

“Staying True... To The Truth”



The Truth is a person

John 14:6 NLT

⁶ Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

John 8:31-32 NLT

³¹ Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

“Jesus is enough”

Staying True?

Psalm 32:2 NKJV

² “Blessed *is* the man ... in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.”

2 Tim 2: 15 NKJV

¹⁵ “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**”

What can be done with Truth?

1. Exaggeration
2. Denial
3. Hesitation

What can we learn from Christ?

Matthew 7: 3-5 NIV

³ “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, **first take the plank out of your own eye**, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Hyperbole; a deliberate impossible statement that the audience understands is not literal.

What can we learn from Eve?

Genesis 3: 1-3 NKJV

¹...And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

Exaggeration: represent something as larger, better or worse than it really is.

Exaggeration of the Truth

Q. Why?

1. *Unbelief*
2. *Fear*
3. *Deception*
4. *Lack of understanding*

Q. Effect?

We invite the serpent in for discussion.

Denial... overt or covert?

Titus 1:15-16 NLT

¹⁵ Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted. ¹⁶ Such people claim they know God, but they deny him by the way they live. They are detestable and disobedient, worthless for doing anything good.

The Truth requires self denial

Luke 9:23 NIV

²³ Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my **disciple** must **deny themselves** and take up their cross daily and **follow me.**”

Galatians 5:24-25 NLT

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus **have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.** ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Learning from 'religious' leaders?

Matthew 21:23-27 NLT

²³...They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?" ²⁴ "I'll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question," Jesus replied. ²⁵ "Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?" They talked it over among themselves. "If we say it was from heaven, he will ask us why we didn't believe John. ²⁶ But if we say it was merely human, we'll be mobbed because the people believe John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they finally replied, "We don't know." And Jesus responded, "Then I won't tell you by what authority I do these things.

Hesitation may be rooted in...

1. *Dishonesty*
2. *Pride*
3. *Worldliness*
4. *Unfaithfulness*
5. *Validation of Men*

Acts 20: 20, 26-27 NLT

²⁰ I **never shrank back** from telling you what you needed to hear, either **publicly or in your homes**.

²⁶ I declare today that I have **been faithful**. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault, ²⁷ for I didn't shrink from **declaring all that God wants you to know**.

Ephesians 6:10, 13-14 NIV

¹⁰ Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in his mighty power.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ **Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.**

Staying True = Standing Firm →

God's truth centres, grounds and stabilizes us. Amen

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