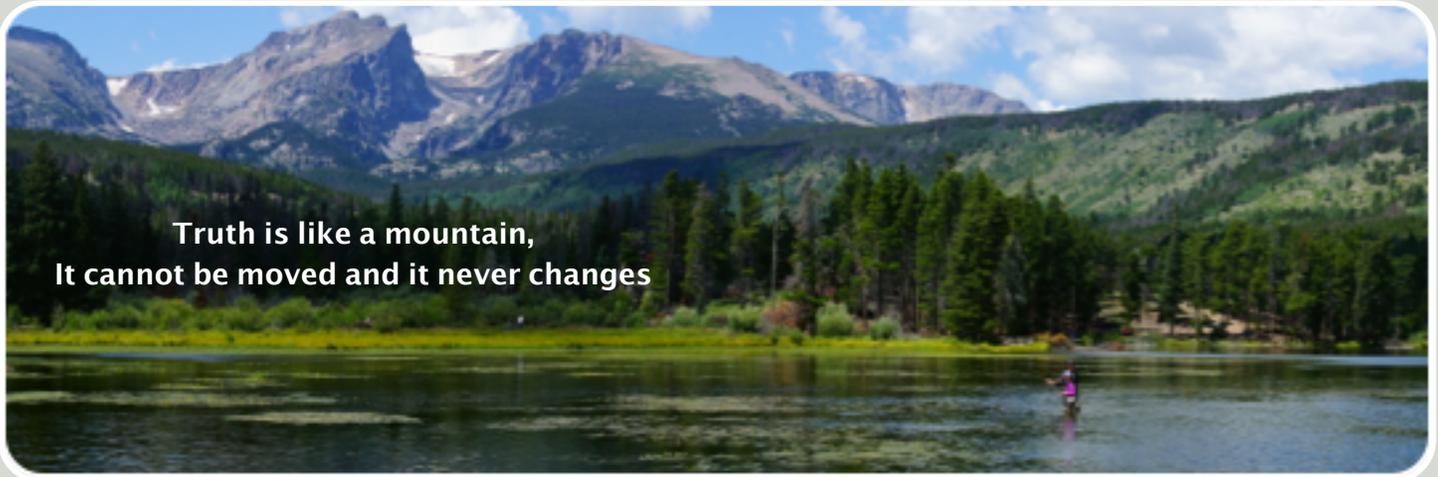


SEPTEMBER 2021

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



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

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UPDATE

We are so excited about this issue of "TRUTH." It is practical, current, and relevant. It starts with an article designed to get people to step out in faith and trust God to enable them to do what He has called them to do.

Miss Linda's article will help those who feel overwhelmed with the cares of life. She gives some practical tips on how to go about casting all your care on the Lord, and how you can know if you have done this or not.

We conclude with the prophecy update entitled "Days of Deception." This is an article that reveals the favorite tactic Satan uses when he tries to deceive God's people. Even though deception has many different faces, the tactic he uses is almost always the same.

Be sure to read or listen to all three of these articles. They will bless your life!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "If You Would, You Could"

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!

NOTE: This article may not seem to deal with any spiritual issues, but stay with me and you will learn one of the great spiritual lessons of life.

Miss Linda and I have a love/hate relationship with our computers. As you all know, when computers work, they are wonderful, but when they don't, they become satanic tools designed to inflict great emotional damage on their unsuspecting victims. I am sure you have all been there and experienced that. But in spite of this, today nearly everyone has a personal computer, and even our cell phones have become mini computers. Computers have become a necessary part of our lives.

Without having at least some computer skills, it would be impossible for us to bring you our monthly newsletter. We taught ourselves how to design our own website, upload our photos and articles, and program all the buttons so folks can get to the pages they want to view. For two people our age, I consider that quite a feat. We truly believe God helped us, because when we started, we knew absolutely nothing about any of this.

But that does not mean we think computers are the best thing since Mom's apple pie. Without warning they can become a demon whose objective is to steal your joy and empty your bank account. I encountered such a trial the first week of July. We had just published our July issue of "TRUTH" and I commented to Miss Linda about how smooth everything had gone. What once took hours now could be done in minutes.

Life was good, or so I thought.

On July 5th I opened my laptop and found a completely black screen. UGH! I went on Miss Linda's computer to search for what might be wrong, but nothing I found worked. Our plans for the day now changed; instead of going on a hike, we headed down to Ft. Collins to the "Mac Shack." There we were told that my screen had died, and to repair it would cost around \$900. I did not feel it was wisdom to put that kind of money into an old computer so we decided to purchase a new one.

The next day we received a call informing us that they had recovered and transferred all my data and we could come pick up my new computer. Once again, we headed down the mountain to Ft. Collins and by early afternoon were headed home. All was now well, or was it?

Oh, how easily we are deceived.

When I began to work with my new computer, I discovered a serious issue. I had never updated the software on my old computer because I have always believed, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." My old computer's software had worked fine, so why would I update it? However, the new computer came with Apple's latest software, and because of this many of the programs I had been using were now incompatible.

I now realized I would need to download the latest version of those programs if they were to be compatible with the software on my new computer. It sounds simple, but there was a glitch I could not have anticipated. Much to my dismay, I discovered that the updated versions of many programs didn't even vaguely resemble their older version. I now had to start over and relearn how to use them.

 **DOUBLE UGH!** 

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"If You Would, You Could"
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**All that was the introduction to this article.
Now is when the article really starts.**

Later that evening Miss Linda and I were sitting together on the love seat. She was playing word games, (she loves playing word games), and I was trying to figure out how to use the stupid new version of a program that had been forced upon me. After about an hour, I was totally frustrated and said, "Well, you know, instead of playing those stupid word games you could help me." **Her reply was, "John, if I could I would."** Now folks, I have seen her solve many computer problems and I knew she could figure this out if she would just try. **So I responded, "No, if you would you could."** A little annoyed, she took my computer and as God is my witness, in less than one minute she had it figured out and showed me what I had been doing wrong.

 **NOW THAT IS HARD ON A MAN'S EGO!** 

As I think about this, I can't help but wonder how many people are missing God's best for their lives because they doubt they have the ability to do what God is asking them to do. They say, "Lord, if I could, I would, but you know I just don't have the ability." **All the while God is saying, "My child, if you just would, you could."**

I don't think I have ever felt capable and qualified to do the things God was asking me to do. If God had told me in advance that He was going to ask me to pastor a church of over 3000 people, start a Christian school, and build four multimillion-dollar buildings debt free, I would have fled in terror. I would have said, "Lord, I would if I could, but you need to know I can't."

I can relate to Moses. When God called Moses, all He got from him was a list of reasons why he was the wrong man for the job. In fact, nearly the

entire 4th chapter of Exodus is a dialogue between Moses and God over this one issue. I will let you decide whether or not God chose the right man.

Following the leadership of the Holy Spirit almost always demands stepping out in faith and believing that the One who has called you will also equip you with everything you need to complete the task He has given you.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 The Voice

"For the God who calls you is faithful, and He can be trusted to make it so."

Hebrews 13:21 New Living Translation

"...may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen."

What has God been telling you to do? Why do you shrink back in fear and unbelief? Do you feel inadequate and unable? I understand, but I need to remind you of one of life's greatest spiritual truths. **Usually, the ones God chooses to do great things are those who absolutely know they can't do it without God's help.**

I urge you to stop arguing with God and make Ephesians 3:20 your guide for life.

Ephesians 3:20 The Passion Translation

"Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you."

REMEMBER

 **IF YOU WOULD, YOU COULD!** 

AND THAT MY FRIENDS
IS THE TRUTH!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



Are You A Mary Or A Martha?

The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are my favorite books of the Bible. The reason I feel this way is because they contain the works and words of Jesus. I especially

like the way He interacted with the people He encountered.

One of my favorite examples is what He replied to Martha when she complained because her sister Mary was not helping her, but was sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Luke 10:40-42 The Passion Translation

“But Martha became exasperated with finishing the numerous household chores in preparation for her guests, so she interrupted Jesus and said, “Lord, don’t you think it’s unfair that my sister left me to do all the work by myself? You should tell her to get up and help me.”

41 The Lord answered her, “Martha, my beloved Martha. Why are you upset and troubled, pulled away by all these many distractions?”

42 Mary has discovered the one thing most important by choosing to sit at my feet. She is

undistracted, and I won’t take this privilege from her.”

I like this interaction with Jesus because I can totally relate to how Martha felt. Life is filled with so many things that make huge demands upon our time. The things required of us as mothers, wives, husbands, and fathers seem to never end. But even though this is true, it does not change the fact that neglecting time with Jesus will still bring us to a point where, like Martha, we feel burdened and frustrated. I remember one of the parables of Jesus where He talks about this issue.

Mathew 13:22-23 The Passion Translation

“The one sown among thorns represents one who receives the message, but all of life’s busy distractions...result in suffocating the kingdom message and it becomes fruitless.

23 “But what was sown on good, rich soil represents the one who hears and fully embraces the message of the kingdom. Their lives bear good fruit—some yield a harvest of thirty, sixty, even one hundred times as much as was sown.”

Above all, I want my life to produce good fruit that will bring glory to my Lord. So what are we to do when we want to be a “Mary,” but find ourselves acting more like a “Martha?”

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"Are You A Mary Or A Martha?"

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Once again, I find the answer in the precious Word of God.

1 Peter 5:7 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

"Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, **for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.**"

This verse gives us so much truth that I hardly know where to begin, but I think the best approach would be to start at the end. **All the things Peter tells us to do are only possible if we absolutely know that God cares for us and watches over us.** How can we cast all our cares on Him if we are not convinced of this? This must be more than just head knowledge; it must be the firm conviction of our heart.

With all your heart, you must believe that He concerns himself with the things that concern you. Whether they be spiritual or temporal, great or small, God concerns Himself with all of them. The one who knows that God cares for him need never be anxious about himself or the cares of this life. **Settle it once and for all; God is watching over you and cares for you!**

The next thing I want you to notice is that Peter uses the word "all" four times in this verse.

"Casting the whole of your care [**all** your anxieties, **all** your worries, **all** your concerns, **once and for all**] on Him,..."

"All" is one of the biggest little three letter words in the English language. I remember how, when my husband wanted to make a simple but profound point, he would often say, "Do you know what 'all' means? It means all." There is a tip I want to share with you that will help you with this. How can you know if you have cast all your anxieties, worries, and concerns on the Lord, and have not taken them back? The answer is really quite simple. Do you feel more like Mary or more like Martha?

Many times, it is easy to lie to ourselves about our spiritual condition, but this is not one of them.

You either have the peace that passes all understanding or you don't. If you don't, there are a couple of things you should do. First go back and check your "alls." There are some things we find easy to cast on the Lord, while others seem so big that we struggle to turn them over to Him. If this is the case, we simply need to ask ourselves, "Who can carry this better, me or God? If He can't carry it, how can I?" Have I made my point?

The other "all" to check is "once and for all." This is an area where I find myself coming up short. I cast a care on the Lord, but then find myself taking it back. I have a hunch I am not the only one guilty of this. If you also struggle with taking back the things you have cast upon the Lord, I have another tip for you. Go back to where we started when we looked at 1 Peter 5:7. You may need to remind yourself of the foundation you must stand on. You have a God who cares for you and is constantly watching over you.

Our son Jay has a song on his latest album that truly will help you with this. If you do streaming here is a link to Volume IV and the cover song, 'Watching Over You'. If you don't stream you can go to Miss Linda's audio this month and listen to the song there. Prepare to be blest!

<https://scripture-lullabies.com/>



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

“Days of Deception”

CONCLUSION

Over the past several months we have looked at some of the great deceptions of the day. There are many more, but because I do not want to continue this indefinitely, I am going to end the series with an article that will look at the tactics Satan uses to deceive and destroy God’s people. Deception has many different faces, but the tactics Satan uses will be the same no matter what the deception is.

Stop and think: If you were Satan, how would you go about trying to convince people to believe a lie? The Bible gives us the answer.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 Living Bible

“Yet I am not surprised! Satan can change himself into an angel of light, 15 so it is no wonder his servants can do it too, and seem like godly ministers. In the end they will get every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve.”

Every deception I have ever seen fits this like a hand in a glove. First of all, Satan finds someone who claims to be a Christian. (Even better if they are famous or considered to be a Christian leader.) He does this because he knows that people like this come with a certain degree of credibility and will be more effective at convincing others to accept his lie. His most effective tactic is to start by deceiving those whom people look up to.

Second, he uses the Bible. Yes, I said the Bible. It has been said you can use the Bible to back up anything you want to teach or believe. That is true. But you need to remember that the Bible will never contradict itself. Aberrant teachings will always carefully and conveniently avoid any scriptures that clearly expose their error.

These are the two tactics Satan uses over and over against unsuspecting, gullible people who do not know their Bible. This is why one minute you find a famous singer talking about her strong Christian faith, and the next minute she talks freely about her support of the LGBTQ movement. With great pride she talks about how God loves all people and that is why she also loves all people. She sounds so spiritual and loving, but she refuses to deal with what God’s Word plainly says about perverted sexual sin.

This is why Woman’s Day magazine had a wonderful Christian devotional in their June issue, but then followed it with an article about their celebration of Gay Pride month. You need to know that Satan’s plan is to use this tactic to blur the line between good and evil until people will no longer hold fast to the truth of God’s Word. More than ever, God’s people need to know their Bibles and steadfastly refuse to allow this to happen. We must heed 2 Timothy 3:13-14.

2 Timothy 3:13-14 Living Bible

“In fact, evil men and false teachers will become worse and worse, deceiving many, **they themselves having been deceived by Satan.**

14 But you must keep on believing the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know that you can trust those of us who have taught you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Amplified Bible

“But test all things carefully [so you can recognize what is good]. Hold firmly to that which is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil [withdraw and keep away from it].”