

# Character Comes *Through*

1. Where does character come from? Where does love or perseverance or joy or any of the spiritual virtues come from?
2. Love, or any other godly trait, doesn't come *from* you. It comes *through* you.
  - a. God is the Source of love. He wants his love to flow through you.
  - b. **1 John 4:7** *"Let us love one another, for love comes from God."*
  - c. Love originates with God. We are the channel, the conduit.
3. The good news for pastors, or brides and grooms taking vows of love, is that love, joy, peace, patience, etc.... are from God.
  - a. Now and for the rest of your life you don't have to manufacture them.
  - b. There are times when we think we have run out of love. "I just don't have any love left to give." "I have run out of patience." "I just don't have the strength to go on."
  - c. In light of these moments we need to be reminded that we didn't run out of love, we never had any to begin with!
4. The good news is that God is love. The Source is inexhaustible as ever.

**Revelation 3:18** (NIV) *I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.*

  - a. It is to him we must go to buy "gold refined in the fire." All **spiritual value** comes from God.
  - b. It is to him we must go to buy "white garments" to cover the "shame of our nakedness." All **spiritual virtue** comes from God.
  - c. It is to him we must go to buy "eye salve to anoint our eyes, that we might see." All **spiritual vision** comes from God.
5. Our task is not to produce love but to pass it along. Not to generate it, but to stay connected to the Source and to be a channel for the love and other spiritual resources that you have received from God.

**1 John 4:10-12** *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so love us, we also ought to love one another....if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”*

- a. By being the conduit connecting God’s love and strength and power to others, God’s love is made complete. What a privilege!
6. Character happens as we stay connected to the Source and let his love flow through us to others. Truly, character comes *through!*