

## Solid Ground of Truth

By Betty Harstad

Can we be assured that there really is truth in this fallen world where lies and deceit often reign? Is there a way to discern truth from lies? And is there anyone we can trust who knows and speaks truth and causes us to desire it in the inward heart?

The natural man has no way of understanding the mind of God and is certainly not able to fully understand or obey the truth, though he may instinctively realize there is such an attribute. He may see that life is more peaceful and solid when each person is truthful with another. But often lies and deceit take over as it seems the quicker and easier route to solving problems of relationships.

Others may be able to act in an outwardly moral way towards their family and surrounding people, yet the Word points out that hearts are deceitful: *“The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick. Who can understand it?”* (Jeremiah 17:9 ESV)

Yet, the natural man may read a verse such as Psalm 25:10: *“All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.”* And what about Psalm 15:1-2: *“O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity and works righteousness. And speaks truth in his heart.”* These verses may strike fear in his heart if he is beginning to realize that God is holy and cannot allow sin to enter His presence.

Yes, there is truth, and it comes through Jesus Christ, God’s Son. *“For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ”* (John 1:17). It is imperative to know that truth is not a cold reality and impossible to know but it is bound up in a Person. We cannot save ourselves from God’s wrath, which we deserve because of our own sin. But in the Word, Jesus proclaims: *“I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me”* (John 14:6).

Once we submit to the salvation offered through God’s Son, Jesus Christ, we are set free from the penalty of sin and are miraculously filled with the Holy Spirit, Who causes us to continuously desire truth in our hearts. The Helper will always declare the truth, sanctifying us daily and bringing us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. It is marvelous that Believers can continue in sanctification and walk in truth even while living in this fallen world. Jesus Christ is trustworthy as Paul declares to Timothy: *“But I am not ashamed for I know in whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard against that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit, Who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you”* (2 Timothy 1:12b-13).

With gratitude and awe, we can trust and believe the truth of His Word that we will be changed into His likeness and made ready for heaven. Through the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to submit to our Lord with our minds and our hearts. *“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord of the Spirit”* (2 Corinthians 3:18).