## Truth must Triumph!

## #2908 1227 20P Post Advent

In a day when false information, lies, and fabrications are common, we wonder if *truth* will *prevail*—but we know that *God's Truth must always Triumph!* It is our responsibility to *live* that Truth by the power of the Holy Spirit. Living God's Truth means depending on His divine power every day.

Living by faith in Christ leads directly to living forever in Heaven. We must be aware of *deception* because Satan *changes* his disguise he can distract us in many ways and influence us by devious methods. Matthew 16:6 "Take heed and *beware of the leaven [yeast; teaching] of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*" Even a *religious* message or the lyrics of music can deceive—if they are *not* according to the Truth of the Bible. There is only *one Truth* and *one Gospel*—there is *not another* gospel as the apostle said Galatians 1:7 "Which is not another."

Living God's Truth is keeping our faith in Him. Jesus said Luke 11:28 "Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." It is required that we believe and trust God for everything. 2 John 1:9 "Every one who is transgressing, and is not remaining in the teaching of the Christ, hath not God; he who is remaining in the teaching of the Christ, this one hath both the Father and the Son."

Our prayer is for the Holy Spirit to help us keep *the teachings of Christ* in our heart because there are many distractions today—distractions that can take our *trust* away from *God* and on to something other than the Blood of Christ. God spoke from heaven Mark 9:7 "There was a cloud that overshadowed them Peter, James, John: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him"—hear His teaching; keep believing; and retain our trust on His atoning sacrifice.

Listening to the Scriptures and following a life of faith would have saved the rich man from the flames. Abraham told him Luke 16:29, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them [read their writings anytime they want to]." Abraham added Luke 16:31 "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." We could scare someone but not change anyone spiritually—only God can convert the heart.

We first *listen* to what God has written and then *live* an actual life of faith in His Son. An *outward* appearance of faith is not an *inward* conversion of heart—but so many today are *not listening* to what God is saying.

What is in our *heart* can be known— Mark 7:14 "Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand: 15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. 16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear."

Jesus explained—Mark 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness [lustful pleasure], an evil eye [envy], blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." The attitudes we keep and the words we speak must have God's approval—Matthew 12:37 "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." The high standard of faith in God and following the words of Christ *must* be maintained. Only the Holy Spirit can inspire us to put our trust on God for things in this life. Satan wants us to *compromise* because he wants us to fall away from a true walk of faith in God. John 3:18 *"He who is believing in him is not judged, but he who is not believing hath been judged already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* 

A lack of interest in spiritual matters is often *gradual* but can be a *continual* moving away from a position of *trust* on God—if this is not *recognized*, *repented* of, and *corrected*. 2 Cor. 13:5 "*Test yourselves to discover whether you are true believers: put your own selves under examination*." When God shows us any spiritual lack of faith, we must be willing to correct it.

The devil is *determined* to *deceive* and he can, even through deceptive religious teaching. The apostle 2 Corinthians 4:2 did not "Adulterate God's Message [nor handle the word of God deceitfully]. But by a full clear statement of the truth we strive to commend ourselves in the [sight] of God."

Everyone will give an account to God whether their faith was on the Blood of Christ or on something else. Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

God requires that we *sow* a life of *faith* in the atoning Blood He shed for us. The sin nature will *not* trust God for anything—but that lack of trust in our heart will eventually result in eternal *suffering* in Hell. We must be inspired by the Holy Spirit to trust God in faith for everything in life, if we want the result to be eternal *life* in Heaven.

There is no excuse for lack of *faith* in Christ or *trust* on God because the Lord provides the *power* to believe—we just make the *choice* first. God is always faithful and has *promised* to heal, deliver, protect, provide, and save us from the lake of fire. The divine power that raised Jesus to life is the same power that is *Ephesians 3:20 "Able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."* 

Communicating with God through prayer for spiritual light is vitally important. John 14:26 "*The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*" The Holy Spirit enables us to draw a scriptural line on issues involving faith.

We are *not* to avenge any type of injustice as the world does. Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written Leviticus 19:18, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Responding to persecution, prejudice, discrimination, and mean treatment in a scriptural way is an important faith issue.

Jesus said *not* to own real estate and *not* to store up treasure on earth on which we could trust, because what we trust *in* reveals where our heart *is* Matthew 6:19-21. Trusting God every day for the financial needs of that day is an essential faith issue. We must correctly interpret God's Word on trust—which is 2 Timothy 2:15 *"Rightly dividing the word of truth."* 

God's *Truth must triumph* over everything. Jesus told us to Matthew 5:44-45 "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." We must always Ephesians 4:32 "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God [through Christ] hath forgiven you." Truth must Triumph—which means trusting God for health and healing. A woman had "Suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse" Mark 5:26. When she touched the garment of Jesus in faith, He said Mark 5:34, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

When two blind men believed Jesus could heal them, He said Matthew 9:29-30, "According to your faith let it be to you. And their eyes were opened." We cannot depend on medicine and on God at the same time. We either trust God or we trust the medicine. The principle of trust on the Atonement of Christ for healing must always be maintained—due to the fact that steadfast faith in Christ is what enables us to enter God's kingdom.

Jesus instructed us to have no stored assets in real estate or other treasures on earth, because they become false places of financial dependence. When asked Mark 10:17 "What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied Mark 10:19 "Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother." The man had obeyed these since he was young.

Mark 10:21-22 "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions."

The man wanted to *keep* those things that gave him financial security on *earth*, rather than get rid of those assets, trust God in *faith*, and secure a place in *Heaven*. Mark 10:23-24 Jesus then said, "*How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the*  kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!"

We can Mark 8:36 "Gain the whole world, and lose" our own soul—that is why Jesus added Matthew 19:26 "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee." It is nothing of us, but everything of Him. By the power of His Spirit we can trust God in faith like a child trusts a parent—Mark 10:14 "For of such is the kingdom of God."

Simon asked Jesus Mark 10:28-31 "Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, [all those things back]—including lands, [and] with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

The Son of God promises those things; He paid our sin debt; and He told us to get rid of things we could depend on, so that we could transfer our trust from things on *earth* to God in *Heaven*. Not owning a home and not storing any other financial assets keeps our trust and our faith on *God—assuring us* of Paradise. Eliminating *false* places of trust enables us to exercise *true faith* in Christ—*God's Truth must Triumph!* +†+

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