

Spiritual Integrity

Transcript:

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Dr. Billy Wilson: Welcome to *World Impact*, and welcome to the campus of Oral Roberts University. I'm Dr. Billy Wilson, president of this amazing institution, and today I'm standing on the third floor of the J.D. McKean Library. Actually, I'm in the Center for Spirit-Empowered Research here on campus.

We have amazing artifacts here, as we reflect on God's hand on leaders through history in the Spirit-empowered movement. You know, amazing leaders have shown great integrity in the midst of great stress and duress.

Today on the program, we're going to be talking about spiritual integrity, because spiritual integrity is one of our outcomes for our students at ORU. We actually have five of them that we're trying to develop in every student that attends this university. They are: spiritual integrity, personal resilience, intellectual pursuit, global engagement, and bold vision.

We're doing a series on *World Impact* about all of these particular outcomes, and today, we're talking about spiritual integrity.

Now, today, I'm going to be teaching on what integrity means in our lives—how we can avoid living a life of duplicity, a fractional life that will cause us to be destroyed in the pressure of the 21st century. How we can bring our lives together and live as whole persons in the midst of a fractured world, to make a difference for God's kingdom.

I want you to stay with me today. If you'd like prayer, you can go to our website, **worldimpact.tv**, tell me your situation, what you need prayer for. We'd be glad to pray for the needs in your life, and we'd love to hear from you from all over the world.

Stay with us now, and I'll be back from right here at the campus of Oral Roberts University to talk today about spiritual integrity.

Dr. Wonsuk Ma: Healthy spiritual integrity requires more than good feelings, it requires a firm theological and biblical foundation.

My name is Wonsuk Ma, executive director of the Center for Spirit-Empowered Research at Oral Roberts University, and also serving as distinguished professor of Global Christianity. Welcome to the Center.

I can explain what God is doing here, perhaps in two ways. First of all, we have a number of museum-type artifacts here. I'd like to introduce one particular artifact. That lady is Mrs. Frye from Tulsa, Oklahoma in the early 1900s. She was passionate about the work of the Holy Spirit and its transforming power. She bought a large tent, and she invited Pentecostal evangelists like Aimee Semple McPherson. Out of those big revivals, there were a dozen early Pentecostal churches born right here in the Tulsa area. So we house some of the records of her work and her influence on the Tulsa Pentecostal movement.

Today, we are partnering with Empowered21 to provide annual scholars' consultations in different parts of the world, and on different subjects. We publish each year one substantial book, about 400 pages. This one is titled *The New Generation and the Holy Spirit*.

So why the Holy Spirit-inspired research, or what Dr. Wilson calls “**Spirit-empowered scholarship**,” is so important? Because spiritual integrity has a number of different dimensions. You may have heard of our chapel service—that is a hallmark of ORU—but spiritual discipline is more than your experience and your feeling. You need a firm theological and biblical foundation.

That's exactly what the Center is doing: to help pastors, students, to come and learn more about the work of the Holy Spirit. Not only the Bible through theology, but throughout history, and what is going on today.

The Holy Spirit Resource Center is perhaps the best and largest specialty collection of the work and person of the Holy Spirit, and also Spirit-empowered movements throughout the world. So the Center for Spirit-Empowered Research is perhaps the best spot to come to study, learn more about the Holy Spirit, and experience it.

Dr. Billy Wilson: Today, *World Impact* is on the third floor of the JD McKean Library on our campus. In fact, we're in the Center for Spirit-Empowered Research, overlooking the “healing hands,” as we call them, at the front of the campus, and our beautiful facilities here at ORU.

Today, we're talking about one of our outcomes that we try to address among all students that come to campus here at Oral Roberts University, and that is spiritual integrity.

I want to read some scriptures about integrity, talk about integrity in your life today, and challenge you to live a life filled with integrity so you can be strong as a leader in the 21st century.

God's Word tells us:

- **Proverbs 20:28** – *Love and truth form a good leader; sound leadership is founded on loving integrity.*
- **Proverbs 11:20** – *God can't stand deceivers, but oh how he relishes integrity.*
- **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.*

Now, this word *integrity* is critical for us in the 21st century. We see leaders all around us, in every sphere of influence—from political, to education, to the spiritual sphere—who struggle with integrity.

The word *integrity* means incorruptibility, soundness, or completeness. It comes from *integer*, which is a whole number, not a fraction. It means “to be whole, to be complete, to be sound, and to be dependable.”

In Hebrew, it describes “someone or something that is whole or complete or full,” and “a person who is mature, who is upright, who is living a whole life.” That is someone who has integrity.

At ORU, spiritual integrity is the number one outcome we want for our students. We believe it is key to leadership in the 21st century.

You see, as leaders—Christian leaders in particular—we believe we are responsible for those we lead. In secular leadership, the pyramid goes upward, and leaders try to get to the top of the pyramid to lead those below them. But Jesus turned the pyramid upside down and said: “*If you want to be a leader, if you want to lead my people, you must be servant of all.*”

Leadership in God's kingdom is about responsibility more than privilege. That's why integrity is critical. Without it, under pressure, leaders collapse.

Sam Storms, president of the Evangelical Theological Society, gave ten points that define integrity:

1. A person of integrity fulfills promises.
2. Speaks the truth, is honest, does not lie.
3. Is sincere, hates hypocrisy.
4. Manifests wholeness of character—kindness, compassion, mercy, gentleness.
5. Is committed to justice and fairness.
6. Loves what God loves.
7. Is humble.
8. Is law-abiding.
9. Is not self-absorbed or egocentric.
10. Manifests a high degree of consistency.

I agree with Dr. Storms.

Now, the question I'm asking in this message, on this program with *World Impact*, is this: Do you have spiritual integrity? Are you living a duplicit life—one way in public and another way in private? Or is your life whole, complete, without duplicity, so that when the pressure of life and leadership comes on you, you don't crack, your foundation holds firm, and you're able to endure?

I believe God wants to build in us a firm foundation of integrity. That we become people of truth, people who live whole lives, people who do not live in duplicity—so we can bear the pressure of the 21st century without collapsing or cracking.

Stay with me. I'll be back in just a moment as we continue this teaching on spiritual integrity. We're going to look at a person in the Bible who had great integrity and bore the pressure of leadership in an amazing way.

Dr. Adrian Hinkle: ORU trains whole leaders for the whole world. One ingredient is spiritual integrity.

Hello, my name is Dr. Adrian Hinkle. I serve as the dean for the College of Theology and Ministry. Within our programs, we instill integrity through spiritual discipline, faculty mentorship, faith-integrated courses, and ministry engagement.

Our faculty models spiritual integrity through lives that embody prayer, biblical faithfulness, and personal holiness. They intentionally mentor students—both academically and spiritually—to develop character and clarity in calling.

Our courses are designed not only to impart theological truth but also to develop spiritual maturity, so that students align their lives with the truth they are learning.

Our students are engaged in ministry practicum, chapel services, and ministry outreach, so they live out their faith publicly and consistently. Through guided supervision and peer accountability, our students learn how to face and uphold integrity in real-world scenarios.

So how do we have integrity in our daily life and Bible study? This really looks different for everybody, depending on your personal circumstances and the conviction the Holy Spirit has placed within you.

For some, maybe it's spending that first hour of the day with the Lord in prayer and worship. For others, maybe it's the discipline of, *"I won't eat physically until I've fed myself spiritually."*

How this works for you, and how the Holy Spirit prompts you, is important. But the main thing is the act of obedience. Because what we have put into our hearts is what comes out in that moment of need. And there are times that we all come into contact with someone where we need to hear clearly from the Holy Spirit—and we can't do that if we haven't spent time with Him.

Dr. Billy Wilson: Today on *World Impact*, we're talking about spiritual integrity and how important it is for leaders and for all of us in the 21st century.

I want to look now at a person in scripture who had great spiritual integrity, and that person is Daniel the prophet.

Daniel's story starts in the book that bears his name, chapter 1. He is accompanied by three other young Hebrew men—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—in the deportation from Judah into the Babylonian kingdom.

They made a covenant in their heart that they would not defile themselves with the meat and wine of the king. This would break their dietary laws, so they decided they would be true to their faith and hold their integrity.

The Babylonians' plan was to feed them the king's food, teach them Babylonian ways, and turn them into good Babylonian citizens. The official in charge worried that if he didn't feed them properly, they would be famished. But they said: *"Try us for ten days. Give us only vegetables and water, and we'll keep our covenant before God."*

At the end of ten days, God blessed them and prospered them. In fact, the Bible says:

"In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom."

Not only did they not starve, they were blessed physically and enhanced spiritually. God blessed them for their integrity.

Daniel would go on to maintain this integrity—first under the Babylonians and then under the Medes and Persians. God blessed him as a leader. But remember, the scripture says: *"The bloodthirsty hate a person of integrity."* And it was true—Daniel's integrity brought him opposition.

King Darius appointed Daniel to oversee regions of the Persian Empire. Daniel excelled so much that Darius considered making him second only to the king. Out of jealousy, others sought to accuse Daniel. But the only fault they could find was in his faith.

They convinced Darius to sign a decree: no one could pray to anyone except the king. Daniel knew this, yet went home as usual, opened his window toward Jerusalem, and prayed three times a day.

Because of this, Daniel was cast into the lions' den. Darius loved Daniel and tried to save him, but the law of the Medes and Persians could not be revoked. A stone sealed the den.

But the lions did not harm him. In the morning, Daniel said:

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 anything wrong before you, O king.”*

The lions could not devour a man of integrity.

Darius then decreed to all nations:

“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.”

Daniel prospered because he lived with integrity.

Kimmie Simon: Spiritual integrity requires the help of the Holy Spirit and us being grounded in the presence of God.

I'm Kimmie Simon, director of worship here at ORU. As we look into a life filled with spiritual integrity, we must remember—we need the Holy Spirit.

Jesus teaches in **John 14** that He would leave us an Advocate to live within us, to lead us, to remind us of truth. And in **John 15**, He says: *“Remain in my love. Stay connected to the vine.”*

We do this by remaining in God's presence through worship. Whether in a prayer set, a chapel service, or your own prayer closet—you need the Holy Spirit.

So how can we activate this in daily life?

1. Partner with worship music—turn it on in your car, in your room, invite the Spirit's presence.
2. Remain in God's Word—consume the bread of life daily.
3. Express gratitude to the Father—even in simple moments, like walking into work.

The promise of God's Word is that when we remain in Him, obey His commands, and live with spiritual integrity—we will have a fruitful life. Joy in chaos. Peace in stress. The gifts and fruit of the Spirit, even when it doesn't make sense.

Dr. Billy Wilson: God's Word is clear: those who live with duplicity are destroyed. But those who have integrity—whose lives are whole, not fractional, not one way in public and another way in private—those people will be rescued.

Maybe today, you feel fractured. Like your life is in two separate worlds. I encourage you: bring your life together. Say to God: *“I’m sorry for my sin. I reconcile my heart to Your plan. I will live with integrity.”*

If you do, you’ll never regret it. Those around you will be blessed—just like in Daniel’s day.

Today, I appreciate you joining us here on *World Impact*. We’re on the campus of Oral Roberts University, by the iconic “Healing Hands.” They symbolize science, prayer, and wholeness. That’s what we pursue for our students—so they can live with spiritual integrity and change the world for Jesus Christ.

Make up your mind—you’re going to live with integrity before God, and He’ll bless you.

Thanks again for joining me on *World Impact*. I pray you’re blessed in every way today. We’re sharing Jesus with the world.

Announcer: This has been *World Impact* with Dr. Billy Wilson, president of Oral Roberts University. ORU is proud to be supporting the Spirit-Empowered Movement around the world through Empowered21.

Get more information at **empowered21.com**. Watch more episodes of *World Impact*, or support this global ministry at **worldimpact.tv**.

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