

A Cry for Integrity – Before it is too late!

“Behold you desire truth in the inward parts . . .” (Psalm 51:6)

Dr. M. John Cava

How can we confront the world when the devil is sleeping on our couch?

I have spent countless hours in the middle of the night agonizing with God over people who profess Jesus as Lord and continue to operate in behind-the-scenes carnalities, control games, and politics. “How can they be so unhealed in their soul, yet still involved – even prominent in the ministry?” God is light, pure and holy - how can they still dwell in the shadows?

Are you like me? Then, I ask God to search me to see if I am blind-spotted, a legalist or deluded. “No, you see clearly – it is generational iniquity.” (It is thinking or ways passed down in families that are “bent.”) The lack of integrity is there in speech, finances, falseness, ambitions, pride, anger, immorality, manipulation etc. A lot of gifting, yet there are big holes in character. It’s obvious.

What do I mean? Prophets give prophecies that don’t happen (not all, thank God), evangelists inflate the numbers, pastors abuse their flocks, adulterous associate pastors get transferred secretly and leaders are a financial mess. Church politics goes on, families put up false fronts of healthiness, gossip rings continue, money designated to missions never gets there and pornography shows up on the computer history. Where is the integrity?

Humility attracts grace and revival:

Let me share a few firsthand examples. Several years ago, I took a team to minister at a small youth retreat in Switzerland. There were only about 50-60 young people and several lady leaders in their twenties. They didn’t seem too spiritually hungry. Around the third group session that I led, one of the leaders came to me in mid-talk and said she wanted to say something. After a few minutes, I gave her the microphone. She went on to tearfully share that she had been steeped in Internet pornography for years and never told anyone. She gave it up a year-ago, but felt she had lived a double life to the youth group and wanted to repent to them.

Two things happened at once: A small group of prayers encircled her in love. A line formed beside me on the platform to confess every imaginable young adult sin. The atmosphere in the room transformed with the manifest presence of God and revival broke out that went on for days. Piles of prayer, tears and joy were all over the room every session, also gifts of the Spirit began flowing and young people got free. Eventually family members heard and came to watch and they were convicted. These young people

went back home and started leading their friends to Christ with true power and signs and wonders. It all started when one young lady got the guts to respond with integrity.

The next situation was in 2009 with a pastor in his late thirties who knew something was off. He wanted a group of older leaders to advise him and pray for him. Through a prophetic word a generational iniquity of perversion and bestiality was identified four generations back. Having some vague remembrances of strange family stories, he submitted to ministry. The oppression broke! He wanted to honor God and walk with integrity. He and his congregation were strengthened. The Lord Jesus seemed to draw closer to them.

What's Happening?

But have our iniquities distanced God more than we know? (Isaiah 59:2)

I wonder if Jesus was targeting the modern day Charismatic/Pentecostal church when he spoke in Matthew 7:21-23, “Many will say . . . have we not prophesied . . . cast out demons . . . done wonders . . . *I declare to them . . . I never knew you . . . depart from me . . .*” What happened? A lot of ministry and gifting, but too much unseated iniquity. If this is a cycle that you see in your own life . . . Beware!

Do you want true unity of the Spirit? We can have prayer meetings, pastor's banquets, marches, worship concerts and the like, but without inner integrity there will be no unity (oneness) of the Spirit. This is the heart level that God sees and evaluates, not the outward forms. Neither, will a “temporary-gathering-anointing” win a city, nor force the demons back. There is no lasting power.

Biblical Examples

Whether it was Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's lies, Samson's lust, Eli's complacency or David's sin with Bathsheba – the truth came out – the damage eventually came. If only someone repented and confessed earlier.

It is not just a matter of everyone knowing everyone's business. Private things can be handled privately, and public things publicly. It is about real repentance, confessing our sins one to another, so we can be prayed for and healed. True humility. Walking in the light – where we can have real fellowship with one another and be washed by the blood of Jesus.

It's also New Testament. “For the time has come for judgment to begin in the house of God, and if it begins with us first . . .” (1 Peter 4:17).

The Fallout

Tens of thousands of people are leaving the traditional church in America. Yes they want relationship, yes they want simple church models and yes they are tired of hypocrisy and

church politics as usual. They cry for integrity, “Can someone really tell us the truth about what is going on around here and stop trying to control the masses like cattle?”

For the glory of God, let’s come clean. Truth is your friend. Have many people been telling you to change in an area of your life. You keep denying it – *though there is a train of failures proving their point!*

Jesus bore our shame on the cross, and he didn’t deserve it (Hebrews 12), so we can fess-up and come to the Father – for free! It is okay to be wrong or need help.

Do you go so far as to fault-find others that get tired of forgiving your repeated, caustic sin and call them un-Christ-like and legalists? Please, humble yourself. It’s a lot better than being humbled by him through imperfect vessels around you – ouch! Wise up! It’s not them – it’s you that has a problem.

Summary – Fruit of a Culture of Integrity

Integrity does not mean lack of liberty or creativeness in the Holy Spirit. It does not mean less power. *It does mean more of the transforming character of God in us making us more like Jesus*

When true integrity hits a Church Body with a seeking heart for God - expect revival. He can work with that flexible, re-workable, re-newable wineskin and pour out the new wine of His Spirit.

Cry out for integrity in your life before its too late! Humble yourself before God and man (Acts 24:16). Just like the youth group in Switzerland, you might find it to be contagious and accompanied by a mighty outpouring of His Spirit in revival.