

# 5-Day Devotional: Living Above Reproach

## Day 1: The Foundation of Integrity

**Reading:** 1 Timothy 3:1-7

**Devotional:** Integrity begins internally, in the hidden places of our hearts where only God sees. Like David facing Goliath, our internal convictions shape our external witness. The apostle Paul lists "above reproach" first among qualifications for leadership—not as an impossible standard, but as a compass pointing us toward Christ-like character. Today, consider what moral standards you've established in your heart before temptation arrives. Are you pre-deciding how you'll respond when challenges come? Integrity isn't perfection; it's consistency between who you claim to be and who you actually are when no one is watching. Let the Holy Spirit reveal any misalignment between your private life and public witness, and invite Him to bring correction with grace.

## Day 2: Guarding Your Reputation

**Reading:** Proverbs 22:1-4

**Devotional:** A good name is fragile, like a valuable vase that once shattered can never be perfectly restored. Scripture tells us a good reputation is more valuable than silver or gold. This isn't about pride or image management—it's about stewarding the name of Christ we carry into every interaction. When people see us, do they see a reflection of Jesus? Consider the "Modesto Manifesto" principles: financial integrity, truthful reporting, and moral purity. These aren't legalistic restrictions but protective boundaries that preserve our witness. Today, ask yourself: would my reputation survive scrutiny? If someone accused me falsely, would those who know me immediately defend my character? Live in such a way that your integrity speaks louder than any accusation.

## Day 3: Alignment of Heart and Action

**Reading:** Psalm 139:23-24

**Devotional:** When a car is out of alignment, it constantly pulls to one side, requiring exhausting effort to stay on course. Similarly, when our internal integrity doesn't match our external behavior, we're constantly fighting to maintain appearances, telling lies to cover previous lies. True alignment happens when what we claim publicly matches who we are privately. David prayed for God to search his heart and reveal any offensive way—this is the prayer of someone who values alignment over comfort. The process of realignment can be uncomfortable, like iron

sharpening iron with sparks flying and pieces falling away. But the result is freedom—the ease of living one truth instead of managing multiple versions of yourself. Invite God today to examine your heart and reveal any areas of misalignment.

## Day 4: Knowing Your Weaknesses

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**Devotional:** Being thoroughly acquainted with your own temptations isn't pessimism—it's wisdom. When you know your weaknesses, you can prepare defenses and invite accountability. We weren't designed to fight battles alone; Jesus had twelve companions, and we need spiritual community too. Perhaps you struggle with lust, anger, greed, or fear. Don't hide these struggles in shame; bring them into the light with trusted believers who can walk alongside you. Sometimes maintaining integrity means calling a friend before entering a tempting situation. It means choosing inconvenience over compromise. Remember, God's power is perfected in our weakness. Your vulnerabilities aren't disqualifications—they're opportunities for His strength to shine through your surrendered life. What weakness will you acknowledge and protect today?

## Day 5: Ambassadors of the Kingdom

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

**Devotional:** You are an ambassador—a representative of heaven's kingdom on earth. This isn't just a nice metaphor; it's your actual identity and calling. Everything you do either honors or dishonors the One you represent. People may not read the Bible, but they're reading your life. They're watching how you handle finances, treat your family, respond to frustration, and navigate moral choices. The gospel is best preached when necessary with words—meaning our lives should speak so clearly of Christ that words become confirmation rather than contradiction. Like Benjamin, whose name was changed from "son of my sorrow" to "son of my right hand," God has given you a new identity of honor and authority. Walk worthy of that calling today, representing the Father well in every interaction.