Traits of Great Men

“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?”
Proverbs 20:6

“And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?”
Job 1:8

“For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.”
Luke 1:15

“Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”
Matt 11:11

**Definition:**
1. You nor your family can measure your greatness: you must grow in favor with God and good men.
2. God has given Hebrews 11 as a report card for many great men, who are watching us (Heb 12:1-2).
3. There are great men by human standards (II Sam 7:9), but we measure by His rule from the Bible.
4. Great men avoid meltdowns or folly (Ec 10:1). They cut losses before they are in a crushing event.

**Purpose:**
1. We begin a new year in a few days, and we should be committing and planning to be great in 2010.
2. God looks for single men who will stand and be counted for Him against compromise (Eze 22:30).
3. If you are sick by the carnality, sins, or dysfunction of others, then condemn folly by greatness.
4. There is only one way to take care of yourself for old age, sickness, and death … greatness now!
5. This next year may be the last year you have by death or the Lord’s return. Make it count greatly!

**Benefits:**
1. This is how you glorify God and Jesus Christ during your short life … aim for greatness for Him.
2. This is how you build His kingdom and church and benefit the lives of all those around you.
3. This is how you accrue God’s blessings in life: if you are great for Him, He will be great for you.
4. This will surprise the carnally minded and weak … this is how to maximize your own happiness.

**Reality:**
1. You can do this: it is not a matter of ability, but rather a matter of your commitment and choices.
2. You can do this: it does not take much to stand out while living among effeminate compromisers.
3. You can do this: some pretty weak and sordid characters made it to Hebrews 11 by their faith.
4. You can do this: through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Ghost.
5. Everything in your past can be blown away with proper repentance, restitution, and reformation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIT</th>
<th>DEFINITION &amp; DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>Great</th>
<th>Losers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KEEP HEART</td>
<td>The basis of all speech and action is the heart, so great men keep their heart with all diligence, from it comes your whole life (Pr 4:23; Matt 12:35).</td>
<td>David Daniel</td>
<td>Saul Demas</td>
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<td>MEEK</td>
<td>Humility, modesty, submissiveness; patient and peaceful in injury. Content with backseat; unruffled by foes; avoids public acclaim (Mic 6:6-8; Ep 4:2).</td>
<td>Moses Paul</td>
<td>Diotrephes</td>
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<td>LOVE</td>
<td>Affectionate compassion and sacrificial service to others - a more excellent way to serve God than as an apostle (1 Cor 12:28-31; 13:4-7; II Cor 12:15).</td>
<td>Paul Eliphaz Jonah</td>
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<td>SERVICE</td>
<td>Getting outside yourself to help others, who cannot repay; the greatest in the kingdom are servants (Matt 20:25-28; 23:11-12; Luke 14:12-14; Ac 20:35).</td>
<td>Gaius Philemon</td>
<td>Mark</td>
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</table>
RICH  
Financial prudence is the goal to work hard, control expenses, and save to build estate and help others (Pr 11:16; 21:17; 20; Ep 4:28; I Thes 4:11-12).  
Job  Abraham  Nabal  Rehoboam

GENEROUS  
Cheerful and quick liberality in giving; the opposite of stingy; it involves a supernatural principle that blesses or curses men (Pr 11:24-28; II Cor 9:6).  
Barnabas  Araunah  Judas

SPEECH  
Rule your tongue to avoid foolish talking, harsh or impetuous words; only a few perfect men rule the tongue (Ep 5:4; Pr 17:27-28; 21:23; Jas 1:19; 3:2).  
David  Nabal  Ishboseth

WORSHIP  
The desire, delight, and action of praising God for His nature, works, word, which should be a joy and priority for every believer (Ps 37:4; Jer 9:23-24).  
David  Snuffers

LEADER  
The conviction, confidence, and commitment to get out in front of family, friends, or church and be an example of walking with God (Ezek 22:30).  
Abraham  Joshua  Rulers

PRAYER  
Consistent supplication of God for blessing on church, nation, and family for spiritual and natural needs (I Thes 5:17; Col 4:2; Jer 15:1; Ezek 14:14).  
Daniel  Joshua

VIRTUE  
Virtue is manly strength to be holy, noble, and pure in life against your own lusts and the tempting offers of the world toward sin (II Pet 1:5; Ps 24:4).  
Joseph(3)  Amnon

INFLUENCE  
Are you a tree of life to others? Family, friends, colleagues, neighbors? Do they respect your life and want to emulate you and learn more (Pr 11:30)?  
Cornelius  Lot

FAITH  
Belief, confidence, and trust in God overcoming the world, circumstances, doubts from the devil, and others’ negative thinking (Heb 11:1;6; I Jn 5:4).  
Abraham  Thomas  Saul

GRACIOUS  
We are to be kind, modest, agreeable, friendly, and charming as the servants of Christ (Col 4:6). And this form of speech will pay dividends (Pr 22:11).  
David  Jesus  Nabal

ZEAL  
Passion for the things of God consuming your heart, life, and activities, so that you stick out to the average as strange (Ecc 9:10; Gal 4:18; Col 3:23).  
Phinehas  Jehu  Ephesus  Laodicea

HOSPITABLE  
Why do you have money? To help others (Eph 4:28). Why do you have a house? To entertain and house others (Heb 13:2).  
Abraham  An inn

HONESTY  
All dealings with all men should be in scrupulous honesty and truth, so that your person and words are absolute trustworthy (II Kgs 22:7; Tit 2:9-10).  
Jacob  Ananias

COURAGE  
The boldness and confidence to do what needs to be done without regard for what men or circumstances may do (Josh 1:1-9; Pr 29:25).  
Caleb  Jael  Peter  Pilate

PATIENCE  
Suffering or enduring pain or trouble with calmness and composure; it is continuing without quitting in the face of difficulties (Rom 12:12; Gal 6:9).  
Job  Stony

THANKFUL  
Instead of complaining and whining about things, and instead of thinking too much, give yourself to thanksgiving for everything (I Thess 5:18).  
Jacob  A leper  A butler  9 lepers

GENTLE  
Mild in disposition or behavior; kind, tender, courteous. It is a fruit of the Spirit; we are to be tenderhearted; and Jesus was gentle (Jas 3:17; Tit 3:2).  
Joseph  Zeruiah

DILIGENCE  
Life is short, and you should do everything with your might. Why pace yourself? God will bless the diligent (Pr 22:29; Gal 6:9; I Cor 15:10).  
Jeroboam  Sodom

TEMPERATE  
Self-discipline is necessary for greatness in any endeavor. The world seeks a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible one (I Cor 9:24-27).  
Daniel  Paul  Demas  Samson

FOR SIGHT  
Great men look ahead, not just work, eat, play, and sleep everyday. They are looking to help family and church in the future (Pr 6:6-8; 13:22; 22:3).  
David  Rich man

NEIGHBOR  
Hiram  Ahab  Edom

PRUDENT  
Some procrastinate, take risks, stay unorganized, ignore the future, etc. But others guide their affairs with discretion (Ps 112:5; Pr 13:23; 17:18; 24:27).  
David  Flood

CONTENT  
The world measures success by lots of stuff, but God measures by how happy you are with what you have (I Tim 6:6; Heb 13:5; Pr 30:8; Phil 4:11).  
Agur  Ahab  David

ANSWERS  
You must be able to teach others and defend the truth, and this is not hard, if you pay attention and practice (Pr 22:17-21; 24:26; I Pet 3:15; He 5:12-14).  
Elihu  Aquila  Hebrews

HOLY  
God is holy, and great men must be holy as well, which is to avoid sin and hate it in every respect (I Pet 1:14-17; II Cor 6:14 – 7:1; I Thes 4:3-7).  
Joseph  Lot

JUST  
This is fairness, where you deal fairly with all, doing what is good and right, without partiality for any reason (Is 59:14; Col 4:1; Jas 3:17; Matt 1:19).  
Joseph  Abner  Joab

PEACEFUL  
God and good men love peace, and great men are peacemakers whenever they can calm tempers or cause reconciliation (Matt 5:9; Eph 4:3; Jas 3:18).  
Barnabas  Saul

FAITHFUL  
Can others rely on you for actions assumed, requested, or promised? Great men always perform as expected (Pr 13:17; 25:13; Lu 16:10; I Cor 4:2).  
David  Mark