

# Truth And Honesty

Truth and honesty are two principle by which we should live. We ought to seek truth and then deal with it honestly. Without doing these two things, we will amount to nothing, spiritually or otherwise.

Truth is God's word (Jn. 17:17). We can know it, though some parts are more difficult to understand than others (Eph. 5:17; 2 Pet. 3:16). It is the truth that will set us free from sin and death (Jn. 8:32). Therefore, when we find it, we must deal honestly with it, otherwise we will not be set free.

In honestly searching for and dealing with the truth, we must set aside our emotions and experiences. For instance, when a Baptist reads Acts 2:38, he must put aside the fact that his relatives or friends have not submitted to the gospel. The Baptist cannot dwell on the fact that his departed grandmother was not scripturally baptized. He must consider the truth and be honest. He must be baptized for the remission of sins.

Further, when a Pentecostal learns that spiritual gifts cannot exist today, he must set aside his past experience (1 Cor. 13:8-12). He must accept the fact that only the apostles could bestow spiritual gifts, and since there are no apostles alive today, no gifts can exist (Acts 8:14-18; 19:6). He may have had an unusual experience and even have uttered some strange noises, but honesty demands he admit they were not from God.

Finally, when a Christian reads about congregations engaging in benevolence, he must be honest. Even if he was raised to believe the church can help non-saints, he must admit that the New Testament teaches churches only helped saints (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1-6; 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-27; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 8:1-4; 9:1-2). He must reject what he was taught growing up and accept the truth.

Truth and honesty are required in our lives if we wish to be right with God. Seek the truth, buy it and do not sell it (Prov. 23:23; 1 Thes. 5:21). Do not deny truth because of an emotion or experience. Be honest and accept it.

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