



# REFLECTIONS ON TRUTH

31-DAY DEVOTIONAL



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A photograph of a cave entrance. The interior of the cave is dark and textured with earthy tones. The opening of the cave reveals a bright, sunny beach scene with waves crashing onto the shore. The text "BE FREE" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

**BE FREE**

# DAY 1

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."  
- John 3:16 (NIV)*

John 3:16 contains a profound message that echoes the heart of Easter and the Bible. It is a declaration of divine love and redemption that surpasses the limitations of time and space. As we reflect upon this scripture, we are reminded that the Bible is not just a historical record or a moral guidebook but the embodiment of truth itself. The truth of the Bible is further affirmed by other scriptures, like John 14:6, where Jesus proclaims, "I am the way and the truth and the life." This statement is validated by the resurrection, which we celebrate at Easter. The empty tomb is a historical testament to the reliability of God's Word.

Similarly, Psalm 119:160 states that the sum of God's word is truth, and every one of his righteous rules endures forever. This assures us that what was accurate at the time of the Bible's writing remains true today. The Bible's truth is unchanging, an anchor in the storm, a compass in the wilderness. Easter celebrates truth prevailing over deception, life over death, and light over darkness. It is a season to renew our commitment to living according to the Bible's truth. Jesus Christ's resurrection is the ultimate expression of God's love and power, a triumph over sin and death.

As we meditate on John 3:16, let us embrace its truth, allowing it to transform our lives and guide our paths. Remember that the Bible is not just a book to be read but a living

and powerful source of truth that can sustain us in every aspect of our lives. May the message of Easter fill us with hope, joy, and renewed purpose as we journey through life.

## **Prayer**

Lord God, we come before You in awe of Your truth and the life-giving power of Your Word. As we reflect on the sacrifice of Your Son and the joy of His resurrection this Easter, fill our hearts with a deeper understanding and appreciation of Your truth. May we be bearers of this truth in a world needing Your love. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

***Neels Janse van Rensburg***

*BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP CEO*

# DAY 2

*Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him." - John 18:37-38 (NRSV)*

Have you ever been caught in a situation where you felt under pressure to compromise truth? That's where Pontius Pilate found himself with Jesus on trial before him. Trapped among tangled threads of untruths being spun by zealous Jewish leaders and the sticky lines of Rome's imperial power-plays, Pilate succumbed within this complex web.

The One who is Truth-personified stands before Pilate to say, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Invited to allow truth to shape his life, Pilate vacillates, side-stepping the confrontation with a bold question, "What is truth?" But despite the question, look what Pilate immediately does next: "After he had said this, he went out to the Jews." Pilate literally turned his back on Jesus, the Truth, to listen instead to those bringing false accusations. Pilate refused to linger to hear the answer to his own question. The result? Injustice - the kind of outcome we must accept when truth becomes a casualty through compromise.

We are all being formed by something. To what extent is truth shaping you? Recently I felt challenged that I scrolled through my social media at breakfast-time, filling my mind with a smorgasbord of opinions, before I had read God's Word. I resolved that I would view no social media each day until I had first spent time with God, in prayer and in reading his Word. I want to belong to God's truth and so listening to Jesus is my first daily priority.

Don't get caught up in a dark web of untruths. What is truth? It's Jesus, everything he is and everything he says. When we listen to his voice, we become people who belong to the truth and can be channels for God's purposes in the world.

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank you that you are the Truth. Help me to fashion my life around the practices that keep me close to you, reading your Word and listening for your voice. May I not be influenced by falsehood, but establish me in your truth. Amen.

## **Martyn Day**

*PASTOR, SOUTH HARBOUR VINEYARD CHURCH, AUCKLAND*

# DAY 3

*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.*  
- John 16:13 (NIV)

## **Truthsayer's guide**

Philosophers and theologians have forever mused over absolute 'truth', with post-modernists relegating it to relativism and pop culture personalising it as 'my truth', dismissing definitive answers as judgmental.

The dictionaries define truth as being in accordance with 'accepted' fact or reality and despite our claims to know certain things even science must remain open to the possibility of the unknown being revealed.

For Bible believers the answer supersedes the cynical meme: there are three versions of the truth, yours, mine and 'the truth'. The latter is confirmed by three witnesses, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In fact the apostle John says the Holy Spirit will guide us into all the truth.

Jesus, in preparing the disciples for his impending death, unleashes a torrent of plain speaking beyond his usual parables and dark sayings. He warns some religious teachers will do anything to protect their patch and of the persecution to come.

The good news is that he will send the Advocate, Comforter, Helper, Intercessor, the Spirit of Truth to speak directly from the Heavenly Father.

There's reason to rejoice like a woman in labour about to give birth. After the horrors of torture and execution in the final sacrifice of an old age, something new is coming, indeed a new birth.

The same Spirit that brooded over the Genesis Creation will restore the original higher purpose of the spiritual Adam, Christ with us. The curtains of the Holy of Holies are split apart like a birth canal, signalling a new age, a resurrection life.

The truth can finally be known through the pouring out of the Spirit which guides and directs and indeed sets us free.

What truth and free from what, we ask? Any truth the Spirit seeks to reveal to us about restoring or healing our own broken state or how we should respond to life's challenges.

Christ is the Way the Truth and the Life (Jn 14:6). The revelation and record of the Scriptures fulfilled and written about him provide a God-breathed testimony to all who answer the call to embrace that legacy including what is yet to come.

## **Truthsayer's prayer**

Holy Spirit, continue to guide us toward deeper, wider, more inspiring and lifegiving truth than any court of law or strict religion. You connect us to our Heavenly Father and our inheritance through his Son, Jesus the Christ.

You comfort, guide and direct us toward fresh revelation and understanding. Strengthen our relationship with Christ who overcame the world to reconcile us to God and each other so that we might be wiser and more loving truthsayers.

**Keith Newman**

AUTHOR

# DAY 4

*'And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'*  
- John 8:32 (NLT)

A few years ago it became popular to talk about "my truth". The idea was that everyone has a truth and that truth was the most important thing that an individual should live by. "You have a truth, I have a truth, everyone has a truth", was the mantra.

Though it is "true" that we all have a truth as it pertains to our personal lives and that truth is ours and only ours but to suggest that this is the all-important thing to live by is misleading to say the least. It reduces truth to a very subjective reality meaning all truths are equal. They are not.

Historically the Church has always contended that beyond people's individual and personal truths, there is an objective truth and that truth is authored by God himself and contained in the scriptures.

In this passage Jesus is essentially saying two things about His (objective) truth.

- That His teachings are true and if you follow them then you are a disciple as distinct from simply a believer. Jesus and The Word are synonymous (John 1) and Jesus said, He is THE truth (John 14). In other words, Jesus is truth and his teachings are true. This is objective truth, and it is reliable and dependable, and we can safely build our lives on it.

- What's more is that this objective truth sets us free. This is a "spiritual freedom". The promise is made to every true disciple that they will know the truth, and the truth will make them free. The Jews Jesus was speaking to did not know the truth, and they were in a terrible form of bondage. They were in the bondage of ignorance, error, sin, law, and superstition. Those who truly know the Lord Jesus are delivered from sin; they walk in the light and are led by the Holy Spirit of God.

The good news of the gospel is that we can be set free from everything that has bound us in our pasts and is binding us today.

"Whom the Son sets free is free indeed" (John 8:36) Amen!

**Alan Vink**

LEADERSHIP WORX

# DAY 5

*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14 (NIV)*

John 1:14 is a profound verse that encapsulates the essence of truth and its embodiment in the person of Jesus Christ.

In this verse, the term “the Word” refers to Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God who took on human form and entered into the world. The phrase “became flesh” signifies the incarnation, the miraculous event in which the divine Word took on human nature, becoming fully human while remaining fully divine.

This act of incarnation is a demonstration of God’s love and grace towards humanity, as it signifies His willingness to enter into our human experience, to share in our joys and sufferings, and ultimately to offer redemption and salvation.

Furthermore, the verse emphasizes that Jesus Christ is not only full of grace but also full of truth. Truth, in this context, encompasses both moral and spiritual reality.

Jesus embodies truth in His teachings, His actions, and His very being. He is the ultimate revelation of God’s truth to humanity, providing a clear and unerring path to understanding God’s will and purpose.

In a world often characterized by uncertainty, moral relativism, and spiritual confusion, the truth revealed in Jesus Christ serves as an anchor for believers. His life, death, and resurrection testify to the unchanging and eternal nature of God’s truth,

which stands in stark contrast to the shifting sands of human opinion and ideology.

As believers, we are called to embrace and embody this truth in our lives. We are called to walk in the light of Christ, allowing His truth to illuminate our minds, guide our actions, and shape our character. By doing so, we bear witness to the transformative power of the gospel and contribute to the advancement of God’s kingdom on earth.

## **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the truth revealed to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to grasp the depth of this truth and to live in accordance with it each day. May your Holy Spirit guide us into all truth and empower us to be faithful witnesses to your grace and love in the world.

Give us the wisdom to discern truth from falsehood and the courage to stand firm in the face of opposition. May our lives reflect the light of Christ, drawing others to the saving knowledge of your Son. Amen.

## **Jaques Van Wyk**

PASTOR, DOXA DEO CHURCH  
AUCKLAND



# DAY 6

*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.  
- John 4:24 (NKJV)*

This Scripture is part of a story in the Gospel of John that has some interesting features. Firstly, Jesus is in a foreign country from a Jewish perspective, speaking to a non-Jew of a despised culture, and John sees the story as foundational enough to include it in his Gospel. This shows us that Jesus has concern for "the lost" despite the social and religious prejudices which surrounded him. Secondly, this woman is a superb example of someone who is spiritually hungry and aware of her spiritual need. She takes the opportunity that Jesus offers her in both hands, and then just as importantly, she is generous and shares the opportunity with those around her.

Different English translations can bring slightly different connotations of meaning. The NKJV and NIV have the word "spirit" in capitals which probably indicates reference to the Holy Spirit, but interestingly they have placed them in different places. The NKJV acknowledges God as Spirit or the Holy Spirit as God, whereas the NIV does not put that emphasis through capitalisation. They reverse this process with "worship in Spirit and in truth" for the NIV which could suggest we worship through the Holy Spirit. While the NKJV could be translating the word *pneuma* as breath or wind both are very natural processes and sensory.

I think for me both those thoughts bring richness to the story being told. It would seem to be announcing the upcoming release of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' death to all, even a sinful Samaritan woman. The other way of looking at it, suggests that worship to God follows is as natural as breathing or the sensory experience of the feeling of wind on our face. These concepts fit with the rest of the story as told because the woman's question to Jesus was where she should we worship? On this hill, or was it right as the Jews said that you had to go to Jerusalem and follow ritual? This was his answer which speaks prophetically into the future, our future.

### **Prayer**

Today, Father, may our worship and prayer become as natural as our breath or the wind in our face through the Holy Spirit.

### **Paul Monahan**

*LIFE COACH AND PASTORAL  
SUPERVISOR*

# DAY 7

*Make them holy by your truth; teach them your Word, which is truth.*

*- John 17:17 (NLT)*

## **Hook, Line and Sinker**

Whispers of lies harassed my mind even in this idyllic seaside retreat. Lies that spoke condemnation; words of not good enough; whispers of worthless. Like stowaways, they'd tucked themselves in with my luggage and were poisoning the atmosphere of what could have been a 'perfect' holiday.

Trying to keep things up-beat, I hopped into a kayak with my husband, and we paddled out to where the sea and the sky met in the middle. It was hard to tell the difference between them as they merged into a seamless, watery-blue backdrop. Splashing our way out and around a peninsula of rocks, we startled a large flock of seagulls basking in the sun. The whole gathering flapped into flight, showing their annoyance at being disturbed with angry squawks. All except one seagull. Clearly distressed, this bird stood gagging. With a sinker-sized lump lodged in its throat and a piece of nylon dangling from its beak, it was obvious that this poor bird had swallowed a fisherman's baited hook and sinker. Poor thing!

I sat mulling over my carry-on baggage of lies and saw similarities between myself and this poor creature. Isn't that just where the enemy would like to keep us? I pondered; gagging, with life being choked out of us. Jesus Himself,

warns us that the enemy of our souls baits us with his lies; "the devil... not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." Sometimes lies are so subtle though, aren't they? How then, can we distinguish between what is dangerous 'bait' and what is truth?

The Bible, is God's truth. His thoughts, promises and answers on paper. So, any queries about the origins of anything that we hear can be lined up to this plumb line to test their accuracy. Some of us have lived with sin's deceit for so long, that we come to believe that choking and gagging on them is normal. But the good news of the Gospel, is that there is release and freedom when we direct our attention away from lies and towards the truths in God's Word.

My husband humanely helped the seagull while I threw my 'baggage' overboard in prayer. Our buoyant adventure continued and for the first time in forever, I felt as light as a feather!

## **Prayer**

Dear Father, please give us wisdom and discernment as you teach us from Your Word, to see lies clearly for what they are; deadly bait. Instead of chasing them, help us to chase after your Truth which sets us free. Amen.

**Chris Bovill**

*AUTHOR OF FLOURISH*



**BE SECURE**

# DAY 8

*Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, or He will rebuke you and prove you a liar.*  
- Proverbs 30:5-6 (NIV)

There is not a lot written about the author of this proverb, Agur. The reference to "Massa" reveals that Agur possibly belonged to the tribe of the Kenites – the same tribe as Moses' father-in-law, Jethro. His name may mean "collector" so Agur may have been a collector of wisdom literature.

At the beginning of this proverb, we see that Agur is a humble and honest man. He declares that he is "only a brute, not a man; I do not have human understanding." In light of God's exceedingly great wisdom, he boldly declares the truth that "Every word of God is flawless." Psalmist David similarly declared that God's Word was his delight and his counsellors (Psalm 119:24).

Agur knew that God was a shield to those who take refuge in him. God protects us as evidenced in the Passover story found in Exodus, and in Gideon's defeat of the Midianites which resulted in a decisive victory, despite only having a troop of 300 men!

In Numbers 23:19 we read "God is not human, that He should lie, not a human being, that He should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" God is faithful to keep his promises concerning us. Don't lean on your understanding, but acknowledge God in all your ways (Prov 3:5-6).

Agur reminds about the need to be careful in how we speak about God to others. He knows the motives of our hearts. This warning is seen again in the Book of Revelation, "If anyone adds anything to them, God

will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll." (Revelation 22:18-19)

Whoever Agur was, he walked circumspectly before God. He knew the importance of storing up God's word in his heart, in his work as a collector. He exhorted others to honour God and to be careful in their conduct and their speech.

May we, like Agur and David, desire and cherish the words of God and be circumspect in our conversations about God to those around us.

## Prayer

Thank you, God, for giving us your words of truth – the Bible. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you. Thank you that your word is a guidebook for my life. Your words are like a plumbline, keeping me straight, and in truth, so I won't be deceived. I can take refuge in you knowing that in your arms I am protected from my enemies. Protect me and keep me safe from any people who would desire my harm. Guide my steps today so I walk in your truth and on straight paths. Guard my heart that I will not be deceived by heresies and liars. Set a watch over my mouth that I may not sin against you in words or deeds. I choose to rejoice in the midst of trials and sorrows, because I know you have overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil! I am grateful that your goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life. Amen.

**Craig Munro**

PASTOR, KING OF KINGS CHURCH

# DAY 9

*Having willed it, He brought us forth by the Word of truth so that we might be a kind-of firstfruit of His creatures.  
- James 1:18 (DLNT)*

God is truth, His word is truth. In today's world where it is often frowned upon to define things such as right and wrong, or truth, it is deeply reassuring to have a source of truth higher than ourselves and more stable than the ever-changing culture around us. Fashions change, who and what is popular changes, and even what is defined as right and wrong by society's standards, changes. We have a solid, consistent and perfect source of truth to base our beliefs and values on. God's character is entirely trustworthy and unchanging, the Bible says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever (Hebrew 13:8). While everything around us may be variable, our God is our solid foundation. We can base our lives on the truth of His word, finding in it stability, strength, wisdom and joy.

Many in our world today feel they must sway and change with the world around them, unsure how to set their own values, and feeling that it is unacceptable to stand against what others believe. When we don't have our beliefs and values grounded in

something bigger than ourselves, we are vulnerable to the circumstances, opinions and pressures around us. In contrast, when God's truth lives in us it enables us to bring truth and wisdom to the world around us. We can show a different perspective. We can be the calm in the storm for ourselves and others, because of the security and guidance God gives us. Roots grounded in God and His truth produce fruit of peace, wisdom and joy, fruit that can bless not only us but also those around us.

### **Prayer**

Lord, I thank You that You are truth, that Your character is perfect and Your word unchanging. Thank You that in this ever-changing world, I can have You as my firm foundation.

### **Sarah Auld**

*SPORTS CHAPLAINCY NEW ZEALAND*

# DAY 10

*Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place - Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)*

## **The Belt of Truth**

This verse in Ephesians is about the armour of God and is found in a passage about spiritual warfare. Its purpose is to prepare us so we can stand against the strategies of the devil, and it begins by introducing us to the belt of truth!

Have you ever worn pants that are too loose? Recently I wore a pair of jeans to a concert, unfortunately I had forgotten to bring a belt. And even though they were quite tight-fitting jeans, I had to be careful not to bend over to avoid being exposed. I managed to pull the evening off without flashing anyone, but my night out would have been more enjoyable if I had remembered to pack a belt. I would have been able to dance and do what I liked without fear of those around me getting an eyeful of my behind.

That's why the first item of the armour of God is the belt of truth. Unless we live in truth, we risk being exposed. The simplest way to avoid this is to put on the belt of truth. Live your life and actions in a way that there is no deceit in them. Jesus states this about the devil "When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44 NIV. The Armour of God is about spiritual warfare, resisting the plans and purposes of the devil. We cannot hope to resist him if we are speaking his native language.

I know most of you reading this live upright lives and would not dream of lying to other people. But a lot of us believe lies about ourselves: we are not good enough, we are unlovable, we are a failure, or we have missed the boat on God's calling on our lives, etc.

I pray that God would reveal to you any lies you are believing about yourself. That you would know the truth that Jesus loves you and He has a plan and purpose for you. And as this truth is revealed to you, the belt of truth would be an even better fit on you!

**Phil Brown**

ZION CHURCH, TE AWAMUTU

# DAY 11

*Your justice is eternal, and your instructions are perfectly true.*  
- Psalm 119:142 (NLT)

As I sat on the beach enjoying the sunset, I reflected about my life's journey. In my early years I fought some big battles, and I realised that I had lost more battles than I had won. It was a sobering thought. Coming from a poor family in Fiji, the truth was often silenced by those in higher positions of authority where influence and money mattered more than truth and justice.

I saw my perpetrators enjoying life and prospering, and this caused me to think that God doesn't punish the evildoers. On so many occasions my heart felt heavy, and I felt helpless, not knowing how to deal with injustice. I learned that people can be cruel, unforgiving, and deceptive. Even more sobering was the fact that there were others around me who were also victims of deception, bribery, and lawlessness, and they suffered worse than myself - which gave me some comfort. What bothered me the most was the fact that God didn't seem to avenge my wrongdoers or the injustice that I experienced. I felt let down and deflated for many years.

It was not until I committed my life to Jesus and began to seriously meditate on His words that I saw the Lord move in my situation. As the scripture says in Psalms 119:142 - Your righteousness is everlasting, and your law is true.

I saw the Lord turn things around for my good. Those times where I had lost money, respect, friends, court cases, and even my reputation, I saw the Lord unreservedly bless me, and restore my favour!

People apologised for their wrongdoing and repaid me more than I had lost. What really humbled me was their acknowledgement that the Lord had humbled them for mistreating me. These actions showed me that God is a God of Justice, and no evil goes unpunished.

My prayer for you today is to never lose sight of God's righteousness. His ways and His laws are true. You may have suffered for years without a breakthrough but remember that God never sleeps or slumbers. He is a God of restoration and after a long night of suffering, joy comes in the morning! You can trust in His righteousness.

**Raj Kumar**

PASTOR, KING OF KINGS CHURCH

# DAY 12

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my Word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

- Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)

Have you ever wondered what God's voice sounds like? We are given a hint in 1 Kings 19:11-13, where Elijah encounters a great and powerful wind, an earthquake and then a fire, but the Lord was not in any of these things; no, he was in the gentle whisper. How powerful is this God, who only needs to whisper to bring creation to its knees? How right and just and true is His Word that He only needs to breathe it out for living beings to be formed (Gen 1:7)?

In Isaiah 55, we read that God's Word is very true; it is as true as the rain that waters the earth and brings life, fruitfulness, and abundance. It is as gentle as a whisper but as sure as the very nature of creation. This surety, this truth, is sharper than a double-edged sword, dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow (Heb 4:12). Can you hide from it? Can you manipulate it for your purposes? Can you deflect it with your own words, or your own thoughts? You could try, but I wouldn't recommend it, for God's Word will never return to Him without accomplishing His purposes.

But does this mean we can rely on God and the Word that He sent, completely? Does this mean that everything God has declared, through His Word will come to pass? Could you bet your very life on the Word of the Lord, when He says He will rescue you, protect you and show you His salvation (Psalm 91)? It is without any doubt.

Let go of any inner deflectors against God's truth today and let Him accomplish His purposes in your life. Completely give over your life and your trust in the One who never breaks His promises, and the One whose voice is gentle, and whose words are as certain as Life itself. Let Him sow in your life abundance.

## **Prayer**

Lord, we cannot thank you enough for who you are – our Way, our Truth and our Life. We are indebted to you for always fulfilling your promises. Help us to let go of our own lives and completely trust in You. Let us be like young children who trust without doubt, so that we may be molded and sowed into vessels of Life, and experience life in abundance. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Stephanie Heeley**

BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP



# DAY 13

*This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the word of God, which also works effectively in you who believe.*

- 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (CSB)

As a boy growing up in Aotearoa New Zealand, I remember one time when I was sick stuck at home. At the end of an agonisingly long week in bed, my dad came home excitedly bearing a beautifully wrapped gift to cheer me up. With eager anticipation he watched as I unwrapped a brand new recently released New English Bible.

I treasure that memory and think of it regularly.

It is the snapshot in my mind of my father's delight. It is the recollection of carefully turning fresh crisp pages of Scripture. It is the memory of discovering the power of God's Word anew through a contemporary translation.

The Apostle Paul gifted the recipients of his letters with memories that were always encouraging and other times confronting. First Thessalonians 1 and 2 is one such example. Paul reminds the church of when he proclaimed God's Word, of when they received God's Word, and praised God for the transforming truth of God's Word in their lives.

Over three consecutive Sabbaths, Paul and Silas had proclaimed the good news of Jesus to the people of Thessalonica. He reminded the church how Silas and he had

explained and proved that Jesus, the Messiah, had to suffer, be crucified, and rise from the dead. They had opened up familiar Scriptures with a renewed understanding by pointing to the reality of who Jesus is, and what he had done.

Though there were many who rejected God's Word and persecuted Paul and Silas, Paul focuses on highlighting that those of this Grecian city that readily received Paul's gospel proclamation, reflected the transforming power of God's Word for all levels of people. Some of those that joined Paul and Silas were not Jews. They were locals of Greek origins. Both women and men were converted and welcomed. People from the ordinary walks of life to those of the aristocracy joined the burgeoning Christian movement.

Paul's reminder to the Thessalonians is also a memory jog for us today. The Word of God is at work in us who believe. May we regularly receive the proclamation of God's Word as it is preached and practiced. Knowing that we may suffer for our faith. Yet, through remembering that God is faithful, and His Word is everlasting, by Spirit He is continuing to do a good work in each one of us today.

***Dr Eddie Tupa'i***

BOARD MEMBER OF BIBLE SOCIETY  
GROUP

# DAY 14

*The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

- Proverbs 4:7 (NIV)

In this verse, we encounter a profound truth: wisdom is paramount. It stands as the cornerstone of a life well-lived, a life rooted in truth. But what is wisdom, and how does it relate to truth? It is more than mere knowledge; it encompasses discernment, understanding, and the ability to apply knowledge rightly. And at its core, wisdom is intimately connected to truth. For true wisdom cannot exist apart from truth, just as truth cannot exist apart from wisdom.

Proverbs 4:7 urges us to “get wisdom” and to “get understanding.” This is not a passive suggestion but an active command—a call to earnestly seek wisdom and understanding in our lives.

Scripture tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). Thus, our journey into wisdom begins with reverence for God, the ultimate source of all truth. In a world filled with conflicting voices and shifting sands of opinion, God’s Word stands as an unchanging beacon of truth, illuminating the path of wisdom for all who seek it.

But where do we find this wisdom?

1. Firstly, acknowledge that you need it. Benjamin Franklin correctly said, ‘The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is a knowledge of your own ignorance.’
2. Go to the right source. ‘The Lord gives wisdom’ (Proverbs 2:6). He alone can give you

true wisdom because he alone has true wisdom. Indeed, his wisdom makes ours look like foolishness. Paul says, ‘The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom’ (1 Corinthians 1:25)

3. Ask for it. James 1:5 promises that, when we need wisdom, we need only ask of God, and He will give it to us. Many people want God’s wisdom, but then they want to weigh it against their own understanding and decide for themselves whether or not they will follow it. But Proverbs 3:5–6 warns us not to lean on our own understanding. Rather, we are to trust in the One who knows all things.

## Prayer

Lord, help us to heed the timeless wisdom of Proverbs 4:7 and make the pursuit of truth our highest priority. Help us commit ourselves afresh to seek wisdom in God’s Word, to walk in the path of truth, and to live our lives in a manner that honours the One who is Truth incarnate. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

**Lesley Clarke**

BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP

A close-up photograph of several white feathers, likely from a bird, with a light blue overlay. The feathers are arranged in a way that shows their intricate structure and texture. The text "BE PROTECTED" is overlaid in the lower half of the image.

**BE PROTECTED**

# DAY 15

*She answered, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the Lord really speaks through you!"*

*- 1 Kings 17:17-24 (GNT)*

The widow of Zarephath. How difficult and desperate her situation must have been, that she was preparing her last meal for herself and her son and then waiting to die. How alone and filled with hopelessness she must have felt. BUT for El Roi – the God who sees! God sends Elijah, prophet of Israel to this foreigner – where they both learn to depend on God through faith and obedience.

What a tremendous leap of trust she takes when Elijah asks for a small cake of bread. However, she takes Elijah at his word when he tells her, 'Do not be afraid.' For the Lord says, 'The bin of flour will not be used up, nor the jar of oil run dry until the Lord sends rain.' Later on, her newfound faith is stretched even more when her only child falls ill and dies. Elijah took her son's body to the upper room and prayed until God restored his life. Imagine her joy at seeing her son returned to her alive. She declares 'Now I know you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.'

This woman's situation was hopeless, but in a moment her circumstance changed. The truth was that God saw her need and miraculously met her need. God

wanted this woman from a gentile country to know that He was the One True God. She trusted God with everything she had and God provided everything she needed.

So many lessons we can take from this story. Even Jesus spoke of her as an example of faith, that was in stark contrast to Israel at this time and Jesus' time (Luke 4:26).

-What little is in your hands that you are willing to place into God's?

-When God leads you to someone, His words of truth through you, may be what they need to hear.

God knows what He is doing and knows how he will meet your needs (Phil 4:19)

### **Prayer**

Lord God, help me to take you at your word. For what you say is Truth. Help me to claim your promises for if you said it, I choose to believe that you will bring them to pass. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### ***Tina Hall***

*BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP*

# DAY 16

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*  
- Romans 15:13 (NIV)

Hope – the dictionary defines it as a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen. It's that feeling we hold onto when everything else feels uncertain. I've clung onto hope out of desperation, telling myself, "I might as well have hope, I have nothing else to lose."

But the dictionary doesn't capture the essence of God's hope. It's not a desperate grasp at straws. God's hope is a confident certainty grounded in his promises, a belief that what he says in his word is true and will come to pass.

God's hope has changed me from the inside out. In May 2019, I faced the heartbreaking loss of my best friend to suicide, and at the time, I really struggled without him in my life. About two months prior, my family and I had stumbled upon a church that reignited a flame for God within me – or rather, God found me in the midst of my brokenness. I wouldn't know then what my encounter with God was preparing me for, but it opened my eyes and heart to a God who had always been waiting patiently for me.

Losing my dear friend left a profound void, a silence where his laughter once echoed. Yet, through the sadness, God filled my spirit with a hope that goes beyond personal healing. It's an overwhelming sense of God's truth flowing through me,

compelling me to share his hope with others who need to believe they are loved and they belong.

Through my victories and failures, I discovered that God had always been there, running beside me to the finish line or picking me up when I fell. He has always shadowed my footsteps, knowing I would stumble. How do I know? Because you're reading the enduring hope that flowed through me during those dark times.

God's hope fills you with joy and a calming sense of peace as you surrender your anxieties, fears, and pain to him. It's a commitment to trust in his love to pull you through any storm life may throw at you.

I can't imagine navigating that stormy period without my reconnection with God and his hope. It will forever be a life-changing force that turns despair into certainty and mourning into a message of love and belonging.

## **Prayer**

Dear Lord, In a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain, we find peace in knowing that our hope doesn't depend on circumstances but on you, the steadfast anchor of our souls. So today, we surrender our fears, anxieties, and doubts to you, knowing that you are faithful to fulfill your promises.

In your wonderful name I pray  
Lord, Amen.

## **Sela Alo**

LIFE FM, RHEMA MEDIA

# DAY 17

*He is the Rock, His work is perfect;  
For all His ways are justice, A God of  
truth and without injustice; Righteous  
and upright is He.*

- Deuteronomy 32:4 (NKJV)

Bless the Lord oh my soul, and all  
that is within me bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord oh my soul and forget  
not all his benefits.

Who forgives all your iniquities.....

Who heals all your diseases.....

Who redeems your life from  
destruction.....

Who crowns you with loving  
kindness and tender mercies. (Psalm  
103:1-4)

For in Christ all the promises of  
God are Yes and in Him Amen (1  
Corinthians 1:20)

We can open up our mouths and  
praise the Lord. Let everything that  
has breath Praise the Lord. Give  
God Praise for He is the Rock of our  
Salvation.

And Jesus answered and said unto  
Peter. "Who do you say that I am?"  
and Peter answered and said, "You  
are the Christ the son of the living  
God."

Jesus answered and said "Flesh  
and blood has not revealed this unto  
you, but my Father who is in heaven.  
And upon this rock I will build my  
Church and the gates of hell will not  
prevail against it." (Matt 16:15-17)

The revelation that Christ is the  
son of the living God is the beginning  
of experiencing God's saving and  
healing power in your life. Confess  
with your mouth the Lordship of Jesus  
and believe in your heart that God  
raised Him from the dead and you  
shall be saved!

And God is able to save all those  
who call upon his name. For there  
is no distinction between Jew and  
Gentile, all are one in Christ. The  
ground at the foot of the cross is level  
for rich or poor, free or slave, young  
or old. It matters not the colour of  
your skin for the blood of Jesus makes  
no distinction. If you come humbly,  
you will experience His grace that  
flows from Calvary's bloodstained  
cross, and forgiveness will be yours.  
Answered prayers will be your  
portion. You will be the temple of the  
Holy Spirit and God will not just be  
with you, He will take up residence  
inside you. Hallelujah!! A God of  
truth without injustice, righteous and  
upright is he!!

Get ready for more in 2024! More  
of God, more of His love, more of His  
works in and through you - as you  
yield to the work of the Spirit in your  
life.

## **Prayer**

Jesus, I need you in my life, I  
believe you died on the cross and  
rose from the dead for me. I receive  
you as my Lord and Saviour from this  
day on. Cleanse me of all my sins  
and forgive me please. I forgive those  
who have hurt me and sinned against  
me. Holy Spirit, fill me with your love  
and goodness in Jesus's name and I  
will follow you all the days of my life.  
Amen!

## **Andrew Robertson**

PASTOR, WORLD HARVEST CHURCH

# DAY 18

*He shall cover you with His feathers,  
And under His wings you shall take  
refuge; His truth shall be your shield  
and buckler.*

- Psalm 91:4 (NKJV)

Where can I run to, where can I  
hide,  
From the enemy's schemes,  
seeking to divide?  
As the enemy prowls, intent to  
destroy,  
Who'll be my protector, a source of  
joy.  
As darkness advances, stealing my  
cheer,  
Who will be my hope, dispelling all  
fear.  
Troubles of the day, heavy on my  
soul,  
Bruised emotions, the enemy  
seeks control.  
Seeking cover, searching wide,  
For a shelter, a safe place to reside.  
To Him I can run to, with Him I can  
hide,  
He will be my shelter, a safe place  
to abide.  
A sanctuary, a refuge, where peace  
can be found,  
Tasting true freedom, No longer  
bound.  
Under His Wings, where safety lies,  
Behind the shield, my spirit flies.  
Resting in knowledge, of His mercy  
and grace,  
He'll rescue me, hold me, in His  
warm embrace.  
Under His wings, a shelter secure,  
A Faithful God, in Him I can be  
sure.  
He will cover with feathers, protect  
me with wings,  
In Him, I can trust, from whom all  
life springs...

## Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We come to You with a grateful heart acknowledging your unwavering faithfulness. Thank you for providing shelter under your wings, not just as a place of safety, but as an expression of your care and overwhelming love for us. Your promise to cover us with your feathers is a constant reminder of your intimate presence and protection in our lives.

Lord, we pray that you will give us a fresh revelation of your care, your love, and your protection as we come and sit in the comfort under your wings today and every day. Help us to truly understand the depth of your love and the extent of your provision, knowing that you are always there to shield and protect us from harm. Help us to run to you, and not away from you.

Thank You, Father, for your steadfast love and protection that never wavers. May we always find refuge and strength in you, our faithful and loving God.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Kelly Setu

BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP

# DAY 19

*I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob's descendants, 'Seek me in vain.' I, the Lord, speak the truth; I declare what is right.*  
- Isaiah 45:19 (NIV)

One of the key tenets of the Christian faith is that the God who created the universe has revealed himself to us, his creatures. We don't believe in a God who set the universe in motion and chooses to remain distant and hide himself from us. According to the Scriptures, God wants to know us and for us to know him. He revealed himself to Abraham, promising him that he and his descendants would be blessed and would bless the world (Genesis 12:1-3). He continued to speak through prophets to guide, warn, challenge, and comfort his people. And most significantly, he spoke through his Son, Jesus, "the Word of God" (John 1), "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15), "the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being" (Hebrews 1:3). This is the story presented in the Bible. It is a record of how God has revealed himself to humans in actual lives, in real history, and how they have responded and passed on this knowledge to new generations.

God speaks! He speaks to us. And he speaks to us clearly – it's not like a cryptic crossword that only some can untangle. Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks

finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matt 7:7-8 NIV 2011). In his wisdom and goodness, God has chosen to speak to us primarily through his word, the Bible. I think that we in New Zealand have forgotten how significant it is to have God's word available to us, not to mention in numerous different versions for us to pick and choose from. The Bible is the main way that we can know who God is and how he relates to the world, and we are incredibly privileged to be able to read and understand it.

## **Prayer**

Thank you, loving God, for speaking to us and not hiding yourself from us. How amazing it is that you, Creator of the ever-expanding universe, want us to know you. Thank you for giving us the Bible, and for revealing your Son to us through it. Help us to trust in your goodness and love for us and help us to get to know your word better every day. Amen.

***Dr Clare Knowles***

*BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP*



# DAY 20

*Your words all add up to the sum total:  
Truth. Your righteous decisions are  
eternal.*

*- Psalm 119:160 (MSG)*

The noise,  
The loud clattering noise,  
Can you hear it?  
The many voices, the opinions, the  
tales, the big lies, the little lies  
Can you hear them?  
the my truths?  
and your truths  
What can you hear?  
Through the crashing and banging,  
The white noise, the black noise?  
Listen...  
Can you hear?  
That quiet noise  
That precious whisper  
Lean in,  
Move closer  
Now can you hear?  
There it is.....  
It's the loud whisper that's always  
there  
When you turn around  
Your stance, your steps, your face,  
your eyes and Your ears!  
AND..... there it is!  
It's never changed  
The voice of Truth, in every page,  
His whisper, floats in,  
Through your ears, your heart  
and settles there for you to hear.  
It's His word of Truth!

Unchanged through so, so many  
years, still strong it remains, so solid  
and set!

## **Prayer**

Father God, thank you for your  
quiet whisper amongst all the noise,  
distractions and opinions. Help us  
to lean in to your word and mine the  
truth from what you are saying.

Thank you that you walk with  
us and are there for us in this ever  
changing world. Give us courage to  
speak your words of truth when we  
are with others.

Amen

## **Diane**

*A FRIEND OF JESUS*

# DAY 21

*It is not because you don't know the truth that I have written to you, but because you do know it, and because no lie has its origin in the truth.*

*- 1 John 2:21 (CJB)*

The Apostle, John, was critical of the false doctrines circulating Ephesus which refuted the divinity of Christ. Docetism claimed that Jesus was only a spiritual being, with no physical body, nullifying the vicarious death and resurrection of Jesus. Gnosticism—a synthesis of Jewish apocalypticism, paganism, Platonism, and Christianity—was another heresy purporting that mankind was confined to an “evil” physical body, and people could only be released from this state by obtaining divine knowledge (gnosis).

The Bible says in the last days that deception will be rampant. Many people will exchange the truth for lies, following doctrines of devils. The Apostle confirms the importance of knowing God's Word and declares that “no lie has its origin in the truth”. Like litmus paper, the Word of God will expose the lies contained in anti-Christian philosophies. Falsehoods will stand out when aligned to the tenet of the Scriptures, in the same way that a sifter in the baker's hands separates the husks and lumps during the cake making process.

The ungodly philosophies of the modern world can contaminate our thoughts and attitudes. The Apostle Paul explains how God's Word helps keep us upright like a plumbline. “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are

wrong and teaches us to do what is right (2 Timothy 3:16). We must bring every thought captive to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, demolishing foolish arguments and pretension that oppose the knowledge of God.

Author, C.S. Lewis, compared theology to a map, guiding our minds to a coherent, practical understanding of God. Do you have a sound understanding of the essential Christian doctrines? Perhaps it is time to review your foundational knowledge to ensure that you can stand firm and steadfast in the days to come.

## **Prayer**

O Lord - I choose to meditate on words of wisdom, because all your words are true, and your paths lead to eternal life. You promise to be with me all my days, faithfully watching, like a good Shepherd. I do not fear any evil, because I fix my eyes on you – the author and perfecter of my faith. My feet stand firm on your words, and my heart is steadfast in truth. Help me to quickly discern truth from error so I don't get distracted, defiled, or deceived. I clothe myself with the garment of praise, and I will go out with joy today and be led forth in peace. Amen.

**Sonia Munro**

BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP



**BE GUIDED**

# DAY 22

*When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own but will speak whatever He hears, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. - John 16:13 (NRSV)*

For a long time, these words of Jesus have been among the most difficult for me. The promise of the Spirit of Truth who will guide those who follow Jesus clashes against our present reality of thousands of Christian denominations split over issues of "truth." And even within our local congregations there are often painful differences of opinion and belief. Of course, we can write off those who differ from us as heretics, wilfully disobedient to God, or just plain stupid. No doubt, some of them are. But I know too many sincere, genuine, Spirit-filled Christians who disagree with me on big issues to believe that it is as simple as that. So, I have to reckon with the fact that simply being sincere is no guarantee that I have succeeded in finding the truth of a particular matter, which means that there is the same possibility that I am wrong as there is for the other person. If we are to believe in Jesus' promise, we need to first lay down our faith in our own ability to know the truth without the Spirit's guidance. We need the humility to doubt our own knowledge and we need openness to the Spirit to be guided to another view. I think this also has consequences for our interactions with others. I think of Paul's comment in Philippians 3:15, "if you think differently about anything, this, too, God will reveal to you" (NRSVue). Paul didn't have to win

every argument; he could trust God to persuade another Christian. This is not easy, it requires faith: faith that God's truth is bigger than anything any one of us can fully grasp in this life; faith that God's Spirit is as capable of working in the next person as it is in you; and faith that, behind all the "truths" we are presented with, there stands God's Truth.

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

As we read scripture, as we live our lives from day to day,

Help us to be led by your Spirit and to trust in your promise,

So that we can be guided into your truth,

For your glory we pray, Amen.

***Dr Jonathan Robinson***

CAREY BAPTIST COLLEGE

# DAY 23

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. - 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)*

## **Why honouring God and His Word matters**

Here is an important truth to reflect upon: God hasn't predetermined your future usefulness to him, as if you had no choice. Certainly God knows your future. God will also already have planned good things for you on the basis of knowing your heart and future choices. However, the free will he gave you is real. The choices we make affect things. This is an important truth.

Today's verse sits in a powerful chapter of instructions to Timothy. Paul calls the younger Timothy to join him in serving God like soldier in an army – or an athlete desiring to win. He is calling Timothy to complete devotion! But what point is our devotion if God has already predetermined everything in our lives? What difference might being more devoted make?

Within his illustrations Paul calls him to avoid being 'entangled in civilian affairs' – avoiding godless chatter and quarrelling around words. Timothy is to instead to present himself as one who is worthy of a high calling, as measured by two general things that I see mentioned in this chapter. One is his speech and conduct, while the other is the way he is able to handle the word of truth.

It is clear from the inferences throughout this chapter that the way we choose to live, and also the way we either do or don't honour God's word in our lives, can affect our future opportunities.

If you could open a Bible right now please, have a read of the illustration Paul gives in verses 20 and 21, which reflect this point most clearly. Paul is saying that God hasn't predetermined your level of usefulness in the Kingdom. The way you or I live, and also the regard we give to word of God, directly affect our usefulness. As in verse 21, "Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work."

In response, please never doubt that living in a way that honours God is worth your every effort. Also, please never underestimate the importance of honouring God's Word – through which God speaks to, instructs and trains us. Our choices in these areas shape our usefulness to him. These are truths to reflect upon and remember.

### ***Dave Mann***

*AUTHOR, SHINING LIGHTS TRUST  
DIRECTOR*

# DAY 24

*Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; for  
you I wait all the day long.*

*- Psalm 25:5 (ESV)*

When I think of a guide, my mind immediately goes to an image of someone leading a big group of tired tourists around a bustling historical monument, giving commentary that nobody really seems interested in! However, I'm sure that King David had something totally different in his thoughts when he wrote this Psalm. He was asking God to guide him in spiritual truth – the absolute biblical truth, not the relative “truth” that the world seems to make up as it goes along. He knew he needed God's help to teach him that truth – spiritual truth needs spiritual insight. Remember that Jesus described himself as the Truth in John 14:6 In order to be taught, we need to come to God with open hearts and an attitude that is willing to learn. We need that unmovable, unchangeable truth to be our anchor in life.

David addresses God as his Saviour – another key truth that we need to remember. The fullest blessings of God are available to His children – those who have accepted His free gift of salvation. Yes, God is God, but He is also our precious Saviour. None of us can get to God on our own merits; we need a Saviour.

The last phrase in this verse is a great encouragement and a wonderful reminder of the truth that God has promised to never leave nor forsake us. The hope that He offers is not sporadic or fleeting, but consistent and eternal. David declared that he

could go through his day, all 24 hours of it, knowing that hope all day long. When we truly know God, it's exactly the same for us. There is never even a minute that we don't have access to God, and the onus is on us to remember that and enjoy the journey. Let's be encouraged by this simple but deep verse, walking each day with our Saviour, being taught and guided by Him into the truth.

## **Prayer**

Lord, thank You that you are both our God and our Saviour. Thank you for the truth of your word and your promises. Please teach us, guide us and give us spiritual insight that we may know You better and serve You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## **Dave Fern**

*OPERATION MOBILISATION*

# DAY 25

*His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.*  
- Acts 17:27 (NLT)

This scripture always reminds me of the tag game, Blind Man's Bluff. The person who's "It" has a blindfold placed over their eyes and with outstretched arms, they stumble around in the dark, hoping to find their way.

Sometimes trying to find God can feel a lot like that. But the truth is as scripture tells us, God isn't far away, he's up close and personal.

I recently created a podcast called Where Do You Find God? Each week I ask my guests about the ways they encounter God in their everyday lives. Some have shared of intentional daily rituals where they practise the presence of God. Others, it was as if through our conversation, they started to form a stronger understanding of their unique personal connection to God.

"I find him in the exhale, he is my place of belonging, my turangawaewae."

"It's like when you're at home with someone and even if you don't talk, even if they're in another room, there's a sense of their presence. It's like that with God."

"It's sitting on a laptop in my bedroom, writing and creating and in that process, I speak with God, he speaks with me, he somehow forms me and grows me. Sometimes I want to stand up and punch the air when a sermon comes together well. I feel so alive in those moments."

In our quest to find God, just like in Blind Man's Bluff, where we can no longer rely on our natural sight, we must allow ourselves to develop our other senses to find our way. As we tentatively shuffle forward in the dark, with our blindfold firmly in place we suddenly understand, it's HIS breath on our face, it's HIS scent in our nostrils and as the eyes of our hearts begin to open, we see that God is also walking towards us, mirroring our outstretched arms. Waiting for us to come home, waiting to take us in his loving embrace. For he is not far from each one of us.

## **Prayer**

Father, thank you for the truth that you are in our midst. I pray that we will increasingly become more aware of your presence in our lives. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see and hearts to understand that you are always there and always interested in all the details of our everyday lives. Āmine

## **Lizzie Oakes**

BROADCASTER, RHEMA MEDIA

# DAY 26

*What a God! His road stretches straight and smooth. Every God-direction is road-tested. Everyone who runs toward Him makes it.*  
- Psalm 18:30 (MSG)

## **Daring Faith: Embracing God's Radical Path**

Life's journey is often portrayed as a wild ride—full of unexpected twists and turns, challenges, and uncertainties. Yet, amidst the chaos, the psalmist paints a picture of God's road: straight and smooth. It's a radical contrast to the rugged paths we're accustomed to. This image reminds us of God's faithfulness and reliability. His way is not chaotic or unpredictable; it is ordered and trustworthy. It dares us to embrace the audacity of His divine plan—the narrow path.

God's directions are not theoretical; they are road-tested. They've endured the trials of time and proven their solidness. When we choose to align ourselves with His direction, we're not just taking a leap of faith; we're stepping onto firm ground—a highway of certainty amidst life's chaos. God's road may not always be easy, but it's the only way to fulfillment and purpose.

The promise in this verse is that everyone who runs toward God makes it. There is no uncertainty or ambiguity here. When we earnestly pursue God, when we wholeheartedly seek to walk in His ways, we will not be disappointed. It's a promise of assurance and encouragement for

those navigating life's challenges and painful seasons.

As we reflect on this passage, let's dare to examine the condition of our hearts. Are we timidly tip-toeing along the sidelines, or are we charging full speed ahead, fearless in our pursuit of God? Let's embrace the challenge of living boldly, trusting that every step taken in obedience to Him propels us closer to our calling.

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, ignite within us a fierce passion to run after You with all our might. Help us to cast aside our fears and reservations and embrace the audacity of Your divine plan. Guide us along Your road, that we may navigate life's challenges with courage and conviction. In Jesus' name, Amen.n.

## **Chris Corradino**

MINISTER, AUTHOR, EVANGELIST



# DAY 27

*The grass withers, the flowers fade,  
but the Word of our God remains  
forever. - Isaiah 40:8 (HCSB)*

His word is forever.

Many have tried to destroy it  
throughout history.

King Jehoiakim, Antiochus IV, and  
Emperor Diocletian burnt it.

It has been banned and mocked  
by many people.

In 1776 Voltaire predicted "One  
hundred years from my day, there will  
not be a Bible on earth except one  
that is looked upon by an antiquarian  
curiosity seeker". Fifty years after his  
death the house which he lived in  
became a storehouse for Bibles and  
his printing presses were used to print  
Bibles and tracts.

Many have tried to discredit it,  
without success.

Today the Bible is the most printed,  
translated, studied, shop-lifted, and  
best-selling book of all time. Nearly  
100 million Bibles are being printed  
each year and in the last 50 years  
nearly 4 billion copies have been sold.  
So, His word is alive and it's spread  
is growing day by day with over a  
quarter of a million Bibles being  
printed daily.

The Bible has survived because  
it contains the truth, the truth about  
God, the truth about His works and  
the truth about Jesus. Many have tried  
to discredit it, but they have failed.  
Many will continue to try and prove  
it false, but they too will fail, because  
truth endures forever.

Psalm 100:5 reinforces Isaiah's  
words "For Yahweh is good, and His  
love is eternal:

His faithfulness endures through  
all generations."

His word, like His love and His  
faithfulness is for you and me, and we  
will go with them into our future but  
also, they will guide us into eternity.

## The Anvil

Last eve I passed beside a  
blacksmith's door,  
And heard the anvil ring the vesper  
chime;  
Then, looking in, I saw upon the  
floor,  
Old hammers, worn with beating  
years of time.  
"How many anvils have you had,"  
said I,  
"To wear and batter all these  
hammers so?"  
"Just one" said he, and then, with  
twinkling eye,  
"The anvil wears the hammers out  
you know."  
And so, thought I the anvil of God's  
Word,  
For ages sceptic blows have beat  
upon;  
Yet, though the noise of falling  
blows was heard,  
The anvil is unharmed - the  
hammers gone!

A poem by John Clifford.

**James Williamson**

BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP

# DAY 28

*We are part of the same body. Stop lying and start telling each other the truth.*

- *Ephesians 4:25 (CEV)*

Today's verse reminds us of our unity in Christ and calls us to honesty and truthfulness in our interactions. As believers, we are part of the same body, united by our shared mission to share the good news and demonstrate its transforming power.

The book of Ephesians paints a beautiful picture of the gospel story, showing how all of history culminates in Jesus Christ and His creation of a new, unified humanity. This new humanity is called to live in peace and unity, reflecting the reconciling work of Christ.

In this letter, Paul challenges us to live out our new identity in Christ by putting off our old way of life and putting on the new self. He outlines eight rules for this new life, the first of which is to stop lying and start telling the truth. This command is rooted in our identity as members of one body with Christ as our head.

Being part of the body of Christ means that we are interconnected and dependent on one another. When we lie, we not only harm others but also damage the unity of the body.

Living in truthfulness requires a transformation of the heart and mind. It means being honest in our speech and actions, even when it is difficult. It means speaking the truth in love, seeking to build up others and promote unity in the body of Christ so that we may "grow in every way and be more like Christ, the head." Eph 4:15 (CEV)

## **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray that your Spirit may empower us to put away falsehood and speak the truth in love, demonstrating the transformative power of the gospel in our lives. Amen

**Ollie O'Leary**

BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP

**BE REFINED**



# DAY 29

*Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. - 1 John 3:18 (NIV)*

*E āku tamariki nonohi, kaula e waiho mā te kupu, mā te arero te aroha; engari mā te mahi, mā te pono. 1 Hoani 3:18*

## **A life shaped by truth**

John wants us to know that the love of God and the life of love are inseparable. They are inextricably bound together, and we cannot have one without the other.

In this verse John sums up all that he has been saying earlier in his letter. Words of love are important, but here he makes it clear that words alone are not enough. Words can be meaningless, so John is not asking us to merely say that we love one another but to ensure that our love shows itself in our actions as well. As William Robertson Nicoll puts it, we must love “not in empty air but amid tangible realities.”

And even when we are using both words and actions, John says there is more. That real love is when our words and our actions show the truth that is within us.

This is the real challenge in this verse – to move from being surface lovers, to being people who allow our words and actions to originate from the deep truth we hold in our hearts. To be people whose expressions of love overflow from the truth that Jesus

revealed when he laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16). Day after day after day, we are asked to show this truth, sometimes in big ways and always in the smaller ongoing interactions of life. We are called to live this truth out as followers of Jesus, and as the “children of God” John calls us.

What does it look like for you to live a truth-shaped life?

Is there something God is speaking to you about today?

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, help me to live in the truth that you have placed within me. Help me by your Spirit to show your love to the people around me and to a world in need. Amen

## **Hilary Hague**

NATIONAL DIRECTOR,  
SCRIPTURE UNION

# DAY 30

*Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. - Psalms 86:11 (NIV1984)*

One of the reasons I really love reading the Bible, is because it is full of true-life stories of individual people, just like you and me. People who didn't always have it altogether, and who for a number of different reasons, had made their mistakes over the course of their lives. However, many of those very same people, amid their disappointments and failures, had also come to encounter and experience the love, grace, and mercy of God, and in doing so, their lives were changed forever.

King David, the writer of Psalm 86, was one of these people. Amongst his many accolades, accomplishments, and achievements, the Bible also reminds us of the seasons in his life, where he too had fallen short and made some serious mistakes. Nonetheless, despite his personal shortcomings, David learnt quickly about the importance of both turning to, and trusting in the Lord.

In this particular verse, David humbly asks to be taught the ways of the Lord. He knows from personal life experience that his ways do not compare, nor do they measure up to the ways of the One, whom he has put his trust in. For us as believers, this is an importance reminder that just like David, our ways are limited, but God's ways are limitless and it is to His ways, His will, and His

teachings, that we should be looking to and enquiring of often.

As we begin to ask the Lord to teach us His ways, I believe we'll become better equipped and able to walk in those ways. If there was ever a time whereby, we needed to be guided and walking in the way of 'real truth', then it is now. David's deep desire to know God's unchanging and ageless truth, indicates a longing on his part to live a life guided by divine wisdom, knowledge, and discernment. As we seek to walk in the way of truth and draw closer to the One who is Truth, then our hearts and minds will become more aligned and akin to Him.

## **Prayer**

Lord, may you teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth, and in doing so, bring glory to your name, in Jesus' name, Amine.

## **Steve McRobie**

BIBLE SOCIETY GROUP

# DAY 31

*Love is patient. Love is kind. Love isn't jealous. It doesn't sing its own praises. It isn't arrogant. It isn't rude. It doesn't think about itself. It isn't irritable. It doesn't keep track of wrongs. It isn't happy when injustice is done, but it is happy with the truth.*

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 (GW)

We hear this scripture quoted at weddings. We sit there, hands interlocked with our spouses, reminiscing on our special day. We nod in agreement as we witness the beautiful couple exchange vows, committing their lives to each other. I think back to my wedding day. I realised the gravity of the promises I was making to my husband and though I finished the line with "I do", I didn't know how challenging this scripture would be to live up to in this journey called Marriage.

Marriage has taught me a lot. I've realised a side of me I didn't know existed, particularly around handling conflict. Like the time we were mid-argument, and I had the urge to throw the dishes I held in my hands as I was fuming with anger. Instead, I decided to save the dishes we'd so kindly been gifted on our wedding day, stormed outside, banging the door behind me as loud as possible, and sped off in the car like a maniac. I didn't know I had that anger in me. It must've taken getting married for it to reveal itself. I realise now, that because I love my husband so much, he also can hurt me so much. The honeymoon phase doesn't last forever, and love becomes a choice - not always a feeling.

I realise that the virtues in this passage relate to the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5v22-23 (NKJV). 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.' In John 15 we read about abiding in the Vine who is Jesus, and that if we abide in Him, and He in us, we will bear much fruit. When I am intentionally abiding in the Lord, choosing to sit at His feet like Mary, that fruit becomes apparent in my life. It is not my doing, but the Holy Spirit at work within me. When I neglect to spend time with the Lord and allow the cares of this world to take priority, like Martha, I lack that fruit, and my "throwing dishes" tendencies reveal themselves.

Truth is a fundamental aspect of love. The Bible is truth and acts like a mirror, revealing our not so beautiful side. Truth humbles us, reminding us of our imperfections and our need for grace. It binds us together in authentic relationships built on trust and transparency.

## **Prayer**

Lord, thank You for the Truth of Your Word. Help us to abide in You, so that your fruit will be evident in our lives, and we will be able to love You and each other as we ought.

**Julia Palaamo**

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...the reproach of my  
...bear in my bosom  
...mighty people:  
...enemies have re-  
...herewith they have  
...of thine appointed  
...for evermore.

...-106  
...the most high  
...of the Almighty  
...I will say of  
...and my fortress  
...I surely he shall  
...snare of the fowler  
...pestilence.  
...He shall cover them  
...and under his wings shall  
...and shall not be afraid  
...They shall not be afraid  
...of the wrath of the Lord  
...of the Lord of Hosts  
...of the Lord of Hosts



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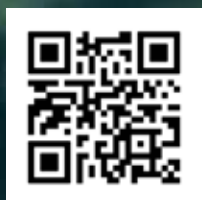


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