

Obedying The Truth Through The Spirit

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Peter 1:22-23 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

- I. The purifying of our souls – how does it happen?
 - A. The Scripture here is clear that is accomplished by obeying the truth.

John 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

- B. The purifying of our souls is not something that happens without our involvement.
 - 1. We live in a time when twisted doctrines have made most people believe that any human agency involved in salvation or sanctification amounts to works and is therefore wrong.
 - 2. But the Bible is very clear from cover to cover that we ARE to be involved in our salvation and our sanctification.
 - 3. We must OBEY the truth - that is not works for salvation, it is simply our response to the truth of God.

Romans 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified).

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

- C. Before we can obey the truth we must hear the truth.
 - 1. Therefore, the truth must be preached under the Spirit's leading and anointing.
- D. But the key thing we must not forget is this: we must obey the truth "through the Spirit" – not simply obey the truth out of our own determination and resolve.
 - 1. It is the agency of the Holy Spirit of God that works the miracle of the new birth in a soul, and it is the Spirit which brings about the miracle of sanctification.
- E. The results will be completely different when the truth is obeyed under the influence of the Spirit of God rather than carnal effort and strength.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

- F. When the truth is wielded by human agency alone without the Spirit of God it becomes a tool or a weapon that brings bondage.
 - 1. It is like living under the cruel watch of a bully with a club or a whip.
 - 2. Under these circumstances the truth is submitted to only under duress and not truly willingly.
 - 3. Submission to the truth without the Spirit of God being involved will last only as long as the circumstances force compliance.
 - 4. They will take advantage of the first chance to escape and flee from its bondage.
- G. This is the very way many, if not most, professing Christians handle the truth.
 - 1. Parents do this with their children.
 - 2. Husbands do this with their wives.
 - 3. Pastors do this with their churches.

4. Christian schools and colleges do this with their students.
- H. This is why we see so many people who know so much truth, but do not live for God, and are not converted to God.
 1. The Spirit of God was not involved in their hearing of the truth or in their receiving of it.
 - I. When the Spirit is involved in the delivery of the truth and the application of it to the heart, it produces sincere, fervent love for the brethren.

1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

1. The Spirit does not simply cause a person to believe the truth, but to love the truth and to love others who love the truth.
 2. What a difference this would make in the churches and in the work of God!
 3. How wonderful would it be to see people saved who then loved the brethren with a sincere and fervent love!
 4. They would not just stay for a time and then grow cold and quit or move on to another church.
 5. Such behavior is evidence that the Spirit is not involved in their salvation or sanctification.
 6. This kind of person is usually big on truth, but little on love, which is the first evidence of the Spirit.
- II. So as husbands, wives, brethren, we should seek the Spirit's guidance in all that we say and do.
 - A. We should not go unless God's Spirit goes before us.
 - B. We should live and speak the truth, but only with the touch and the blessing of the Spirit of God.
 - C. In other words, we should be filled with the Spirit - all the time.
 - D. We should not lean to our own understanding and try to present our own intellectual inventions, but simply speak the Word of God while we are filled with the Spirit of God.
 - E. We should guard against using the truth as a chain or a sword, or a club.

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

2 Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.