

# *The Spirit of Truth*

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John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

- I. I often find myself seeking answers as to why so many start this journey and end up in such different places.
  - A. Some fall out right away and return to a life of sin and worldliness.
  - B. Some hang on for a longer time and wander around experimenting with and trying different flavors of religion before they finally go on back to their sinful lifestyle.
  - C. Some find a place to settle and endure for a lifetime but never have the evidences of true faith and the new birth, and they are unstable and the greatest influences on their souls and their lives are the same things that affect the lost world around them.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Luke 13:23-24 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

- D. There are still others who reach a certain level of understanding and that is as far as it goes in their spiritual life; they stagnate and ferment, and end up soured, discouraged, and defeated.
  - E. There are some answers as to why this is so, and that is what we are going to look at.
- II. One of the main reasons, or evidences, that a person is truly born again is that he is possessed by the Spirit of truth.
  - A. Once again, let me remind you that the word “spirit” describes the vital principle that directs and moves us; it is that which is not material, which is not seen or perceived by the physical senses, but yet it is the very basic force which directs our living, moving, and being.
  - B. Before we are born of the Spirit we are carnal and walking after the lusts of the flesh, wide open to the influence of all the evil spiritual powers that operate in this world.
  - C. Being carnal, we judge all the information we take in with our own physical senses and our human intellect, without the influence of God or his Word.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1. So we remain in darkness, blinded, and deceived, and proud of ourselves and the illusion we have created with our body of worldly understanding and philosophies.

- D. In spite of all this, man knows that he is empty and the questions about life and eternity and the reasons for his existence, as well as the good and evil that are so apparent in the world around him, haunt him in the secret places of his mind and heart.
- E. Therefore, many make an attempt at trying to find some answers and they turn to the religions of the world.
- F. The heart of the answer as to why most never find those answers and only a few do, is in the matter of how honest they are, entering in, about the truth.

III. A person must truly be crucified with Christ in order to be born again.

- A. He must truly and completely “deny himself” and jettison everything he has ever learned or believed to be true as the Word of God reveals the truth about it to him.
- B. There are two basic things that keep people from finding the truth:
  1. Sentiment (includes love, pride, hatred, sympathy, envy, anger bitterness)
  2. Desires (includes fleshly lusts, greed, desire for fame, approval, acceptance, etc.)
- C. Throughout the years we lived as unregenerate sinners we were constantly forming concepts, ideas, and notions about the world around us as well as the supernatural.
  1. In everything we settled upon as true we were influenced by our sentiments and our desires.
  2. All those false things that we had dropped an anchor on have to be throw away when they are not in agreement with the truth as revealed in the Word of God.

**Luke 14:33** So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- a) Not just the bad habits and vices, but the messed-up way we think and reason and the crooked ways we have of determining what is true and what is not, and what is right and what is wrong.

**Luke 14:26** If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

- 3. Jesus is talking about all that we love and all that desire must be laid on the altar.
- 4. We must not cling to anything at all or we do not enter in.
- D. We have believed lies because of our feelings or because of our desires.
- E. It has distorted our mind concerning truth and the only way it can be corrected is for the mind to be washed and renewed and get a clean start on learning about what is right and wrong, true and false, good and evil, all over again.

**Romans 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

- F. The vital principle of our life must become the Holy Spirit of God and old principles that have driven our life to the very gates of hell must be discarded for good.

**John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

The word “know” here means “a prolonged form of a primary verb; to "know" (absolutely) in a great variety of applications and with many implications”

- 1. In other words, what Jesus is speaking of here is that we have a continual walk in the truth; it is not information that we “find out” but that it is a way of life in which we walk.

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

2. Our very steps, and every choice and decision we make, we are directed by God's truth without our sentiments or desires being a part of those choices and decisions.

#### IV. The Holy Spirit of God is the Spirit of Truth

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 John 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

- A. One of the great dangers here is that most people DO recognize truth and most people desire to order their lives by truth, but they never get completely honest about it.
- B. The reason they never get completely honest about it is that they will not override their sentiments and their desires for the things and people of this world.
  1. The cost would be too great, so they spend their existence trying to find a way to compromise and have it both ways.
- C. The spiritual battle for the child of God here is to resist the devil's attempts to get you to compromise truth in order to maintain some earthly affection or fulfill some earthly desire.
  1. Satan excels in this arena because we are on his turf.
  2. He waxes brilliant in twisting and distorting the Word of God to convince us to give up some ground in order not to offend or lose the respect and fellowship of certain people.
  3. Whenever we are in indecision, or confused, or do not know what to do or believe about some situation, let us examine ourselves to see if any affection, affinity, or desire of our own is involved in our considerations.
- D. "It is written..." that is where we find the truth, but only with the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God.
  1. A thing is true or it is not, regardless of how many people voice their opinions about it.
  2. The truth is not subject to anything or anyone – ever.
  3. The truth is a foundational thing that does not change or shift.
  4. When we speak of truth we are not speaking of trivial little differences of men's likes and dislikes – we are speaking of the general knowledge and understanding of God himself and his ways.
- E. The victorious Christians always have one thing in common – they stand for the truth, no matter the cost.
  1. To themselves or to others.
  2. To the cause they have been long associated with.
  3. No earthly cause or affection, no human sentiment or desire, is worthy of usurping the truth.
  4. No amount of affliction or suffering will cause them to throw in the towel.
- F. The practical application of this is when it comes to our children, our spouse, our friends, our brethren in Christ.
  1. When any of these set themselves against the truth in any matter and we excuse them or agree with them we have abandoned the truth also.
  2. What we have done is that we have submitted and surrendered to the same evil spirit that has worked on their minds and convinced them that this good is evil, or this evil is good.

- G. The other practical application here is that the Holy Spirit of God indwells the believer and guides him into all truth.
1. Whatever is not of truth is a lie, and a lie is from the devil – not the Spirit of God.
  2. We must be very careful with what we declare to be the truth, and then we take a stand and run our mouth about it, when our feelings and our own opinions and desires are involved.
  3. It is so very easy for the devil to deceive us right here and ruin our testimony, make a mess of things, and put stumbling blocks in the way of weak Christians or lost sinners.
  4. We cannot know that we are in the truth if our passions are driving us and not the pure truth of the Word of God.
  5. We must always stand on the side of the right, and not what WE determine to be right, but what is really right in the sight of God.
- H. One more thing that must accompany truth, and that is mercy.

Psalm 25:10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

1. That is the only way we make it; the Lord is patient and merciful with us while we learn the truth, and sometimes it takes a long time, and many lessons.

Psalm 85:10-11 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Proverbs 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

2. Not just by truth, but by MERCY AND TRUTH; no compromise, but mercy and patience while a person is learning.

Proverbs 20:28 Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.

3. Speaking of the seat of authority; it's effectiveness and continuation depends upon mercy and truth – not truth alone.
4. To show mercy, or have patience with slow learners is not compromising the truth.
5. To have truth without mercy is to be a Pharisee and a hypocrite and to incur the wrath of God on ourselves.

- I. This is the key issue with that crowd on the left in Matthew 7.

Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

John 8:44-48 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?