

- Systemic Teaching about Christian Life -

Walking in Truth

Series:
Walking in
Newness of Life

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General Considerations about Using This Material:

The subject presented in this material aims to provide support to knowledge and an in-depth study of the Bible and the Christian life.

Based on the understanding that in the Christian Bible is contained the consolidation of fundamental and formal records of the writings inspired by God for humanity and each person of it, the contents exposed in this material are not intended to add, ever, anything to the Bible, nor ever remove anything from it. The aim through this subject is to contribute to the exploration of what already was registered and passed on to us over thousands of years of history by the One Creator and Lord of Heaven and Earth.

The contents presented on the next pages, of course, intend to address just a portion of the essential themes of life displayed with such great amplitude in the Bible. On the other hand, however, this subject is presented in a grouped, colligated, organized and systematized manner with the objective to serve as an aid to knowledge and understanding of the Christian life without losing sight of the main aspects of it.

Ecclesiastes 12: 11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.

Related words put together, as told in the biblical text above, serve as goads and nails for fixing supports and help for the life of people that hear and receive them. Therefore, one objective of this material is to study and seek a broader understanding of the truths handed down to us by the Unique Pastor and God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

We would still like to suggest that the reading and studying of this material also should always be accompanied by prudence and proper investigation, believing that this is a very healthy habit to be practiced toward any material presented to a person.

The act of acceptance, rejection, or “retaining what is good,” is a personal and individual attribute given to those who receive the wisdom from God and which should be exercised or used by them toward all that comes into their hands.

Proverbs 8: 12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.

Acts 17: 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Proverbs 16: 1 The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits.

3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.

More details about these initial considerations are posted at www.zoominchristianlife.org.

Ronald Gortz and Irmelin Gortz, servants of the Lord Jesus Christ!

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*Revelation 21: 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."
6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

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*1Timothy 2: 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

More details about these initial considerations are posted at www.zoominchristianlife.org.

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C1. Walking in Conformity with the Condition that Generated Newness of Life for a Christian

The theme Walking in Truth is a continuation of the Walking in Newness of Life series and is preceded by a sequence of subjects in which various aspects are addressed that are related to the proper support for a Christian to be able to walk effectively in the new life that is granted to him or her as a new creature in Christ Jesus, just as in them were also addressed several practical aspects to which a Christian is called to pay attention in terms of walking in the Lord.

And although the themes mentioned in the previous paragraph already contain a large number of aspects that exemplify and demonstrate that Christians, as a result of living in fellowship with Christ, are also called to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus in the most diverse aspects of their lives in the present world, we understand that the specific point about Christians being called to “walk in the truth” reiterates the vocation of God for them mentioned above still in another particular or very peculiar way.

God's calling for every Christian to “walk in the truth,” in turn, is also worthy of special mention, among many other aspects, because just as God's righteousness and grace permeate all aspects of God's will and actions, even being inseparable aspects of the generation of a person as a new creature in Christ Jesus, so it is with the truth. And this is so because the truth is also inseparable from the Lord, His will, His actions, the constitution of a person as a Christian, and God's calling for each Christian.

God's calling for Christians to “walk in the truth,” as well as to walk in God's grace and righteousness, is a calling for them to walk in conformity with the attributes of God by which they could receive the condition of saved, redeemed, or new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a calling for the children of God to walk according to the attributes of God that originated their condition as Christians or belonging to the Heavenly Father's family.

Thus, each Christian is called to walk in the grace of the Lord, the righteousness of God, and the truth first because each one of them is also the fruit of each one of the attributes of God in reference, which, in turn, are the fruit of the light of the Lord, as the following texts show us:

Ephesians 5: 8 ***For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light***
9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),
10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Ephesians 4: 23 ***And be renewed in the spirit of your mind,***
24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

*James 1: 18 **Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.***

In still other words, a Christian is called to “walk in the truth” because one was begotten or made alive in Christ through the truth itself precisely to also live and walk in the truth.

Given this, **the fact that God highlights that Christians were begotten by the truth to “walk in the truth” is of vital importance, for in this way, He instructs Christians that they, from the moment of their conception as new creatures, already have in their hearts the requirements for also to be able to “walk in the truth.”** And for this, they no longer need to be subject to a life contrary to the truth and in which they were imprisoned before knowing Christ Jesus as the Lord of their lives.

If, on the one hand, God's calling for a Christian to “walk in the truth” is related to the benefits that this brings to the person who walks in the truth and to the purpose for which a person is redeemed in the Lord, on the other hand, knowing that a Christian is called to walk in the truth because one is the fruit of it also comes to clarify what is given to an individual in the Lord from the beginning of one's Christian life so that one can also be amply supported to advance in what one is called to walk.

By evidencing that a Christian, already in one's new birth, was begotten by the righteousness of God and by the truth, God also shows that He does not require a Christian to accomplish something for which this Christian was not begotten. That is, God only calls Christians for them to walk in what is part of the characteristic of the new creature that they became in Christ Jesus.

God does not call a Christian to walk in the light without first offering him or her the light and the condition to walk in the light. A principle that similarly also applies to the calling to “walk in truth.”

Light and truth go together. And those who present propositions that want to dissociate these two fundamental aspects of the true Christian life propose deception.

*1 John 1: 6 **If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.***

*John 3: 21 **"But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."***

Therefore, **God calls His children to walk in the light because they were begotten of light or made children of light before they can walk in the light, just as God also calls His children to “walk in the truth” because they have already been begotten according to the truth and according to heavenly righteousness.**

Just as God works according to righteousness and truth in everything because these characteristics are inherent to His “Being,” so the Lord first grants the attribute of truth and righteousness to Christians so that they too may live and walk in the condition of these new attributes which they received from God by receiving Christ Jesus as Lord.

*John 14: 6 **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."***

*Psalms 89: 14 **Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.***

*Psalms 45: 4 **And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.***

*John 1: 16 **And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.**
17 **For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

*2 John 1: 2 **Because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:**
3 **Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.***

C2. Differentiating Truth and Sincerity

Before going a little further in the specific approaches related to the theme “Walking in the Truth,” we understand that it is very significant to previously make some considerations and distinctions about the terms *truth* and *sincerity* used in the Scriptures.

Paul, called to be an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, by instructing that the fellowship that Christians are called to practice among themselves should be without the old leaven, the leaven of the First Covenant, the Pharisees, or hypocrisy, and without the leaven of wickedness and malice, also instructs Christians that this same fellowship should always be carried out having both sincerity and truth as indispensable references, according to the following text:

1 Corinthians 5: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The fact that Paul mentions sincerity and truth as two aspects of the figure of the same example of “unleavened bread” shows that these two elements, sincerity and truth, are distinct, but that also, at the same time, need to be united like a single dough for the desired fellowship.

Considering that bread, after being constituted and baked, becomes a single product that brings together all the elements that were added to it in the composition of the dough, Paul instructs Christians regarding what should not be part of the aspects of fellowship among them, but he also teaches what should not be lacking in this fellowship. And for this reason, Paul points out that both sincerity and truth should always be part of the essential elements for the mentioned purpose.

In this way, to understand more fully the reason why it is so essential to combine sincerity and truth in the conduct of Christians, it also becomes necessary to know the distinction between these two aspects and the contribution that each one of them makes to the lives of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Starting with the aspect of *sincerity*, we can see that, according to the Luft dictionary and several others, one of the definitions for someone to be considered as being “sincere” refers to a person being an individual “*who does not lie when one says what one thinks or feels,*” as well as also referring to a person being a “*true or authentic*” individual.

Nevertheless, the definition mentioned in the previous paragraph, in a part of its expression, may be very far from what is sincerity or someone being sincere, primarily when referring to the aspect of someone being truthful.

A child, for example, can be “extremely sincere” when telling his or her mother something, but also, at the same time, be utterly wrong about the concept of what this child tells his or her mother. A child can find oneself in a condition in which, at the same time, one is not lying, in the sense of not “falsifying” words to omit what one indeed thinks, but also not being truthful, in the sense that one is not telling facts that are actually true.

As another example, when many people in the Middle Ages thought that the Earth was rectangular or flat rather than round or like a sphere, they could truthfully state what they believed but still not be telling the truth. They could sincerely state their wrong belief.

Compared to being truthful, in the sense of speaking the truth, sincerity seems, then, to be more associated with the aspect of the sincere individual acting coherently between what one believes and what one says or expresses in some way.

A sincere person may say something true with sincerity, but one may also be subject to incurring in saying something with sincerity being mistaken about the veracity of a fact.

Thus, **sincerity is more related to an individual not intentionally distorting facts, while truth is related to accuracy regarding how the addressed facts really are.**

For this reason, an insincere person may even speak the truth on certain occasions. One can report a true fact but with a veiled and obscure intention.

Repeating, then, once again, there are people who know some truths and are not sincere or true regarding the truths they know. And there are people who are sincere in their expositions but may be grounded in aspects that are not true.

On the other hand, as a second point mentioned above, we understand that the *truth*, in turn, is greater and more substantial than what a person thinks, speaks, or announces in some way.

Given this, a person's sincerity cannot turn a lie into truth, just as one's lack of sincerity cannot turn a truth into a lie.

Truth operates in the sphere of how facts really are, whether or not people reproduce them correctly, or whether or not they act sincerely.

Returning to the fact that the Earth is round, spherical, or geoid-shaped, we can see that the historical incident of people sincerely believing that it was flat never altered the actual shape of the terrestrial globe.

Therefore, **God desires that every human being reaches the knowledge of the truth and that one also comes to live and walk in sincerity regarding the knowledge of the truth that one comes to know, but also knowing that it is not only or necessarily the sincerity that truly sets a person free, but the knowledge of the truth and primarily the very truth, as presented in the following texts:**

1 Timothy 2: 3 ***For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,***
4 ***who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

John 8: 31 ***Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.***
32 ***And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."***

Observing the Scriptures, we can see that the Lord Jesus expects every Christian to live and relate to other fellow believers with sincerity or without false attitudes, but having also or primarily the truth as a common foundation among them.

Although sincerity is of great or even immeasurable value and esteem, seeking to know the truth goes far beyond simply aiming to be sincere.

Furthermore, looking at the last texts mentioned above, we can see that **only God knows indeed the truth, and it is only “together with God” or through fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the expression of the truth, that a Christian can obtain the knowledge of the liberating truth.**

In the last text of the book of John that we saw above, we can observe that **the order for someone to be freed by the truth is a person then:**

- ⇒ 1) **To come to know the truth by exposing oneself to the One who is the Truth;**
- ⇒ 2) **To remain in the teaching, instruction, or the word of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Also in the last text of the Book of 1 Timothy quoted above, we can note that God wants all people to be first saved in Christ Jesus so that, after being saved, they may come to know the truth more profoundly, adding further that Christ is the only true Mediator between God and human beings so that they may indeed come to know the truth about eternal life, as further described below:

*1 Timothy 2: 5 **For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,**
6 **who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.***

In this way, however sincere a person may be in thinking, for instance, that one can offer oneself to others to be a mediator between God and one's fellow men, one's intention goes against the truth established by God that this mediation is exclusively pertinent to Christ Jesus.

On the other hand, in the world, there are also many people who offer themselves to mediate others knowing that they should not do it. In the latter case, these people no longer lack knowledge of the truth, but sincerity, deliberately adopting a position favorable to the propagation of lies and deceitfulness.

In yet another text in the Book of Hebrews, we also find a description calling Christians to a true heart similarly as a consequence of knowing the truth, expressed as having a heart cleansed from an evil conscience, as follows:

*Hebrews 10: 19 **Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,**
20 **by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,***

*21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,
 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,
 having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies
 washed with pure water.
 23 **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for
 He who promised is faithful.***

In the text above, the word *conscience* is related to the convictions that a person has in one's heart, mind, or understanding, which each individual may have purified by contact with the truth made known to him or her through the Lord Jesus Christ, thus being able to come to exercise faith in God based on truth together with sincerity.

We also recall here that a broad exposition on the purification of the conscience of a Christian according to the truth and according to the will of God, as well as on the aspect of how the Lord accomplishes it, is addressed in the theme The Gospel of the Glory of God and the Glory of Christ, the glory by which a Christian can have the eyes of one's understanding enlightened according to the truth revealed by the Lord.

Therefore, walking in the truth is not a Christian walking in what the Christian oneself thinks is true. And speaking the truth is not limited to the Christian saying sincerely what one supposes to be true.

Or still, **it is not sincerity in error that makes a Christian walk in truth, but allowing oneself to be led by the Spirit of God that leads him or her into all truth.**

To walk in truth is to walk in what indeed is true. And to speak the truth is to say what the Lord declares to be the truth.

In other words, every Christian is called to walk with sincerity, but based on the truth that God offers him or her to be known. And when a Christian doesn't know the truth about something, one does not need to dissimulate or say that one knows what one does not know indeed. When a Christian sincerely does not know the truth regarding something one needs to make a decision about or talk about, one is called to look to the Lord for instruction to come to know the truth in every aspect one needs for one's life.

Several people rely on their sincerity to the point of thinking that it is their sincerity that will justify them before God, and so they even fail to review what they know and fail to grow in the truth that they should know, making their own sincerity even as an idol in their lives. However, an individual understanding that what justifies him or her before God for life in the Lord is the truth and not his own beliefs is crucial to depart from deception, for no one is justified by one's own works, but by faith in the justifying work of Christ Jesus on the cross of Calvary, by faith in the resurrection granted to Christ by the Heavenly Father, and by receiving the salvation offered by God to all human beings through His eternal grace.

For some other people, sincerity can become an excuse or a supposed argument in their favor precisely so they do not need to seek the truth, as if the fact of being sincere with others, but based on lies and deceit, would be of benefit for them or others.

God surely takes into account the time when a person did not have access to the possibility of knowing more closely the truth about heavenly salvation and life in the

Lord, and, as a consequence, also being deprived of the possibility of more profound knowledge of the truth that is in Christ Jesus, for God is righteous and merciful in all things. However, this does not mean that a person should or could rest easy on the idea that one's sincerity could serve as an excuse for not seeking the Lord to know the truth.

So, although sincerity is essential to establishing trusting relationships with other Christians, it is only the truth that can give them a firm foundation, for what is not founded in truth will not persist through time or for eternity.

*Psalms 119: 160 **The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.***

*Psalms 40: 11 **Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.***

C3. The Love of the Truth

In the second part of Paul's letter to the Christians in Thessalonica, a crucial aspect of people's relationship with the truth of God is narrated, as we can see below:

*2 Thessalonians 2: 9 **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**
 10 **and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**
 11 **And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,**
 12 **that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

In the text described above, there are many aspects to be observed. However, in this theme, we want to focus more specifically on the expression of **the love of the truth** and the results that can come to those who receive it or those who despise it.

Initially, we would like to mention here that in a given process, a person may not know the truth about a specific fact, but even so, one may have the **love of the truth** to, through it, be guarded even regarding facts that one may not know more deeply.

The **love of the truth** can be present and broadly active in a person even if one does not yet know the truth about something specific regarding which one needs to be instructed or protected.

A person does not need to know everything about life to “walk in the truth,” not to be deceived, or not to walk in error. However, what one needs to have continually in one's life is the **love of the truth.**

So, what, then, is this **love of the truth** for a Christian to also be able to “walk in the truth”?

And to answer this last question, we would like to refer to what was commented on this same aspect in the theme Conscious of the Context of Life and Destination of the New Creature, more specifically in the chapter Conscious of the Need to Be Established in the Conviction of Truth and Not of Illusions, of which we remember the following part:

Every Christian is “called” to carry “the love of the truth” in one's heart and never abstain from it, recognizing that this “love of the truth” is powerful to reveal both good and evil. Remembering here that the presence of Christ in the heart of a Christian is the presence of the “love of the truth” in this Christian, for Christ is the supreme expression of the Heavenly Father's love and the supreme expression of God's light and truth.

John 3: 16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

*John 14: 6 **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.***

Thus, when a person has in one's heart the *love of the truth* or the *Lord Christ Jesus*, the One who is the expression of the truth and the love of God, and one gives credit to or believes in the instruction granted by the Lord, one is already in the condition in which one no longer needs to be subject to the deceitfulness of darkness and to walk according to what they propose, for as truth and light are also inseparable, as already seen in previous chapters, whoever has the *love of the truth* also has Him who is the light of one's life.

*John 8: 12 **Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."***

When a person accepts the *love of the truth*, offered to him or her by the grace of God, this same *love of the truth* cooperates with him or her so that one can become strengthened in the truth, helping him or her even to move away from aspects that contradict the truth and in which this person believed before the knowledge of the truth taught to him or her by the Lord.

On the other hand, if a person does not have the *love of the truth*, does not believe in it, or does not give credit to it, one is subject to continue making choices of paths and actions according to one's limited understanding, the interests of other people, or according to the darkness, which may be highly contrary to the truth itself and very harmful to those who follow them.

In addition, on several occasions, knowing the truth may be initially very uncomfortable and may confront a person's comfort zone with situations that have been established for a long time in one's life and surroundings. However, the individual who has the *love of the truth* and cherishes it places the truth and obedience to it above the situations around him or her and is willing to have one's life changed to become aligned with the truth one comes to know and with the true freedom that accompanies the knowledge of the truth.

And also about this last aspect of the relationship with the truth, even though the truth may cause initial discomfort for the one who chooses to walk in the truth, we would like to recall again an excerpt from the same chapter of the theme Conscious of the Context of Life and Destination of the New Creature already referenced above, as follows:

Still regarding being subject to a life contrary to the love of the truth, we understand that it is also worth noting at this point that many people who hide behind imaginary worlds do so because they still do not know God and His light. Others, however, do so because they prefer their "own worlds," because they think that they will be able to continue doing what they love to practice in them forever, disregarding, in their conscience or convictions, that the paths they are choosing are paths that lead them to sad harvests according to their choices for darkness.

John 3: 19 **"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

20 **For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.**

21 **But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."**

For this reason, the reality described in the Scriptures is that the individual who chooses a world according to darkness, according to lies, according to fables and illusions, however attractive they may seem, also chooses a path of much pain, deceit, and unrighteousness that presents itself in the lives of those who hate the light, for it is only through "the love of the truth" that a person is sustained against the illusions that are in the world.

2 Thessalonians 2: 9 **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**
10 **and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

So, on the one hand, however much the "love of the truth" may in some situations bring afflictions and momentary sorrow to a person because of what is made known by the truth, the action of abstaining from this love, passively or actively, certainly does not contribute against the illusions in the world.

On the other hand, as much as separating oneself and keeping oneself separated from illusions, lies, falsehoods, and evil may generate opposition and afflictions in some specific situations for those who choose to remain in the "love of the truth," there is true and eternal deliverance only in truth itself, which, in turn, is secured by Christ for all those who believe in Him.

John 16: 33 **"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

John 8: 31 **Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**
32 **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

...
36 **Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."**

2 Corinthians 13: 8 **For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.**

Concluding, then, we highlight the fact that **a person who experiences the new birth in Christ and becomes a new creature is "called" by God to be continually conscious that one needs "not to conform to the world in which one lives," always preferring to seek true counsel in Christ so that one's conscience or**

convictions also are continually according to God and not according to the world.

Therefore, having the understanding illuminated with the truth can be very challenging in situations that have already been strongly accommodated for a long time. However, as much as this is challenging, a person needs the truth in order not to remain in ignorance or deceit regarding what is fundamental to one's life.

If a person thinks that it is best not to know the truth under the idea that supposedly one will not be charged because of not knowing the truth, one demonstrates that one does not have the ***love of the truth*** indeed or that if one has received it, one is stifling, resisting, or rejecting it.

Seen from another angle, the person who wants to remain in ignorance shows more love for ignorance itself than for truth. And the love of ignorance is also an escape from the truth and the challenges of life that knowledge of truth and light makes evident.

In the love of God, which is poured out in the hearts of all those who receive Christ as Lord, the ***“love of the truth”*** is also inserted. And as the Lord is the truth, rejecting the truth is rejecting God, just as wanting to remain in ignorance is despising God and the wisdom that is found in Him and that He wants to grant to those who believe in Him.

Considering, then, that the Lord's Scriptures are full of instructions that urge the search for God's wisdom and truth, there is no room in them for a person to think that the voluntary option to remain in ignorance about the fundamental aspects of life can somehow be beneficial to one's life.

Proverbs 8: 14 ***Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength.***

Proverbs 16: 6 ***In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.***

Proverbs 8: 5 ***O you simple ones, understand prudence, And you fools, be of an understanding heart.***
6 Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things;
7 For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
8 All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them.
9 They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge.
10 Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold;
11 For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.
12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion."

Psalms 145: 18 **The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.**

Proverbs 23: 23 **Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.**

What we are trying to highlight, then, in the last paragraphs, aims to accentuate the other crucial point mentioned regarding the **love of the truth** in the text quoted in the introduction to this chapter, which refers to **giving credit to the truth** or **believing in the truth**.

When a person does not receive the **love of the truth**, one also automatically does not **believe the truth** or does not **give credit to it**, for by rejecting Christ, the One who is the expression of what is true according to the will of the Heavenly Father, one also rejects the truth.

Nevertheless, **every Christian also needs to be attentive to continually giving credit to the truth** so as not to find oneself in a condition of rejecting the truth and, consequently, one's Lord, for if one does not **believe the truth**, a Christian may also be subject to falling into deceitfulness, error, and unrighteousness not because the Lord has not made the truth available to him or her, but because the Christian does not receive it with the attention and appreciation that are due to the truth.

The rejection of the **love of the truth** or the posture of despising the truth, because one does not **believe it** or does not **give credit to it**, results in a situation where people who do so place themselves in positions in which they give credit to the wildest lusts, lies, and injustices, which, in turn, become instruments or wiles for the work of Satan in their lives and through them, for it is according to the lie and deceit that he works.

Let us see below two more texts that exemplify the terrible path that is the posture of not **believing in** Christ and in His wholesome and true words or in His words of truth:

1 Timothy 6: 3 **If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,**
4 **he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,**
5 **useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.**
From such withdraw yourself.

2 Peter 2: 1 **But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in**

- destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.***
- 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.***
- 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.***
-

Thus, while God works through the Spirit of Truth, the devil works through the spirit of error, deceit, or lies. However, because of the ***love of the truth*** and by ***giving credit to the truth, receiving the truth***, or ***believing the truth*** given by God in love to those who receive it, a person can choose in favor of the truth to no longer walk in subjection to the powers of darkness.

- 1 John 4: 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.***
- 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.***
- 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.***
-

The result of accepting, receiving, or welcoming the *love of the truth* is the encounter with God's righteousness, while the result of rejecting the *love of the truth* is the path to encounter unrighteousness.

Just opening parenthesis at this point, because of the purpose of the present theme, we will not explain in it the meaning of the “righteousness of God” and the “unrighteousness that opposes God,” as this has already been done in the themes The Gospel of the Righteousness of God and The Gospel of the Glory of God and the Glory of Christ. However, we would only like to point out that unrighteousness also encompasses all aspects of religiosity that are opposed to exclusive salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ and heavenly grace.

In other words, if a person does not accept the ***love of the truth***, does not ***believe in the truth***, or does not ***give credit to the truth*** that God announces to him or her, one of the worst situations that may occur to him or her is to become subject to being deceived in order to come to believe in false ways of salvation, either on the side of the proposal of atheism, the supposed grace in which a person could give free space to the flesh without severe future consequences, or even of works and religions supposedly necessary for salvation but that cannot indeed save a person for eternal life in the Lord.

Because people do not accept the ***love of the truth*** or do not ***believe the truth*** that is in Christ Jesus and that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between God and human beings, they mistakenly believe that they can even create their own ways of living the Christian life. And by doing so, they subject themselves to the illusions that by making mere references to the name Christian or Christ, they will be saved even if

what they hear, follow, and pass on is according to deceitful thoughts, lies, and the most varied fables.

2 Timothy 4: 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

By teaching that those who follow Him will not walk in darkness, the Lord Jesus Christ was not teaching that people would not walk in darkness if they followed other people who they considered “enlightened” or if they followed other Christians. On the contrary, **to give credit to the truth** or the **love of the truth** is to believe and also abide in what He, the Christ, the Truth, said and not what other people perversely want to teach their fellow men.

Because of the attitude of distancing themselves from the **love of the truth** or from **believing in the truth**, repeatedly for generations, and very markedly in the present generation as well, even many Christians have relapsed into trying to divide the truth that cannot be divided, incurring in trying to replace Christ with that or those by which He can never be replaced. An aspect to which the Scriptures also warn Christians to be very attentive, as also exemplified below:

1 Corinthians 1: 11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you.

12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

1 Corinthians 3: 3 ...for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

Acts 20: 30 "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."

In this way, when people distance themselves from the **love of the truth**, no longer **believe in the truth**, or no longer **give due credit to the truth**, what follows is that they also begin to stumble in other aspects of life, including their attempts to establish what they think the Christian life is.

*Isaiah 59: 14 **Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off;
For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter.***

Christians receive the knowledge of the truth as God unveils the truth to them. However, as for *welcoming the love of the truth*, which is to believe in Christ Jesus in the heart to be instructed and guided by Him into all truth, every Christian can adopt a favorable position towards this aspect already from this moment, just as one can already turn to the Lord to be continually established by Him in this purpose.

When a Christian welcomes the *love of the truth* or *gives credit to the truth* that is revealed to him or her by the Lord, the Lord Himself guards or protects him or her from enemies and their attempts to introduce deceitfulness, as well as makes this Christian, in addition to coming to know the true heavenly kingdom and the true righteousness of God, also a cooperator of the heavenly kingdom and its righteousness.

*John 8: 12 **Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."***

*Psalms 91: 14 **"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.***
*15 **He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.***
*16 **With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."***

*Proverbs 12: 17 **He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.***

*Psalms 86: 11 **Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.***

Finally, in this chapter, and given the essential condition that the *love of the truth* and *believing in the truth* should have in every person's life, it is also possible to see, even more explicitly, why girding oneself with Christ as the Christian's truth is the first aspect described concerning putting on "the whole armor of God." A subject also addressed in the theme Conscious of the Context of Life and Destination of the New Creature, and about which we emphasize once again the text that follows below:

*Ephesians 6: 11 **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.***

- 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*
- 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*
- 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness.*
- 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*
- 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*
- 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

C4. God Is True in Everything and Takes Deep Pleasure in the Truth

In the first chapter of the present theme, we saw that a Christian is enabled to walk in the truth because one also was conceived through the truth and for the purpose of walking in the truth.

Nevertheless, in this new chapter and the ones to come, we would like to highlight further that every Christian can have peace in the Lord regarding the calling to walk in truth because God Himself is one's example and foundation of truth and appreciation for it.

God is true in all that He is, says, or does. Therefore, the Lord calls Christians to also walk in truth.

*Revelation 16: 7 **And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."***

*2 Samuel 7: 28 **"And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant."***

And, in turn, saying that someone is true in everything also implies saying that one has no part in lying, which is another way for someone to know about the glory of God, as follows:

*Numbers 23: 19 **"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"***

Titus 1: 1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

*2 in hope of eternal life which **God, who cannot lie**, promised before time began, ...*

The figure of unquestionable and unshakable truthfulness can be something very challenging for human beings to understand, but this is an inseparable characteristic of the One God Creator of Heaven and Earth and everything in them.

God is trustworthy in everything and speaks with righteousness and truth in everything because God is the truth and delights in it always and eternally in the depths of His Being.

*Psalms 51: 6 **Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.***

*Psalms 119: 160 **The entirety of Your word is truth (or your word is true from the beginning), And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.***

Thus, knowing that God is true in everything and that God Himself is the expression of truth exposes an even broader definition of what truth is, showing us that just as there is no corruption in God, so also truth does not contain in itself any corruption or distortion. That is, if something is manifested in a distorted way, what is presented is no longer the truth.

*1 John 2: 21 **I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.***

In this way, since God cannot lie or that no lie comes from God, accepting a lie is accepting something that is not according to God's will.

People can try to turn truths into lies, but what they present when they do so are lies even if they call them the truth, for the truth cannot be transformed into a lie, and the lie cannot be transformed into truth.

Therefore, a Christian being aware of the love that God has for the truth and that in God there is nothing that is not true is vital, as this can be of great benefit to the Christian when one is faced with challenging choices of paths and before challenging actions to take in these ways. In other words, in the Lord, the Christian has the example that if God is sovereign and righteous in everything by remaining in the truth, this Christian can also achieve complete victory by remaining in the Lord and the truth.

In other words, just as God has the truth as a virtue or foundation in everything He does, so the true God and the truth are an unshakable support for Christians who practice and trust in the truth.

Since God supports the universe with the truth, a Christian also has the support of God when one chooses to walk in the truth, even if, at certain times, girding themselves with the truth may seem a huge challenge in the eyes of the Christians.

And finally, in this chapter, as we have already mentioned in previous subjects, **God only calls Christians to walk according to something that He, God Himself, also has as the basis of His words and actions, always offering Himself as the very foundation and sustenance of every Christian and of everything in which a Christian is called to live and walk.**

*Isaiah 41: 13 **For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'***

C5. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Truth

When we start to see that God is the foundation of every Christian also regarding the calling to walk in the truth, something interesting to be observed in the Scriptures is that in them, we find even more texts relating the truth directly to Christ than to the Heavenly Father Himself.

And the fact that the Scriptures associate Christ so strongly with the truth is not a difficult point to grasp, for the Scriptures themselves inform us that the Heavenly Father is revealed to the world in His Beloved Son and to Christians according to the glory reflected in the face of Christ. A subject widely discussed in the theme The Gospel of the Glory of God and the Glory of Christ, and of which we recall some texts below:

John 12: 45 **"And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.**

John 14: 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

2 Corinthians 4: 6 **For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

In Christ Jesus, we can explicitly see that truth is much more than a concept or a set of concepts and information that are true or sincerely spoken. In Christ Jesus, truth is personified, as follows:

John 14: 6 **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**

Therefore, if no one comes to the Heavenly Father except through Christ Jesus and Christ Jesus is the truth, it also means that no one reaches the Heavenly Father except through the truth.

Thus, **Christ Jesus, as the truth, is the One who instructs people in the truth so that they can come to have a two-sided relationship with the Heavenly Father.**

Disassociated from the living relationship with Christ in the most diverse moments of life, people will inevitably lack the truth or the essential aspects of the truth, for since life is highly dynamic, there is no way for human beings to register the truth about all the facts of their lives or there is no way they can make endless manuals that will contain the instructions of the truth for the entire universe of details of what they should believe, what they should not believe, and what they should do in every moment of their lives.

In this way, **since the Lord Jesus Christ is the truth that can be accessed and known even in the midst of the dynamics of an individual's life, He is the source of wisdom and instruction in truth for all the needs that a Christian may have in one's life.**

Since Christ is the truth, there is no aspect of life for which Christ is not the source of truth.

That is, **even if people do not believe in Christ or do not recognize Him as the Eternal Lord, everything that is known in the world that is according to the truth is only known because the Heavenly Father allowed it to be known through the Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Colossians 2: 2 ... **that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,***
*3 **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.***

So, by fellowship with Christ, a Christian can have access to the inexhaustible source of truth to be instructed in the truth concerning the most diverse aspects that one may need.

*1 Corinthians 2: 15 **But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.***
*16 **For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.***

The Lord Jesus Christ is both the truth and true in everything. The Lord Jesus Christ is the truth, and in everything He does, He acts according to the truth and righteousness, as also attested in the following texts:

*Revelation 3: 7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things **says He who is holy, He who is true,** "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": ...*

*Revelation 3: 14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, "These things says the Amen, **the Faithful and True Witness,** the Beginning of the creation of God: ..."*

*Revelation 19: 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. **And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True,** and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*

Furthermore, **the Lord Jesus Christ was given to us by the Heavenly Father as the eternal truth to eternally reveal the truth and the love of the truth, including the truth that by the works of the law, such as the Law of Moses, no human being can achieve salvation, as follows:**

*John 1: 14 **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.***

...
17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

*Galatians 2: 16 ... **knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.***

Therefore, **every Christian who wants to know the glory of God and Christ should, then, likewise want to know the facet of the glory of the truth that is in Christ Jesus.**

Unfortunately, however, many people have longed to reach the grace and glory of God without also desiring the truth or without paying due attention to the fact that there is no way to separate one aspect from the other, thus despising the immutable fact that the grace and glory of the Lord always work in the company of the truth as we mentioned earlier.

Expressing the above point still under the angle of the anointing of God in the life of a Christian, we can notice that the Scriptures, also in this way, teach us that the grace of God and the glory of the Lord deposited in the heart of the Christian together with Christ Jesus or by the presence of the Spirit of the Lord in a person's life always act in line with the truth and never operates in falsehood, as can be seen below:

*1 John 2: 27 **But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.***

Also in all His ministry while He was in the flesh among human beings, the Lord Jesus Christ only acted on behalf of what is according to the truth and righteousness that come from the heavenly kingdom, which was recognized and witnessed by many, even by those who expressly opposed Him, as the following texts exemplify:

*Matthew 22: 16 **And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of***

God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men.

Psalms 45: 2 ***You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You forever.***

3 Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty.

4 And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.

5 Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; The peoples fall under You.

6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

Thus, either in the condition of Son of Man or in His position of King of kings and Lord of lords, announced by the Heavenly Father to the world when He raised Christ Jesus from the dead, the Lord and King Jesus Christ permanently or in everything acts according to the truth. An aspect that also gives Him full authority to call Christians to walk in Him continually, having Him as their truth, the love of the truth in them, and the support to walk in everything in the truth of the Lord.

C6. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth

In the previous chapters, we could see that the Scriptures present the Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as being true, but also as being the truth itself and the foundation of truth.

And since God is true, expressing truth also evidently and perfectly in Christ Jesus, this brings us to the point that the Holy Spirit likewise is the Spirit of Truth since also the Holy Spirit is the heavenly and perfect expression of the Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to those who receive Christ as Lord into their hearts.

Since the Holy Spirit, also being God, has the attributes or virtues of God, the Holy Spirit of God is also true and is the expression of truth in everything, as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and John attest in the following words:

*John 14: 17 "... **the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.**"*

*John 15: 26 "**But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.**"*

*John 16: 13 "**However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**"*

*1 John 5: 6 **This is He who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.***

Therefore, the recognition of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth is highly significant and necessary for every Christian, for as a child of God, a Christian can enjoy a life guided by the Holy Spirit in all aspects of one's life, which also implies that, by the Holy Spirit, a Christian will only be guided to the truth or in truth, and not to deceit or lies.

This last point means, then, that **being led by the Holy Spirit is synonymous with being guided into all truth.**

Furthermore, this means that **if a Christian is being guided to something that does not agree with the Lord's purpose and truth, it is because it is not the Spirit of God that is guiding this Christian to this aspect.**

Thus, since the work of the Holy Spirit towards Christians is inseparable from guiding them in the truth and from only announcing to them in truth what He received from the Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, also one of the central

characteristics of the children of God who want the presence of God in their hearts and want to be led by the Spirit of the Lord is that they aim at being guided in everything according to the truth of the Lord.

John 16: 13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

*John 14: 16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever;
17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

Romans 8: 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Whether on the heavenly throne, in the world in general, or in the heart of every Christian, the Lord in everything, through the Holy Spirit, works to cooperate with those who choose the love of the truth, believe the truth, or give credit to the truth that has been made known to them already from the heart and also witnessed by the Scriptures of the Lord.

In this way, in all that is necessary for a Christian to walk in the truth, God provides His children with the Holy Spirit so that they may be amply supported or strengthened in the truth.

Believing the truth and being sealed with the Spirit to be guided in the truth in all things are joint aspects of the same gracious salvation of God towards everyone who receives Christ Jesus as Lord in one's heart.

*Ephesians 1: 13 In Him (in Christ) you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,
16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:
17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,
18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ...*

C7. God's Desire Is That Everyone Comes to Know the Truth

*1 Timothy 2: 4 ... **who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

To assert that God's desire is for all to come to know the truth is something very profound and of strong impact on those who believe this statement, for it asserts that God does not desire that any person should be ignorant of the knowledge of the truth that is necessary for one's life in the present time and, mainly, for eternal life and the relationship with one's Eternal Creator.

Thus, throughout human history, the Lord has sent people to warn human beings of His desire for them to come to know Him and, consequently, also to come to know the truth, a point exemplified by two more texts below:

*Hosea 6: 3 **Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.***

*Titus 1: 1 **Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ...***

Nevertheless, it is probably through the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and His own words in prayer to the Heavenly Father that the greatest announcements of God's desire to see His children knowing and practicing the truth were made, just as it is also through Christ that all the provision for human beings to be able to return to the knowledge of the truth has been established and made accessible to those who desire and accept this will of God, according to the prayer of the Lord Jesus presented in the following verses:

*John 17: 17 **"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.***

...

*19 **And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.**"*

Therefore, Christ sanctified Himself (put Himself under a unique or separate condition) so that the work on the cross of Calvary could be carried out entirely for the provision of redemption for sinners, but also because of the need for people to come to know the truth to be able to live and walk in the will of the Heavenly Father who longs for them to know the truth that is in Him.

God's longing for people to know the truth was expressed in Christ Jesus to the point that the Lord gave Himself to the world so that everyone can have access or the way back to the truth available to them in God.

Because of God's love for each person, but also out of love for the truth and the fact that love does not rejoice in unrighteousness and only works in the truth, the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary so that people could and can return to live and walk according to the truth, and no longer be entangled in lies, illusions, and deceit.

1 Corinthians 13: 6 (Love) does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth.

Given this, we can see that the revelation of the way that enables people to know the truth in the present day had the highest price ever paid for anything in the entire world and, at the same time, a price that the world could not pay if it were not for the truth to be offered in Christ Jesus by the grace and love of God. For this reason, the Lord also invites us to continue following the truth according to His love in order to continue growing in Him in everything.

*Ephesians 4: 15 ... **but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ.***

God wants everyone to know the truth in Christ Jesus, for God wants good for everyone, wants everyone to be saved, and longs to bless everyone with heavenly life. A person, however, rejects this will of God when one resists receiving the truth voluntarily, for one of the aspects of the true Gospel is that it is presented to people as an offer to be received voluntarily and not as an imposition.

Thus, in His desire to bless people widely, God desires, above all, that they know the truth that is in Christ Jesus, for it is also when a person puts oneself in a position to receive the truth that one can receive the heavenly gifts that are granted according to the truth.

*2 John 1: 3 **Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.***

C8. Resisting the Truth also Implies Resisting the Righteousness, Salvation, and Glory of the Lord

In all human generations, there have always been and continue to be people who cry out for justice or righteousness. A point that the Lord even instructs them to do, as is widely exposed in the theme The Gospel of the Righteousness of God and as we remember in the two texts exemplified below:

Luke 18: 7 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him (or to do justice to them), though He bears long with them?"

8 I tell you that He will avenge them (or to do justice to them) speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

*Matthew 5: 6 **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.***

Nevertheless, the outcry and the search for righteousness or justice are only recognized before God when these practices are carried out according to the truth, for when they are carried out in a way devoid of truth, they are considered null or vain, as the following text also shows us:

*Isaiah 59: 4 **No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.***

*14 **Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter.***

Therefore, **people may lack God's righteousness towards them by not longing for it and by not seeking it in God. On the other hand, however, they may equally lack God's righteousness because they cry out for it and seek it without being grounded in the truth.**

Human being's righteousness, justice, and equity become null, vain, or a lie when their basis is a lie, for without the basis of truth their trust is placed in that which is not truly reliable and enduring.

So, looking at the cry of the text of the prophet Isaiah cited above, we can see that righteousness, justice, and equity stand afar off those who despise the truth or those in whom the truth does not receive space to be established.

Even among those who present themselves as Christians, there are many who have cried out to God for blessings and righteousness for their lives without getting an answer to their prayers because they do not dedicate the minimum time necessary to know the truth through fellowship with Christ Jesus.

Without a position on behalf of the truth, “righteousness, justice, and equity have no entrance” in a person's life. And as we saw in the previous chapters, without the “love of the truth,” the one who gains access to a person's life to deceive him or her is Satan, as he finds opportunity in the space that individuals grant to lies or what is deceitful.

Divine righteousness is the righteousness found in the life and work of the Lord Jesus Christ manifested to the world as the eternal truth. It is the righteousness revealed to the world by Christ's death on Calvary's cross, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead for the redemption of sinners and the granting of eternal life to those who receive Him as Lord. And because heavenly righteousness is the expression of eternal truth, if someone wants to receive it in opposition to the truth, righteousness is faced with a lack of a door to enter this individual's heart.

Given this, when people cry out to God for righteousness but without accepting the true righteousness or the truth about what indeed constitutes the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, people cry out under deceit and lies, presenting vain and despicable cries before the Lord, for God does not listen to people's empty or vain cries.

*Job 35: 13 **Surely God will not listen to empty talk, Nor will the Almighty regard it.***

God answers cries for righteousness when those who do them are also willing to know and receive from the Lord what is according to the truth.

As we have already mentioned, **the truth, righteousness, love, and grace of God walk together or inseparably before the Lord, for the attributes of God are always associated with each other.**

Furthermore, **God's truth even precedes righteousness and equity. That is, righteousness comes from truth. Righteousness is the foundation of God's throne, but it, in turn, is the fruit of truth or the One true God.**

Let us see below, then, some more texts that reiterate the joint action of the truth with other fundamental aspects of life according to the will of God:

*Isaiah 59: 15 **So truth fails (or was not found among the people), And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.***

*Isaiah 48: 1 **"Hear this, O house of Jacob, Who are called by the name of Israel, And have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah; Who swear by the name of the LORD, And make mention of the God of Israel, But not in truth or in righteousness; ..."***

*Psalms 89: 14 **Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.***

*Ephesians 4: 24 ... **and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.***

*Psalms 85: 10 **Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.***

Everything God does is permeated with the truth which precedes righteousness. And God is for His people or those who believe in Him only that which is according to truth and the righteousness that in all things is true.

*Psalms 111: 7 **The works of His hands are verity and justice; All His precepts are sure.***

*Zechariah 8: 8(b) '... **They shall be My people And I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.**'*

Thus, knowing God's attributes and that they are inseparable from each other is vital to a Christian, for every Christian is also called to associate these different aspects in one's practical actions in the world, that is, in one's living and walking in newness of life.

The fruit of light only bears fruit in line with God's truth and righteousness. For this reason, there is no way to properly think about walking in newness of life, according to the condition of being a Christian or according to the will of God, without also aiming at the condition of being associated with “walking in the truth.”

*Proverbs 12: 17 **He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.***

*Ephesians 5: 8 **For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light***
*9 **(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),***
*10 **finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.***

From the first aspects of the calling to receive a new condition of life as a new creature in Christ Jesus, God has already manifested that His calling is according to the truth, equating His Gospel to the very word of truth and the salvation by which the Lord calls people to sanctification by the Holy Spirit and faith in the truth.

2 **Thessalonians 2: 13** *But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,*
14 *to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 1: 3 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,**
4 **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,**
5 **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,**
6 **to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.**
7 **In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace**
8 **which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,**
9 **having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,**
10 **that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, in Him.**
11 **In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,**
12 **that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.**
13 **In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,**
14 **who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**

In this way, **just as the truth, grace, love, and righteousness of God are inseparable, so also salvation, receiving the Spirit of Truth, coming to know the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, and receiving the inheritance among the saints are inseparable aspects of the truth. That is, a person can only truly live and walk in newness of life if one also remains associated with the Lord and His truth.**

C9. Worshipers Who Worship in Spirit and Truth

In the theme Works, Labors, and Services, as well as in this series on Walking in Newness of Life, we present different approaches to the expression *to worship*, pointing out that it is also directly correlated to the idea of *servicing*.

Therefore, the expression *to worship God* also refers to doing everything as a service to God and rendering service on behalf of the glory of the Lord.

In this way, when the Lord Jesus Christ reports that the Heavenly Father is looking for those who worship Him, He is also referring to the fact that the Heavenly Father is looking for people who are willing to live their lives in the present world in such a way that in everything they do, they aim to glorify God. Aspects that we also recall in the texts that follow below:

1 Corinthians 10: 31 ***Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.***

John 4: 23 ***"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."***

John 4: 24 ***"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."***

In the themes referenced above, we broadly address the point of worship or service in the Spirit. However, considering that the focus in these subjects has been directed more towards being guided by the Spirit of the Lord, we understand that it is necessary to address here an emphasis also more specifically directed at the matter of *"worshiping in truth."*

Many people want to worship or serve God, or claim they want to do it. However, the Lord does not simply seek any kind of "worshipers or servants" who want to serve Him.

God is not looking for people who want to worship or serve Him with what is not based on the truth. God does not want people to do services "for Him" that are associated with dishonesty, lies, deceit, misleading scales, distorted weights, apparent truths, a heart inclined to corruption, and so on.

The service or worship that the Heavenly Father longs to see in people's lives is what is done under the guidance of the Spirit of the Lord, on the foundation of truth, and in a true and sincere way.

Many people say they long for the Holy Spirit so that they can be enabled to serve or worship the Lord "in Spirit." However, when they do not receive or resist the truth, they reject the Spirit of the Lord, for He is the Spirit of Truth and eternally inseparable from the truth.

Thus, in a sense, saying that God seeks people who worship Him in Spirit and Truth is a redundancy, for there is no worship in the Spirit of the Lord

if it is not also in truth. However, so that there is no room for doubt in people's understanding of the worship that the Heavenly Father seeks, the Scriptures still evidence that worship in Spirit implies that it must also be worship in truth.

When, then, a person relies on a lie, claiming, however, that one is acting according to the Spirit of the Lord, it is not God that one is worshiping or serving, for the worship that God seeks, and which is genuinely in the Spirit of the Lord, is always according to the truth.

If, for instance, a person presents a song that is not consistent with the truth that is in the Lord and His Gospel, however much one may add emphasis that one is doing it in the Spirit of the Lord, one is not actually doing it according to the Holy Spirit, needing to return to repentance and truth in order to actually act according to the Spirit of the Lord. And this same principle also applies to the other diverse activities that a person performs in one's daily life.

If Christians, or those who claim to be Christians, would pay more attention to knowing and persevering in the truth made known to them in Christ Jesus, before they aspire to find themselves in a position to be so busy with what they call serving the Lord “in the Spirit,” they certainly would not get involved or not let themselves be involved by so many deceptions and dead or unfruitful works of darkness. However, as for many the truth is secondary, the acceptance of the righteousness and the glory of the Lord also become restricted in their lives, as we saw in the previous chapters.

Again as an example of what true worship is not, we can see that if Christ fulfilled the Law of Moses also to annul it afterward and free those who believe in Him from the yoke of this law, seeking to practice the acts of the law already repealed by the Lord will also never be, before the Heavenly Father, an expression of worship according to the truth.

When people teach the restoration of services similar to the Law of Moses and the services of priests, Levites, tithes, building temples made by human hands, and the services that these require, claiming that they are performing these acts as a true worship of God, they are not acting according to the truth that God has already manifested in Christ Jesus and, therefore, they are not serving God “in truth.” Instead, they are propagating propositions that are contrary to the will of God in Christ Jesus for human beings.

Thus, serving or worshipping God “in truth” is serving or worshipping the Lord also according to what the Lord Himself has already revealed and established as truth for human beings.

In the world, there are many propositions that have the appearance of worship or service to God and humility but that, behind the appearance, are false, feigned, or distorted because they are not faithful to the truth. They are alleged services or worships to God that serve as instruments for the effectiveness of the lie to find room for action in the world, not prevailing, however, before the Lord who judges everything according to the truth.

*Romans 2: 2 **But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.***

Furthermore, worship that is not in line with the truth, no matter how much one tries to present it with an appearance of godliness and deep devotion, may become a path of ungodliness and perversion of individuals who seek to reduce the glory of God to the glory of the creation and elevate the glory of the creation to the glory of God, as discussed in the themes The Gospel of the Creator, The Gospel of the Righteousness of God, The Gospel of the Glory of God and the Glory of Christ, and according to the text that we also recall below:

*Romans 1: 18 **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,***

*19 **because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.***

*20 **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,***

*21 **because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.***

...

*25 **who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.***
Amen.

The fact that people cry out to God calling Him as “Lord, Lord,” but despising living and walking according to the truth, makes their worship become null for being partners of attempts that aim to corrupt the truth and the righteousness of God, both eternally established.

Therefore, **just as the truth is inseparable from God’s grace, righteousness, love, and glory, so the truth is also inseparable from all true worship of God or all worship truly performed in the Spirit of the Lord.**

Thus, **God looks for worshipers who embrace the love of the truth and who serve Him according to the truth. Worshipers who are willing to forsake all services that are not in line with the truth and to grow more and more in Him who is the truth and the Head of every Christian: The Lord Jesus Christ Himself.**

*Ephesians 4: 15 ... **but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ.***

*Psalms 145: 18 **The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.***

Finally, in this chapter, we would like to mention once again that we will not make a broader approach here on the expression *to worship* only because it has already been done in the themes referenced above, as well as in the subject Conscious of the Context of Life and Destiny of the New Creature, more specifically in the chapter The Conscious or Reasonable Worship of God.

C10. Fellowship Based on Sincerity and Truth

As children of light, Christians come from the truth, for as we saw earlier, the new creature in Christ is begotten of truth and righteousness, also implying the calling of the children of truth to speak the truth and act with one another according to the truth, as shown in the following texts:

Ephesians 4: 25 **Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.**

1 Peter 1: 22 **Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ...**

Nevertheless, returning to the aspects that were addressed in the chapter Differentiating Truth and Sincerity, we would like to reiterate once again that speaking the truth to one another and acting with an unfeigned brotherly love goes beyond simply not having the intention to lie or pretend before other Christians.

When Christians are called to speak the truth to one another, this also includes or implies that they are instructed to share with their fellow believers in God what is according to the truth.

That is, for Christians to be able to share the truth with each other, they also need to know the truth and grow in the knowledge of the truth that God makes available to them in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4: 20 **But you have not so learned Christ,**
21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:
22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,
23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Also in the above text of Peter's letter, we can observe that **it is by personal obedience to the truth, manifested in Christ Jesus, that a person achieves the purification of one's soul and is prepared for brotherly and unfeigned love towards other Christians.**

Thus, if Christians do not personally seek to know the truth, they will find it very difficult to carry out true fellowship with their fellow believers of faith in the Lord, or still, they will find considerable obstacles to establishing a beneficial fellowship between them.

If a Christian refrains from knowing the truth and growing in it, one is opposed to coming to the light that is in God. And with this positioning, one inevitably also compromises one's fellowship with other Christians.

- 1 John 1: 5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*
6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
-

So that Christians can have a fellowship that builds them up, it is necessary for them to have appropriate aspects in common that ground them. And the truth is certainly one of these essential aspects to give credibility and sustainability to this fellowship.

On the other hand, if a Christian does not seek the truth in the Lord and does not expose oneself to it, one also does not go through the stage of renewal or purification of one's understanding.

Thus, however much a Christian may want to be sincere, if the foundations of one's understanding are not according to the truth, one's fellowship with others will be very difficult to be established appropriately, for often the conflict between the truth and that which resists the truth will be present.

As much as a person is sincere when expressing what one thinks or how one sees different situations, if one seeks to oppose the truth or resist the truth, speaking against the truth, that is, lying against the truth, one also acts in favor of contentions and factious feelings, as mentioned in the text below:

- James 3: 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.*
14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.
15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.
16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.
-

As we mentioned in the chapter Differentiating Truth and Sincerity, **even though sincerity is a widely necessary part of the fellowship among Christians, it is not sincerity that validates, accredits, or grounds the truth, but it is the truth that validates, accredits, or grounds the truth, as well as the sincerity.**

The above point shows us, then, one more reason why every Christian is called to be first exposed to fellowship with Christ and with His word in every moment of one's life so that one may be instructed by the Lord in the truth, have one's understanding

purified of what is not compatible with the truth, and practice fellowship according to the truth and with sincerity with other Christians.

Nevertheless, if Christians individually do not long for the truth, do not receive the “love of the truth,” and do not give due attention to the instruction of the Spirit of the Lord in all truth, they will not place themselves in a suitable condition to have true fellowship even if they have sincerity as their goal.

Therefore, **the personal longing for the truth and the love of the truth that is in Christ Jesus should always precede the collective meetings of fellowship among Christians so that these meetings are for edification, for without having the truth as a reference parameter, also all kinds of confusion of ideas and feelings take place among those who are distanced from the truth even if they claim to be gathering in the Name of the Lord.**

Added to this, we remember here that **speaking the truth with fellow people is also never distorting that Christ is the truth, that He is the Eternal Lord seated at the right hand of the Heavenly Father, as well as always declaring that there is no other Savior, Mediator between God and any human being, Shepherd of His flock, Head of His Body, and the Bridegroom of His Church besides our Lord Jesus.**

- 1 Timothy 2: 3* **For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,**
4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,
6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

When people begin to act contrary to the will of God, calling their fellow people teachers, guides, leaders, priests, Levites, or fathers of their lives, they put the Lord's truth towards them aside, reaping, however, because of their actions, so many confusions, disputes, contentions, destruction, and frustrations.

- 1 Corinthians 3: 3* **...for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?**
4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

For this reason, **for a Christian to live and walk in the truth, including for fellowship with other Christians, one personally and directly needs to be or abide in the truth. That is, one needs to be “in Christ,” who is the truth and in everything acts according to the truth.**

- 1 Corinthians 3: 11* **For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

*Matthew 23: 8 "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi' (or teachers, guides, or leaders); for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.
9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.
10 And do not be called teachers (or guides or leaders); for One is your Teacher, the Christ."*

1 John 5: 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

C11. Cooperating with the Truth is Choosing to Cooperate with That which Can Never Be Defeated

When a person adopts a position of opening one's heart to know more closely the glory of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, glory revealed by the Gospel of the Glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, one also advances to perceive that the virtues of God are eternal and unshakable, a principle that also applies to the aspect of truth.

Therefore, however much the world resists the truth, nothing can prevail against it, just as nothing can prevail against the light of the Lord and the heavenly and unshakable kingdom of the Lord.

As much as Satan may temporarily be given some space to act according to his corrupted nature, that is, according to deceit and lies, even deceit and lies, in the end, act to demonstrate that nothing can destroy the truth, for this, ultimately, always prevails also highlighting the limitation of the actions of error, deception, and obscurity.

Thus, **welcoming the love of the truth and cooperating with the truth is also a posture in favor of what can never be shaken, for absolutely nothing can stand against the truth**, as presented in the following text:

2 Corinthians 13: 8 ***For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.***

Here we can see, then, one more reason why the Lord instructs Christians to put on the truth continually. That is, since the truth cannot be shaken, Christians are called to continually be in the truth to be kept in the truth, as we also addressed in the theme Conscious of the Context of Life and Destination of the New Creature, more specifically in the chapters on putting on “the whole armor of God,” and of which we recall the following texts:

Psalms 25: 4 ***Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.***
5 ***Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.***

Psalms 40: 11 ***Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.***

Ephesians 6: 13 ***Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***
14 ***Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ...***

C12. God's Great Joy because of His Children Who Walk in Truth

In this last chapter, to conclude the present theme, we would like to highlight the particular emphasis that the Scriptures present to us on the joy that the Lord and those who walk in the truth have in seeing the children of God **walking in the truth**, as initially mentioned in the following text:

*2 John 1: 4 **I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.***

Considering that Christ Jesus is the truth and Christians are new creatures begotten in Christ Jesus out of the truth and righteousness of God, it is not too difficult to realize that **walking in the truth** also brings so much joy to the kingdom of God, whose consideration of the book of 2 John is also repeated in the epistle of 3 John, as follows:

*3 John 1: 3 **For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.***

Thus, whoever has “the love of the truth,” to the point of “**walking in the truth**,” indeed demonstrates that one has welcomed the very love of God poured out in the heart of everyone who believes in Christ Jesus as Lord, producing joy in the heavenly kingdom by the practical life in that which is granted to the children of God from Heaven through the grace of the Lord.

Walking in the truth, then, is more than wanting to know the truth. It encompasses putting the truth in practice in the affairs of life, which makes the joy of “practicing the truth in all things” so prominently highlighted in the Scriptures, for this also demonstrates an individual's love for God and one's true desire to draw ever closer to the Lord or one's desire to be in the Lord continually.

In this way, the one who **walks in the truth** expresses, in a practical way, how much one loves the Lord Himself, that one is not ashamed to show that one's works are done in God, and that one is not ashamed of the One God one has as Lord of one's life.

*John 3: 21 **But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.***

The one who **walks in truth** declares that one wants Christ as the way and truth of one's life to reach the abundant life that comes in truth and love from the Heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

*Psalms 86: 11 **Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.***

*John 14: 6 **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."***

The one who ***walks in truth*** declares that one believes that God is good, righteous, and upright in all His ways and judgments. For this reason, the Lord also rejoices so much with the one who demonstrates the love for the truth that comes from one's Creator and Savior.

*Psalms 26: 3 **For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.***

*Revelation 15: 3 **They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"***

Thus, **tremendous or immeasurable joy is promoted in the kingdom of God when His children long to "walk in the characteristics of Him who created them" and when they do so because they have welcomed the gift of heavenly love expressed in truth and poured out in their hearts.**

*3 John 1: 4 **I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.***

*1 John 5: 20 **And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.***

*2 John 1: 2 **Because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:***

*3 **Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.***

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Note on Biblical Texts referenced:

- 1) The biblical texts without explicit indications of reference were drawn from NKJV Bible, as indicated below.
- 2) Highlights in the biblical texts, such as underline, bold, or similar were added by the author of this study.

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