

Mountain Of The Lord Church
Requirements For Living In His Presence
Psalms 15

November 27, 1999

(Psalms 15 NASB) "(A Psalm of David.) O LORD, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill? {2} He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. {3} He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; {4} In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt, and does not change; {5} He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken."

For over a month, I have been preparing a word on Psalms 15. It has significance to us because we are believing God to visit us in revival. We are believing God to manifest His presence in a powerful manner. We are believing God for people to be healed, to be set free, for signs and wonders, for a powerful visitation from the Lord. Psalms 15 gives us some requisites for revival, some requisites to being in His presence. Let's take a look.

(Psalms 15:1 NASB) "(A Psalm of David.) O LORD, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill?"

David begins with Oh Lord. The word for Lord is Yehovah. It means the self-Existent or Eternal God. He is the all powerful, all mighty God. It is His tent. It is His dwelling place. It is His tabernacle. It is His presence. It is His rules that we must follow. It is up to Him to set the rules in His house. It is His determination of who He will allow into His tent. It is up to Him to set the guidelines to enter into His tabernacle. It is up to the Lord God almighty to tell us who can abide and dwell in His presence.

H3068. Yehovah, yeh-ho-vaw'; from H1961; (the) self-Existent or Eternal; Jeho-vah, Jewish national name of God:--Jehovah, the Lord.

He says, who may abide in Thy tent. The word for abide is guwr which means to turn aside from the road, or to sojourn as a guest. It is a temporary lodging. The tent was not the place that David lived all the time. David lived in his house. This was the dwelling place of the Lord. David would frequent the Lord's tent, but it was a temporary stay.

ABIDE H1481. guwr, goor; a prim. root; prop. to turn aside from the road (for a lodging or any other purpose), i.e. sojourn (as a guest); also to shrink, fear (as in a strange place); also to gather for hostility (as afraid):--abide, assemble, be afraid, dwell, fear, gather (together), inhabitant, remain, sojourn, stand in awe, (be) stranger, X surely.

The word for tent is 'ohel, which means a covering, dwelling, home or tent. The ark of the covenant was placed in the tent. It represented the presence of the Lord. The presence of the Lord is a covering. Psalms 91 talks about dwelling in the shelter of the Most High. It goes on to say that the Lord is his refuge and fortress. The presence of the Lord is a covering.

TENT H168. 'ohel, o'-hel; from H166; a tent (as clearly conspicuous from a distance):--covering, (dwelling) (place), home, tabernacle, tent.

(Psalms 91:1-2 NASB) "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. {2} I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!""

In 2 Samuel 6:12-19, we find the account where King David brought up the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem and set it in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it. David is not just talking about a tent, but the tent where the ark of the covenant was kept. He was talking about a place where the glory of the Lord resided. He was talking about the manifested presence of the Lord resided.

(2 Samuel 6:12-19 NASB) "Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, on account of the ark of God." And David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with gladness. {13} And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. {14} And David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod. {15} So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouting and the sound of the trumpet. {16} Then it happened as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. {17} So they brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. {18} And when David had finished offering the burnt offering and the peace offering, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. {19} Further, he distributed to all the people, to all the multitude of Israel, both to men and women, a cake of bread and one of dates and one of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed each to his house."

Then, David asks the question of who can dwell on His holy hill. The word for dwell is different than the word for abide. It is hshakan, which means to reside or permanently stay. It means to continue or inhabit, to remain or to rest.

DWELL 7931. Hshakan, shaw-kan'; a prim. root [appar. akin (by transm.) to H7901 through the idea of lodging; comp. H5531, H7925]; to reside or permanently stay (lit. or fig.):--abide, continue, (cause to, make to) dwell (-er), have habitation, inhabit, lay, place, (cause to) remain, rest, set (up).

When we traveled and lived on the road, we would stay in hotels. This was a temporary place, usually for a week in duration and then we would move on. This type of stay is more like the word guwr which is to sojourn or turn in. If someone wanted to know where we live, we would answer Acworth, GA. Our hshakan or dwelling place where we resided was different than where we stayed temporarily on the road. David's second question was who could live in a permanent manner on His holy hill.

We want to stay in His presence at all times. We want to live in His presence. We want to continually be filled with His Spirit. (Eph 5:18) We are blessed in the New Testament in that He has placed His Spirit inside each of us. We who have confessed Jesus Christ as our Lord and have become His children are given the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 6:19-20 says that we are a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in us and that we have been bought with a price. We are His tent now. We are His tabernacle now. We are His dwelling place now. We belong to Him and our purpose is to bring glory and honor to the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NASB) "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy

Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? {20} For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

David asked who could live on His holy hill. The word holy means a sacred place or thing. It means to be without sin, impurity or contamination. It is a consecrated or dedicated thing, something set aside.

HOLY H6944. qodesh, ko'-desh; from H6942; a sacred place or thing; rarely abstr. sanctity:--consecrated (thing), dedicated (thing), hallowed (thing), holiness, (X most) holy (X day, portion, thing), saint, sanctuary.

(Psalms 15:2 NASB) "He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart."

When Moses stood in front of the burning bush, he was standing in the presence of the Lord. He was standing on holy ground. He had to take his sandals off to show honor and respect for God's holiness. He could not stand in God's presence with the dust and dirt of the world on his shoes. He had to take them off. We must take off the dirt and filth and sin of the world to come into the presence of the Lord. We are now given the first requirement to abiding and dwelling with the Lord. We must walk with integrity.

(Exodus 3:2-5 NASB) "And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. {3} So Moses said, "I must turn aside now, and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up." {4} When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." {5} Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.""

The first requirement is that we walk with integrity or uprightly. The word in the Hebrew is tamiym which means entire, complete, full, perfect, without blemish or whole. We have a lot of jigsaw puzzles in our house. The children and Tom, which in Hebrew means integrity, like to work the puzzles. Unfortunately, most of our puzzles are not integrous. What I mean is that there are pieces missing from most of them. They are not whole or complete. The entire puzzle is not there. To abide in His tent, to dwell on His holy hill, the puzzles of our life have to be complete. They can not be missing pieces. We can not be missing a moral piece. We can not be missing a financial piece of tithing. We cannot be missing a border piece of authority and submission. We cannot be missing a piece of forgiveness. We must have all the pieces of our puzzles in tact to abide and dwell in the presence of the Lord.

INTEGRITY (NASB) OR UPRIGHTLY (KJV) H8549. tamiym, taw-meem'; from H8552; entire (lit., fig. or mor.); also (as noun) integrity, truth:--without blemish, complete, full, perfect, sincerely (-ity), sound, without spot, undefiled, upright (-ly), whole.

H8552. tamam, taw-mam'; a prim. root; to complete; in a good or a bad sense, lit. or fig., trans. or intrans. (as follows):--accomplish, cease, be clean [pass-] ed, consume, have done, (come to an, make an) end, fail, come to the full, be all gone, X be all here, be (make) perfect, be spent, sum, be (shew self) upright, be wasted, whole.

One definition that I came across was by Scott Ott. He says that integrity means simply agreement

between what I say and what I do. It means admitting mistakes and learning from them.

In the computer business the word integrity also has some meaning. They talk about data integrity. There is a problem today with data corruption. It can come through viruses, hardware or software problems, etc. When there is data corruption, you do not have integrity. Data integrity means completeness, wholeness, without any corruption.

Data Integrity

Data Integrity protection is vital to any PC. Loss of data integrity can cost huge amounts of time and money. Data integrity is ignored by most people, yet almost every PC suffers from loss of data integrity (undetected corruption of its data). Sometimes this damage causes complete loss of a disk but more often this damage goes unnoticed or the user simply reinstalls some of the software on their PC and this fixes the mysterious problem. Since few people have tools (such as Integrity Master) that can detect data corruption PC tech support will offer advice such as formatting the disk or reinstalling software. With good data integrity protection, such drastic steps are not needed and hardware or software problems can be detected before they cause serious damage to the disk. The key is that it's vital to have a way to make sure that programs and data you have on your PC are healthy. A good integrity checker can provide this assurance and can prevent major loss of data.

Data integrity is not a luxury but something every PC must have. It's vital to know that the integrity of your data is safe. Data integrity can't be taken for granted. Can you afford to have the integrity of any of your data or programs damaged? No, of course not! Yet, you probably have no way of detecting such damage. Most people have protection against viruses Yet, viruses are but one threat to your PC and viruses are not the most likely threat. I'll explain how these other threats (against which you most likely have no protection) can damage your data and how to protect against them.

The key to protecting your PC's programs and data against damage by a human being, buggy software, hardware glitches or other sources is to be able to check the integrity of all your files, CMOS data, and boot sectors. Viruses and the causes I just mentioned can damage the integrity of your data at any time. There is no sure-fire way to stop such damage so detection of the (integrity) damage is vital. An integrity checker (such as Integrity Master) can provide such protection. If you do not have such protection, it's almost certain that something can (and will) damage some areas on your disk. This type of damage can affect only a single file, or large numbers of directories if the system areas on the disk are affected. Data integrity protection is the key!

In almost every arena in life today, integrity has become an issue. Nearly every major university today now has a policy on academic integrity. They spell out what they mean. They spell out the consequences for students involved in plagiarism, cheating, etc. In most case they are immediately expelled and lose any credit hours they are taking that semester. Below is a paragraph from the University of Texas' code on academic integrity. See attachment for full article.

Academic Integrity

At its core, academic integrity requires honesty. This involves giving credit where it is due and acknowledging the contributions of others to one's own intellectual efforts. It also includes assuring that one's own work has been completed in accordance with the standards of one's

course or discipline. Without academic integrity, neither the genuine innovations of the individual nor the progress of a given field of study can adequately be assessed, and the very foundation of scholarship itself is undermined. Academic integrity, for all these reasons, is an essential link in the process of intellectual advancement.

There are 27 verses in the Bible that mention the word integrity. There are many other passages that deal with integrity, but only 27 in the NASB that mention the word integrity. There are 22 in the NIV and 16 in the KJV. Of the 27 verses, 10 of them refer to David. There are six references to Job's integrity. Most of the remaining verses are in the book of Proverbs, which give some principles about integrity.

When I think of these two men, Job seems to have an unattainable standard of integrity. When everything in the world goes wrong, Job blesses God. When his wife tells him to curse God, he refuses to do that. He maintained his integrity at all times.

(Job 2:3 NASB) "And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to ruin him without cause.""

(Job 2:9 NASB) "Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!""

(Job 4:6 NASB) ""Is not your fear of God your confidence, And the integrity of your ways your hope?"

(Job 8:20 NASB) ""Lo, God will not reject a man of integrity, Nor will He support the evildoers."

(Job 27:5 NASB) ""Far be it from me that I should declare you right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me."

(Job 31:6 NASB) "Let Him weigh me with accurate scales, And let God know my integrity."

I can more readily identify with David, on the other hand. He, like me, was not a perfect man, yet the Scriptures say that he was a man of integrity. Though he committed adultery with Bathsheba, though he had Uriah the Hittite murdered, David repented in Psalms 51 and God restored his integrity. Job provides a standard and David's life provides a road map to arrive at the destination.

(2 Samuel 11:3-4 NASB) "So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" {4} And David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house."

(2 Samuel 11:15-17 NASB) "And he had written in the letter, saying, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die." {16} So it was as Joab kept watch on the city, that he put Uriah at the place where he knew there were valiant men. {17} And the men of the city went out and fought against Joab, and some of the people among David's servants fell; and Uriah the Hittite also died."

The Lord Jesus has made a way for us to keep our integrity. Though the righteous man falls down seven times, he gets back up again. When we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us for our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west. Though our sins be as scarlet, He makes them as white as snow. In other words, He restores our innocence. He restores our purity. He restores our integrity when we repent and confess our sins.

Uriah the Hittite was a real man of integrity. He would not go home to his wife while the other soldiers were out at war. He stayed by the king's gate. He was such a man of integrity that David signed his death warrant and had him carry it to Joab, knowing that Uriah would not open the letter and read it. He was a man of integrity and quite a contrast to David at that moment in time.

(Psalms 51 NASB) "(For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him,) (after he had gone in to Bathsheba.) Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions. {2} Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. {3} For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. {4} Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, And done what is evil in Thy sight, So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, And blameless when Thou dost judge. {5} Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. {6} Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom. {7} Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. {8} Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. {9} Hide Thy face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. {10} Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. {11} Do not cast me away from Thy presence, And do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. {12} Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit. {13} Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, And sinners will be converted to Thee. {14} Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Thy righteousness. {15} O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Thy praise. {16} For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. {17} The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. {18} By Thy favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. {19} Then Thou wilt delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Thine altar."

(Psalms 7:8 NASB) "The LORD judges the peoples; Vindicate me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and my integrity that is in me."

(Psalms 15:2 NASB) "He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart."

(Psalms 25:21 NASB) "Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for Thee."

(Psalms 26:1 NASB) "(A Psalm of David.) Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity; And I have trusted in the LORD without wavering."

(Psalms 26:11 NASB) "But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; Redeem me, and be gracious to me."

(Psalms 41:12 NASB) "As for me, Thou dost uphold me in my integrity, And Thou dost set me in Thy presence forever."

(Psalms 78:72 NASB) "So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands."

(Psalms 101:2 NASB) "I will give heed to the blameless way. When wilt Thou come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart."

There are some interesting similarities that both David and Job had regarding their integrity. First, they asked God to vindicate them according to their integrity. Job asked God to weigh him with accurate scales. Both of them made vows to keep their integrity. Both of them are given accounts of their integrity. You can read about Job's integrity in Job 31:1-40 and David's integrity in Psalms 26. Both of them made covenants with their eyes. Job made a covenant with his eyes not to look upon maidens. David made a covenant not to set his eye on any worthless thing.

One of the things that both David and Job did was to walk in integrity within their houses. We saw how Job's wife tries to get Job to let go of his integrity and curse God. She, his wife who could see the real Job, could see that in the midst of all these calamities, he was holding fast to his integrity.

(Job 2:9 NASB) "Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!""

David in Psalms 101:2 says that he will walk within his house in the integrity of his heart.

(Psalms 101:2 NASB) "I will give heed to the blameless way. When wilt Thou come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart."

What does it mean to walk with integrity within your house. Here are some examples of walking in integrity in your house:

- your personal relationships with your family
- your words to your wife and children
- your devotional life (prayer, word, fasting, worship)
- your finances
- your manners
- the things you give attention to: books, magazines, TV shows, web sites, etc. At an ACM conference last year in Orlando, I was talking to the front desk about the X-rated movies they provided in the rooms. They said that church groups and church conferences were the biggest renters of X-rated movies.

It is the things you do when no one but the Lord is watching that test your character. It is the things that you do when you let down your guard at home that accurately measure your character. That is why the Lord uses a man's home life to qualify him for ministry. Both 1 Tim 3 and Titus 1 say that a man must be a good manager of his home. He must be above reproach in his home life.

(1 Timothy 3:1-7) "It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. {2} **An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife**, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, {3} not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. {4} **He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity {5} (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?);** {6} and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the

condemnation incurred by the devil. {7} And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

(Titus 1:5-9) "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, {6} **namely, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.** {7} For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, {8} but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, {9} holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict."

Principles Of Integrity

1. Integrity provides life and preservation. If we live with integrity, we are preserved. Sin destroys, but righteousness brings life and light. Righteousness brings joy and peace.

(Psa 25:21) "Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for Thee."

(Rom 8:6) "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."

2. Integrity provides a shield of protection. Job had a hedge of protection around him. Satan could not do anything to him until he had permission from the Lord. There was a shield of protection around Job. When we do not live in integrity, we step out from under that shield of protection. We are in danger of attacks from the enemy.

(Prov 2:7) "He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,"

3. Integrity provides security and vindication. It has been said that if you always speak the truth, you do not need to have as good of a memory. You don't have to worry about what you told this person or that person. You are secure in what you said. You don't have to be concerned about having something found out about you. You have nothing to hide from. Your integrity provides a place of security and is something that will free you from all charges.

(Prov 10:9) "He who walks in integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will be found out."

(Psa 7:8) "The LORD judges the peoples; Vindicate me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and my integrity that is in me."

(Psa 26:1) "(A Psalm of David.) Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity; And I have trusted in the LORD without wavering."

4. Integrity provides guidance. When we are in doubt about what to do, we should look for the way that allows us to walk in integrity. One day, my boss asked me to do something that was dishonest. He wanted me to sign a false handicap for he and his brother. I would not sign it and it cost me my job. My integrity was the guide to what I needed to do. There is security in integrity as well as guidance, so I knew that God would provide me with what I needed. Two weeks later, I got

rehired. Six months later I was promoted to General Manager.

(Prov 11:3) "The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the falseness of the treacherous will destroy them."

5. Integrity provides you with a qualitative better position. If there is a choice to make between riches and integrity, we are told that we will be better off with integrity. We have choices to make in regard to riches and integrity all the time. In our business deals, do we fully disclose all things or do we make it look a little better than it really is? In our taxes, do we fill them out with complete integrity, or do we overlook a few things to our advantage? We must choose integrity over riches; we will be better off with integrity.

(Prov 19:1) "Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool."

(Prov 28:6) "Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, Than he who is crooked though he be rich."

6. Integrity provides your children with blessings. Solomon was one of the most blessed men of all time. His riches were incomprehensible. People had to see it to believe it. His father had lived a life of integrity. The promise from God is that our sons will be blessed if we walk in integrity. The Lord made the same promise to Solomon. I want my children to be blessed; it is a motivation for me to always walk in integrity.

(Prov 20:7) "A righteous man who walks in his integrity-- How blessed are his sons after him."

(1 Ki 9:4-5) ""And as for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, {5} then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"

7. Integrity provides access to God's presence. God is holy. He is light. In Him there is no darkness at all. Sin cannot dwell in the presence of a holy God. Our fellowship with the Lord is cut off by sin. Fortunately for us, the Lord has made provision for that sin, the blood of Christ. But our sins separate us and damage our fellowship with God and with one another. If we are living in integrity, we can experience His presence in our lives.

(Psa 15:1-2) "(A Psalm of David.) O LORD, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill? {2} He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart."

(Psa 41:12) "As for me, Thou dost uphold me in my integrity, And Thou dost set me in Thy presence forever."

(Job 8:20) ""Lo, God will not reject a man of integrity, Nor will He support the evildoers."

The next requirement that the Lord gives to abide in His tent and dwell on His holy hill is to work righteousness. The word work is pa'al which means to do or make systematically and habitually. It is to practice something. Someone who is working righteousness is systematically and habitually

working at becoming righteous. He is renewing His mind. He is meditating on the word of God day and night so that he may be careful to do according to all that is in it. He is a doer of the word and not a hearer who deludes himself. He is like Ezra who studied the law, practiced the law and taught the law. The systematically implies there is some structure involved. How we hate structure in the church. We say it is legalistic. We like the spirit to float about. But the spirit and truth work side by side, hand in hand. We must systematically work at our righteousness.

WORKS H6466. pa'al, paw-al'; a prim. root; to do or make (systematically and habitually), espec. to practise:--commit, [evil-] do (-er), make (-r), ordain, work (-er), wrought.

The word for righteousness is tsedeq which means right, whether naturally, morally or legal. Someone who works at righteousness works at doing the right moral things. He works at doing the right legal things, like paying taxes and driving the speed limit. He works at doing the things which are naturally right, like working hard and providing for his family.

RIGHTEOUSNESS H6664. tsedeq, tseh'-dek; from H6663; the right (nat., mor. or legal); also (abstr.) equity or (fig.) prosperity:-- X even, (X that which is altogether) just (-ice), ([un-]) right (-eous) (cause, -ly, -ness).

The next requirement that the Lord gives is that he speaks truth in his heart. The word for truth is 'emeth which means certainty, stability, trustworthiness or truth. The root word is aman which is the word that amen comes from. Aman means to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse. The word amen means to support something like you would a foster child. When someone speaks truth, it is something that is building up to give stability. It is speaking things that are certain.

TRUTH H571. 'emeth, eh'-meth; contr. from H539; stability; fig. certainty, truth, trustworthiness:--assured (-ly), establishment, faithful, right, sure, true (-ly, -th), verity.

H539. aman, aw-man'; a prim. root; prop. to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; fig. to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet; mor. to be true or certain; once (Isa. 30 : 21; by interch. for H541) to go to the right hand:--hence assurance, believe, bring up, establish, + fail, be faithful (of long continuance, stedfast, sure, surely, trusty, verified), nurse, (-ing father), (put), trust, turn to the right.

(Psalms 15:3 NASB) "He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend;"

The next area that the Lord requires in order to abide or dwell in His presence is that he does not slander with his tongue. The KJV says that he does not backbiteth with his tongue. The word is ragal which means to be a tale-bearer. A talebearer is one that spreads gossip that may cause trouble or harm. Gossip is defined as idle talk or rumor, especially about the personal or private affairs of others. Slander means to bring defamation to someone. If something is said that tears down their reputation, it is slander. Whether the intent is evil or not, if it does not build up the person, it is slander.

SLANDER (NASB) or BACKBITETH (KJV) H7270. ragal, raw-gal'; a prim. root; to walk along; but only in spec. applications, to reconnoitre, to be a tale-bearer (i.e. slander); also (as denom. from H7272) to lead about:--backbite, search, slander, (e-) spy (out), teach to go, view.

There are two sides to gossip. There is the one that is sharing the information and there is the party that is listening. Both are guilty in a matter of gossip. When someone wants or starts to share

something about someone, ask yourself if you have been placed in a position of authority to deal with the situation. Ask if this is building up the other person. Ask yourself if this is covering or uncovering the person. Ask if this is a private matter or personal business. I have frequently asked people not to share things with me. If I am in a position of authority, I have asked if they have spoken with the person about the matter yet. If not, I refer them back to the person. I give them time to go to the person and resolve it. If it is not resolved after a period of time, I will bring the two together to work things out. I have a responsibility as an overseer to see to it that no root of bitterness grows up by which many people are defiled.

Why does the Lord mention this area in regard to dwelling in his presence. One of the primary reasons is that it destroys loyalty and unity in a body. It causes division and strife. It also grieves the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:29-32, Paul is in the middle of a section of Scripture that gives us some instructions about putting on the new self and doing away with the old self. He deals with our words in these four verses. Sandwiched right in the middle of these is verse 30 which says, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Then, in verse 31 we are told to let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from us. Our words can grieve the Holy Spirit. Slander is mentioned as one of those things which grieve the Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 4:29-32 NASB) "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. {30} And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. {31} Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. {32} And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

If we are trying to bring in the presence of the Holy Spirit, yet we are involved in gossip, we are only fooling ourselves. It grieves the Holy Spirit. We will not see a mighty move of the Holy Spirit until this area is properly dealt with.

Let's look at some other Scriptures that discuss slander. In Psalms 101, King David tells us his position on slander. He says that he will destroy or cut off anyone who secretly slanders his neighbor. He would not allow them to keep any kind of position in his administration. He dealt with slander very severely.

(Psalms 101:5 NASB) "Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy (cut off in KJV); No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure."

David's son, King Solomon, the wisest man on earth, had some words to say about slander. He says that one who spreads slander is a fool. He says that a slanderer separates intimate friends. Slander will ruin a marriage, the most intimate of friends. Slander will separate people in the church. Few things will cause more disunity than slander. King Solomon makes a real strong statement in Proverbs 20:19. He says that we are not to associate with a gossip. I guess that is why King David would not allow a slanderer to remain in his administration. These godly men are not speaking on their own initiative. They are revealing to us the heart of God. If we want to abide in His tent and dwell on His holy hill, we must abide by His rules.

(Proverbs 10:18 NASB) "He who conceals hatred has lying lips, And he who spreads slander is a fool."

(Proverbs 16:28 NASB) "A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends."

(Proverbs 20:19 NASB) "He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, Therefore do not associate with a gossip."

Next, we are told that he does not do evil to his neighbor. That is pretty self explanatory. We are not to do anything that is evil to our neighbors. The word for evil is ra' which means bad. It comes from the word ra'a' which means to spoil by breaking to pieces. In the literal meaning, when we take that puzzle that Tom, which means integrity, has completed and we break it to pieces, we have done evil to our neighbor.

EVIL H7489. ra'a', raw-ah'; a prim. root; prop. to spoil (lit. by breaking to pieces); fig. to make (or be) good for nothing, i.e. bad (phys., soc. or mor.);--afflict, associate selves [by mistake for H7462], break (down, in pieces), + displease, (be, bring, do) evil (doer, entreat, man), show self friendly [by mistake for H7462], do harm, (do) hurt, (behave self, deal) ill, X indeed, do mischief, punish, still vex, (do) wicked (doer, -ly), be (deal, do) worse.

The next requirement that the Lord gives is that we cannot take up a reproach against our friend. The word reproach means to pull off, to expose as by stripping, to defame. I know that Ron Bailey spoke about wall paper a few weeks ago, but we just did some wall papering. We are trying to sell our house. There were sections of border in the kitchen and dining area where the children had pulled off the paper. It left the areas exposed. We ended up removing all the border and putting a whole new border on it.

REPROACH H2778. charaph, khaw-raf; a prim. root; to pull off, i.e. (by impl.) to expose (as by stripping); spec. to betroth (as if a surrender); fig. to carp at, i.e. defame; denom. (from H2779) to spend the winter:--betroth, blaspheme, defy, jeopard, rail, reproach, upbraid.

When we expose people by stripping them of their reputation, honor or character, we are reproaching them. We are not to take a reproach against a friend. We are not to listen to others who would try to expose something about our friend. You are not to expose things or to receive exposing things about people. If anything that is shared in any way exposes or dishonors a person, it is a reproach.

We always have the right to expose ourselves to someone else for the purpose of prayer. We do not have that right to expose others for the purpose of prayer. Husbands do not have the right to expose things about their wives for the purpose of prayer. Wives do not have the right to expose things about their husbands. Friends do not have the right to expose things about one another. This will destroy loyalty, unity and will prevent us from abiding and dwelling in the presence of the Lord.

The Random House Dictionary defines reproach as: 1) to find fault with a person, group, etc.; blame; censure. 2) to upbraid or scold. 3) to be a cause of blame or discredit to.

We mentioned the qualifications of an elder under walking in integrity in the home. One of the key words in both of these passages is the word reproach. An elder is to be above reproach in his home life, above reproach in his character and above reproach with those outside the church. In other words, he is to be without fault or blame.

An example of this can be found in Jude 16. We are given a description of ungodly men in the last days. It says they are grumblers who find fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly,

flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage. Oh, how careful we must be not to fall in that category of people. We want to be people who take the log out of our own eyes instead of finding fault with our neighbors and taking the speck out of his.

(Jude 1:16) "These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage."

(Psalms 15:4 NASB) "In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt, and does not change;"

(Psalms 15:4 KJV) "In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not."

The next standard that the Lord sets for abiding in His tent and dwelling on His holy hill is to despise or condemn a reprobate or vile person. The word vile means wretchedly bad, morally debased; foul or filthy. The word reprobate means a depraved, unprincipled or wicked person. The righteous man, who desires the presence of the Lord, will condemn, scorn or despise those who are immoral, foul or filthy. Both Jesus and the Apostle Paul made it clear that we were not to disassociate ourselves from sinners. Jesus was constantly upsetting the religious folks because He spent time with sinners. Jesus said that He came to seek and to save that which was lost. The religious people would not associate with the sinners of that day. Paul goes on to say in 1 Corinthians that we are not to associate with any so called believer who is living in immorality. There is a different standard for association when someone makes a profession of faith. Our profession of faith is pledging to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. It is to go on the narrow road, the hodos. It is a higher calling. It is a road of integrity and purity.

David uses the word BUT to tie two thoughts together. Instead of honoring the wicked of our day, we need to honor those who fear the Lord. Many of us have heard the Tommy Tenney tape about honor and glory, the kabad, which is a weighty matter. It means to be heavy. We are to give weight or honor to those who fear the Lord.

HONORS H3513. kabad, kaw-bad'; or kabed, kaw-bade'; a prim. root; to be heavy, i.e. in a bad sense (burdensome, severe, dull) or in a good sense (numerous, rich, honorable); causat. to make weighty (in the same two senses):--abounding with, more grievously afflict, boast, be chargeable, X be dim, glorify, be (make) glorious (things), glory, (very) great, be grievous, harden, be (make) heavy, be heavier, lay heavily, (bring to, come to, do, get, be had in) honour (self), (be) honourable (man), lade, X more be laid, make self many, nobles, prevail, promote (to honour), be rich, be (go) sore, stop.

(Exodus 20:12 NASB) ""Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you."

I have personally been tested many, many times over the past 25 years in the area of the fear of the Lord. I will tell you now that I have consistently chosen to fear the Lord over the fear of man. The benefits in God's word for fearing God are incredible. No matter how tempting, it is always best to fear the Lord.

In this country, we honor those who play professional sports well. We honor those who perform musically well. There is nothing wrong with playing golf like Tiger Woods or playing an instrument like Kenny G. God wants His musicians to play with excellence. Everything God did was excellent.

We are to pursue excellence. BUT, we are to honor those who fear the Lord.

We find that companies like Titleist and Nike awarded Tiger Woods with a \$60 million contract to turn professional. How many companies have offered Scott Simpson or Larry Nelson or Tom Lehman \$60 million because of their fear of the Lord? Our world system is not a biblical system.

In many churches today, the question of pastor's salaries is up to the board. Their consideration is more of a business attitude. What is the least we can pay and still get somebody that will meet our qualifications. The Scriptures say to give double honor to those who rule well and work hard at preaching and teaching. The word honor is used to speak of pay.

The final thing in verse four that the Lord says is that he swears to his own hurt and does not change. When we bought the property on Priest Road, based on someone's word, I told Walt that we would buy the trailer belonging to Ed Brock. Even though I said that I did not want the trailer on the property, I would buy the trailer. The other person that told me they would buy the trailer opted not to buy the trailer. Walt worked out a deal with the other realtor to split the cost of the trailer. I felt bad about this and ended up paying my share of the trailer and then giving the trailer away. The one who wants to abide in the presence of the Lord will swear to his own hurt and not change his mind.

A number of years ago, I was planning my golf and ministry schedule. Since I could not play 13 weeks in a row, I scheduled a week off in the middle. I also scheduled an evangelistic golf outing on the Saturday of the week off in Virginia Beach. A month before the outing, the NIKE Tour cancelled the tournament the week before the outing. Now, I would have two weeks off and I didn't want to take two weeks off. I was trying to stay in the top 10 on the money list to earn my PGA Tour card. I tried to switch the golf outing, but the golf course couldn't do it. The church offered me out of the outing, but I opted to honor my agreement with them. The righteous swears to his own hurt and does not change his mind.

This past week, I had a Christian plumber named Jim Lytle do some work for me. He gave me an estimate for the job. He said it would not exceed \$176.00. But while over here, he dropped a key pipe fitting and valve behind a wall. He had to leave the job and come back the next day. His additional time and parts caused the job to exceed his estimate. However, Jim did not charge me any additional charges. Why? Because he swears to his own hurt and does not change his mind. Jim is a man who is seeking after God with all his heart. He is a man who wants to abide and dwell in His presence.

(Psalms 15:5 NASB) "He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken."

A couple of weeks ago, I covered the area of putting your money out at interest. In context, you can put your money out at interest to the world, but not to your brothers and sisters in the Lord. There are different rules for the family of God.

Next, it says that we don't take a bribe against the innocent. I asked the Lord for an example of this and He said to me babies. Babies are the most innocent people in the world. Doctors who perform abortions accept money against the innocent. They receive their payment, reward, compensation for destroying the life of the innocent. God says it is wrong. It is an abomination.

Finally, David ends the psalm by saying that he who does these things will never be shaken. It is not enough to say that we will abide in the presence of the Lord, but we have the added benefit of never being shaken.

Jesus re-iterates these words in Matthew 7 when He talks about the wise man building His house on the rock. He who hears these words of mine and does them is likened unto the wise man who built his house upon the rock. When the storms came, the house on the rock stood firm.

(Matthew 7:24-27 NASB) ""Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. {25} "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. {26} "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. {27} "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall.""

We are going to go through storms in this life. We are going to have strong winds blow against us. We are going to be tested with fire. We are going to suffer like Job and have our integrity tested. We are going to be tempted to curse God. We are going to be tested in taking up a reproach against a friend. We are going to be tested in whether we are going to give or receive slander against a neighbor. We are going to face situations which will test our integrity, which will test if all the pieces are there. These situations will test if the pieces have been broken apart. They will reveal if the paper has stripped off, exposing what is underneath. We will come across situations that will see whether we want to honor those who fear the Lord or those who are reprobates. There is a shaking going on. Hebrews says that everything that can be shaken is being shaken. Those who abide in the tent of the Lord, who dwell on His holy hill and do the things that are necessary to live in His presence will not be shaken.

(Hebrews 12:26-29 NASB) "And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." {27} And this expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. {28} Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; {29} for our God is a consuming fire."

Mountain Of The Lord Church & Ministries November 27, 1999
Requirements For Living In His Presence (Psalms 15)

- V1. A. The requirements for abiding in His presence are set by _____.
- B. Abide (guwr) means to _____ which is more temporary.
- C. Dwell (hshakan) means to _____.
- D. Tent ('ohel) represents His _____. 2 Sam 6:12-19, 1 Cor 6:19-20.
- V2. A. The word integrity (tamiym) means _____. We can think in terms of a puzzle having all its pieces. Job and David were men of integrity. Job 2:3; 2:9; 4:6; 8:20; 27:5; 31:6; 2 Sam 11:3-4; 11:15-17; Ps 51; Ps 7:8; 15:2; 25:21; 26:1; 26:11; Ps 41:12; 78:72; 101:2; 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9. Some of their convictions were:
- Walk in integrity with their _____.
 - Walk in integrity within their _____.
- B. 7 Provisions of Integrity:
1. Integrity provides life and _____. Ps 25:21
 2. Integrity provides a _____ of _____. Pr 2:7
 3. Integrity provides _____ and _____. Pr 10:9; Ps 7:8, Ps 26:1.
 4. Integrity provides you _____. Pr 11:3
 5. Integrity provides you a qualitative better _____. Pr 19:1; 28:6
 6. Integrity provides your children with _____. Pr 20:7; 1 Ki 9:4-5
 7. Integrity provides access to God's _____. Ps 15:1-2, Ps 41:12, Job 8:20
- C. _____ (pa'al) means to do or make systematically and habitually.
- D. _____ (tsedeq) means to be right naturally, morally or legally.
- V3. A. _____ (ragal) means to walk along, to be a tale-bearer, to backbite.
- Questions to ask:
- Is this personal or private information? Pr 20:19
 - Does this edify or build up a person? Eph 4:29
 - Does this cover or uncover a person? Pr 20:19
 - Have I been placed in authority (with oversight) to deal with this situation? Luke 12:14, Ac 20:28

V3. B. The heart of God has been revealed through His servants. King David said he would _____ or cut off those who slandered. (Ps 101:5) King Solomon said not to _____ with a slanderer or gossip. (Pr 20:19) Gossip _____ intimate friends, causes disunity and division.

C. We are not to do _____ (ra'a') to our neighbor which means to spoil by breaking in pieces.

D. We are not to take up a _____ (charaph) against a friend, which means to _____ or expose. Random House Dictionary defines reproach as 1) find fault with a person, group, etc.; blame censure 2) to upbraid or scold 3) to be a cause of blame or discredit.

V4. A. _____ means a depraved, unprincipled or wicked person.

B. We are to _____ those who fear the Lord.

C. We are to _____ to our own hurt and not to change.

V5. A. We are not to charge interest to other _____.

B. We are not to accept bribes against the _____.

C. If we do these things, we are likened to _____ who built their house on the rock. (Matt 7:24-27) When everything that can be shaken is shaken, we will not be shaken because we do these things. Heb 12:26-29

Other notes, insights and applications for my life: