In *A Resilient Life*, Gordon MacDonald tells of the lesson he learned while stranded in an airport.

“Character doesn’t always result in the kind of success we expect. We don’t develop character because it brings success; we develop it because it’s the right way, the God pleasing way to live.”

- “Praise be to the God . . . who comforts us in all our troubles.” – 2 Cor. 1:3-4
- “When I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone . . . I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so.” – 2 Cor. 11:9
- “Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned.” – 2 Cor. 11:24-25

Paul’s accusers made 5 charges.

1. He was insincere (1:12)
2. He was deviously unclear (13)
3. He violated Jesus’ teaching (15-17)
4. He was power seeking (24)
5. He was malicious (2:1-4)
Paul’s response

1. He accepts the accusations as good tests.
   • Sincerity
   • Clarity
   • Consistency with Jesus’ teaching
   • Empowering vs. power seeking
   • Has our best interests at heart

2. He uses the accusations to examine his life (v. 12)

5 As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul’s family came out. His name was Shimei, and he cursed as he came out. 6 He pelted David and all the king’s officials with stones. 7 As he cursed, Shimei said, “You man of blood, you scoundrel! 8 The Lord has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. 9 Then Abishai said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head.”

11 David then said, "Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. 12 It may be that the Lord will see my distress and repay me with good for the cursing I am receiving today.”

-2 Samuel 16:5-13

Lessons from David and Paul.

• If there is criticism, listen for God.
• If there is truth in the criticism, listen and learn.
• If there are sins or issues that need to be addressed, do it.
• Leave the outcome to God (Rom. 12:19-21).

Four signs of Christian truth . . .

I. IT WILL MAKE ME TRINITARIAN (2 Cor. 1:18, 19, 22)

II. IT WILL SHOW ME THE FATHER’S CARE (2 Cor. 1:18)

III. IT WILL DECLARE GOD’S “YES” OVER ME BECAUSE OF HIS SON (2 Cor. 1:19-20a)

IV. IT WILL ENABLE ME TO SAY “AMEN” (2 Cor. 1:20b-22)
CONCLUSION

Christian integrity means we are . . .
1. Above board in our relationships
2. Clear and trustworthy in our word
3. More interested in serving others than in being served

Christians live like this because we . . .
1. Know our Father cares
2. Find our worth in the Son
3. Experience the Spirit in our lives