

**2nd Edition**  
 May 2014



**God won't take you where you're Character can't keep you**



**UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL!**

living Branch Ministries

**MINI SERIES**

Bringing My World Into Order

# NEWSLETTER



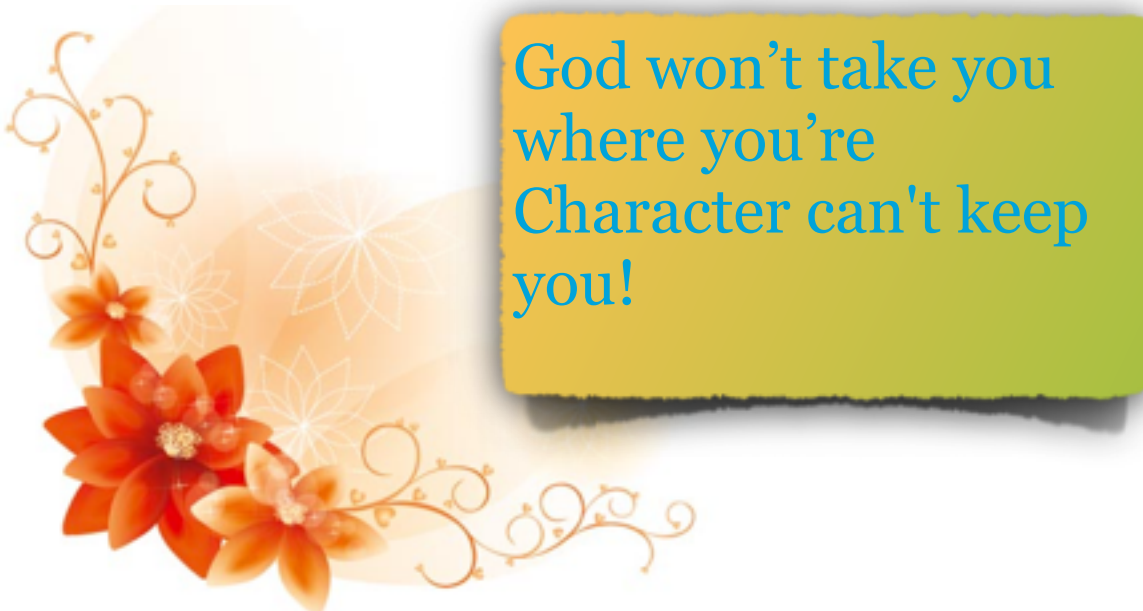
What do YOUR Character traits communicate to others about WHO you are?

We hope you enjoyed last found it to be of practical help in

months newsletter and your everyday life.

This months articles are intended to reinforce a positive Outlook and help us understand our purpose and plan to become more effectual stewards of the Word of God in our lives:

2 Cor 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ...

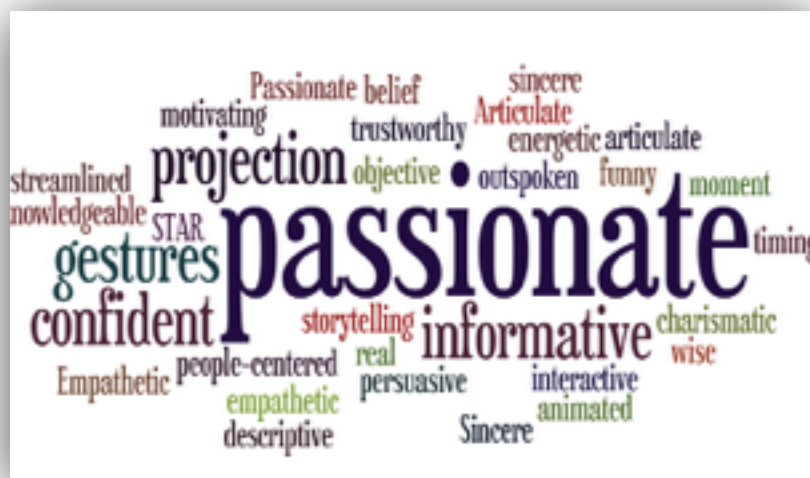


So, what is character? Character is depicted most profoundly by reflecting on 'who you are when no-one is looking!' Jean Paul Richter quoted 'a man never discloses his own character so clearly as when he describes another's!' Thus this lens reflects our own characteristics - are we positive and empowering toward others or critical and judgmental? Are we easily frustrated by other people's flaws? ...Yet the only person we have permission to examine is ourselves! [**Matt7:5; 2 Cor 13:5**]

A favourite bible many is **29:11** ...For I plans that I have declares the prosper you and you, plans to hope and a

This scripture is comfort for the facing the many yet we rarely see

contained within this promise truly reflected in the life of the believer! Even in the world it is recognised that a man who fails to plan is a man who plans to fail! No-one in the world ever became a doctor by happenstance; in all cases there was a vision, a plan and years of dedicated hard work in pursuit of this dream! God equips us with imagination, intellect and gifts to enable us to make our dreams come true ...but it is our responsibility to activate them! We need to pray into our vision, set goals and actively pursue the dream. Phil 3:13 reminds us that there is a high calling from God on our lives; we have a destiny and purpose for which we were uniquely created.



scripture for **Jeremiah** know the for you Lord plans to not to harm give you a future...

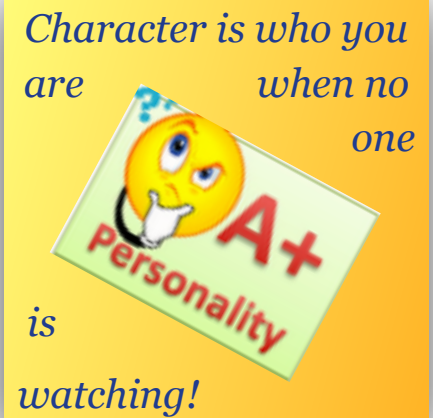
a great Christian trials of life, the success

**The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams - Roosevelt**

So what is it that makes the difference between those who succeed and those who don't?

**CHARACTER!**

Our divine purpose was genetically programmed into us alongside the gifts to perform - in its raw state this is our potential! Unfortunately fallen man has a very real enemy determined to oppose this plan of God for their lives; he sets up challenging circumstances and obstacles that serve to distract us from this mission of life. This opposition presents in the form of family circumstances, financial difficulties, offences, disillusionment, procrastination, distractions, addictions ... and many many more - even apparently worthwhile opportunities! *Not every opposition presents necessarily as bad or negative, but may simply be a good thing out of its position of priority in our life!*



The challenge for each of us today is 'Am I seeking the will of God for my life that I might fulfil my potential?' **Time** is a precious commodity that we need to value, because like money when it is gone it cannot be retrieved. **Procrastination is the thief of time.** Therefore, do I budget my time wisely? Have I evaluated my purpose to identify my dreams? Have I planned ahead and set personal goals to achieve this? **Psalm 90** tells us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to Wisdom!



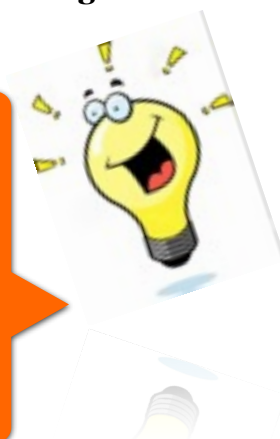
God is the perfect Father and will not take you where you're character cannot keep you. God's love is not conduct motivated, however He does reward the diligent [**Heb 11:6**] and holds us accountable for the gifts and talents He has blessed us with [**Matt 25**]!

God cannot promote someone beyond their character because it is dangerous for them. In preparation He spends valuable tutorial time nurturing us in order to keep us from harm (Through the Holy Ghost - our Counsellor; developing us and preparing us for the journey). Many men of God have run with their gifts without developing their character and consequently yielded to sin - to their hurt and downfall!

**A man/woman who has learned to walk in God's statutes will also have learned how to lean on Christ and cling to Him through the storm!**

### Consider!

A world-class sportsman [when he loses his nerve] does not lose his ability - but merely loses his focus and cannot now ACCESS that ability







God's Word tells us that we were each one 'fearfully and wonderfully made' in

'His image and likeness', yet uniquely formed for a specific purpose whereby we are the **best person in the world to perform that particular task!** This is mind blowing and most of us have not the capacity to fully comprehend the implications of this - nor the confidence to accept its truth! There are no valid excuses we can offer and there is no disability or impairment that He will accept because he knew the end from the beginning! Believe it or not there is not one single thing in your life that was, is or shall be a surprise to God! Yet it tells us in Romans that the gifts and callings of God are without repentance - that means he didn't change his mind about your purpose when He suddenly realised you had what you perceive to be a disability, impediment or barrier to your prospective success!

**Check out the amazing story of [Nick Vujicic](#) on you tube to get life into perspective!**

Here is the deal - **interviews!** There applications, a CV you do not require experience. Does everyone will fulfil destiny in life? God has called us but He designed us Him! His Word ought to study to approved onto need to be refined within the confines relationship with



needs to be prayed into and directions sought from the Holy Spirit. We need to align ourselves with the Word of God and live a lifestyle that reflects Christ.

**God doesn't do are no job is not necessary and previous this then mean that their purpose or Unfortunately NO! and equipped us, to co-work with tells us that we show ourselves Him. These gifts and developed of an intimate God. Our calling**

**God cannot work in the midst of rebellion or chaos!**

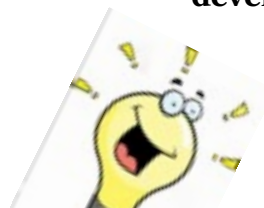
## The greatest tragedy of a human life is to never find the purpose for which he was created!

The original plan of God for mankind has not changed, however as a consequence of the fall in the Garden of Eden man was brought into darkness and became subject to the laws of thermodynamics - the entropy laws that caused everything to be subject to decay and a natural state of chaos. We can understand this better if we consider

**Genesis 1:2** And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

1. The first thing we notice is the earth was 'without form and void' [**no obvious potential - a shape with no apparent specific purpose**]
2. There was darkness [was obscure and vague]
3. This was a self-perpetuating state [**would not revert to order by itself**]
4. The spirit of God moved... [the **essential element** to bring order from this circumstance was God]

When we consider the finished product in Genesis we can see clearly that this was a process of **developing and reordering the 'potential'**. We can use this as a model to ascertain our purpose by first of all recognising that the original potential within us is initially in a state of disorder and therefore requires restructuring to bring its purpose to fulfilment in our lives. It is vital for us to realise that this state of disorder in our lives must be **intentionally** reversed!



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So, what is required from us to successfully bring order to our lives and establish our purpose?

- ▶ **Vision!** This illuminates the path We need to recognise 'chaos' is a constant threat on our lives attempting to take us off track - through ill health, marriage, finances ...any difficult circumstances set with an agenda to take us off course from our purpose!
- ▶ **The blueprint of our vision.** This needs to outline specifics ...Habakkuk said 'write the vision down'.
- ▶ **Lifeline and Navigator!** The guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ **Remain resolute!** Set and keep your priorities [if you are sure they are from God]

# living Branch Ministries

## MINI SERIES

### Bringing My World Into Order

#### PART 2

## KEY 2



Last time we looked at the first step we must take in order to bring our world into order - and the first key we established was to get reconnected to God! Without this vital step we cannot properly function in any area of our lives because we have not yet been made whole.

Because we have lived separated from God we must now learn who we were really intended to be and establish the very reason why we exist. To do so we must first make some necessary adjustments in our lives. Having established the truth and corrected our path we must now align ourselves with the original plan of our Creator for our lives. For many this will be quite a long journey but for all it is necessary to understand some of the areas we wish to eradicate from our lives to enable us to build a better future. Therefore today we will focus on the impact of stress on our daily lives. We cannot eradicate stressors from our lives but we can choose to deal with them effectively by determining an appropriate response to them!



### ALIGN WITH THE VINE!

**Dr Caroline Leaf** defined stress as our unmanaged reaction to disappointments or our response to any pressure balance. It causes our body

It is now widely recognised that between 75-98% statistics you use] of all behavioural illnesses are the are rooted in our thought less than 25% of all illnesses genetics or the environment. conclude that addressing us the heads up regarding We can conclude therefore **Emotions** and our **Attitudes**



that disrupts the normal to destabilise its equilibrium.

by all medical practitioners [depending on which current mental physical and result of stress and as such life! Therefore significantly can be attributed to diet It is logical therefore to this particular issue will give bringing balance to our lives. that our thought life, **Habits**, directly affect our mental and

**75-98% of all current mental physical and behavioural illnesses are the result of stress**



physical health. How we deal with stressors reveals a lot about our walk with Christ and whether or not we are abiding in Him and trusting Him 'through the storms of life!' The mind is our personal government; making decisions, choices – and setting the very standard for our lives! Remember, everything about us is with purpose and according to design; from our dietary needs to our spiritual needs! In the natural when we have abused the body and want to regain control we go to a specialist (Dietician, Weight Control groups etc); As spiritual beings we need to go back to God ... to lose the harmful spiritual influences we have permitted access into our lives. However we need to be willing and determine within to be obedient ...especially when it gets tough!

### How do we manage stress?

- ▶ **Identify the stressor** [is it's source internal or external?]
- ▶ **Evaluate your response** [is it managed or unmanaged?]
- ▶ **What is my attitude toward the situation and is it appropriate?** [frustration, anger, blame?]
- ▶ **What emotions am I feeling and are they irrational** [helplessness, anxiety, guilt?]
- ▶ **Are there any practical steps I can take to rectify this situation?**
- ▶ **Did I omit the answer? ...God is on the Throne!**



### Challenge:

Will I build a world of purpose and fulfil my God given destiny ...*because I was designed to be the 'best in the world' at it* ...or will I live a life of regrets for what could have been ...?

...What imprint will you leave behind?



### FINDING PEACE!

This all elusive concept has been at the root of addiction problems, anger issues and many medical, emotional and social problems in life, yet can be overcome through understanding and adopting an eternal perspective on life!