

Series: **STRONGER IN CHARACTER: A GOOD NAME**

Topic: **A Good Name: The Value of Integrity**

By: **Pastor Godman Akinlabi**

Text: **Proverbs 22:1**

Date: **Sunday, 3rd June, 2018**

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. – Proverbs 22:1 (NKJV)

We have a choice whether to have a good name or not. A good name is to be chosen. Read what Proverbs 22:1 says in the Message Translation of the Holy Bible: ‘*A sterling reputation is better than striking it rich; a gracious spirit is better than money in the bank.*’

We live in a time that issues of character, integrity and holiness are taking a back burner while issues of breakthrough, prosperity have taken the front row. A lot of young people in today's parlance are '**blowing**' their way and '**hammering**' out of the kingdom.

Holiness is God's chief attribute, thus, it is important to ask if this (holiness) is still at the forefront of our minds. God expects us as His children to live out his Holy character.

The reward of bad character will show up quicker than you think. Daniel lived in comparable times as the one we live in now; he lived in the midst of corruption and corrupt people but He chose to stand out, as seen in *Daniel 6:1-5 (NKJV)*:

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”

God is counting on us to change the psyche of our nation. Daniel stood out. Can God bank on us? Can He expect a cleansing of our sphere of influence through us? God wants us to be part of what He's doing in our day.

Four cardinal qualities from the life of Daniel

- i. Excellent attitude; being cantankerous is not an attribute of a good Christian.
- ii. Faithfulness and diligence at work; you cannot claim to be holy and do your work nonchalantly.
- iii. Personal purity of the highest calibre.
- iv. Consistency in His walk with God; Jesus said pray that you enter not into temptation. How often do you pray as a believer?

We have to separate religion from a consistent walk with God. There is a difference between embracing religion and living a godly life.

For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! – II Timothy 3:2-5 (NKJV)

They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! – 2 Timothy 3:5 (NLT)

The message of grace is not a license to sin. The fact that we are not under the law does not make us lawless. Lawlessness will yield a riotous life. Apostle Paul, the proponent of grace, said the following in *Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV)*: ‘*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*’

Grace is an internal empowerment that works from within out. When empowered by the Holy Spirit, you will know what is wrong and what is right. We must guard the faith we have received jealously. A life of moral uprightness and character can only be lived by the power of God.

Nigeria will only change when Christians have a collective breakthrough through pervasive righteousness. God is counting on us as believers to change the face of our environment. Have a choice to do and live right!