

UNTO ALL TRUTH

By Dave Roberson

God Says He has no greater joy than to see His children walk in the truth (3 John 1:4). But the only thing that constitutes truth is truth itself. It doesn't matter who says it, who teaches it, or whose doctrine it is—truth is truth by merit of the truth alone.

Here's a revelation every Christian needs to get a hold of: Just because someone preaches something doesn't make it truth. It doesn't matter who says it, who teaches it, or whose doctrine it is—again, truth is truth by merit of the truth alone. **JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE TEACHES SOMETHING DOESN'T MAKE IT THE TRUTH!** In fact, a great percentage of all deception comes from the pulpit! The more charisma and intelligence the person behind that pulpit has, the more he can deceive others should the devil ever take control of him; and that person won't just carry thousands away by deception; he'll carry hundreds of thousands away! The more charisma and intelligence the person behind that pulpit has, the more he can deceive others should the devil every gain control over him. And that person won't just carry thousands away by deception; He'll carry hundreds of thousands away!

People almost seem to worship intelligence in this age, even though knowledge is only the fuel that wisdom burns. You see, intelligence doesn't necessarily include the power to discern. In the absence of wisdom, knowledge can be used to take a person in the wrong direction.

That doesn't mean there is an advantage to a lack of education. The Apostle Paul would be the last one to mock knowledge; in fact, he used his knowledge to great advantage for the Kingdom of God. The truth is, the greatest spiritual walk is attained not by being lazy in your intellect, but by being so full of God that your knowledge serves only to further His Kingdom.

But what about all the deception that originates in the pulpit? What can we do to avoid being deceived?

It used to be a great mystery to me how a minister could teach truth so profoundly that I would be on the edge of my chair as I took in every word; yet the very next day that same minister could teach something so in error that I wondered how he ever staggered into any art of the truth in the first place!

For instance, I once heard someone teach the doctrine of “ultimate Grace.” This teaching claims that God has separated your righteousness from the deeds of your flesh according to Romans 7:20: **Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.** People who advocate this teaching say that no matter what sins you commit in the flesh, it doesn't affect your righteousness because your flesh and your righteousness are independent of each other.

I was trying to decide whether or not I should believe this doctrine, so one day I questioned the teacher. I said, Let's say a certain sinner gets saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit and has a glorious tie in the Lord for three months. But then he backslides and returns to his old, sinful ways. He lives in depravity and sin for the next thirty years until one day he gets killed during a quarrel with someone in a bar. Will that person be able to enter heaven?

The minister answered Yes! Something inside me just KNEW that wasn't right. Yet this same minister could teach the hind leg off a dog! Sometimes as he taught on a particular subject, he'd have me so engrossed in his message that if he had said, “Boo!”, I'd have fallen off my chair. But then the very next day, he'd teach an unscriptural doctrine like Ultimate grace!

I just couldn't understand how that could happen. How could a man discern the truth so well in one area and then teach something so off base in another area? I thought, *Now, wait a minute. If the Holy Spirit has the avenue to teach him truth regarding one subject, why can't He get through to him on this other subject?*

I didn't know the answer to that question for a long time. If the Holy Spirit came with the divine commission to guide us into all truth, how could it be that easy to lock Him up and go down the road of deception instead? It just seemed like too many Christians were believing unscriptural doctrines that kept a ceiling over their lives, causing them to finish their race with no reward.

Along this same line, I had another question that remained unanswered for years. I have always been amazed to observe the capacity of born-again people to believe such a diversity of doctrines. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth (John 16:13). He also said “He will receive of mine and show it unto you” (Vs. 14). So, for a long time, I couldn’t understand why the members of the Body of Christ, all of whom have received the same indwelling of the Holy Spirit, can’t agree with each other past the trunk of the tree!

When Christians leave the “tree trunk”—salvation through Jesus Christ—and start getting out on doctrinal limbs, arguments start breaking out all over the place. One believes it’s God’s will to heal everyone, and another one does not. Some say we can pray in tongues anytime we want to; some say we cannot. Others argue over whether prosperity is God’s will or whether testings and trials are ordained by God—the list goes on and on.

For a long time I couldn’t reconcile these things. But God finally cleared up the mystery for me as He taught me more about what actually happens when we are born again. You see, you and I were translated out of darkness into the Kingdom of God when we accepted Jesus as our Saviour. The darkness we were translated out of was actually spiritual death. Spiritual death is also the “gross darkness” referred to in Isaiah 60:2: “For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.”

The light that arose to dispel the darkness was God’s own Son—the first Man to be born spiritually alive in four thousand years. When we were translated into His Kingdom, we received a new nature just like His own nature.

Our new nature is the greatest attribute we could ever possess to help us understand spiritual truth. That doesn’t mean we enter into the Kingdom knowing all Truth; it means we have a new nature that can now be taught. We are now able to discern and understand the things of God.

But how does that understanding come to you? That is where the third Person of the Godhead comes into the picture. God sent the Holy Spirit to live inside your new nature and be your Teacher. It is the Holy Spirit’s job to help you discern and understand God, to teach you what no man can teach you. He not only steps in and identifies truth for you; but He also transforms you and I to that very truth!

The first commission Jesus gave the Holy Spirit just before He went back to Heaven was to guide us into all truth; therefore, our ordination in Him is first and foremost to enable us to discern truth. This is what the Apostle Paul was talking about when teaching in First John 2:26-27:

“These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him” (1st John 2: 26-27).

Has God done away with the teachers? No, that isn’t what He’s saying. Remember, most deception takes place from the pulpit. So God is saying that you need Someone to protect you, to tell you whether or not what you are hearing is actually the truth. God says the anointing within is truth and cannot lie.

Therefore, I know the Holy Spirit is resident in my spirit, bearing witness to the truth that is being preached; but if the Holy Spirit has been sent to guide us (and Jesus says God’s Word is the truth), then there must be a way to turn Him loose on the in-side of us—as our Teacher, as our Equipper, as our Plan-worker—every day of our lives just because we choose to. There is indeed a way to do it, for the Bible says that greater is in us than he that is in the world (1 Jn. 4:4)!

How can a person get into error when the divine Teacher lives inside him to guide him into all truth? The answer isn’t too complicated. It isn’t difficult for a person to get off base when his intellect is his teacher. When this is the case, that person is at the mercy of his own natural reasoning as he attempts to discern what is right or wrong. That’s why the Holy Spirit doesn’t teach you in the language in which man’s wisdom is taught—the wisdom ordained of this world—but in the supernatural language of tongues, revealing the spiritual things of God to the new nature you have received, which enables you to discern and understand what the Holy Spirit is teaching you.

Once the channel is opened and you learn to yield to the Holy Spirit as your Teacher, the devil can shoot as many darts as he wants at you and the Holy Spirit will just stand there and knock them down. There won't be a single untruth that can penetrate your spirit because the Holy Spirit will be there to immediately bear witness and inoculate against deception as your Protector and your guide.

Getting to that place in my own spiritual walk was not an overnight process. My circle of friends came from the "ultra holiness" camp. We spent all our time trying to deal with the outer man in order to make it the physical evidence that our inner man was recreated.

Now, make no mistake, these holiness people loved our God. They even loved Him enough to walk around looking unattractive if that was what God wanted them to do! I remember one time when I was helping a holiness preacher conduct a service in a nearby town. Someone said to me, "*You need to start a church here.*" I looked around at the people sitting in the service and thought, *If I ever did start a church here, the first thing I'd tell the people would be that no woman was going to enter my church in britches!* Today it's hard to believe I thought like that, but that was the kind of teaching I sat under when I first got saved!

Then I started praying in tongues for hours a day while locked up in my prayer closet...I really did! At first I prayed everything I could think of in English, but finally I switched to praying in tongues. At the time, I didn't even believe that was legal! As with many other doctrinal issues, the camps were divided on this one. Some said, "You cannot pray in tongues anytime you want to," but the other side said, "Yes, you can!" I wasn't sure which side was correct, but by then I really didn't care. I had locked up myself in that prayer closet, and I had to do SOMETHING!

Month after month, I just kept praying in tongues hour after hour in that closet. Pretty soon God started pulling down some of my pet doctrines. At first as my way of thinking started to change, I thought something was happening to my friends. They just didn't seem to be as good as they used to be.

After praying for a length of time in the Holy Spirit, I went with a friend to a meeting where the minister started cutting up shirts and selling the pieces for money, promising that those who bought a piece would experience answered prayer. Then he began to offer "miracle" wallets to the crowd. "*Just send me a hundred dollars, and I'll send you a miracle wallet that will never empty!*" He declared. I literally felt so sick as I listened to him that I believed I was going to die!

What a war was waged on the inside of me as the Holy Spirit began to isolate the wrong doctrines in my life and pull them down! Many years have passed since then, but He has never stopped pulling down that which is not of Him in my life so He can guide me into more and more truth.

Actually, I don't think there is a place you can reach in your walk with God where the Holy Spirit stops that process. That's all right with me, because I've found such joy in learning to walk in the truth. About the time I begin thinking, "*Boy it doesn't get any better than this!—it gets better!*"

I'm not saying the Holy Spirit isn't going to pull down a lot of your flesh as you let Him be your Teacher. I'm saying that the prize you're pressing toward – to be obtained long before you get to Heaven – is worth it. This is why Paul said, . . . **that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ** Jesus (Phil. 3:12). In other words, one day Jesus literally seized Paul and said, "I'm going to hold you right here, Son, until you find out the reason I got ahold of you in the first place."

Paul goes on to say, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus (v. 14). What is the highest calling of God? Is it the apostolic call? No, the highest call is **TO COME OUT OF THE FLESH AND INTO THE SPIRIT.**

Just like Paul, I am in the grips of the Holy Spirit, and so are you! And as we allow Him to be our Teacher and to guide us into all truth, it will just keep getting better and better. I remember the time the Lord introduced me to the realms of peace. I was going through one of the worst times of my life. A demonic strong man came after me. And I survived him!

I went on three major fasts that year and spent a great deal of time praying in the Holy Spirit, and I finally broke the hold that strong man had on me. That was my first entrance into the kind of resounding, deafening peace that is louder than anything that can come against us, louder than anything I've ever known before.

The devil can scream all he wants to, but he cannot get louder than that divine peace. I thought, "*Boy, this HAS to be as good as it gets!*" But, oh no! That was just one of the first levels of peace – then it got better! I said, "Now it COULDN'T get any better than this!" But then I hit another level of peace!

I thought, "*Man, this HAS to stop somewhere!*" But then the Father touched me with His love. From that moment on, He became a Friend forever in a realm of intimacy where my natural mind keeps locking up on me. Sometimes when I'm in my prayer closet and my heart is communing with Him, God will begin to teach me wonderful things about Himself as my Father. I've come a LONG way from my days as a Pentecostal Holiness boy who didn't want women to ear britches to church!

Little by little as the Holy Spirit continued to teach me, I began to better understand God as my Father. However, there was one question in particular that I wanted Him to clear up for me.

So one day I went ahead and said to God, "Lord, it's always been a mystery to me why some people who are trying to draw close to You isolate themselves up in the mountains somewhere and live like monks. After all, Jesus in the Great Commission said, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel, and those who believe will be saved.'

"Yet even so, Lord, who could be more serious than a person who gives his entire life to go up on a mountain, take a vow of silence, and eat barely enough to stay alive to stay consecrated to You? Wouldn't a person who is that serious and sincere about spiritual things warrant a visit from You? I don't understand why it seems as if sometimes You visit people like that, and sometimes You don't."

As I prayed about this matter, this is what the Holy Spirit helped me understand: **THE SPIRIT OF RELIGION IS THE STRONGEST SPIRIT THERE IS.** Why do you think Paul said, "I don't want to become as he who beats the air needlessly" (1 Cor. 9:27)? There are some very sold-out, energetic religious people in the world today and the devil knows exactly how to handle them. He knows how to corral all that enthusiasm and send those people down the wrong path so that in the end, they live their lives "beating the air", spending all their energy on something that won't make an ounce of eternal difference.

In light of all this, what hope do you have? On what basis does God approach you? **YOUR HOPE LIES IN THE TEACHER WHO DWELLS ON THE INSIDE OF YOU.** He is ever willing to guide you into all truth, to help bring you into the full inheritance of all God said is yours in Christ.

Every blessing God says belongs to you is a blessing you can enjoy in this life. The call He has placed on your life is a call you CAN fulfill. You have the teacher living on the inside of you, the earnest of your inheritance. He is your Protector from deception, your Guide into all truth. As you pray much in the Holy Spirit and learn to listen to your Teacher, the enemy will never be able to detour you down a road that leads to deception!