

Restoring Godly Character - Virtues in Christ

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*“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”*

Ephesians 4:1-6

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RESTORATION OF VIRTUES IN CHRIST JESUS TO CREATE A CULTURE OF HOLINESS

A Culture of Holiness has a Foundation of Virtuous People!

Coming Before Lord God Adonai

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I come before you today on behalf of myself and also standing in the gap for my country and the Body of Christ; to restore godly character. In order to restore America as a covenant nation, it is surely necessary for Your sons and daughters to walk as examples of Christ Jesus. I know that it must begin with me; so please receive my

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petitions for grace support, and bear witness to my commitment to godly character in the virtues of Christ Jesus.

- ◆ Therefore Lord God, I take hold of 2 Peter 1:3-7 as a divine template for godly character, *“For Your divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them we may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in our faith, I commit to moral excellence, and in our moral excellence, knowledge, and in our knowledge, self-control, and in our self-control, perseverance, and in our perseverance, godliness, and in our godliness, brotherly kindness, and in our brotherly kindness, love.”*

Let Us Celebrate Our Tribulations

- ◆ Heavenly Father, it is clear that *“in this world we shall have challenges,”* and that our trials and tribulations can be viewed and used as gifts and opportunities to refine our character, develop godly virtues, and mature emotionally, relationally and spiritually. I repent for all the times I have complained about my adversities rather than taking hold of them as a spiritual opportunity to share in Christ’s sufferings and therefore unite with Him; and unite with Him in the virtues of radical obedience to You, perseverance to fulfill God destiny, compassion and forgiveness for those who persecute us, and love and charity.
- ◆ For Apostle Paul teaches us in Romans 5:3-5 that, *“We also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven*

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character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

- ◆ Father God, I commit to embracing tests and difficulties as an heir to inheriting your glory, according to Romans 8:16-17, *“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”*

True Character is Internal

- ◆ Heavenly Father, You shall not be mocked; true character is internal, possessing internal virtues, not ones for outer show. Godly virtues are not for vanity and applause; but quiet seeking no credit or spotlight. I commit to walking in godly virtues that have only You as their reward.
- ◆ As Apostle Paul shares in Romans 2:29, *“No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.”*
- ◆ Truly, Jesus taught in Matthew 6:3 to never boast about doing good works, but keep it private to yourself, *“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.”*

Keep Right & Righteous Company

- ◆ Dear Lord God, it is abundantly clear from Your Word that it is imperative to keep right and righteous company. Even if someone is not ill-meaning, their vices and lifestyle can have a damaging or danger affect on us. I repent for all the times and ways I have been careless or

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ignorant about with whom I keep company. I know it has damaged my spiritual life and faith walk at times. I commit to being vigilant and resolved in keeping only spiritually compatible and uplifting company.

- ◆ For Psalm 1:1-2 says: *“Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on His Law he meditates day and night.”*
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 convicts me: *“Do not be deceived: bad company corrupts good morals. Sober up morally and stop sinning, for some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.”*
- ◆ Proverbs 13:20 warns: *“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”*
- ◆ Proverbs 14:7 tells me that wrong company can impair my discernment: *“Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not discern words of knowledge.”*

Strive for Holiness

- ◆ Heavenly Father, repeatedly You have exhorted Your people *“to consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.”* If it were not possible, You would not have asked us for it repeatedly! Indeed 1 Peter 1:15 instructs us: *“But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.”* Surely this is the cornerstone of godly character. I commit to holiness and ask for your help in this Lord God.
- ◆ Lord God, I am convicted by Hebrews 12:14 which says: *“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”* Surely I want to see YOU Lord God!

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- ◆ I understand that it is by the agency of the Holy Spirit that I am made holy, according to 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8, "*For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.*" Come! Holy Spirit come! Come into my heart! Come into my life! Make me clean and holy unto the Lord God Most High!
- ◆ Lord God, I proclaim Psalm 25:21, "*May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.*"

Noble Virtues

- ◆ **Integrity.** Dear Heavenly Father, I repent for all the causes and acts in me that have taken me out of integrity; cowardice, weakness, lack of resolve, selfishness and selfish gain. I resolve to walk uprightly and be worthy to be your son/daughter.
 - ◆ Truly, Proverbs 10:9 convicts me: "*Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.*"
 - ◆ Surely Lord God, you see all of our acts and words that are out of integrity. We only fool ourselves when we are not honorable; as Hebrews 4:12 says: "*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and **discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.***"
 - ◆ Colossians 3:9-10 instructs: "*Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.*"
- ◆ **Gentleness.** Dear Heavenly Father, I repent for all the times and ways I have been rough, arrogant, insensitive, cruel and hurtful in my dealings

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and interactions with others. The ends does not justify the means to the end.

- ◆ LORD God, I commit to godly gentleness with my fellow brethren in Christ and total strangers, as Galatians 6:1 tells us: *“Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well.”* For truly, it is a spiritual loss to hurt or damage the heart of another person, as Jesus says: *“As you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.”*
- ◆ Ephesians 4:1-2 makes clear that gentleness is a noble virtue: *“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.”*
- ◆ **Noble Service.** Dear Heavenly Father, I repent for all the times and ways I have fallen short of noble service. Perhaps there were times you wanted me to help someone and I did not, or I did not do it to your satisfaction, with love. I am truly sorry.
- ◆ Ephesians 2:10 explains: *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*
- ◆ John 15:13 says: *“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”*
- ◆ Titus 2:7-8 instructs: *“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.”*

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- ◆ **Humility.** Dear Heavenly Father, I repent for all the times and ways I have been in hubris, arrogance, pridefulness, egoism. I repent for taken credit when I should not have and for times I just had to point out how clever I was or that I was right.
- ◆ 1 Peter 5:5-6 admonishes: *“And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time.”*
- ◆ Matthew 18:3-4 explains why humility is so vital to being able to enter Your Kingdom of Heaven: *“Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*
- ◆ Isaiah 66:2 exhorts: *“All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.”*
- ◆ Lord God, we pray for Your sons and daughters to be convicted of humility and moved to apologize where they have caused hurt; in so doing, not only heal relationships but grow them to a deeper form.

- ◆ **Walk by the Spirit**
- ◆ Father God, I repent for all the times and ways I have walked in my own ego and for my own desires and agendas, rather than what you desired for me. Galatians 5:16-18 confirms: *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for*

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these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.”

- ◆ Romans 8:14 establishes: *“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God.”*

Enduring for Jesus’ Sake

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, it is clear throughout Your Word that we are called to endure for Jesus’ sake. This noble endurance is a virtue of godly character that I commit to now. For Revelations 2:2-3 says: *“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.”*
- ◆ Galatians 6:2 instructs: *“Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”*
- ◆ I know that You Lord God, will use my trials to refine me as silver in your holy fire, to refine and bring me to godly character. James 1:2-4 describes this: *“I count it all joy, my brothers, when I meet trials of various kinds, for I know that the testing of my faith produces steadfastness. So let steadfastness have its full effect, that I may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”*
- ◆ 1 Peter 5:9-10 assures me that as I endure with Christ, He will perfect me; *“So resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all*

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grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

- ◆ James 1:12 confirms the value of the virtue of being steadfast: *“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”*

Do Not Be Conformed to this World

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, it is hard not to be conformed to this world. There is such a bombardment of information, views, talking heads, media prophets, telling us what to think and believe. Lord God, I surrender it all to you completely. Wipe my hard drive clean of all false teachings, information, beliefs, programs; everything that blocks, inhibits or compromises my ability to truly know you in your fullness and to be in union with Christ Jesus. I give you full permission to remove from me all manner of conformities to this world; that I may fill up with only Your Truth, Your Spirit of Truth and all of His agency.
- ◆ I take hold of Romans 12:1-2, *I present my body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You God, which is my spiritual worship. I commit to not being conformed to this world, but being transformed by the renewal of my mind, that by testing I may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
- ◆ Lord God, I commit to *“keeping myself unstained from the world,”* according to James 1:27.

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Pure Heart

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father. 1 Samuel 16:7 instructs: *“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but **the Lord looks on the heart.**”*
- ◆ Lord God, it's clear from Your Word that being committed to YOUR truth and obedience (hearing and heeding You), purify the heart and soul, as 1 Peter 1:22 demonstrates; *“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.”*
- ◆ Lord God, I take hold of 2 Timothy 2:2, *“So I flee youthful passions and I hereby pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”*

Unity of the Faith

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, Your Word in Colossians 3:12-15 tells us that love in Christ brings unity. As such, I commit to put on then, as God's chosen, holy and beloved, a compassionate heart, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven me, so I also must forgive. And above all these, I commit to putting on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And I let the peace of Christ rule in my heart, to which indeed I am called with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ into one body. Thank you Lord God!
- ◆ Heavenly Father, I commit to remaining rooted and unwavering in Your call on my life; and take hold of Ephesians 4:11-13 which says, *“And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of*

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*ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; **until we all attain to the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”*

- ◆ 1 Thessalonians 4:9 brings comfort: *“Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another.”*

Sealing Prayer:

I commit to...
Ridding myself of *the old self*,
which was corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit
and commit to being renewed in the spirit of my mind,
and to put on the new self,
which in the likeness of God has been created
in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
I commit to being kind to others,
compassionate, forgiving others,
just as God in Christ also has forgiven me.”
Ephesians 4:22-24, 32

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