

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST SERIES

THE ROLE OF EMOTIONS

We have been looking at the character of Jesus in this series. We have taught on many topics. For example, we have about 16 tapes on love. From time to time we touch on different topics as the Holy Spirit impresses upon our hearts. I believe the topics on love and the character of Jesus are vitally important. They are even more important than topics on prosperity, healing or any thing else. This is not to say that we don't need those things, but when we all get back to heaven, we will discover that the only thing that we bring back is not our wealth, not all that we possessed, not all that we gained, but the only thing that we will bring back to heaven is truly and only the character development in our lives. All the other things are only temporary for our comfort that God has provided for us on this planet earth. We need to major on those things that the Word of God says are major. And minor on those things that the Word of God says are minor. We need to know what our priorities in life are. And one of the reasons why we have gone on this series is that as we taught on other topics and we developed in them, we need to remind ourselves of the importance of holding fast to Christian principles and Christian character while pursuing life's goal in our personal life.

Lets look at the book of Acts chapter 8 for a moment. Acts 8: 9 *But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great.* This was before he was born again. After he was born again, the bible tells us that certain things happened in his life through the preaching of Philip in verse 13 *Then Simon himself also believed and when he was baptized he continued with Philip and was amazed seeing the miracles and signs which were done.* Simon became a believer, born again, baptized in water.

Do you know that there are a lot of believers who can believe, are baptized in water and even baptized in the Spirit and even been reading the bible and even been doing things in Christian fellowship, even been active in different areas, but there may be problems in their lives. That is why we are talking about Christian character. Such a person was Simon the magician and there were certain things that he desired wrongly. That is what we want to point out why our Christian character needs to be developed.

What does true Christianity consist of? I think there are more people who are stumbled by Christians than people being witnessed to by Christians. If all the Christians who are supposed to be Christians live like Christians, evangelism would be a normal affair. There are more Christians stumbling people than Christians who are witnesses to Jesus. And even new Christians who join a church sometimes are stumbled because there are varying standards even among Christians. We need to establish the standard in the bible, see how far we want to go with God.

In the book of Acts 8 there was the conversion of Simon. But apparently there was something not right in his life. When he saw the power of God that was demonstrated through Peter and John when they laid hands and the people received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, Simon in verse 18-19 *offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone that I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit"*. He offered money for the power. That was the way he used to operate. What were the purpose and the motivation, why does he want such power? No.1, he still wanted to have attention he had before he was born again. Remember it says here in verse 10 & 11 that he was a sorcerer, a magician who was used to the business of entertainment. He was almost like a Hollywood star and he was so used to that kind of attention. Now that he is born again, he was no more the star. Somebody else is now the star. Philip was the star. Peter was the star. John was the star. They were stars for God. He wanted the same thing, the same power but he had the wrong motives. His heart wasn't right. His method was also wrong. You can't purchase this kind of thing with money; you can't bribe God. All the silver and gold on this planet earth mean nothing to God. God could have easily created the whole world made from gold. Money doesn't move God. So his methods were wrong. His heart was wrong. And yet he was born again, baptized in water.

Today we have Christians who were baptized, born again, baptized in the Spirit and know the Word of God, yet they would have problem in bringing forth the character of Jesus in their lives. That's why we are teaching this series. What was the problem? In Acts 8:22, *"Repent therefore of this your wickedness and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you."* Then verse 23 is the revelation of what was going on in his life, *For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.*

The bible in other passages like Hebrew talks about the root of bitterness. If you look carefully bitterness is an emotion that affects the mind. And then there was sin and iniquity in his life. And all these things caused wrong thoughts to enter his heart and mind. Many modern people will deny it because our present world system is based on the intellect and education. But many people's decision-making is based on emotion. Some of it is based on intellectual processes but a lot of it is based on emotion.

When we are born again we need to differentiate between our emotion, our intellect and the Spirit of God guiding our lives. Many times we confuse the leading and missed the whole leading of the Spirit, even to the extend of putting the name of God in it. Saying that the Lord spoke to us. The Lord moved us. But it was our emotions and our own intellect guiding us. And what's the problem here. We need to point to a key role here. I will show you in the book of Acts that while the Spirit of God was moving, while the Word of God was being preached, the revival was going on, and the church was growing, emotions were still ruling people's lives.

Emotion can affect a person's intellectual process wrongly. Some of us may say that some people are just intellectually guided. And between intellect and emotion, let me tell you emotion wins. Emotion can cause your analytical processes to go in a certain direction. Between fear and intellect, fear wins. When you believe in something that is wrong, your mind operates and tells you the reason why it's wrong. When you believe in something that is right, faith reasons and tells you why it is right. Thus we see that both fear and faith have their own reasoning.

When the people did not want to enter the land of Canaan, they reasoned, they gave valid reasons and natural reasons. Let me encourage you in a fact that our intellectual finite mind is to be subservient to God's Word. We don't reason ourselves into the things of God. We allow God to give us revelation and understanding for our own education spiritually. But we don't depend on our mind. Otherwise Proverbs 3:5-6 doesn't fall through. It says *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path."*

It's important for us to take note of the fact there in the world between emotion and intellect. I have known the most intellectual people. When they fall in love with someone who is wrong, their reasoning is more often than not also wrong. The most intellectual people when they get emotionally involved in a property deal or in a financial deal, their intellectual powers go berserk. They reason their way into a wrong thing. The ability to reason is no guarantee that we will make the right decision in life. There is something bigger than our reasoning processes.

There are certain things that are directing our life and our decision making today.

No.1 There is a biological process that gives us energy to live day by day even as we obey natural laws and we feed our body.

No.2 There are emotional feelings that we have, which stem from our likes and our dislikes from our past, in our present and looking towards the future. We all have emotions and we feel those emotions.

No.3 We have the intellectual capacity to process information. We agree, we disagree, we see it, we don't see it, we rationalize, and we don't rationalize. Something we see we agree. Something we don't see we disagree. Whether we have sufficient information will hinder the analytical process. Sufficient or

insufficient information will hinder our intellectual process.

Let me tell you, the most important guideline in our Christian life is something in the invisible realm beyond our natural body, beyond our intellect, beyond our emotion. It is called our conscience, which is guided by the principles of God. The one direction in our life in all these decisions must be our conscience.

Let me just run through the book of Acts to show you how much emotion was involved. And how the devil uses emotions to mislead and misguide people. Apparently even in Acts 8, we saw that Simon was basing whatever he had on an emotion that he was feeling. The emotional need for recognition and the emotional need for greatness almost cost his life. Peter told him he was bound by iniquity and poisoned by bitterness even though he was a born again Christian in the church in Samaria. The revival was going on but his emotions were still there.

As we progress through the book of Acts we will show how emotions affect decision-makings. Although this is not in black and white, the undercurrents are there. Acts 4:1-2 *“Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, the Sadducees came upon them, being disturbed that they taught the people and preach in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”*

Why were they disturbed? Because of the preaching about Jesus. Why were they so against Jesus? From the gospel they felt that Jesus might take over all their authority. And if everybody believes Jesus there will be no more necessity for their existence. In fact one of them in the gospel stories says that if they don't stop Him, the whole world will go after Him. They have developed an irrational mind based on this emotional fear and jealousy. Many times emotional feelings cause the mind to be irrational. Don't try to use your mind when you are emotionally affected because your mind doesn't work properly during this time. Your mind began to reason wrongly. I mean people who want to sin reason themselves into sin. A thief will rationalize why he should rob. Don't try to use your mind when you are emotionally affected. Get your emotion settled first before you tap on the mind and allow God's Spirit to deal with your mind.

So as we look into the renewal over the last week we saw *hupomone* in the development of the soul and *makrothumia* in the development of the human spirit. How must these two forces develop our lives? Now we are getting into the details of it. As we deal with our lives, the first area to deal with is not just the mind, even though we have been preaching on the renewal of the mind. Let me express the fact that we need to renew our emotion. If your emotion is not dealt with, your renewal of your mind will still be affected because your reasoning will keep reasoning the wrong way. We need to be stabilized in our emotion before the renewal of our mind can take place. People who are emotionally unstable become mentally unstable and that's a fact.

It looks like it was just based on a doctrinal issue that these Pharisees were persecuting the apostles. If it was just a doctrinal issue, they would be willing to debate and reason it out. They had been emotionally affected, so that they tried to stop these people preaching. Look at it this way. If they were intellectually correct and if it were just a doctrinal statement that was different, why didn't they just stand up while apostle Peter was preaching and began to show forth from the scriptures that there was no resurrection from the dead? Why do they have to secretly pull these people aside and tell them not to speak about Jesus anymore? It was not an intellectual battle; they were emotionally motivated. These were the greatest intellectual people of those days; they were doctors of the law, yet they were ruled by their emotions.

Acts 5 in verse 1 we see a Christian named Ananias. *"But a certain man named Ananias with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it on the apostle's feet.* Why did he lie? He sold a piece of land and could have given part of the property and tell the truth that this is only part of the property. I have kept the rest for myself because I want it. Why do you think he lied? He did give something. What did he give? He gave a portion. Would there be anything wrong if he had told the truth and said this is a portion of the proceeds that I received. God blessed me with this land and I sold it. This is part of the money. Nothing wrong. It would be well accepted. God didn't compel everybody to give 100%.

But there was an emotional need for attention. Why do you think that they lied? They wanted the glamour from the people. They had an emotional need for attention and the devil used it to his advantage. The devil uses people's emotional needs all the time. When the devil wins your emotion he wins your intellect. Even in the study of the physical brain, the intellectual connective part of the brain is more in the cerebral cortex. The base of our brain has a stem, which rises into the intellectual part, which is over the forehead area. But do you know the base stem of the brain is the part that controls your emotion? Your intellectual physical position is resting upon the emotion. You could say that the intellectual part of the brain can suppress the emotional part. Try it, but after sometime it explodes. Emotional victory is not won through intellectual suppression.

Why do some of the most intelligent students who score 'A's all the time, crack under examination pressures and become funny? We have ministered to some. They scored 'A' all the time and yet suddenly they cracked. Was there anything wrong with their intellect? Let me tell you what was wrong. Their intellectual part was trying to suppress their emotional part and it doesn't go for long. You may get away with it for a short time. But in the end the emotion will explode and the intellectual doesn't function anymore.

We need not only the renewal of the mind, but we also need the renewal of the emotion in God to develop the character of Jesus in us. I am sure Ananias and Sapphira used their minds. They used their minds to plot. They used their mind to cheat. They used their mind to reason out. They used their mind to rationalize. But their intellectual reasoning was motivated by their emotional need for recognition. That's all - they just needed to be recognized. Satan used it. Now we begin to see why some Christians' characters need to be dealt with. We need as much renewal in our emotion as our intellect to live a Christian life.

Let me show you problems in the book of Acts arising from an emotion not properly dealt with. In Acts 6:10, *And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he (Stephen) spoke.* They could not match Stephen intellectually. Stephen's emotions have been dealt with; he was filled with the Spirit and he was a

good man. His intellect has been renewed and he could reason the work of God calmly. Now the Pharisees and the Sadducees of his time opposed him. They could not intellectually rise to his level because the Holy Spirit has anointed him. The Holy Spirit can easily anoint your intellect as well as anoint your emotion if you learn how to yield.

And then in Acts 7:54, “ *When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.*” People who gnash their teeth don’t do it because of their intellect. When someone gnash his or her teeth that is not an intellectual argument. That is an emotional distress signal. When Stephen won the battle through the word he spoke and by the intellectual wisdom given by the Holy Spirit, their emotions were stirred up. That was when they were so angry. They wanted to kill Stephen. People who kill people don’t do it because of intellectual reason. They do it because they are emotionally affected . When people kill one another, murder one another and plot all these things, they use their intellect. But their intellect was being governed by emotional need.

In Acts 7 it was stirred up emotion that caused the outrage. In verse 57 *Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord.* People who are not emotionally affected do not raise their voice. They were emotionally affected in verse 57. If they were not emotionally affected they would say that they will now deal with Stephen very calmly. That’s all – they would be very intellectual and objective about it. They would just surrender him to the proper authorities, find proper legal grounds to prosecute him and get him appropriately sentenced. No, they had been emotionally affected and they dragged Stephen out, took stones and threw at him and killed him.

Let me give you a little observation here. Crowds are affected more by emotion than by intellectual arguments. When you have a big crowd and you want to affect the crowd, don’t affect the crowd by intellectual arguments alone. You affect the crowd by emotion. That shows you how at the base of all human civilization are the emotional needs that only Jesus the Prince of Peace can meet.

Acts 9:1 *Then Saul breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord.* Saul was a very intellectual man. He had reasons and he had great reasoning powers and he did not accept the disciples of Jesus. The great intellect among the greatest at Paul's time was Gamaliel and he knew that in the end the truth would win. You don't have to get emotional about it. Why didn't Gamaliel go about killing people? He was one man who did not allow his emotions to rule him. In fact Gamaliel was one of the keys to release the apostles. Acts 5: 38, *"And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it – lest you even be found to fight against God.* That is a very reasonable man and a man unaffected by emotions.

That should have been the stand of the Pharisees and Saul if they were emotionally unaffected. But apparently their intellectual argument was not enough. Saul was also emotionally affected. He went around killing people. It is the emotions that come from the base stem of our brain that are ruining many peoples' life.

The reason why we are teaching this is, if we are Christians, born again, these things should not govern us. The Spirit of God who resides even deeper than the base stem of our natural mind and brain should govern us. We must learn to tap on that and not on those emotional things or wrong rationalization.

(Interestingly, for a very long time I have always wondered why in many cases of people who come to me for deliverance, I see a demon attached to the base of his or her neck. Now I understand that if the demon can control the base of your brain stem, he can then control your emotions, and thereafter he can then control your decisions and choices you make. If you have spiritual eyes that can scan the spiritual realm, you would be able to see a demon or demons holding tightly onto the base of the neck of emotionally troubled individuals. One of the areas that should be prayed over when people come to us for deliverance is the back of the neck. In many deliverance and ministering sessions on a one-to-one basis, this area is often overlooked. The person should be asked to repent of any action or ground that he has given to evil or to the devil emotionally. Wrong emotional choices. Emotional outbursts. Emotional depression. Covetousness, avarice, lust, sloth, vanity, pride, have their roots in unhealed emotional needs, and must be renounced and repented. Then authority can be taken over the demon and his controlling

activity over the patient can be broken off.)

Acts 9:39, *“Peter arose and went with them and when he had come they brought him to the upper room and all the widows stood by him weeping showing their tunic and garments that Dorcas had made while she was with them.”* Here is a scenario of a good woman who died and those lives that she touched have been emotionally affected. They were weeping and crying because now they missed her. Emotions were involved and in verse 40 Peter put all of them out. Because when you get emotional you cannot listen to God. Peter had to listen to God whether God wanted Dorcas to be resurrected or not. And if you don't put aside emotion you cannot discern God's will. Forget about trying to discern God's will. Forget about your intellectual argument and your rationalizing even if you quote the bible. You get emotionally about it and you quote the bible, it is useless. You are twisting and turning the bible for your own end. Get your spirit and your heart right with God first. That is why among the hardest things for you to discern in your own life, are the things you get emotionally affected with. Better get an outside person who is not emotionally affected to give the view. And don't try to get other people who are emotionally affected to side with you. Don't play with emotion. In the end when the dust has settled only the Kingdom of God rules and reigns. And only the truth prevails.

Acts 10:46 *“For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Peter answered can anyone forbid water that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”* Now if it had been a group of Jews he wouldn't have said that. He would say straight away, baptize them with water. They were Gentiles and Peter had an emotional affectation toward the Gentiles. In fact he argued with God, when God was trying to show him that He had accepted the Gentiles as part of His plan of salvation. Acts 10:14 it talks about the 3 visions he had. In the end in verse 21, three Gentiles came to see him. The first thing that Peter said when he preached the Word in verse 28 was motivated by his emotional upbringing to regard the Gentiles as unclean people. Acts 10:28, Peter said, *“You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation.”* That was an unnecessary statement, a statement based on tradition and based on the fact that he was still a bit fearful.

I need to point to Gal.2 to show the extent that fear can play in his life of being a Jew mixing with Gentiles. Peter was so fearful of the Judaizers (that is, Christians who believe that they must keep the Jewish laws) that when he saw them coming, he purposely kept away from eating with the Gentiles. Paul had to rebuke him for this hypocrisy. Gal 2: 11-12 *Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.* Peter in a sense can't help it because he was brought up as a Jew. The things that we find hardest to overcome are emotions that are ingrained in our lives over 20 years or 30 years. It's very difficult to deal with deeply ingrained prejudices. That's why Christian character is slow in being perfected in Christian life. There are things we are so steeped in, in a wrong way.

Peter was emotionally affected. On one hand he eats with the people, when the Jews came he suddenly doesn't want to eat with the people. He was not basing his action on biblical reasoning. His action was based on emotional response. And this is a great apostle we are talking about. Even apostles have emotions. We need to understand how the character of Jesus can be developed in our lives. But let's watch the people in the bible and learn from them. If Paul didn't stand up to Peter's fear-motivated hypocrisy, his action of not eating with the Gentiles may have become an example, a method and even a denominational doctrine. All because of one man's emotion. How we need to renew our emotions as much as we need to renew our minds.

Acts 13, as Paul begins his first missionary journey, they had the first measure of success when they preached in the synagogues. Acts 13:15, Paul on a Sabbath day after the reading of the law and the prophet and he was given a chance by the rulers of the synagogue to preach. Paul rose up and started preaching. When Paul started preaching in verse 42, *So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them on the next Sabbath.*

Look at what happen in verse 43. *Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.* Nothing happen the first day. Verse 44,

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the Word of God. The Jews had been existing in the city for many years. They have never got such crowds before. Suddenly overnight these unknown fellows called Paul and Barnabas were getting tremendous result.

What were the human emotions? In verse 45, *But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy.* This was their secret reason. They were filled with envy. The real reason was that they were jealous of Paul. Sometimes you can discern that there are emotions running wild among the members in a particular church or fellowship, especially if someone among them is greatly used by God. The emotions are so wild that the Spirit of God cannot anoint the church or fellowship. The devil is able to use such wild emotions to further his dirty tricks. Sometimes if you don't realize it, the devil uses our emotion to trap us and bring disunity and strife to the church. He cannot get us at our minds because we can reason with God's Word. But our emotion is a trap door and through it he finds a secret door to our life. And through our emotion he begins to rule and reign in our life and we become unwittingly the instrument of Satan to prevent somebody else from doing God's will, God's work. How dangerous emotions are if we don't allow Christian character to rule and reign there.

Here is the main reason, the bible says so and we can't question the bible. The bible says the main reason is that they were envious and jealous. They never tell people, "I am jealous that's why I don't like Paul." But it says *contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.* They started using the intellectual processes to argue, to go against, to reason, to blaspheme, to use scriptures, to use Old Testament against Paul. Anybody with a normal IQ is capable of doing these things. But underneath are envy and jealousy, the unspoken reason. How dangerous emotions are. The devil uses it to hinder. We are all reading the book of Acts. We all know who the hero is and who the bad guys are. We all know but in life today there are heroes and there are bad guys. We know in life there are good people and there are bad people. There are emotional people, intellectual people, and all kinds of people. Your life story hasn't finished yet. We need to know how not to be affected by the wrong thing in order for God to perfect His will. Because in 20 years' time we may discover what the good way was and what the bad way was. It may be too late. Our stories may be recorded like this and we are shown as a bad guy, all because of emotion. Such a simple little thing as emotion needs to be

dealt with so as to allow God's character to grow in our lives.

Lets look at the book of Acts. The same Jews became envious of Paul's success. In Acts 14:19, they followed Paul everywhere he went and they persuaded the multitudes to stone Paul. They traveled all the way, and that cost money, that cost planning, that cost intellectual rationalizing to do that. All because of their jealous emotion they go so far. When people get emotionally affected they use their I.Q. for a wrong thing. They reason, dot upon dot, letter upon letter. A lot of people fighting in the courts today are not fighting what is right and wrong in principle. A lot of them are fighting because of emotional stress and emotional disagreement. They are using intellectual processes. They are using the legal system; they are using the brainiest lawyers. They are using all these things because their emotions have been affected. The whole wastage of millions of dollars over an emotional need. We Christians should not be that way. We need to know that we should not be that way. And show that we should be prepared to let the Christ like character come in our life. We don't need just the renewal of the mind. We need the renewal of our emotion.

In the book of Acts, in the second missionary, in Acts 15, but just before it began in Acts 15:39, then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another and so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus. If I were to quantify the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas, the intellectual argument was that Paul didn't want Mark to follow them because Paul wanted someone who was steady. Mark had earlier abandoned them during a missionary journey and had returned to Jerusalem. But Barnabas wanted to take Mark along. Paul was arguing along intellectual lines, but Barnabas was arguing along emotional lines. You see, Mark and Barnabas were related. When you are related you see things differently. For example, if somebody is your friend, you have been eating with him every Sunday, or you have been meeting 3 days every week over lunch. There is no doubt if somebody says something wrong about that person, the first thing you do is to get emotionally affected before you get intellectually affected. Because of our emotional bonding, we click together.

We need to mature enough to be able to respond to things beyond our emotional bonding around us. Look at things that are alike in the scriptures. To me that is an

emotional based argument. Paul must have got affected emotionally also because later on Paul wrote that Mark was a benefit to him and somehow they got over it. That just tells me that in the midst of revival the human instruments have emotion and sometimes they argue, sometimes they fight, sometimes they don't show their Christian character and this is the book of Acts we are talking about. The greatest revival was going on and Paul and Barnabas were having one of their arguments over Mark. Was God still there? God is still there, but God all the time has been working in our lives trying to perfect our lives to respond in a right way. Let me say something here. It's not possible to have an argument with somebody who doesn't want to argue. How do you argue with a person if the people don't want to talk? It takes two to fight.

Acts 16, we read about the Philippi church having the gospel. And there was this small little girl in verse 16, slave girl possessed with a demon. And the demon was sort of recognizing the authority on Paul's life. The masters in verse 16 made much profit by fortune-telling, when Paul cast out the demon, verse 19, *But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.* I want you to know that the book of Acts is very brutal in presenting the facts. The real reason is that they got no more profit from the girl but the legal reason they give to have Paul in prison are these. In verse 20-21, *"These men being Jews exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."* There was nothing in their reasoning that mentioned their grief and their hope of gain gone.

If you experience life long enough, you will know that deceptive people will never give you the real reason for their actions. The thing about people who are immature is the thing that such people don't know their underlying emotional motivations. Listen very carefully; you can try to convince human beings. Sometimes you can even succeed, but you can never outwit God, He sees right into the heart. The reason why you do something, there may be a hidden reason that is emotionally motivated but outwardly there is a legal reason you can give, an outward reason and a nice reason. Lets not fool ourselves. When will we be honest inside and outside? When will we call a spade a spade? When will we be truthful to ourselves and to those around us? And the story of Christianity is a story of truth and honesty. Not lies and deception.

Acts 19, there was a revival going on. But underneath the revival there were also different things involved. The emotions of people were being affected. Acts 19:24, one of the biggest revival taking place, but the devil was going to stir up opposition through emotions. *“For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation and said, “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.” Verse 27, “So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed.”*

But the real reason is because their profit is being affected. Who is to fool whom? The real reason is that their sales volume is being affected. If Paul was making money for them or helping them make money and Diana was still being reduced, they would not have said a thing. Money was their god; Diana was not their god. Diana was an excuse to make money. Money was their god. And when they started losing money, it is when, look at verse 28, *“Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath.”* Now, their emotions were stirred up.

An example of one who can be intellectual without emotion is found in verse 35-38 *And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. He was trying to calm their emotions. For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. Therefore if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. Go and judge them, see them in the court. Why cause this riot? Now this city clerk was a fine example of someone who disagreed with Paul, who may not be with Paul, who may be against Paul. But who was not emotionally affected.*

The difference between him and the others was that these other fellows in verse 28 were full of anger. They were emotionally affected and they cried out and they said, *“Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”* So the whole city was filled with confusion and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul’s travel companions. And then they all gathered together. No one knows the reason for what was happening. It was just confusion.

In verse 31, *Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theatre.* In verse 32, *Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the whole assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together.* In verse 34, *But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians.* It was all emotion and the devil was using it. These are rational intellectual people. Some of them may be people of high I.Q. but it was emotions that rule the day.

Verse 34, they cried with one voice for about 2 hours. Imagine for 2 solid hours saying this silly statement great is Diana of the Ephesians. These must be mad people, chanting away. They were not doing that due to an intellectual argument, they were doing that based on emotional display.

Now I have rested my case. There are others too. I can trace through the book of Acts and show you how emotions have affected the work of God. Sometimes among God’s people and sometimes among the opposition of God’s people. At the root of things there is not only the need for the renewal of the mind but also the renewal of the emotion. How then shall we rule our life? To remove our emotions is to be less than a human being. We can’t exist without emotion.

It is important to know where our major life force must come from. Where does our major life force, which is invisible come from? The key is the conscience. When you get emotionally affected by your business, by a deal, and your intellectual mind is “tick-tocking” away, calculate 3 to 5 years time, you would have that answer. Have you listened to your conscience and asked whether this or that is not right? Yet how many businessmen would rather ignore their conscience and rationalize

away their actions? They are emotionally affected by greed, compromise, but they don't tell you as such. But they never listen to their conscience in their heart that says wrong, wrong. They never listen. Let me encourage you the basic of Christian character revolves around the development of our conscience. You can still have your emotions but you learn to put them under control. The basic is your conscience feeling or sensing what is right and putting aside your emotional feeling and rational argument.

Let me just ask you. As you stand naked in the light of God's presence, do you really think that this is right? If we were to guard our lives that way, we will be a better people. Not only that, God will bless you.

Now that was the way Paul run his life. He may have emotion, but at the root of it, this was his life: he listened to his conscience. Acts 23:1, "*Paul looking earnestly at the council, said, 'Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.'*" His conscience was his guide.

Let's connect this to the teaching on *hupomone* and *makrothumia* and show how these two forces affect our lives. It has to come to this point in Heb. Chapter 9 &10. Heb.9: 14 before you can do any works for God. In verse 14, *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*" There is no way you can serve God in this life without your conscience. If you want to serve your own life go your own way with your emotion. If you want to live your own and be the god of your own life, live your own way intellectually. But if you want to serve God, there are many times where our emotions have to bow to our conscience. There are many times where our intellect has to bow to our conscience. Where intellectually you can't really see it because we look through a glass darkly. Emotionally you can't really feel that but you know deep in your conscience what is right and what is wrong. And you keep to the level in your decision making. Sometimes against your own emotion you make the decision, because you know in your conscience what is right and what is wrong. That's the way to guard your Christian life.

Heb.10: 22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in, here’s the key word, *full assurance of faith*. Remember we said that *hupomone* and *makrothumia* work together to give us that fullness necessary for developing the Christian character in us. And part of the achieving of that fullness is through our conscience. If you do it through your emotion in the end it becomes empty. You do it through your intellect in the end it becomes empty. When your conscience began to rise, there will be a sense of godliness, a sense of deity, a sense of God’s nature in your life, sense of the character of Christ operating through your life. And you will be filled with God’s presence. Heb.10: 22 *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water*. Our conscience needs to be trained by the Word of God and by the Spirit of God. The Christian life is a story of training of the conscience and as the conscience is trained, it becomes godliness.

II Peter 1:3-4, “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.” The purpose of God is that we be conformed to Jesus Christ. You partake of the divine nature and the same process as we saw in Rom.5.

Now coming to II Peter 1:5 onwards, *add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance (that is hupomone), to perseverance (hupomone) godliness*. Godliness is where *hupomone* has its perfect work. Your emotions are held steady by godliness. Remember *hupomone* is a process in your soul. And here the word *godliness* is not from the word *theosebeia* but is from the word *eusebeia* which means godliness. It is from the word *eu*, “well,” and *sebomai*, “to be devout,” denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him. That is a devoutness and devotion that comes from a true godly character. This godliness is from the human response or from the human angle. The divine angle is the one with the word *theosebeia*. *Theosebeia* denotes the fear or reverence of God, and is from *theos*, “god” and *sebomai*, “to be devout”.

Here is the word '*Eusebeia*'. And that's where *hupomone* develops your character and your conscience develops until your conscience follows after God. One step at a time we begin to learn the process. It is not easy on your emotions or all your intellect when you begin to follow what is right. The world may think that you are foolish, the world may think that you are doing the wrong way, but our advice to you in all your decisions of life, if you want to develop Christian character, let go of your emotions, let go of your reasoning and follow your conscience. You will never be wrong. Your conscience has to be trained by the Word of God and through the Spirit of God through prayer.