

Covenant Relationships and Divine Connections

Part 3: The Value of Honesty and Transparency

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Principle: Every vertical and horizontal relationship has three parties involved: you, another person, and the spirit that drives that relationship. If you are unsure what is driving the relationship, examine the fruit of the relationship. You will never have it in you to be completely honest and transparent if Satan drives your relationship - he's the father of lies. **Holy Spirit** is the spirit of truth, and He enables us to be honest and transparent. Fear drives many relationships. The enemy has made us think vulnerability is a bad thing, as if it makes us weak. Jesus was a vulnerable man, to the point of obeying God in everything, even the death on the Cross. Your horizontal and vertical relationships ought to be fused with honesty and transparency. Satan deceives us when we think that we're safer by holding on to secrets, as if we are protected under all the lies and fear.

Principle: Honesty is not just telling the truth. There is no such thing as a half-truth. If there is, then there is a thing as a half-Jesus, or half-Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Truth. People lie by omission. Honesty is a lifestyle, not something you do some of the time. We are to live our lives as open books to the people that are responsible to and for us. What's the real value of a relationship with a friend, mentor, husband or wife, or family member when you can't be honest? It results in just having company.

Realize that you have access to what God wants for a relationship to be when you live as an open book. If you tell what's going on, the enemy can't and won't torment you. Honesty is a tying of hearts. Our culture works against commitment, which is the responsibility you take to love your life as an open book - this is the healthy way! We are to understand who we're committed to, understand their purpose, and who sent them. If you don't have real commitment laced with honesty and transparency, your love walk will be lacking, leaving you susceptible to fear. This works to destroy you and your ability to have fruitful relationships. Perfected love casts out fear. Perfected love has to be in your relationships in order for you to truly be committed. Take your commitment walk more seriously.

Ask yourself! Are you a liar? Do you do things with the intent to deceive? Is your relationship fueled by rejection and abandonment? You can't get the help you need if you don't tell the truth. You need a relationship that is a place of truth and vulnerability where you can be open without being judged. What are Alcoholics Anonymous meetings about? Being able to tell the truth and not feel attacked or judged - a non-judgmental environment of safety to help you grow. Don't let your privacy become poisonous.

Be honest and transparent with yourself! If you feel like your life is not being built or going anywhere, examine your honesty. You will always rob yourself of the strength needed to move on if you're not honest. Honesty and transparency creates good communication. All intentions and thoughts are expressed clearly and concisely, with no room for assumption or misinterpretation. The devil works well in assumptions.

Ruth 1:16

Principle: Character issues go along with your calling. It's harder to fix your character than to leave your calling. There are many that are giving up their calling to be with someone, or keep living in the way they want without subjecting their lives in humility to others to be changed. Working on character challenges us. You can either respond with pride or humility when confronted with character issues. For many, it's easier to trust the Satan they know than to trust the God they don't. Just as Ruth did with Naomi, we need to clearly communicate our commitments in relationships.

Honesty will give you the right to be built. Lying comes with a curse. Everything that comes from Satan is cursed, including lies. That ought to make you change completely right now! If you are not being honest and transparent, you are improperly stewarding the relationships that God gave you. It's not about a person's ability to understand the situations, or your thought patterns. Someone can never have encountered a situation you need to be honest about, but they can give you what the Word of God is

about concerning it. They can let you know God's heart on the subject matter, never having seen or felt the reality of it in their own lives. In our relationships, it's more about truth than understanding.

Ecclesiastes 10:8

Principle: When a law is given, no one is exempt from it. Serpents represent curses, deceivers, and liars. The hedge represents counsel. There is a severity that comes with not fulfilling or choosing to throw your calling away. God will hold you accountable. You are free to break relationships with people if nothing about them provokes you to know God more (unless a God-given assignment). Follow the Word, not your own thoughts. If you reject covering, it is difficult for you according to the Word - the serpent will bite! Denial keeps people in cycles. Be honest with God, yourself, and other people. You are protected from reproach this way. You ought to flourish in your relationships.

James 5:16-17

Everyone always reads verse 17 and applies it to prayer. Verse 17 is applicable to prayer, but contextually, it is referring to the prayer prayed for our faults (that are confessed). Verse 17 applies to the posture of the person you confessed to. If you have not confessed, you are not healed. When the Bible speaks of seeking God with a whole heart, it isn't talking about the entire heart. It's denoting whole in the sense of complete, fixed, and healthy. You can't see God with a fractured heart.

Are you truthful? God will never bless liars. You can receive financial increase when you're not doing something with it. No money without an assignment in Jesus. You have to be doing something. You can't be blessed when you're selfish. (Matthew 6:33) Get in your calling. God is well aware of what He's doing when it comes to the details of our lives and what He does toward us. Money is God's invoice for your assignment. We have to put our assignments in the forefront. Be truthful.

SIX QUESTIONS TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER:

1. Who are the people in my life that I'm committed to and why?
2. Are they committed to me?
3. Do these commitments glorify God, improve me, or complete my destiny?
4. Am I completely honest and transparent with the people I intend to be committed to?
5. Have I vocalized my desire to be honest?
6. Do my commitments need to be prioritized?