



Truthfulness

vs. Deception

Truthfulness is communicating by life and word that which is genuine and accurate.

We must speak the truth in our hearts before we speak it with our mouths.

“LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.” “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

—Psalm 15:1–2, Matthew 12:34

“It is not so much ‘holding the truth’ as being held by the truth.” —H. A. Ironside



Truth is the foundation upon which anything that stands is built.

“No man ever puts a stumbling block in the way of others by telling the truth.” —Oswald Chambers

Definition

One Hebrew word for *truth* is *’emeth*. It means “stability, certainty, sureness.” It is from the word *’aman*, which means “to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; to render or be firm or faithful; to be permanent; to stand fast; to be faithful; verified.” When Jesus emphasized truth, He often said the word *verily* (*amen*, also translated *truth*) twice, as in John 3:3.

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Sources of Truth

- 1. God is truth**—“Ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he” (Deuteronomy 32:3–4).
- 2. Jesus is truth**—“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). It is ironic that Pilate asked Jesus, the Source of Truth, “What is truth?” and then turned Him over to be crucified.
- 3. The Holy Spirit is truth**—“And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth” (I John 5:6).

- 4. God’s Word is truth**—“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).
- 5. God’s Law is truth**—“Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth. . . . Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth” (Psalm 119:142, 151).
- 6. The Gospel is truth**—“Whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world” (Colossians 1:5–6).

What Does Truth Do?

There is power in truth, because it is the very essence of God and the means by which He carries out His work in the world.

- 1. Truth brings us into Christ**—“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (James 1:18).
- 2. Truth brings us to the light**—“But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God” (John 3:21).
- 3. Truth purifies our souls**—“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” (I Peter 1:22).

4. Truth frees us—“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Truth frees us by tearing down false ideas and conclusions that keep us in fear and bondage. “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Corinthians 10:4–5).

5. Truth leads us in the right way—“O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me” (Psalm 43:3).

6. Truth equips us to worship God—“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23–24).

7. Truth cleanses us of iniquity—“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil” (Proverbs 16:6).

Lust and addictions hold many in bondage. This control comes from a spirit of uncleanness. The first step of purging is crying out to God for mercy. “And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me” (Psalm 50:15). The second step is to confess and repent. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).

The third step is to fill our hearts with God’s truth and

meditate on it day and night. “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:9–11).

We may also need to acknowledge the iniquities of our forefathers (Daniel 9:16), regain surrendered ground (Ephesians 4:27), and engage in serious fasting and prayer (Isaiah 58:6). When the disciples were unable to deliver a boy from an unclean spirit, they asked Jesus why they were ineffective, and Jesus replied, “This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting” (Mark 9:29).

8. Truth preserves leaders—“Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy” (Proverbs 20:28).

It is significant that the throne is not established by truth and justice but by truth and mercy. When people violate truth, it is natural to be harsh, but loyalty is built when a leader teaches truth and demonstrates qualities of kindness, gentleness, patience, meekness, and self-control. Therefore, we are instructed to speak the truth in love.

How Can We Learn Truth?

We naturally tend to accept false ideas because the ways of death appeal to our human reasoning. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). Therefore, it is easy to believe lies, which come from Satan, since he is a liar and the



Every lie is another link in the chain around our souls, but telling the truth sets us free.

“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”—John 8:32

Saying whatever comes to mind is not truthfulness, but a lack of discretion.

Telling a lie is like pounding a nail in the wall of one’s character. Telling the truth removes the nail, but leaves a mark.

Lions don’t lie. They always speak the truth. Lions clearly reveal their intentions with the positions of their ears, the postures of their tails, the shapes of their mouths, and the sounds of their roars.





In the continuing conflict between good and evil, truth is the weapon that wins the war.

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.”

—II Corinthians 13:8

“When he [Satan] speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” —John 8:44



Those that are closest to truth are closest to God.

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” —John 4:24

father of lies. “When he [the devil] speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44). Furthermore, if a person rejects the truth, God will send him strong delusions, and he will believe a lie. (See II Thessalonians 2:10–11.)

To learn truth, we need initiative and diligence in these areas:

1. Filling our souls with truth— “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).

2. Studying the meaning of truth— “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).

3. Learning to answer with truth— “Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge. . . . Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?” (Proverbs 22:17–21).

4. Walking in fellowship with others— “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (I John 1:7).

5. Designing good works— “Mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good” (Proverbs 14:22). Therefore, “let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Hebrews 10:24).

6. Testing the spirits— “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God” (I John 4:1–2). We must beware of the following people:

- False prophets (Matthew 7:15)
- False christs (Matthew 24:24)
- False apostles (II Corinthians 11:13)
- False teachers (II Peter 2:1)
- False brethren (II Corinthians 11:26)
- False accusers (II Timothy 3:3)
- False witnesses (Matthew 26:60)

Personal Evaluation

How truthful are you?

- Do you ask others to point out your blind spots?
- Do you confront your blind spots with Scripture?
- Do you believe that you have no serious faults and think you are better than you are?
- Do you exaggerate your achievements to others?
- Do you lie or tell only part of the truth to escape the consequences of your actions?
- Do you flatter people to gain their approval?
- Do you misrepresent the Lord with inconsistent or negative attitudes?
- Do you give damaging reports of others to make yourself look good?
- Do you guard against false teachings by confirming everything you hear with the truth of Scripture?