

# 'Single-Faced'

by A.W. Tozer

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*A.W. Tozer emphasizes the importance of being single-faced and authentic in our relationships with God and others, warning against the dangers of duplicity and hypocrisy.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 51:6, Proverbs 12:22, Matthew 5:8, Matthew 7:1-5, Luke 12:2-3, 2 Corinthians 1:12, Galatians 6:7, Ephesians 4:25, James 1:8, 1 Peter 2:1

**Topics:** "Authenticity", "Integrity"

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## Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the importance of childlike candor in the Christian life, urging believers to embody honesty and integrity without duplicity or hypocrisy. He contrasts the simplicity and openness of children with the deceitfulness exemplified by Judas Iscariot, who lived a double life and ultimately betrayed Jesus. Tozer calls for a community of faith where individuals present a single, authentic face, free from the masks of pretense and dishonesty. He warns that having multiple faces is a sign of spiritual danger and invites believers to seek genuine transparency in their relationships with God and others.

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## Transcript

I also long in the tender mercies of Christ that among us there may be the following: . . . 6. A childlike candor. I love children because of their unbelievably beautiful candor. They look at you and say the most utterly simple things. If they were just a little older they would blush to the roots of their hair, but they are utterly and completely candid. I like to talk with them and have them come up and chat with me because they are bound to tell me things before they leave.

If you do not want it told, do not tell the little ones because they just tell anything. They do not have anything to hide. I believe that with the limitations proper to our adult years we ought to be a place where spiritually we should be so candid there would be no duplicity, no dishonesty. A duplex is a house where there is more than one dwelling; there are two dwellings. Duplicity is the same thing--it means two. Judas Iscariot, for instance, was duplicity incarnated. He was so slick that even the disciples did not know which one was the traitor.

They said, "Lord, is it I?" And Jesus said, "There's the man. When he dips into the dish you'll know him." He had to tell them. This son of perdition had lived with Jesus and His 11 disciples for three years and had fooled them so completely that they did not know which one was the traitor when the showdown came. They had to have a little sign to indicate. That was the slickest piece of duplicity I know about. He was two-faced, and he could change faces with the occasion. He was so slick in the change that nobody

caught on.

He showed one face to Jesus and His disciples and the other to the enemies of Jesus. Now that is duplicity. In Christian communion we ought to be a people without duplicity. Each one of us has only one face. I know that if you have more than one face to present to the public, something is desperately wrong. One of your faces is going to fall under an awful judgment of God. We must be without duplicity, dishonesty and hypocrisy. What is hypocrisy? Hypocrisy is an old Greek word used for an actor on stage, somebody who pretended to be what he or she was not. . . . A hypocrite is an actor, somebody who is playing a part.

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