

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH
Life in the Spirit
Banská Štiavnica, 10th December 2020

Ἐὰν ἀγαπάτέ με, τὰς ἐντολάς τὰς ἐμὰς τηρήσετε·
16 κἀγὼ ἐρωτήσω τὸν πατέρα καὶ ἄλλον παράκλητον
δώσει ὑμῖν, ἵνα μεθ' ὑμῶν εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα ᾗ, 17 τὸ
πνεῦμα τῆς ἀληθείας, ὃ ὁ κόσμος οὐ δύναται λαβεῖν,
ὅτι οὐ θεωρεῖ αὐτὸ οὐδὲ γινώσκει· ὑμεῖς γινώσκετε
αὐτό, ὅτι παρ' ὑμῖν μένει καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν ἔσται.

John 14:15-17 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. A COMMON DEFINITION OF TRUTH

- Aristotelian: agreement of the mind with reality
 - *Aristotle* (384–322 bce): "To say of what is that it is, or of what is not that it is not, is true."
 - *adaequatio rei et intellectus* ("Truth is the adequation of things and intellect")

0.2. BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF TRUTH

- [PERSONAL] "I am the truth..." (John 14:6)
- [DOING] **John 3:21** But whoever does what is true (ποιῶν τὴν ἀλήθειαν) comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God.

- [DOING] **1Jo 3:18** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth (Τεκνία, μὴ ἀγαπῶμεν λόγῳ μηδὲ τῇ γλώσση ἀλλὰ ἐν ἔργῳ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ.).
- [SPIRITUAL] **1John 4:1-2** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,
- TRUTH in the Bible: “the adequation of the will of God and action.”

1. TRUTH AS REVELATION

- **Eph 1:17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him (ἵνα ὁ θεὸς τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὁ πατὴρ τῆς δόξης, δώῃ ὑμῖν πνεῦμα σοφίας καὶ ἀποκαλύψεως ἐν ἐπιγνώσει αὐτοῦ)
- truth → “WHOLENESS” → unseen world → to know the truth ⇒ TO SEE
- **Rev 19:10** ...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (→ Christian hope)
- TRUTH → knowing WHO GOD IS (**John 17:3** this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent)
- TRUTH → knowing WHO I AM (→ repentance, knowing sin)
- TRUTH → knowing WHERE I LIVE (→ a holiday cruiser *or* a warship?)
- TRUTH → knowing WHERE I AM GOING (the Christian hope)

1.1. GOD'S WORD

- **John 17:17** ...your word is truth
- **Ps 119:160** The sum of your word is truth (רֵאשִׁי־בְרָךְ אֱמֶת), and every one of your righteous rules endures forever (וְלֵעוֹלָם כָּל-מִשְׁפָּט צְדָקָךְ) [*Avant tout ta parole est vérité,*] [das Wesen]
- **Ps 119:142** Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true (וְתוֹרָתְךָ אֱמֶת)

1.2. GOD'S SPIRIT

- **1 John 5:6** And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth (τὸ πνεῦμά ἐστιν ἡ ἀλήθεια)
- **1Cor 2:9-10** What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"- ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

1.3. ASSURANCE

- **Col 2:2** ...the riches of full assurance of understanding (πάν πλοῦτος τῆς πληροφορίας τῆς συνέσεως)

2. TRUTH AS SPIRITUAL WISDOM

- to know the truth ⇒ TO BE WISE
- **Dt 34:9** And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom (מְלֵא רוּחַ חָכְמָה), for Moses had laid his hands on him.
- **Isa 11:2** And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of (1) wisdom (רוּחַ חָכְמָה) and understanding (וּבִינָה), the Spirit of (2) counsel (רוּחַ עֲצָה) and might (וּגְבוּרָה), the Spirit of (3) knowledge (וְדַעַת) and the fear of the LORD (וְיִרְאַת יְהוָה).

2.1. UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD

- **John 8:31-32** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- **2Cor 3:6** For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life
- **2Cor 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2.2. SPIRITUAL WISDOM

- **1Cor 2:12-16** ... we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ The natural person (ψυχικός δὲ ἄνθρωπος) does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person (ὁ δὲ πνευματικός) judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one (αὐτὸς δὲ ὑπ' οὐδενὸς ἀνακρίνεται). ¹⁶ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord (νοῦν κυρίου) so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ (νοῦν Χριστοῦ ἔχομεν)

3. LIFE IN THE TRUTH

- to know the truth ⇒ TO LIVE IN THE SPIRIT

3.1. LIFE → LIGHT

- **John 1:4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men
- **John 8:12** I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (τὸ φῶς τῆς ζωῆς). both → **for** life → **from** life

3.2. TELLING YOURSELF THE TRUTH

- **Jer 17:9-10** The heart is deceitful above all things (מִלֵּב הַלֵּב מְדַבֵּר), and desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰ "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds. → Ps 51
- **1Cor 2:11** For who knows a person's [of men] thoughts except the spirit of that person [things of a man], which is in him? (τίς γὰρ οἶδεν ἀνθρώπων τὰ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου εἰ μὴ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου τὸ ἐν αὐτῷ;)

3.3. RENEWAL BY THE TRUTH

- **Eph 4:22-23** ...to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds (ἀνανεοῦσθαι δὲ τῷ πνεύματι τοῦ νοῦς ὑμῶν)
- **Rom 12:2** ...be transformed by the renewal of your mind (μεταμορφοῦσθε τῇ ἀνακαινώσει τοῦ νοῦς)

3.4. FIGHTING EVIL WITH THE TRUTH

- life → SPIRITUAL fight (**Eph 6:12** spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places) → Spirit of discernment
- **Eph 6:14** Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth (worship in spirit and truth)
 - "a place for everything and everything in its place"
- **2Cor 10:3-5** For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds (πρὸς καθαίρεισιν ὀχυρωμάτων). We destroy arguments (λογισμοὺς καθαίρουντες) ⁵ and every lofty opinion (πάν ὑψώμα) raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ (αἰχμαλωτίζοντες πᾶν νόημα εἰς τὴν ὑπακοήν τοῦ Χριστοῦ)

4. TO REMEMBER

- Truth is more than agreement of your mind with reality → knowing the *whole* of truth.
- The Word of God is the light of truth and this we understand only through the help of the Holy Spirit.
- Knowing the truth means *living* life in the Spirit → spiritual battle, freedom, victory over evil.