CHAPTER FIVE –

‘I will uphold Christian integrity in every area of my life, allowing nothing in thought, word or deed that is unworthy, unclean, untrue, profane, dishonest or immoral.’

Who are you when no one is watching?

As followers of Jesus, we are called to live like Christ. To follow his example, to treat others as he would treat them, to hold the values of the Kingdom of God as our standard for living, at all times and in all situations.

When we live with integrity, our actions and reactions are consistent.

This is an attractive way to live.
It’s not always an easy way to live in a sinful world, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, it is possible. In the Bible, we see people who have incredible integrity, and others who seem to have none at all.

Joseph, sold into slavery by his own brothers, became a prisoner in a foreign land and was alone, with no friends or family to encourage or critique him. He resisted temptation though no one would have known, except God.

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, four young men exiled in the capital city of their sworn enemies, a place where 'no one was looking'. They could compromise and give in to the demands of the world. No one would ever know, except God. But they didn’t. Not even when faced with a death sentence.

Integrity can seem like an archaic value in our modern world. Every day we have opportunities to make little concessions. Our culture encourages compromise. But our God is all knowing. He sees who we truly are and knows our every thought and intention. He is rooting for us to live with authenticity, not conforming to the patterns of the world but with our minds set on things above.

Does the way you behave match what you say, value or believe?
What does being a follower of Jesus mean to you?

💬 We want to hear from you - share your story at sar.my/calledfocus

God is at work. And we all have a story to tell.

#ThisIsMyStory
How are you serving others today?

Andrew, who works at The Salvation Army’s International Headquarters in London, UK, reminds us that we all have the opportunity to serve today, to participate in God’s Kingdom building, just where we are:

’I have a two year old daughter who loves to water the plants in our garden. So in the summer every evening, we’ll go out and we’ll fill up her little watering can and walk around the garden ‘watering the plants’. Except, she doesn’t really water the plants. She’ll water the pavement, she’ll water the patio, she’ll water almost everything but the plants that need the water. So after she’s gone to bed, I’ll go back into the garden and actually water the plants this time. I don’t need her help to water the plants but I really enjoy participating with her in it.

It’s similar with God, we are invited to participate with God – we aren’t needed (God is way too big to be dependent on our efforts) but God wants us to be a part of the story. Serving others is a way that we are asked to be involved in Kingdom building. When it comes to service, Jesus is more interested
in our motives and desires, he’s more concerned about the why than the how. Mother Teresa said ‘Not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love’.

Everyone’s service looks different. Today your service might be behind a desk, it might be in your own home, in meetings or at school. Wherever you are today there will be opportunities for service – but all service should be defined by love. We serve God, and others because God first loved us and this love overflows from our beings into our actions.

Service is love in action.

So let’s do it.'
‘In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.’

- Matthew 5:16

As followers of Jesus, we have the privilege and responsibility to live differently, to be imperfect signs of the perfect Kingdom of God that is to come.

Ultimately, our goal isn’t to make people follow Jesus — only God can change someone’s life.

But we can live every day showing others what it means to know God and take every opportunity to make Him known.

Sharing our faith is about sharing our lives.
As we go about our day, being thoughtful and prayerful in our interactions, with a motivation that is above earthly values, affirming what is good and critiquing what is not, others will see a glimpse of the fullness of life that can be theirs with Jesus.

🔍 Find out more about Called to be a Soldier at sar.my/calledfocus or follow the link in our bio

☐ Contact your local Salvation Army to find out how you can access a copy of the book

💬 Get in touch - tell us your story, share where God is at work in your life
'Our actions as Salvationists are grounded in important convictions. What we do is impacted by what we believe. For this reason, Called to be a Soldier will help us understand how Salvationist beliefs shape our actions. It will draw attention to the importance of worship, for the God we worship is a God of saving mission.'

- General Brian Peddle

Whether you’re reading alone, in a small group or as a church family, we love to hear how you are using Called to be a Soldier.

💬 Keep sharing your stories and pictures with us - send us a message, tag us in your post @salvarmyspiritualife or visit sar.my/calledfocus