

THE SAVING LIFE OF CHRIST

Truth In Action

John 1:1, 14, 17

The fundamental characteristic of **truth** is its *consistency*. **Truth** is *not academic*. It's the *ultimate principle of life*...and *sanctification* is this *principle in action*...**truth in action**.

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

~John 17:17

I. TRUTH AS A PRICIPLE:

We may *miss* them...we may *depart* from them...we may *misinterpret* them...but God's **truth does not change**. God doesn't need *new methods*, He doesn't need a *new technique*. He doesn't need our *creativity*. That is why, throughout the *history of the Church*, every *spiritual awakening* and every *mighty movement of God* has been the consequence of *a return* to the *basic teachings* of the *Bible*...**Truth!**

There is a need to acknowledge that there are *two difference forms* of **truth**. There's *relative* or *subjective truth* and *absolute truth*. It's easy to *accept relative* or *subjective truth*...this is what leads to *situational ethics*. But most people refuse to *accept*...much less, *surrender* to *absolute truth*. *Man's form of truth* vs. *God's truth*.

In the face of every known and unknown fact, **truth must remain inviolably consistent**. It is *final* and *absolute*. *Circumstance cannot change truth*. If circumstance compels you to *re-think previous conclusions*, and if honest, *in light of the new information*, it *compels* you to *change your convictions*, it doesn't mean that the *truth has changed*...it simply means that you *never knew the truth*, and that circumstances of additional information are compelling you to recognize that fact.

“The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.”

~Psalm 119:160

“...For this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice. Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’”

~John 18:37b-38a

“...If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

~John 8:31b-32

II. TRUTH IS A PERSON:

Jesus was **truth**...*incarnate*. **Truth** is more than a *principle*...it's a *person*!

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

~John 1:14

“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

III. TRUTH PUT INTO PRACTICE:

If we are willing to face a hard truth, we would have to admit that there is very little happening in the life of *churches* today...very little happening in the activity of many *mission organizations* and *Christian organizations* today...that *can't be explained in terms of man's ability and promotional activity*. Unfortunately, few would *cease to function*...*or even notice*...if God were *dead*. They are so *well organized*...they run like a machine. They don't need God.

In our worship...(the Samaritans vs. the Jews)

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.”

~John 4:23

In our spiritual growth...(Sanctification)

“With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.”

~Psalm 119:10-11

“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

~I John 1:8-9

In our everyday life...(our witness and testimony)

“He who speaks truth tells what is right, but a false witness, deceit.”

~Proverbs 12:17

“The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”

~I John 2:4-6

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

~Ephesians 4:15

Speaking the truth in love...literally translates *“truthing in love.”* The problem in translating this phrase is that in **English** we have *no verb* for the word **truth**, while the **Greek** does. The basic concept is that *our manner of life* is to be *“truth”...thinking truth...speaking truth...dealing truthfully*. It’s not just our *motive* or *desire*...but our *methods* that must always be driven by *truth*. This must always be in a spirit of genuine *agape love*...*without diversions* to divide our *faithfulness*...*without hypocrisy* to *deny our witness*...*without divisions* to *hinder our purpose* in seeing *God glorified*.

LESSONS WE NEED TO LEARN:

- The fundamental characteristic of truth is its **CONSISTENCY**. God’s Word...God’s truth does not change.
- When speaking truth, always be motivated by **LOVE** and temper it with **GRACE**.
- Telling the truth may sometimes be very **DIFFICULT**... but it is always the **RIGHT THING** (the Godly thing) to do.
- **The ultimate TRUTH**...there is no **FORGIVENESS OF SIN** and no **SALVATION** except through Jesus Christ.