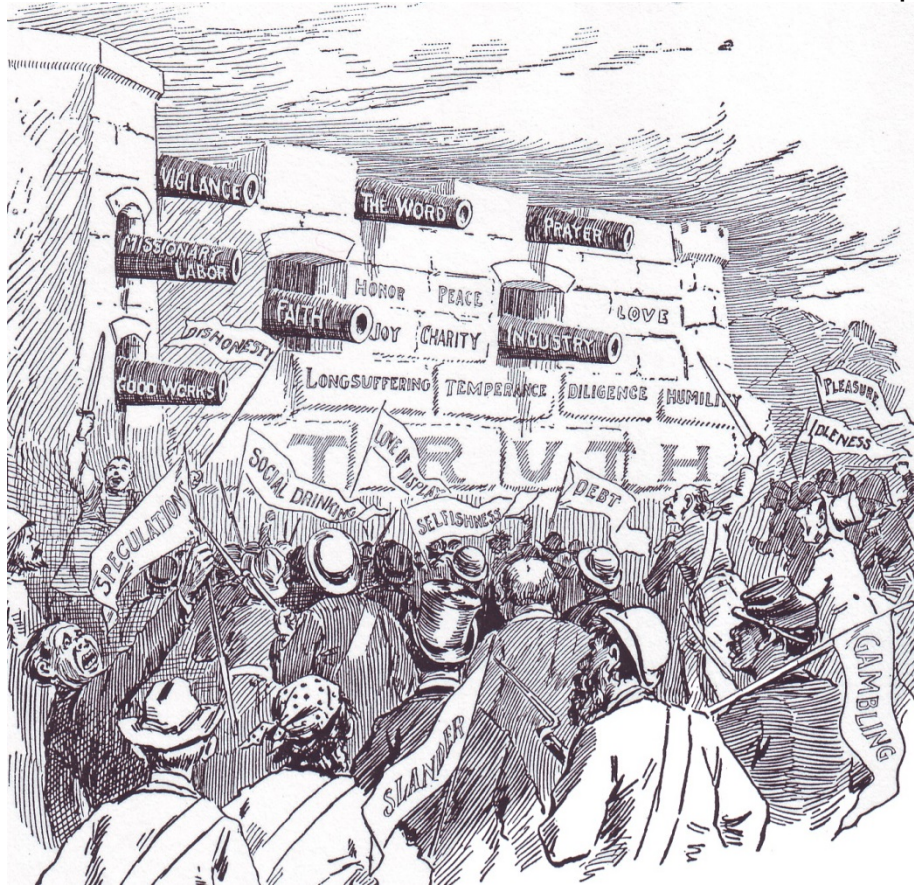


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Conquering Truths Lesson 7 – Fortress of Character

return pages 5 & 6



Psalms 94:21 They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood. 22 But the LORD is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge.

My soul, be on thy guard, Ten thousand foes arise;
hosts of sin are pressing hard, To draw thee from the skies.
Oh, watch, fight, and pray. The battle ne'er give o'er; Renew it boldly every day,
help Divine implore.

Related verses:

Psalms 34:7; Psalms 37:9-15; Psalms 37:23-40; 2 Samuel 22:4; Psalms 37:1-3;
Psalms 34:13-22; Psalms 35:1-9

Character is not reputation. Character is what the man is: Reputation is what others think of him. Character remains: Reputation may come and go. Christian Character is like a strong and mighty Fortress, which cannot be taken, as shown in our picture above. It has many important elements, as the artist has depicted, which are worthy our serious thought and earnest attention.

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Christian Character rests on Truth. (John 14:6) It is truth that makes the arm strong; that gives men muscles of iron and nerves of steel.

Armed from head to foot in invincible armor, is he, who stands for the truth and manfully contends for it. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

The Christian knows that he has the truth of God on his side. He does not go to the learned men, the influential men, the eloquent men, to ask "Is it true?" Nay, he goes alone to Him who is the Truth and the Life. Then with holy boldness he says, 2 Timothy 1:12 *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.* The everlasting and self-evidencing verities of heaven are in his soul; for "He that believeth hath the witness in himself."

(1 John 5:10)

The Truth of God which he maintains cannot be laughed down, nor burned down, nor fought down. Men may crucify it, and bury it, as they did crucify and bury the "Incarnate Truth," but it always raises again.

Without Faith it is impossible to please God. Without Faith it is impossible to live. We literally walk by faith, we see by faith, we eat by faith, we work by faith. We carry on our business by faith. We build our homes by faith. It is thus by faith in nature's laws, which are the laws of God, that we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)

The Christian gains his conquests through Faith, for this is "the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (1 John 5:4)

Faith is constructive, unbelief destructive. Faith creates a cosmos; unbelief brings on chaos. Faith is bold; unbelief timid.

"Great souls snatch vigor from the stormy air,
While weaker natures suffer and despair."

Christian Character is glorified by Love. 1 John 4:16 *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.* 1 Corinthians 13:13 *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

The life of Faith like that manifested in George Muller's wonderful career is full of works of blessedness. "The deeds themselves, though mute, spoke volumes loud the doer.

The Christian Character is marked by Peace, but peace which comes from conflict. It is loftiness, and largeness and firmness, like that of the everlasting mountains, which produce peace. It is a peace that is inseparably connected with power; for spiritual serenity is ever allied with strength. The stable tranquility of the eternal hills comes from the struggle of earthly forces, which once convulsed the globe to its very center.

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The Christian resides in the securities of a well-defended peace. He is castled in the Kingdom of his own tranquility, safe from the changes of the time, and from the fear of change to come. He is set fast like the mountains, being girded with power. The Christian's peace springs from the surrender of his rebellious self-will to the will of Heaven. He has grounded the weapons of his rebellion and fights against his God no more.

The broad stones of Honor are built in this fortress of Character. Honor, upon which men can implicitly repose their confidence; Honor never betrays a trust, which is ever scrupulous in the performance of duty; Honor means his business in trade is just. (Proverbs 16:11) Honor never holds out his hand for a bribe, nor padlocks the lips when the true word is to be spoken; Honor is erect, courteous, unswerving; Honor, in short, that can neither be bought off, nor reasoned off, nor flattered off, nor seduced off from the simple and immutable right.

Christian Character is marked by Industry. The Christian believer never kills time. He is ever intent on the Master's business; his time is not his own; it belongs to God, who gave him his being. He hears his Divine Master say, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." "I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is called day." Then he listens obediently and joyfully to Christ's command, "Occupy till I come."

He knows that he is a worker together with God. He will, therefore, do with his might what his hand findeth to do. He will use the one talent, or the five talents, or the ten talents for the glory of God and the relief of Man's estate. He will labor on until the reaping time shall come; that trumpet shall sound then with a shout will call His harvest home. Then he will hear the welcome salutation, "Well done, good and faithful servant, Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matthew 25:21)

Christian Character is built upon the scriptures Oh, how I love Thy law. (Psalm 119:97) In Thy law is my delight; (Psalm 119:174) Thy word is sweeter unto me than honey or the honeycomb, (Psalm 19:10) This the language of the Christian believer. In thy word are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. No book can equal it for literary beauty, sublimity of description with fidelity to human nature along with the Revelation of the will of God. The Bible finds a home in every language; it makes its appeals to every heart. It meets every unfolding need of human society, as it has anticipated every phase of human progress. It will never become obsolete. It will never become outdated. It is the unchangeable word. Its saving truths are the same yesterday, today and forever.

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The Christian Character is noted for Vigilance; for the Christian believer is keen eyed. He looks a hundred ways; he never sleeps. The devil, like a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour; but the Christian will always be on the lookout for his approach. He knows how to watch, as well as pray. He will suffer no surprises. He will ever guard against the easily besetting or well circumstanced sin.

The Christian Character is nourished by Prayer. The Christian believer knows by blessed experience, He will not fear a repetition of prayer, if it springs from the heart; and is not thus a mere vain repetition of the tongue. It is more of a continual asking with hope to see the answer come from his gracious God. A good prayer, though often used, is still fresh and fair in the eyes and ears of Heaven.

Long Suffering, Patience, Temperance, Diligence, Humility, joy, with all the royal brood of heavenly graces and virtues, are in the Christian Character. This Character is a Fortress against all the opposing elements of unrighteous. From it shall come forth the forces of everlasting good, which shall put all these enemies to flight. And He, the rightful King of Kings, shall reign forever and ever. Amen!

Notes

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7. Fill in the blanks
Faith is the _____ unbelief brings on _____.

8. How did George Mueller speak volumes with his life?

9. What is the purpose of Honor?

10. What is the purpose of Charity?

11. When is repetitive pray not accepted by God?

12. What part of the Bible shows us a true Christian Character?

True/false

- God is OK with small bribes if it will profit the Church.
- Well done, thou good a faithful servant are what we all want to hear, when we step through the door of eternity.
- The Christian gains his conquest through faith.

Scripture memorization, write out these verses on the back on this page:
2 Timothy 1:12; 1 John 5:4; Psalm 119:97. (Must be in KJV)

Any questions?