

**JUNE 2017**

# "TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD  
FOR TODAY**



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

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## WEBSITE UPDATE

It is the first of June and it is starting to look as if winter has finally relinquished its cold grip on the mountains. Green grass and flowers can be seen everywhere. This month be sure and check out our photo of the month. It is a spring photo that will fill you with an amazing sense of God's peace.

This month you can listen to Part 2 of the "Place of Praise" series. It is the "Message of the Month" and ties in with Miss Linda's newsletter article.

Next month I begin a series entitled, "Life Through The Lens." In this series I will be sharing things the Lord has taught us as we have pursued great photos. I promise, you will relate to what you read. Don't miss it!

If it has been a while since you made a donation to our ministry, this would be a great time to once again do so. Anything you do is always greatly appreciated.

# FEATURE ARTICLE: "WHERE IS GOD?"

## CONCLUSION

**WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. It may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to help you and 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!**

Since March I have been writing about the issue of unanswered prayer. This is something every Christian must deal with sooner or later. **It is an undeniable fact: God does not give us everything we ask for.**

My attempt to help you with this has focused on one thing: God places a very high value on our faith. To walk in faith when everything is going great and every prayer is being answered is not to walk in faith at all. In order for faith to function, we must look beyond what our human eye sees; we must see what is unseen and eternal.

### 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (EXB)

**"We have small troubles for a while now, but they...are helping us gain [or producing in us] an eternal glory...that is much greater than [overwhelmingly exceeds] the troubles. 18 We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. [...Because] What we see will last only a short time [is temporary/transitory], but what we cannot see will last forever...."**

As we walk through trials and tests and still hold fast to our faith, a great reward is being stored up for us in heaven. Yes, it is wonderful when God answers our prayers, but that becomes our reward and it is as temporary as our life is short. By contrast, when God doesn't choose to answer our prayers and we still stand strong in our faith, a reward for us is produced in heaven that will last for all eternity.

In this series I have mostly focused on the issue of prayers being offered to God on behalf of a loved one who is facing death. **However, this same truth should also be applied to things we face everyday that are not life and death issues.** Once again I would like to use something from my own life to illustrate what I am talking about.

About two weeks before Christmas, my wife and I began to experience a series of really bad attacks. It started on a Wednesday. Miss Linda and I have an exercise bike at our cabin in the mountains. It's a big, heavy beast and it sat right where we wanted our Christmas tree. So we decided to move it to the basement.

I don't even know how to put into words what happened next, but it wasn't pretty. We were carefully trying to take it down the stairs one step at a time, but it slipped. I was on the bottom and it came crashing down and hit me in the jaw. I honestly thought my jaw was broken. It turned out that when it hit me, I bit my tongue very badly. I bled profusely for about two hours and was in great pain for the next week. No problem, we got that bike down in the basement. If anyone is in the market for a hardly ever used exercise bike, contact me!

The next morning we woke up to cold rooms in our house. Our furnace had quit. A day later we lost our Internet and phone service.

We had to go down to the valley for the weekend. On the way down, I suddenly noticed that the "check engine" light had come on in my truck. When we got to Greeley, I called Pikes over in Windsor. They said they could get to it on Wednesday. They treated us extra good and did all the work at cost, but the bill was still almost as much as what it had cost to fix the furnace! We went back up to the mountains only to find that our pellet stove had also died. What was going on?

On Sunday we went to Summit Church in Estes, and had a great time thanking the Lord for helping us through the week from hell. Our pastor gave a wonderful message about rejoicing when everything seems to be going wrong. He used the Virgin Mary as an example. It was a great Christmas message that really spoke to our situation. It was good to know we had weathered the storm and were still walking in victory. Little did we know, the storm was far from over!

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# “ WHERE IS GOD? “

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On Monday morning we again awoke to a cold house. I went down to the furnace room and quickly found the problem. The fitting where the plumbers had installed a new water pump was leaking badly, and now we not only had no heat, we had water in our basement! Then on Monday evening our water heater died. On Christmas morning our microwave also died. People, I am not making this up! When would it all end? We were in shock!

I am sharing this to help you see how this kind of thing fits with the teaching on unanswered prayer. Throughout this entire time, Miss Linda and I continued to cry out to God, asking Him to cause the attacks to cease. But the attacks continued. Did that cause us to get angry with God or charge Him with unfaithfulness? Absolutely not!

We all face struggles from time to time. There are financial setbacks, health problems, marital problems, child problems, and relationship problems. The list is endless. This is life, and in life Christians are not immune from attack. If our faith is strong, it will carry us through anything.

As Miss Linda and I walked through the two weeks from hell, never once did we get discouraged or feel abandoned by God. In fact, the thing that kept us strong was to keep our focus on the things we could only see through spiritual eyes. Our eyes of flesh could only see everything breaking. At the same time, our spiritual eyes saw that our reward in heaven was growing every day! Why? Because we stood strong in our faith and refused to murmur and complain and feel sorry for ourselves. Our praise never ceased!

Did we ever experience a moment of doubt and questioning? Of course. But when that moment of questioning came, it was quickly cast down as a vain imagination that contained no reality. This one thing alone caused us to walk the entire two weeks in total victory.

Some of you may feel like you have been walking through a week from hell for at least the last month. Some may even feel as if you have been walking through the year from hell. **I encourage you to remember one thing: It is from hell. It is not from your heavenly Father.**

**God is with you and God is for you.** He may not always answer every prayer in the way you want Him to, but He cares for you and He is touched by what you are going through. **Hold on to your faith and let your faith be the springboard of your praise, because your faith is your victory!**

Never forget, your faith is your most valuable possession. It is valuable because it will keep you afloat through the storms of life. It is valuable because it will enable you to stand strong even when you do not see your prayers answered. It is also valuable because it moves God; not to always give you what you ask for, but to store up for you a great reward in heaven that will last for eternity.

## 1 Peter 1:6-8 (AMP)

“In this you rejoice greatly, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, **7 so that the genuineness of your faith, which is much more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested and purified by fire, may be found to result in [your] praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.** 8 Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and though you do not even see Him now, you believe and trust in Him and you greatly rejoice and delight with inexpressible and glorious joy,”

I hope this series has been a blessing and a help to you. I urge you to meditate on the things I have written and allow them to become a part of the foundational truths that guide your life. Allow me to leave you with one final thought.

### How great is your faith?

**The greatest measure of our faith is not how many prayers we see answered.**

**The greatest measure of our faith is our praise even when prayer goes unanswered!**

And that my friends,  
is the truth!



## A M I N U T E W I T H M I S S L I N D A



### *“How To Practice Praise”*

For some time I have wanted to write about how to practice being a persistent, perpetual, passionate praiser. I have learned that in life we only become good at the things we are

willing to practice over and over, day after day.

I think a good example would be my photography. I don't claim to be a professional photographer, but many people have expressed what a blessing my photos have been and how special they feel they are. Well, that didn't happen the first time I picked up a camera. I have taken thousands of photos and with each one, I have learned more about what must be considered if a really good photo is to be obtained.

This is how praise works. It would be wonderful if praise just came naturally and easy. But such is not the case. Becoming a perpetual, passionate, persistent praiser may sound like a great idea; but we all experience times, and even long seasons, when it seems almost impossible to praise the Lord. It has been during these times that John and I have needed to make a deliberate decision to practice praising the Lord. We encourage one another to “just do it,” even when circumstances make it seem almost impossible. We all need this approach because life is filled with so many challenges.

As my husband has been teaching in this newsletter, God does not always choose to answer our prayers. This is true. I can think of many times when this was what I experienced. When my Daddy and sister-in-law were both dying of cancer, I prayed and prayed; yet both of them went home to be with the Lord. Another example would be when my husband needed quadruple bypass heart surgery. I also think of the time when our son broke his jaw during a track meet and was going to need surgery. I could list many more, but that would serve no purpose.

I do not share this to try and get you to feel sorry for me or to convince you that I have had a hard, difficult life. My life has not been any more difficult than yours. But rather I share it to try to show you that praise has been the thing that has helped me be an overcomer in every situation. I like the words of David:

#### **Psalm 34:1 (ERV)**

“I will praise the Lord at all times. I will never stop singing his praises.”

I often quote this verse and sometimes the whole chapter to remind myself of what I should be doing. I don't want to sound too preachy, but sometimes we just need to be reminded that there are things that are really important and can be life-changing. Certainly praise is one of those things.

**This leads us to a very important question: If we are going through trials and God doesn't seem to be answering our prayers, what reason do we have to praise Him?** Psalms 146-150 gives us some good answers. Thirty-nine times in these five Psalms the word "praise" is used in reference to the LORD. These Psalms speak of at least seven major reasons we should praise Him.

They are:

**His Position:** He is the Almighty King, Ruler, and Creator of the universe.

**His Power:** His power is seen in His mighty deeds; in the creation of the world and the resurrection of the dead.

**His Personality:** He is Goodness, Righteousness, Graciousness, and Compassion. He is slow to anger and full of mercy.

**His Preeminence:** He is over all things because He made all things. He has no rival. He has no equal. He is in a class by Himself.

**His Provisions:** He is the great provider of every need that we have in this life. Physical needs. Emotional needs. Spiritual needs. Praise the LORD for His provisions.

**His Presence:** People say, "I'm here for you." Maybe they are and maybe not. But God is, all the time. He is near to all who call on Him.

**His Preservation:** The LORD protects us. He destroys the wicked. He preserves His people.

Yes, all these things are found in Psalms 146-150. But that is just the tip of the iceberg! How many reasons do we have to praise our God? Seven? Seventy? Seventy times seven? I want to encourage you to try each day to think of all the reasons why you should be praising the Lord.

**Don't waste your time trying to figure God out. You can't do it.**

Just be content to praise Him for both the things He has done and who He is.

We should also consider why it is God tells us to praise Him continually. Is this a great need He has? I think not. When Jesus was entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, great crowds gathered and offered Him their praises. The Pharisees wanted Him to rebuke the people, but Jesus answered,

"...I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." **Luke 19:40 KJV**

He also has all of the angels in heaven praising Him and all those gathered around the throne. **Why then does He tell us to praise Him continually?**

I suspect it is for the same reason as everything else He tells us to do. Everything God tells us to do is for our benefit. Doing what His Word tells me to do is the best way I know to enrich my life. I often look at high profile people who seem to have so much and yet their lives are a mess! Their marriages are a mess, their children are a mess, and they end up in disaster. It is then I realize that Father knows best. If they would just follow the admonitions found in God's Word, they could be happy and successful.

I believe this holds true when it comes to praise. If we begin to practice being perpetual, passionate praisers, it will force us to stop dwelling on all our problems. **As we get our eyes off of the problems and get our eyes on our amazing God, life will begin to seem not nearly so dark and hopeless.**

Will this happen easily? For sure not. It is something we will have to commit to. It is something we will have to practice until we become very skillful doing it. But I encourage you to keep practicing. It will pay big dividends in your life.

#### **Psalm 16:7-9 (ERV)**

"I praise the Lord because he taught me well. Even at night he put his instructions deep inside my mind. 8 I always remember that the Lord is with me. He is here, close by my side, so nothing can defeat me. 9 So my heart and soul will be very happy. Even my body will live in safety,"

*MIDDLE EAST UPDATE*

So far this year I have spent a considerable amount of time talking about the political situation in our country. Truly what we have experienced has been nothing short of a huge political earthquake. I find it very interesting that more than six months after the elections, liberal Democrats in this country still can't get a grasp on what happened or why it happened. They continue to blame the head of the FBI, WikiLeaks, and the Russians.

They can't seem to comprehend that America got tired of the political corruption and spineless, arrogant, misguided leadership that ruled our country for the last eight years. The message Americans sent at the ballot box was clear and plain. They believed America was dying and was in need of a moral and financial blood transfusion. I have hope for our future.

While these issues continue to be of great importance, I do not want us to lose sight of what is happening in the Middle East. This region of the world continues to be the epicenter of Bible prophecy. Because of this, I want to write again about things I find to be of great importance.

As we all know, in April Syrian President Bashar al-Assad used poison gas on his own people. A short time later President Trump ordered a missile strike against the Syrian airbase that was used in the poison gas attack. This sent a clear message to the entire world that said America was under new leadership and that our new leadership was not afraid to confront evil dictators anywhere they might be found.

As might be expected, Russia quickly condemned the American attack as illegal and reckless. This only confirmed that what I have been saying for the last year is true. Russia has established a permanent military presence in Syria and has no intention of relinquishing its foothold.

In addition to this, we continue to see Russia building stronger ties with Iran. Russian state TV recently reported, "Russia and Iran are on the threshold of unprecedented rapprochement, and are opening a new page in the history of their relations."

All this does not bode well for Israel. Sooner or later we know Ezekiel 38-39 is going to come to pass. I do not claim to be an expert when it comes to knowing exactly who is included in the list of nations that the Bible says will come against Israel. However, those who have studied such things all agree that Russia is the head of this monster and Iran is one of the countries that will join with Russia in attacking Israel.

We all know this war will not end well for Russia. In fact, it very well may end up being the greatest military victory Israel has ever experienced. However, in war there is seldom a true victor. Everyone loses. We continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

There is something else about all this I want to draw to your attention. In the past we have observed that after each Israeli victory, there has come a great outpouring of God's Spirit upon the planet. This has been observable and repeatable. In the scientific community this makes something factual. Following the Israeli War of Independence, we saw the great healing revivals of the 50's. Following the Six-Day War of 1967, we saw the start of the great charismatic renewal. And the Jesus People Movement exploded after the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Has all this been coincidence? I personally doubt it. I believe there has been and always will be a connection between Israel's victories and the outpouring of God's Spirit upon the earth.

Today we have a generation of youth who have never seen or experienced a great revival. The feeling I get at this time is the same feeling I had just prior to the great charismatic renewal of the sixties. It felt like there was a great spiritual vacuum that God poured Himself into. I am feeling this same vacuum today. Get ready...

**A new wind of God may soon blow!**

And that my friends,  
is the "Truth!"