

Bridges of Light Ministries

What Makes a Truth Real?

A Bridges of Light Bible Study

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Instructions

This study may be used individually or in a group setting. The Leader's Guide is designed to be used by the Leader during a group discussion. The Guide is color coded to assist in directing the discussion. If you are going to lead a group discussion, then we suggest that you read the summary first, and then review the discussion, including the discussion points and answers. If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary and then answer the questions on the Study Section. Make sure that you read and study the scriptures used in the Study. After you have completed the Study Section, then compare your answers to those that you will find in the Leader's Guide.

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Color Code

◆ Scripture References in Red

◆ Leaders Guide points in Green

◆ Other comments

◆ Notes and Questions in black

◆ Summary of typical responses in blue

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Summary

What makes a truth real? We know that God's Word is absolute Truth, but what makes that Truth a reality in our lives? If we don't see the evidence of a specific Truth, does it mean that it is a lie? These questions are keys that can reveal the root of what we struggle with as believers. This study explores the concept of truth and how our view of God's Word impacts our walk and relationship with God.

Leader's Guide

✓ Matthew 21:18-22 (KJV)

- ¹⁸⁾ Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.
- ¹⁹⁾ And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.
- ²⁰⁾ And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!
- ²¹⁾ Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.
- ²²⁾ And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

- 1) What was the condition of the fig tree when Jesus came to it the first time?
 - ❑ It had the appearance of being fruitful, but lacked fruit.
In season, full of leaves. Should have had fruit.
- 2) Symbolically, what does the fig tree represent?
 - ❑ Israel
 - ❑ Fruitless Believers - those who have a form of Godliness but no relationship with Him, therefore no Godly fruit.
Israel
The Church

✓ John 15:1-7 (KJV)

- 3) How does the fig tree in Matthew 21:18-22 relate to John 15:1-17?
 - ❑ Both are examples of believers and Spiritual fruit.
 - ❑ Both describe spiritual death resulting from a lack of fruitfulness.
Both the fig tree and vine are suppose to bear good fruit.
Both need pruning to be strong and fruitful.
- 4) What is the condition of Matthew 21:22?
 - ❑ You must believe in order to receive.
You must ask. You can not expect to receive something from God if you do not ask.
You must believe that you will receive it.
It is a matter of trusting God to do what He said and to meet your needs.

✓ Matthew 21:23-27 (KJV)

- 23) And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?
- 24) And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.
- 25) The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?
- 26) But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.
- 27) And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

5) Why did the chief priest question Jesus' authority?

- ❑ Jesus chased out the thieves who were working for the chief priests and had healed a man on the Sabbath.
- ❑ They recognized that He had authority, but could not understand it.
- ❑ They lacked understanding of Godly authority, because they had no relationship with God. Maybe out of Jealousy; they were fearful of the power he walked in; they hoped to catch Him in blasphemy. They did not believe who He was and felt threatened by Him.

✓ Luke 9:1-2 (KJV)

- 1) Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.
- 2) And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

6) How could the disciples cast out devils and heal the sick?

- ❑ Through the authority and power that Christ gave them. They went out with the authority of God and with an understanding of the functionality of that authority. Jesus sent them out with transferred authority to operate in His name. Jesus imparted to them authority and power. He gave them the necessary provision, the authority and power, to perform the task that He sent them to do.

✓ **Mark 16:14-18 (KJV)**

- ¹⁴⁾ Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.
- ¹⁵⁾ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
- ¹⁶⁾ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
- ¹⁷⁾ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
- ¹⁸⁾ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

7) Do we have the same authority and power over sickness and demons as did the disciples or did they have something extra?

- We have the same authority and power because we have the same Holy Spirit that was in Christ.
- Jesus paid the price and sent forth His Word to us. That Word contained the power and authority we needed. (Mark 16:16-18)

We have the same authority and power

(It is interesting to note that some people believe that the disciples had something more because they walked with Christ. Yet it was the word that He spoke to the disciples that gave them the power and authority to heal the sick and cast out demons. Just as we who believe received that same power and authority to the word that Jesus spoke in Mark 16:16-18)

A) As a believer what can you do?

- We can do anything that Jesus did and more if we understand the truth and walk in it. If we only have knowledge of the truth then we will not perform the works nor the greater works. Knowledge without understanding is empty and fruitless.

✓ **John 14:12 - 13 (KJV)**

- ¹²⁾ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
- ¹³⁾ And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- ¹⁴⁾ If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

We will do the works that He did and greater.

8) What is the condition found in Mark 16:14-18?

- Believing in Jesus Christ as the propitiation for our sins.
We must believe that Jesus is God's only begotten Son, that He was born of a virgin, and that He lived a sinless life, died on a cross and then rose again. If we do not believe fully in Him and allow Him to be our LORD and Savior then we will not experience His promise.
Believe in the authority that He gave us and in Him.

✓ **Isaiah 53:3-5 (KJV)**

- ³⁾ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- ⁴⁾ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
- ⁵⁾ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

9) How would you describe the work of the Cross?

- Full payment for our sins was made.
- Our peace was bought through His chastisement.
- Our healing was paid for through His stripes.

The cross showed us His love for us.

It restored us into a relationship with God the Father.

Jesus was the sheepskin provided for us to cover our nakedness, because our fig leaf could not do the job.

10) Are there any conditions placed on receiving the benefits of the work of the Cross?

- Fully believe it.
- Fully accept it.
- We must walk in the truth of the work of the Cross with understanding, not just knowledge about that truth.

Believing it.

11) Can you have knowledge about a truth but not accept it as fact?

- Yes. A truth in God's Word that we lack understanding about or choose to reject out of rebellion is a truth that we do not accept as a fact.

Yes

12) Can a truth be unreal to you, yet remain a truth?

- Yes. The fact that you lack understanding or reject a truth does not change the reality of that truth.
- Many reject Christ, but He remains the Truth.
- Many reject the full work of the cross, but that work remains a fact regardless of your belief.

Yes

13) At what point did the truth that Peter could walk on the water at Jesus' command become a reality?

- When he accepted Jesus' command as an absolute fact and put his trust into action. At some level, Peter accepted that command as a possibility; otherwise he would not have gotten out of the boat.

When he stepped out of the boat.

Before he began to move.

A) Why did Peter sink?

- He accepted a seed of doubt spoken by the wind and waves. He began to question the reality and absolute nature of the truth that he had accepted as a fact moments before.

He considered his circumstances and his own understanding of what was possible and began to doubt that he could do what he was doing.

14) What part of the work of the Cross do you accept as an absolute fact?

<Answer for yourself honestly>

- { Do you fully accept that Jesus paid the full price to make you acceptable in God's Presence?
- Do you accept the fact that there are no sins that Jesus can not forgive or are you dealing with shame and a lack of self worth?
- Do you believe and accept that you can have peace in all situations because Jesus paid the full price for your peace?
- Do you believe and accept that you can be healed because Jesus paid for your healing with the stripes that He took for you? }

A) Do you walk in the truth of the full work of the Cross or do you just have knowledge of it?

<Answer for yourself honestly. No area of lack can be corrected until it is identified.>

15) What part of the work of the Cross do you know is true, but have yet to walk in?

<Again, answer for yourself honestly.>

{ Consider those things that you have knowledge of and claim to believe, but are not seeing the fruit of that knowledge in your life.

When did you pray for someone last and see them recover?

It is okay to lack understanding as long as you are willing to acknowledge it and pursue the understanding that you need so that you can walk in that truth. }

✓ **Matthew 17:14-17 (KJV)**

17) According to Jesus, (Matthew 17:20) what was the primary reason that the disciples could not cast out the demon?

Their unbelief.

Lack of firmly relying trust.

18) How do we move from knowing about God's truth to fully walking it out?

Through study - II Tim 2:15

Hearing of the Word - Romans 10:17

Relationship with God - Pray, fellowship

Study, put action to your understanding - practice.

Spend time in the Word.

Spend time with God.

19) What role does obedience play in learning to walk in God' truth?

Rebellion begins with a lack of trust and a failure to accept the truth of God's love.

Disobedience brings greater confusion, and greater darkness.

By acting in rebellion you chose to reject the truth.

100%

Bible Study Questions

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- 3) How does the fig tree in Matthew 21:18-22 relate to John 15:1-17?

- 4) What is the condition of Matthew 21:22?

✓ **Matthew 21:23-27**

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✓ **Luke 9:1-2**

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- 10) Are there any conditions placed on receiving the benefits of the work of the Cross?

- 11) Can you have knowledge about a truth but not accept it as fact?

- 12) Can a truth be unreal to you, yet remain a truth?

- 13) At what point did the truth that Peter could walk on the water at Jesus' command become a reality?
 - A) Why did Peter sink?

- 14) What part of the work of the Cross do you accept as an absolute fact?
 - A) Do you walk in the truth of the full work of the Cross or do you just have knowledge of it?

- 15) What part of the work of the Cross do you know of the truth, but have yet to walk in?

