

The Aspect of Truth

By Jacob Palicka

Broadly speaking, truth might be defined as that which aligns to ultimate reality. Whereas fact states those things which exist observably, truth refers to a positive assertion, which is typically founded on a more noticeable trust and is commonly regarded in relation to morality (John 8:44). While natural science is the study of fact, theology is the study of truth (Hebrews 11:3). It is only by faith that the Christian avows his doctrines as entirely factual though it be not even for the earthbound elect to sensually observe the excellences of God as by direct consequence proceeding from Him (1 Corinthians 13:12, 2 Corinthians 5:6-7).

Furthermore, truth has also a close relationship with honesty. Being that the nature of truth is more abstract and elusive to us poor mortals than is fact, it is an easier medium for the malicious to distort and deceive thereby (Revelation 12:9). To the bewilderment of spectators, it is often by works of apparent fact that the sorcerer attempts to substantiate supernatural claims (1 Samuel 28:13-15). For a similar purpose did Christ use miracles to validate his authority when upon earth while making these acts subservient to his declaration of heavenly issues (Matthew 9:6). Since there is a terrible conflict over what constitutes truth, those who would be discreetly dogmatic deserve not opprobrium but gratitude for making clear a matter so diluted by Satan.

Another of truth's associates is humility which is sometimes rightly and at other times falsely applied to the analysis of another's character. Unlike vain knowledge which "*puffeth up*" (1 Corinthians 8:1-3 KJV), genuine truth promotes a fitting worship of God (John 4:23). Contrary to trite mockery, it is not mere ostentation which would cause a man to strive for obtaining truth since it is no less than obedience to pursue such a course when prompted by a love for God (Philippians 4:8). Moreover, we are instructed against a piety severed from discernment (vs. 9-10). Upon reflection, this makes sound sense, for of what worth is a love which is founded on misapprehension? Although this world is pleased to shelter those dubbed humble who accept a subjective understanding of truth or denounce our ability and responsibility by the Holy Ghost to attain and uphold an absolute (though admittedly restricted) knowledge of the truth, we are encouraged that our patience will be awarded with the comfort of certitude by our becoming in the Lord "*perfect and entire, wanting nothing*" (James 1:4).