

# *Integrity: An Undivided Heart for the Lord*

## **Key Scripture:**

*"I will behave myself wisely and give heed to the blameless way—O when will You come to me?  
I will walk within my house in integrity and with a blameless heart."*

Psalm 101:2 (AMP)

## **Today's Portion for the Journey:**

David, a man with a heart after God's own heart, was both a worshipper of the Most High and an adulterer and murderer! In spite of his checkered history, he frequently referred to his integrity, in fact, he often requested that God vindicate him or reward him according to his integrity. Have you ever wondered how David could say, "...judge me, O Lord, and do me justice according to my righteousness [my rightness, justice, and right standing with You] and according to the **integrity** that is in me."? Ps. 7:8 (AMP) Would you be willing to pray a prayer asking God to judge you according to your righteousness and integrity? Given David's history, he must have known more about integrity than we do today!!

I always believed integrity was simply related to excellence of character—a step up from basic honesty. My definitions of integrity focused on the ethical quality of how we behave especially when no one is looking or seeking excellence in all we do. A person with integrity is reliable and trustworthy. Biblical integrity contains all of these elements but has far greater depth of meaning. True godly integrity starts in our innermost being and describes a heart that is totally committed to the LORD. When we are tempted to despair at the absence of integrity in the world, we need to realize it is impossible for those living in the world to have integrity. Integrity is the "salt" that we, as Christians, are to bring to the world. Ask the LORD to renew your mind and help you to separate yourself from the behavior and thinking of the world! Ask the LORD to give you a fresh understanding of His integrity!

*"I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]."*

Romans 12:1-2 (AMP)

The world values superficial qualities of good looks or performance in the areas of entertainment, athletics or success. We idolize handsome young actors and beautiful actresses with a record of box office hits or the athlete who triumphs in the competitive field. Worldly success is defined by wealth or fame or physical beauty. We overlook their lifestyles and excuse their behavior. The world chooses leaders who have personality or "charisma" over those with proven character. While the world gives adulation to those who are outwardly successful, we are usually disappointed and often surprised when our "heroes" turn out to have feet of clay in their personal lives. Os Guinness writes, "...many public figures, from presidents down, are walking scandals waiting to happen, the crisis of character in national leadership touches every citizen...at every level of society." He goes on to say that, "At the close of the nineteenth century several far-sighted thinkers glimpsed the outlines of a dangerous new leadership

growing out of the vacuum of faith in Western culture.... A public overly dependent upon a leader...and equally dangerous problem, leaders overly dependent upon the public. The result is a mediocre leadership, reinforced by trends toward the cult of personality and celebrity.... The leader of the people slumps into becoming a panderer to the public.”<sup>1</sup> This trait is not confined to our choice of governmental leaders but often finds its way into our churches as well.

The willingness to be influenced by superficial characteristics is not isolated to our day. It has always been natural for carnal man to think this way. We must never confuse the world’s standards of goodness with God’s standard. King Saul is a perfect example. After warning Israel against having a king like other nations, God finally relented to their desire to have a king. Saul was exactly what the people wanted. He was extremely handsome and at least two heads taller than most men. Saul repeatedly demonstrated his lack of character and integrity. He was more concerned with pleasing and impressing the people than obeying the LORD. In his jealousy he killed the priests of Nob and sought David’s life. He continually disobeyed the LORD and His laws. In the end, God had to remove him from his place as King. Samuel told Saul that because he had not obeyed the LORD, God has chosen to seek out for Himself a man after His own heart, and he would be the one to lead God’s people.

David would not have won the people’s choice award! He was too young, inexperienced in the ways of the world, and least important of his brothers. He wasn’t even asked to join the family when Samuel came to anoint one of Jesse’s sons as king over Israel. *Samuel looked at Eliab* and thought, “surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him.” The LORD instructed Samuel, “Do not look at physical appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” David, who was not even included in the lineup with his brothers, was said to be a man after God’s own heart and a man of integrity. His character was proven by his dedication to the LORD. The Psalms tell us, “He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.” Psalm 78:70-72 (KJV) I believe the contrast between David and Saul is made very clear for our instruction, so we can learn from their example what differentiates these lives and become a person after God’s own heart. David was God-trained and the LORD perfected him in character and integrity in the wilderness! 1 Sam. 16; 1 Cor. 10:11



TEACH ME YOUR WAY, O LORD,  
AND I WILL WALK  
IN YOUR TRUTH;  
GIVE ME AN UNDIVIDED HEART,  
THAT I MAY FEAR YOUR NAME.  
PSALM 86:11



**DEFINITIONS:** The word “integrity” as used in the Word has far deeper meaning than today’s common usage. Integrity means “sound, complete, and *integrated*.” Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines integrity as “wholeness, entireness; an unbroken state.” The entire, unimpaired or unfractured state of anything, particularly of the mind, moral soundness or purity; incorruptness, uprightness, unadulterated, unimpaired state; as the integrity of a ship or building. A person’s belief and faith in the LORD are completely integrated with their thoughts and behavior.

<sup>1</sup> When No One Sees by Os Guinness. NavPress: Bringing Truth to Life. 2000, p. 14-15

The Hebrew definitions of “integrity,” also translated as “character,” refer to “the inner quality that makes anyone or anything what it is, whether a person, a wine, or a historical period.” Character and integrity are deeply linked because integrity also comes from the innermost being and is manifested in the way one lives and interacts with others. Character is translated in the Amplified Bible as “approved faith and tried integrity.” Integrity is the divine standard for man’s attainment of godliness. It requires wholehearted commitment to the person and requirements of God. Actions match beliefs perfectly!

The Hebrew root word for “Integrity” is “tamam” (Strong’s #8552) which is translated “uprightness, perfection and simplicity.” It is used with reference to “being whole, sound, without blemish.” It also means “completeness, fig. of prosperity, moral innocence, perfect, and wholeness. It also means to be spent, finished, and accomplished.” The fundamental idea is completeness, to be perfect, without blemish, that which is wholly in accord with truth and fact, ethically sound, upright. The word “blameless” and the word “integrity” used in our key verse are both derivatives from this same root. The word “integrity” is the same word (Strong’s #8537) that is part of the high priest’s breastplate.

One definition of integrity is: *“the quality or state of being of sound moral principle; uprightness, honesty, and sincerity”*<sup>[1]</sup> This word is used to describe the sacrificial animal to be offered to God for sin, without spot or blemish, that which is perfect. It has no embellishment, no guile, no hypocrisy and no selfish motivation that would twist the truth. Lev. 2:21-22

Hypocrisy and double-mindedness are opposites of integrity. Jesus warned against hypocrisy and making and outward show in religious duties. Matthew Henry noted that “What we do, must be done from an inward principle, that we may be approved by God, not that we may be praised by men.” Originally, the word “hypocrisy” is of Greek origin and refers to a theater actor who wears a mask and assumed a false identity while he played for the audience. It describes a superficial manner of behaving that hides the true thoughts and contents of the person’s heart hidden behind a mask. Like the “wolf in sheep’s clothing,” the hypocrite attempts to keep the real contents of his heart from being revealed. Some people wear many different masks -- one for work, one for home, one for friends, and another for strangers. Matt. 6:1-4

What are the characteristics of one with “integrity” versus one who superficially follows God? How can we develop a heart that is full of integrity?

**1. Sincere and pure devotion to Jesus:** 2 Corinthians 11:3 indicates that in the garden, Satan’s scheme was to lead Eve astray or corrupt her from pure and sincere devotion to Jesus. The word for “sincere” is synonymous with integrity. In the Greek it means; singleness of heart or motive, with all of your heart, simplicity, without any ulterior or double motive. It is in contrast to “duplicity” (*doubleness of heart or speech; insincerity. A sustained form of deception which consists of entertaining or pretending to entertain one of feelings and acting as if influenced by another. Bad faith*) or “doubleminded” (*having different minds at different times, unsettled, undetermined*). The root word for “sincere” was used with reference to the making of fine glass, which was so free from contamination that the transparency was perfect, allowing one to see clearly through the glass to what was stored inside! This word was used in several references to having a “single eye.” The meaning in the Greek was that one has single vision versus double vision. It represented singleness of purpose that keeps us from having double treasure and consequently a divided heart. Satan’s temptation of Eve sought to change her focus from wholehearted devotion to God by finding or seeking value from another source. In doing so, Eve’s heart was corrupted from that perfect single hearted devotion to the Lord. She sought to deceive the LORD

and no longer reflected His glory through her life. Each of us must realize that developing and guarding our “integrity” or “wholehearted devotion” to the LORD is also the center of our warfare against the enemy of our souls.

**2. An undivided heart (integrated heart = integrity)** is a vital component of our walk with the LORD. One cannot serve two masters. We will either love one or hate the other. We cannot fear the LORD and also fear men. Saul had the support of the people but he did not have integrity of heart and he failed as their king. He was more concerned with appearing good before the people than that he had sinned against God. King Solomon had more wisdom than any other man, but he lacked integrity to keep his heart pure before the LORD. Matt. 6:24; Matt. 4:10; Gal. 1:10; 1 John 2:15-16

**3. The heart is set to seek and obey the LORD despite all obstacles.** The word “devoted” originally carried the idea of being consecrated or set apart for a specific purpose. Integrity of heart demonstrates consistent faithfulness in one’s behavior because the heart is devoted to the Father and set to focus on God’s Word as our source of wisdom, righteousness and purpose. David declared, “As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, And set me before Your face forever.” Psalm 41:12 (NKJV) The Word is full of references to those who have “set their hearts” or “set their faces like flint” to seek the LORD and to walk in His ways. There is a singleness of purpose in their footsteps to follow and obey the LORD even if to the point of being willing to lay down their own lives for Him. Dan. 9:3; Rom. 8:5; Isa. 50:7; Deut. 32:46; 1 Chron. 28:9; 2 Chron. 11:16; 2 Chron. 20:33; Ps. 78:8

**4. The will is set to please God alone.** Joseph and David both demonstrated this integrity of heart that caused them to determine to do the right thing—regardless of their outward circumstances or success. Integrity arises in the heart of a believer through an inner conviction or resolve of heart to walk in God’s Word and His ways and is acted upon without need for any audience other than God. Christians who exhibit integrity and proven character do not seek the praise of men but the glory of God. 2 Chron. 15:15; 2 Chron. 25:2

**5. “See that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise...”** In order to set our heart to please God alone, we need to carefully consider our path and the choices we make each day. Prudence is a rather “outdated” word in current English and often has rather awful connotations to being “prudish,” but in actuality prudence is a foundational virtue that directs us to put godly wisdom into practice. Proverbs tells us that “wisdom dwells with prudence. Prov. 8:12; Eph. 1:8 In the Greek, the word for prudence is ‘phronesis’ (Strong’s #5428) and it means insight, understanding, and the knowledge and holy love of the will of God. Prudence is the ability to discipline oneself to make wise choices that govern our decisions to avoid evil in real life situations. In her excellent book, “On Reading Well,” Susan Swallow Prior examines the virtues and has a chapter on prudence. She makes a distinction between the vices and the virtues in stating, “Vice is just as likely to be accidental as intentional. In this way virtue opposes vice not only in its moral content but in its acquisition as well. Vice is natural to human beings in their fallen state. But virtue must be practiced, become a habit, and be inhabited by a person in order to attain excellence.”

This heart makes a deliberate choice to walk in virtue and to seek wisdom for the choices set before one each day. Ephesians 5:15 calls us to “be careful [look carefully] how we walk.” The King James Version uses the word “circumspectly” in this passage. The Greek word for “careful” or “circumspect” is “blepo’ (Strong’s #991) which means to see with the eye, to discern, to have the power of seeing, to turn eyes to

anything, to see with the mind's eye, to discern mentally, observe, perceive, discover, to turn the mind to consider, contemplate, look at carefully, weigh, and examine.

In many passages, usually the words of Jesus, this word “circumspect” is translated, “Beware or be on your guard” and speaks of being alert in particular situations. The references to this word speak strongly of making choices that will lead us either to walk with the LORD and in His ways or to follow our own natural inclinations. It appears many of these choices come from the lusts of our flesh or potential deception or temptations. There are many passages that refer to those who do not see (“blepo) and they do not find the way of salvation. Blepo occurs 142 times in 116 verses in the Greek concordance. While there are a lot of verses, it is worth time to read those that give us direction of things we are to specifically be on guard or alert to in our walk with the LORD. Matt. 5:28; 6:4, 18; 7:3; 13:13-16; 24:4; Mark 4:24; 8:15; 13:9, 13; Luke 6:41-42; Luke 8:18; 9:62; 10:23,24; 21:8; 30; John 5:19; Acts 13:40; Rom. 7:23; 8:25; 1 Cor. 1:26; 1 Cor. 3:10; 1 Cor. 8:9; 1 Cor. 10:12; 1 Cor. 13:12; 1 Cor. 4:18; 2 Cor. 10:7; Phil. 3:2; Col. 2:8 For additional study, see Word Study on Prudence.

**5. Integrity focuses on giving God glory and honor** rather than seeking approval of men in whatever it is that we do. 1Co 10:31 A person with integrity will handle any task, no matter how small the task may seem, with the same desire for a high standard of excellence. Their actions are driven by a desire to please God and give Him glory that supersedes any requirement of being noticed or appreciated. There is an understanding that even if no one else knows, there are two who will know: the individual and God. And God's approval is far more valuable to them than the praise of man. Ecclesiastes 12:14

**6. The person of integrity relies upon God for his holiness.** Integrity does not mean that the person who walks “uprightly” or “with integrity” is sinless. The only goodness we have comes from God! I always felt that individuals referred to as “upright” in the Bible adhered to a different level of holiness that I could never achieve. I did not feel I could personally claim the promises God makes to “the upright” because I was painfully aware of my sin nature. The truth is that no man besides God is perfect and if we say we have no sin, we are liars! We actually come closer to finding true integrity when we allow ourselves to let go of our own sense of value in our goodness! Gill's Bible commentary notes that the one who walks in sincerity, integrity and uprightness in his heart is one who is aware he stands both before God and men, and seeks to speak the truth in his heart without guile, seeks to be void of offense toward God or men. He walks in the light! The one who is said to be upright in heart is one who seeks to remain in constant fellowship with the Father and remains in the light of His presence. When he sins, he runs to God for forgiveness and cleansing and seeks to make it right with those he has sinned against. This person is one who will walk securely or as some oriental translations say, walks on “terra firm”, solid ground. Prov.10:9; Prov. 2:7

**7. In order to walk in true integrity, we need to be willing to come fully into His light** and allow all of our deeds to be exposed. We must be willing to present ourselves before God in His Holiness and overcome our natural reaction to fear exposure or to shrink back. We choose to hide nothing from the LORD and to lay down all pretenses for our own righteousness or goodness. Walking in the light means drawing close to the LORD so His light can shine in all areas of our life! This is costly! It was when Isaiah saw the LORD in His Holiness that he said he was “undone or torn apart” which is just the opposite of integrity.” When faced with the awesome holiness of God, Isaiah finds himself torn apart, and this forces him to realize his own deficiency and uncleanness. In R.C. Sproul comments on Isaiah's encounter with the holiness of God, he states that “To be undone means to come apart at the seams, to be unraveled, to undergo personal disintegration. To disintegrate means exactly what the word suggests,

“dis-integrate.” We then allow God to put pieces together in a unified whole.... to be integrated... to be consistent. Throughout the Bible, man’s encounters with God are very consistent with Isaiah’s experience. Consider John, the disciple who referred to himself as the disciple Jesus loved, the one who laid his head on Jesus bosom at the last supper. In Rev. 1:-12-17, John saw the Son of Man on His throne and fell at his feet as dead. Read about Joshua, the High Priest’s experience in the throne room of God! This light applies to our relationships with others as well. We will walk in openness, transparency and vulnerability, pursuing peace with others and keeping short accounts with God and man. Zech. 3:1-6; John 3:18-21; Ps. 56:13; Ps. 89:15; Isa. 2:5; John 8:12; Eph. 5:8; 1 John 1:7

In His love He desires to draw us into a place of close relationship with Him that allows us to enter into the Holy of Holies and dwell in the Secret Place of the Most High. Jesus, the mediator between God and man, makes it possible for us to avoid being consumed by His awesome holiness and instead to be declared righteous. It is hard to believe that the Living God is willing to say that you are righteous! How is that possible? It is all because of Jesus. His sacrifice on the cross. His blood that was shed to cleanse our hearts. It’s because Christ Himself dwells in us through His Holy Spirit. This knowledge must change us! We were created in Him to live our entire lives before the face of God (corem deo) and practice a constant abiding in His presence. As we behold His glory, we are changed into His likeness!

**8. The life of integrity is consistent with our identity in Christ.** Our “integration” comes from being united with Jesus, becoming one with Him so that our life becomes consistent with His life and our heart begins to beat in oneness with His own heart. He has seated us with Him in the heavenly places! He exhorts us to “live a life worthy of the calling we have received” because Christ is in us. (Ephesians 4:1) He wants to live his life through us (Galatians 2:20). Do you walk in recognition of the role that God has called you to fill? Luke 5:8; John 18; Mark 9:6; Revelation 1:17; John 13:25; Acts 9:4, Exodus 3:6; Joshua 5:14; Genesis 28:17; Judges 6:22

- We sons and daughters of the King
- Ambassadors on this earth for the Most High God
- Disciples of Christ
- His representatives (2 Cor. 5:20)
- Members of His church & in some mysterious way, His body (Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 1:24).
- We are called out ones, those who no longer walk and behave as “mere men” but as people of the Spirit who allow God’s presence to work in and through us.

The truest test of integrity is that one remains consistently righteous whether anyone knows at all. He frequently instructed His disciples not to do their works so as to be seen by men or to receive their reward, but to do our works in secret, content only that the Father sees. A heart that is filled with integrity is consistent because the source is in God. God does not change. He is consistently faithful. His qualities are based on who He is! He does not love at times, HE IS LOVE. He does not act holy, HIS IS HOLY. He does not choose whether to tell the truth or not, HE IS TRUTH and all His ways are true. Integrity weaves the character traits of the LORD into His children until His traits become our true identity. These qualities are not simply “put on” outwardly, but become a vital part of the inner man so they are implemented consistently into every facet of our life. In a world where “image” is everything, it is easy to see how one could become completely out of touch with all that is really hidden in his or her inner being.

The LORD demonstrated this to me one day, when I was trying to get our Belgian Sheepdog to go outside to relieve herself before I left for work. She was terrified of storms and stood on the porch trembling and refusing to go into the rain. I knew she would leave the safety of the porch if I offered her a ride in the car. I did not have the time to really take her for a ride, I needed to get to work! As soon as the words were out of my mouth and she was bounding down the steps, I was convicted that I had lied. "But it is only a dog, LORD!" Suddenly it was clear to me that the person who tells lies IS A LIAR. It does not matter whether you lie to a dog, another person, or yourself. If we want to walk in the truth, then truth needs to be part of who we are at our core. Always. Cinder went for a ride around the block that day, and I learned a valuable lesson! As a side note, a deep bond formed between Cinder and I, she came to trust me implicitly and always readily did what I asked her. She learned I was a person who can be trusted.

**9. Integrity starts from the heart but will be demonstrated in the consistent transparency of the individual's life as it is seen by others.** The person who walks in integrity will take on qualities of authenticity that others can recognize as "genuine." There is incredible freedom and peace in not having to strive to please or impress people but to be able to be transparent and real in every situation. We allow God to take responsibility for how we are received by others. Many years ago, I was asked to speak to a large group of women on the subject of praying for missionaries. I was very nervous and filled with doubt, knowing I was not an "expert". I was just learning about prayer myself and felt I was a poor person to share God's heart on this topic. Prior to my session, an older woman prayed with me regarding the message. She said, "Lord, we are all just real women. We don't need to be anything other than who we are...." The words deeply impacted my heart as the truth hit home to me that I don't need to be anything other than myself, I can be real and that is all God is asking of me." The weight of "performance" fell away and I was able to go and share what the Lord had put on my heart with a greater freedom than I had ever known. If we have nothing to hide, we are truly walking in the light, as He is in the light! The more transparent we are the more clearly others will see Jesus in our lives.

### *Questions for a Spiritual Check Up*

Do my words, actions and inner thoughts line up consistently with one another?  
Do I seek to take my thoughts captive in obedience to Christ and in alignment with God's Word?  
How would I feel if my thoughts and motives were made known to all?  
Can I be trusted by others?  
When I sin or fall into error, do I accept responsibility or look for someone or something to blame?  
Do I keep things about myself hidden from those around you?  
Do I do things that would cause me to be ashamed if they were made known to my pastor or Christian friends?  
Do I seek to hide my sins, feelings or problems that might seem inconsistent with a Christian lifestyle?  
When I struggle with sin, do I bring them into the light before others and receive their prayer/support?  
Do I keep my promises?  
Do I honor my commitments?  
How would I feel if the words I speak behind people's backs were spoken to their face?  
If others really knew me, would they believe me?  
Do I put on a mask or change my personality to fit in with others?  
Does that mask change depending on who I am with at the moment?  
How do I live when no one is looking?

## *Digging Deeper in the Word*

1. The Amplified Version uses the word integrity in two verses that demonstrate how our integrity is linked with maturity and God-like character. Read the two verses below and consider how we measure up to the true standard of integrity. How is this different from the standard of the world or of the current church standard? According to the Word, is it possible for us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect? If it is possible, what are our responsibilities in this process? What is God's responsibility?

**a. Matthew 5:48 (AMP)** *"You, therefore, must be perfect [growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

**b. Romans 5:1-9 (AMP)** *"THEREFORE, SINCE we are justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us [grasp the fact that we] have [the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice and exult in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God. Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation. Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us. While we were yet in weakness [powerless to help ourselves], at the fitting time Christ died for (in behalf of) the ungodly. Now it is an extraordinary thing for one to give his life even for an upright man, though perhaps for a noble and lovable and generous benefactor someone might even dare to die. But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us. Therefore, since we are now justified (acquitted, made righteous, and brought into right relationship with God) by Christ's blood, how much more [certain is it that] we shall be saved by Him from the indignation and wrath of God."*

2. The Bible provides us with examples of godly men who walked in integrity for our instruction (See 1 Cor. 10:1-12): Do a character study on each of the men listed below by looking up the passages that talk about these men. This will take some time but it will be worth it! Make notes about what you learn about their relationship with the Lord. What is revealed about their spiritual habits? How did they demonstrate lives of excellence and integrity? How were they treated by others? How did they treat others? How can the example of their actions and lifestyle choices be applied in your life?

- **Noah:** Noah was a just and righteous man who lived blamelessly in an evil generation. He walked in habitual fellowship with God. Integrity of heart is closely related to the motives of the heart. Gen 6:5 states that God saw the wickedness of man was great upon the earth, that every intent and thought of his heart was only evil continually. Compare this with His description of Noah! Genesis 6:9-22; Heb. 11:7

- **Job:** God brought Job's righteousness to Satan's attention. He allowed Job to be tested to see if he would hold fast to his integrity. Job 1:1; 2:3, 9; 9:21-22; 12:4; 13:26; 14:16-17; 27:1-5; 31:4-8
- **Samuel:** Samuel walked in integrity before the LORD consistently over the course of a lifetime. He opened himself up to scrutiny in all of his dealings with Israel. He was faithful as a leader not only to teach the people but also to pray for them faithfully. 1 Samuel 12:1-4
- **David:** It is said of David that he was a man after God's own heart. He was called Israel's shepherd who was said to have guided them with the discernment and skillfulness that controlled his hands. David prayed that he would have this kind of integrity in Psalm 19:13-14. Note that he asked that the words of his mouth and the meditation of his heart would be acceptable to God. We can use David's prayer as a model as we seek to walk in integrity in our lives. 1 Kings 9:4-5; Psalm 41:11-13; Ps. 7:8;

All three of these men were held in captivity in foreign lands by their enemies. In each case their integrity was recognized by foreign kings and they were given positions of responsibility. Ultimately, their integrity opened the way for favor in the land of captivity.

- Joseph passed many tests of personal integrity, refusing sexual sin, refusing to allow his life to be ruled by bitterness and forgiveness, and seeking to glorify the LORD in the midst of all circumstances. His time in prison could have destroyed his faith but instead his heart was filled with forgiveness and wisdom.
  - Daniel: Daniel could receive a life time achievement award for consistently following God's law. Even when his integrity was used against him and his life was on the line, he refused to compromise his godly principles. Dan. 9:20-23
  - Nehemiah's integrity brought him into a position of great trust and favor in a foreign land. His integrity positioned him for a leadership role in restoring Jerusalem.
3. Read Romans 4. What role does faith play in our quest for integrity? Can we have integrity apart from faith in God? Does faith remove our need for righteous actions?
  4. Throughout the Scriptures, God focuses on the fact that he is a God who makes and keeps his covenants, that he can be trusted. 1 Chr. 16:15; Ps. 105:8 God can be trusted because he is trustworthy and consistent to His character at all times. When speaking of the issue of character, it is not just words, not just doing the right thing; it's a matter of having the right heart motives and allowing the person you are on the inside to match the person you are on the outside. God will never let us down, because he never changes. His changeless character is the foundation of all of his promises. Jesus does not change. The Living God does not change. His love, his truth and his goodness are not governed by external circumstances or conditions – they never vacillate. Therefore, God's character and the promises he makes are supremely worthy of our trust and commitment. He does what he says, and his covenant love is always dependable.

Meditate on the word “consistency.” Is there a consistency between what is in one’s heart and what one shows others on the outside? God is always totally consistent. His actions and behaviors always match his character and nature. God’s perfect and constant character allows us to trust in his promises and timing. Ask the LORD if there are areas of your life where you are inconsistent in your character or ways. Heb. 13:8; 6:19; 1 Sam. 15:29; Mal. 3:6; Titus 2:7-8

5. God’s Word provides promises for those who walk in integrity. Read the following verses and write down how integrity or lack of integrity affected the person’s life. “Whoever walks in integrity (***uprightly, honestly, sincerely, blamelessly, in simplicity***) walks securely (***in confidence, with no fear of an inopportune exposure***) but he who perverts his ways (whose ways are twisted, takes a crooked way) shall be known, found out and punished.” Gen. 20:5-6; Prov. 10:9; Proverbs 2:6-8; Proverbs 2:20-21; Proverbs 28:18; Isa. 33:15,16; Ps. 84:11; Psalm 25:19-21; Psalm 26:1-3,11,12; Psalm 26:8-12; Prov. 10:9; Prov. 11:3; Prov. 20:7, 11; Prov. 28:18

### *What is the LORD speaking to your heart?*

Take time to ask the LORD to speak to you regarding any areas in your heart that are not totally devoted to Him, any areas of inconsistency in your words or behavior. Ask the LORD to show you any areas where you are deceiving yourself.... Where you have hidden sins... where you are lukewarm... where you are ashamed of Your King or His Gospel.... (Listen to the song “Honesty” by Sara Groves Amberly, in the stillness of your heart allow this song to become a prayer. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) – song “ honesty” by Sara Groves Amberly

### *What do you want to speak to the LORD?*