

Valiant for Truth #5: Truth Comes by the Holy Spirit

Jer. 9:3 – “And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not **valiant for the truth** upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.”

We can't expect to be called valiant for the truth, if we are not so in fact. **How can we be valiant for truth?**

In previous lessons we saw Christ as the Word (the eternal Logos), as Creator, as Life, as the True Light, and Truth.

Truth comes by the Holy Spirit

The truth of Christ is not something we can gain with unaided reason. We have to be new creatures in Christ (born again), and be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Jn. 14:16-17 – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth ...”

Jn. 16:13 – “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

It is apparent that we cannot be valiant for the truth if we are not being led by the Spirit.

We will see more about some of these later, but the Holy Spirit brings us to truth in many ways:

1. He reveals Christ to us, who is the truth.

Jn. 15:26 – “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.”

2. He allows us to see our true standing before God

- a. At conversion, in conviction for sins and repentance unto life.

He allows us to see God's holiness and justice, and our own filthy guilt. But he also reveals Christ to us, the forgiveness of sins and the gift of spiritual life.

Ac. 1:8 – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” The Holy Spirit gives power and effectiveness to our witness.

Ac. 16:14 – “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.” Also Jn. 6:44 – “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him” – and he uses his Spirit to do the drawing.

It is the Holy Spirit who influences us to believe the gospel message when we hear it, who

- convicts us of sin (Ac. 2:37)
- gives us the gift of repentance (Ac. 11:18)
- and then the new birth (Jn. 3:5)

- b. Then, in giving us confidence in prayer and enjoyment of God's presence in our lives

Rom. 8:15 – “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” We see ourselves no longer as enemies of God, standing in awesome fear of his holy judgment, but as beloved sons, cleansed and redeemed by the power of Jesus' blood.

1 Jn. 3:1-2 – “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

1 Cor. 2:9-12 – “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”

3. Doctrinal truth

Jn. 16:13 – “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth...”

The truth is plainly recorded in the Word (the Bible), but when we receive the Holy Spirit, it is as a veil that is taken away, allowing us to understand what was previously dark and incomprehensible. As we continue to read and study the Word, and put it into effect in our lives, he reveals more and more. We learn the truth, and “unlearn” the lies that we were laboring under before coming to Christ.

2 Cor. 3:14-18 – “But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

There is also a very individual dealing of the Holy Spirit in us, to reveal truth to us.

1 Jn. 2:27 – “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”

4. Truth in interpersonal relationships (honesty, truthfulness, integrity)

If God is a God of truth, if Jesus has redeemed us and forgiven us, if the very Spirit of truth abides in us, how can we lie, perjure, cheat, or deceive others? “Ye know not what Spirit ye are of”. Liars do not know God, and will ultimately have their part in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8).

Zech. 8:16-17 – “These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.”

Eph.4:25 – “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.”

Col. 3:9 – “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;”

5. Personal guidance into his will

We believe that God is in providential control of all things, and we pray often that he would guide us, and show us the way we should go. He does do this, by his Holy Spirit.

Prov. 3:5-6 – “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding, In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Ps. 37:5 – “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him: and he shall bring it to pass.”

An example of this is in Ac. 16:6-11, where Paul intended to go into Bithynia, “but the Spirit suffered them not”. By a subsequent night vision, God sent him instead into Macedonia.

6. Personal warnings (don’t take this job, don’t marry this person, don’t go this way, watch out for this person, beware this business deal, etc.)

This kind of leading is often pretty subjective, and can occur by circumstances, feelings, promptings, etc. Such leadings may have no basis in scripture, but will obviously never be in contradiction to the Word. For example, there is no specific scripture that says to take this job and not that one, but God will not lead you to a job that dishonors him.