

# Spiritual Integrity

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## Sermon Synopsis

In this compelling episode of "World Impact," Dr. Billy Wilson, president of Oral Roberts University, deeply explores the theme of spiritual integrity, situating it as a foundational outcome for Christian leaders in the 21st century.

Set in the Center for Spirit-Empowered Research on ORU's campus—a place rich with historical artifacts from the Spirit-empowered movement—Dr. Wilson invites believers to pursue a life of wholeness and completeness before God and man. He emphasizes that integrity is not just about good feelings or surface-level morality, but requires a steadfast biblical and theological foundation, a concept further underscored by Dr. Wonsuk Ma, executive director of the Center. Through rich biblical teaching and practical insight, the program challenges viewers to reject duplicity and fractional living, encouraging a consistent lifestyle that stands firm in the pressures and trials of leadership and life.

Delving into Scripture, Dr. Wilson highlights key Proverbs passages showing God's disdain for deception and His delight in integrity—proclaiming that wholeness of character guides the upright and protects them from destruction. He illustrates spiritual integrity as embodying reliability, honesty, humility, justice, and a steadfast love for what God loves. Drawing from the life of Daniel, the sermon showcases an archetype of spiritual integrity amid persecution and cultural pressure. Daniel's unwavering commitment to God—even when faced with the lion's den—demonstrates how faithfulness and consistency in prayer and conduct guard against spiritual compromise. His story powerfully illustrates how God honors such integrity by blessing, protecting, and elevating His servants, even amid hostility from the 'bloodthirsty' enemies of righteousness.

ORU's commitment to cultivating spiritual integrity extends beyond theory into transformative education and mentorship. Dr. Adrian Hinkle, Dean of Theology and Ministry, shares how students are nurtured through spiritual disciplines, faith-integrated courses, faculty role models, and ministry engagement to not just gain knowledge but embody Christlike character. Students learn to live their faith authentically in public and private, strengthening their foundations through prayer, worship, and Bible study. Worship director Kimmie Simon echoes this by underscoring the essential role of the Holy Spirit in sustaining integrity, teaching that abiding in God's presence through worship, gratitude, and daily obedience empowers believers to bear fruit and experience peace amidst chaos.

Ultimately, the message calls believers to personal reflection and decisive action: Will you live a life of spiritual integrity—whole, consistent, and fearless before God and man? Dr. Wilson's invitation is clear and urgent. In a world filled with fragmented identities and moral compromise, spiritual integrity is the bedrock for enduring pressures and fulfilling God's purposes. By confessing sin, seeking God's grace, and committing to a transparent, obedient walk with Him, Christians can expect God's sustaining power to 'shut the lions' mouths' in their lives and make them visible witnesses for His kingdom. This rich, biblical teaching offers hope and instruction for those longing to authentically impact the world for Jesus Christ, grounded in the integrity that God Himself cherishes.

## Sermon Highlights

- Spiritual integrity is foundational for godly leadership and living a whole, complete life without duplicity, as emphasized in Proverbs and demonstrated by biblical figures like Daniel.
- Integrity means living honestly, fulfilling promises, showing kindness and humility, pursuing justice, and reflecting God's love consistently in both public and private life.
- Daniel's unwavering faith and integrity in a foreign land brought God's blessing and protection, proving that standing firm in God's truth results in victory over the pressures and attacks of life.
- Spiritual integrity is nurtured through obedience, prayer, worship, daily engagement with God's Word, and relying on the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us to live faithfully.
- Restoring integrity involves confessing sin, reconciling with God, and committing to live authentically as whole persons under God's grace, which brings lasting blessing and resilience.

## Scripture Verses

Proverbs 20:28

Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.

Proverbs 11:20

The Lord detests those whose hearts are perverse, but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

Proverbs 11:3

The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

Proverbs 29:10

Bloodthirsty men hate a person of integrity and seek to kill the upright.

Daniel 6:22

"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

Daniel 6:25-27

Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly! I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 15:4-5

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

## Quotes

- Spiritual integrity is the number one outcome at ORU because it is key to leadership in the 21st century. - Dr. Billy Wilson
- The lions could not devour a person with integrity. - Dr. Billy Wilson
- If you will maintain your integrity, refuse to bow to the pressure of society, God will shut the lions' mouth and give you the victory. - Dr. Billy Wilson
- Spiritual integrity requires the help of the Holy Spirit, and us to be grounded in the presence of God. - Kimmie Simon
- God's Word is clear that those who live with duplicity are destroyed, but those who have integrity... they will be rescued and saved. - Dr. Billy Wilson

# Bible Study

## Objectives

- To understand the biblical concept of spiritual integrity as wholeness and soundness in character and life.
- To explore how leaders like Daniel and his companions modeled spiritual integrity under pressure.
- To identify the practical ways spiritual integrity is developed through faith, discipline, and reliance on the Holy Spirit.
- To challenge believers to live consistently before God and others, without duplicity or fractionation.
- To appreciate the role of the Holy Spirit and personal disciplines in maintaining integrity in daily life.

## Reading and Reflections

- Proverbs 20:28 — Love and truth form a good leader; sound leadership is founded on loving integrity.
- Proverbs 11:20 — God detests the deceitful but delights in the upright.
- Proverbs 11:3 — The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
- Proverbs 29:10 — The bloodthirsty hate a person of integrity and seek to kill the upright.
- Daniel 1:8-20 — Daniel's refusal to defile himself and God's blessing for his integrity.
- Daniel 6:16-23 — Daniel in the lions' den delivered because of his integrity before God.
- John 14-15 — Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to guide and enable us to live in love and truth.

## Key Observations

- Integrity means being whole, complete, and consistent—just as an integer in mathematics is a whole number with no fractions.
- Leading with integrity is about responsibility and service, not privilege—as Jesus inverted the leadership pyramid.
- Living a duplicitous or fractional life makes one vulnerable to collapse under pressure; integrity sustains us.
- Daniel and his friends demonstrated steadfast faith by choosing obedience over conformity, resulting in God's favor and protection.
- The enemies of integrity often arise from jealousy and hatred, seeking to destroy the upright.
- Spiritual integrity requires more than feelings; it must be grounded in biblical truth and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- Practical spiritual disciplines such as prayer, worship, scripture reading, and accountability nurture integrity.

## Personal Reflections

- Do I live a consistent life before God and others, or do I sometimes live divided or fractional lives?
- In times of pressure or temptation, do I stand firmly on God's Word and His promises as Daniel did?
- How do I nurture my relationship with the Holy Spirit to produce integrity and wholeness in my character?
- In what ways have I experienced God's protection and blessing when I chose obedience over compromise?
- Am I mindful that leadership in God's kingdom flows from humble service and responsibility?
- Where might I need to repent and ask God's forgiveness for duplicity or lack of wholeness in my life?

## Lessons for Daily Life

- Commit to living transparently and authentically before God and others every day.
- Develop the habit of daily prayer and Scripture reading to anchor your heart in God's truth.
- Remember that integrity often attracts opposition, but God promises to sustain and bless those who remain faithful.
- Practice servant leadership modeled after Jesus, focusing on responsibility and care rather than personal gain.
- Use worship as a lifestyle, not just a weekly event, to continually abide in God's presence.
- Trust that God's favor accompanies a life of integrity even in environments of challenge or injustice.

## Practical Applications

- Set a daily time to read the Bible and pray, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and actions.
- Memorize key scriptures on integrity (e.g., Proverbs 11:3) to recall when under pressure.
- Identify areas in your life where you struggle with inconsistency or duplicity and confess these to God.
- Find an accountability partner or mentor to support you in living a whole, integrated life.
- Engage regularly in corporate worship and ministry service to foster spiritual discipline and community.
- Respond to challenges with humility and justice, reflecting the character of Christ.

## Challenges for the Week

- Examine your daily routines and identify one practice you can add or enhance to build spiritual integrity.
- Commit to honesty in all your interactions, even when it is difficult or unpopular.
- Refuse to live a 'fractional' life; practice alignment by being the same person in public and private.
- Take a moment daily to thank God for His faithfulness and to invite the Holy Spirit to empower your whole life.
- When faced with a decision, pause and ask: 'What would a person of integrity do in this situation?'
- Share with someone how God is teaching you about spiritual integrity and encourage them on the journey.

## Further Study

- Explore the lives of other biblical men and women of integrity such as Joseph, Nehemiah, and Jesus Himself.
- Study the role of the Holy Spirit in cultivating Christian character in the books of Acts and the Pauline epistles.
- Read 'The New Generation and the Holy Spirit' Edited by Wonsuk Ma, Opoku Onyinah, Barry L Saylor, and Rebekah Bled.
- Participate in worship and prayer gatherings that emphasize abiding in Christ and receiving the Spirit's guidance.
- Reflect on Jesus' teachings about leadership and integrity in Luke 22:24-27 and Matthew 23.
- Examine Proverbs chapters 10–31 for additional wisdom on honesty, justice, and character.

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Your servant Daniel and so many others who lived with spiritual integrity. Lord, we ask You now to build in us that same wholeness and soundness of character. Strengthen us through Your Holy Spirit to stand firm in truth, to be consistent in our love and obedience to You. Help us to live transparent lives, without duplicity, so that when the pressures of life and leadership come, we will not crumble but endure by Your grace. Teach us to be humble servants who lead with love and responsibility. We surrender ourselves to You afresh today, asking for Your guidance, wisdom, and courage. May our lives bear fruit that glorifies Your Name and shines Your light into the world. In Jesus' powerful name we pray, Amen.

# Daily Devotionals

## Day 1

### Scripture Verse

Proverbs 11:3 - "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity."

### Reflection

Spiritual integrity stands as a cornerstone for Christian living, especially in the chaos of the 21st century. Proverbs 11:3 reminds us clearly: integrity guides the upright, while duplicity destroys the unfaithful. Imagine a beautiful, whole vase—unbroken and complete. That image of wholeness represents a life of integrity—sound, dependable, and full. In contrast, duplicity is like that same vase fractured into pieces, some held back in secret, some shown in public. We often feel the pressure to live one way before others and another behind closed doors. Yet, God beckons us to wholeness, to live without cracking when tested. This is more critical today than ever. Leaders everywhere—political, spiritual, educational—struggle under pressure when fractured lives split between appearances and reality. When I think of Daniel in Babylon, his resolve not to defile himself with the king's food was a bold vow of integrity (Daniel 1:8). He and his friends were young men in a foreign land, yet their commitment to God placed them above all others in wisdom and strength. What a powerful example! It wasn't just about rules; it was about a complete, unwavering life with God at the center. The pressures to conform were real, yet their integrity became a source of God's blessing. This calls us to examine ourselves: Are we living fractured or whole? Do we hold fast to God's truth in public and private? Or have we allowed the weight of stress, fear, or compromise to erode our spiritual wholeness? Commit today to live as a whole person before God, so that when lionlike pressures surround you, you will stand firm, protected by the Lord's strength. Remember, integrity isn't merely honesty; it embodies kindness, humility, justice, and love—qualities that radiate from a soul anchored in Christ. Like Daniel, lead your sphere with a life that refuses duplication, a life that speaks and acts with truth and completeness.

### Prayer

Lord, build in me a heart of unwavering integrity. Help me to live wholly before You, without hypocrisy or fear, trusting You to sustain me when pressures arise. Amen.

## Day 2

### Scripture Verse

Daniel 6:22 - "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

### Reflection

The story of Daniel in the lions' den powerfully illustrates how spiritual integrity triumphs even under the gravest threat. Here is a man, under pressure from a jealous court, who could compromise to save his life. Instead, Daniel chose the path of steadfast faithfulness to God. His commitment to daily prayer, even when outlawed, was not merely ritual—it was the core of his spiritual integrity. Notice how his integrity did not protect him from danger, but it protected him in danger. The lions did not harm him because God honored a life lived fully before Him. You might face 'lions' in your life—settings that threaten your faith, your values, your witness. Maybe it's a difficult workplace, toxic relationships, or societal pressures that urge you to bend your convictions. Daniel's example calls you to resilience and trust. Sometimes, it seems easier for us to retreat into duplicity, saying one thing publicly and maintaining a different private life. But the cost is severe. A divided life crumbles when tested, but a whole life stands firm. Remember, maintaining spiritual integrity is not about perfection but persistence—in prayer, obedience, and love—even when no one is watching. Daniel's resolve reminds us that God's protection often comes not from avoiding hardship but from standing firm in our faith through hardship. In every trial, God gives strength to those who are whole before Him. Daily disciplines, like prayer and scripture, keep you connected to the Living God who shuts the mouth of every lion. You don't walk this path alone. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, empowers you. Lean into Him today.

### Prayer

Father, when lions surround me with threats and trials, grant me the courage and spiritual integrity of Daniel. Keep my heart steadfast in You always. Amen.



## Day 3

### Scripture Verse

John 15:4-5 - "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

### Reflection

Spiritual integrity blossoms through an intimate connection with Jesus Christ. John 15 vividly paints the picture of this relationship—the vine and the branches. Without remaining in Him, our lives become fragmented and fruitless. Integrity is more than moral uprightness; it is a vibrant, daily communion with Jesus. Contemplate your life as a branch yearning for strength—apart from the vine, you have no life, no fruit, no integrity. The presence of the Holy Spirit sustains us as we live in an often fractured world. Worship, prayer, and scripture reading are not just routines but lifelines that embed God's strength and truth into our hearts. Maybe you feel worn down by daily struggles, caught between competing demands. I encourage you today to build into your routine moments where you intentionally remain in Jesus—through worship music in your car, meditating on God's word first thing in the morning, or giving thanks for His blessings throughout your day. This continuous connection feeds your soul and shapes your character. When challenges arise—and they will—you will bear the fruit of peace, joy, and courage that reflects a life rooted and grounded in God's love. Just as ORU trains leaders through mentorship and practical ministry combined with spiritual disciplines, you too are called to live your faith publicly and consistently. This vibrant relationship is what sustains your spiritual integrity and causes your life to stand out as a dependable witness in a world longing for truth and wholeness.

### Prayer

Jesus, may I remain deeply connected to You, drawing life and truth daily from Your presence. Empower me through Your Spirit to walk in integrity and bear lasting fruit for Your kingdom. Amen.

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