

The Power of Truth

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32, *NKJV*).

In Luke 6:39, *NKJV*, Jesus asked, “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?” The message is clear, unless we know where we are going we are like blind men and should not lead others. It is here that we see the value of a compass. A compass gives direction and always begins with magnetic north. It is only from this position of magnetic north that we are able to determine all other directions.

In a general sense, the compass represents God’s Word which is truth (Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 40:8). It will never change. But in a specific sense, truth represents apostolic doctrine and is our magnetic north. It is difficult to follow the directions given in God’s Word if we have not first identified apostolic doctrine. Once truth has been discovered and understood we can move forward with confidence in evangelism, spiritual growth, and relationships because magnetic north has already been determined. Everything begins from the position of truth. For example, it is impossible to effectively evangelize the world without a proper understanding of the plan of salvation. And there can be no true spiritual growth without obedience. If we are to experience the power of truth we must choose to follow the way of truth.

Psalm 119:30, *NKJV*, states, “I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me.”

- ❖ A guiding principle of truth is that it can always be stated as a fact.
- ❖ Truth must be possessed, proclaimed, and preserved.

What insights can we learn about truth from Psalm 119:30?

- ❖ Understanding truth is a choice that everyone can make.
- ❖ If a person can “choose” to follow truth, he/she can also choose “not” to follow truth.
- ❖ Truth is a direction that we choose. It is a way of life.
- ❖ Truth acknowledges that there are consequences (judgments) for our choices.

Truth begins on the inside and is seen on the outside. It should affect all areas of our lives. Philippians 4:8, *NKJV* states, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things.”

- ❖ Notice that this wise advice regarding our thought life begins with truth. Everything else follows. What you meditate on is what you will eventually speak. Your talk is a revelation of your thoughts.

- ❖ That's why it is so important to know truth. It is one of the direction indicators on our core values compass that lets us know, "This is the way to go."
- ❖ Truth will lead you with a clear conscious informing you that this way is noble, just, pure, lovely, good, and worthy of praise.
- ❖ When we choose the way of truth we can live an open life without fear because we have nothing to hide.

POSSESS TRUTH

Jesus shows us the power of possessing truth in John 18. When he was brought before Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas the high priest, he stood openly and spoke with clarity. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" (John 18:23-24, *NIV*).

They could not stand up to truth because they were working with lies so Christ was sent to Caiaphas the high priest who then sent him to the Governor of Judea. Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37, *NKJV*). Pilate, not willing to experience the power of truth pushed it aside by asking a question, "What is truth?" (John 18:38).

- ❖ Truth will set us apart from the world.
- ❖ Truth will always point in the right direction.
- ❖ Truth can always be stated as a fact.
- ❖ Truth is Jesus Christ. When we follow truth, we follow Christ (John 14:6).

Truth is not always easy, accepted, or enjoyed but in the end it will triumph. That's why Pilate eventually stood before the Jews and said of Jesus, "I find no fault in Him at all" (John 18:38).

Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32, *NKJV*). Truth is something you possess and when you have it, no one can take it from you. In the specific sense, truth is possessed by obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- ❖ The gospel can be discovered in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
- ❖ Paul then shows us how to identify with the gospel in Romans 6:3-5.
- ❖ Peter explains how to respond to the gospel in Acts 2:38.

It is our response to truth that allows us to possess truth. Once we have identified magnetic north, we can move forward with confidence proclaiming what we possess.

PROCLAIM TRUTH

If we fail to proclaim the truth of God's grace, faith, repentance, water baptism in Jesus name, and infilling of the Holy Ghost they will not be understood. And until magnetic north has been established, it is very difficult to properly read the compass.

Most will not discover truth on their own. It must be clearly proclaimed by those it truly possesses. When we talk clearly it shows that we are thinking clearly.

After we have experienced the power of truth, we need to boldly proclaim truth so others can understand and receive direction for their lives.

Let's take a look at a few examples of proclaimed truth:

- ❖ Acts 2:14-40
 - Verse 14, "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, **lifted up his voice, and said** unto them."
 - Verses 38-40, "**Then Peter said** unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with **many other words did he testify and exhort**, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation."
- ❖ Acts 8:5-6, "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and **preached** Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake."
- ❖ Acts 9:17, "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him **said**, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost."
- ❖ Acts 9:20, "And straightway he [Paul] **preached** Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."
- ❖ Acts 10:34-48
 - Verse 34, "Then **Peter opened his mouth, and said**, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."
- ❖ Acts 16:31-32, "And **they said**, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And **they spake** unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house."
- ❖ Acts 19:1-6
 - Verse 2, "**He said unto them**, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost."

When we proclaim truth we preserve truth. Truth is proclaimed in two ways: by what we "say" and "do." Both must be consistently practiced if truth is to be preserved.

PRESERVE TRUTH

The scribes and Pharisees were called hypocrites because they did not practice truth. They were able to proclaim it but did not practice it. That is why Jesus told the people to obey everything they said but don't do what they do because they do not practice what they preach (Matthew 23:1-3).

The scribes and Pharisees had truth. They were not able to preserve truth in their organization because they did not practice it. As a result truth was minimized and they followed the tradition of men rather than the commandment of God (Mark 7:8).

Here is how it works...

**PROCLAIMED TRUTH IS ONLY PRESERVED
WHEN IT IS CONSISTENTLY PRACTICED.**

Notice the earlier examples of proclaimed truth in the Book of Acts. In each account truth was first possessed, proclaimed and then practiced. This preserved truth in the early church and kept them from compromise.

Truth Possessed	Acts 2:1-4, 17
Truth Proclaimed	Acts 2:38-39
Truth Practiced	Acts 2:42

If we only proclaim the doctrines of Christ (truth) but do not consistently practice them in the body of Christ, truth will not be preserved. Instead, it will be compromised. And the smallest change can make a big difference.

Just how big of a difference can the smallest change make? This same question was asked to an engineer named Fred who worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration – better known as NASA. This is a non military space agency in the United States that studies and explores space.

How important is it to be 100% accurate? What if your calculations were off by only two degrees? Will the rocket reach the moon?

Fred, with a knowing smile reached for his special calculator. Ever so patiently he began, “If the distance from the earth to the moon is 217,614 miles and your flight path is off by only two degrees you will miss the moon by 11, 121 miles!” (Adapted from *Heart Shift*, John Trent, p. 17)

There is a great need to accurately proclaim truth. It must never be compromised or it fails to be truth. Compromise ignores truth and leads you in the wrong direction with the end result being disastrous.

So how do we experience the power of truth?

- ❖ Possess truth.
- ❖ Proclaim truth.
- ❖ Practice truth.

When we do this we will preserve truth and cause others to understand it. Truth is a core value that should direct our thoughts, speech, actions and reactions. It determines our movement through life. If we cannot determine magnetic north, all future movement will be affected.

Truth keeps us correct doctrinally. From this position we can effectively move towards evangelism, spiritual growth and healthy relationships. When we follow truth we follow Christ as revealed in the Word of God. It is a choice. Choose truth!

Study Questions

1. What three (3) steps do we need to take to experience the power of truth? _____

2. What four (4) insights can we learn about truth from Psalm 119:30? _____

3. What two ways is truth proclaimed? _____

4. How is truth preserved? _____

5. Truth keeps us correct _____. From this position we can effectively move towards _____, spiritual _____ and healthy _____.
6. When we follow _____ we follow Christ as _____ in the _____ of _____. It is a _____.
7. What is the guiding principle of truth? _____

