

## Four T's: 02 TRANSPARENT

### The Twin Sister of Truthful

In the last session, we learned that being truthful is about what you say and do. Being transparent is about **who you are**. They are closely connected. Transparency is the twin sister of truth. Jesus had nothing to hide. He was both truthful and totally transparent. He said, *"He who has seen me, has seen the Father."* (John 14:9) Our goal in being transparent is to have nothing evil or offensive hidden inside of us that would stop others from seeing God in us.

*(Psalms 139:23-24 NKJV) "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; {24} And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."*

*(Psalms 139:23-24 NLT) "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. {24} Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."*

Transparency is about working with God to get rid of those things that you would want to hide – to keep in the dark.

Look at a freshly cleaned sheet of glass or a glass of water. Look at the breeze. What do you see?

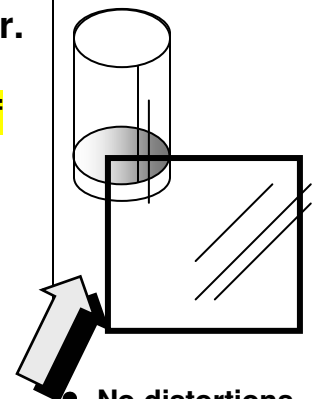
Answer = **nothing**. The glass, water, the air can so **free of impurities** that you look right through them. There are no distortions, impurities or pollutants. Nothing discolors or muddies their clarity. They are transparent.

Let us apply this idea to our lives as Christians.

*(Philippians 1:9-10 NKJV) "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,"*

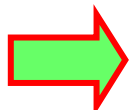
*(Verse 10 God's Word Translation) "That way you will be able to determine what is best and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ."*

*(Verse 10 Paraphrased) "That way you will be able to determine what is best and be transparent until the day of Christ."*



- No distortions
  - No impurities
  - No pollutants!
- Just transparent!

**It is pure!**



**Transparent: To be pure and blameless**

## GUIDELINES

You are not obligated to show everybody everything that is going on inside of you!

- If it reveals sin, or brings shame, it may not be God's will for everyone to see it.
- If it uncovers an innocent brother or sister, without bringing them and others closer to Christ, do not show it.
- Ask yourself if it will bring people closer to Christ.
- Will it glorify God? If so, show it.

**STORY:** I was teaching at a Chinese language Bible school in Kao Hsiung, Taiwan, and was asked if being transparent means we are supposed to share everything. The student said she was being pressured by the people in a group at church to share a part of her life that brought her great pain. It was a time in her childhood when she was abused. I said, not everything is to be shared. If it hurts you, and you do not feel led by the Holy Spirit, there is no reason to do so. However, there are times when God will lead us to share even hurtful things. That happens for two reasons. First, **in the right context, with the right people**, it will help us to be free of the past. Second, it may be under the anointing, for the purpose of healing someone else who is listening.

### I. YOUR LIFE MUST BE PURE.

One Greek word for PURE = **eilekrineis** = **"To discern by the light of the sun."**

The imagery of this word suggests living a life so open and transparent that all who observe you will be aware of your moral integrity. Nothing darkens the view others have of you. What they see is what they will get!

Another Greek word for PURE = **anaitios** = **"To be innocent, blameless,"** or... **"Without guilt."** A pure life is one lived in the light of moral integrity... in the light of openness before God and man. It is a life free from pollution or from the desire to be polluted.

We often try to hide the truth behind the walls of fear. We fear what people might see. Transparency kills this fear and brings freedom to be who God designed you to be.

**QUESTION:** Can we live lives that are half-transparent and still please God? Can a half-polluted glass of water be pure?

- To be half-pure is to be half-polluted.
- To be half-polluted is the same as being fully polluted.
- To be polluted is to be displeasing to God. Think about it!

## II. YOUR LIFE MUST BE BLAMELESS.

*(Genesis 17:1 NKJV) "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."*

*(Philippians 2:14-15 NKJV) "Do all things without complaining and disputing, {15} that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world"*

Transparency, when properly amplified, means:

1. The way you live life does not hide things that would cause hurt, harm or disappointment.
2. You are pure and blameless before God and man.
3. You live your life openly so that people around you can see right through you to Jesus. They encounter nothing dark or hidden in your personality, intentions, attitudes or actions.

### STORY

When we planted a church in Fiji, we found suspicion toward pastors' integrity to be common. We decided to post our weekly Check register in the church. We opened the books **to anyone** for inspection. Some of my students planted churches and copied us. They had great growth and great increase in giving, just as we did

## III. YOUR LIFE MUST BE UNCOMPROMISING.

It was sometime shortly after 605 BC. Jerusalem had been conquered and King Nebuchadnezzar had taken a number of young Hebrews captive into his palace in Babylon. He would train and utilize them in his government. Among these were Daniel and his friends.

*(Daniel 1:8 NKJV) "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he*



Daniel

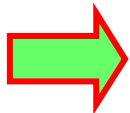
*requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”*

*(Daniel 1:8 - God's Word Translation) “Daniel made up his mind not to harm himself by eating the king's rich food and drinking the king's wine. So he asked the chief-of-staff for permission not to harm himself in this way.”*

## PURITY IS A DECISION – NOT TO COMPROMISE!

Lack of transparency comes from distorted theology. We misunderstand God's view of us. Its basis is fear. Adam and Eve are the prime example. **“I was naked and I hid myself.”**

Compromising with things that pollute you **will pollute you**. Touch things that are harmful, and **they will harm you**.



### POINT #1

**Only you can establish, maintain or destroy your own transparency.**

**What they saw was what they got!**

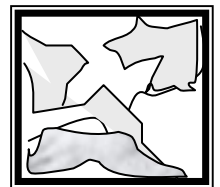
Daniel would not defile himself. He would not destroy his own purity. He chose transparency. What others saw would be what they got... from Daniel. Having this commitment and lifestyle never let Daniel down!

*(Daniel 1:9-13 NKJV) “Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. {10} And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king.” {11} So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, {12} “Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. {13} Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.””*

**Result:**

*(Daniel 1:20 NKJV) “And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found*

Like glass in a frame, transparency is easily broken!



*them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.”*

They passed their test. What others saw in them appeared ten times better than those who chose to compromise.

**Was that simply their outward appearance? Compromise will keep you from increasing in the things of God.** As with Daniel, transparency is at least 10 times better for you!

**Let us move the clock up now -- about sixty-six years later.**

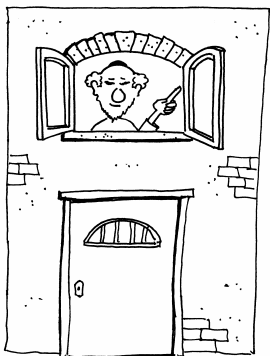
Daniel has lived a life of transparency throughout all his years - in the good times and bad. No one has found fault in him. He has been a tremendous success in the kingdom.

### **The Trap**

There are people who will resent your decision to be transparent. They will be offended when you refuse to join them in their deceptions and ungodly behavior.

*(Daniel 6:4-7 NKJV) “So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. {5} Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.” {6} So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: “King Darius, live forever! {7} All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.”*

Those who resented Daniel could find nothing for which they could blame him. Daniel did not harm others and was not evil or dishonest. He was not self-serving or disloyal.



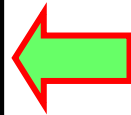
*(Daniel 6:10 NKJV) “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.”*

**Daniel hid nothing.** He prayed in the sight of everyone. He would be faithful to God, no matter what the consequences might be. **What they saw was what they got!**

It was Daniel's habit to trust God. Again, it was his habit! Trust God when things are good. It will drive away fear when things are not good. Daniel had no fear. He refused to worry. He just put himself in God's hands. He did his part, knowing his faithful God would always do His part.

### POINT #2

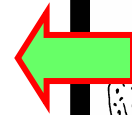
**Transparency is a lifestyle of trusting God.  
(Constantly and persistently practice it.)**



Do not expect the world to approve of or encourage you to be transparent with your life. It is not the way of the world!

### POINT #3

**Not everyone will like your transparency.  
Transparency might cost you. It cost Daniel.**

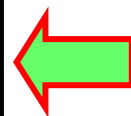


*(Daniel 6:16 NKJV) "So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.""*

*(Daniel 6:20-22 NKJV) "And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" {21} Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! {22} "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.""*

### POINT #4

**If you are transparent before God and men, you  
will be found innocent by God.**

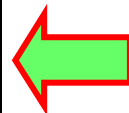


You may suffer abuse and may sometimes pay a price, but the Bible tells us we are winners, who serve The Winner!

**You must be more concerned with your character than with your reputation... because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.** When your reputation is falsely threatened, your character will win the victory for you.

**POINT #5**

**If you are transparent before God and men, the men may find you guilty, but God will shut the Lion's mouth!  
(God's sovereignty will always prevail!)**



Jesus said, *"He who has seen me, has seen the Father."* (John 14:9) Our goal in being transparent is to have nothing evil or offensive hidden inside of us that would stop others from seeing God.

**Truthful and transparent leaders  
are champions for Jesus.**