

April 24, 2016

THE PROCESS OF PROGRESS

Psalm 119:1-8 (PEW BIBLE PAGE 957)

Integrity is a process. In one sense it's a complicated process, because it takes time to develop consistency in every area of your life.

To be a person of integrity you also have to develop other essential qualities of the Christian life: holiness and wisdom. It doesn't happen overnight. It takes time to become consistent.

1. There's only one foolproof way to _____ integrity.

You need to decide, once and for all, what will be the standard by which you define your moral code. In other words, which rules will you live by?

The more time you spend in the Word, the more you understand yourself, and the more you understand what you need to change about you. Ref: 2nd Timothy 3:16-17

Do you know what needs to drive your time in the Word every morning---The opportunity to encounter God.

If you want to live a life of integrity, you need to decide today that you will build your life on knowing God and knowing his Word.

Though the decision to pursue integrity can be made instantly, the ability to achieve integrity is a process, a sometimes painful process.

2. Be brutally _____ with yourself.

Seeking God through the pages of Scripture can be a pain-provoking experience because it causes you to see things in yourself that you don't like.

Many people respond to this in different ways.

Some do whatever happens to be most convenient and least painful in the moment.

Some place blame on everyone else for everything they do wrong.

Some might admit wrong-doing, but they're quick to justify it.

Some people don't bother trying to justify their behavior, they just run.

Some deal with it God's way. Ref: 1st John 1:9

When you compare where you are to where you ought to be, it can be very frustrating, and even discouraging. But you can count on God's mercy and you can count on his strength.

3. It is a never ending _____. Ref: Psalm 119:7, 8

God understands more than any of us ever will that the journey to integrity is a journey. Ref: Hebrews 13:5; 10:22; 4:16