

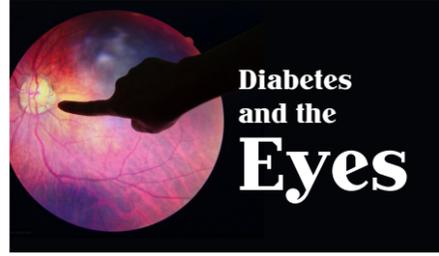
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ILLUMINER

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SUCCESS WILL COME AND GO,
BUT
INTEGRITY IS FOREVER

Integrity is one of the most important and often cited human virtues, and it is to do the right thing at all times and in all circumstances, irrespective of anyone watching or not. Philosophers have been trying to understand what it is for a person to exhibit integrity throughout the life. In their study, it is understood that there are two fundamental intuitions in integrity – first, integrity is a formal relation one has to oneself, and second, integrity is connected in a critical way to acting morally. Based on these intuitions, it is comprehended that integrity involves self-integration, with the maintenance of identity, standing for truth, and being morally purposeful. In being a person of integrity, it is quintessential that one stays true

to oneself by practicing what is professed and vice versa.

As much as integrity is an invaluable trait, it is also one that is generally not put into practice deliberately. Amy Rees Anderson mentioned this in forbes.com nine years back, and it remains true even today. She said, “We live in a world where integrity isn’t talked about nearly enough. We live in a world where “the end justifies the means” has become an acceptable school of thought for far too many. Salespeople overpromise and under-deliver, all in the name of making their quota for the month. Applicants exaggerate in job interviews because they desperately need a job. CEOs overstate their projected earnings because they don’t want the board of directors

to replace them. Customer service representatives cover up a mistake they made because they are afraid the client will leave them. Employees call in “sick” because they don’t have any more paid time off when they actually just need to get their Christmas shopping done. The list could go on and on, and in each case, the person committing the act of dishonesty told themselves they had a perfectly valid reason why the end result justified their lack of integrity.”

The world is after dishonest gains where instant gratification is the driver. In the Global Business Ethics Survey conducted by the Ethics & Compliance Initiative (ECI), it was found that 1 in 3 workers in the 13 countries polled

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“Integrity is not a conditional word. It doesn’t blow in the wind or change with the weather. It is your inner image of yourself, and if you look in there and see a man who won’t cheat, then you know he never will. Integrity is not a search for the rewards of integrity. Maybe all you ever get for it is the largest kick in the ass the world can provide. It is not supposed to be a productive asset.”

John D. MacDonald



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Weekly

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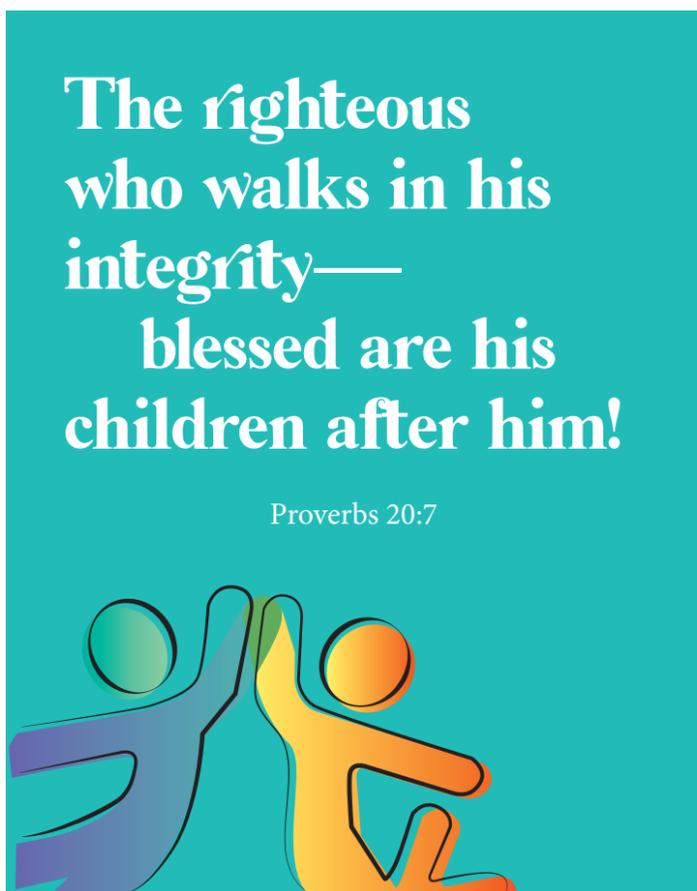
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FROM THE
editor

LET INTEGRITY PRESERVE US

“The compass of integrity is based on the nature of God than on the desire and behavior of men.”

Integrity is the essence of a person’s character dealing with moral principles and honesty. Integrity to Who and What He is, forms the foundation of God’s nature. If He is not the Savior every day, we are found in the doldrums of unsure salvation. If He is not the Righteous Son each moment, then we grapple in the darkness of sin. If He is not the Eternal One, we are confined in our hope for the here and now. If God is not One of integrity we can trust, we are still in our sinfulness. God’s integrity is the assurance we have in Him that He is truthful to who He has professed and practiced Himself to be. The One who declared Himself to be Savior came down and saved us from the power of Satan; the One who is the Righteous One paid the price for our sins; the One who is the Eternal One has assured us of tomorrow; the One who is the Messiah have saved us from our sins. God is indeed the One of integrity!

In accepting Jesus as our Lord, we have been given a divine nature in the inner man; this nature is in accordance with the One who saved us – Christ! Integrity

results in uprightness in life, displayed in just and righteous conduct. The compass of integrity is based on the nature of God than on the desire and behavior of men. Hence, all moral codes of conduct and the legal system of nations are built on the principle of integrity in both word and deed. Perverseness is the opposite of integrity, and in it is the living according to what is right in one’s own eyes to please and approve oneself. The integrity of Daniel and Joseph resulted in temporal setbacks but produced eternal testimonies.

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. In doing so, we sincerely attempt to please God in every facet of our lives. Such a proclivity will lead us to deal with fellowmen truthfully to the core, bringing God delight! Enjoying and practicing Christ’s integrity in us results in God rejoicing over us just as a father celebrates the beloved children that imitate him. Even though we cannot live as people-pleasers, we can nevertheless strive to live with a good and clear conscience before God and man by seeking that which is honorable in God’s sight.

The Significance of Complete Integrity



Structural integrity is an engineering field that determines the fitness of a structure or its components to ensure its sustainability. It is measured by examining the quality of various parts, aiming to prevent deformation, breaking, and catastrophic failure throughout its predicted lifetime. The Grenfell Tower tragedy in West London in 2017 that claimed 72 lives was caused by a structural integrity failure. The fire that broke out from a kitchen of a flat on the fourth floor quickly spread upward through the claddings and insulations, setting ablaze all the twenty floors above it. The landlord's negligence of several warnings from the fire assessment reports of previous years proved fatal during this incident. This is true with the integrity of people. Integrity is a highly essential quality indispensable for everyone in every aspect of life. Integrity stems from the Latin word 'integer', which means whole and complete. So integrity requires developing an inner sense of 'wholeness' and consistency of character. It is adherence to ethical uprightness manifested through actions disregarding its cost, consequence, or conspicuousness. Therefore, genuine integrity is doing the right thing even if it is difficult and no one is watching, or no one is ever going to know whether one does it or not.

The biblical mandate of integrity promulgates a comprehensive and consistent response rather than partial and temporal action. In the Old Testament, 'integrity' is presented as 'uprightness' or 'blamelessness' of the heart (Gen 20:5, 6; 1Kg 9:4). The term integrity recurs five times in the book of Job (Job 2:3, 9; 4:6; 27:5; 31:6) as Job's outstanding quality, especially concerning his devotion to God. While his wife and friends challenged his Integrity towards God amid intense suffering, Job remained faithful, and finally, it was proved genuine (Job 31:6). Similarly, the book of Proverbs presents integrity as a profound quality that sustains, guides, and delivers those who possess it (Pro. 2:7, 21; 10:9; 11:3; 14:32; 20:7). Apostle Paul's statement before the Roman Governor, Felix, "I strive always to maintain a clear conscience before God and man," underscores a holistic application of integrity, fundamental to the Bible.

- "A clear conscience" indicates feeling right about his thoughts and actions in his judgment and being true to himself without feeling guilty.
- "At all time" asserts the consistency of his actions. He is not an opportunist who changes his ideological or theological position according to circumstance.

"The clearer the boundaries of right and wrong set with strong ethical undergirding from an early age, **the stronger the sense of integrity will be with the individuals.**"

- "Before God" reveals Paul's awareness of God's presence in all his activities. Pleasing God has the highest priority in all that he does.
- "And the man" signifies his accountability for his actions to his fellow human beings.

Paul grew as an eminent leader of all time with impeccable integrity in all circumstances. It was deeply embedded in his character and manifested during the worst trials of his life. The stability and strength of any society depend on the integrity of its members. Integrity is highly essential for its stability and success, from the smallest unit, family, to the most prominent institutions like government. Individuals compromise integrity for temporal benefits, selfish motives, indifferent and insensitive attitudes towards others. Inconsistency of Integrity is a great challenge. For instance, some are faithful with money but not in relationships. Parents must cultivate integrity in children from a very early stage in life through leading by example. The clearer the boundaries of right and wrong set with strong ethical undergirding from an early age, the stronger the sense of integrity will be with the individuals. History reveals that all the gains achieved through unfair means, all pleasure enjoyed through illegitimate relationships eventually lead to catastrophe.



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HOW TO LIVE A LIFE OF HONESTY

Having deep and truthful convictions in accordance with the Scripture develops genuine character, and we must live out our lives in such a way to show Christ to others



We live in a world where hypocrisy often wins over integrity. It happens at the workplace, schools, and even in churches. It is hard to find honesty in the current competitive world where it is all about self. But remember, honesty is like a boomerang where our words travel in a full circle. Every time we engage in hypocritical activities, the results will come back and haunt us. So, it is always best to lead a life of integrity. That is what the Bible teaches us also. The writer of Proverbs says, “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out” (Prov. 10:9). Situations around us may force us to behave with a corrupt mind but let us not forget the fact that the truth always wins out eventually.

One of my favorite persons in the Bible who led a life of integrity was Job. The scripture even declares him as blameless. He was an upright man who had a wonderful family. But as we know, God permitted Satan to strike Job and his family though He knew

that Job would not surrender to sin even through his suffering. Despite losing his health, wealth, and family, Job never cursed God or turned his back on Him. Instead, he continued to place his trust in the Almighty and remained steady and faithful in the presence of God. Though he had questions for God, he never questioned God. While we may all go through suffering and trials in this life, the best lesson to take from Job’s life is to remain loyal and honest while we keep on trusting in the sovereignty of God. Nothing happens in our life without the knowledge of God, so our response amid problems is to be allegiant and truthful so God can mold us as he desires and work out wonders through us.

The Bible encourages us to lead an authentic life. One of the primary characteristics of Scriptural authenticity is to be gospel-centered rather than trusting in own abilities. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says – “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” Our works are as filthy rags, but

we do not need to worry as the righteousness of Jesus Christ covers us. The imputed righteousness of Christ made us blameless in the sight of God when we accepted Him as our Saviour, and the gospel transforms us regularly with the help of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that directs us to lead a life of genuineness. The social pressure around us may make us act to show how perfect our lives are. But acting out is always against the model Christ showed to us. So, with a humble and contrite heart, we need to submit our life before God to exhibit the transformed life through our deeds.

2 Corinthians 8:21 says, “For we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord’s sight but also in the sight of man.” The world around us always watches us do what we do and waits for us to commit a mistake. So we should take utmost care in how we lead our lives. Instead of trusting in ourselves, we as God’s children need to let the Spirit drive our thoughts, attitude, and character. Having deep and truthful convictions in accordance with the Scripture develops genuine

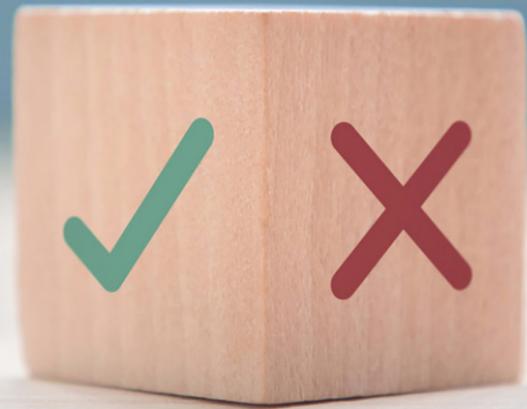
character, and we must live out our lives in such a way to show Christ to others. He is the only perfect one without blemish and is always faithful to his words. It may be challenging and uncomfortable at times, but what the gospel-centered life demands are to be genuine both in our private and public forms of life. So let us imitate Christ, who is the perfect model of authenticity, and display His character through our lives, so others see who we serve.



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Cyril Philip is an IT professional, and writes gospel content for online Christian publications. He lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma with his wife Reeba and two sons. He serves God in the worship department at Bethel India Christian Assembly, Tulsa.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ANSWER?



There is an expiry date for everything on this earth. The beautiful flower that shoots up will be shed one day. But what excites us are the days in between the rise and the fall: Each day whether the sun shines or it's gloomy and dark, the flower does not change its color, nor does it lose its fragrance. It stands wide and broad, allowing and providing little birds to enjoy its nectar, making every bystander pleased as he glances at it.

This is all our purpose on the earth: Circumstances never mattered, but steadfastness counts. Our days on earth are numbered each bright and dark day so we should abide by the word of God during our uncertain days.

Even Christ experienced the same test of Integrity: God exclaimed joy in the heavens and on the earth when created man in His image. God also proclaimed aloud His relationship with the Son on the shore of the river Jordan when he submitted to the commandment of God. Still, He turned his face away and wore silence when His Son was hung up on the cross when his painful cry, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" reached His throne. Even when the heavens closed and darkness ruled the earth, Christ did not forsake his loyalty but fulfilled his purpose and became a ransom for you and me.

Are we hardwired for corruption or integrity?

The question was set right from the time when God laid the foundation for the world, allowing humanity the free will to choose the answer. And now the question has reached before us. We never step back to show a green card when it's about being faithful to God, overlooking all those small accounts. Do we choose God above all things? Or are the choices being made based on the different situations we encounter? Is our attitude towards God consistent even when it appears that heaven has closed its doors on us?

To have a good conscience in all things we do is possible only when we walk in integrity, and such a way is always secure.

“TO HAVE A GOOD CONSCIENCE IN ALL THINGS WE DO IS POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN WE WALK IN INTEGRITY, AND SUCH A WAY IS ALWAYS SECURE.”



KEZIA SAJI
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GOD ALWAYS JUDGES FAIRLY



There lived a pious man who worked as an accountant in a firm. He was faithful to his work, and so he never tolerated any misappropriation of funds in the daily accounts of the firm. One day the owner of the company personally came and asked him to prepare some fake account statements to be submitted before the tax authorities to evade paying huge taxes. The accountant said to his boss, “I believe in God, and so a true believer cannot involve in dishonest business or tell lies.” But his boss still persuaded him to prepare such accounts and finding his words fell on deaf ears, the boss intimidated him, saying if he did not do it for him, he would not allow him to continue in the firm. But the pious man remained firm in his decision, and he did not budge an inch on his determined stand.

Thus, the accountant lost his Job and explained the events that transpired to his wife at home. But his wife did not support his decision as the family with children needed financial security to live on. She despised him and found fault, saying nobody would give him any work unless he changed his mindset. As months passed, his life became miserable, but he did not lose hope in God.

A similar situation can be expected for all those who are faithful and loyal to their work and character. Sometimes, such an honest character could be a bit strange to others. Here, a pious person lost his job because of his faithfulness. This is what the world is supposed to give to such people.

However, there was a twist to the story. After some months, his boss's friend was searching for a man who would be sincere and faithful in his work and could perform his duties with honesty. His company was based somewhere in Dubai. During the conversation with his friend, the former boss revealed his accountant's name, who lost his job due to his honesty. He told him that he would get his address and contact him as soon as possible. At last, the pious man got a new job five times more rewarding than his previous salary.

The lesson we learn from the story is that the faithful and honest one will be rewarded in the end. God Almighty will see your act and richly reward you if you are trustworthy. But who is ready to sacrifice to do such deeds? Even if your good work is not rewarded in this world, God, seeing this, will reward you adequately in Heaven. Proverbs 12:22 says, “The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in people who are trustworthy.”

Certain people strive to become rich as quickly as possible using all the

possible shortcuts. They will resort to all kinds of crooked means to become rich. For many people, telling lies is a hobby. They will always try to convince others of their situations and tell many lies to establish a thing. Spiritually, this will have far-reaching consequences in their life. Once one falls apart from the truth, it will be difficult to restore to the truth again. “Better to have little, with godliness, than to be rich and dishonest” (Pro. 16:8).

Please remember the earth is not our permanent abode. We are all called to live for eternity. Why should we spoil our eternal life by telling lies and being unfaithful to God and man? It is high time we returned to God. God will repay each person according to what they have done. To those who, by persistence in doing good, seek glory, honor, and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger” (Romans 2:6-8).

“Remember the earth is not our permanent abode. We are all called to live for eternity. Why should we spoil our eternal life by telling lies and being unfaithful to God and man?”



DR. BINU DANIEL
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Dr. Binu Daniel is a management consultant, teacher, author, and educationist. He has written numerous articles in well-established English dailies on Economics and Management issues. He lives in Germany with his wife, Reena, and two daughters.



A Perfect Home!



“ If Christ is the ground of our confidence and if we fix our thoughts on Him, we don’t have to worry about falling amid all the issues because God constantly holds you, allowing you to experience His constant peace.”

As the famous saying goes, “Home is where the heart is.” It’s where we feel the most loved and secure. It doesn’t have to be a building or structure; it’s simply where one finds peace, joy, and one’s own sense of well-being.

Do you experience God’s perfect peace in times of trouble? I recently read a story about a prominent art gallery that held a competition for painters and announced prizes for the best painting on the subject of “Peace”. The winner came as a complete shock. The scene was the sea in a violent storm. The sky was ominous; lightning flashed across the sky, and waves crashed against the cliffs on the shore. Peace? You had to look twice to understand what was happening. About halfway up the ridge, a

bird’s nest was hidden in a small hole in the rock. A mother bird sat with her babies beneath her and slept soundly in this nest. That was peace! The truth is that the more you think about the issues, the larger they appear. The more you think about the One you have taken refuge in, the more peace you will find and the more you will realize how trustworthy and powerful He is. “Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved” (Psalms 55: 22).

The English novelist, Charlotte Bronte said in the nineteenth century, “A ruffled mind makes a restless pillow.” How insignificant is it that we lose hope and God’s plan for us? Fear and anxiety are indications of a lack of faith in God. Everything in our life is intended

to result from God’s plan. Taking refuge in God entails trusting God and working past the restlessness to achieve peace. If Christ is the ground of our confidence and if we fix our thoughts on Him, we don’t have to worry about falling amid all the issues because God constantly holds you, allowing you to experience His constant peace.



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Cultivating Integrity in the Next Generation

If you have grown up with siblings, you probably spent a fair amount of your childhood making deals, getting suckered into deals, and not honoring deals or having deals honored. You know that feeling of ire very well, especially if a parent had to get involved. If you are a parent now, your life has most likely come full circle, and you spend your days being a negotiator, referee, and disciplinarian. Regardless of what stage in our life we are right now, we have all felt or personally learned the importance of integrity. It is not a lesson learned from one incident but rather one we learn throughout our lives. As adults, we have an understanding of what integrity is. But how do we teach it to our children? I think we begin by breaking it into manageable parts based on what integrity in itself is.

1. Integrity is being truthful and honest. Zacchaeus was known for being a dishonest tax collector. The wealth he had amassed came from keeping what did not belong to him. But Zacchaeus, upon meeting Jesus, essentially confesses his crimes and makes a vow that he will offer half of his belongings to

the poor and pay back four times as much to anyone he had cheated. His story is an excellent example for children about recognizing a mistake, admitting it, and being truthful about it.

2. Integrity is standing true to your word. Ruth could have returned to her family's home after her husband's death. Even her mother-in-law, Naomi, recommends that she do that. But Ruth feels strongly that this would not be fair or right. So she makes a promise to Naomi to follow her wherever she goes. Ruth stood by her word, and for this, God honors her. Ruth's life is an example of the importance of keeping true to your word, regardless of whether the situation is in your favor or not.

3. Integrity is abiding by a moral and ethical code. When Queen Esther gets word that her people are in trouble, she could have done one of two things. She could have chosen to keep quiet about it, and this was certainly in her best interest, knowing that her husband King Xerxes had no clue his wife was Jewish herself. Or she could speak to her husband on behalf of her people and thwart the plan

that would have destroyed them. Esther decides to do the right thing regardless of what it might cost her personally, and in doing so, she teaches us that standing true to what is right requires courage and commitment.

If we are to teach our children anything about integrity, it would be to ultimately focus on teaching them to fix their thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, and pure (Philippians 4:8). It would require us to model what integrity looks like in action and, most importantly, pray that God equips us with the skill set we need to raise the next generation of men and women to have integrity.

“If we are to teach our children anything about integrity, it would be to ultimately focus on teaching them to fix their thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, and pure.”



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Diabetes and the Eyes

Every day is different for an eye care professional, patient care can range from routine care to an emergency referral to specialists. Optometrists play a crucial role in managing diabetes, a leading and growing reason for vision loss. Diabetic retinopathy is divided into two categories, proliferative and non-proliferative. Treatment protocol varies depending on severity. For some monitoring with photos and dilated exams every six months or yearly is recommended, but others are referred to specialists for injections, laser treatment or surgery. Duration of the disease and Glycemic control are two aspects that put patients at risk for diabetic retinopathy. Retinopathy presents within the retina in form of hemorrhages, cotton wool spots (ischemic areas), exudates (leakage of lipids from capillaries), neovascularization (new abnormal vessels), macular edema (swelling within the best vision area) and other complications. Duration of greater than 5 years predisposes the patient to some type of retinopathy. Glycemic control is measured by a lab test HbA1c (measurement of sugar to hemoglobin) that gives a three-month average. In general, a HbA1c of 7% or less is recommended. For 1% decrease in HbA1c, there is a 35 % risk reduction in retinopathy. Early detection and prompt treatment of diabetic retinopathy is 90% successful in preventing severe vision loss. Patients should be educated by their primary care physicians and endocrinologists to get a yearly dilated retinal exam.

The eye is so intricately designed by God to allow us to perceive natural sight. God likewise desires that our inner man's spirit gets enlightened to perceive our God given purpose. God is the creator, and He has predetermined our purpose whereby we can serve and glorify God. We are all called for a purpose and the Holy Spirit will make it known. Our purpose maybe by passions he places in our hearts, recurring themes in our lives, affirmations from friends and family. David was anointed as king while he was a shepherd. Continue to grow where you are currently planted and allow the Holy Spirit to open avenues to launch us into our purpose. As we serve Him, continue in prayer, reading the Bible and surrounding ourselves with godly wise counsel. Inner sight is more important than natural sight because God's purpose is fulfilled, and His name is glorified.

“The eye is so intricately designed by God to allow us to perceive natural sight. God likewise desires that our inner man’s spirit gets enlightened to perceive our God given purpose.”



DR. SARAH JOHN
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Dr. Sarah John, is a Doctor of Optometry, married and settled in Dallas, Texas. She enjoys not only her profession, but also writing Christian articles and devotionals. She is passionate for Christ and His work.

FROM THE HISTORY

THE PROMOTER OF WORLD MISSIONS, JOHN MOTT

Promoter of World Missions, John Mott. In his last public appearance, Methodist layman John Mott said, "While life lasts, I am an evangelist." The man who did as much as anyone to evangelize the world and unite divided denominations died on January 31, 1955, in Orlando, Florida. He was eighty-nine years old. Death was a place to change trains; he had told a reporter some years earlier. A few days before his death, he sent a message to the World Council of Churches. "Old things are passing away. All things may become new. Not by magic, nor by wishful thinking, but by self-sacrifice and the will to bring them about in the name of Jesus Christ."

His own life epitomized the will to bring about new things in the name of Jesus Christ. Sixty-nine years earlier, on January 14, 1886, twenty-year-old John Mott had walked late into a meeting at Cornell University and heard C. T. Studd say, "Seest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not. Seek ye first the kingdom of God." John couldn't sleep all that night and hunted up Studd for a private talk. That encounter changed his life--and the world. Mott demonstrated a living faith in Christ and became a notable evangelist, a YMCA leader, and a co-founder of the Student Volunteer

Mission. He labored to pull all Christians together to win the world for Christ in his generation. In 1900 he published a book that became a challenge for his day's young men and women. It was titled *The Evangelization of the World in This Generation*. John showed first of all what he meant by evangelization--letting the whole world hear the news about Christ. He demonstrated from the Scripture that God expected no less. Admitting severe difficulties, he insisted that the job could be done. He reminded his readers what Christians in the earliest days of the Church had accomplished and showed striking examples from more recent times. Given modern technology, he assured them that even more could be accomplished in our day.

His influence was enormous. It is impossible to say how many people he inspired to go into missions. He was a major force in the ecumenical (church cooperation) movement. In 1910, he helped organize a major conference in Edinburgh to unite Christians behind world evangelism. "... The church is confronted today, as in no preceding generation, with a worldwide opportunity to make Christ known," he told the 1,200 delegates who were there as representatives of at least 160 mission boards and societies.



John became so well-known that heads of state greeted him. Even while still in his thirties, he was considered the Protestants' leading statesman. At 81, the Nobel committee awarded him one of the highest honors given on earth--the Nobel Peace Prize. Church historian Kenneth Latourette described John as one of the outstanding leaders in the entire history of Christianity. He achieved what he did at enormous energy expenditure, personal attention to hundreds of letters, non-stop prayer, and endless work.

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Pope Francis Appeals for Humility



Pope Francis recently urged Vatican cardinals, bishops, and bureaucrats to embrace humility this Christmas season, saying their pride, self-interest, and the glitter of their armor were perverting their spiritual lives and corrupting the church's mission. Yes, Pope's exhortation to the clergy for shedding pride and embracing humility comes at a time when pride reigns in the world. He understood that humility is a rarity these days, and many have erroneously installed pride in their hearts in place of humility, which is a thing of concern. In fact, the term 'religion' is always associated with 'pride.' The origin of religion was attributed to the feeling of pride in humans. Pride is believed to be the basis of every evil thing. Candidly speaking, pride gave birth to religion, and if one's religion makes him proud, then there is no element of godliness in him. Every religion wants to protect it by spilling blood, and God never wants to spill human blood. In the annals of history, numerous bloodbaths in the name of

religions have occurred, and the fact that religion only promotes violence, which God really hates, makes one thing clear religion has nothing to do with God.

So, in this context, we need God, not religion. If we start believing in God, the embodiment of love, we start building human relationships. Love is the basis of everything, and the whole creation comes out of love. In contrast, all religions in the world put people in a water-tight compartment, and no interaction based on love with other religions happens. Likewise, people in a religion follow certain dogmas rigidly, and love takes a back seat in all religions. This is why violence takes place in the name of religions. When your religion makes you proud (remember the adage, 'Pride comes before a fall'), remember that you are away from God and without God's Spirit. So, in the real sense, a religious man (one who ardently and adamantly follows religious dogmas) will not have God's Spirit in him.

God's spirit makes a real believer in God free from all kinds of bondages and fears, and such a person is an entirely free man, whereas a religious man will always find himself in bondages and fears. So, one must come out of the religious system and believe in the real God. Only then he can live a free life. Leading a free life based on real God is entirely different and a great experience. So, this New Year, everyone must seriously ponder the Pope's message. Let us all embrace humility; kicking our embedded pride out to become a real man/woman in the way God wants. After all, embracing humility is the beginning of a new and changed life, which will bring wisdom, peace, and spiritual prosperity, let alone contented life sans fears.

"Let us all embrace humility; kicking our embedded pride out to become a real human in the way God wants. After all, embracing humility is the beginning of a new and changed life, which will bring wisdom, peace, and spiritual prosperity, let alone contented life sans fears."



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Freelance writer

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SUCCESS WILL COME AND GO, BUT INTEGRITY IS FOREVER

said they had observed misconduct in their workplace. Forty percent or more of Brazil, India, and Russia employees have observed misconduct. In the U.S., thirty percent of workers have witnessed a violation of rules at work. The report also said that 36 percent of employees in multinational companies observed misconduct. People are willing to cut corners

and act without constraints of morality in order to gain power quickly. And if such acts are not caught, then it brings a false notion that this is the way to go. Profit in terms of power, prominence, position, and pennies are temporary, but the profit of having people who trust you as a person of integrity stays forever. Warren Buffet, Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, said: "In looking for people to hire, look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have the first one, the other two will kill you." If one cannot be found truthful in the smallest things, how can anyone trust them with the greater? Jesus rightly asked "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true wealth to you?" (Luke 16:11). Let us be known as men of (godly) culture since we belong to God's family and possess divine nature!

"Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity."

W. Clement Stone



South African Parliament Buildings gutted by fire

On Sunday, a large fire at South Africa's Houses of Parliament has crews racing to save the historic structures. Officials informed that the fire spread from office space on the third floor adjacent to the old National Assembly building toward a gym and the rooftops. A man in his early 50s was arrested inside the parliamentary complex on Sunday morning in connection to the fire. The entire parliamentary complex is waterlogged, and smoke damaged. Given the fire's intense heat, the buildings are now at risk of collapse. Investigators surveying the scene are trying to ascertain how the fire started and why it burned as it did.

World News



China and Russian Military cooperation raise challenge

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping oversaw an ambitious joint military exercise in China this summer. It is reported that there have been collaborations in aviation, undersea, and hypersonic-weapons technology, pointing towards a solidifying defense alignment. Western officials and defense experts are increasingly convinced of the closer relationship based on recent economic alliances, military exercises, and joint defense developments. Both the leaders have developed strong personal ties to bolster a strategic partnership between the former Communist rivals as they both faced tensions with the West. Russia has been sharing highly sensitive military technologies with China that helped bolster its defense capability significantly.



Powerful nations pledge to avoid nuclear war

The U.S, Russia, China, the U.K, and France, who are permanent members of the UN Security Council, have agreed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Five of the world's most powerful nations and nuclear weapons states recognized by the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) released a rare joint pledge to reduce the risk of such a conflict ever starting. With Moscow threatening to invade Ukraine and China issuing its readiness to use military force against Taiwan, the joint statement from these nations represents a renewed commitment to prevent any confrontation from turning into a nuclear catastrophe.

APPLE (AAPL)

182.60

↑ **+5.03**
(+2.83%)

BREAKING NEWS

yahoo! finance **AAPL TOUCHES \$3T MARKET CAP** LIVE

Apple hits \$3 trillion market cap

Apple becomes the first company to hit \$3 trillion in stock market value. Investors are betting that the iPhone maker will continue launching best-selling products even as it explores new avenues such as automated cars and virtual reality. The nearest rival in the market cap is Microsoft, worth about \$2,5 trillion. Alphabet, Amazon, and Tesla have market values above \$1 trillion. Apple's shares soared 5.800% since the former CEO Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone in January 2007. Under Tim Cook, who became the CEO following Job's death, Apple has increased its video streaming and music services revenue. This has allowed Apple to reduce its reliance on the iPhone to about 52% of total revenue in fiscal 2021 from over 60% in 2018. It is expected that Apple will launch its electric vehicle within the next few years.

Cloth masks may not protect against Omicron



Single-layer cloth masks may not provide adequate protection against the very infectious Omicron variant of COVID-19. Although many people prefer cloth masks because they are comfortable and fashionable, they can only block large droplets and not small aerosols or particles that can also carry the virus. The Mayo Clinic requires all patients and visitors to wear surgical masks that block the COVID-19 virus through its polypropylene electrostatic charge characteristics. The N95 masks have a tighter mesh of fibers than surgical or cloth masks, which allows the mask to be most efficient at blocking inhaled and exhaled particles.



Blackberry ends service

It is farewell to an era when Blackberrys dominated airport lounges, although Android-powered devices carrying the BlackBerry name will not be affected. Owning a BlackBerry was once considered a status symbol among politicians, business leaders, and everyday users. Customers largely abandoned the device once smartphones came on the scene. As of Jan 4th, the legacy services for its BlackBerry 7.1 operating system and earlier BlackBerry 10 software will stop running. This means that the devices using old software will no longer function, including for data, text messaging, and phone calls. In 2016, the company transitioned to a security software focus under the name BlackBerry Limited.