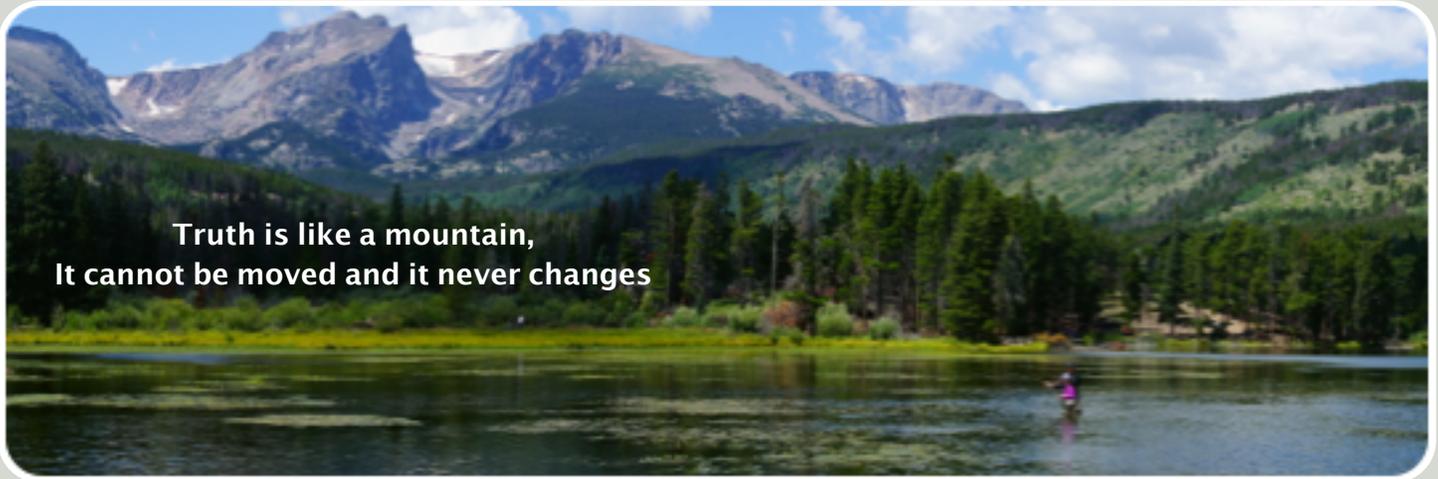


MARCH 2019

“TRUTH”

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



Truth is like a mountain,
It cannot be moved and it never changes

IN THIS ISSUE

TRUTH ZONE:

“How Faith Works” Part 2
Page 2-3

A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA:

“The Bride Has Made Herself Ready”
Page 4-5

PROPHECY UPDATE:

“What About Jordan?”
Page 6

WEBSITE UPDATE

We want all who read the “TRUTH” Newsletter to be aware that every month we make a special page of recent photos available only to our subscribers. Each month our subscribers are given a link that gives them access to this page. If you have not subscribed you are missing something that we believe would bless you.

To subscribe go to our website and hit the subscribe button, fill in the form with your name and e-mail address, and click “SEND”. It’s that simple!

Now comes the part you really need to hear. We are living in a time when we all are suspicious of anything that sounds to good to be true. Many times people have asked us how much this will cost. When we tell them that it is absolutely free they can hardly believe it. But, it is truly free.

It is free because God has always supplied every need we have incurred related to this ministry. If we have a need, we ask God to supply it. He always has and He always will.

TRUTH ZONE: "HOW FAITH WORKS" PART 2

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. At times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness. You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

Last month I started a series on why some people always seem to receive miracle after miracle while others seem to never see any breakthrough. The main area I am focusing on in these articles is the area of faith. It is my firm conviction that many people do not understand how faith is birthed in us, and how it is then lived out in a practical way. Because of this, people think they are walking in faith, but in reality, they have no faith at all. A quick review is needed.

Faith is not present just because someone decides to "trust God" for something. For faith to be present, God must speak to us. If He has not spoken, there is nothing for us to believe. This is not rocket science! This is confirmed in Romans.

Romans 10:17 (KJV)

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

A casual study of the Greek reveals that the word used here is the Greek word "**rhema**" which means "**a spoken word.**" Yes, we all have the printed word (our Bibles), but unless God speaks to our heart, the Bible is just another book that will produce nothing in our lives. Faith is only produced when God speaks to us personally.

In the Bible, the best example of this would be Abraham. Abraham did not wake up one morning with the idea that it was time to pack up the tents and move. What he did was done in obedience to what God had spoken to him.

Hebrews 11:8 (CEV)

"**Abraham had faith and obeyed God.** He was told to go to the land that God had said would be his, and he left for a country he had never seen."

There should be no misunderstanding about how faith was birthed in him or how he lived out his faith. God spoke, and he obeyed. **If you want to walk in faith, you must follow this pattern or I assure you, you will end up with great disappointment.**

Once again, everything appears to be very simple. Just hear from God and do what He is telling you. How simple is that? But is it really that simple? Unfortunately, it is not. This very simple brand of faith requires one very difficult thing of us: It demands that we learn how to hear and recognize the voice of God.

Immediately we are forced to deal with a number of issues. First on the list is the teaching that says God never speaks to us today. He gave you your Bible, and that is all you will need or get from Him. This, in spite of what Jesus plainly taught.

John 16:7;13a (AMP)

"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you]. 13a But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, **He will guide you** into all the truth [full and complete truth]."

Jesus taught that He would send the Holy Spirit to live in us, and that the Holy Spirit would guide us. **I ask you, how can He guide us if He never speaks to us?** The teachers who say that in this dispensation God does not speak to us are obviously wrong. I am taking time with this because this is where faith lives or dies. The only possibility of true faith being birthed and living in us is if the precious Holy Spirit speaks to us.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

"How Faith Works"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

To argue this point is to completely ignore what Jesus said. I want to be kind, but I must say that if you refuse to acknowledge that God does speak to us, there is really no need for you to continue reading.

However, as bad as this thinking is, it is matched and surpassed by an even greater error. This error is people who are always saying, "God said..." Unfortunately, what follows is often anything but a true word from God, and many times borders on the absurd. What is even more unfortunate is that no one seems to be willing to hold these people accountable. **They may correctly believe that God speaks to us, but they obviously do not know how to recognize His voice.**

I believe most of this is caused by some really bad teaching. When teaching people how to hear God's voice, one teacher told his audience to ask God to speak to them, and then to accept that the first thought to "pop" into their mind was a word from God. **This is total error!** If I had followed his teaching, I would probably be in jail facing assault and battery charges! Another teaching is that if we are to walk in faith, we need to speak God's word to our situation and ourselves. **(Positive confession.)** Once again, a personal, intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit is avoided and yet people think that somehow, they are walking in faith.

So, what is the truth? Read this carefully; it may change your life. **Faith is only birthed if we hear God speak to us.** He does not speak to us as a man would, and He does not cause thoughts to "pop" into our head. God is a Spirit and He speaks to us spirit to spirit. Where then does this all take place - in our spirit man, or our head? Scripture clearly answers this question.

Romans 10:9-10 (ERV)

"If you openly say, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from death, you will be saved. 10 **Yes, we believe in Jesus deep in our hearts,** and so we are made right with God. And we openly say that we believe in him, and so we are saved."

Yes, faith is birthed in our spirit and faith lives in our spirit. This is why our head (our thinking) often reacts in a very negative way to what God is saying. Let me once again use Abraham as a perfect example. He was living in a fertile, lush place; he was rich and increased in goods; and he had many servants. I have no doubt that when God told him to pack up the tents and start walking, his head said, "Lord, you want me to do what? Lord, what will the servants think?" And **"Lord, you are going to have to be the one to break the news to my wife."** I am reminded of a verse in Isaiah.

Isaiah 55:8 (ISV)

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," declares the Lord."

This is exactly how it was with me when God told me to start a Christian school. Resurrection Christian School was not birthed in my head. Only a crazy man would think up something like that. In fact, my head was saying that this was a really bad idea. I knew it was going to cost the church millions and millions of dollars. Yes, this was a really bad idea! This was my Isaiah 55:8 moment.

You have probably heard the phrase, "He is very headstrong." Well, that was me. For six months my head argued with God. However, when God keeps speaking the same thing to you for six months, eventually faith will be born. That is what happened to me, and then it was just a matter of obeying what God had put in my spirit. The financial miracles followed.

A very interesting thing happens when we look at faith this way. We begin to have a new view of faith.

**FAITH IS NOT
HOW WE GET GOD TO DO WHAT WE WANT
FAITH IS
HOW GOD GETS US TO DO WHAT HE WANTS**

Next month I will conclude this series by teaching you how to become very skillful at hearing and recognizing God's voice.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“The Bride Has Made Herself Ready”

This is the time of year when so many summer weddings are being planned. I have been thinking about this because we have a sweet

granddaughter that is “getting ready” for her August wedding day.

Just recently I had the privilege of spending a day with her, her mom, her sister, and her other grandmother, shopping for her wedding dress. She looked so lovely as she came out of the dressing room in those beautiful bridal gowns. Whenever we are together, you can easily guess where the conversation goes. Every bride dreams of her special day and wants to prepare for it so it will be the best memory of her entire life.

Our hunt for the perfect dress brought back so many memories from when John and I were planning our own wedding. From the time I was a little girl, I had dreams of what my wedding would be like. I was consumed with getting ready! Getting ready for the most memorable day of my life required lots of planning and preparation. I had a list of about 100 things that had to be carefully planned if the day was to fulfill all my dreams.

All of this wedding planning caused me to reflect on another wedding I plan to be a part of. We read about it in Revelation 19.

Revelation 19:7 (NOG)

“Let us rejoice, be happy, and give him glory because it’s time for the marriage of the lamb. His bride has made herself ready.”

Yes, the greatest wedding ceremony ever is on the horizon. It is interesting to read the different translations of this wonderful verse. The King James Version says “wife,” the Easy-to-Read Version says “bride,” and the Amplified says “bride,” but adds (the redeemed). This tells me that when you and I received Jesus as our Savior, we became a part of the Church, which is the “Bride of Christ.”

Because of this we should now be making ourselves ready. What does “ready” look like? This is not difficult. Just as our granddaughter started by making sure she would look absolutely stunning for her husband-to-be, so we also should be very conscious of what we put on.

In Ephesians 5 we read a description of the bride, the glorious church. The ERV speaks of the church as **“a bride in all her beauty.”** The NIV describes the bride as the **“radiant church.”**

Ephesians 5:25-27 (NIV)

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

“The Bride Has Made Herself Ready”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

This may not seem like an accurate description of the church we see today, and I would tend to agree. But we must remember, there is an imputed righteousness given to us when we come to faith in Christ. This is a righteousness that goes beyond what you can see with your physical eye. The prophet Isaiah saw this miracle of imputed righteousness.

Isaiah 61:10 (KJV)

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness....”

This is all wonderful, but we must be careful or we will once again become unbalanced and end up in error. Yes, when we place our faith and trust in the finished work of the cross, there is an imputed righteousness that is given to us by God. **But what about the “bride has made herself ready”?**

Is there more to being ready than just placing our faith in Jesus? Some would say, “No! Her act of placing her faith in Christ is how she makes herself ready.” However, the scriptures do not agree with this unbalanced thinking. If we go back to Revelation 19, this becomes very clear.

Revelation 19:8 (AMP)

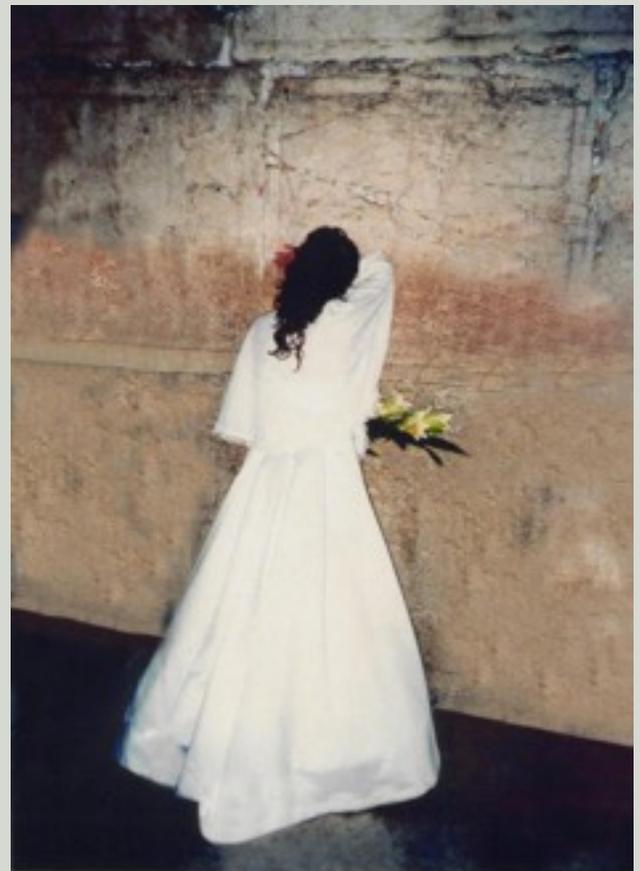
“She has been permitted to dress in fine linen, dazzling white and clean—for the fine linen signifies the righteous acts of the saints [the ethical conduct, personal integrity, moral courage, and godly character of believers].”

We are called to live holy lives because of our passionate love for our Lord. Just as a bride makes herself ready for her wedding day, so should we. Yes, He provides the wedding garment, but we need to put it on.

Several years ago, while in Jerusalem at the Western Wall, we were privileged to see a beautiful, precious bride coming to pray. She was dressed in an elegant wedding dress, but obviously knew that she needed to prepare herself spiritually for her wedding day. One of the gals in our group asked for permission to take a few minutes to get a photo of this amazing sight. One of our jobs as leaders was to always be sure the group stayed on schedule. But I knew this was a special, rare opportunity not to be missed, so I gave her the green light to capture the moment. Oh, how we treasure her photo to this day!

Our bridegroom is coming...

HAVE YOU MADE YOURSELF READY?



BE SURE YOU ARE READY!

What About Jordan?

It is always interesting to view current events through the lens of Scripture. This month we are going to do this as we look at the relationship of Israel and Jordan. But first we must gather some background information.

After World War I, in an effort to slice up the defeated Islamic Ottoman Empire, the League of Nations created the nations of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan. It also gave the British a mandate to establish a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine. A long and difficult period for Jewish settlers ensued because of strong Arab resistance to this plan.

When Israel declared its independence in 1948, a war broke out with five Arab nations attacking the fledgling state. Miraculously, Israel won that war but lost some territory to Jordan, which it reclaimed in the Six-Day War of 1967. Ever since then, Israel and Jordan have been bitter enemies. However, time has a way of changing things.

There is a popular saying in the Middle East: **“The enemy of my enemy is my friend.”** Believe it or not, a new threat has arisen that both Israel and Jordan consider greater than each other. That threat is Iran. Because of this, the two nations have begun to warm to each other. This was made very clear recently when a shocking announcement was made.

In January it was announced that an agreement between the two countries had been reached allowing for a project to be built that will connect the Red Sea and the Dead Sea. According to the agreement, both countries pledged \$40 million per year for 25 years to the project, which would bring the total to at least \$2 billion.

The plan is to pump water from the Red Sea to a desalination center in the Jordanian port of Aqaba. The brine by-product is then to be piped 125 miles north to the Dead Sea.

This is of mutual benefit to both Jordan and Israel since it will provide potable water to both countries, and at the same time also replenish the water level of the Dead Sea. Since the Dead Sea is 1443 feet lower than the Red Sea, this will also allow the creation of a massive, hydroelectric power plant.

So, how does all this fit into Bible prophecy? In Mark 13:14 Jesus said:

Mark 13:14 (NKJV)

“So when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

Most Bible scholars believe He was referring to the mountains of Moab which are in modern day Jordan. They base this upon a prophecy found in Isaiah 16.

Isaiah 16:3-4a (NKJV)

“Take counsel, execute judgment; Make your shadow like the night in the middle of the day; Hide the outcasts, Do not betray him who escapes.

4a Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; Be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler.”

It should be noted that ancient biblical **‘Moab’** was the geographical location of modern day Jordan. Once again, we see how something found in the Bible, that for years seemed totally impossible, could actually become a reality. We are living in momentous days. There are so many signs that point to the soon return of Jesus. Out of love, I beg you to not ignore them. Jesus told us to live ready for His return and He also told us that He would return suddenly. There will not be time to get ready.

We must live ready!