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Integrity

Greetings, Kingdom saints! I would like to address the topic of integrity. We live in a society where integrity is not valued. It's talked about; people lift it up verbally, but it's not what we see in the lives of many. Some cheat on their taxes and joke about it. Others live double lives. Still, others commit adultery and come home, acting as if everything is great with their kids and their spouse. Our culture is not prone towards integrity. We are trained to be polite, even if it means we are being dishonest. We talk to people and they say: "I'll give you a call," and yet, they never call. Some may say: "I will come to your Bible study group or Church," yet, they never show up. And even as disciples, we may fall victim to this trend. A brother or a sister may come to us with a need or a challenge in their lives and we say to them: "I'll pray for you!" because it is the polite thing to say. Yet, there is no integrity to carry it through.

God wants us to be men and women of integrity. In Matthew 5:33-37 (NIV), Jesus said to those who had a problem with integrity: "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' (34) But I tell you, do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; (35) or by the earth, for it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. (36) And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. (37) Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." In other words, Jesus was telling us to be a people of integrity. If you say you are going to do something, then do it! And if you are not going to do something, then don't do it!


The Proverbs have a lot to say about integrity: In Proverbs 25:14, it says, "Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of gifts he does not give." Proverbs 10:9 says, "The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out." Proverbs 11:3 says, "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity." And Proverbs 13:6, "Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner."

One of the biggest challenges we face today is being people of integrity. The dictionary defines integrity as having a firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values. Integrity is more than just being honest. Honesty is part of it, but it's more than just being honest – it is an adherence to a moral or ethical code. The definition of integrity describes the Christian life.

In the Old Testament, King Saul had integrity and then he lost it. In 1 Samuel 11, Saul had zeal for God's honor and defeated the enemies of God because he was a man of integrity. But, later on, Saul's zeal for God's honor grew cold and he lost his integrity. He began to stray away from the Word of the Lord (1 Samuel 13:8-14; 15:13-23) and even consulted mediums, instead of the Lord (1 Samuel 28:7). Eventually, he committed suicide because he was unfaithful (1 Chronicles 10:4, 13).

Let us not be like Saul, who lost integrity which led to the loss of his kingdom and even his life. Let us be faithful and be people of integrity. Let us walk in the light of the Truth, as 1 John 1 teaches us! Let's be zealous for God's honor and may our love for God burn within our hearts. May our words and lives bring honor to His name!

Your servant and fellow Kingdom saint,



Robert Carr

“Let your Light so shine...”

Matthew 5:16

“The Devil Made Me Do It”

By Derek Peterson

Many years ago, there used to be a TV show where one of the characters would always say, “The devil made me do it.” Well, I hope that today we realize that the devil does not make us do anything. It is our own lack of self-control that causes us to stumble.

2 Peter 1:5-8, says, “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to **self-control**, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Nobody ever said that following Jesus Christ is like a walk in the park. On the contrary, being a true disciple of Christ and staying on the straight and narrow path is the hardest job/task that a person could ever do. Nowhere in the Scriptures does it ever say that being disciple is a piece of cake. In fact, when Jesus questioned the love of His disciples, they replied: “*This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?*” (John 6:60)

In 1 Corinthians 9:25, we can read, “*And everyone who competes in the games exercises **self-control** in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.*” God calls us to practice self-control in every area of our lives. From how we live, to how we speak, to what we watch and listen to. Our prize, brothers and sisters, is not here on earth, but it is in heaven with our Lord and Savior.

Being a disciple means living a disciplined life. Therefore, remember 2 Timothy 3:16, when it says that we are “*Training for Righteousness.*”

“Strive to be a Winner, not a Sinner.”

“The Lord added to their number...”

Acts 2:47

Baptisms

DATE	NAME	TOWN
08/31/03	Steven Harris	Brooklyn
09/08/03	Victor Centron	Mastic
09/14/03	Roy Morrow	Babylon
09/14/03	Jones Anyanwu.....	Coram
09/19/03	Debbie Carroll	Bay Shore
09/21/03	Carmita Luzuriaga	Brentwood

“They first gave themselves to the Lord...”

2 Corinthians 8:5

Weekly Budget: \$ 6,000

DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
09/07/03	323	\$ 5,012
09/14/03	344	\$ 5,917
09/21/03	335	\$ 6,136
09/28/03	327	\$ 5,917

Walk by Faith - a Closer Look at Fear

In our day to day walk, we encounter many different circumstances or situations. Some of these may lead to a fearful response. Fear is defined, in The American Heritage Dictionary, as - “A feeling of agitation and anxiety caused by the presence or imminence of danger. A state or condition marked by this feeling: *living in fear*. A feeling of disquiet or apprehension: *a fear of looking foolish*. A reason for dread or apprehension: *Being alone is my greatest fear*.” Have you ever wondered how to respond faithfully and not give way to fear? Let us examine four types of fear: fear of worldly evil, fear of change, fear of people’s negative opinions, and one fear, unlike the others- godly fear, defined in The American Heritage Dictionary as - “Extreme reverence or awe.” We will briefly discuss their source and their influence. We will determine what kind of fear is good and what kind of fear is not. Then, we will look at God’s Word for direction on how to handle fear.

Isaiah 8:13 says, **“The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, He is the one you are to fear, He is the one you are to dread.”** It is good for us to fear God. Jesus teaches us about the importance of godly fear in Matthew 10:28 – **“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”** It makes no sense to fear the evils of this world and not revere the Almighty Creator. The Bible defines the fear of God as a conscious response. God takes fear beyond the emotional realm and defines it as an act of the will (He does the same with love in 1 Corinthians 13). **“To fear the Lord is to hate evil” (Proverbs 8:13). “Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands” (Psalm 112:1).** When we fear God, we *hate* evil and *love* His Word. Godly fear is good; as the Scriptures say, **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7).** The other three fears: fear of worldly evil, fear of change, and fear of people’s negative opinions are not good.

Let us discuss the fear of worldly evil. The daily news clearly shows Satan at work in this world and the headlines tell us of terrorism, murder, gang violence, etc. Evil crimes are a part of the world we live in, and as a result, these acts could easily evoke feelings of fear and anxiety in us. It may become challenging to see with faithful eyes and not become crippled with fear. Sisters, we need to seek the Lord when fears of worldly evil surface in our lives. The Good News is that our godly headline tells us that **GOD WILL DELIVER US! He will comfort us!** Praise God! Do you believe this? **“I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears” (Psalm 34:4). “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).**

What about the fear of change or the fear of criticism? How do we handle these? When I was younger in Christ, I still had many worldly ideas. I was under the misconception that there was no correlation between reproof and godly, loving relationships. I did not clearly see discipline as love. Imagine my surprise, when I was challenged to change my sinful ways. My response was not from a grateful heart, but a prideful one. *A grateful heart confesses and turns from sin, while a prideful heart is embarrassed, defensive, resentful, or vengeful* (**The Excellent Wife**). **Fear of change, fear of being wrong, and fear of looking bad are all produced by pride. We need to walk by Faith and listen for God’s instruction, through our brothers and/or sisters. Are you listening for HIS will, when challenged to change, or are you distracted by your fear? What benefit will we gain from rejecting the very thing that saves us! (Proverbs 27:5,6; Hebrews 4:12) – Live by Faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 5:21).**

Faith, and not sight, needs to be our guide when building relationships in the Body of Christ. We are called to have deep, meaningful, honest, and open relationships. This is impossible when we have a fear of people’s negative opinions. 1 Peter 1:22 says – **“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the Truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.”** In Ephesians 4:25, the Lord calls us to put off all falsehood and speak truthfully... a shallow and an aloof heart is not acceptable in the Kingdom of God. The Bible compares our relationships in the Body to the sharpening of iron. **“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17).** We need each other! God, in His infinite wisdom, put people in our lives that will help us to grow and get to heaven. It’s scary to be completely vulnerable and exposed, but we can’t love like God does (AGAPE), until the fears within us are destroyed. We need to trust and believe that the Lord is in **CONTROL** and that we are truly loved by Him and by the brethren (Proverbs 3:5).

Fear does not have to control our lives because the Lord shows us how to overcome it and respond faithfully! Faith is defined in Hebrews 11:1 as - **“being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”** Fear brings with it many uncertainties, but Faith gives us certainty and assurance in the Lord. This certainty gives us the power to overcome our fears! Philippians 4:6-9 shows us how to respond faithfully. We need to pray, bringing our fears and our requests before the Lord. Then, the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds. We need to change our thinking through the Word and choose to walk by Faith.

Submitted by Deborah Tomengo

Excerpts from “The Excellent Wife” A Biblical Perspective 1995, 1999: pg. 36; 220; 224 by Martha Peace

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night class on October 8th (Long Island) and October 22nd (City).
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 If you would like to send a Church bulletin or a Bible study to an interested relative/friend on a regular basis, please contact our brother Jack Peisel.
- 📖 All announcements and address/telephone changes should be submitted to Derek Peterson.

ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGES

- ☎ Rosa De La Rosa: Her new address is: Court Plaza Seniors Apts., 407 Hoppen Drive, Central Islip, New York 11722. Her new phone number is: 631-234-0436

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✠ Good News Stand.....Sayville, New York
- ✠ Paolo Di Luca.....Italy
- ✠ Apologetics PressInternational
- ✠ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✠ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✠ Oswaldo Sanchez.....El Salvador, Central America

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, NY

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert(646) 226-2361
Plattdeutsche Restaurant, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Bob Danklefsen, and Joe Barker. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

2004	Location
Jan 22 – Feb 01	Simi Valley, CA
Feb 26 – Mar 07	Marble Falls, TX
Mar 25 – Apr 04	Greenwood, AR
Apr 22 – May 2	Dardanelle, AR