

- Rev. Grant Mangold [www.RiversideChurchIowa.com](http://www.RiversideChurchIowa.com)

## PERSONAL TRUTH

Don't fall for the deception of "what's true for you may not be true for me." This common faulty mis-perception traps you in falsehoods. TRUTH is "that which corresponds to reality as perceived by God, who knows all things." When YOU try to determine truth, your finite fumbles mock the infinite God who IS truth, who defines and reveals truth. #1- God is ABSOLUTE TRUTH, the source and standard of all that is true. #2- God is UNIVERSAL TRUTH, true for everyone everywhere, always. God is the ultimate measure of truth, outside the limits of mankind. But there's even more. Because God is not mocked.

**#3- God is PERSONAL truth. Trust Him, and He transforms your life.** Truth is not only absolute, objective, universal, unified, and immutable. It is also personal. This means truth transforms you. That's because God's truth is authoritative, illuminating, and trustworthy. It changes your life. Because God is divine creator, He is the source of truth. He has authority to demand your response to truth. His words are trustworthy, reliable, never misleading or inconsistent, always true, even when mysterious. God Himself is truth. Truth is both rational and relational. Truth is both propositional and personal. It includes things to be believed, which then transforms your behavior. Truth extends from God's own divine nature. Christians acknowledge that truth is revealed in the Bible, by the God who Himself IS ultimate truth. And we are to live out His truth, by His personal power within, becoming more like Him who is truth.

**God is trustworthy**, and He transforms you by His truth. Putting your trust in God and His truth changes you. He translates you from the domain of darkness into His kingdom of light. He makes you spiritually alive, so that you can live out His truth. His regeneration leads to salvation and sanctification. Romans 10:13-17 says *faith comes from hearing the word of Christ. And if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* This involves the illumination of God's revelation. And knowing His truth changes your life.

**Jesus promised His disciples**, "*the Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth*" (John 16:13). This is more than simply understanding the Bible intellectually. AW Tozer cautions against such "evangelical rationalism" as though it's just about the text of God's revelation. "There must be illumination before revelation can get to a person's soul," he said. We don't just have an inspired book. The Spirit of Truth so indwells a believer that the propositions of divine truth become experientially personal. You believe it and you live it. James 1:22, "*Be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*" Psalm 119:105, "*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*" This is the work of the Holy Spirit. To live the truth, you must first become spiritually alive. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit, what Jesus called being born again from above by the Spirit (John 1:12, 3:3), brings spiritual life and light (Ephesians 1:13) to spiritually dead people who were walking in the darkness of unbelief (Ephesians 2:5), so that in Christ you are able to know the truth, speak it and live out His truth (Ephesians 4:25) in any situation.

**Becoming a Christian** means the propositional truths of the Bible become personal. Jesus is the Son of God who died to pay for sins and rose to give all who believe in Him eternal spiritual life. You don't just believe this intellectually, but with your whole being, all your mind, heart and will. It becomes experiential. You put your trust in the person of Christ, who is The Truth. Then His truth changes you as you live it out, trusting and obeying His word. SJ Lawson says, "Truth is no mere collection of interesting information, as an option for a Christian. It demands your response of obedience to the truth, things as they really are." You must respond to reality as perceived and communicated by "*the God of truth*" (Isaiah 65:16).

**AW Tozer said**, "the true follower of Christ will not ask, 'if I embrace this truth, what will it cost me?' Rather, he will say, 'This is truth. God help me to walk in it, come what may'." To walk in truth means you give up all the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil. John 8:32, truth sets you free! John 17:17, Jesus prayed for all believers to be sanctified in the truth of God's Word. This means you are made holy, becoming like Christ, as you live out His truth, which transforms your life. That's because truth is not a thing, but a person, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He embodies and personifies all the propositions of truth. He personally relates and communicates them. Objectively, absolutely, immutably, universally, and personally. HE who is truth totally transforms you, as you trust and obey Him, by His power within!