



Outer Growth - Traits

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Colossians 3:12

Think - Proverbs 23:7

Related - Proverbs 27:17

Act - John 8:4

Influence - Proverbs 22:24-25

Talk - Proverbs 24:2

Spirit - Psalms 106:33

Traits. There is an old saying, "Like father, like son." However, there is also "Like mother, like daughter." In every human being, there are good traits and bad traits. However, these characteristics are revealed as we grow from being young, developing towards becoming an adult. Many traits are recognized within the individual's personality and character that may stem from family or family bloodline, social circle, and other personal environments.

The traits we received and what we allow to "put on" ourselves will define us, and amongst the public. These distinctive characteristics establish who we are and how we act. The first trait all humans gain is sin. Unfortunately, this iniquity began in the Garden of Eden. "For all have sinned

and come short of the glory of God, as in Romans three, verse twenty-three.

The other traits from this sin are that the woman will have to bring forth children, as in Genesis three, verse sixteen, "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children." Also, people have to work instead of receiving from the Garden of Eden freely. "Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field," as in verse eighteen of the same chapter.

Traits can be "put on" us by how we think. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

The Israelites were delivered out of Egypt through God's servant, Moses. However, coming out of bondage from Pharaoh and the Egyptians, they did not expect to encounter issues of basic needs as they journeyed through the wilderness in pursuit of the promised land. God's people began to murmur about water in Exodus fifteen, verse twenty-four, then recall the food from Egypt in Exodus sixteen, verse three, "And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we had eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth in the wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Despite all that God had done for the Israelites, they were quick to lose faith in His goodness, His wisdom, and His will for their lives. Their thoughts reverted to the conditions in Egypt under bondage when they were fed over there. They anticipated the same treatment out in the wilderness. Believers should be careful not to think their past experiences will surface again under the direction and will of God.

However, saints should trust in the Lord that He will take care of all things as they journey with Him, even though it might not be exactly the way it was before.

Unexpected traits can surface through the relatives within the family. It is so sad for

people who claim they love their family and go above and beyond to try new things that would be so detrimental to their lives and their future generation.

This true story of a man who had nine kids with eight different women told this situation that happened with one of his daughters one day while he was working. During his break time, one of his daughters came to ask him for some money. His response, "Why don't you go get a job? You go and get pregnant and have three kids, and come asking me?" The daughter responded, "I made three mistakes in the past, well, look how much you made," referring to the number of kids he has with those ladies he had.

The phrase "Actions speak louder than words" means that you can tell more about the kind of person someone is and what their intentions are by what they do and not what they say. The actions of a person are a trait that all should carefully pay attention to, especially when taking care of younger siblings within family, friends, or job-related. Older folks like grandparents and in-laws, looking after younger kids, are the ones who need to be careful. How we live and behave can impact the personality and behavior of the younger ones, even though they do not see the bad habits or how they live when they are not around them. The most common response from people who were looking after kids within the family as they grew older: How is it that the child behaves this way or that way, and they never see how I live?

Jezebel, for example, was the wife of her husband Ahab and a mother to her daughter Athaliah. When people hear the name "Jezebel," they often associate it with a figure from the Bible who is notorious for her wickedness and defiance of God. She arranged for an innocent man to be falsely charged and executed, as in First Kings twenty-one, verses one through sixteen. Athaliah, Jezebel's

daughter, rivaled the wickedness of the kings that came before and after her, as in Second Kings eleven, and Second Chronicles twenty-two to twenty-three.

Athaliah counseled her own son into his devilish schemes in Second Chronicles twenty-two, verse three. When Athaliah received word that her son was dead, she seized the opportunity to lay claim to the throne that her deceased son was on by attempting to murder all her grandsons, which are her own son's kids. Where did she learn these evil activities? What made Athaliah do such an evil act against her own family?

Again, "the actions speak" from where this way of life came from in the beginning? Her mother, Jezebel. Did the Bible say that Athaliah was present when Jezebel killed an innocent man, Naboth, for his vineyard? Yet, this daughter of Jezebel did such an evil act. "Like mother, like daughter." Only God knows the degree of such traits a child may receive from their parents or guardian. It is important to note that it is not the outside they see that a parent needs to hide, because it is the spirit within that spends time and connects with the one who is being cared for that needs to be monitored.

Traits can come from the social circle or environment that we have spent the amount of time.

Many parents will complain about the company their kids encounter and have friends with today. To avoid and not enter into any familiarity with an individual prone to do mischief, there must be no association or getting close to them, because it can change the course of life for the child or kid. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners," as in First Corinthians fifteen, verse thirty-three. This trait can create temptation leading to imitation: once a person starts something new, that turns out to be a bad image will make it difficult to stop.

In the Old Testament, anybody causing such a severe negative influence on others in the community, the king would get rid of them, including the entire family. Daniel survived in the lion's den due to the conspirators who were operating against him with their mischief to influence the king into making a law against the servant of God. However, after the survival of Daniel in the lion's den, the king commanded these people who conspired against him and Daniel to be put into the lion's den, the entire families of each member who contributed to this evil plan, as in Daniel six, verse twenty-four. Why? The men's minds were contaminated with such mischief that the king did not want such people around to spread that mentality and influence on others within his environment, especially a king who oversees a nation.

Traits in how we talk, such as slang, conversational rhythm, and expressions, can be copied from parents, family, and peers.

Rehoboam, in Second Chronicles ten, had a decision to make as a king, concerning the servants work load they received daily. He received counsel from the old men, his father Solomon grew up with, and also counsel from the young men he was raised with when his father was king. Rehoboam asked in verse nine, "And he said unto them, What advice give ye that we may return answer to this people, which have spoken to me, saying, Ease somewhat the yoke that thy father did put upon us?" Rehoboam gave favor to the counsel of the young men in verses eleven to twelve, resulting in verse thirteen. "And the king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men." Therefore, the king repeated what the young men said in verse fourteen. "And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with

whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

A true story of a worker who witnessed two others from the same district working alongside each other on the job. However, the younger one had no family, while the other one was older and did have a wife and kids. However, the younger one noticed that the older one did not use much slang or street talk during conversation. The younger one got mad and said, "What's wrong with you? You talk too soft!"

Then the younger one began to teach the older man to say this, say that, until days later, the older one began to talk like the younger one. The older one told the worker who witnessed that he was having problems at home with his wife and kids. "A little leaven, leaveneth the whole lump," as in Galatians five, verse nine.

What one person can do to affect an entire family.

Traits transfer not because of the outside, but really from the inside out. A human being contains both spirit and body. And it is the spirit from within that can affect the other person. What a person says, what a person does, comes in through our senses and affects our spirit and mind. It is the same way traits come to another. It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life," as in John six, verse sixty-three.

Therefore, this verse proves that when a person speaks, it can affect the spirit of another and change their course of life if they accept what has been given.

Traits, good or bad, will be discovered. However, what they are do come from somewhere. Therefore, what we "put on" ourselves will either do us good or do us bad. Again, traits we gain might not be clear, but as time continues, it slowly develops and become clearer to others, and may not be so to us. Traits can be a traitor in our lives.