

Walking in Truth

3 John 4

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

What is Truth?

As Jesus was testifying before Pilate, He said that He came to testify to the truth. Pilate then asked, "What is truth?" as if to scoff, can someone really know truth? People search for a lifetime to find something solid, something real, but in fact unless one looks to Christ, he/she cannot find the ultimate truth. Jesus declared,

John 14:6 - "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. NIV

You see *the truth is as much a person as it is a thing. Jesus is the Truth.* This is because God's very nature is truth, He is a God of Truth! The Holy Spirit is also referred to as the Truth in;

1 John 5:6 - And it is the Spirit who testifies, because **the Spirit is the truth.**

Whenever we think about God or His nature we must always remember that He is true and therefore speaks only truth. He is referred to as the living and true God (1 Thes 1:9, Jer 10:10), and further in John 17:17 that His Word is Truth.

John 17:17 - "17 Sanctify them by the truth; **your word is truth.** NIV

Therefore the truth is more than just a person but also a thing, and a very important thing at that. The scripture further explains that Jesus came "full of grace and truth." And this is what we needed so badly as we had been deceived by the deceiver and father of lies, Satan, who is the enemy of the truth. Jesus came and brought the truth to light so that we would no longer live in the bondage of darkness and sin, revealing to us the Truth!

John 1:17 - "17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and **truth came through Jesus Christ.** NIV

The Nature of Truth

A simple reading in the dictionary defines truth as that which is according to fact. It is factual, real, absolute, integral, decisive. *Truth is objective and absolute, it is NOT subjective or relative, it is NOT deceitful or false.* We do not determine what is true, we can only observe what is true. In a spiritual sense, truth is the ultimate Reality, that which does exist and IS actual.

When God revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush He said;

Exodus 3:14 - "14 God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I AM** has sent me to you.'" NIV

God was saying in this, I exist, indeed I exist by Myself with no outside influence. I AM real, factual, absolute and [self-existent](#). You see, everything in creation has a beginning and so it is said "In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth." Jesus Christ, God the Son was true and real, existing before anything was made (John 1:3), and we were not real and true and existing until He spoke into existence. He therefore IS the ultimate reality, He is the origin of reality, the eternal God.

Jeremiah 10:10 - "10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath. NIV

Truth Reveals

Since mankind is in his fallen state, true reality is veiled, unclear, and he is unable to comprehend or understand. In his natural state mankind does not understand the things of God and without the revelation of truth by the Holy Spirit in salvation, remains in

darkness and his mind is blinded to the true reality of his existence as a special creation of God and his sinful and rebellious state before the holy God who created him. Without the knowledge of truth of his sinful state, mankind does not realize his desperate need for salvation from his sins. This is why we preach the gospel, to shine the light of Truth into the hearts of men.

1 Cor 2:14 - 14 The **man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him, and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually discerned. NIV

2 Cor 4:3-4 - 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is **veiled to those who are perishing**. 4 The god of this age has **blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light** of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. NIV

1 Cor 1:18- 18 For **the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. NIV

Job 28:20-24 - 20 "Where then does wisdom come from? **Where does understanding dwell?**

21 It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air.

22 Destruction and Death say, 'Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.' 23 **God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells**, 24 for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. NIV

One must therefore come to God for revelation of the truth. As we come to Christ and hear His word, we learn the true reality of all things, that which is factual, real, absolute, and objective. *We observe in Christ the truth about our origin and existence, indeed the very purpose for which we and all things were created!* As we learn the truth we begin to develop a truthful *worldview*, and are therefore able to assess our lives accurately, according to truth. Once we understand the true reality of our existence, we can make accurate and profitable decisions, which are consistent with truth. Matters become clearly defined when we see them in the light of the truth that God is sustaining our lives and commands all men everywhere to repent and obey his commandments, trusting in Him for power to live today and eternal life in Heaven at death. (**Luke 10:22, John 17:6, Col 2:2-3**)

1 John 5:20 - 20 We know also that the **Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true**. And we are in him who is true-even in his Son Jesus Christ. **He is the true God and eternal life**. NIV

Psalms 43:3 - 3 Send forth **your light and your truth, let them guide me**; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. NIV

Psalms 119:105 - 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a **light for my path**. NIV

Truth brings freedom

Because we are fallen into sin with Adam, enslaved to its passions and desires, before Christ we can do nothing but sin. Our minds being in darkness, the scripture says;

Romans 8:6-8 - 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the **sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God**. NIV

But having come to Jesus the Truth, *we have plainly seen that it was sin that held us captive and that in Christ we could be set free and released from the darkness and captivity of sin*. As we have acknowledged the truth coming to Christ, we therefore repented of sins, which held us in enmity against God, stealing from us the peace and joy of knowing Him. And having come to be reconciled to Him through the Word of Truth, we have been set free! (**Romans 5:1-5, 6:18, 21-22, 8:2, 2 Cor 3:17-18, Ps 119:45**)

John 8:32 - 32 Then you will know the truth, and the **truth will set you free**."

John 8:34-36 - 34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So **if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed**. NIV

Gal 5:1 - 5:1 **It is for freedom that Christ has set us free**. NIV

James 1:25 - 25 But the man who looks intently into **the perfect law that gives freedom**, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-**he will be blessed in what he does**. NIV

Don't deceive yourself

So often we have *unrealistic expectations* about our circumstances. This is because we do not take an accurate appraisal of issues *according to truth*. We want to believe better about things, but many times are *unwilling to acknowledge the truth!* Take for instance an alcoholic or a drug addict. Often when you try to tell them they have a problem, bound in their addiction, they refuse to acknowledge the truth. This happens with all types of sins. *People with problems of anger or depression, jealousy or envy, lust or sexual immorality are frequently bound in their sins and unable to make an accurate assessment of their problems because they are unwilling to acknowledge the truth about their plight.* They frequently blame others or see themselves as victims instead of perpetrators. Positive thinking techniques often sacrifice truth on their altar. Friend, only when your eyes see clearly the plight of your trouble can you make a truthful and accurate decision about how you can be delivered. Don't deceive yourself, a man reaps what he sows (Gal 6:7).

Job 15:31 - 31 Let him **not deceive himself by trusting what is worthless**, for he will get nothing in return. NIV

1 Corinthians 3:18-19 - 18 **Do not deceive yourselves**. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. 19 For **the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight**.

1 John 1:8 - 8 If **we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us**.

It is extremely vital for a Christian to acknowledge the sins that he/she faces within themselves in order to allow the transforming work of the Truth to be fully accomplished in them. We must make a humble and honest assessment of our life before God and allow His truth to transform our thinking and thereby to receive victory over our sins! Many times Christians are unwilling to deal with their sins, thinking that at some point they will just correct themselves or think that somehow they can just continue to sweep them under the rug. *Friend, I tell you that your sins will bring real and lasting consequences in your life!* Today is the Day to bring it to Light, and to lay it out before God, so that He can grant you deliverance! Confess your sins unto one another that you may be healed (James 5:16). It is time to make a truthful and honest appraisal of your situation before God.

1 Peter 5:5-7 - All of you, **clothe yourselves with humility** toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 **Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time**. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. NIV

Walk in the Truth

It is one thing to profess to be a Christian, to acknowledge that God is true, to affirm and agree that that Christ died for sins, even to come to church and look just like a real Christian. *Friends it is entirely another thing to be a real Christian, to repent of your sins, calling on God for mercy inside your heart, to cover the darkness of your sin and to set you free from chains of misery that plague you in the heart.* Acknowledging the truth about God, sin and Christ will not save you if it is not completed by repentance and faith! *Only when one obeys the truth can they be saved!*

James 1:22-25 - 22 **Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says**. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he

looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and **continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it**-he will be blessed in what he does. NIV

To walk in truth is to live in obedience to Gods commandments and to love, even as we are loved by God. To love freely, expecting nothing in return, because it is our new nature to love and to give. You cannot be a God loving, praise giving, saint blessing, child of God on Sunday, only to step out into the world on Monday to curse, and to sin, and to live like the devil! What are you like in your home, or at work? What rules your thought life, in the secret place where no one else can see? That is most likely what your true nature is. Do not deceive yourself, but make a humble and accurate appraisal of yourself before God. You can fool people all day long, but you can never fool God, who sees you in the secret place of your heart, indeed all your thoughts and motives are open and laid bare before Him.

Hebrews 4:12-13 - 12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 **Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him** to whom we must give account. NIV

How to defeat a Christian!

Many times the scripture warns us as Christians not to be deceived.

Ephesians 5:6- 6 **Let no one deceive you** with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. NIV

Since we walk in the truth about Christ and true reality, the enemy works against us in the realm of truth. Satan is a deceiver, he distorts the truth, speaking lies which lead us astray. If he can deceive us in regard to matters of reality, he can cause us to sin against God by believing or obeying some false doctrine or teaching which is contrary to the truth. ***This is the primary work of Satan against the church, deception concerning the truth, God's Word! The understanding of the Word of God in the church is constantly and continually under attack by Satan!*** Remember how the Galatians had been led astray from the truth by the Judaizers, who had begun teaching them that they were justified by obeying certain traditions in the law rather than by faith. This was a dangerous doctrine which led many astray until Paul set them straight. It led the Galatians away from trusting in Christ for justification before God, placing trust in their own good works conforming to the law and traditions.

Galatians 3:1-3 - 3:1 You foolish Galatians! **Who has bewitched you?** Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. 2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, **are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?** NIV

In the same way, Satan is seeking to infiltrate the church with all kinds of false doctrines and teachings which get Christians off track and cause division and dissension and strife, stealing from us the peace and unity that the Truth preserves among the family of God.

Romans 16:17-18 - 17 I urge you, brothers, to **watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned.** Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. **By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds** of naive people. NIV

The Product of walking in Truth and in Wisdom

It is important that we keep our minds focused on the main thing, to love God with all that we have and to walk in obedience to His commandments. We must allow our minds to be conformed to God's Truth, to renew and make clear our understanding. ***Our religion should bear the fruit of the One we worship. It should produce a life full of***

love and peace, joy and thanksgiving! If we find ourselves experiencing anything less, we should stop and make an appraisal of our situation, and make appropriate changes, according to the truth. Jesus the Truth will guide us, guard us, protect us, enlighten us, fulfill us and provide our every need!

Proverbs 2:1-11 - My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if **you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.** 6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 **He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.** 9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair ó every good path. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. 11 **Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.** NIV

2 John 1-4 - 1:1 The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom **I love in the truth**-and not I only, but also all who **know the truth**- because of **the truth, which lives in us** and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be **with us in truth and love. It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth,** just as the Father commanded us. NIV