

# CHARACTER COUNTS: BUILDING A LIFE THAT PLEASURES GOD

## THE REFRESHMENT OF ONESIPHORUS

2 TIMOTHY 1:15–18



### The Heart of the Matter

Our thoughts turn to one of the lesser-known people in Scripture. A man whose fame was eclipsed by Paul's, he played a vital role in the life of his better-known counterpart. His name? Onesiphorus, pronounced "Oh-neh-SIF-ah-russ." His contribution in character? Refreshment . . . that rare yet wonderful ability to give breathing room, to provide cooling relief, to help in the healing process. How we need such people today!



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Spiritual Gifts Versus Spiritual Ministries

Spiritual gifts are for individuals, while spiritual ministries, such as refreshment, are for everyone.

#### 2. Paul's Need for Refreshment (2 Timothy 1:15)

Paul sat alone in a dungeon, having been deserted by many friends.

#### 3. A Friend Worth Remembering (2 Timothy 1:16–18)

Onesiphorus served as a cooling presence of refreshment for Paul, often bringing help and comfort to the apostle.

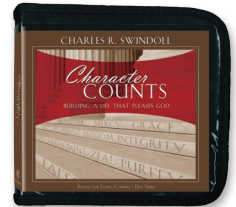


### Starting Your Journey

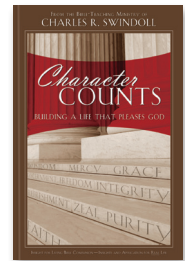
Six qualities are necessary to engage in the ministry of refreshment: *unselfishness, availability, sensitivity, determination, a positive attitude, and compassion.*



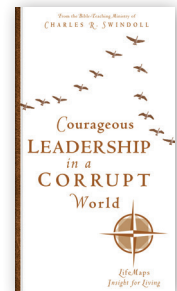
### Tools for Digging Deeper



**Character Counts:  
Building a Life That  
Pleasures God**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
CD series



**Character Counts:  
Building a Life That  
Pleasures God Bible  
Companion**  
softcover book



**Courageous Leadership  
in a Corrupt World**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
softcover book

For related resources, please call  
USA 1-800-772-8888  
AUSTRALIA 1300 467 444  
CANADA 1-800-663-7639  
UK 0800 787 9364  
or visit [www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org)  
or [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)



Original outline copyright © 1988 and Message Mate copyright © 2008 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
*Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application*