

TRUTH

Truth is not what we believe. We might believe the truth, but truth itself is an absolute. So how can we individually determine and confirm what is, and what is not, the true intent of the Father in scripture? And why is it important to know and conform to the truth in all things? Isn't it enough just to know and believe that Jesus Christ is our Savior?

By Jim Sayles

Part 1: The Authority for Truth

I, like all believers, did not choose the anointing and ministry I was given by the Lord. But, because I was rescued out of deep Satanic bondage as an adult, I have pursued the word and will of the Lord with total commitment.

After being led by the Lord through a time of cleansing and deliverance from intense demonic bondage, the Lord woke me up one morning by calling my name.

As I sat bolt upright in bed I saw **John 14:15** written like a hologram across my mind's eye.

I quickly awakened my wife, Peggy, who was responsible through prayer for my rescue and redemption in Christ, and, as she stared in wide-eyed astonishment, I blurted excitedly, "The Lord gave me a scripture."

As I opened my Bible to John 14:15 I read, "***If you love Me, obey My commands.***"

I was somewhat disappointed by this, and reasoned out loud to my astonished wife that it might have been John 15:14.

When I turned to John 15:14 I read, "***You are My friends if you obey My commands.***"

What that ultimately revealed to me is that His primary intent for me is to hear and respond in obedience to His truth, promises, and commands.

And what I have desperately wanted from that time forward is to be both a "friend" and a "bond-servant" of the Lord, fulfilling the anointing and purpose He has appointed me for in this brief life on earth, which I now understand to be the initial testing and training for an eternal life of adventure and blessing in Christ.

In this regard, what He has revealed to me is that His truth, promises, and commands come to us by various means, in dreams and visions, in prophetic revelations, through the teaching and ministry of others, and through my own

examination of the written word as the Spirit of truth “guides” me in my revelatory understanding.

What I have also learned is that this is the will and intent of God for all believers.

“The Bible says...,” is the phrase that commonly precedes our multitudinous opinions about the truth, promises, and commands of God in scripture, and we use that phrase, or something similar, to give authority to our individual and group-think opinions and traditions, though our opinion about almost any doctrine or practice in Christendom is contradicted and condemned by a multitude of contrary, opposing doctrines and practices.

To overcome this conundrum we need to be aware that there are two different Greek words used in scripture for the singular phrase in English: “word of God.”

“*Logos*” is the written word of God in scripture, and, specifically, in the original languages in which it was written. Thus the King James Version of the original texts is already compromised, because it is a translation.

Scripture, then, in the original languages is the exact representation of what God intended to provide for us in the original languages.

“*Logos*” is also used to mean the exact representation of the abstract reality (i.e. Jesus of Nazareth is the exact representation of God, the Father, in human form.)

“*Rhema*” is the spiritual, revelatory word that proceeds out of the mouth of God and is translated to us by the Spirit of truth. And this *rhema* word is confirmed to us in scripture by the Spirit of truth.

What we also frequently compromise through our natural understanding, no matter how studious and careful we are, is the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth, the “*rhema*” truth that proceeds out of the mouth of the God and is spiritually conveyed and imparted to us by the Spirit of truth and confirmed in scripture as the Spirit “guides” us in our understanding of the “*logos*”.

It is this *rhema* word of God that fuels and inspires our faith and our true understanding of doctrine and practice.

Therefore, when any two agree in regard to this true *rhema* understanding they are united in their faith, not merely united in the understanding that comes only through mere intellectual consent.

When the Lord revealed to His immediate disciples that He would soon be parted from them as far as His natural presence was concerned, He explained that He would continue to be present with them in the form of the Holy Spirit.

This is also how He is present with us in this age, and it is how the Father has ordained that we receive His truth, promises, and commands.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will... (supernaturally)... guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. John 16:13 KJV

Some didactic, intellectually discernible FACTS we learn from this passage include:

- 1) It is the Spirit of truth who “guides” us supernaturally into the revelatory understanding of ALL truth. There are “facts” that we can discern with our natural minds, but faith and true understanding only comes through the Spirit of truth’s impartations of the *rhema* of God through our spirit-mind (soul) connection;
- 2) It is also the Spirit of truth who reveals the unsealed revelatory *rhema* understanding of “things to come” at the time and to the people and generation for whom they are intended. Thus all intellectual speculation concerning things to come prior to the unsealing and revealing by the Spirit of truth potentially become strongholds (fortresses) of intellectual error and/or demonic deception assaulted against the revelatory truth when the revelatory truth is made available to us by the Lord;
- 3) All of the covenant promises and commands of the Lord are conveyed to us, both individually and corporately, by the Spirit of truth who reveals the *rhema* (absolute, immutable, truth of God) to us by whatever means He has chosen to use, including spiritual dreams and visions, prophetic impartations, the spiritual gifts of others, and our own spiritual gifts.

“Faith” is not merely a strong belief. Faith is a spiritually *rhema*-revealed and confirmed belief, understanding, or command that cannot be reproduced through intellectual beliefs and actions alone.

Faith in action, then, produces actions and results that cannot be produced through strong belief alone, because the actions and results of faith are spiritually empowered.

Demons, for instance, cannot be cast out on the basis of intellectual presumption alone. Demons only respond to the authority of Jesus Christ spoken

by faith through a believer. The same, exact words when spoken through intellectual presumption, even by a born-again Christian believers, will not have any impact on demons.

Likewise, we frequently pray for the healing of others, but, at the same time, most of us are simply hoping that God will heal the one for whom we are praying. Thus many believers add the phrase, “if it be thy will,” to our prayers. Yet, we are instructed that the prayer of faith WILL heal the sick.

In a large home group that my wife and I led early in my walk of faith I knew that someone needed prayer but was too inhibited to ask for prayer. I spoke that out loud, and a young man told us that his wife, who was weeping into her hands, was blind in one eye and was told by the doctor that she would soon be blind in the other eye from macular degeneration.

I watched with joy as a number of those present raised their hands in order and prayed with confidence through Spirit-empowered faith.

On the following Sunday the couple were present in my Sunday School class, and they announced with tears of joy that she now had perfect sight in both eyes, demonstrating that those who had prayed, prayed by faith. At the same time none of these had added, “if it be thy will,” because their prayers were empowered by the Spirit-given confirmation that she would be healed.

Denominations of varying beliefs and practices, and various schools of interpretation, then, are man’s devices, traditions of understanding which may, or may not, be what the Father has intended.

Thus our division into thousands of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning the truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ demonstrates that there is a massive disconnect from the Spirit of truth throughout the body of Christ at this present time.

Yet, we have excused ourselves by ineffectively responding to this division through ecumenicalism (i.e. letting the main thing be the main thing and being somewhat tolerant regarding everything else).

Augustine was a 4th century Roman Catholic theologian frequently quoted for his brief ecumenical slogan: “In essentials unity. In non-essentials liberty. In all things charity.”

But is it really God’s will that we have liberty in all other doctrine and practice? And is it really “charity” (*agapao* love) to ignore deception and error when it is encountered, knowing that it is Satan, the father of lies, who is responsible for causing division and error to flourish for the purpose of inhibiting and defeating the spiritual body of Christ?

Over the years I have encountered this willingness to compromise the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God concerning the entire range of Christian doctrine and practice in numerous believers, all of whom value the “group-think” consensus and comfort of their own denominations, fellowships, and worldly associations, or even their own personal reputations as prophets, pastors, and teachers, more than they value the absolute, immutable, faith-empowering *rhema* truth of God.

At the same time, these respond to any challenge to their doctrine and practice either with anger and rejection (always a response of the “flesh”), or by the insistence that their exegetical expertise is superior to the one or to the group challenging their doctrine or practice, as though God’s absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth is conveyed only to the one studied enough or brilliant enough to grasp it.

Yet, this is exactly what we observe in scripture concerning the Pharisees, scribes, priests, and intellectual giants of Israel. These not only had the old testament revelation of the coming Messiah, they also had God’s very specific calendar for the seven primary events for the redemption of fallen mankind in Christ. And these still rejected Jesus of Nazareth as “Messiah,” not because the truth was not available to them, but because the introduction of false doctrine and deception caused them to be both “deaf” and “blind” to the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God when it manifested through the life and ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ, resulting in the judgment of Israel and Israel’s dispersion into the nations.

Unfortunately, much of the organized *ekklesia* of Christ is in this same condition where the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God is concerned, as is demonstrated by our division into thousands of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning true doctrine and practice.

Thus Augustine’s “liberty in non-essentials” and “charity in all things” applies to each of our “group-think” denominational positions or our individual doctrines and practices, but not to those who challenge our doctrine and practice.

This is a God-given concern for me.

I was similarly challenged many years ago when Don Harris of Think Red Ink ministries out of Pietown, New Mexico responded to something I had written that reflected the dispensational view of a pre-tribulation “rapture” of church only saints.

Don gently and respectfully persuaded me to first examine the origin and history of that intensely popular doctrinal position, and then to examine what that doctrine literally expresses in regard to God’s covenant intent for the remnant of believing mankind in Christ.

In humility, and with the desire to know God's absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth that the prophetic anointing inspires, I examined (and continue to examine) the origin and true doctrines of Dispensationalism and "Christian" Zionism (national ethnic Israel's predominance in the covenant intent of the Father) which includes the belief in a pre-tribulation "rapture" of church only saints, as well as a future, but separate redemption of "all Israel," believed by Zionists to be national, ethnic Israel rather than spiritual Israel, the body of Christ.

What I discovered is that what we believe about the pre-tribulation "rapture" of church only saints is not only important, but that it is either the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God or a doctrine of demons deliberately introduced into the church to lead end time believers into the tragic apostasy of the "foolish virgins" of the end time church as clearly revealed in Matthew 24:10-13 and Matthew 25:1-12.

In this regard I confess that I have wept with the Lord concerning the massive tragedy that will befall the "foolish" (deceived) believers during "tribulation" as revealed by the Lord in Matthew 24 and 25. And I am, therefore, willing to experience the rejection of many for the sake of the few.

Which then is *agapao* love? "Charity in all things" or our willingness to suffer the angry rejection of others in order to bring the truth to some?

Thank you, Don Harris, for your willingness to challenge me with the truth, not out of spiritual pride, but out of *agapao* love.

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:3,4 KJV

What this passage demonstrates is that we have "life" (continuous spiritual life) through the truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ "spoken" into us through the agency of the Holy Spirit, our spiritual conscience (reflecting the perfect law of God) a.k.a. the Spirit of truth who "guides" us supernaturally in various ways into ALL truth, including the truth about things to come.

This is the *rhema* Word that "proceeds out of the mouth of God" and is confirmed by our revelatory understanding of the *logos* Word in scripture. This is the truth that we "hear" with spiritual ears and "see" with the eyes of our hearts as it is supernaturally "spoken" into us by the Spirit of truth.

This is the truth that Paul insisted the spiritual body of Christ be in agreement with. (Ephesians 4:1-3 KJV):

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

This “unity of the Spirit” as expressed by Paul is the spiritual unity of the body of Christ in our thoughts, words, and actions. But, at the same time, it does not indicate a tolerance for false doctrine and practice, which is demonstratively dividing us at this present time.

Paul himself frequently and consistently corrected and protected the early church from false doctrine and practice, knowing also that Satan was secretly involved in the introduction of false doctrine and practice into the body of Christ, which is Satan’s primary weapon against the kingdom of God in the earth.

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants ... (men, not demons) ... also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 NASB

What is shamefully obvious is that this condition Paul addressed in the new, young church of Jesus Christ is abundantly present in the modern institutional body of Christ.

Any understanding of the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord that does not come through this *rhema* word spoken into our spirit-soul connection, and confirmed in the written *logos* word, then, is NOT the unifying, faith empowering word “spoken” to us by the Lord.

There are numerous “facts” observable by the intellect in scripture, but unless these facts are applied appropriately to the believer by the Spirit of truth, they are lifeless and without “light” in regard to the absolute, immutable truth of God.

If we have been regenerated by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior we are now “joint heirs” in a covenant relationship with God, the Father, through our incorporation into the spiritual body of Christ.

Therefore, the absolute authority over all that we think, say, and do IS God, the Father, who has granted this authority to the Son, our High Priest and our LORD, and conveyed to us by the Spirit of truth.

Almost anyone who is a believer recognizes or acknowledges this authority, but not everyone who is a believer is submitted to this authority.

The Bible in the original languages, is the “*logos*,” the written word of God, exactly as He intended it, but the Bible, even in the original languages, is NOT the “*rhema*” word of God that is spoken directly into our spirit-soul connection.

This becomes obvious when we recognize the fact that the organized, institutional body of Christ, the church, is divided into thousands of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord based on our specific intellectual understanding of various interpretations of the written word, the “*logos*,” demonstrating a massive disconnect from the Spirit of truth who was given to us for the express purpose of “guiding” us into, and communicating to us, all “*rhema*” truth as that truth is confirmed by the Spirit in the written word, the “*logos*.”

Denominations, then, are rigidly protected sets of beliefs and practices that differ from other denominations also rigidly protected. Yet, the *rhema* truth of God does not vary, either in its meaning or its application in what we think, say, and do. And it is this *rhema* truth, the absolute, immutable, didactic truth of God, through which we make obedient faith responses to our Lord.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every... (rhema)... word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4 KJV (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Notice: The absolute, immutable, revelatory word of God is “spoken” to us, but it is spoken into our spirits, and through our spirits to our minds. And it is this *rhema* word that empowers our spiritual faith life.

What is not seen in this passage is the possibility that the interpretation of the written word of God by man’s intellect alone can or will produce the absolute, immutable, *rhema* word of God to us. And without the revelatory word of God being “spoken” to us by the Spirit we do not have the “spoken” or “*rhema*” word of God resulting in our obedient faith responses that manifest the truth, power, and glory (presence) of our Lord.

We may be in obedience to the religious expectations of men and whatever denomination of Christianity we participate in, but true obedience by faith comes by receiving and obeying the revelatory impartations of the Lord’s truth, promises, and commands.

Thus our obedience to the doctrines of men (i.e. denominational doctrines that may, or may not be, the intent of God in Christ) may actually be disobedience to the revelatory truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ.

All believers have the ability to receive revelatory impartations and confirmations of the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord by means of the Spirit of truth (John 16:13). But this ability is hindered by the confidence we have

in our own intellects, the authority of traditions of interpretation and denominational beliefs that have become “group-think” strongholds (fortresses) that hinder our reception of the “spoken” word of God, and because of the demonically empowered lies spoken and taught by false prophets who do NOT know they are false prophets, as well as lying shepherds who do NOT know they are lying shepherds.

A concern in the modern, western, protestant church, whether Charismatic or non-Charismatic, is that the protestant reformers, breaking away from the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church, continued to practice the priest-laity model, which is the clergy-lay people division. And it is this model giving authority to the pastor, bishop, “apostle,” prophet, or pastor for what we believe and practice that is responsible for the majority of denominational division and strife in the church.

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers were given to the body of Christ until the end of the age to LEAD the body of Christ, but this ordained leadership of the body of Christ is potentially subject to error and is not the absolute authority for truth.

Their purpose is to lead, guide, and help us in our obedient faith responses to the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord. But they, themselves, are not THE “authority” for the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord.

These are imperfect “messengers” of the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord, but they are not, themselves, the authority.

If these “messengers” are functioning in obedience to the revelatory truth, promises, and commands of the Lord, then we should receive the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord through them, but not without our own confirmation by the Spirit of truth.

In this regard Paul called the Berean believers “noble,” because when Paul, the apostolic messenger of Christ, revealed the *rhema* Word of God to them they carefully examined the written *logos* Word to confirm the message that Paul brought to them.

The Thessalonians, by comparison, received Paul’s words and instructions with equal enthusiasm on the basis of his authority, but they did not carefully examine the written *logos* Word of God in order to confirm what Paul was teaching. Their failure to carefully examine the written Word of God with guidance from the Holy Spirit, even though Paul revealed the truth of God to them, demonstrated that the Thessalonians honored Paul’s status as apostle more than they honored the *rhema* Word of God that came to them through Paul.

Then, when another “teacher” came to them with a false teaching, they believed him, too, based on his perceived status.

We, too, are frequently guilty of this error, and what this clergy-lay people division leads to is intellectual consent by the “laity” who accept whatever is being taught and practiced by the “clergy” as the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God. Yet, our division into thousands of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions about the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord, is undeniable evidence that we do not ALL have the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God.

We are, then, to accept their appropriate leadership, but, at the same time, it is our individual responsibility to accept, confirm, and respond to the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God as the Spirit of truth “guides.”

It is, therefore, this absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God that unifies the body of Christ in our obedient faith responses to the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord. And it is this absolute, immutable *rhema* truth of God that Satan has assaulted from the garden of Eden forward in order to defeat the intent of God through the body of Christ.

Part 2: The Deadly Triad of Error