

# TRUTH

**Truth is in Jesus.**  
(Ephesians 4:21)

Jesus said to him, “*I am* the way, and *the truth*, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”  
(John 14:6)

Jesus is the Truth, so unless we come into a relationship with Him, we *cannot* know truth.

. . . God our Savior,  
who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.  
(1 Timothy 2:3, 4)

God’s desire is for everyone to receive His gift of life—Jesus. As Jesus takes up His residence in us, in Him, we have the truth and everything else. We have this treasure in our earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7).

. . . the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever.  
(2 John 1:2)

**We have to love the God of truth; we have to know His Word.**

Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;  
and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”  
(John 8:31, 32)

Why is it of such importance to be set free by truth? The reason is that if we don’t know the truth, we are bound in error. To see the truth, especially these days, when the truth is covered with so many errors, is not easy. Unless we are truth seekers, we will not see the truth. So many erroneous teachings are already established and perpetrated. *I believe that Satan always surrounds truth with confusion and tries to pass the truth as a big lie.*

We should never put people on a pedestal. Everything that comes to our mind has to be sifted through the Word of God, through the message of grace. Beloved, read the Bible to get to know God, your Father, and His will for you.

The greatest opposition to truth and freedom we have in Christ will be religious people. It was the religious, moral, Scripture-reading citizens of Jerusalem who crucified Jesus. Those who are converted in their minds, but not in their hearts, are the biggest threat to the truth.

The sum of Thy word is truth.  
(Psalm 119:160)

We have to understand the fullness of God's Word, especially the New Testament, which we are under now, and I really don't see the fullness of the Gospel being taught. Actually only a few people comprehend it. Beloved, keep in mind the words of Jesus,

Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.

For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

You will know them by their fruits.

(Matthew 7:13–16)

Beware. There are many false prophets.

We know that Jesus is the truth (John 14:6), that He is full of grace and truth (John 1:14), and we read that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 15:26).

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”

(John 16:13)

And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

(1 John 2:27)

If you have received Jesus, you have received the Holy Spirit. You are born of God, born of the Spirit, born from above. You have the Spirit of truth in you, and He wants to guide you into all truth. Listen to Him.

We have Jesus—the living Word—and we have the Scriptures—the written Word. Yes, it is important to read the Bible, but we have to read it in the Spirit—with God's understanding, and not in the flesh—with human understanding. *God is spirit, and His kingdom is not of this world*, and that is why His Word has to be discerned spiritually. Through reading the Scriptures, we fill our minds with knowledge, but only by thinking it through with the teaching of the Holy Spirit do we possess the true meaning of what we have just read.

What are some of the often-misunderstood truths? Since I wrote individual chapters on these subjects, I will briefly address only a few of them.

### **The Cross**

We have to fully grasp what happened on the cross. God reconciled the world to Himself through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. He dealt with sins once and for all by nailing them to the cross.

Jesus accomplished forgiveness for us. The forgiveness is in Him. If we have Jesus, we are forgiven. WE DON'T GET FORGIVEN. WE ARE FORGIVEN!

*Beloved, we must believe it and act upon it!*

And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, *having forgiven us all our transgressions,*

having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, *having nailed it to the cross.*

(Colossians 2:13, 14)

### **The Resurrection**

God raised Jesus from the dead and His resurrected life is now being offered to all who will come and receive Him. We are saved by His life (Romans 5:10). IN CHRIST JESUS WE HAVE ETERNAL—INDESTRUCTIBLE LIFE.

*We must believe it and act upon it!*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(1 Peter 1: 3–5)

### **The Law**

Not understanding that the Church (all believers) is not under the law, but under grace, will keep you from the truth for sure. If you have Jesus, the truth is in you. If you mix law and grace, you just don't see the truth. You have yet to grasp the truth that LAW AND GRACE DON'T MIX.

*We must believe it and act upon it!*

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

(Romans 10:4)

Therefore *the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ*, that we may be justified by faith.

*But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

(Galatians 3:24–27)

### **Our Identity and God’s Promises** (Read chapter “Christians.”)

Beloved, if you have Jesus, you are a child of God. This is your new identity. You used to be a sinner; you were saved by grace, and now you are a saint (1 Corinthians 1:2). You are a saint not because of what you do; you are a saint because of who you are. *You are a saint because of your true faith in Christ.* And who you are will determine what you do.

Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

In Christ Jesus we have been made complete (Colossians 2:10). All God’s promises belong to us, God’s children (2 Corinthians 1:20). So if Jesus is yours and you are His, you have all God’s promises.

*You must believe it and act upon it!*

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

(Romans 8:32)

We are “babes” in the beginning, but God doesn’t want us to stay that way. He wants us to grow into maturity. We have to learn what God’s promises are and then apply them in our everyday life.

### **Salvation—Eternal Life**

Brothers and sisters, *if you have Jesus you have eternal life, and you will live forever.* Nothing can snatch you out of the Father’s hand (John 10:27–30), or separate you from His love (Romans 8:35–39).

*You must believe it and act upon it!*

And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may *know* that you have eternal life.

(1 John 5:11–13)

### **The Scriptures**

God is spirit and His Word has to be discerned spiritually. The problem comes with our interpretation of the Word apart from the teaching of the Holy Spirit. *We have to read God's Word in the Spirit, with God's understanding—and not in the flesh, with our understanding.*

The **Old Testament** is a covenant between God and the nation of Israel. We read it as a historical book, starting with the Creation. We learn about God, His attributes, and His dealings with people, and we learn about our human inability to follow the law. The problem comes when we start to apply some of the “old” to our lives, as New Testament believers.

We have to understand that the death of Jesus is the dividing line in the history of humanity. Everything in the Old Testament was heading for the Cross. Testament, or covenant, is a will. And God made a new will with us—the **New Testament**. It came into effect after the death of Jesus. It is clearly explained in the book of Hebrews 9:15–17. Reading the book of Hebrews, chapters 7 through 10, will give you a deeper understanding. God says that something new is here—the New Testament—and He has made the first, the Old Testament, obsolete (Hebrews 8:13).

*We must believe it and act upon it!*

### **Gospels**

Jesus was born and spent His entire life on earth under the Old Testament. As I mentioned before, the New Testament didn't come into effect until after His death. Not realizing this important truth, you will easily get mixed up; I guarantee you that! (Read chapter “Word of God.”)

### **Assumption**

I have found that we assume a lot. Example: We assume that everything in the Scriptures is written to believers. But that is an error. Does this verse sound to you like it is written to believers?

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

(Romans 2:5)

The New Testament consists of letters written to congregations or individuals. In the letters, the writers often present Jesus as the Messiah—they are presenting the gospel message. The Scriptures, the sacred writings, are able to give the *wisdom that leads to salvation through faith* which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15).

In the book of James, the author addressed his letter to the twelve tribes of Israel. He is writing to Jews who had faith in God, but had a “problem” with Jesus. For most people, this letter, along with 1 John and Acts, are the most confusing books in the New Testament. They are confusing only because we assume that everything in the New Testament is written to Christians.

The book of Acts is a book of transition. Can you imagine the Jews living for a thousand years under the Law of Moses, and now something “new” is here? Don’t you think that the Jews had a “little” problem with that? Not really. They had a “big” problem! They always accused the apostles of speaking against the Law of Moses. They accused Stephen of speaking against the Law, speaking of alteration of customs, which Moses handed down to the Jews, and ultimately they stoned him (Acts 6:13, 14; 7:59, 60). They were still hanging on to the “old,” while slowly embracing the “new.” Some refused the “new” all together.

Assumptions! Let me use an example from the book of James. The common teaching of the following verses is that these verses are addressed to a sinning Christian.

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back,

let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

(James 5:19, 20)

Again, James addressed this letter to the twelve tribes—the Jews, his brethren. The Jews believed in God, but some refused to believe in Jesus. If one turns a sinner—an unbeliever in Jesus Christ—from his error, and that person receives Jesus as his Lord and Savior, his soul is saved from death and he receives the forgiveness of his sins. The above verses are a salvation message. Keep in mind: Believer = saint; unbeliever = sinner.

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.*

(Ephesians 1:7)

The Bible deals with people in different stages: believers; people who are not yet saved, but are seeking; and people who heard the Word, even rejoiced in it for a while, but who had fallen away from the truth. All the verses which sound like one could lose his or her salvation are addressed to people who are not yet saved.

It took me seven months from the time I started to read the Word of God, before I asked Jesus to come into my heart. But I endured, I held fast to what I was learning until the

end. The end is receiving Christ. That is the end of self. For the rest of my life here on earth I *will* endure, because God Himself is the Guarantor of that. *Christ is my life now.*

Let's say I would, at a certain time during those seven months, give up. I would believe for a while, and in time of temptation, fall away. Let's say the Word I was receiving was choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of this life. I would be like the person in the first three groups in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:3–23). Only in the fourth group, the seed fell into good soil. Only the people in the fourth group can call themselves Christians. I am sure you have heard someone say, "I was a Christian once." This is an erroneous statement. The one who is saying it was converted only in his mind, never in his heart. For it is not "knowing" in our mind, but confessing with our mouth Jesus as Lord, and believing in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, which results in salvation (Romans 10:9, 10). Sadly, there are some people of whom Jesus spoke in these verses:

Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?"

And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness."

(Matthew 7:22, 23)

I could write a book on this subject, but since I am trying to keep the chapters short, I will end with a prayer that "You would be like a child, trusting your Father, opened to His teaching; that you would grow in His grace."

Beloved, our Father wants us to have faith in Him. He wants us to know His love for us. God wants us to become mature people.

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ.

(Ephesians 4:14, 15)

In the light of the truth we will easily recognize errors.

**AND THE TRUTH WILL SET US FREE!**

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O Lord, do not Thine eyes look for truth?

(Jeremiah 5:3)

Jesus said,

"Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.

“As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

“And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.”

(John 17:17–19)