

## The Source of Truth

By Ginny Larsen

I've had this subject on my mind lately because of some recent events, as well as things I've seen on the internet claiming to be truth. Like Pilot as he questioned Jesus, many may wonder, "What is truth?" There is one source of truth and only one source – Jesus Christ Himself and the written Word He has given to us. He is not only *the* source, but **He is** the truth Himself. We must first of all have Christ before we can ever have truth. He must dwell in our hearts by faith before we can know Him - the Truth. *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'"* (John 14:6).

There are many today who claim to teach *the* truth, to have ministries of "truth," and to be lights in the darkness. They claim to have discernment, and they claim you must get it from their teachings. How do you discern what the truth really is? Many people follow teachers who claim to be teaching the truth but instead teach their own thoughts, doctrines, and ideas as the truth. Although they use the Word of God, they are not teaching people to go to the Word of God themselves to see if what they say is true. They want people to take their word and understanding as the truth. They do not trust in the Holy Spirit to show them their errors, and they do not humble themselves to be corrected. Instead, they insist that what they teach is the only truth, and if you reject them, you reject God's truth. They are deceived, thinking their own thoughts on God are complete and that they can't be wrong. They are arrogant, they won't discuss the Word, they have to have the last word, they hold onto their own teachings arrogantly, and they disregard anyone who thinks differently. They don't examine themselves before God, but they judge everyone else wrong **who do not accept their teaching**. They use the Word to promote **themselves and their ministry**, instead of opening it and drawing people to the One alone Who is the truth. **Are we trusting in God's Word or someone's teachings about God's Word?**

In the Body of Christ, we are all to come to the "unity of the faith" – the "unity of the Spirit" – and not the unity of any man's thoughts and teachings about God. **"The faith" is only one faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and His Word**. One who teaches the Word is to teach it with the understanding that those who listen will examine his teaching by the Word. He is to teach it humbly, allowing himself to be corrected by the Word. Correction by the Word is different from those who try to correct others by prideful contention because they want to force their own way of seeing it on you. Those who correct fellow Believers by **their own word** (using God's Word wrongfully with lack of understanding) will not learn "in the unity of the Spirit" what God's Word is truly saying. The **Holy Spirit alone is to be the teacher** of our hearts, convicting us of His truth in His Word (1 John 2:26-27). We are all at different places in the Body of Christ in our understanding, our growth, our walk with the Lord, and our experience with the Lord. We are to "judge nothing before the time" in another person's heart, because "the Lord is able to make him stand." *"For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God"* (1 Corinthians 4:4-5).

When you show a brother or sister something in His Word that God has taught you (not that you learned "intellectually" by studying someone's teachings on a subject or doctrine, but a personal lesson the Holy Spirit brought home to your heart by His Word and made it living and opened up your understanding in its application to your life) and another does not see that, then

you cannot force it on someone. You cannot argue with them or become arrogant and judge their hearts as not wanting the truth. Trust that just as God has taught you, as long and as patiently as He suffered with you in that learning process, He is able to teach others and show them also as they seek the Lord to understand His way themselves. Most times, our hearts have to be in the right place before God is able to teach us something we do not see.

How do we know what to listen to, what the truth is, or when to receive correction by someone else? We know by humbling ourselves truthfully under God's mighty hand as He teaches us, submitting to **Him** and truthfully coming into the light of His Word to examine our hearts daily, asking Him to "see if there be any wicked way in me" and to "lead us in Your way everlasting." If we rely on our own *intuition*, our own *intellect*, our own *senses*, or our own anything, we WILL be deceived because only the Holy Spirit reveals the truth of His Word. He only does so to those hearts that are humbled before Him and submitted to Him. We can argue doctrine with each other until we're blue in the face. We can all go away sure we are right and the other is wrong, sure we are righteous and the other is deceived. Or, when we disagree, we can pray and agree to both go to the Word and seek God TRUTHFULLY on the matter in our inward hearts with a humble spirit. If we are truly right, God confirms Himself and His Word to us. Our hearts are tested by what we hear, how we hear it, and how we respond. This freedom and humility in Christ leads us to a true unity in the Spirit.

I've been there, thinking I was right and could not be wrong. I've been shown by the Lord that I was deceived. I had blindly followed what my teachers taught in the denomination I was in. It is the hardest and the most humbling place to be in. One thing to look for in someone who tries to push their insights onto you and will not hear your responses when you give them Scripture God has opened up to you is how they respond to the Word you give them. Do they discuss (not argue) the Word itself, or do they attack your person and begin judging and accusing you because you are not listening to THEM - not because you aren't believing the Word but because you are not believing THEIR word. There is a huge difference. You can try to tell them you have studied the Word, that you love God's Word, that you seek God's truth yourself, and that this is what the Lord showed you in His Word, but if you reject THEIR word about the matter, they **belittle** you, **accuse** you, **judge** your heart and motives, and look down on you before others to lift up themselves. They have to have the last word, and they have to make others believe they are right. They boastfully and arrogantly proclaim their own teachings, not leading people to the Word itself, but to their own teachings on the Word. Huge difference! **God and His Word alone are the authority of every single believer.** No man is to raise himself up as an authority that cannot be challenged or judged. Don't let them intimidate you. When someone tries to do so, I have learned to run the other way and to not even argue, because #1, they are too arrogant to listen: they are not in a place to receive - only to force themselves upon others. And #2, only God can open the eyes of the blind as they become willing to see that they are blind and need to have their eyes opened. You have to commit them to God's correction and not take it on yourself, and you have to take all that was said before His Word, His Light, and His Spirit. The Lord will clarify all to your heart.

If we rely on ourselves in any way, we are blind. If we walk in our fleshly understanding, no matter how much we study the Word, we are blind. If we don't know that we need to go to the Lord daily to let Him open up our hearts and minds to examine them in His Light, we are blind, not walking in His Light but in our own flesh. If a person does that, his own spirit will come forth in his character and the way he treats others, especially those who do not cater to him. Pride, harshness, and a desire to outdo a person and win is brought forth if the love of God and

humility (to know what he has received comes from God and not himself) is not there. Such a person has to make sure everyone else also knows how right he is and how spiritual he is. He boasts in having the "truth." His heart won't let him see or receive anything from anyone else.

Nobody has a corner on the truth. The truth comes from God's Word, and all his children have access to it. God alone will have the last word as we stand before Him, and He judges us by that Word—how we handled it and how we responded to it. He will judge our hearts by His own Word, His own love, and His own understanding, as He sees all things clearly. He sees the inner being. We cannot even judge our own hearts because we will defend our hearts (Jeremiah 17:9). We can only bring our hearts before God and let the light of His Word penetrate, separating soul and spirit, discerning the thoughts and intents there. He will reveal them to us, and it is painful to see, requiring us to be able to receive the humility that goes along with it. However, it is the most freeing thing there is. Nothing is more freeing than to have our own pride exposed and to accept the humility it brings! It opens our eyes to see Jesus Himself! And how glorious that is! How life-giving that is, as compared to the ego-centered glory we receive out of our own pride of being right and having others look to us!

I've been told many terrible things by those I would not listen to because I chose to listen to the voice of my Shepherd instead. I've been told I've committed the unpardonable, that I am slow to learn, that I do not want the truth, that I was in trouble with God, etc. I've been attacked verbally like a dagger in my heart as they sought to destroy me with their words, but the Lord has not let it destroy me or cause me to waver because each time I've been reminded by **Him** that He is my **truth**, my **shield** and **buckler**. His **Word** is what I stand on and He is my solid Rock. I don't have to **receive in my spirit the accusations of the enemy** through those whose flesh is not yielded to Him. I can immediately turn to my Lord and submit myself to Him, saying, "My heart is open to You my Lord, and You know all things, bring forth Your light and Your truth, let them lead me" (Psalm 43:3). I can trust my Lord to Whom I have committed my heart to lead and teach me. I can know that if I need correction, He will convict me through **His Word** as I yield my heart to Him and ask for His Word to do so. I do not have to accept the word of a man no matter how authoritative or even "Scriptural" he seems to be or what his claims to the truth are. If God corrects me, He will show me in His Word. If someone is misusing God's Word, He will also convict me of that as I bring it before Him. All things are to be brought into His Light and examined. *"Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it"* (1 Thessalonians 5:20-24).

Sadly, too many Christians cater to these types of people and feed their egos. Instead of being corrected, they continue to vindicate themselves and lead more and more astray after themselves, rather than after Christ. We have **one Shepherd, one Teacher, one Father, one Spirit** to Whom we listen, yield our souls and hearts to, and obey. We are to follow only Christ. When allowing ourselves to be taught by others, it is only as they are taught of Christ. It is not their actions or words we listen to but those of Christ, as His Spirit teaches our hearts – we are to listen, receive it into ourselves, and obey. So many in the church today have idols in Christian leaders and teachers. It grieves the heart of our Abba. It grieves the Holy Spirit. We are to "hold fast" only to that which is "good." Only the Word of God is good. We are all human and prone to error. Even as His children, we can be used by the enemy. In our zeal, we think we are right, just like Peter thought when he took Jesus aside and rebuked Jesus! Jesus said to him, *"Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things*

*that be of men"* (Mark\8:32-33). **If you don't think you can be used of satan, you don't know your own flesh yet.** If you don't fear that you can be wrong, then you haven't been made aware of how subtle your flesh is yet. Learn to fear and hate it and cling to the cross. You haven't seen yet that you need to cry out to the Lord to deliver you from your own flesh. It isn't the devil or his demons that are your worst enemy—it is your own flesh. They are powerless to touch you when you keep your flesh on the cross and rely on the Holy Spirit daily to keep you in His Light, raise you up to His newness of life, and fill you with His will and His love and His Word.

*"Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow"* (Psalm 51:6-7).

May we take all we hear before Him in our prayer closet and, **with truth in our hidden part,** allow Him to examine our hearts, which are laid bare before Him, that we may stay in His Light always. I pray, dear Father, that it will be so for each of us today. In Jesus name, Amen.