

Women & More

Truth Is a Person

December 1, 2011

The world says: “There is no such thing as absolute truth, only conditional/positional truth, because it depends on the situation and the person.” But there is absolute ***truth***—**Jesus!** Everything He says is *truth*, everything He does is *truth* and everything He is—is *Truth!*

“There is no such thing as ‘positional truth.’
The Bible speaks only of *truth* and deception.
The term positional truth is simply Satan’s deception.”
Rev. Billy Graham

“The basic problem which we face today has to do with knowledge and *truth*.
It is not the quantity of *truth* which is being debated, but the source of *truth*.”
Dr. James T. Draper, Jr.

“The Word of God
is our only volume of pure *truth*.
Lord Jesus, consume our minds with your *truth*.”
Beth Moore

Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:

Psalm 51:6

Psalm 86:11

Isaiah 45:19c

John 8:44

Romans 9:1

Scriptures to Memorize:

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

John 14:6 “*I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes unto the Father but by me.*”

NOTES on Speaking Session:

Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:

1. Where does genuine *truth* originate, and how can we know that something or someone is actually *truth*?
2. Because Satan can corrupt our thoughts and manipulate our feelings, one of our best defenses against his influence is to depend and behave on what we **know** is *truth*. Describe what this statement means to you personally.

Give an example from your life.

3. Every satanic stronghold involves believing some kind of lie or lies—we can't recognize the lie if we don't know the *truth*. What are some lies that you've been struggling with?

Recommended Reading:

A Love Worth Giving, Max Lucado

Authority: The Critical Issue for Southern Baptists, Dr. James T. Draper, Jr.

Knowing God, J. I. Packer

When Godly People Do Ungodly Things, Beth Moore

From her book, *Lies Women Believe and the Truth That Sets Them Free*, Nancy DeMoss lists many lies that women, even Christian women, commonly believe and here are just a few. Have you struggled with any of these lies? Place a checkmark in the box at the left.

Lies about God...

- 1. God is not really good. If He were, He would...
- 2. God is not really enough.
- 3. God's ways are too restrictive. His plans for me would be boring.

Lies about yourself...

- 1. I need to learn to love myself.
- 2. I can't help the way I am.
- 3. Physical beauty matters more than inner beauty.

Lies about sin...

- 1. My sin isn't really that bad.
- 2. God can't forgive what I have done.
- 3. I am not fully responsible for my actions and reactions.
- 4. I cannot walk in consistent victory over sin.

Lies about priorities...

- 1. I can make it without consistent time in the Word and prayer.
- 2. A career outside the home is more valuable/fulfilling than being a wife/mother.

Lies about marriage...

- 1. It is my responsibility to change my husband.
- 2. If I submit to my husband, I'll be miserable.
- 3. Sometimes divorce is a better option than staying in a bad marriage.

Lies about children...

- 1. Determining the size of our family is up to me and my husband.
- 2. Children need to be exposed to the "real world" so that they can learn to function in it.
- 3. All children will go through a rebellious stage.

Lies about emotions...

- 1. If I feel strongly about something, it must be true.
- 2. I can't control my emotions.
- 3. I can't help how I respond when my hormones are out of whack.
(It's understandable to act like a shrew at certain times.)

Lies about circumstances...

- 1. If my circumstances were different, I would be different.
- 2. I shouldn't have to suffer.
- 3. My circumstances will never change—this will go on forever.

And why are these statements lies?

...because God's Word does not support any of them!

And who is the *father of lies*, according to Scripture, and therefore the author of these and any lies? How far from the truth do you have to get before you've entered a lie? **A half or partial truth is a lie!** This is Spiritual Warfare between the *Truth* that sets you free—Jesus Christ—and the father of lies—Satan himself.

Morning and Evening (28 December)
Daily Readings by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

“I came not to send peace on earth, but a sword” Matthew 10:34.

“The Christian will be sure to make enemies. It will be one of his objects to make none; but if **to do the right**, and **to believe the true**, should cause him to lose every earthly friend, he will count it but a small loss, since his great Friend in heaven will be yet more friendly, and reveal Himself to him more graciously than ever.

“O ye who have taken up His cross, know ye not what your Master said, *‘I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother; and a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.’* Christ is the great Peacemaker; but before peace, He brings war. Where the light cometh, the darkness must retire. **Where truth is, the lie must flee; or, if it abideth, there must be a stern conflict, for the truth cannot and will not lower its standard, and the lie must be trodden underfoot.**

“If you follow Christ, you shall have all the dogs of earth yelping at your heels. If you would live so as to stand the test of the last tribunal, depend upon it, the world will not speak well of you. He who has the friendship of the world is an enemy to God; but if you are true and faithful to the Most High, men will resent your unflinching fidelity, since it is a testimony against their iniquities.

“Fearless of all consequences, you must do the right. You will need the courage of a lion unhesitatingly to pursue a course which shall turn your best friend into your fiercest foe; but for the love of Jesus you must thus be courageous. **For the truth’s sake to hazard reputation and affection, is such a deed that to do it constantly you will need a degree of moral principle which only the Spirit of God can work in you;** yet turn not your back like a coward, but play the man. Follow right manfully in your Master’s steps, for he has traversed this rough way before you.

“Better a brief warfare and eternal rest, than false peace and everlasting torment.”

How Wary of a ‘lie’ and its Liar Must We Be?

How about Prophet to Prophet?

In the Bible Book of 1 Kings there is a very sad and perplexing account of a prophet of God sent on a mission, given specific instructions, who had every intention of carrying them out to the letter. But another prophet after reminding the first prophet that “he too was a prophet”, caused the first to turn aside from God’s specific instructions and to violently lose his life!

Who would be so enticed; and who would be so cruel as to entice?

1 Kings 13:1-6—THE PROPHET’S MISSION to PROPHECY

“By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering. 2He cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD: ‘O altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: “A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who now make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.”’ 3That same day the man of God gave a sign: ‘This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out.’

4“When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, ‘Seize him!’ But the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back. 5Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD.

6“Then the king said to the man of God, ‘Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored.’ So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored and became as it was before.”

1 Kings 13:7-10—Expected ENTICEMENT by the King

“The king said to the man of God, ‘Come home with me and have something to eat, and I will give you a gift.’

8“But the man of God answered the king, ‘Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here. 9For I was commanded by the word of the LORD: “You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.” 10So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel.”

1 Kings 13:11-19—Unexpected ENTICEMENT from a prophet

“Now there was a certain old prophet living in Bethel, whose sons came and told him all that the man of God had done there that day. They also told their father what he had said to the king. 12Their father asked them; ‘Which way did he go?’ And his sons showed him which road the man of God from Judah had taken.

13So he said to his sons, ‘Saddle the donkey for me.’ And when they had saddled the donkey for him, he mounted it 14and rode after the man of God. He found him sitting under an oak tree and asked, ‘Are you the man of God who came from Judah?’

“‘I am,’ he replied.

15“So the prophet said to him, ‘Come home with me and eat.’

16“**The man of God said, ‘I cannot turn back and go with you, nor can I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. 17I have been told by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water there or return by the way you came.’**”

18“**The old prophet answered, ‘I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the LORD: ‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.’ (But he was lying to him.)** 19So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.

1 Kings 13:20-22—THE ‘LIE’ BELIEVED and ACTED on!

“While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the old prophet who had brought him back. 21He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, ‘This is what the LORD says: **“You have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you. 22You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your fathers.”**”

1 Kings 13:23-32—CONSEQUENCES ARE SEVERE!

“When the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the prophet who had brought him back saddled his donkey for him. 24**As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him,** and his body was thrown down on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it. 25Some people who passed by saw the body thrown down there, with the lion standing beside the body, and they went and reported it in the city where the old prophet lived.

26“**When the prophet who had brought him back from his journey heard of it, he said, ‘It is the man of God who defied the word of the LORD. The LORD had given him over to the lion, which has mauled him and killed him, as the word of the LORD had warned him.’**”

27“**The prophet said to the sons, ‘Saddle the donkey for me,’ and they did so. 28Then he went out and found the body thrown down on the road, with the donkey and the lion standing beside it. The lion had neither eaten the body nor mauled the donkey. 29So the prophet picked up the body of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back to his own city to mourn for him and bury him. 30Then he laid the body in his own tomb, and they mourned over him and said, ‘Oh, my brother!’”**”