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"TRUTH"

A SURE WORD FOR TODAY

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In life, we all face difficult times. During these times, we need to be careful not to focus on the negative things around us, because if we do, life will become even more difficult. For some, this has caused them to reach a point where they no longer wanted to live and ended up taking their own life. How sad, because even though they were surrounded by darkness, they also were surrounded by the beauty of God's creation and the promises of his faithful care.

This is the way it always has been and always will be. Only in heaven will the darkness be gone, but as long as we are on this earth, we are going to have both and must wisely choose to focus on the beauty that surrounds us. Don't ruin your Thanksgiving by failing to see God's blessings everywhere. And don't stop being thankful the day after Thanksgiving. Make thankfulness a part of your lifestyle. It will change your life!

FEATURE ARTICLE: “He Is With You!”

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 our goal. Our 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!

November is the month when we are called to set aside a day to give thanks for the blessings of the past year. This is good, but I have always wondered why we need a special day to do this. It seems to me we should live every day with hearts filled with gratefulness for all God's blessings.

Certainly, that is what I have done this past year. I can truthfully say that in my entire life, I have never felt as grateful as I have in 2026. It is noteworthy that this has also been the most difficult year of my life. For those who don't know, this year I battled a deadly cancer, endured three surgeries, and a heart attack. It doesn't get much more difficult than this. And yet, through it all, I found myself overwhelmed with gratitude to God.

I share this only because so many are dealing with difficult situations, and I want you to know that I, too, have been there and done that. I also want you to know that, through it all, I was filled with faith and hope, and that you also can be victorious while going through struggles, no matter what they may be.

So, what was my secret? How could I endure what I went through and, at the same time, be so thankful to God? What was the one thing I held onto that became my anchor? There was one verse of scripture I consciously thought about each day, and it is found in Psalm 23.

Psalm 23:4 KJV

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for **thou art with me;** thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

I gave you the entire verse, but if the truth were known, I focused on only four words in it and held them close to my heart. Those four words were:

" thou art with me."

They became the anchor my soul held onto. They kept my faith strong and my heart filled with gratitude.

This is such a simple truth, and yet it is amazing how most people fail to draw strength from it when life's trials and tests come their way. Instead of declaring it and rejoicing, they respond much like the children of Israel when they found themselves trapped between the sea and Pharaoh's armies. They were unable to comprehend that in their dark situation God was right there with them and therefore they had nothing to fear.

It seems our fallen human nature makes us question whether God is with us when we face terrible situations. Some even become angry and accuse God of abandoning them. They say, "Where is God?" They quickly forget that he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." Yes, he has said this, but if it is to be of any value to us, we must embrace it, hold on to it, and keep declaring it during the darkest nights and the greatest storms.

This was the one thing I held onto during the storms of the past year, and I am happy to report that as I held on to it, it held on to me. There was not one moment of fear! When they wheeled me into the operating room, I said to the team, "Let's get this party started." I think they thought I was a bit strange, but they didn't understand that one other unseen person was in that room. It was my precious Jesus! Like the three Hebrew children of old, I went into the fire, but I did not go in alone. He was with me, and that is why I had no fear.

No matter what trial you may be facing, I urge you to remember these four simple words: **“ thou art with me.”** You will never be alone. He walks with you through every valley, stands with you in every fire, and gives you grace to endure every storm. May that truth become the anchor of your soul and may your heart, like mine, be filled with thanksgiving—not just on one day in November, but every day of the year.

Never forget….God is with you!

"A Sound Mind"

2 Timothy 1:7 KJV
7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

This verse has been a favorite of mine for many years. It was one of the verses we had our children memorize when they were young, and because of what has happened to our world, it has become one of the Bible's most relevant verses.

Paul wrote this while in a Roman prison cell awaiting execution. One can only imagine what it must have felt like to wake up each morning knowing that this could be the last day of your life and to also know that your life could be spared if you would agree to stop preaching the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. But obviously, the Holy Spirit had taught him that this was not a viable option.

And what was Timothy's situation? At this time, Timothy, though young, was the pastor of the church at Ephesus. Ephesus was a major cosmopolitan city known for its devotion to the goddess Artemis. As a result, Timothy faced constant pressure from false teachers to compromise the truth and could have easily been intimidated and paralyzed by fear.

All this makes this verse so applicable to the world we live in. We are living in a time that could easily be called "the age of anxiety and fear". Every day we face challenges that didn't even exist in our grandparents' world. Some are spiritual, and others are technological. For instance, just as you think you've figured out your phone or computer, they release new software that demands you learn to use them all over again. Apparently they have never heard my husband say, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Our family delayed celebrating Father's Day and my husband's birthday because of his health issues. Finally, in August, we threw a party to celebrate his special days and the fact that he was still with us. As a gift, our children gave him a fancy new 3-D printer. This was a wonderful gift, but without getting too graphic, I must tell you that as he started trying to figure out how to use it, I began to have serious doubts about whether my husband still had a sound mind.

I shared this only because it was fun and humorous, but obviously, Paul wasn't referring to fear of using modern technology. Paul was talking about spiritual issues that he and Timothy were facing. And it should come as no surprise that pastors today face the same thing. As a result, many have become intimidated and no longer boldly preach the truth for fear of offending someone. And instead of calling it what it is (Fear and intimidation), they gift-wrap it to make it look like they are just trying to reach the lost, whom they would never call 'lost' for fear of offending them. It seems to me they don't have a sound mind.

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To really understand what Paul is saying, we must take the verse apart word by word. When I did this, the first thing I noticed was that Paul says that fear is a spirit. We tend to think of fear as an emotion, but this is wrong. It is an evil spirit whose assignment is to intimidate us and fill us with fear in an attempt to silence us. The Greek word for fear that is used here is: 'deilia' and it denotes cowardice, timidity, and paralyzing fear. It turns you into a timid coward who is unable or unwilling to speak or act.

The applications are endless! They include everything from parents who are afraid to demand that their children respect and obey them to pastors who are afraid to speak the truth boldly. And while we are on the subject of pastors ruled by a spirit of fear, maybe we also need to include the people who listen to them every Sunday yet are afraid to confront them with the truth. As I have already said, the applications are endless.

The next thing I noticed was that fear and intimidation are not from God! They are contrary to the God-given gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "You shall receive **power** after the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Acts 1:8. The same Greek word is used in both verses. I'll ask: how can we be walking in the power of the Holy Spirit and, at the same time, be afraid to speak the truth? We can't!

We need to be aware that the world around us is becoming increasingly hostile to the truth contained in God's word, and, with that, the spirit of fear and intimidation is growing stronger and stronger. But God has not changed. His Word has not changed. And the Spirit He has given us has not changed. Therefore, we do not have to live in fear and timidity. We can stand firmly, think clearly, love faithfully, and speak boldly, knowing that God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind.

"Where Is The Ark of The Covenant?"

When it comes to biblical archaeology, the biggest unanswered question is, "Where is the Ark of the Covenant?" In Exodus 25, God instructed Moses to make the ark, and according to Hebrews 9:4, the ark contained a gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments.

The Ark played a significant role throughout ancient Jewish history. When the children of Israel entered the promised land, the Levites carried the Ark before them, and it parted the waters of the Jordan River. When they walked around the walls of Jericho, the Ark led the way.

During the reign of King David, the Ark was kept in the City of David, but after Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem, the Ark was moved from the City of David into the temple's Holy of Holies. This is where our knowledge of the Ark's location ends, and speculation begins.

Some believe that when Israel was defeated by King Nebuchadnezzar, the Ark was taken to Babylon. If so, it would have been returned when King Cyrus ordered the temple rebuilt. Others believe the Ark was carried to Rome after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. but if so, why does the Arch of Titus in Rome show the golden menorah being brought into Rome, but not the Ark of the Covenant? Then there is a church in Ethiopia that claims it has the Ark hidden in the church basement. This is hilarious! Others insist it is in a cave near where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. In my mind, all of these have serious flaws, so I am going to show you another scenario that I believe is much more likely to be accurate, and it doesn't start with speculation, but with the prophets.

We should remember that Jerusalem's destruction and its subsequent restoration were both prophesied. We now know that some prophecies of its future restoration had to wait until modern times before they would be fulfilled. However, people in Bible times did not know this, so they probably mistakenly believed the promised restoration would happen soon. This is how most people view prophesied promises. A good example of this would be the return of Jesus. The early church expected Jesus to return in their lifetime, and yet, here we are 2000 years later, still waiting.

So, is it not plausible that, knowing Jerusalem's destruction had been prophesied, the leaders of that day would have gone to great lengths to keep their greatest national treasure from falling into enemy hands? And is it not also likely that they would have chosen a site close to the Temple Mount, believing that Jerusalem would be restored in a short time and the ark could once again be brought out and placed in a restored temple?

The Bible tells us that, at some point in the future, a third temple will be built and daily sacrifices will resume. I find it interesting that a movement pushing this agenda was established in 1967. It is called the "Temple Mount Faithful". They believe their mission is to apply political pressure to build a temple and to prepare for when this happens. Miss Linda and I have visited the museum where they display replicas of the table of showbread, the golden menorah, and the robes the priests wore. They are also training young Israelis from the tribe of Levi to perform sacred Temple rituals. Only one thing is missing: the Ark of the Covenant. This cannot be replicated!

Under the Temple Mount lies a labyrinth of unexplored tunnels and chambers. With all my heart, I believe the Ark of the Covenant was hidden here and lies waiting to be discovered. When it is, it will change the world overnight!

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH!