

Pursuing Integrity

INTEGRITY (noun)

- 1 the quality or state of being **complete**; **unbroken condition**; **wholeness**.
- 2 the quality or state of being **unimpaired**; **perfect condition**; **soundness**.
- 3 the quality or state of being of **sound moral principle**; **uprightness, honesty, and sincerity**.
Etymology—[LME integrite < L integritas < integer]

Related words:

1. **integer**—anything complete in itself, whole.
2. **integrate**—to make whole by adding or bringing together parts; to abolish segregation.
3. **integral**—(*an integral part*); necessary for completeness.

INTEGRITY (*Heb. tom, tummah*) = "**completeness, wholeness**", **simplicity, sincere, perfect, upright**:

- **Ps 86:11**—Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; **Unite my heart to fear Your name**. (NKJ) *[Undivided]*
- **Ps 119:10**—**With my whole heart** I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!(NKJ) *[Wholeness]*
- **Ps 26:11-12**--But as for me, **I will walk in my integrity**; redeem me and be merciful to me. **My foot stands in an even place**; in the congregations I will bless the LORD. (NKJ) *[Stability]*

Old Testament Examples:

1. **Noah**—Gen. 6:9—Noah was a just man, **perfect** (*complete, whole, entire, sound*) in his generations. Noah walked with God. (NKJ)
2. **Abraham**—Gen. 17:1--When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be **blameless** (*complete, whole, entire, sound*). (NKJ)
3. **David**—1 Kin. 9:4--"Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in **integrity** (*wholeness*), of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments. (NKJ)
4. **Job**—Job 2:3--Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? **And still he holds fast to his integrity**, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." Job 2:9--Then his wife said to him, "**Do you still hold fast to your integrity?** Curse God and die!" (NKJ) *[see also Job 4:6; 27:5; 31:6]*
5. **Abimelech**—Gen 20:5-6--"Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she, even she herself said, 'He is my brother.' **In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this.**" And God said to him in a dream, "**Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart.** For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her". (NKJ)

Prov 2:1--My son, if you **receive** my words, and **treasure** my commands within you,

2 So that you **incline your ear** to wisdom, and **apply your heart** to understanding;

3 Yes, if you **cry out for discernment**, and **lift up your voice for understanding**,

4 If you **seek her as silver**, and **search for her as for hidden treasures**;

5 **Then** you will **understand** the fear of the LORD, and **find** the knowledge of God.

6 **For the LORD gives wisdom**; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

7 He **stores up sound wisdom** for the upright; he is a shield to those **who walk uprightly**;

["walk in integrity" (NAS)]

8 He **guards** the paths of **justice**, and **preserves the way** of His saints.

9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. (NKJ)

Prov 4:20--My son, give attention to my words; **incline your ear** to my sayings. [ears]
 21 Do not let them **depart from your eyes**; keep them in the midst of your heart; [eyes]
 22 For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.
 23 **Keep your heart with all diligence,** [heart]
for out of it spring the issues of life. [Our heart is the pump for our entire spirit and soul]
 24 Put away from you a deceitful **mouth**, and put perverse **lips** far from you. [mouth]
 25 Let your **eyes** look straight ahead, and your **eyelids** look right before you. [eyes]
 26 Ponder the path of your **feet**, and let all your ways be established. [feet]
 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your **foot** from evil. (NKJ) [1 Cor 5:11; 6:9-11, 19-20]
[Integrity is keeping your heart-pump sound and holy, producing an integrated-whole-personality]

Ps 7:8--The LORD shall judge the peoples; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness,
and according to my integrity within me. (NKJ)

Ps 25:21--**Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,** for I wait for You. (NKJ)

Ps 26:1—**Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity.**
 I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip. (NKJ)

Ps 26:11--**But as for me, I will walk in my integrity;** redeem me and be merciful to me. (NKJ)

Ps 41:12--**As for me, You uphold me in my integrity,** and set me before Your face forever. (NKJ)

Ps 78:72--**So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart,**
 and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. (NKJ)

Prov 10:9--**He who walks with integrity walks securely,** but he who perverts his ways will become known. (NKJ)

Prov 11:3--**The integrity of the upright will guide them,** but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them. (NKJ)

Prov 19:1--**Better is the poor who walks in his integrity** than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool. (NKJ)

Prov 20:7--**The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.** (NKJ)

Prov 28:6--**Better is the poor who walks in his integrity** than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich. (NKJ)

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Although Jesus did not use the word integrity, He demanded wholeness and soundness:

1. **Purity of heart**— **Matt 5:8**—“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”. (NKJ)
2. **Singleness of purpose**—**Matt. 6:22-23**(NKJ)-“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good [single (KJV)], your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!” [Undivided]
3. **Purity of motive**—**Matt. 6:1-18**—(regarding giving alms, praying, and fasting).

See Titus 2:7--**in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works;**
in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (NKJ)

