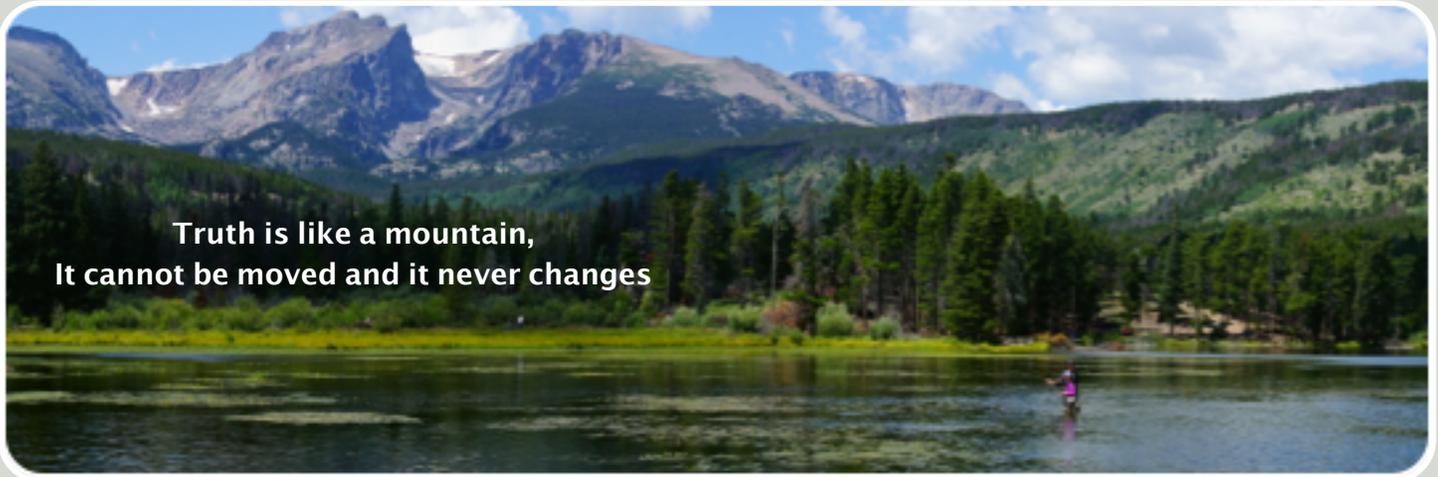


MAY 2022

# "TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD  
FOR TODAY**



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

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## UPDATE

### Psalms 37

- 1 A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.
- 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.
- 3 **Trust in the LORD**, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
- 4 **Delight thyself also in the LORD**; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
- 5 **Commit thy way unto the LORD**; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
- 6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.
- 7 **Rest in the LORD**, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.
- 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.
- 9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.
- 10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

**FRET NOT!**

## FEATURE ARTICLE: "The Hate Must Stop"

**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!**

One of the worst things a church can ever experience is to be thrust into a major storm of strife and division. Church history is littered with the corpses of churches that once were strong and vibrant but now are mute testimonies of the danger of allowing strife to run rampant in a church. When this happens there are certain things to look for that reveal who is responsible, what their game plan is, and what their favorite tactic is. In this article, I will share what a lifetime of pastoral experience has taught me.

The first thing I want to point out is that people don't seem to have the ability to have an opinion without hating those who disagree with them. They need to realize that hate will destroy you long before it destroys the other person. To allow hate to dwell in your heart is to live with a spiritual PICC line that drips poison into you day after day and will ultimately lead to your spiritual death.

But how do you keep from hating when almost daily you hear something new that either attacks you or someone you highly esteem? I want to point out something you already know but may have lost sight of. Your enemy is not a human. When controversy arises the first thing people often do is blame an individual or a group of individuals and declare that they are the cause of the problem. No matter what side you are on, this is wrong thinking.

### **Ephesians 6:12 KJV**

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

If a church is to survive, the path to victory starts here. We must recognize who our enemy is and what his objectives and tactics are. What I am going

to say next may come as a shock to most, but I assure you, it is true.

### **Satan doesn't care which side wins.**

Satan's objective is to keep the fight going for as long as possible because the longer it continues, the greater his chances of dragging more people into the mud pit of hate. He also knows that long after the battle has become history, deep hatred will remain, and like cancer, it will slowly destroy his victims and that by keeping the battle going, he will secure a long-lasting spiritual victory over both sides involved in the controversy. What a creep!

Only you can know whether hatred is in your heart. Having an opinion about the issues is not wrong and for sure is not hatred. But, wanting to see a brother or a sister destroyed is hatred gone to seed and is why 1 John 3:15 says, "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer..." It seems to me that the intent to try and destroy others is present in most church splits. It is hard to see it any other way.

One thing I can tell you for sure is that making accusations against others only plays into Satan's game plan and makes the situation worse. The accusations made against one another are the reason the situation escalates. One person accuses another of wrongdoing and soon what was a very small disagreement between a few people grows into a raging fire. Oh, how it must grieve the heart of God to see His children being used by Satan in this way. Satan is the accuser of the brethren and none of us should ever do his dirty work for him.

### **Revelation 12:10 KJV**

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.**

So, what is the right way to handle this horrible situation, and is there a way to end this vicious war? I believe the only way is to cling to the teachings of Jesus. One of the things I love about Jesus is that He was so down to earth and real. It is almost as if He looked ahead and saw what we are experiencing and then told us how to handle it. Here are some things He said.

**Matthew 5:11-12**

11 Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven....

**Matthew 5:43-44**

43 You have heard that it has been said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy."

44 But I say unto you, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you..."

Ugh!!! Don't we all hate verses like that! Jesus is telling us to do something that goes contrary to human nature and because of this, we fail to see how doing it Jesus' way can possibly work. But, fifty years of pastoral ministry have taught me that without a doubt it does work, **and it works because there is a God who rules in the affairs of men and He delivers the righteous.**

Many times I was confronted by people who hated me and had set out to destroy me. Some even went so far as to tell me what their intentions were. When that happened I chose to trust the Lord and every time God fought for me, and I saw my accusers reap terrible consequences for trying to destroy what God had called and anointed.

This concept is so clearly illustrated in scripture that none should doubt it. Haman was hanged on the same gallows he constructed to destroy God's people. Daniel was delivered from the den of the

lions and those who entrapped him were themselves thrown to the lions. Those who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fire perished, but God's men walked out of the fire without even the smell of smoke on their clothes.

**Psalms 37:39-40**

39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

40 And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

You either believe that or you don't. If you believe it you will stop living in attack and destroy mode and allow God, the righteous judge, to settle your controversies. **God can be trusted!**

The last thing I want to point out is that there is a fine line between defending yourself and hating. In situations where people are at odds with one another, accusations are sometimes made that result in people or organizations having to defend themselves. They would rather not, but have been given no choice. But, as you defend yourself, make sure you do not allow hate to slip in. Hate will cause you to want to see those who have accused you be destroyed, and that is never right. Here is the best advice I have found.

**James 3:13-17**

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him show out of a good life style his works with meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, and devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.



## A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



### *“We Are Family!”*

This month I want to talk about family. I grew up in a very large family of 10 children; six boys, and four girls. People often asked if we were Catholic because

back then it was mostly Catholic families that tended to be large. I still chuckle at my response. My answer as a young girl was: “No, my parents are both Swedish.”

I was the third from the oldest and the first daughter to be born. Seven siblings followed until we were a total of ten. Because I was the first daughter I always felt it was my responsibility to help and care for my siblings and loved them all so much. We were family and to this day we still deeply love each other.

All of us have earthly families, some close, and others not so close, but we are also part of a heavenly family.

#### **John 1:12-13 Amplified Bible**

12 But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—

13 who were born, not of blood [natural conception], nor of the will of the flesh [physical

impulse], nor of the will of man [that of a natural father], but of God [that is, a divine and supernatural birth—they are born of God—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified].

Yes, we are a family that spans the globe. John and I are always excited to meet family members who have come to Estes Park for a visit. Recently we were about to hike around Sprague Lake when we met a group of young adults that had just finished the hike. We greeted them and soon realized that they were our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

We chatted for a while and asked if the married couples had children. The couple standing closest to us said they didn't, but had been trying. You all know what happened next. We had a prayer meeting right in the parking lot at Sprague Lake! We prayed for this couple to conceive and the entire group prayed for God's rich blessings to rest upon us. There was such an explosion of joy that flooded over all of us because we had found family.

I think sometimes churches lose sight of the fact that we need to care for each other as family members. This can happen for many reasons, one of which is that this is not emphasized enough. Every church has an agenda, but too often it does not include the care of those in the body. I cannot think of anything more important than the well-being of my earthly family. How then can we ignore the well-being of our heavenly family?

**1 John 3:18 AMP**

18 Little children (believers, dear ones), let us not love [merely in theory] with word or with tongue [giving lip service to compassion], but in action and in truth [in practice and in sincerity, because practical acts of love are more than words].

Another reason we fail to show deep love and care is that in a family we see each other up close and in our everyday clothes. Did my siblings and I always agree and get along perfectly? Of course, we did. (Just kidding!) Like all children, we had many squabbles, but when we grew up we learned to love and care for each other in spite of seeing things we didn't like. This is how adults are supposed to act; like adults and not like children.

Unfortunately, many times this does not happen. I remember Helen. To put it mildly, Helen was eccentric. Her voice was piercing and she was not the kind to blend in with the crowd. During our worship and praise time, she would be upfront with her tambourine praising her God with her whole heart. **She openly confessed that she had never found a church that would accept her.** I am so proud of the fact that Rez. not only accepted her but also learned to love her deeply. She was a treasure!

Another example of churches not loving as they should would be when someone falls into sin. This is especially true when leadership has a moral failure. As pastors, we disliked having to deal with this, but when it happened we knew God wanted us to always walk in love, and also knew what that love looked like.

**Galatians 6:1-2 Holman Christian Standard Bible**

1 Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you also won't be tempted.

2 Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Although this was difficult, I cannot tell you how much joy we experienced when we were able to restore back into ministry, those who truly repented. Some refused to repent and there was nothing anyone could do for them, but others were salvaged. When faced with this situation the challenge we always accepted was that this would be an indicator of just how spiritual we were.

I could go on and on showing all the ways God wants us as believers to respond to the failures of others in our spiritual family, but perhaps this can be summed up in one sentence. When we encounter a person who has said or done something we consider offensive, we have two choices; we can react according to our flesh, or according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

One will produce broken relationships and the other will produce life and joy. One will come naturally and easily while the other will take prayer, dedication, and commitment. One will produce good fruit and the other will produce evil fruit. My prayer is that each of us will accept the challenge of walking according to the Spirit and not the flesh.

**Colossians 3:12-14 Amplified Bible**

12 So, as God's own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself], put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper];

13 bearing graciously with one another, and willingly forgiving each other if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so should you forgive.

14 Beyond all these things put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love, which is the perfect bond of unity [for everything is bound together in agreement when each one seeks the best for others].

## "A Warning From The Lord"

### Joel 2:28 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

28 And afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, **your old men shall dream dreams**, your young men shall see visions.

When I was young God gave me two open visions. These were not something I saw in my mind or imagined, rather they were things I literally saw with my physical eyes. Both impacted my life in ways I will never be able to communicate. However, as I have grown older Joel 2:28 has not been a part of my life. I dream every night, but I assure you, my dreams are not spiritual dreams from God! I have always desired to experience everything God has promised, and that includes, "**Your old men shall dream dreams**" so, around the first of the year I asked the Lord to allow Joel 2:28 to be fulfilled in my life.

**(Be careful what you ask for.)**

On January 22 I had a dream that I know was supernatural, and that God gave it to me to share with the body of Christ. As with all supernatural dreams, it is as clear and vivid in my mind today as it was when I first awakened. I pray God's people will heed the warning it contains.

### THE DREAM

In my dream, I was hiking in the high country. The mountain was extremely steep but the trail was quite gentle because, like most mountain trails, instead of going straight up toward the summit it traversed along the face of the mountain. It was a beautiful day and I was thrilled to be able to enjoy it. As I continued on the trail I came to an area

where there had been a rockslide. The trail was now covered with rock and I had a decision to make; should I continue through the rockslide or should I turn around and go back?

I had a considerable amount of concern because I could not see beyond the rockslide and I had no idea what I would encounter if I continued. In spite of this, I decided to carefully pick my way through the shale slabs that now obscured the trail. It was very treacherous but I seemed to be making good progress. Suddenly the rocks behind me started to slide down the steep side of the mountain and even worse, the unstable rock slide was moving nearer to where I stood.

Caution was now abandoned and I began running as fast as I could trying to escape what certainly would end my life. My only chance to escape would be if I could somehow get beyond the rockslide. As I looked ahead I spotted a small flat area that appeared stable and just beyond the rockslide. If I could reach it I felt I would be safe. I ran as fast as I could and at the last second jumped onto the flat rock.

To my horror, it was right on the edge of a sheer cliff that dropped thousands of feet straight down. Behind me, the mountain was sliding away and in front of me was a cliff. I was trapped with no way of escape. For a brief moment, I was thankful for the small flat solid area I had found, but then it too began to shake and break away from the mountain. There was no longer anywhere else I could go and in the next instant, I was hurled into the chasm below. As I was falling to my death I woke up, violently shaking with fear.

**Like I said, "Be careful what you ask for."**

Continued next page

## "A Warning From The Lord" Continued from page 6

When a dream is sent from God, He also gives you the interpretation and so it was with this dream. God began to show me that in spite of all we have experienced in the last two years, life is still very good for most of us. Yes, we may complain about having to wear a mask, government mandates, and being deprived of medications we need, but come on folks, is life really that bad? I don't think so. We are blest and we need to recognize that.

But, these are troubled times, and up ahead we are going to encounter things we can't even imagine. Everything that can be shaken will be, and no matter how carefully we try to navigate through it, eventually, things we trusted and felt were strong, secure, and safe are going to begin falling away.

In my dream I thought I had found a safe place, but what I put my trust in betrayed me and led to my death. I ask you, are you standing on something that is strong and sure and will remain even after everything has been shaken? The only thing I know of that is that strong is Jesus. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand. Everything we see today will vanish and pass away, but His Kingdom will be established forever.

### **Hebrews 12:28 Revised Standard Version**

28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe...

I searched the internet for a photo that would communicate what I saw in my dream, and this one came the closest because it

shows the rockslides and the cliffs. Maybe the guy in the photo feels safe, but let the entire mountain begin to shake and I assure you, he will change his mind in a hurry. Trust me, when God begins to shake this earth you will want to be standing on something that cannot be shaken!



**LORD, YOU ARE MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION**

**AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH!**