

JUNE 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 want to encourage all our subscribers to check out this month's "Subscribers Gallery." This month, we feature the Great Blue Herron. These birds are not easy to photograph because they do not like humans getting too close. Also, they are blah and not very photogenic.

However, Miss Linda broke the rules this month. I had just gotten out of the hospital and was not up to chasing birds, but I felt that because Miss Linda had stayed right by my side during my illness, she deserved an opportunity to go bird hunting while I sat in the car and slept.

Three hours later, she woke me up and told me she felt she had gotten some good photos. That was an understatement; they were amazing photos! Some of them, I dare say, could rival National Geographic's quality.

If you want to see all of them, you must subscribe. It is free and easy. Do it today!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "The Fountain of Youth"

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!

There is an elderly lady Miss Linda and I try to visit at least once a month. For her age, she is in reasonably good health, and still sharp as a tack mentally. One day I said to her, "You are sure **looking good**", and with no hesitation she replied, "I hear that all the time. I just wish someone would tell me I'm **good looking**."

😂 It took me five minutes to stop laughing. 😂

Ever since that day I have been thinking about the fact that some people seem to age better than others. We have all seen people in their 60's that look 80, and others who are 80, but look 60. I know there can be many factors that contribute to this such as genes, how much time someone has spent in the sun, health issues etc. But, could there be something else that might enter in? I believe there is, and I would like to use my own life as an example of what that might be.

Both my wife and I have been blessed with long life. This month I turn 81 and in December Miss Linda turns 80. I cannot begin to tell you how many times people have expressed shock when we told them our age. I know we don't look like kids, but we most certainly don't look like 80 year olds either. God has been so good to us!

So, what is our secret? Are there things we have done that have helped us keep a younger appearance? I believe there are. We have always tried to stay out of the sun, and at the same time have tried to stay as active as possible, still taking hikes of two to four miles on cloudy days. But there is another major issue we believe has helped us stay young.

We have refused to live with bitterness and unforgiveness, because we are convinced they are killers. People may not know this, but the life of a pastor is not easy. Many times God's children do not act like God's children should. I could give many illustrations, but it would not be edifying so I will suffice to say that there have been many times we just needed to forgive and move on. Enough said!

We did this for our own welfare because we saw this truth in God's Word.

Ephesians 4:31 ISV

31 Let all **bitterness**, wrath, anger, quarreling, and slander be put away from you, along with all hatred.

The word, "**bitterness**" literally means, "poison", and if you trace the origins of the Greek word you find it is also pictured as a tent peg being driven in. I don't see how those two are connected, but this I know, either one will hurt you and make you look old beyond your years. I also know this, forgiveness is a choice we make, and nothing or no one, can stop us from making it. The moment we forgive, the person who has wronged us is now rendered incapable of continuing to hurt us.

Game over!

This brings us to one last question that needs to be answered. How do you know if you have truly forgiven? This has often been debated, but unnecessarily so because the answer is given in the next verse, and it is simple.

Ephesians 4:32 ISV

32 And be kind to one another, **compassionate**, forgiving one another just as God has forgiven you in the Messiah.

When you think of the person who has wronged you, do you feel compassion for them? You may label that as "Mission Impossible", but I assure you, it isn't. Consider this, every day they have to live with what they have done. They have to carry it like a heavy stone strapped to their neck, and if that isn't enough, someday they will stand before God and all the hidden things will be revealed. There will be no covering it up, no lies, and no twisting of the truth. The thought of these realities cause me to have great compassion for them, and with that compassion comes my freedom.



I have found the Fountain of Youth!

