

CHARACTER COUNTS PT 2

The image features a solid blue background with a gradient from light blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom. In the bottom right corner, there are several white, parallel diagonal lines of varying lengths and thicknesses, creating a sense of motion or a stylized graphic element.

Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not **look at the things man looks at**. Man looks at the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks at the heart**.

1 SAM 16:7


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*“What is man that you make so much of him,
that you give him so much attention,
¹⁸ that you examine him every morning
and test him every moment?
¹⁹ Will you never look away from me,
or let me alone even for an instant? Job 7:17–19*

CHARACTER ISSUES ARE HEART ISSUES

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*Surely you desire truth in the **inner parts**,
you teach me wisdom in the **inmost
place**. Ps 51*

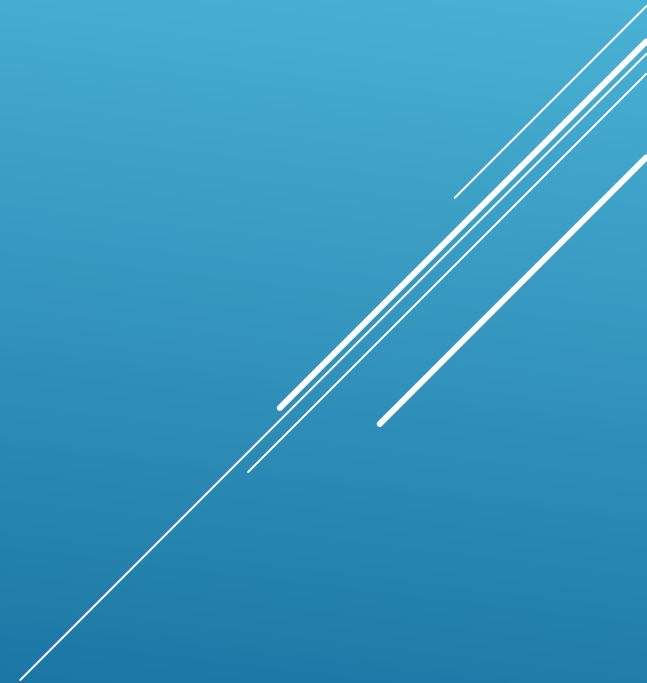
The image features a solid blue background. In the bottom right corner, there are several white, parallel diagonal lines that create a sense of movement and depth.

O LORD, you have **searched** me
and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar. Ps
139:1-2



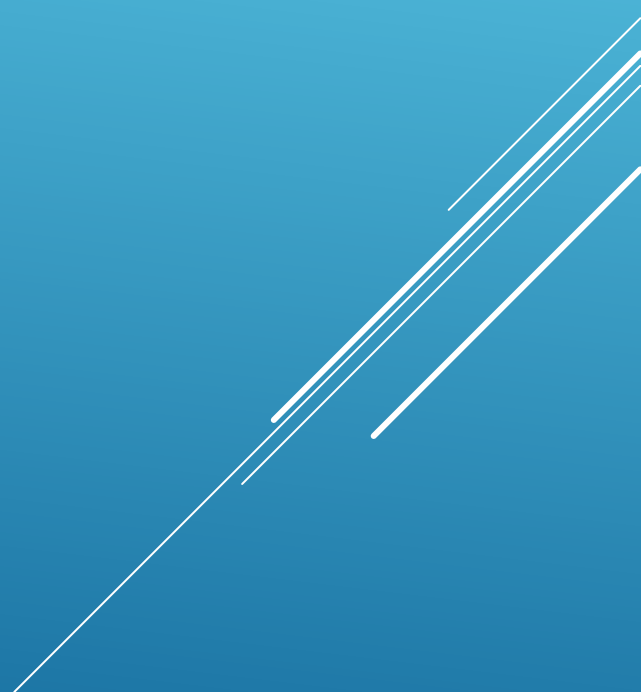
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. Ps
139:23-24



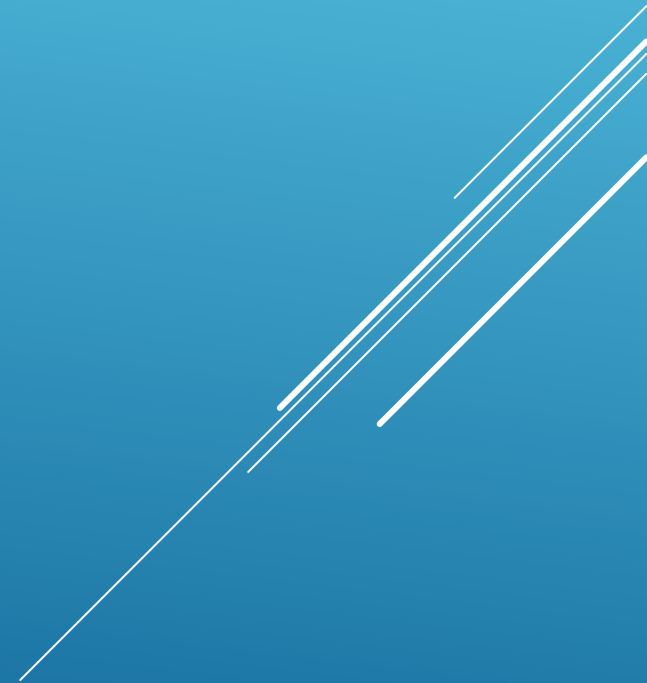
- ▶ *Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come 2 Cor 5:17.*

CONVERSION – THE FOUNDATION TO
CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

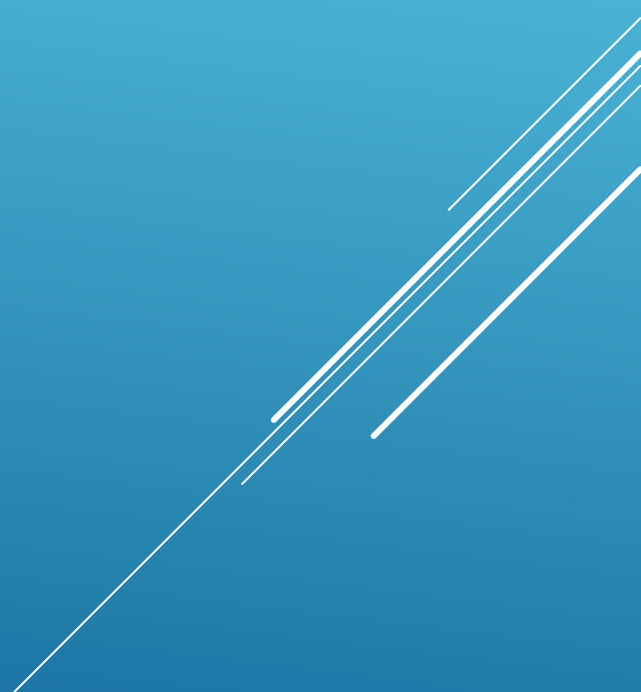
- ▶ **In Groups, Discuss the Question – What is it about a new believer that is different? What all has “become new”?**



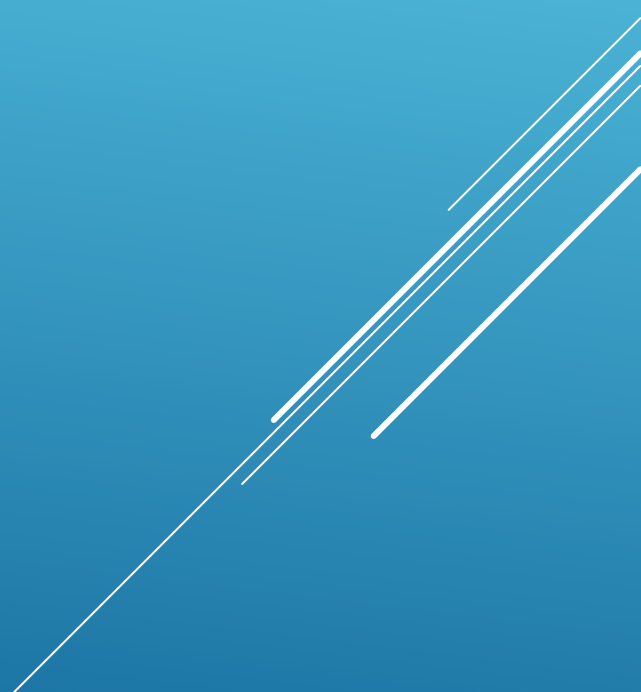
- ▶ Conversion is an event
- ▶ Conversion is a process



- ▶ **Have you known believers who knew nothing about the process?**



- ▶ Repentance is more than just saying I'm sorry or even being sorry.





- ▶ Think of a difficulty where you blew it
- ▶ Imagine you are face to face with the Lord.
- ▶ He asks you – “Why did you not follow me in this situation?”
- ▶ What would your answer be?

SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

- ▶ *⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God Phil 1:9-11*

CHARACTER FORMATION

▶ *What is the difference between character and behaviour?*





▶ **Behaviour trains me to become character**



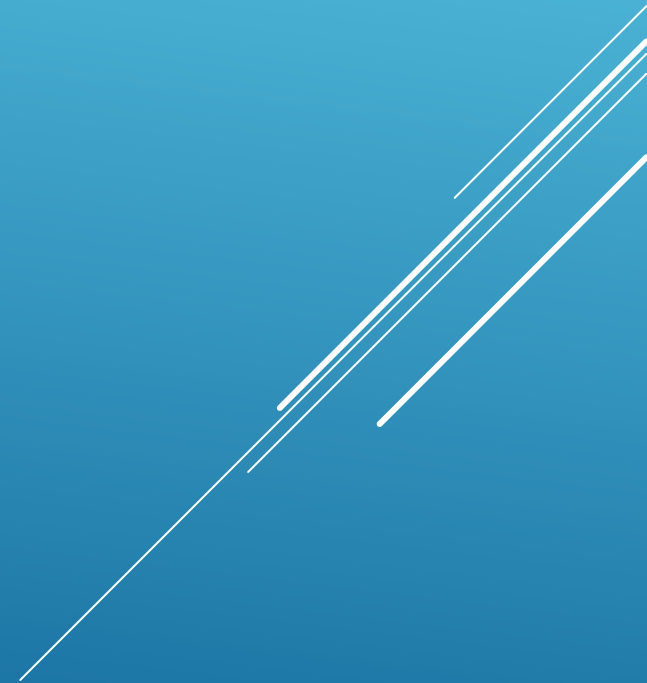
- ▶ negative behaviour in heavy traffic?
- ▶ self-defensive when someone is giving me constructive criticism, or even non-constructive criticism?
- ▶ guy has trouble looking a girl in the eye, especially when she is wearing revealing clothing?
- ▶ not reporting cash gifts and honorariums to Can Rev Agency that I as a pastor receive?
- ▶ Spending 6 hours a day with the TV or computer (after work)
- ▶ Watching porn

NAME THE MISSING OR WEAK
CHARACTER QUALITIES

At the centre of Christian character



development is the cross.



▶ Repentance – change of action,
direction, mind and heart.

Repentance is much more than
saying I'm sorry.



▶ *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

ROMANS 12:1-2

▶ *¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

1 COR 6:19-20

▶ *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*

EPH 5:18-20

- ▶ Think of character weaknesses you have. Begin to put a plan together on how to strengthen those characteristics.

PERSONAL HOMEWORK

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