



### **Finding Fullness - Part 3 - "Life from the Center"**

#### **Luke 6:43-45 (NIV)**

*No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*

#### **Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)**

*Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.*

#### **James 1:2-8 (NIV)**

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.*

#### **Colossians 1:11 (NIV)**

*being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.*

#### **James 3:13-16 (NIV)**

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

#### **John 1:16 (ESV)**

*For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.*

#### **Psalms 51:6 (NASB)**

*Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.*

## **Key Points**

- Our lives reflect our character, which is shaped by our encounters, our worship, and ultimately, our affections.
- Our life flows from our center.
- We cannot rely on the state of our world for the stability we seek.
- Integrity offers stability that remains unshaken by our circumstances.
- God seeks not your certainty but your faith. Doubt is not the opposite of faith; certainty is.
- God's wisdom provides a sense of stability for us.
- The fruit of our lives is an expression of our inner life.
- Worldly wisdom thrives on comparison and competition.
- Humility emerges when we recognize God's grace and willingly receive it.
- Our souls cannot endure division.
- We discover grace through honesty and confession.
- To live in forgiveness is to dwell in His grace.

## **READ**

*Open your time together by reading the scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:*

- **Read Luke 6:43-45. What does it mean that “our lives flow from our center”?**
- **Read James 1:2-8 and Colossians 1:11. How does God utilize the testing of our faith to shape and mold us?**
- **Read James 3:13-16. How do we display our grasp on wisdom? In what ways does godly wisdom look different than the ways of the world?**
- **Read John 1:16 and Psalm 51:6. What role does honesty and confession play in our pursuit of wisdom and experience of grace?**

## **REFLECT**

“Integrity is having the character to meet the demands of reality.” - Dr. Henry Cloud

- **Read Proverbs 10:9 and the quote from Dr. Henry Cloud. How does integrity provide us with stability?**
- **Worldly wisdom thrives on comparison and competition. Where does this statement play out most often in your life?**

## **RESPOND**

- **What does the expression of your life reveal about your center? How would you describe what is happening there? What are you governed by?**
- **What would it be like to actually experience the kind of fullness Christ offers us?**

## **PRAY**

**Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests either collectively or by breaking up into prayer partners.**