THE
CHARACTER
OF
CHRIST

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Fruit of the Spirit

Love

This is a sample of a daily devotional tiled "Character of Christ"

May you be encouraged and be enlightened in your journey of life.

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His call to us

Lord Almighty

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Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught is all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, Thou my true word,
I ever with Thee, Thou with me Lord,
Thou my great Father, I Thy dear son,
Thou in me dwelling, I with Thee one.
Ancient Irish Poem

The first characteristics of Jesus that we look at are the fruits of the Spirit, which were evident in His life in everything He said, did or lived.

Jesus said, "My Father and I are one!" so whatever attribute Jesus had was exactly the same as the attributes of God, our Father.

The next characteristics are ones that Jesus lived by and encourages us to do the same. He epitomises the fullness of God' character in all that He is.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14: 6) Look at all these attributes.

Further we look at the personal characteristics of our Lord, and then the emotions displayed.

Who is the Lord? We look at those different traits and then at His call to us.

Prepare my heart

Lord, I come today with an overwhelming awareness of Your love – not only for me, but for all people everywhere. I ask You to prepare my heart to receive whatever You wish to impart to me, and to be ready to submit all that I think, say or do to You before a single word is uttered. May I be in-tune with Your Spirit, as I seek You for inspiration for this day and these writings.

Worship & Praise

I praise and worship You, God Almighty – Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. You are high and holy, above all and I lift my eyes to heaven to worship and praise You in Your throne room. I come humbly before You Lord, as Your child, seeking Your will, help and guidance for this day. Teach them to be subservient to all You require of me and go out willingly into the world to share Your love with others. Praise You, Lord of All, Hallelieuia!

Talk with the Lord

At the beginning of this time before You, Lord, I want You to know that I love You and desire to fulfil whatever You have for me, or want from me, this day. Teach me, Lord. Give me an open heart and an eagerness to receive from You Your leading, guiding and helping words. I wait before You, Lord, with a heart set on You and desiring to hear from You.

God's Word today

I see you, my child, and am glad that we can spend time together. There is much that I want to impart to your heart, words that will encourage you, challenge you and guide you as you go forward to do My work in your life. Begin as you mean to carry on. I will meet with you whenever you come seeking me, for this work you do is My work too. Go forward, slowly, surely and steadily to complete what we have started together. Know that you are loved, beyond your comprehension. Go forward in My loving care!

Thanksgiving

Thank You Lord, for this new work You have begun in me. May I work slowly and steadily for You each day, till the work is complete. Your help is all I need Lord; may we go forward together to complete what has now been begun. Thank You!

Fruit of the Spirit

Love

Day 1

1 John 4:16-17 (ESV)

16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **17** By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

Love made perfect!

God's goal in our lives is to make love perfect in us, just as it is perfect in Him. He wants us to be able to come before Him on Judgement Day with courage, because our lives as the same as Christ's. Our Lord lived a life of love, reaching out to all manner of people to tell them that they are important to Him. He has given us the greatest example of loving kindness that there is. Once we encounter Jesus, we experience His amazing love. It flows over and in us like a stream of pure love. We cannot help but respond to Jesus' loving kindness which is offered to all people. Jesus looks into our hearts and touches the deepest pain that rests there and makes us whole once more. We do not fear the Lord, for in love there is no fear. Live close to the Lord and you will live a life of loving kindness to all manner of men. Give thanks to God for His amazing love!

Thank You Lord, for Your loving kindness and Your desire that we learn to live with the same attitude towards all people.

Day 2

1 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT)

5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

What manner of love?

What manner of love holds your heart? Can you read all the verses in 1 Corinthians 13 and say, "My love is like that!" or do you find that there are instances when loving as God desires us to is not present? V5 states, "love is not ill-mannered, or selfish, or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs;" Can we truthfully say that we have never been rude to someone? Have we been like little children, possessive over some toy or sweet, and not willing to share with others? How often do we get irritated by the manner or behaviour of another? Have we learnt to forgive completely? Let us read this chapter once more and identify the areas of love that are not fully formed in us! We will be surprised at how many we recognize. Ask God to fill us with every iota of love that He wants us to have. This is a high ideal to strive for. Let there be love in our hearts!!

Fill our hearts with love Lord and enable us to love others as You love us.

John 21:15-17 (ESV)

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

Do you love Me?

Just as Jesus asked Peter this question, He asks us, "Do you love Me, more than--? More than family; work; money; your home; holidays or sport? Do you make time for Me instead of watching TV, or chatting to friends? Do you set aside time to sit before Me, listening for My Word to you, or are you too busy to do so? Do you spend time actively using the gift I have given you, or do you neglect that in favour of some other pursuit? There are so many things that keep you busy, yet even so, I am eagerly waiting for you to come to Me in prayer, desiring to spend time in My presence. Come, child, set aside your busy life and spend time with the One who loves you best of all! Do you love Me enough to seek me?? "Jesus is calling!! Now is the time to respond, "Here I am Lord, I am seeking Your presence!"

Lord, I hear You asking me, "Do you love Me? And I come into Your presence, wanting to hear Your word to me this day.

Day 4

Isaiah 54:4-8 (ESV)

4 "Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.

5 For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.

6 For the LORD has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.

7 For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you.

8 In overflowing anger for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"
says the LORD, your Redeemer.

God is Love!

Our highest ambition should be for a heart of love equal to the loving heart of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is love and through His love for us, His children, we discover how to love others as He does. There are no half-measures. Our hearts are made to hold love in its purest, fullest form. If this is so, then we cannot help loving others with the pure love of Christ. It is born in us, because when we gave our heart to Jesus, He took it and changed it so that it would expand to receive all the love that He want us to have and use in service for Him. There are no half-measures in love. It is all or nothing. We cannot look on one person and say, "I love you with the love of the Lord" and then look at another and reject them. Love is made perfect in us just as it is perfect in Jesus, our Lord. Go out today and be loving and kind to everyone you meet. God will show you how, for He is Love!!

Show me how to love like You do, Lord.

Day 5

John 17:24-26 (ESV)

24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Love one another!

In the Bible we read of God's love of His Creation. We are born in love, we grow in love, and we are sustained in love. Love is the greatest emotion that we can experience. Love builds us up in every way. Love forms our character. Love guides our footsteps. Love enriches our relationships. Love guides us in our decisions. God saw that mankind could not manage to know the depth of His love on their own, so He gave the world the perfect example of love. Jesus came and lived among men in a small corner of the world. He lived, loved and shared the love of God with many, urging them to go to all nations and do the same. His command of 'love one another, as I have loved you' should guide us each day of our lives. Our living is richer for the love we get and the love we give. Let love for one another be our guiding light. God is love!

Teach me how to love others as You do, Lord

Day 6

1 John 4:21 (ESV)

21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Know God and love Him!

To know God is to love Him. We cannot see Him with our physical eyes, but we can experience His loving touch, His guiding Spirit and His Word, Jesus Christ. Day by day we grow in our knowledge of our God, through our reading His Word,

the Bible; through praying to Him and listening for His words to us; through living to the standards that He has set for us. It is a delight to know God as our loving Father, the source of knowledge, love and as our teacher. Through the Holy Spirit we are in constant contact with our Lord and our God. We grow in understanding of God's will and way for our lives and become like His Son, Jesus through our obedience. How blessed we are to be loved by Almighty God and to know He lives in our hearts. Give thanks and praise to our Lord and our God, He is to be honoured above all!

You are my Lord, and I love You and desire to know Your will for my life.

Day 7

Psalm 23:1-6 (ESV)

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Our ongoing love story!

Many times in our lives Jesus asks us, "Do you love Me?" We answer, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You." Over time we might feel that the question and answer is too repetitive, but Jesus has a reason for asking us again and again. Our love for Him needs to grow more and more as our life goes on. We need to fall in love with Jesus time after time till thoughts of Him fill our being. Then, in truth, we can tell Him of our love – "Lord, I love You more than anything – more than life itself. All I desire is found in You!" Love like this will never fade but will consume us for the rest of our lives. We love our Lord and worship, praise and honour Him with our whole being. Blessed is the Lord God Almighty. He is worthy of praise and adoration. He is all in all to me. Praise the Name of Jesus, my Lord and Saviour!

Lord, we thank You that You help and guide us day by day. Your loving kindness fills our hearts with hope for our future. You have us in Your loving care and guide us along paths that lead to eternity with our blessed Triune God. Amen

He is Lord Almighty

Prepare my heart

I open my heart before You, my Lord and my God! I am ready to hear Your Word this day. Speak Lord, your servant is listening, for what You want to impart to me.

Worship & Praise

You are Lord! I come in praise to worship and honour You, O Lord, my God! Blessed is the Lord Almighty. Holy is He and worthy of all praise!

Talk with the Lord

I come Lord, to bring You honour and praise. You are my Lord and my God, and there is no other before You. I look to You for life, love and leadership. Your will is my command!

God's Word today

I AM! That is who I Am. You call Me Lord, and I am your Lord and your God. Come and meet me often, day by day, bringing Me your will and letting Me guide your way. You are My beloved child. Know this and rejoice!

Thanksgiving

Blessed is the Lord. He is Holy, above all, and I worship and honour Him. Thanks be to our Lord and our God, for helping and guiding us each and every day. it is an honour to be called children of the Most High God!

Isaiah 45:5-6 (ESV)

5 I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

The Lord is our God!

There is only one God and He is Lord of all. He calls us by name to come and learn of His grace, mercy and love. He teaches us His will and way and guides us on paths of righteousness. We worship Him, for He is our Father, the Creator of all mankind. He knows us so well, even the number of hairs on our head. He guides us on the path He sets before us and gives us the strength that is needed to face all conditions of life. His love is like a shining star that shines through all who love, worship and obey Him. There is no other God but "Abba, Father", and His Son Jesus Christ, who gave up His life so that we who believe, can gain Eternal Life. This is the reward promised to the faithful servants of God and His Son. Rejoice in the Lord always! He is faithful and true and cares for all who come to Him. Serve the Lord with faithful, trusting hearts. He is God Almighty!

We praise You Lord, for You call us to be Your own, and shower us with blessings. Thank You for Your loving care and helpful guidance, day by day.

Day 9

Galatians 4:6-7 (ESV)

6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

God is our Father!

We call God, Father, and He is our loving father. But He is more! The Spirit of God stirs in us to come in prayer before our God. In this attitude of humble adoration we see our God and He is not distant from us. He calls us to come close to Him, to sit at His feet, and to know the comfort of His loving arms. In this moment He is more than God – He is 'Abba", our loving father, and we are in the closest relationship possible with Him. Truly He is our loving Father, wanting the very best for us, His sons and daughters. He fills us with love that overflows from us back to Him, and also to all people. We love You Lord of all; blessed Father, God Almighty. We thank You for calling us close through Jesus, Your Son, our beloved Saviour. Thank You, Lord for Your loving kindness. We worship You, O God Almighty, Father, Saviour and Spirit!

Blessed is Your Name, O Lord, our God. We come seeking Your presence and longing to hear Your Word to us. Thank You for calling us to be Your own, not just for today, but for all Eternity!

Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV)

14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

God's Glory!

When we look at the earth that God has created we are in awe of what He has done. The earth has much land and water, and sustains life for many species of animals. Man, created in God's image, has been given authority over this creation of the Lord. In taking care of what God has given, mankind gives God the Glory that is His due. He has promised that we will have full knowledge of the Glory of the Lord. We praise the Lord with all that is within us. We lift up His Name to honour Him. We worship God as the Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth; our Father and our Saviour! There is no other we desire to serve. He is the One to whom we give allegiance. Blessed is the name of our God. Holy is He and worthy of the praise of all of His Creation. Praise, honour, glory and power be unto our God. May He be praised forever more! Hallelieuia!

We stand in awe of Your Majesty, O Lord, our God. We praise You, with heart, soul, mind and strength. You are beloved, Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. We worship and honour You, now and always!

Day 11

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (ESV)

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. **7** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

God knows and loves me!

When we read this passage, it strikes deep into our hearts. God's description of love is the most complete we will ever read. In our humanity our understanding of love is not complete. So often we equate love as being what pleases us; what brings us comfort; what enables us to show kindness to others. But the love of God is far more than our physical experience of love. God has our best interests at heart. He knows us so well, what pleases us, what disappoints us, what challenges us, what makes us unhappy! He knows our hearts and how a thoughtless word spoken can break our hearts. But His understanding of our emotions enables Him to come alongside us and bring us comfort in the situation. God's love for all of His creation is perfect in every way. It is unchanging. God knows me! God loves me! Praise His Holy name!

Thank You for loving me, unconditionally! Your loving kindness guides and helps me to live each day as Your own.

You know me so well, Lord. Thank You for Your loving kindness and help in every part of my life.

Day 12

Psalm 93:1-2 (ESV)

1 The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.2 Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.

God is Supreme!

God is Almighty! He is Creator of Heaven and earth and all that is created is done by His Grace, Mercy and Love. He has given us the earth, with its bounteous provision for us to enjoy. He has given us the seas, full of provision of food for us. He has given us each other – to build relationships and to live in peace and harmony. God is, was, and has been from the beginning, the Lord Almighty, whom we worship, praise and serve to the best of our ability. He has given us much more than life on earth through His Son, Jesus Christ. God has given us life eternal when this life on earth is ended, that stretches to eternity in the presence of our God and our King. How blessed to be called sons and daughters of the Most High God, and to have His Son, Jesus, as our Brother. Praise to our God on High. Blessed is the Lord Almighty! Praise His name!

Thanks be to our Lord and our God, who blesses us with abundant grace and love. We are called His sons and daughters, and we are privileged to call Him Father. Praise the Name of our Lord and our God!

Day 13

John 17:25-26 (ESV)

25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. **26** I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

God, our Father!

Jesus rightly said of God, "The world does not know You." All across the world there are millions of people who have never heard of our God! Many worship strange gods. Others worship nothing. But those who know God and acknowledge Him as Lord of all are truly blessed. Jesus comes into our hearts and introduces us to our Father – God Almighty. There is no other who we should worship. Our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is our beloved God. Day by day Jesus shows us more and more of the love that God, our Father, has for us. Jesus is in our hearts, and through Him we know the love that God our Father has for us. God loves the world He created, and everything and everybody. He pours out loving kindness on us. He welcomes us into His presence and blesses us abundantly. Share God with others, so that they too can grow to know Him. God is Almighty, worthy of all praise and adoration.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. He is generous beyond measure, and loves His creation unconditionally. He is worthy of all praise.

Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV)

14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea

The Glory of the LORD!

This verse gives us an awesome view of the extent of God's glory. We calculate how many billions of litres of water there are. This is the extent of God's glory. He is Lord Almighty, and we are privileged to have knowledge of Him and His glory. What a wonderful experience awaits us, when our time on earth is ended. We will be in the presence of the Lord of all. His glory will shine from star to star – giving light to the whole universe. We will come and worship Him with every iota of our being. God – our Father, our Saviour and our Holy Spirit. God, Three in One, and One in Three, will be worshipped endlessly. Glory to our God on high. Blessed is He - worthy of all the praise of all living beings. Praise God, now and forever more. He is worthy of all our praise!

We worship You, Almighty God. That is what we want to do. We give You praise, for You are our righteousness. Praise and honour, glory and power be unto our God. Blessed is His Name, now and forever more! Amen!!

God Is Love!

Are you sure of your relationship with God? If you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you may want to do so right here and right now. By opening your heart to the Lord and praying this prayer, you can be assured that you are entering into a wonderful relationship with Him.

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have not been pure in thought, word or deed, and have lived far from You. Jesus, I do believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for my sin so that I might come before God Almighty and be acceptable to Him. I believe that God raised You, Jesus, from death and that You reign in heaven with Him. Just as I am, Jesus, I come to You, believing that You can make me a new person in and through the work of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I confess You as Lord of my life. Amen.

As you commit to the Lord, He will come into your heart and forgive you for all that you have done that was not in accordance with His will. Turn from the past, repent of all your wrongdoing and walk forward into a new life in His care. You are His beloved child, and He wants to be in a relationship with you.

Look for a local church and join in the fellowship of others who love the Lord. You will be welcomed; and as you join in fellowship with other believers, your life will be enriched through the loving care of the family of God, who have grown to love Jesus. Take part in prayer, Bible study and home groups, and you will grow and flourish as Jesus takes you forward on a wonderful journey of discovering the wonder of His abiding love.

May God bless you and keep you safe in His care. May you grow in your relationship with Him as He reveals Himself to your seeking heart. May you know His love enfolding and filling you, helping you and guiding you each day.

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, guard you and keep you safe in His loving care as you seek to live as His own from now on.

Now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God Almighty and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and take care of you, now and forevermore. Amen.

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