I. Intro-What is integrity?

In the dictionary, the word integrity means 1) an unimpaired condition, i.e., soundness, wholeness 2) firm adherence to a code of moral values, i.e., incorruptible, honor, 3) the quality or state of being complete or undivided, i.e., completeness.

We see in James 1:19-27-Integrity encompasses all of these things

James 1:19-25: Amplified

¹⁹Understand [this], my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear [a ready listener], slow to speak, slow to take offense and to get angry.

²⁰For man's anger does not promote the righteousness God [wishes and requires].

***We as women should really take heed to this because when people say things that we don't like, we react. And when we react, many times it's ungodly. We become offended, angry and defensive. When we reach that point, we choose not to operate in righteousness but instead we operate in our flesh.

²¹So get rid of all uncleanness and the rampant outgrowth of wickedness, and in a humble (gentle, modest) spirit receive and welcome the Word which implanted and rooted [in your hearts] contains the power to save your souls.

***We need to examine ourselves and get rid of those wicked areas in our lives. Man looks on the outward appearance but God looks at the heart. He sees the things that are hidden in your heart that displease Him. That's where His Word comes in and we have to receive what He tells us in His Word. We all attend Bible-teaching churches and we have also been taught the Word in LOX however the problem lies in us not accepting and applying the Word to our lives.

²²But be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying vourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth].

²³For if anyone only listens to the Word without obeying it and being a doer of it, he is like a man who looks carefully at his [own] natural face in a mirror;

²⁴For he thoughtfully observes himself, and then goes off and promptly forgets what he was like.

***Here's where our integrity gets challenged. We hear the Word but we don't work the Word. We become disobedient to God because we don't heed to His laws. How many of us have gotten a Word from God either directly or through someone else and it made us think for a minute and then we went

on about our business and forgot the Word? Most of the time, it is something that convicts us and pushes us to make a decision of whether we will change our behavior. During that time, we really see what we look like because God shows us ourselves in His Word. Then we walk away from the Word and forget what we look like and we continue on in disobedience.

²⁵But he who looks carefully into the faultless law, the [law] of liberty, and is faithful to it and perseveres in looking into it, being not a heedless listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he shall be blessed in his doing (his life of obedience).

***This is what God wants us to do and He will reward us for responding through change to what He told us. But if we continue in our mess of disobedience, then He will have to bring us to the point of total surrender to Him and chastise us for our disobedience.

- 1. Integrity means treating people fairly and honestly. (Deut 25:15) *Don't cheat people!
- 2. Integrity is giving your word and keeping it. (In **Exodus 8:28-32** Moses went to God on behalf of Pharaoh to stop the plagues that were occurring in Egypt and in exchange Pharaoh was supposed to let the Israeliltes go but he hardened his heart and didn't let them go) Read **James 5:12** -Do what you say you're going to do! This is crucial to our success as women of God and to the progression of LOX. Too many times we drop the ball whether its falling into lust or not completing assignments and we have to uphold a standard of excellence.
- 3. Integrity is more valuable than riches. (**Proverbs 28:6**) * It may not seem like it on earth but you will be rewarded in heaven (**Psalm 41:11-12**)
- 4. The Lord will test and judge your integrity. (Psalm 7:8)
- 5. The Lord hates lies and lack of integrity. (Zechariah 8:16-17)
- 6. Your character can be corrupted by bad company. (1 Corinthians 15:33-Amplified- Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.) *Birds of a feather flock together! Be careful of the company you keep.
- 7. Your integrity should set an example. (**Titus 2:7**)*People are watching you whether you know it or not and most importantly, God is watching, make Him proud.

Self Reflection Questions

- 1. Describe a woman with integrity. What sets this person apart from other people of a similar age and position?
- 2. If people who know you were asked for five words that describe you, would integrity be one of them?
- 3. What can you do to improve your integrity?
- 4. How do we pass on values of integrity to those who are under our influence at work or at home?
- 5. How do we apply these concepts to challenging situations at work or in the community?