

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

As Described in *The Desire of Ages*

Inspired words remind us that “Christ is sitting for His portrait in every disciple” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 827). “Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 69).

This spiritual transformation is accomplished only by turning our eyes away from ourselves and toward Jesus. Ellen White writes, “It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 83).

Start by reading the Gospels and prayerfully meditating on the Savior’s endless love. The following passages from the book *The Desire of Ages* will also help you understand and appreciate His divine character more deeply and fully.

HIS COMPASSION

- Page 86 He always manifested a loving interest in men and shed about Him the light of a cheerful piety.
- 87 He worked to relieve every case of suffering that He saw.
- 90 He spoke words of sympathy as He saw weary men compelled to bear heavy burdens.
- 90 The life of Christ was marked with respect and love for His mother.
- 92 The healing power of love went out from Him to the sick and distressed.
- 151 He manifested an interest in men’s secular affairs.
- 173 He spoke with solemn dignity, and both look and tone expressed such earnest love that sinners were not offended as they realized their humiliating position.
- 254 His tender compassion fell with a touch of healing upon weary and troubled hearts.
- 254 His character expressed love in look and tone, and a sweet, sympathetic spirit.
- 255 When He saw men refuse the message of peace, His heart was pierced to the very depths.
- 319 His heart, that loved and pitied, was a heart of unchanging tenderness.
- 356 His heart overflowed with love for the human race, but He never became indulgent about sin.
- 356 He who taught the people the way to secure peace and happiness was just as thoughtful of their temporal necessities as of their spiritual needs.
- 402 His love was not to be circumscribed to race or nation.

- 462 He sought not to condemn but to save. He spoke words of comfort and hope.
- 511 He was a lover of children. His gentle and kindly manner won their love and confidence.
- 533 His tender, pitying heart was ever awakened to sympathy by suffering.
- 678 During every hour of His life on earth, the love of God flowed from Him in irrepressible streams.

HIS UNSELFISHNESS

- 69 His life revealed the grace of unselfish courtesy.
- 70 From His earliest years He was possessed of one purpose: He lived to bless others.
- 86 He labored earnestly for humanity.
- 90 He was always sacrificing Himself for the good of others.
- 208 He was so emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself.
- 389 He was so fully surrendered to the will of God that the Father alone appeared in His life.
- 576 He did not manifest selfish sorrow.
- 642 His whole life was a life of unselfish service.
- 643 He did not think of Himself. His care for others was uppermost in His mind.

HIS TACTFULNESS

- 73 Jesus carried into His labor cheerfulness and tact.
- 151 He reached the hearts of the people by going among them as one who desired their good.
- 151 His strong personal sympathy helped to win hearts.
- 171 He did not meet argument with argument.
- 253 He made truth beautiful by presenting it in the most direct and simple way.
- 254 He had tact to meet prejudiced minds.
- 515 In all His contacts with rude and violent men, He did not use one unkind expression.
- 535 When He reproved, His words were spoken with the utmost gentleness.
- 594 It was not His purpose to humiliate His opponents.

HIS HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS

- 74 He shunned display.
- 88 He did not strive for worldly greatness, and in He was content even the lowest position.
- 89 He did not contend for His rights.
- 91 He weeded all vanity from life.
- 137 He took no measures to bring Himself into notice.
- 138 His manners were gentle and unassuming.
- 261 In that life there was no noisy disputation, no ostentatious worship, no act to gain applause.
- 330 He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment.
- 571 He remained true to the humble lot He had accepted.
- 735 His features expressed gentleness and resignation and the tenderest pity for his cruel foes.

HIS PATIENCE AND COURAGE

- 88 He never manifested an impatient word or look.
- 89 In His work He was willing and uncomplaining.
- 89 He did not retaliate when roughly used but bore insult patiently.
- 89 He never became discouraged.
- 330 He was still of good courage when amid the greatest opposition and most cruel treatment.
- 364 He was not impatient even though interrupted and robbed of rest.
- 619 He spoke no words of retaliation.
- 700 His heart was patient and gentle and would not be provoked.

HIS PURITY

- 72 Neither gain nor pleasure, applause nor censure, could induce Him to consent to a wrong act.
- 72 He was wise to discern evil and strong to resist it.
- 88 He hated but one thing in the world, and that was sin.

- 88 He could not witness a wrong act without pain, which it was impossible to disguise.
- 90 His presence brought a purer atmosphere into the home, and His life was a leaven working amid the elements of society.
- 243 He was the embodiment of purity and dwelt among men as an example of spotless integrity.
- 253 His language was pure, refined, and clear as a running stream.
- 254 He was surrounded with an atmosphere of peace, even amid the turbulence of angry enemies.
- 330 In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace.
- 587 His life was a rebuke to men's sins.

HIS DIGNITY AND MANLINESS

- 69 In principle He was firm as a rock.
- 88 He possessed a dignity and individuality wholly distinct from earthly pride and assumption.
- 173 He spoke with solemn dignity.
- 356 He never purchased peace by compromise.
- 581 His enemies read love, benevolence, and dignity in His calm, solemn face.
- 742 Even under disgraceful treatment, He bore Himself with firmness and dignity.

HIS DILIGENCE AND INDUSTRIOUSNESS

- 72 In His industrious life there were no idle moments to invite temptation.
- 72 He was perfect as a workman, as He was in character.
- 86 He labored earnestly for humanity.
- 206 A wise purpose underlay every act of Christ's life on earth.
- 362 His life was crowded with labor and responsibility.

HIS MINISTRY

- 89 He would not enter into controversy, yet His example was a constant lesson.
- 91 He passed by no human being as worthless but sought to save every soul.

91 To the discouraged, sick, tempted, and fallen, Jesus spoke words of tenderest pity.

92 He would not betray secrets that were poured into His sympathizing ear.

151 In every soul He saw one to whom must be given the call to His kingdom.

152 He did not sermonize as men do today.

205 As people heard His words they were warmed and comforted. He spoke of God not as an avenging judge but as a tender Father.

253 He had nothing to do with subjects of dissension. It was His work to present the truth.

253 He taught the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority.

254 He was earnest rather than vehement.

291 He loved to gather the people about Him under the blue heavens, on some grassy hillside, or on the beach beside the lake.

336 He rested by faith in His Father's care.

362 His life was crowded with duties, yet He was often found in prayer.

434 He taught men not to place themselves needlessly in antagonism to established order.

451 He was not presumptuous, nor would He rush into danger or hasten a crisis.

594 It was not His purpose to humiliate His opponents.