

THE TRUTH ABOUT TRUTH



A. Man lives from the proceeding word of God.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

- It is not the preceding word but the proceeding word of God that brings life.
- Yesterday's manna will not feed today's soul.
- Manna only keeps for a day.

It is important that we learn how to honor the past, live in the present, and look to the future. Living in what God said instead of what God is saying can lead to death.

1. God told Abraham to offer up his son.

Genesis 22:2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

2. When Abraham gets to the top of the mountain, God gives him another word.

Genesis 22:12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

- The proceeding word becomes a preceding word when God speaks a new (proceeding) word to us.
- If Abraham would not have had a current word from God, Isaac would be dead and there would be no nation of Israel.

3. Some people can't get past something in their life.

Genesis 11:26 Terah lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. **27** Now these are the records of the generations of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran; and Haran became the father of Lot. **28 Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans.** **29** Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. **30** Sarai was barren; she had no child. **31** Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans in order to enter the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran, and settled there. **32** The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in **Haran**.

- Terah couldn't get past his son, Haran's death and he died in a city named Haran. So many people can't travel beyond some tragedy that happen in their past.

- People get stuck in a past movement and die there.

Dream I had about truth being living and different sizes. WORDS went from a ticker tape to falling like rain. A voice said. "All truth is not created equal. I am going to give you a new operating system. I am about to pour out new revelation on this generation that has never been revealed from the beginning of time. But if I pour out revelation on this wineskin it will rip the wineskin. "

B. The building blocks of truth

Isaiah 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

- We view truth horizontally but God wants us to view truth vertically.
- Black and white thinking is horizontal thinking, as it always seems that some truth contradicts other truth.
- Order is the key to viewing truth.
- God wants to give us a new operating system in which to process truth.
- When we have new operating system working inside us, a new world of revelation will be downloaded to us. Like from Dos to Windows.

1. Levels of Truth

Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

- Many people get love and justice mixed up. They over emphasize justice and withhold love when they are trying to get people to behave.

2. God assigns levels of greatness to truth

1 Corinthians 13:13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Whenever truth is out of order it creates disorder. Perversion is “the wrong version.”

Fatherhood

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Friendship

Headship

~

Mutual submission

Husband love your wife

~

Wives submit to your husbands

Obey God

~

Submit to all authority

3. Truth out of order and truth out of season is the work of the devil.

Luke 4:8 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’” **9** He led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; **10** for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU TO GUARD YOU,’ **11** and, ‘ON [their] HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’” **12** And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST

- The devil used Psalms 91:11-12 against Jesus in the wilderness.
- The Word out of context is not true.

Quote: The Gospel gets perverted when people who are not in love interpret the scriptures. –Bill Johnson

4. Ham cursed himself by telling the truth instead of covering his father.

Genesis 9:20 Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard.

21 He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. **22** Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. **3** But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father’s nakedness. **24** When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. **25** So he said, “Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers.” **26** He also said, “Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant. **27** “May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant.”

- Joshua drove the Canaanites out of their land because of Ham was cursed.

5. Above all let love cover.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

- So many people have a misplaced sense of justice.
- This does not mean that I should let someone in my home who will molest my children in the name of love.
- Sick people need help. Love protects.

C. The word is alive.

John 1:14 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.

- We see truth as words, flat on a piece of paper, but truth is alive, and is personified.
- Truth has dimensions.

1. The word is living and active.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- We have mistaken truth for a picture of the real thing.
- The words represent the actual living promises of God.

2. The children of Israel received living oracles not just words.

Acts 7:38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.

3. We got saved through the living word.

1 Peter 1:23 You have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

4. The word will live on forever

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

- You could destroy all of the Bibles in the world and you still wouldn't destroy the word of God. The word of God here was before the world was made and it will be here long after the world passes away.

When I first started at Bethel Church, it was my job to pick the speakers up at the airport. I didn't know them so I would get a picture of them and take it with me. The picture was not the real person but something that would cause me to know them when I met them. The Bible was written to bring us into a relationship with the real God.

D. The Scriptures must lead to a relationship with Jesus.

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; **40** and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

- When people encounter the scripture without encountering Christ, they replace relationship with religion.
- There is no life in the print on a page no matter what it says unless it becomes flesh and dwells among us.
- The principles of the Kingdom teach how God thinks, but the only way to know what God's thinking is know the prince of the principles.
- Living by principles can lead to religion.

The Bible was written for people who have a relationship with God.

Automobiles are designed with a core assumption that there will be fuel to operate them. Without the availability of gasoline, a bicycle would be better transportation. The Bible was written with the core assumption that those who read it would have a relationship with God. Without God, the Bible is not the best philosophy. The word of God requires a relationship for most of it to work.

E. Processing the Word of God In Our Own Lives

1. A man's conscience is more important than right doctrine.

Romans 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but not for the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions. **2** One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*. **3** The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. **4** Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. **5** One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. **6** He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. **14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.** **21** It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles.

- When we convince someone through our behavior or peer pressure to do what we do, but they have no faith to do it, we make them sin.

- Even though the people who will not eat meat or keep a Sabbath day are doctrinally wrong, because they are doing it by faith they are right before God.
- We can give someone money for food and they can use it for drugs, but we still get our reward because we did it for God.

2. If you doubt your convictions you become impotent and your heart gets infected.

Romans 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. **23** But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating* is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

Formula Christianity

I had a dream that a man was breast-feeding babies. There was a voice that said, "No longer shall my children drink formula from a bottle. My children will drink milk from a body that has processed it and assimilated it themselves." Then I remembered that Bill used to say that he "never studied to teach, but he studied to learn." He used to have a sign on his desk that said, "Whatever feeds me, feeds them."

F. The Word of God Held in Tension

The Airport Security Story

We were in a small airport and went to get our boarding passes. First we had to have our luggage checked which took 15 minutes per bag. Then the ticket printer was broken. One hour later they got it fixed and wanted to search the bags again so that the tag on the bag and the time they searched them would be the same. They had the bags in their possession the entire time. Religion keeps people from thinking.

1. Jesus warred against the Word of God with the Word of God.

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** And after He had *fasted* forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. **3** And *the* tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the *Son* of God, command that these stones become bread." **4** But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" **5** Then the devil took Him into *the* holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ' **HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU**'; and ' **ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.**'" **7** Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, ' **YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.**'" **8** Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; **9** and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." **10** Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" **11** Then the devil left Him; and behold, *angels* came and *began* to minister to Him.

- The devil tried to use Psalms 91:11-12 to get Jesus to commit suicide.
- The devil had the right verse, but the wrong spirit.

- Whenever you are attacked with scripture, remind yourself that all truth is held in tension. What verse creates tension for the verse in question?

2. Jesus taught us to pray that we would not be lead into temptation. But it was the Holy Spirit who led Him into the wilderness to tempted by the devil.

Matthew 6:13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but *deliver* us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

3. Paul teaches that if you receive circumcision, then Christ is no benefit to you ...BUT

Galatians 5:2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

Paul circumcised Timothy.

Acts 16:1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, **2** and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. **3** Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

4. Jesus taught us to turn the other cheek ...BUT

Matthew 5:39 "But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Jesus uses a homemade whip to drive evil people out of the temple.

John 2:14 And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated *at their tables*. **15** And He made a scourge of cords, and drove *them* all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

5. My Kingdom is not of this world ... BUT

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.

Pray that it would be on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **10** 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

6. Sell your coat and buy swords ... BUT

Luke 22:36 And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one. **37** "For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has *its fulfillment*." **38** They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

Jesus corrects Peter for using the sword.

John 18:10 Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. **11** So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

7. We are saved by grace ... not as a result of works ... BUT

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

If you have no works your faith is dead.

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself. **18** But someone may *well* say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." **19** You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. **20** But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

8. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved ... BUT

Acts 2:21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

Those who were appointed to life believed.

Acts 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

9. Whoever calls shall be saved ... BUT

Romans 10:11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

He chose us before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:4 He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

10. In the last days nation shall rise up against nation ... BUT

Matthew 24:3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" **4** And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. **5** "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. **6** "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. **7** "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

The church will disciple nations and never again will they train for war!

Isaiah 2:2 Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. ... **4** and He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

11. Jesus said the sick need a physician.

Matthew 9:12 But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "*It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.*"

12. The Good Samaritan didn't heal the wounded man. He took care of him...BUT

Luke 10:33 "But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, **34** and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

Jesus sent them out to heal the sick.

Matthew 10:7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'**8** "Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.