

Triumphant in Christ

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

In this booklet, we will show you that it is by truth that we triumph. When we are led by the Spirit, taught by Spirit-led men, and involved with Spirit-filled people, we can overcome anything that comes against us.

Victorious Christian living is lacking today, primarily because many people who call themselves Christians do not understand truth. Many are filled with knowledge, but very few allow doctrine to have a continuous “conception” of truth in their souls.

A brand-new believer can understand deep passages of Scripture when he begins by being Spirit-taught (see Psalm 25:9, Psalm 34:2, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16). If he tries in his natural capacity to fathom Spirit-filled preaching by a man of God, he is bound to admit that the message is “too deep.” But if he allows the Holy Spirit to teach him, he will come away from the message saying, “My, that was good!”—even if he is only

a week old in Christ.

Let us all continue to have new and enlarged capacities by letting the Holy Spirit instruct us as we go. That is God's provision for us to always be triumphant in Christ.

Chapter One

STAYING ON BALANCE

“Let me be weighed in an even balance, that [the Lord] may know mine integrity” (Job 31:6).

“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom” (Psalm 51:6).

“A just weight and balance are the LORD’S: all the weights of the bag are his work” (Proverbs 16:11).

The “bag” in Proverbs 16:11 represents what we carry with us when we travel—the thing that holds all of our supplies for a journey. At the airport, at a train station, on bus lines, passengers always have their bags with them.

In Psalm 51:6, God desires for us to have emeth in the inward parts. The Hebrew word emeth means truth that comes from thinking with God, which equals doctrine. This doctrine must be presented precisely and learned in the balance of God’s nature. Absolute truth should

continually reside in our souls as we appropriate it by our personal faith.

Malachi 2:6 tells us that this type of truth (emeth) is the law of God's mouth. "Thy law is the truth" (Psalm 119:142b).

The Greek word for truth is aletheia (2 Timothy 2:15)—precise categorical thinking with God according to His nature, appropriated in personal faith through the Spirit of the living Word. "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth [(aletheia)]" (John 17:17).

Our Accountability to Truth

Why is our accountability to truth important? We need to accept God's call on our lives. We all need to be faithful to a local assembly and with a pastor-teacher who is faithful to God's call. Guaranteed, we will all be accountable when we face God at the Bema Seat—whether or not we lived by emeth or aletheia, because every one of us has been given a provision to receive the truth.

The Bema Seat evaluation of a believer's works will be based on what Jesus said in John 12:48b: "the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." God's words are the categorical precise truth in balance. These words will be the basis for God's evaluation of

every believer when we face Him at the Bema Seat, which will be based on the grace and love of God.

Equity: God's Perfect Justice

"Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from [the kingdom of] evil maketh himself a prey. And the Lord saw it and it displeased him that there was no judgment" (Isaiah 59:14-15).

Webster's Dictionary defines "equity" as "...a body of legal doctrines and rules developed to enlarge, supplement, or override a narrow rigid system of law." Here, "equity" refers to the Finished Work of God, judging Christ on the Cross for our sins so that we, who were condemned in our old sin nature by the law, could freely receive eternal life.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation [(judgment)]; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

There is now no judgment for sins; there is now no condemnation (see Romans 8:1). Because

of the Finished Work, “judgment stands afar off” from anyone who receives Christ as his Savior. Yet, experiencing the Finished Work stands afar off from the person who refuses to abide in truth. The equity of “it is finished” cannot enter into his soul. When a person is saved and departs from Satan’s kingdom of evil, he needs to be sanctified in aletheia—truth found in precise categories from God’s Word—so he can understand and experience what God is saying.

Second Peter 1:12 instructs us to be established in truth (aletheia). Second Corinthians 13:8 says that we cannot do anything against aletheia. We are set apart with God’s viewpoint through the Holy Spirit of love when we rightly divide the precise Word of God in a balanced way, to represent God’s nature through our personal faith.

Chapter Two

THE WORD ALIVE IN US

While we live in this crooked and perverse world (Philippians 2:15-16), the Word of God comes alive in us. This is why Jesus said to Satan, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Matthew 4:4). This is why He said in Matthew 4:7, "It is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." In Matthew 7:10, He said, "It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only."

"It is written...It is written...It is written." What was Jesus doing by answering every temptation from the devil with those words? He was living by *emeth* and *aletheia*. And what did He tell us to do? We are to live by every single word of God (Matthew 4:4).

A believer should attend a church that teaches every single word of God. When we don't hear the whole truth, it falls in the street and causes a traffic block. The Finished Work

judgment stands afar off, as does justice that precedes love. Judgment is turned backward. It cannot function.

The Finished Work declares that we are free in Christ, that He is in us, and that we are His children when we have received Him by faith. It says that He is our Savior and Lord. The Finished Work, however, cannot be the equity of our lives if we are not receiving precise truth communicated in the power and the nature of God's love. We need to have a personal faith established in what Paul calls the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

All Scripture is inspired (2 Timothy 3:16). Each verse is profitable for reproof, for correction, and for doctrine (which is instruction in righteousness), that we may be thoroughly furnished with *emeth* and *aletheia*.

Vows Are Made to Be Kept

When two people who are married do not have *aletheia* in their hearts, then they will not relate precisely and in balance with the Word. Balance simply means that no matter what happens on any side of life, God has the answer and the power to give what is needed to obey Him.

That couple may be Christians who go to

church three times a week, yet they are off balance without Finished Work truth. "Faithful is he who calleth you, who also will do it" (1 Thesalonians 5:24). The Lord will perform what He asks us to do (Job 23:14).

A doctor is obliged to live according to the Hippocratic oath, which is a vow to do no harm and to do everything in his power to heal those who come to him, whether or not they can afford to pay for his services. A person who enters the military makes a vow to defend and protect his nation: to be honest, to serve with discipline, and to fight—at any cost, even if it means to give his or her life. A lawyer takes an oath to make no false accusations and to perform his duties with integrity and personal responsibility, putting the truth ahead of everything.

What does that have to do with born-again Christians? "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 [(emeth)] in his heart" (Psalm 15:1-2). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16). The Spirit-filled believer does not backbite his neighbor. He does not do wrong deeds to bring reproach to his neighbor. According to Psalm 15:4b, he swears

to his own hurt, and he changes not.

Where were you when God saved you? On the way to hell, of course. Did He die for you when you were in that state? Yes, He did (Romans 5:6, 8; Isaiah 53). He laid down His life for you. I do not know any other way to interpret Ephesians 5:25 and 26: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might be sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

If Christ had not died for us while we were sinners, how could we honor His authority without knowing His love? God's love must come through the husband, as the initiator in the union, before his wife has something to respond to. But it cannot come through his own efforts or because she is meeting his standards of a good wife. It must be the Holy Spirit shedding the love of God abroad in the heart.

Chapter Threë

THE SAVOR OF TRUTH

Matthew 5:13 says we are the salt of the earth. In Luke 14:34, if salt has lost its savor, it is good for nothing. Henceforth, men tread it under their feet. Salt is the resurrection life of knowledge in the power of the whole counsel of God through personal faith. This means God causes us to triumph in every place.

God said to a man, "I want you to go to this country and minister to the lepers." Angry with God because his brother had died from a terrible illness at a young age, the man said, "My brother served You faithfully, and You took him home! You would not answer our prayer, and he was only in his forties."

After arguing with God for one year, this man finally went to the mission field. Every day he ministered to the lepers in their colony, and for a long time, he began each sermon by saying. "My dear brethren...." But one morning, hot

water spilled on his feet. Unable to feel the pain, he knew that he had leprosy. That day, he began his message by saying, "My fellow lepers...." He considered it a privilege to be one with them; not that he wanted to be, but inasmuch as God allowed it, he used his affliction in his ministry.

You see, he picked up truth and accepted that his judgment was upon Christ: Finished Work equity. Justice could precede love, and love could be shed abroad in him as an essence of God through the channel of grace. It is a very beautiful picture.

When people go to the altar and say, "I take you to be mine for better or worse, through sickness or health, in prosperity or adversity," how can they think they have any option but to keep that vow? The principle is in 1 Peter 2:13, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake...." Yet, some years later, one party claims that they never got along. One of them leaves, and the vows are broken. Truth has fallen in the street.

We have vows in the military and oaths for doctors and lawyers. When those vows are broken, the law recommends serious penalties. The Bible says that a righteous man swears an oath to his own hurt and never changes (Psalm 15:4b).

Why? Because God commands it. Furthermore, God said, "I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6). Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Mercy in Action

On our radio program recently, a wife called in and said, "My husband just told me a while ago that he was going out with prostitutes and has been involved with pornography since he was twelve years old."

"Oh, I feel sorry for you," I said.

"Oh no, don't feel bad for me," she said. "He has truly repented. He didn't have to tell me. He came weeping. He has truly repented. He is a brand-new man. He means it."

It was good to hear that for a change! This woman does not hold a thing against him and never knew it all her life. When she married him, she put Psalm 15:4b into practice. She swore a vow to her own hurt, and she would not change when he revealed his sin. Motivated by the love of God, she is giving him the grace of God, letting mercy rejoice against judgment, and she is literally giving him the life of God.

Many Christians never truly are delivered. They are saved, and they do not do anything

directly to support Satan's government of evil. Yet, they are prey for the devil, because they do not have truth stored in their minds, in the memory center. They do not have the Cross as a point of reference, from moment to moment, and they do not have categories of doctrine forming their frame of reference.

A Sweet Fragrance from the Inside

Each of us needs a personal faith to reveal Christ in the inward parts. Then, everywhere we go, we triumph through the savor of His knowledge.

The savor of His knowledge is related in the recipe of the perfume, in Exodus 30:34. Moses was told to take four spices: stacte (representing grace), onycha (the fruit of divine good), galbanum (conviction), and frankincense (love through truth). The spices were mixed together in equal amounts: Grace equal with the fruit of divine good; divine good equal with new convictions; new convictions equal with loving knowledge. The mixture had to be perfectly balanced, placed where God would meet with Moses, and regarded as most holy. It was forbidden to be used or copied for any other purpose.

When these things are present and balanced

in our lives, God's presence brings out the beautiful aroma of grace and the fruit of the Holy Spirit and conviction. The love of God through knowledge is exhibited, demonstrated, and manifested to destroy the works of the devil. God always causes us to triumph so that He can use the savor of His knowledge through us in every place (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Chapter Four

ENDURING BY THE POWER OF LIFE

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12).

I was told that this verse is only about the martyrs who are also spoken of in Revelation 2:10. Now, having studied it carefully, I strongly disagree. In this specific case, to "endure" means to stay under something that never goes away.

We have a woman with multiple sclerosis who works at the church. She answers the phones and always has a smile on her face. Each day when I see her, she says things like, "Boy, is it good to be in this ministry. It is the most amazing thing, Pastor. God has blessed me so much." This is her testimony day in and day out. She endures affliction, and she will enjoy a crown of life.

I heard a true story from a friend of mine. A woman in New England was saved in our ministry. Her husband professed Christ, but then he left her for another woman who became pregnant with his child.

When his wife heard that they planned to abort the baby, she said, "Please let me raise the child. Please!" They agreed. Then it happened again, and again she said, "I will pay for it all. Let me have that baby, too."

Do you know where these children are now? One is a missionary, and one is an engineer who leads a choir in his spare time. This woman did not get her husband back, but she certainly has glorified God. She did not let truth fall in the street. Instead, she gave her husband unconditional love and grace. She raised those two children. That precious woman has glorified God as most of us could never imagine possible.

Abide in the Truth

It takes more than just knowledge to live triumphantly. It is not about quoting chapter and verse. Jesus said, "the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). He was talking about *aletheia*—the precise, accurate power of God's

thinking and God's mind; the fullness of the Holy Spirit in a person who understands the Finished Work. This person understands that he can endure anything and that he will end up with the crown of life. He abides in the tabernacle; he dwells in the holy presence of God.

Isaiah 33:6a tells us that wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of our times. That is true, because wisdom is the proper application of knowledge.

According to Psalm 111:10, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Wisdom goes beyond knowledge into the way God thinks, releasing the Holy Spirit of resurrection in a person who is obedient to the word he has received. Proverbs 9:10 says that a man who fears God has not only wisdom but also understanding, which is knowledge of the holy. The original Hebrew text says, "knowledge of the holy place"—that is where we are seated. So, the fear of God is wisdom, and knowledge of the holy place is understanding, which includes what we experience.

Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, you will be My learner, My disciplined one, My disciple. And, you will know the aletheia—the truth." The definite article specifies a system of how to think in every area—and it will set us free. We

will not have to get a divorce. We will not have to be alienated or become angry with the pastor. Truth will set us free from moment to moment.

Then we get to know in a more personal way the Son, who says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man cometh to the Father but by me." The Son makes us free because the work was finished on Calvary.

Jeremiah 9:3 reveals how important it is to be valiant in truth. That is good: Be valiant in truth. In 3 John 4, the Lord declares, "I love to hear that My people walk in aletheia, the truth. It is a great joy for Me when I hear My people are walking in aletheia."

Every leader, every pastor I know becomes overwhelmingly excited for the Christian who makes it through hard times. It makes them feel like singing, "I'll Fly Away, Oh Glory!" because both the pastor and the Christian are walking in the light as Jesus is in the light, and they can have fellowship with each other.

The blood of Christ cleanses us from our sins of ignorance (1 John 1:7). In Leviticus 4, there was an offering for sins of ignorance. But when we walk in the light, the Blood cleanses, even when we do not know it.

Soul Conceptions

God begets us through the Word of truth (James 1:18). That truth has to have a conception. Let me ask you this: Are you having new conceptions in truth every day? A woman who has conceived has a baby inside. A life is growing in her. Picture the woman carrying a baby, and then there is a birth.

This is what doctrine is all about. Somebody tells me something fresh. It conceives light in me. As soon as I hear, I want to obey (Psalm 18:44), but there is now life growing in me. I carry it. Sometimes it causes convictions, which will always lead to conversions, if I am honest.

The life of a triumphant Christian should be one of continually having new births. We are only born again once. But new births in categories of doctrine should happen regularly. We should have a birth in a new category and say, "I have a little baby of truth in my hand. Now I can experience truth in one area, and next week in another area."

Truth reveals sacrificial love that is supreme and begets self-sacrifice through love and grace. This is the truth that sets us free, and Jesus Christ makes us free indeed.

CONCLUSION

Every one of us faces temptations and afflictions. Sometimes it is because of our own old sin nature. Sometimes the afflictions come through no fault of our own. But whatever the case, whatever the cause, truth revealed to the inward man makes the difference. Equity prevails, and we who would have been losers triumph.

The only way to overcome a lie is with truth. The only way to overcome a single sin (John 15:7) is by abiding in truth. Not a thing can come against truth.

This is why I continue to go soul winning weekly, on purpose, after almost fifty years. Truth told me to go, and I got the message—though I am just a sinner saved by grace, but a saint in the royal family.

Father, we thank You. We praise You, we love You, and we ask You now to take this message to the hearts of individuals who are ready to hear. Please give everyone a new hunger to rightly divide truth in

the power of God through the Cross, by grace through
faith in love. Amen.