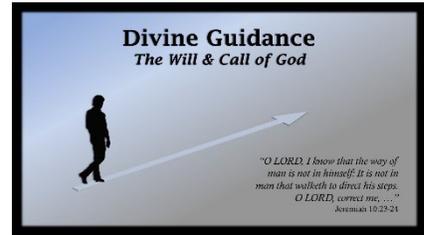


Keystones for Living

Divine Guidance The Will And Call Of God



Lecture 3

Welcome to Keystones for Living Bible Institute, Pastor Jerry here.

I trust you're having a good day today. Or perhaps it's a good evening for you!

We're so glad you could be a part of this. This is lecture #3 and we're discussing truth. Our course title is Divine guidance and the Will and Call of God. But before we get to that material, we want to talk about Truth.

Truth is vital for our people, and truth never changes.

What we present to you, our desire is not to give out mere information or facts which change, but truth which never changes.

Jesus is the truth. The Bible says that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

We know this Book is truth.

The Bible says "heaven and earth will" what? It'll pass away, but my word, truth will never pass away.

We talked the other day about truth being vital, necessary.

We gave you an assignment to find verses that prove that truth is vital, and I trust you had a good time with that. But today I want to talk to you about truth being Progressive.

Truth is progressive. Let's write that word on the board. It is progressive.

What do we mean by Progressive?

What we mean is that truth doesn't come all at once, it comes little by little.

Isaiah, chapter 28, verse 10 tells us "For it is precept upon precept, line upon line.

Here a little there, a little."

How many see a little, layer, line, progressive? Do you see a progressive element there?

You see, you can receive an experience in a moment of time.

But truth comes day by day, year by year, decade by decade.

Have you noticed in your own life that truth comes gradually?

You know more today than you did before.

Or you saw truth in his word today that you didn't see maybe years ago, and you ask yourself, why in the world am I seeing it now and I wasn't seeing it then?

Well, that's a good question.

Let me give you a few reasons why we don't get the truth right away.

Number one is simply this.

Sometimes it's a lack of humility. What do you mean?

Well, listen to what Jesus said.

"I thank thee, oh God, that thou hast hid these things."

Did you see that?

"I thank thee, oh God, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and the prudent"

"But has revealed them "

It is revelation of truth.

Truth must be revealed to us.

But in order for truth to be revealed to us, our hearts must all the time be conditioned to receive.

I hope you heard what I just said. Truth must be revealed.

It must be revealed a little at a time, and our hearts must be continuously conditioned, prepared to receive the engrafted word.

Oh yes! the engrafted word, which is able to save, able to change.

You know, we need to be changed from glory. To glory. To glory.

So, think about this now.

One of the reasons why truth eludes me and I don't see it revealed to me is because I need to be more humble.

Listen to it. "I thank thee, O God, that thou has hid these things."

Did you know that God is in the hiding business?

Did you know that God hides things?

You say no, no. But he does.

Do you know that God told Abraham what he was going to do in Sodom and Gomorrah, but he did NOT tell Lot. Has that ever crossed your mind?

I'm sure it has.

"Thou has hid these things."

Think about it. From whom?

From the wise and the prudent. And who has he revealed it to?

Revealed it to babes.

We think that the wise and the prudent might be the educated and the babes might be the uneducated.

Well, that's not true.

The wise and the prudent. Well, who are they?

Well, I believe the wise and the prudent are "know-it-alls."

They are "know-it-alls."

He has hid these things from the "know-it-alls" and he has revealed it to babes- or the humble.

There you go, the humble. The humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

Oh, magnify the Lord, with me. He has hid these things from the "know-it-alls" and has revealed it to the humble.

You see, you can be uneducated, as they say, and be a "know it all"

Come on pastor. Have you ever met those people?

He has hid these things from the "know-it-alls" so you can be uneducated, as they say, and yet a "know-it-alls"

But notice this, you can also be educated and yet be humble.

He has hid these things from the "know-it-alls" and he has revealed them to the humble.

So you can see that pride can be a hindrance to the revelation of truth that can change your life.

Think about that, how powerful that is.

I'm going to give you another reason why truth eludes me from time to time.

Jesus said this. "I have more to tell you."

You remember this verse.

I have more to tell you, but you are not able to bear it.

Do you realize that?

Excuse me? Sometimes I'm just not able to take it.

I'm not able to take it.

Do you know the Lord knows what you can handle, he knows what you can take, he knows how much truth he can reveal to you, and it affect you in a positive manner.

So always remember this, that God knows what I can handle and he knows what I can't handle.

What do you mean? I can tell you this.

I have read things in the Bible time and time and time and time again.

And I can tell you, some of it just went right over my head. I did get something.

But ten years later, I read it again.

Waiting on the Lord, meditating on his word.

And you know what? All of a sudden God shows you something else.

Has anyone had that happen, and you jump out of your chair, right?

And you say glory to God? Isn't that cool?

Oh yes, and then you ask yourself, you say, how come? How come I couldn't see this before?

Maybe the Lord's talking back to us and saying, what if I would have shown you that 10 years ago?

Would you have been able to handle it? Take it? Would you have been able to bear it without it affecting you adversely?

My friends, God certainly knows what I am able to take.

In fact, Jesus said, "I have more to tell you."

There's your progressive element.

I have more to tell you, but you're not able to take it.

But one of these days you WILL be able to take it, right?

Yes, when He the Spirit of truth is come.

Do you know? He will guide you into all truth.

You know, sometimes folks we're just not able to take it -at this point in time.

But God will reveal it to us as our hearts become conditioned to receive, and that is it, right there.

You see, God is using testings and provings and provings and testings and circumstances and events to condition your heart to receive revelation.

I don't mean revelation of things that are not in God's word.

I'm talking about truth revealed to my heart.

So my prayer is right now, Lord, would you condition my heart?

My people in my church, your people in your church, they need to know this, that our hearts must be conditioned to receive.

There must be humility there as well.

But there's another thing. An attitude.

Let's call it a disposition, an attitude. You see, the Bible says this.

That we need to have a teachable spirit. Think about the wise and the prudent.

Think about the babes. Think about the humble.

What is that? That's an attitude.

What kind of an attitude do I bring to the table?

I want to answer that by saying the attitude I must bring to the table is not a "know it all" attitude but a teachable attitude.

So let me just say that we need to have a teachable spirit.

You know, there are some people that are just not teachable.

Well, they just know it all. So, we want a teachable spirit.

My pastor used to tell me this years ago, he said. Jerry, one of the marks of the spirit of God on a man's life is a teachable attitude.

And he told me, the Bible says, "he that hath not the spirit of God is none of his"

He also said one of the marks of the spirit of God is a teachable spirit.

When you give your heart to Christ, you're like a sponge, aren't you?

Aren't you like a sponge? Yes, you're like a sponge and you absorb the truth.

So I I just want to go on from here now and let's review.

Truth is progressive, but there are some things that hinder our reception of truth.

It could be what I bring to the table in regards to a teachable spirit or a rebellious spirit, it could be that I need more humility.

It could be that I can't take it.

There's a number of things. One can be prejudice. That can hinder it.

One can be that a person has been taught error, that can happen, you know.

Another thing can be an unwillingness to receive, and you can connect that to unteachability.

But an unwillingness? Oh Lord, open my heart that I might receive what you have for me!

Think about the disciples now would you? The disciples had received the truth.

But the revelation of truth that they received was not complete. Well, that's not God's fault, is it?

No, no, it's not God's fault. It's me. It's that lack of humility, that lack of teachability. Or it could be the fact that I can't take it. Alright, whatever that might be.

But they had received revelation of truth, but they didn't get a complete revelation of truth.

Well, of course, none of us do.

Do you remember Phillip, one of the disciples?

Would you turn with me in your Bibles to the book of John, Chapter 14?

I want to show you Phillip.

Alright, let's look at Phillip's life after a few years of being with Jesus.

Listen to what he says now that he's been with Jesus.

He's been with Jesus and look at what he says in verse eight of John 14.

Let me show it to you. Phillip said unto him, "Lord, show us the Father".

"and it suffices us, show us the father and we'll be satisfied".

That'll do it. Look at the next line. I don't know about you, but this is like Bible candy for me.

I love this stuff. Look at the next line, Jesus said unto him,

"Have I been so long time with you and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip?"

How many see Phillip had a revelation of truth for those three years, but he missed this one?

Do you see that he missed it? He missed it.

Jesus says "he that hath seen me, has seen the Father, and how sayest thou then show us the Father?"

So you have to ask yourself, how did that happen? How did that happen?

Well, I think what we have to do is go back to John, chapter one and get a glimpse into something about Phillip. His testimony, his testimony wasn't complete.

Now let's go there and ask ourselves. What's a testimony?

Alright, let me just say this. Everybody watching this has, if you're a Christian, if you're saved, everybody has a testimony.

Phillip had a testimony. Now the question is, what is a testimony?

Well, it's your talk, it's your walk, it's your expression.

It's when people watch you. It's your life, is it not? Yes, it is.

You have a testimony. Now what? What makes up a testimony?

Let me tell you what makes up a testimony. Here's what makes up your testimony.

It's your reaction to truth. Let me say it again, it's your reaction to the truth that has been revealed to you and you have absorbed.

You can tell how much truth a man or woman has had revealed to them or they have absorbed by their testimony.

Let me just say it this way. Your testimony, my testimony, (we're going deeper now. I hope you understand where I'm headed.)

Your testimony, my testimony is a dead giveaway of how much truth I have received, I have had revealed and absorbed.

My testimony is a dead giveaway. Not of how much truth I've HEARD.

It's not how much truth I've heard, but it's how much truth I have absorbed into my life.

All you have to do is look at some people's posts on Facebook and you can see how much truth they have absorbed or have not absorbed.

And maybe we'll go there in just a little bit.

But I do have to say that right now, my point simply is that truth must be absorbed.

It must be revealed and absorbed.

Now, let me just say it this way.

If you go to John, chapter one, we're going to read Phillip's testimony.

Listen to what it says in John chapter one, and we're going to read verse 43. Let's go there. It says this, "the day following, Jesus would go forth into Galilee and find this Phillip."

Jesus had to FIND Phillip. What does that tell you? Jesus is interested in Phillip.

Jesus is interested in the Phillips of this world. He had to go find him.

That lets you know that Phillip wasn't the ostentatious type, he was more of the inconspicuous type.

Now, some people might say God has a hard time using inconspicuous people.

No, he doesn't. Jesus finds those kind of people.

Whoa, that's good stuff. Let's just let that sink in for a second.

So here, He says to Phillip, "follow me"

Isn't that great? Here Jesus comes up to this inconspicuous, unobtrusive man, finds him and says, follow me!

That ought to give you some encouragement right now. I'm just going to let you think about that.

Hear what I am saying.

The next verse says "now Phillip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter."

Andrew and Peter. Wait a minute. Andrew and Peter? You think they would have found Phillip.

But notice this next line: "Phillip findeth Nathaniel."

What kind of man was Nathaniel?

Look at what it says. "We have found him."

Now remember, this is before John 14, alright?

This is about three years before that, OK?

We have found him. This is Phillips testimony.

"we have found him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write"

How many see Phillips' testimony is good so far?

Isn't it good? His testimony is true. Which means Philip read the Bible.

It means that Phillip was a man of the Word, an inconspicuous, unobtrusive man of the Word.

Third, he had a testimony.

He saw the truth that Jesus was "He of whom Moses talked about."

And not only that, He was the one whom the Prophets talked about.

But then notice this, number 3. Let me read it to you. Look at what it says.

"Jesus of Nazareth"

And then notice what he said. "The son of Joseph"

Listen, ladies and gentlemen.

He missed it. He got one thing right.

He got one thing wrong.

Jesus was not the son of Joseph!

Truthfully, the way things really are, the non-concealment, the actual reality of the situation which never changes is that Jesus was the son of the living God.

So how many see His testimony is 2/3 right? And it's 1/3 wrong. Well, that must mean that God can't use him! Oh no, your testimony isn't always right either.

In fact, I can tell you when I was young in the ministry, I preached some of my messages, many in nursing homes. And it's amazing to me how people got anything out of it because I didn't have my testimony complete either.

What do you mean by that? I had some parts of it that were right.

I knew this about the Lord. I knew this about the Lord, but I didn't know that about the Lord.

Well, God can't use me. No, no, no, no, no. God can use you even though your testimony is only 2/3 complete.

What does that mean? Remember what a testimony is.

It's the reaction, or the result of the revelation of the truth that has been absorbed into our life.

How much revelation have you absorbed in your life?

How much truth has gotten into you? Not just in your head, in your heart!

How much truth has been absorbed in your life so that it affects the way you walk?

It affects the way you talk, not just what you know.

There are a lot of scholars out there who know the Bible.

But they have not had the Truth become a part of their life so that their testimony is affected.

I'm telling you, ladies and gentlemen, we must preach truth. We must teach truth. Yes, we must.

But we as those who receive it, must ask the Lord Jesus to continuously

(I sound like I'm preaching) we must continuously ask the Lord to condition our hearts to receive what He wants to tell us.

So don't blame the preacher if you don't get it all the time.

Sometimes it's just because at our stage of growth and development, we are not able to bear it.

My growth and development has not happened the way it needs to happen.

So what I mean by that is everybody is at a different level in Christian experience.

If someone is at one level, don't get upset with them.

The problem is, someone says "well, Pastor, I've been saved for 50 years."

You might not want to tell people that.

If you've been saved that long, there should be more truth absorbed into your life than what your testimony is exhibiting.

Wouldn't that be true? Oh yeah.

So we can put a stop, we can put a stop on the growth of our lives when our reaction to truth is not with the correct attitude, or if it's not with humility, or we just aren't able to bear it.

But the truth of the matter is, folks, our attitude and what we bring to the table as growing Christians is vital. Truth is progressive. Yes, it is. Truth is progressive.

But let me also say this. When that truth gets revealed to you. How does it affect you?

Well, Pastor Jerry, what truth are you talking about?

Well, I can tell you this, that there have been times when I know that I sound like a broken record (we say that here in America) Whenever you repeat, repeat, repeat, they'll say that.

They'll say, man, he sounds like a broken record because when a record player plays old records, when you scratch them, they get stuck. They go back over it and over it and over it.

Well, sometimes I sound like a broken record, but I think that might be OK, because there are broken hearts, broken lives, broken homes. Broken people.

And what we need is the truth constantly coming at us, coming at us, coming at us, coming at us, coming at us. That's why I repeat things in my church.

That's why I tell them the same things over and over.

Precept, precept, precept upon precept, line upon line. Here, a little, there, a little.

I remember a man coming into our church, (not our church now) when I was a youth pastor, He happened to be visiting our church, he was a businessman.

A wonderful man, loved the Lord, but he would come to our church on a Sunday night every once in a while. And he would visit.

And when my pastor saw him come in, they were really good friends.

And he would say, "John, it's good to see you."

And then my pastor would say, "John, what I'm going to talk to the people about tonight is something you've already heard."

"Oh, really?" He said. "Well, good", he said.

"You know Pastor Bunny" (That was my pastor's last name)

That's a unique name, isn't it?

He said "Pastor Bunny"

"My wife fixes me chicken at least two or three times a week and I love it every time!"

You see folks, you should be able to take truth time and time again!

Do you ever get tired of singing Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me?

I trust not.

Friends, we can take the chicken every week, because that's the truth that can set us free.

And as the truth continues to come and come and come and come, do you think, do you just think, Sir, ma'am, that it will have an effect upon your life?

I take you to a verse of scripture. It came to my mind just now. Well, I'm trying to remember the address. There it is, Jeremiah 23 verse 28.

I've just got to tell you this!

You've got to understand something about truth, OK?

And that's why Divine guidance and the will and call of God, or any other course of study that we get into must be prefaced by this this truth. That is Jeremiah 23:28. Listen to what it says.

"The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream".

"And he that hath my word" (do you see the difference between a dream and a word?)

The prophet that hath a dream. You see the context here?

He's talking about false prophets. They've always got something going, alright.

They always make up all kinds of stuff, he says.

But he that has a word. No, no, listen now.

This is look, this is Bible Class, this is teaching.

Did you know that good teaching is preaching and good preaching is teaching?

Let's look at it again. Don't hurry.

The Prophet that has a dream, let him tell it if he wants to tell it.

But 'he that has my word"

Do you see a difference? Oh, I hope you do.

He says, "let him speak my word faithfully", Pastor, you can serve chicken every week.

And you know what? A person who has a teachable spirit, who is humble, a person who desires to have their heart conditioned to receive it, so they're able to bear it, he is the kind of person that loves chicken.

Now, it does depend on who's cooking chicken.

My grandmother could really cook chicken, so if you gave me a choice between my grandmother's chicken and what we have here in America called Kentucky Fried Chicken, a restaurant,

well, I would rather have my grandmother's chicken, so it does matter who's cooking.

Doesn't it?

But at the same time we hear that he says "let him speak my word faithfully"

Pastor don't get tired of preaching truth. Keep it going.

Now I'm going to tell you why.

Here it is. What is the chaff to the wheat, saith the Lord?

Does anybody see that?

"What is the chaff to the wheat?" Now look at the next line.

He says, "is not my word like as a fire," saith the Lord.

Look at this, look at this, look at this.

He says, "and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces."

You're probably familiar with that verse, but let's write it on the board.

For what is the chaff to the wheat or the wheat to the chaff.

See that? And then he says "is not my word like a fire"

But notice the next one, he says, "is not my word like a hammer"

You see, this is important.

When the word of truth is come it reveals! It's like wheat compared to chaff.

Chaff, it blows away and it's gone.

But a true word from God, a true preaching of the word of God is going to be like wheat.

It feeds your soul.

The same with an utterance in tongues and an interpretation in the church.

The gifts of the spirit. That's another course we're going to teach, Pentecostal Distinctives.

We're not there yet, but I want to talk about this.

When a person gives an utterance in tongues and there's an interpretation,

how do you know it's a genuine word?

Well, this is one way you will know.

It feeds you. It is like wheat. It's not like chaff that just blows away in the wind.

It's got substance to it.

And what we need are preachers, pastors, teachers whose teaching and preaching have substance to it, anointed by the Spirit of truth!

OK, that will have an impact on your life.

It will feed your soul!

Also it's like fire.

That means the word that's true, the word that's genuine, will be like fire that kindles .

It kindles a feeling. It generates a burning in your soul.

Yes! Do you remember the men on the road to Emmaus? Do you remember those two men and when Jesus finally reveals himself to them?

Do you know what they did? They ran back to Jerusalem and told people.

In fact, they said to themselves, "Did not our hearts burn?"

Burn within us!

Pastor, you've got to hear this!

Today "did not our hearts" heads? no, hearts!

Luke 24, if you need a reference, "did not our hearts", not my head, "burn within us"

When he prophesied?

When he gave a message in tongues?

No, although that's wonderful, I can happen, but that's not what it says, it says,

When he expounded. When he explained. When he expounded the word to us.

Woooo, I'm excited. I feel it.

So the mark, the mark of a genuine utterance, of a genuine word of truth, (that is not just information, but it is truth that can change and set us free) is marked by wheat and fire.

It will kindle, generate a burning in your soul.

And they said "did not our hearts burn within us when he expounded the word?"

What does Jesus do with these two men?

You know Jesus could have said

Yea, I am the one. Yea, I am the Messiah. Yea, I was dead and am alive.

No, he doesn't do that.

If anybody could have done it, it would have been him.

I mean, after all, he is the Lord Jesus. But he doesn't.

Here's what it says.

It says this, "from Moses and the prophets, he expounded to them all the scriptures concerning Himself."

Glory to God, Hallelujah, to Jesus be all praise.

I'm trying to tell you something!

I might not be doing it very well, but it's in my soul.

And what I'm trying to say to you is simply this.

His word is like wheat.

His word is like a fire.

But notice the third thing.

It's like a hammer.

You keep preaching.

You keep teaching.

Because a hammer will break the rock in pieces.

You want truth to be revealed to you, so you can absorb it, and have a testimony that touches people's lives forever.

Because a man or a woman who's got a testimony for Jesus has been touched by truth, has had it absorbed in their life.

And it means something to them. It's not a head thing. It's a heart thing.

Of course we have to take it in our head, our mind, well of course.

But it must become a part of you.

And that word will be like a hammer.

So don't say this. "Well, I heard that already."

"I don't need to hear that again."

And then you turn off the pastor while he's preaching and you just file your fingernails.

Don't do that.

Say you know what?

Maybe there's something in here, even though I heard this last Tuesday.

There's something in here I missed.

Maybe my heart wasn't able to bear it.

Maybe my soul couldn't take it.

But maybe now, because of the events of my life, my heart has been conditioned to receive something else from the word that I didn't see.

Because your attitude is not a good attitude, you will shut something off.

You will cap your spiritual possibilities for growth by an attitude that says I already heard this before.

Don't do that!

Because his word is like a hammer and eventually if you keep hitting it and hitting it and hitting it and hitting it, it will crack and then crumble and then break, and wow, then you've got a changed man.

You've got a changed woman.

To God be all praise and all glory.

Oh, listen to me today.

He has a word for every situation.

Every situation.

And it will be like wheat, it'll be like fire and it'll be like a hammer.

And the truth will make you free.

And you will desire, you will desire the sincere milk of the word - so that you and your people, so that you and your children may grow there by.

Why is that important?

It doesn't say desire the sincere milk of the word, so that you may be the boss, no, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may be blessed thereby.

Yes, you will be blessed.

But the problem with the church so many times is this.

We have been blessed and blessed and blessed, but

we do not know anything, we don't know anything.

We haven't absorbed anything.

Give us preachers that expound the truth! Explain the truth of the scriptures!

And the word they give feeds people, burns in their heart, and it's like a hammer.

Well you know what?

The anointing of the spirit is going to make a difference .

We need the Pentecostal power to fall on our pastors, on our people, and have the Lord God Almighty condition my heart to absorb it, to receive it.

And that's what I pray for.

I pray, oh God, condition my pastor friend's heart right now to be able to absorb the truth that will bring food for their soul, a burning in their heart, and an effectiveness to their ministry.

You see, the word of God is effective. A hammer is what it is.

You want it to be effective in someone's life.

You don't want them to say, oh that was a nice sermon, pastor.

You don't want that.

What you want to hear them say is it changed my life.

And he's changing you.

From glory to glory to glory.

Precept upon precept.

Line upon line.

Here a little, there a little. To God be the glory.

Now you join us next time! We'll keep going with Divine guidance and the will and call of God.