

## The Mind and What We Think, is Vital to Spiritual Progress

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**Truth is embodied in the Person of Jesus Christ. He is truth. He reveals truth. His Words are truth.**

**His actions express truth.**

**His teaching is truth.** John 1:14,17, John 14:6, John 18:37, John 8:31-36, John 6:63, John 8:45, John 16:13-15, 1John 2:27.

**“Seek and Defend the Truth”** is the motto of the first school I taught at; Kaitaia College, Kaitaia, New Zealand.

The domain or kingdom of darkness, Colossians 1:13, is satan’s domain or kingdom and it is built upon lies and untruth.

Jesus said, “The devil.....does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him.

When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature: for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44.

If we think something that is not the truth, we are thinking something that has originated from the devil and the kingdom of darkness.

**The Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of truth**, but the kingdom of satan, Matthew 12:26, is the kingdom of lies and untruth.

**For this reason it is essential that we seek and defend the truth.** Jude 3.

We are to hold high the Banner of Truth. Psalm 60:4.

Moses built an altar and called it “Jehovah Nisi”, “The Lord is my Banner.” Exodus 17:15.

When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord lifts up a banner against him and puts him to flight. Isaiah 59:19.

**Jesus said, “Your Word is truth.”** Jesus said this as He was praying to the Father. John 17:17.

It is the truth of the Word of God **that sanctifies us, or sets us apart from all untruth and lies.** John 17:17, John 8:31-36.

It is the truth of the Word of God **that sets us apart from the power of sin and its control.** John 8:32.

Now, the mind that thinks on the Word of God, the truth, **is the mind of freedom in God.** John 8:32, 36.

**“The Holy Spirit is the truth”**, 1John 5:6, 1John 2:27.

He takes the things of the Lord Jesus Christ and brings them to us. John 16:13-15.

To be thinking on the things of the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:6.

If we are following the things of the Spirit, it is because **we are setting our minds on the things of the Spirit.** Romans 8:5.

**The act of repentance, is the point at which we change our mind from thinking untruth, to thinking truth.** Acts 2:36, 37-41.

**Peter preached the truth** to the multitude, Acts 2:14-41, who were gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost, about the life and suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Towards the end of his preaching he said, “Let all the house of Israel know, that God has made this same Jesus, whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Acts 2:36.

**Through the preaching of the truth, and the power of the Holy Spirit**, they were pricked in their heart and convicted of sin.

They cried out to Peter and the other apostles, “What shall we do?” Acts 2:37.

Peter said to them, **“Repent, (change the way you are thinking about Jesus Christ), and be baptized in the name of the Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”** Acts 2:38.

**Three thousand of them repented**, (changed their thinking), and chose to believe that Jesus is the Christ, that God had raised Him from the dead, and that He had ascended to the throne of God as Lord and Christ.

**Three thousand people were delivered from the domain of darkness, and were transferred into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, through repentance and faith.** Colossians 1:13.

The same day they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38,41.

**Three thousand people were saved from eternal death to eternal life through repentance and faith.**

**They changed their minds from untruth to truth and believed the truth with their hearts.**

**Faith is thinking, believing, speaking and acting on the truth of God’s Word, which He reveals to us by the Holy Spirit.**

2Corinthians 4:13, Matthew 14:29, Romans 10:17.

**Because God desires all people to be saved**, 1Timothy 2:4, 2Peter 3:9, **He commands all people to repent**. Acts 17:30.

**Repentance is part of the salvation process**, not all of it. We must repent **and believe the Gospel**. Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21, Acts 26:20.

**God's goodness and compassion lead us to repentance**. Romans 2:4. God enables us to change our minds from untruth to truth.

**Repentance is a gift from God**. God gives repentance. 2Timothy 2:25.

As we share the Gospel with the unsaved, the Holy Spirit reveals to them the truth of Jesus Christ and enables them to change their minds from untruth to truth.

**"Repentance" is the renewal of our minds, from untruth to truth, by the Word of God.**

**To think untruth is to be conformed to this world and its ways.**

God says, "Be not conformed to this world: **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2.

What we think controls our lives. **"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."** Proverbs 23:7.

The heart of man contains aspects of the spirit and aspects of the soul.

The mind is a part of the soul, and it is also a part of the heart.

Jesus said it is not the food that goes into a man's mouth that defiles him, **but what comes out of his heart**.

Jesus said, "That which comes out of the man, defiles the man. For from within: out of **the heart** of men, proceed **evil thoughts**, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, **deceit**, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Mark 7:20 – 23.

The initial act of repentance, in the salvation process, is essential. Jesus said, "Repent and believe the Gospel", Mark 1:15.

**However in the ongoing process of the Christian life, repentance is the first step of every advance and forward move in our relationship with God.**

Wherever we believe some aspect of untruth, in that area of our lives we are falling short of the glory of God, the knowledge of God, the truth of God and the life of God. In these areas we are being influenced by the powers of darkness.

For this reason, it is so important to keep reading God's Word day by day, and to meditate in it, by speaking it out aloud to ourselves. Romans 12:2, Proverbs 4:20–22, Joshua 1:8, Deuteronomy 30:14, Romans 10:6-8, Hebrews 3:1, 4:14, 10:23.

If it is possible to sing it, do so over and over. **This will get the truth of God's Word into our hearts.**

Once the truth of the Word gets established in our hearts, we will find freedom from the bondage of the lies of untruth, John 8:32, the power of sin, John 8:31-36, the power of satan, Matthew 4:4,7,10, and the world, 1John 5:4,5.

"If you then be raised with Christ,

seek those things above,

where Christ is seated at the right hand of God,

**set your mind on things above, not on things on earth,**

for you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God." Colossians 3:1-3, Ephesians 2:6, Jeremiah 17:12, Psalm 91:14,

Isaiah 57:15, Psalm 89:14, Hebrews 12:2, Isaiah 45:22, Philippians 2:9-11, Ephesians 1:20-22, Psalm 101:1.