



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Staying Strong, Finishing Well (Proverbs 20:7)

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*Leadership at every level is built on trust; a fragile condition that must be guarded. How do you avoid failures, temptations, and enticements when serving in the public eye?*

### INTRODUCTION

A person who practices being trustworthy develops the character trait called “integrity”. Webster<sup>1</sup> gave a powerful example of integrity, and defined how this can work out in the behavior of a person who is disciplined: 1. *Wholeness; entireness; unbroken state. The constitution of the United States guarantees to each state the integrity of its territories. The contracting parties guaranteed the integrity of the empire.* 2. *The entire, unimpaired state of any thing, particularly of the mind; moral soundness or purity; incorruptness; uprightness; honesty. Integrity comprehends the whole moral character, but has a special reference to uprightness in mutual dealings, transfers of property, and agencies for others.*

### FRUITS OF PRACTICING INTEGRITY

*Proverbs 20:7 He who walks in his integrity is righteous; happy are his children who follow him.*<sup>2</sup>

The apostle Paul wrote to the people of Corinth in defense of his ministry (2 Corinthians 1:13). He stated that his words were always plain, honest, forthright, unflinching, and non-evasive. These would be great guidelines for any public servant! Paul was a transparent leader. He demonstrated his steadfastness by being decisive, definitive, and true to his word. As a young store clerk, Abraham Lincoln was very bold in practicing honesty. He was tagged with the nick name of “Honest Abe”. This reputation was most helpful during his several election campaigns. What character trait are you purposing to be known for?

### WATCHFULNESS IN YOUR WALK

*1Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*<sup>3</sup>

Great leaders are usually effective in watching their own weak points. Most Bible characters who fell, lost in areas of strength rather than areas of weakness. King David’s General Joab survived major tests in his long career. Joab avoided the temptation to follow Absalom in his near successful coup. Years later, Joab was enticed and drawn away by Aboniah. This failed coup cost the aging general his life (1Kings 2:28).

We recently attended funeral services of our former legislative colleague, retired Navy Commander Don Dahl. He served in Special Operations, was a paratrooper, was certified to fly a variety of aircraft, and was experienced in aircraft carrier landings. Don was killed flying a neighbor’s light homebuilt airplane. He was moving the plane from the farm to an airport. In what areas of strength are you operating in that might have you very confident but vulnerable to great loss?

### CONFIDENCE IN THE TRUST GIVEN YOU

*1Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*<sup>4</sup>

Jesus taught the parable of the talents to warn His disciples about lost opportunity (Matthew, Chapter 25). A business owner gave each of his three stewards a small treasure and directed them to manage the investment while he was away. The steward given five talents doubled his as did the man given two. The steward trusted with one talent was afraid and hid it. He was rebuked for not putting the talent to use. **Are you exercising all of the authority that has been entrusted to you? In what area might God chide you for not being as fruitful as He has equipped or gifted you?**

### A PRAYER

Father God: Please help me to be faithful in service and trustworthy in all that is placed in my care. Increase my talent to meet all of Your expectations of me. Show me that I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

<sup>1</sup> Noah Webster. American Dictionary of the English Language (Webster) 1828

<sup>2</sup> Lexham English Bible. (Logos Bible Software). 2012.

<sup>3</sup> The Holy Bible, New American Standard. (The Lockman Foundation) 1995.

<sup>4</sup> The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica, Inc.) 2011.