

UPHOLDING YOUR INTEGRITY IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY

(Psalm 26:4-12)

How much of your life has changed because of the Coronavirus pandemic? Adversities and crises like this bring about rapid and radical changes in our lives. They move us out of our comfort zone and drive us face to face with the reality that life in this fallen world is filled with troubles and upheavals. God allows these adversities to afflict us in order to test our integrity. Integrity describes the quality of being wholly upright in heart before God and consistent in one's obedience to His Word. Integrity is being the same person both in times of prosperity and in times of adversity. In seasons of adversity, we who belong to the Lord must uphold our integrity as we represent Christ to this distressed world. David's prayer in this Psalm presents three essential principles on how we could maintain our integrity in the face of crisis and calamity.

1. *Separate yourself from the* _____.

In his prayer, David declares his resolve to separate himself from the sinful lifestyle, corrupt values and immoral conduct of the ungodly (Psalm 26:4-5). As people who belong to God, believers must not conform to the wicked practices of the unbelieving world (Rom. 12:2). In the midst of this ongoing crisis, we must uphold our integrity and distinguish ourselves as believers of Christ through a life marked by peaceful trust in God, not by panic and anxiety (Matt. 6:24,32-33; Phil. 4:19); by faithful stewardship of time, not by chronic idleness (Eph. 5:16; Col. 3:23-24); and by loving care, not by relational apathy (John 13:34; Gal. 5:13; 6:2; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:11; James 5:16).

2. *Sanctify your* _____.

In the midst of his trouble and distress, David expresses his delight in the public worship of God in His temple (Psalm 26:6-8). As he faced his own afflictions, David did not abandon his commitment to worship the Lord with the people of God. While the world is presently overwhelmed by the alarming sound of anguish and anxiety, we who are in Christ shall sing forth the jubilant praises of God who is great and mighty! In the midst of this perplexing adversity, we uphold our integrity before God by sanctifying our life of worship. This coronavirus pandemic must never change our spiritual priorities. In fact, it must even reinforce our lifetime commitment to passionately worship our Lord and joyfully give Him praise.

3. *Stand firm in* _____.

David concludes his prayer with firm confidence and absolute security in God who graciously redeems (Psalm 26:9-12). When we anchor our trust in the Lord and uphold our integrity in times of adversity, the Lord will establish and strengthen our faith. Since God is our Redeemer and Deliverer, we will never be shaken by this ongoing pandemic (Psalm 91:14-16). With David, we could confidently say, "*My foot stands on level ground. In the great assembly, I will bless the LORD!*" (Psalm 26:12).
