

Exhortation: Taking Hold of the Truth

Naaman was a great man (2 Kings 5:1-14). He was a victorious commander in the Syrian Army. However, he had a medical problem with a serious social stigma in that he was a leper. His search for healing brought him to Elisha the Prophet, who provided him with a simple solution. Naaman was about to encounter the person of Jehovah, the Truth. All he had to do was immerse himself in the Jordan River seven times, and his problem would be solved. His reaction was typical for a man of his social standing and accomplishments. He was angry, he felt insulted. “Wash in the Jordan?!” “The small stream-like Jordan?” “This is outrageous!” These he probably said and much more. He went on to mention the great rivers of his country, which from his point of view were superior to the Jordan River. Yet, the wisdom of a little slave girl saved the day, and when all was said and done, Naaman was healed.

What Naaman failed to recognize was that it was not about the Jordan River, nor the great rivers of his country. Neither was it about the political position of the Israelites who were then under his government, nor was it about the Prophet Elijah. It was about Jehovah, the Almighty God, and the Truth. As humans, we are very different from God (Isaiah 55:8). Unlike us, God in all His greatness is very humble. This is why He can reach down to us the way He does. Thus, for us to have a viable relationship with God, we should take heed to the following.

- First, we should discover our *need* for Him. When we are confronted with problems that we cannot solve, this fact become very obvious.
- Second, we should recognize that we tend to *resist* the Truth. We do this because of our pride, our logic, and the existence of seemingly adequate alternative solutions to our problems. God rightfully wants absolute control of our lives. He wants to be our Savior and our Lord (Isaiah 43:3, 11). Meanwhile, alternative solutions seem to offer us control and the “freedom” to do as we please. However, these are Trojan Horses that lead us to severe bondage (Matthew 7:13). Therefore, for us to take hold of God, we should humble ourselves and say, “Father, You know better than I, and I yield myself to You.”
- Third, we should *contend* for the Truth (Jude 1:3). The Truth is always there, but Martin Luther had to fight with the Catholic Church to live out the Truth. So did Paul and the rest of the Apostles. Our families, friends, the world and even the Church will attempt to prevent the Truth from living in us, and it will depend on us to stand up for Jesus Christ.
- Fourth, we should *hold* tightly to the Truth (Proverbs 4:3; 2 Timothy 1:13). We do so when we renew our minds daily with God’s word by reading or hearing and meditating on it, and by obeying it.
- Finally, we should *share* the Truth with our neighbors (Matthew 28:19-20). We share the Truth by our lifestyles, by teaching, preaching, helping others, and witnessing (i.e. telling others what God has done for us.) In doing these things, we bring God’s light into a dark world, and create a save environment for ourselves.

The word of God is what the world needs, the word of God is the Truth, and the Truth is God (John 1:1).

PRAYER TOPICS

1. Isn’t God wonderful? His word is so abundantly available today for those who desire it. We can e-mail it, we can broadcast it, we even podcast it, and much more. Let us thank God for His effort to make His truth available to us today.
2. Ask God to forgive us for not inclining our ears to His word as much as we should. Cry out for a renewed hunger for God’s word, because He promises that we shall be satisfied.
3. Pray that our pride, human reasoning, and the so-called alternative solutions will not distract us from the simple counsels of God that lead to life. Pray that we may bring ourselves under subjection, so that we may submit to His will and make Him the Lord of our lives, and in doing so, our perplexing problems will be solved.
4. By taking authority over the spirits of darkness that spread the lies of relativism, let us contend for the faith, and increase rebellion against God’s counsel. We should bring these forces under subjection to Christ, praying in Jesus’ name.
5. Pray that the Lord would direct the hungry, the sick, and the weary to the refreshing springs of His mercies. Pray that like Naaman, the lost would be shown the way to encounter God’s love for them.
6. Pray that we might hold tightly to the Truth by the way we live, our prayer and worship lives, and by our witnesses. Command that the word will be sent by all sorts of media and languages to the nooks and corners of the earth. Speak salvation, deliverances and healings to a dark world that needs God’s light.

God bless us as we pray. Amen.

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