

People in our day are not asking—

"Is Christianity true?"

Today they are asking—

"Does it really make any difference?"



provides the answer!

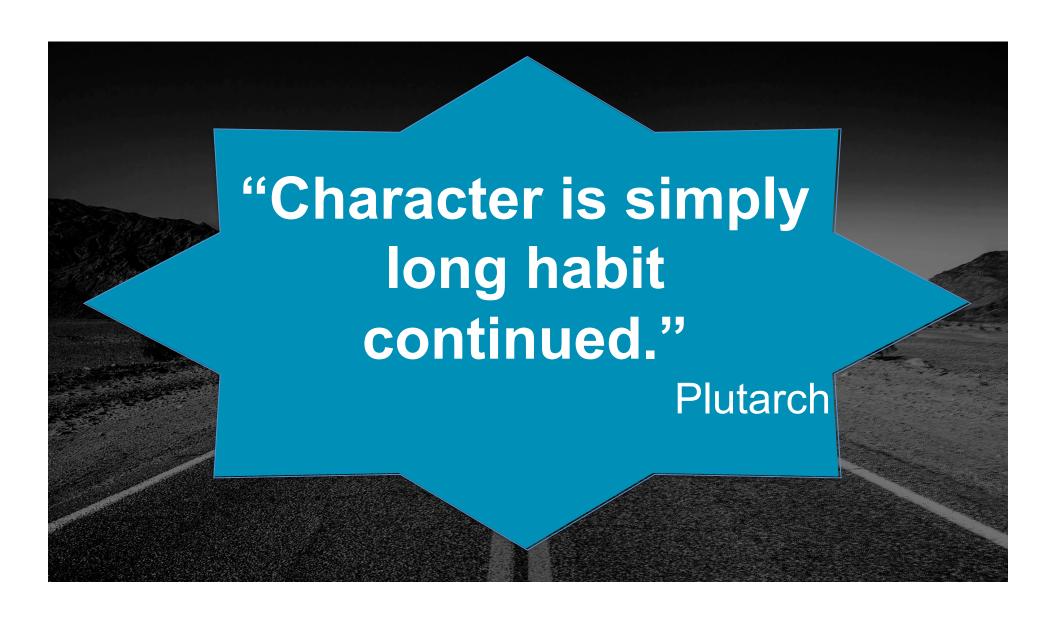


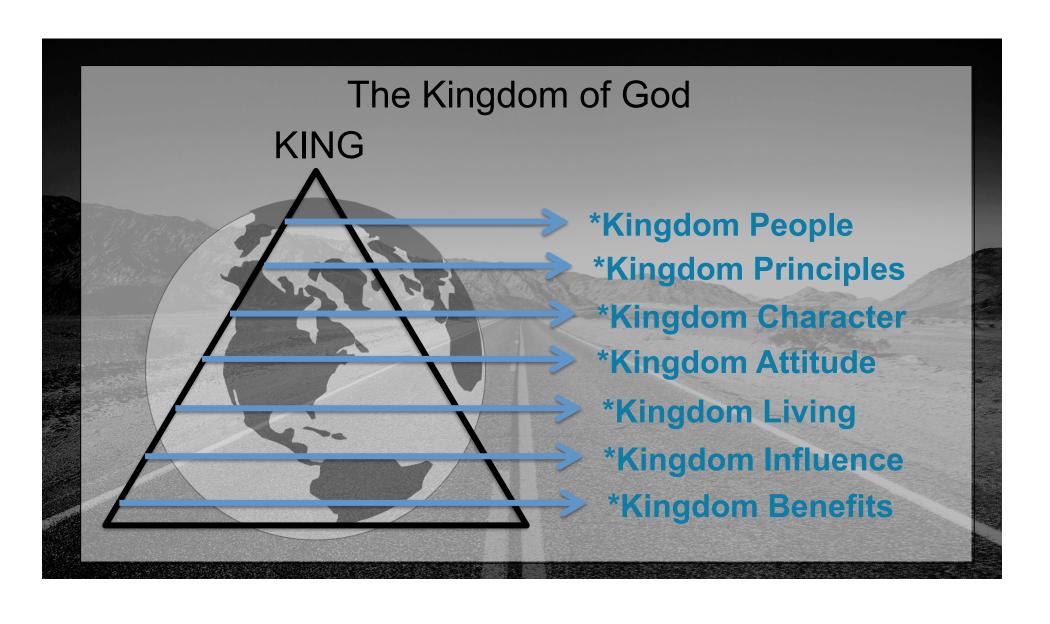
"Only what we have wrought into our character during life can we take with us."

Humboldt

"Fame is a vapor;
popularity an accident.
Riches take wing;
those who cheer today will curse tomorrow;
only one thing endures—
C H A R A C T E R."

Horace Greeley







- It's BEING before DOING
- It's CHARACTER before CONDUCT

What you are is far more important than what you do. What you are determines what you do!

Jesus desires to prepare us to make a difference in the society in which we live.

THE NEW PLAN IS
THE NEW PERSON

8 Secrets of Spiritual Success



"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is The Kingdom of Heaven..."



"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."



"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."



of the Christian life.

The final four secrets represent the

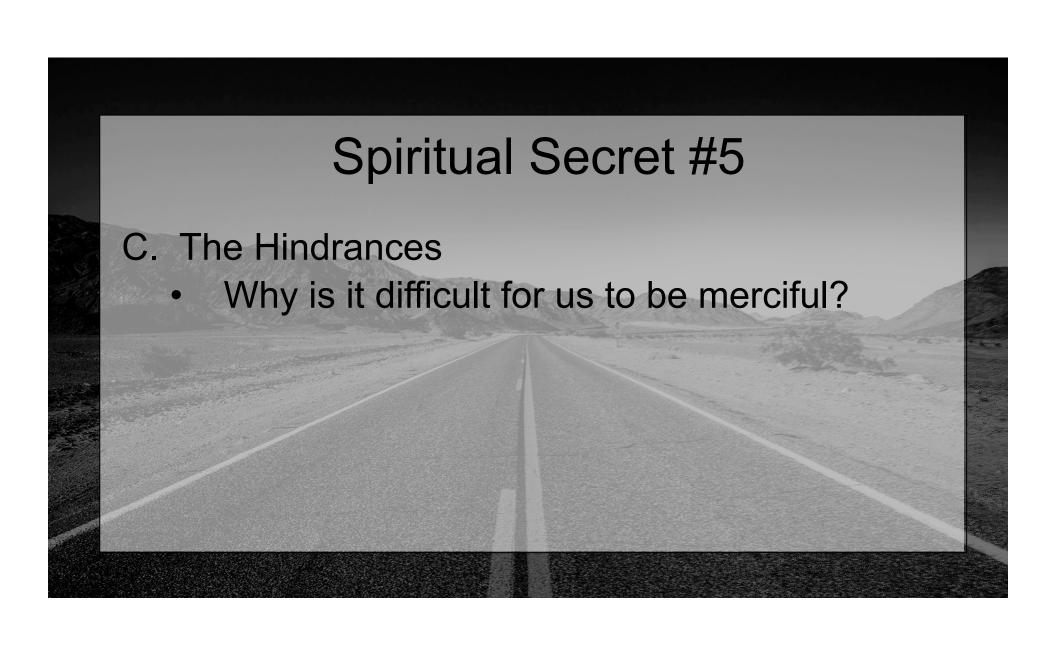
"FRUITS"

of the Christian life.



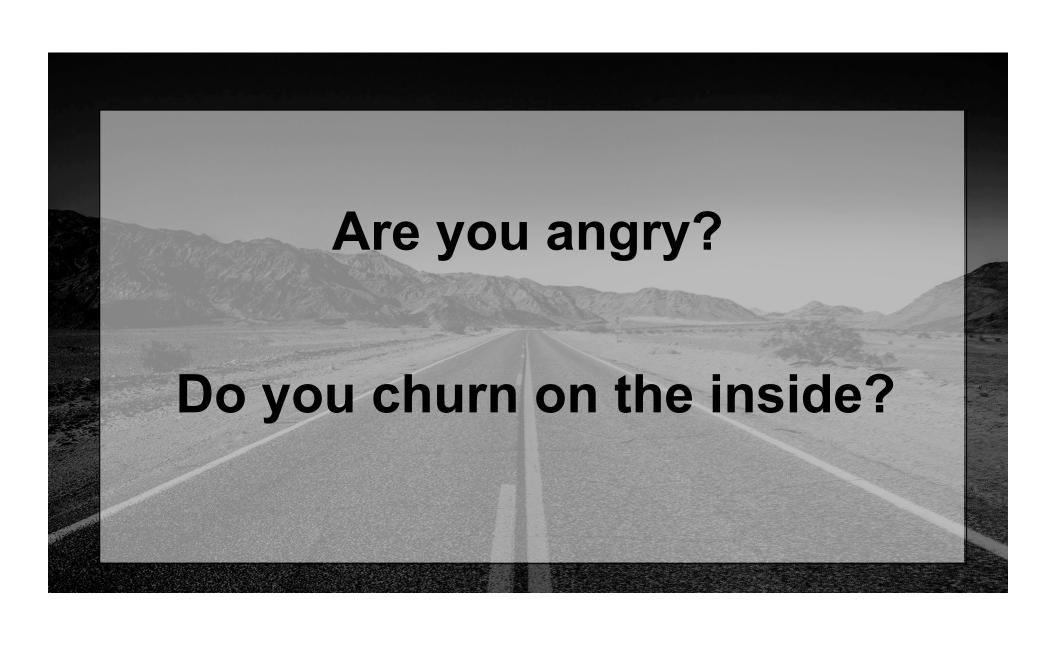
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

- A. The Background
- B. The Meaning
 - Merciful --- The ability the get right inside the other person's skin, until we can see things with their eyes, think with their mind, and feel things with their feelings.



- 1. We have not experienced the deep character change that the Be-Attitudes bring—
 - > "Poor in spirit"
 - > "Mourn"
 - > "Meek"
 - "Hunger and thirst for righteousness"

- 2. Because we aren't changed, we are chained by:
 - > Resentment
 - > Hatred
 - > Revenge
 - > Bitterness
 - > Selfishness
 - > Insecurity



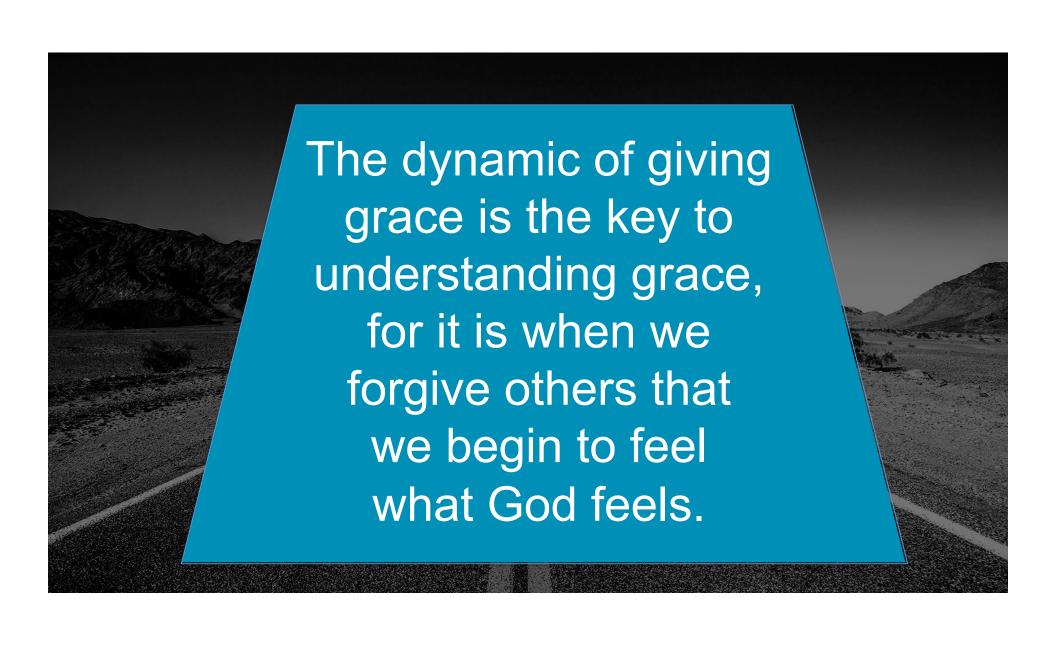
REEMEBER:

- > Resentment is when you let your hurt become hate.
- Resentment is when you allow what is eating you to eat you up.
- Resentment is when you poke, feed, and fan the fire, stirring the flames and reliving the pain.
- Resentment is the deliberate decision to nurse the offense until it becomes a black, furry, growling grudge.

Unfaithfulness is wrong.

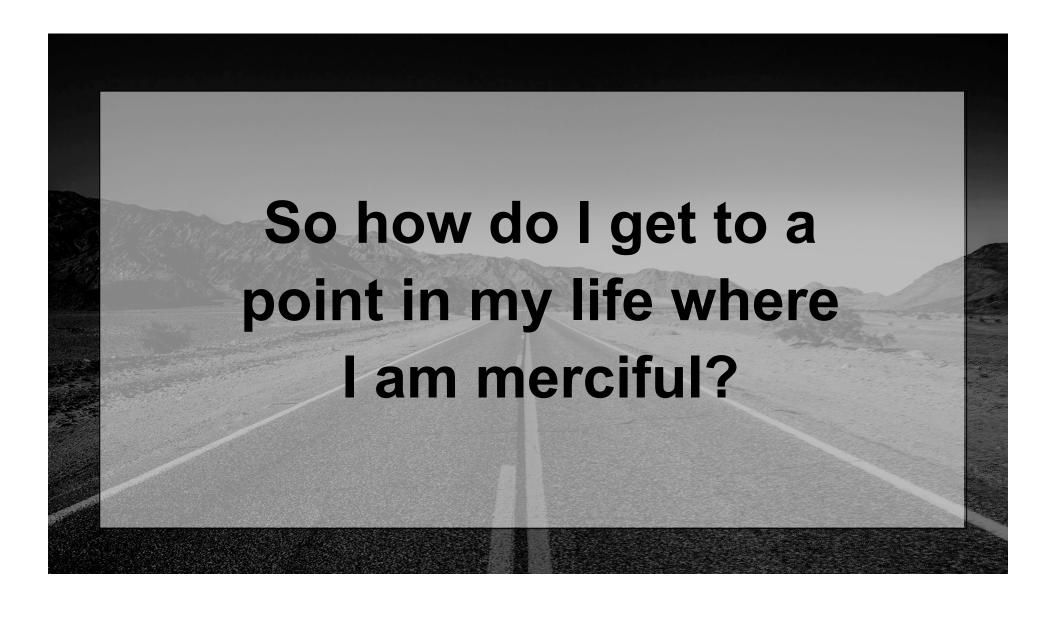
Revenge is bad.

But the worst part of all is that, without forgiveness, bitterness is all that is left.





- D. The Examples
 - 1. From the Bible
 - 2. From personal experience



When you realize His mercy and grace for you – and you know you don't deserve it, but you need it, and you experience it – Then you are in a position to show mercy."



"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."