

**GODLY CHARACTER**  
**Holy Spirit & My Job**  
**Pastor Vernie Fletcher**  
**March 7th, 2010**

**Though the power for godly character comes from Christ, the responsibility for developing and displaying that character is ours.**

**Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)**

<sup>[12]</sup>Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,  
<sup>[13]</sup>for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

**A principle of godly character is: The development of godly character entails both putting off and putting on character traits.**

**Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)**

<sup>[22]</sup>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;  
<sup>[23]</sup>to be made new in the attitude of your minds;  
<sup>[24]</sup>and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

**We need to learn Scripture's teaching for the dual principle of personal responsibility and total dependence, here also we need to seek the balance of Scripture in putting off and putting on.**

**Ephesians 4:28-32 (NIV)**

<sup>[28]</sup>He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.  
<sup>[29]</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.  
<sup>[30]</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.  
<sup>[31]</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.  
<sup>[32]</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**1 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)**

<sup>[7]</sup>... train yourself to be godly.

**So there is a sense in which we are growing in our character every day. The question is: In which direction are we growing? Are we growing toward godly character or ungodly character?**

**Every day we are training ourselves in one direction or the other by the thoughts we think, the words we say, the actions we take, the deeds we do.**

**Since conduct determines character, and character determines conduct, it is extremely necessary that we practice godliness every day.**

## **2 Peter 1:5-9 (NIV)**

<sup>[5]</sup> For this very reason, **make every effort** to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

<sup>[6]</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

<sup>[7]</sup> and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

<sup>[8]</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>[9]</sup> But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.