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*August 2018*

## **WALKING IN THE TRUTH**

**By Shannon Dickerson**

*Greetings, saints! We pray that it is well with you and you are walking in the blessing!*

*During the last couple of months, I have been teaching on “The Good Life” that the Lord has prepared for each of us to walk in. This month, however, I asked my wife, Shannon, to share with you what she has on her heart.*

*But before she does, let me say this: At the time I am writing this, we are celebrating our 12-Year anniversary! It has been such a fun ride, as Shannon and I immediately moved to Colorado Springs after we were married in July of 2006 for me to attend Charis Bible College. Since then, we have been in our “place called there” all along the way.*

*I jokingly told someone at church that it seems like it has been much longer than 12 years. Usually, that has a negative connotation to it, but I mean it in a good way. We have just done so much in these first 12 years of our marriage that it feels like 25 years have been crammed into our relatively short time together.*

*I say this to say, we so love and appreciate all of you out there who God has placed in our lives over the past decade-plus. He is so faithful to join His body together as He wills. And we believe that God has put us together with you for such a time as this so that LLM can pour into your lives and you can, in turn, pour into us. And I am not just referring to tangible things, because by far the greatest benefit we have to offer one another is the spiritual supply Christ’s body provides itself.*

*So, without any further ado, here is Shannon:*

### **WHAT IS TRUTH?**

Hey y’all! It’s been a long time since I have written to you and I am excited about sharing with you what the Lord has laid on my heart.

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We do pray this newsletter finds you prospering in all things and in good health, just as your soul prospers. We are thoroughly enjoying our Summer. It's nice to have a little break and get recharged for the following school year! Our family is truly prospering in every sense of the word. I love my family!

Speaking of family, our church family is truly thriving as well. You'd be hard-pressed to find a more loving body of believers than ours! We love these people so dearly and feel so blessed to do life with them, and that's the truth.

So, let's talk about this subject, the subject of *truth*. What is truth? The dictionary defines it as "a verified or indisputable fact, proposition or principle or as the state or character of being true." It's also the question Pilate asked Jesus when He was brought before him during His trial. What Pilate, as well as countless others from generation to generation, have not realized is that truth is not just a set of specified facts and statistics – truth is personified in Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **KNOWING THE TRUTH**

I love how Psalm 25:5 reads in the Amplified Bible – "Guide me in Your truth and faithfulness and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You [You only and altogether] do I wait [expectantly] all the day long." God so loves and desires truth. The psalmist David was chosen by God to be king of Israel, even though he was an unlikely candidate. His own father did not even bring him to the prophet Samuel when Samuel came to his home asking to see his sons. But David was chosen because he was "a man after God's own heart." David developed a relationship with God while watching his father's sheep, and he desired the Lord to lead and teach him truth. He knew that God was his salvation, and that the truth could be found in Him alone. David never knew Jesus himself, but he did prophesy of His coming and was willing to wait "all the day long" for Him.

We all know the story of David and Goliath. I personally believe that David would never have had the boldness to face Goliath had he not first been face to face with His Creator. The Lord so desires to pour all that He is out on His children and being in His presence is the way to receive all that He is – in and for us.

We have an AWESOME DADDY!! He does not see you the way you see yourself. When He looks at you, He sees Jesus! I know that might make some of your heads tilt but it's true. I heard this statement years ago and it's one I'll never forget. It says, "God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called." It doesn't matter what you've accomplished in the natural, how smart you are, how much money you have or anything else, if you know you're God, you can face any trial that comes your way and always triumph victoriously! As Daniel 11:32 says, "...but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits."

### **WORSHIP IN TRUTH**

John 4:23 says, "A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers." Our hearts are drawn to God in worship when we love Him. When we praise Him with our lives, our words and our songs flow freely because He alone is worthy of all our love and allegiance. Our worship for God also involves loving Jesus. Our worship in spirit and truth is a reflection of our devotion to Jesus, who is truth Himself, and who is always pointing us to the Father.

Friends, we were created to worship. The question is not will we worship but WHO will we worship? Some people worship their jobs, some people worship their money, some people worship themselves, and the list goes on and on. You might think, "How do we actually worship these things? I'm not getting on my knees and bowing down to any of them." In order to bow your knee to anything, you must first bow your heart to it, and this is where the problem comes in. Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-38, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment." This is a commandment, not an option. We are to be loving God with all our hearts, but if we don't, we'll begin – with our hearts, to worship things we were never commanded to love. This is why it is crucial that we know the Truth!

## WALKING IN THE TRUTH

John 8:32 reads like this, “And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.” Our Father has so prospered us by allowing us to have a relationship with Jesus. This alone brings indescribable joy and hope into our lives, because He has given us His Spirit and His Word to strengthen and guide us. As we give our lives to The Lord, we will know Him (the Truth) and He (the Truth) will set us free.

We’ve been given priceless treasure, but what happens if we don’t know it belongs to us? Let me give you an example - a rich relative of mine dies and at the reading of his will I find out that not only has he left me 10 million dollars but actually had it deposited in my account and I can make a withdrawal at any time. What do you think would happen if I didn’t believe it was true or maybe that I wasn’t worthy of that kind of inheritance? I’ll tell you what would happen- I would never truly own it! The same thing happens with the things of the Lord. We’ve been given His Spirit and His Word- an inheritance far greater than 10 million dollars- but if we don’t know that they belong to us, we’ll never partake. Hosea 4:6 says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Let us never be ignorant but spiritually awake and alive to The One who gave it all for us- Truth Himself.

3 John 4 says, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” In a world of no absolutes, isn’t it such a blessing to know WHO truth is? Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.

Growing up in a godly home, I was so blessed to have God’s Word written on my heart. Scripture is so powerful because it wholly describes who Jesus is. It defines Jesus as truth. He is the only way we can reach the Father and have abundant life – now and for eternity. Psalm 119:11 in the Amplified Bible says, “Your Word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” The heart is key because it is the very thing The Lord looks at. 1 Samuel 16:7 states, “...For the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” The Word of God is priceless treasure, and we should hold it in the highest regard. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

## THE BELT OF TRUTH

Ephesians 4:15 reads, “Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”

The Lord not only tells us what truth is but also how to treat one another. God loves the truth, but He also wants us treating others with love, kindness and respect. When we dearly prize Jesus as Lord and Savior, we also dearly prize the way He treated humankind while He walked the earth. And that’s exactly how others will know that we are His disciples. John 13:35 says, “By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves].”

Hypocrisy is defined as the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one’s own behavior does not conform; pretense. As believers, if we go around talking about love but not walking in it, we will be known as hypocrites; however, if we go around talking about love AND walking in it, people will know that we are true disciples of Jesus. Love, Himself, is with us everywhere we go! Because of this, we can always choose to LOVE WELL!

Ephesians 6:14 says, “Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God.”

Most believers do not realize that they are in a battle daily. The devil is constantly trying to distract and destroy us. Thank God that He has given us His armor to protect ourselves from the enemy’s fiery darts. One of the most crucial defensive pieces of armor He has given us is the belt of truth. Covering ourselves with truth is like covering ourselves with Our Lord Jesus, The Light Himself.

So many people look at facts as truth and that is one way of looking at truth; however, the best way of looking at truth is by looking at the person of truth –

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Jesus Christ. The Father wants us looking at Jesus as bringing truth to life. We are called to be ambassadors for Truth Himself, so we must handle it accurately so it motivates others to seek the priceless treasure of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – The Way, The Truth, and The Life! AMEN!

We love y'all and appreciate the opportunity to sow into your lives!

Victoriously,

*Shannon*