

SEPTEMBER 2024

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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

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UPDATE

I have voted in many elections over the past 60 years and can never remember a candidate who totally avoided any interaction with the press as part of their campaign strategy. How can this be good for either the candidate or America? Why would anyone do this?

In my mind, the answer to this question is very obvious. The only reason someone would use this strategy is that they are afraid to field questions they know they have no answers for. Right now, Americans want to know what our foreign policy will be going forward, what plan our candidates have to stop the flood of illegals from invading our country, and what plans our candidates have to fix our high interest rates and curb inflation. These issues should matter to you, and the candidate's avoidance of them should concern you.

Regardless of your political leanings, you play a crucial role in the political process. If a candidate refuses to address these important questions, it's up to you to make a stand with your vote.

FEATURE ARTICLE: "How Great Is His Love"

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!

Ephesians 3: 17-19 KJV

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

I have always felt that, with God's help, I was a good communicator of Biblical truth. However, I always felt frustrated when communicating just how much God loves us. In the verses above, Paul says Christ's love "passes knowledge." This means you can't teach it to anyone; it must be supernaturally revealed.

Recently, I had such a moment of revelation, and I want to share it with you in hopes that you, too, might experience a revelation about how much God loves you. This moment came when I was listening to a Bible teacher talk about the fact that nine times in scripture, we are referred to as "chosen" by God before the world was ever formed.

Ephesians 1:4 KJV

4 According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love...

As I listened, suddenly, I had a revelation of God's love greater than any I had ever experienced. God chose me, and He did this not because of my good works (for I had not yet been born) but only because He loved me. The thought of this truly blows my mind, and its implications leave me amazed.

Most believers seem to think it was their choice to believe in Christ, but nothing could be further from the truth. God chose us! Please read it and believe it! We were dead spiritually, and the things

of God were foolishness to us. How can you believe in something that you consider foolish?

1 Corinthians 2:14 KJV

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

We had nothing to offer God, yet he chose us because he loved us. It is so plain and simple, yet we refuse to accept it. We want to be able to present to God a reason why we are worthy of salvation. We turn to our faith and hold it up as proof of something we had that would cause God to accept us. But we forget something God has said.

Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:**
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

So, let me give you the key that will unlock the depths of God's love for you. The more you try to prove to God how good you are, the more God's great love will be hidden from you, but lower your view of yourself, and you will see God's love explode in your heart. Come to a place where you can accept that God has made you accepted in the beloved through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, even though there is nothing good in your flesh, and you will begin to see how great and amazing God's love for you is.

Ephesians 1:5-6 KJV

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“You Have a Gift”

When we receive Christ as Savior, many beautiful things happen, the first being that we are given eternal life. But it doesn't stop there; the Holy Spirit also gives us spiritual gifts. There have been many

excellent teachings on the gifts of the Spirit, but in this article, I want to point out something that has been overlooked.

Most teachings on the gifts focus on the speaking gifts. Speaking gifts include a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpreting tongues. However, many Christians do not desire these gifts because, in most churches, this would require that they go up front to give a word, and they don't want any part of that. This is probably true because they haven't been given one of the speaking gifts. Does that mean that they have not been given any gifts? What does scripture have to say about this?

Most teachers focus on what Paul says because Paul has written more about spiritual gifts than anyone else. But Peter had something to say that we must not ignore. According to 1 Peter 4:11, there are

two main categories of spiritual gifts: speaking gifts and serving gifts.

1 Peter 4:11 ERV

11 If your gift is speaking, your words should be like words from God. **If your gift is serving**, you should serve with the strength that God gives. Then, it is God who will be praised in everything through Jesus Christ. Power and glory belong to him forever and ever. Amen.

The serving gifts may be less obvious than the speaking gifts, but they are essential. Some serving gifts include ministry of helps, exhortation, giving, showing mercy, and hospitality. People with these gifts often don't even realize they have supernatural abilities because doing these things seems to come naturally to them. They also don't view their actions as "spiritual". However, according to Peter, what they are doing and their ability to do it well is only possible because they have a gift from God.

For many years, I have been amazed as I observed those who had a serving gift. I must say that without them, the Body of Christ could not function as God intended it to. No church can be successful without them. They are the ones who take spiritual things and make them become reality in everyday life. Through them, "love" becomes a verb because it manifests as an action.

"You Have a Gift"
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I have seen many examples, but the best was in 2008. On May 22, 2008, a three-quarter-mile-wide tornado hit Windsor with wind speeds over 150 miles per hour. We spent the rest of that day trying to contact people from our church who could have been impacted. One family needed some help, so a call was sent out, and the following day, about 40 people showed up, ready to do whatever was needed.

The house had not sustained significant damage, but the yard was filled with debris, which was all cleaned up by noon. Only one thing was left that needed attention. A tree about 30 feet tall had blown over and was leaning against the side of the house. The homeowner said that it probably would need to be cut down. Two men who had pick-up trucks with heavy-duty winches came to my husband and said that they felt the tree could be saved. I thought it was impossible, but the homeowner said he had nothing to lose by giving it a try. I watched in amazement as those young men hooked their winches to the tree and pulled it off the

house until it stood straight again. Then they got some steel cable and staked it. Today, it still stands strong and healthy! If someone had asked them if they had exercised a spiritual gift that day, they probably would have said, "No." But I assure you they did!

All the gifts are important, but the speaking gifts become empty and meaningless without the serving gifts.

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 TLB

1 If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise.

2 If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love.



"Blackbirds and Bluebirds"

I am always looking for everyday life illustrations that communicate a spiritual truth. Jesus was the master of this. He talked about a man buying a field that contained a hidden treasure, a man who went out to sow some grain, a father with a rebellious son, and many other illustrations from everyday life.

Earlier this summer, my wife and I were trying to capture some photos of Mountain Bluebirds. These are beautiful birds, and the males are indeed very bright blue! There are many of them in the mountains, but not near as many as our blackbirds. We have blackbirds by the thousands!

We were driving up in the park on this particular day when I became aware of something that troubled me. Even though we were looking for bluebirds, I found myself focusing on the blackbirds. They were everywhere! I have nothing against blackbirds, but they are not nearly as beautiful as bluebirds, and they were not what we were looking for. I suddenly realized that I had allowed that which was abundant to cause me to lose my focus on that which was far more beautiful.

As I thought about this, I was reminded of something the Bible has to say about the last days.

2 Timothy 3:13 KJV

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

We are living in a time when this scripture is being fulfilled. To see this, you only need to watch the daily news. Over and over, I am stunned by what I hear. The evil in this world is like flocks of blackbirds masquerading as beautiful in an attempt to deceive. You see them everywhere every day.

There are times when I wonder how dark things will get before Jesus comes back. I don't know, but I can truthfully say that already, it is darker than I

ever imagined it would be. Our world has lost its moral compass, and the stench of sin is everywhere. We are duplicating what God saw in the days before the flood.

Genesis 6:5 KJV

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

But that is not all I have to say about our world today. I want you to know that there are also bluebirds! They are not as plenteous as the blackbirds nor as easy to spot, but they are there wherever you go. I speak of the redeemed of the Lord, the chosen of God, the bride of Christ. And yes, the Bible also talks about them.

2 Timothy 2:19 KJV

19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Because we spend so much time in a place where people come to visit from all over the world, we have often enjoyed meeting and sharing our faith with them. They don't hold up a sign that says, "I am a believer," but you can tell within minutes when you encounter them. They are beautiful and genuine. They are your brothers and sisters in the Lord.

So, I admonish you not to get so focused on the blackbirds that you miss the beautiful bluebirds. If your search parameter is limited to your church, you will be disappointed. But if you realize how vast the true church is, you will be blessed again and again.

THERE ARE BLUEBIRDS EVERYWHERE!

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH!

"Blackbirds and Bluebirds"

EPILOUGE

I finished writing this on July 8th. I had a doctor's appointment for my annual "wellness" visit that afternoon. Why you are required to see a doctor when you are not sick is a question I have not been able to answer. Don't get me started!

As I got to the hospital entrance, a little old lady asked me if I would open the door for her. I was glad to do so, and then we both walked together to the elevator. She had a very strong English accent, so I complimented her on it. She didn't feel it was anything to be proud of, and as proof, she stated that right now, England is in a terrible political mess.

We both checked in and then went to the waiting area, where we sat across from each other. After a bit, another woman came and sat down next to me.

The English lady greeted this other lady, who promptly complimented her for her accent. The English lady smiled at me and then told the other lady the same thing she had told me.

I then joined the conversation with the observation that every nation on the planet seems to be in a terrible mess. When I said this, the English lady said, "Well, do you know what God says about all this? God says, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and heal their land." She then added, "I think it's time we start praying." Immediately, the other lady gave a firm "Amen," and I also joined the amen chorus.

What a thrill it was to meet two new bluebirds!

