



THE
SWORD
A CHARIS GLOBAL VISION MINISTRIES PUBLICATION

When man comes against you, God who knows your heart, will fight your battles and protect you. Your persecution will bring about promotion. Daniel was a man who served the Lord. He prayed day and night to God. When persecution came, the Lord turned that persecution into promotion. Our service is not to impress people. It is sown with diligence and faithfulness, so that God will be glorified, magnified and worshipped. This is what God wants us to do.

BE SINCERE IN YOUR LOVE

In whatever we do, we need to have “sincere love” as 2 Corinthians 6:6 says -

by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love

1) SINCERE LOVE FOR PEOPLE

Everyone has their own definition of love. Some say “love is blind”. Does it then mean that God is blind? God is, by definition, love; It is lust that makes us blind. Do you love others with a sincere heart? God did not call you to break people’s hearts. Are you honest with others or are you merely playing with their feelings?

Sincere love comes from God. He gave His Son to the world. It is the kind of love that gives before it receives. It is love that is not inflated. It is love that is willing to bear all things, endure all things and believe all things. It does not count on the wrongs done to it. Do you have that love?

The cross you bear today comes from love. Love the Lord with your heart, soul and spirit. Love your neighbour as you love yourself. The cross symbolises a vertical relationship with God and a horizontal relationship with man. You are at the intersection. You are the link between God and man. You are called a priest.

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Some people are not sincere in their love to others. They may say they love someone, but they actually hate that person inside. We can hurt people with our sharp tongue and our inconsiderate action. If we really love someone, why is it so difficult to ask that person for forgiveness when we have hurt him or her? Love covers a multitude of sins. If you have hurt someone you claim you love, you should ask that person to forgive you for your wrongdoing.

Romans 12:9-10 tell us that our love must not be hypocritical -

- ⁹ *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*
¹⁰ *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;*

Do not look at your Christian brothers or sisters with lust, but with godly love. 1 Peter 1:22-23 say -

- ²² *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,*
²³ *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.*

We are born again with the incorruptible seed. You need the word of God in your life. If you belong to a church where the word of God is not being preached, go to another church where you can be fed with His word.

Do not just tell someone, "I love you". Prove your love through actions. Whenever I conduct weddings, I always tell the bridal couple to match their words with actions. 1 John 3:18 says we need to prove our love in deed and in truth -

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My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Obedience to the truth produces sincere love for God's people. When you begin to obey the word of God, sincere love will surely come into your life, because you will show it to people. God's love will mould your character. You can encourage people by reaching out to them. Even without saying a word, their spirit will be uplifted because of the life you live. Choose to be a lamb that God will use to save the unsaved. Lay down your life for others so that they may live, just as Jesus laid down His life for you.

2) SINCERE LOVE FOR GOD

In Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Moses told the people -

- 4 *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!*
- 5 *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,*
and with all your strength.
- 6 *And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart."*

Our love to God must be sincere. Many of us love Him because He blesses us. We do not love Him when we do not receive blessings. If a child goes for an exam and does not do well, his love for God lessens. If someone does not do well in his job, his love for God lessens. The same goes for everyone. Do you love God regardless of what you go through in life?

If you love God, you will love His people. Apostle Paul spoke these words in 2 Corinthians 8:8 -

I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.

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And 2 Corinthians 8:24 -

Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.

If you love God, you invest in the things of God. You will reach out to God's people and bless them. When you bless God's people, you are actually blessing God. Joshua 24:14-17 state that we are to be sincere in our service towards God -

14 "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!

15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

16 So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods;

17 for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.

Many Christians claim to be full-time ministers when they are only quarter-time ministers. What matters is not the position you state, but the position of your heart. To be "full-time" means to serve God wherever you are, in whatever capacity you can. You may be holding a secular job, but you can make time to reach out to people and bring them to Christ.

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If you are elected to be a church leader, tell God, “I will serve you with all my heart.” Serve God with sincerity. But if you choose to serve the god of the world, go ahead and do so. You can take a horse to the water, but you cannot force it to drink. A minister’s job is to show you the path of righteousness but you have to walk on it yourself. No one can force you to do so.

1 Timothy 1:5 says -

Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith...

Do you believe God only for some things and not others? For instance, you may believe God to cure your headache, but you may not believe that He can cure the blind. Remember, you should believe God for everything. He does not fail any man or woman. Romans 10:11 states -

For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

Believe Him for the impossible. Instead of “cannot”, say “can.” You can do all things through Him who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13).

3) SINCERE LOVE FOR JESUS

Do you have sincere love for Jesus? Ephesians 6:24 says -

Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Anyone can claim to love Jesus with mere words. Your lips may be close to Jesus but your heart is far away from Him. If you love Jesus, you will love His word. You will keep His commandments.

If you say you love someone, you must make time to spend with that person. If you say you love your spouse and do not spend time with him or her, you are a hypocrite and a liar. The

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proof of your quality love is your quality time. For every relationship to grow, you need time investment.

Do you spend quality time with Jesus? Or do you just spend a quick minute or two to pray to Him? Yet when you are in trouble, do you complain that He never hears you? We are often so eager to pray to get something from God, but we are not willing to spend time talking intimately with Him.

BE SINCERE IN YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS

Sincerity should cause us to be exemplary in everything we do. Titus 2:7-10 state -

- 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,*
- 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.*
- 9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,*
- 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.*

If you lead an exemplary life, nobody can slander you. Be an example for others to follow. Be a pace-setter. Be exemplary in your speech and deeds. Let anyone who comes close to you recognise you as a child of God. Allow God's strength to carry you through every situation and to help you be long-suffering without complaining. Even when God sees you sinning against Him every second, every minute, every day, every year, He remains long-suffering because He sees the blood Jesus shed for you.

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Do not speak evil against others. Show mercy to others as God has shown you mercy. Love them regardless of what they have done to you. When you are too weak to fight back, God will strengthen you and fight your battles for you. Let your sincerity be an example for others to emulate. Apostle Paul was sincere. Therefore, he declared in 1 Corinthians 11:1 -

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

Who can say that today? Can you say it? Apostle Paul is not from heaven, he was born on this earth. He challenged others to imitate Christ because of the sincerity in his heart. Even though Paul was persecuted, falsely accused and caned 39 times, he continued to love others. Can we do the same today? You can only impact people's lives if you are genuine.

2 Corinthians 1:12 says -

For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.

If you say you are sincere, why do you fight with others? If two people claim to be sincere, there should be no fighting. Such aggression comes about when the "sincerity" comes from one's selfish perspective. But if you have godly sincerity, then fighting should cease (2 Corinthians 1:12).

BE SINCERE IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Do not deceive anyone with your preaching. Preach with sincerity so that men and women of God will live right. Let Christ be seen in you.

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In Philippians 1:15-18, Apostle Paul observed that certain people preached the gospel with wrong intentions, while others with the right ones -

- 15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:*
- 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;*
- 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.*
- 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.*

Do not be a person who “sells” the gospel with insincerity. Instead, you should present the gospel of Christ with sincerity, as Apostle Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 2:17 -

For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

Do not harbour any ulterior motives. God sees your true intentions as easily as He sees your actions. If you preach the gospel to condemn others, God will deal with you. 1 Thessalonians 2:3-5 state -

- 3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.*
- 4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.*

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⁵ *For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness-God is witness.*

But if you present the gospel with sincerity, God will shower His blessings upon you. Psalm 32:2 says -

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

BE SINCERE IN DEALING WITH OPPOSITION

In Matthew 18:35, Jesus told Peter that we are to forgive those who wronged us, otherwise God will not forgive us for our wrongdoings -

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

We must forgive our enemies from our heart, not just from our lips. Jesus Christ is our example. Luke 23:34 tells us -

Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

This is an act of sincere love and sincere forgiveness. 1 Peter 2:22 states that Christ did not deceive in His words -

“Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

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BE SINCERE IN YOUR INTERCESSION

When we pray for others, we must pray with sincerity. In Philippians 1:9-11, Apostle Paul urged believers to be sincere in their prayers -

- ⁹ *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,*
¹⁰ *that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,*
¹¹ *being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

Do not just pray for the sake of praying. You must take the burden into your heart and pray to stop Satan from destroying the victim. Are you sincere in your heart when you pray for people?

BE SINCERE IN YOUR EXHORTATION

When you have the opportunity to exhort someone, do it with sincerity. 1 Corinthians 5:8 says –

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

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1 Peter 2:1-3 tell us -

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

WICKEDNESS AND SINCERITY

There is no sincerity in wicked people, as Psalm 5:9 warns us -

*For there is no faithfulness in their mouth;
Their inward part is destruction;
Their throat is an open tomb;
They flatter with their tongue.*

Psalm 55:21 further adds -

*The words of his mouth were smoother than butter,
But war was in his heart;
His words were softer than oil,
Yet they were drawn swords.*

But remember, sincerity does not exempt you from guilt. There are many people who are sincerely foolish. Genesis 20 tells us of Abraham's lie to King Abimelech, about Sarah being his sister. Had God not intervened through a dream to Abimelech, the king would have sinned by taking another man's wife. If you have committed a sin in ignorance, ask God for forgiveness.

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BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF SINCERITY

1) MEN OF ZEBULUN

1 Chronicles 12:33 states that God gave the men of Zebulun a heart of war because of their sincerity -

of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks;

Their stout hearts ensured them victory. Sincerity will always strengthen your faith in God and enable you to fight any battle with victory.

2) HEZEKIAH

Isaiah 38:1-6 tell us that Hezekiah had his life extended by 15 years when he repented and prayed to God -

¹ *In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’”*

² *Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord,*

³ *and said, “Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.*

⁴ *And the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying,*

⁵ *“Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years.”*

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⁶ *I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city.”*

Sincerity attracts blessings. Are you sincere in all your ways?

3) **NATHANAEL**

In John 1:47, Jesus recognised Nathanael as a man who had no deceit in his heart -

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!”

Can Jesus declare that of you? Or will He declare that you are a wicked and insincere person? When your name is mentioned in heaven, will the angels shout “Hallelujah!” or will they sigh collectively? Let this verse challenge you to lead a clean and truthful life.

4) **JOB**

In Job 1:1, Job was a man whom God considered to be blameless and upright -

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

5) **APOSTLE PAUL**

Apostle Paul talked about “godly sincerity” in 2 Corinthians 1:12 -

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6) TIMOTHY THE EVANGELIST

In 2 Timothy 1:5, Apostle Paul acknowledged Timothy's sincerity, as well as that of his grandmother and mother -

when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

LET THE LORD BE GLORIFIED

Be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. Love the Lord above all. Follow in His footsteps. Obey His voice. Ask for wisdom so that you may know how to relate to people and how to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Do not seek for man's praise, but go after God's heart. Ask the Lord to free you from insincerity in all areas of your life. Be sincere in all your ways and let Jesus be glorified!

THE END

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