

THE WEAPON OF TRUTH

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Part 1 - The Battle For Truth In The Church

I. Introductory Remarks.

Isaiah 59:14 *Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.*

In this study I want to begin talking about "The Weapon of Truth." Truth is one of the most powerful weapons we possess in the spiritual arsenal God has given to us to deal with the enemy. Unfortunately truth has fallen in the streets and has been replaced by the lies of the devil. It is time for God's people to arise with the weapon of truth and to go forth in the power of His Spirit pleading for truth.

Isaiah 59:4-5 *No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; he who eats of their eggs dies, and from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.*

We live in a culture and an era that is inundated with falsehood and lies. Not many are pleading for truth and those who do are mocked and ridiculed as being extremists in a politically correct society that is based on falsehood and lies.

Even in the church, those who stand for a strong adherence to Biblically sound doctrine are ridiculed and labeled as legalists, who are not flowing with the Spirit.

As a result we have provided the perfect environment for Satan's power and deception to rule in the lives of people everywhere. Satan's power and antichrist spirit is being unleashed today as never before. The absence of truth has given him a strong foothold and place to stand to oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

The Bible is full of Scriptures that speak of the strong deception that shall come upon the world in the last days that shall even cause many to depart from the faith. This is all are result of truth having fallen in the streets.

Although there is probably not a whole lot we can do about the absence of truth in the secular world, I believe there is something we can do about it in the kingdom realm. There are two areas God wants His truth securely establish in. They are in the church and in our personal lives.

II. Truth As A Weapon.

If we are to stand in an evil day we must put on the belt of truth and walk in the uncompromising truth of God's Word.

Ephesians 6:13-14 *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness...*

We must realize that walking in the truth of God's Word is one of the most powerful weapons we have against the enemy with his wiles and schemes. We must have a powerful love and adherence to the truth of God's word if we are to stand against him.

Satan has nowhere to stand when he is confronted with the Truth.

John 8:44 *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

If we take away his place to stand, then he is not able to use his many devices and schemes against us. He is rendered totally ineffective.

III. The Battle For Truth In The Church.

God has chosen the church to be the place from which His truth flows from. It is the pillar and ground of truth.

1 Timothy 3:15 *...but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

It is my conviction that the church of Jesus Christ has been guilty of compromising and watering down the truth of God's Word to make it more palatable to the society we live in and as a result truth has fallen in the streets and given the devil a giant foothold to speak lies and falsehood. We should be crying out and pleading for truth to be firmly established in the church according to the uncompromising truth of God's Word.

There is a tremendous battle that is raging in the church today over truth. Satan's objective is to infiltrate the church with his lies. He knows that if he can spread his lies and dilute the truth, he has a secure place to stand and unleash his power and deception.

In the more historical & traditional churches the battle is over whether the Scripture is Divinely inspired or not and whether Jesus was really God manifest in the flesh. This gives way to battles over all kinds of moral issues within the church. When truth is fallen righteousness stands afar off.

In the Charismatic realm the battle is over extra Biblical experiences vs. what is clearly stated or established in God's Word. This causes people to seek after signs and spiritual experiences rather than the truth of God's word. It will set them up to be deceived by lying signs and wonders.

With the weapon of truth we can claim victory in both of these areas by adhering to the truth of God's Word in the following ways.

1. We Must Accept The Entirety Of God's Word As His Truth.

***Psalms 119:160** The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.*

***2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...*

2. We Must Rightly Divide the Word of Truth.

***2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

This means we approach the interpretation of God's Word honestly without personal preferences. There are those who twist the Scriptures to make them say anything they want to say.

2 Peter 3:16 ...as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

No Scripture is of private interpretation. It must be properly exegeted in light of the whole. It also means you build on those passages that are clear and precise and not on those that are vague or nebulous. Allow the Scripture to interpret itself. It does it very well.

3. The Word of Truth Must Take Precedence Over Experience.

One of the things that is happening in the Body of Christ today, particularly in the Charismatic ranks is a focus on extra Biblical experiences that are being esteemed as a genuine move of the Holy Spirit. Any experience must be based on the Sound Doctrine of God's Word.

It is my conviction that God can sovereignly move upon my life however He sees fit, but I do not have the liberty nor the authority to take something that is not Biblically defined and build a movement on it.

1 Corinthians 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

The example of Peter and the Mount of Transfiguration.

A good example of esteeming the word above spiritual or emotional experiences is found in the example of Jesus with Peter, James and John. When Peter later wrote about this experience, He said the written word was a more sure word of prophecy.

2 Peter 1:16-21 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. **We also have the prophetic word made more sure,** which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

The example of Jesus at His Baptism.

Another example is when the Father spoke to Jesus on the day of His baptism. Those who heard the voice all heard it a little differently. Jesus heard it perfectly, because He was perfect. Our spiritual experiences are filtered through our imperfect minds, so therefore our interpretation of the event is not a perfect interpretation of what happened.

John 12:28-30 *"Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.*

Even though spiritual experiences we may experience from time to time may be good and even build our faith, we do not have the right to glorify the experiences beyond what is written in the word or to the point that they become a movement within themselves.

4. We Must Have A Love For The Truth Of God's Word.

Psalms 119:162 *I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure.*

David walked in faith and victory throughout most of his life because he had a genuine love and appreciation for God's Word.

This involves enduring sound doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

IV. Concluding Remarks.

Being a part of a local church that is Bible centered and adheres to God's Word of Truth gives us as believers a strong foundation to walk in the truth that God so desires for us. But we must also take personal responsibility for walking in truth as God reveals it to us. This will give us the kind of faith and victory that will cause the enemy to flee from our lives and enable us to fulfill God's divine calling in each of our lives.

Part 2 - The Battle for Truth as Individuals

I. Introductory Remarks & Review.

Isaiah 59:4-5 *No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; he who eats of their eggs dies, and from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.*

This Scripture speaks of how our lives can be affected by a culture in an era that speaks lies and trusts in empty words. The truth of the matter is that our lives have been affected by a culture that has been overwhelmed with lies and falsehood.

In the previous section I began talking about the Battle for Truth in our culture. I spoke concerning the battle for truth in the church and how both the historical and the charismatic or more contemporary churches are under spiritual attack from the enemy concerning truth. The enemy knows that if he can get us to bite at his lies and falsehood just as he did with Eve in the garden, he has gained a position to stand in which he can launch major attacks against us. By walking in truth we take his place of standing away.

John 8:44 *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, **and does not stand in the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

Ephesians 6:13-14 *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

In the previous message I spoke on how the church must put on the belt of truth and use it as an effective weapon against the enemy. In this message today, I want to talk about the "Battle for Truth in our Personal Lives," and how we as believers must put on the weapon of truth and use it against the enemy.

II. Putting On the Weapon of Truth.

I want to give you some effective keys and principles that will enable you to wear the belt of truth as God has designed it. It takes more than just having the belt of truth available, you must wear it effectively if you are to defeat the enemy and walk in faith and victory.

1. You Must Come Under The Covering Of A Bible-Centered Church.

Proverbs 18:10 *The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*

Since the church is the pillar and ground of truth, as we saw in the previous message, it is a place where you should be protected from the lies and the deceit of the enemy by learning how to walk in the truth of God's word. You must, however submit yourself.

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

2. You Must Have A Teachable Spirit.

You can be in a church that adheres to the Biblical principles of sound doctrine and truth and still miss it personally. There is a tremendous battle for truth in our personal lives as believers. Satan doesn't like being shut out. He will do everything he can to maintain a foothold in your life. By having a teachable spirit you keep yourselves open to the truth of God's Word.

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

We must realize that we have strongholds that have been formed through years of listening to the lies of the devil. We have many false concepts that have been embraced through our journeys in life. We must be willing to tear down the false concepts and replace them with the truth of God's word.

Psalms 33:4 *For the word of the LORD is right, And all His work is done in truth.*

Romans 3:4 *Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged."*

If we want victory in a certain area, our thoughts must be brought into conformity and agreement with the word of truth.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high*

thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

Isaiah 55:9 *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My [ways higher] than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

3. We Must Allow The Word Of Truth & The Spirit Of Truth To Expose Our Sin.

Psalms 51:5-6 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.*

Our flesh and our carnal nature will resist the truth just as David did until the Lord used the prophet Nathan to deal with him. He tried to cover and excuse his sin, but God used Nathan to speak the word of truth to him.

We can't hide from God because He is intimately acquainted with all our ways. We must begin by being open and honest with God.

When Satan comes to you does he find unconfessed and unrepented sin in your life? If not, then he has no place to stand. If so, then he has a place to stand and keep you in defeat.

4. We Must Build Two & Three Cord Relationships.

It is one thing to confess our sins and faults to God, but it is another thing to confess our sins and faults before another individual. I believe there is a great release from the bondage of sin when we are able to be truthful about ourselves in this manner with another individual. I believe God desires for us to have at least one relationship where we have this liberty.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. {10} For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.*

James 5:16 *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

5. The Word And Spirit Of Truth Must Lead Us Rather Than Our Emotions.

Psalms 25:5 *Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.*

John 16:13 *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

Many Christians fail to walk in faith and victory simply because they are be led by their emotions rather than the Spirit of Truth. As a result they become tangled in a web of destruction. They make major decisions in life based on their emotions rather than Biblical principles of truth or genuine Spirit led guidance. People in this position are so tangled up; they are useless as effective tools for God.

Think of the victory we could have if our major decisions in life were based on the truth of God's Word rather than our own thoughts and emotions which fall short of God's intended purpose for our lives.

Let God be true and every man a liar. The heart is deceitful above all things.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Sometimes, just because God doesn't stop you from doing something, people have a tendency to think it is alright and is even God's will and purpose.

Through the practice of truth over a time you can spin yourself out of Satan's web of deceit and destruction.

John 8:32 *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

6. You Must Keep The Commandments.

1 John 2:4 *He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

III. Concluding Remarks.

I have given you six important principles that will help you to continually walk the truth God desires for your personal lives. I believe if you do this, you will have rendered Satan ineffective in your lives by pulling the rug out from under his feet. He will have nowhere to stand and direct his attacks, because there is no truth in

him and when you are walking in truth, you have taken his position of attack away from him. This is why the apostle John said he had no greater joy than to see his children walking in truth.

3 John 1:4 *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*