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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 102

Putting False Ways Away

Psalm 119:25 (ESV)

Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!

The New King James Version says, “*Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously.*” And the New Living Translation says, “*Keep me from lying to myself; give me the privilege of knowing your instructions.*”

I placed these other translations here because I wanted to show the meaning of the word for false ways, or lying. I will also show the Hebrew definition from the Strongs (1890) taken from, <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/8267.htm>

deception, disappointment, falsehood

With that explained and properly defined I would like to go right into a continuing revelation the Lord has been using to grow me in my faith. My aim and purpose as well as intention here are that you also with me might grow further in Spirit and truth.

So lately, I have been pursuing the Lord to do just as this passage of Scripture says to do, “*Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!*” I am all too well aware of the failures of our own reasoning and the flaws of our own logic when it comes to theology and the overall pursuit of God. If you have studied church history, for example, it would not take you long to realize the horrors of man-made doctrines and traditions throughout the centuries and how when people follow their own cleverly devised myths it brings reproach on Christ and also leads people astray. Even in our current generation, we have some really muddled church doctrines in some circles.

The main thing about being deceived is that the one deceived does not know that they are deceived. I fully believe as part of our fallen and sinful nature that we have been made an easy target to deception and for this reason, James

even says this, “*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*” (James 1:22)

So the truth that we can easily become victims of deception is ever-present. All I can say to this is thank God for the Holy Spirit and teacher of truth!

However, what should our response be?

I can honestly say that we should be on the offensive and not so much on the defensive. Let me explain, the defensive waits for deception to hit and then when overcome takes the position of finally fighting back or just succumbing to it. The person on the offensive knows the ease with which we can become deceived and seeks the face of God and continues to be led by Him in their pursuit of the true and accurate knowledge of Him. Let me tell you the truth, there are right ways and wrong ways of understanding God and applying His Word and truth to our lives.

Personally, I have been trying to mirror my thoughts, beliefs, doctrines, and traditions with what the Bible teaches. I don't want to just be a vessel filled with false knowledge and practice. And honestly, when I read this Psalm that thought occurred even clearer to me. That is, that I want to be one that seeks truth much like the Bereans in the book of Acts so that I can validate everything I believe truly and accurately with God's Word.

If I find something in my life and practice that is not in step with God's Word I want to make my supplications to the Lord to give me the ability first to recognize and then next, the strength to turn quickly from such false ways.

Honestly, there have been times when especially as a new believer (and even still today) that I was confronted with a belief I had about God. When I later learned through the Scriptures that this deeply held belief that I held was wrong I had to man up so to speak and turn from it.

I share all of this because I truly believe we need to be more Berean-minded today than ever before. We need to be Christians who take an honest evaluation of ourselves and mirror everything we say and do with God's Word.

I am reminded of a time of fellowship with a Messianic Jew. This brother asked me a deep and probing question that I still reflect on today, many years later. He asked me, “*do you want the truth or a feeling?*”

When I was asked this question it was not as deep and probing at the time as it is today. My obvious answer to him was that I want the truth. But as time grew on, I struggled to let go of those warm fuzzies to take up the cross of truth that

Jesus calls us to carry in denial of ourselves. In fact, the Lord would continually bring me to His Word to reveal more truth that was at odds with my flesh. It is during these times of refining that the Lord really brought out an abundance of revelations of His truth and also where the flesh was put to death more and more.

I wonder, can we all ask ourselves the same question that this brother asked me and honestly digest it by faith?

We are living in some very confusing times as Christians and we need now more than ever to put false ways from us. But in the pursuit of this, we also have encouraging news. Jesus Himself has given us the promised Holy Spirit who will always lead us into righteousness. Brothers and sisters join with us in this new year to pursue God like never before and not just settle for feelings over truth. May God continue to bless you as you seek Him with all your heart.

Strong, James (1890). Strong's exhaustive concordance of the Bible. Abingdon Press.

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc

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