

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

August 3, 2015

Where's Your "Integrity?"

1 KINGS 9:4-5 NKJV – (4) Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, *and* if you keep My statutes and My judgments, (5) then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

The dictionary defines integrity as "a firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values, or incorruptibility; incapable of being bribed or morally corrupted." In the Bible, the Hebrew word translated as "integrity" in the Old Testament means "the condition of being without blemish, completeness, perfection, sincerity, soundness, uprightness, wholeness." Integrity in the New Testament means "honesty and adherence to a pattern of good works."

Jesus is the perfect example of a man of integrity. After He was baptized, He went into the wilderness and fasted for forty days and nights. During this time, Satan came to Him at His weakest with hopes of corrupting Him and breaking His integrity. Jesus was wholly man and wholly God at the same time; He was tempted in every way we are, yet He never sinned (**Hebrews 4:15**). That is the definition of integrity. He is the only one who is without blemish, perfect, completely truthful, and consistently showing a pattern of good works. As sinful human beings, our integrity is flawed, but Jesus' integrity is perfect. When we are "in Christ," we partake of His divine nature, having been given new natures in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), and that new nature is one of integrity all because it is His nature.

The Bible also describes integrity as the truth. What is the truth? Jesus is the only real truth and the only way to attain eternal life. Nobody comes to the Father unless he goes through Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life (**John 14:6**). Many times, Jesus prefaced His words by saying, "Truly, I say to you," which, in essence, means "I tell you the truth." Jesus never lied, and His actions defined integrity. Once we come to Christ in faith and repentance, He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit who assists us in developing our incorruptible integrity. It is impossible to have real integrity without Jesus as our Lord and Savior. May the Lord give us strong integrity that becomes incorruptible through the power of the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 101:1-2

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting in a particular way."