



ONE HEART FOR GOD'S TRUTH

John 17:13-19

Jesus - *"Now I am coming to You (Heavenly Father). I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with My joy. I have given them Your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I'm not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your word, which is truth. Just as you sent Me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by Your truth."* (John 17:13-19)

- Jesus - *"I have given them Your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I'm not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one."* (John 17:14-15)
- **The Christian life is a battle where we are constantly in conflict with the Devil, His demons and devilish people in our world.**
- *"We are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm."* (Ephesians 6:12-13)
- **We should fight to be victorious over the Devil and devilish people, but we also need to remember that Opposition can: 1) Develop Our Character (Romans 8:28-29), 2) Deepen Our Faith (Romans 5:3-5), and 3) Bring Us Eternal Rewards (Matthew 5:11-12).**
- **When the Devil and devilish people come against us we also need to remember that we can overcome them by believing and living by "God's truth."**
- Jesus - *"Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your word, which is truth. . . . I give Myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by Your truth."* (John 17:17, 19)
- **When we're living by "God's truth" we will stay united with other Christians and strong in our faith, and we will live vibrant and victorious lives.**
- *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him (Jesus) who loved us."* (Romans 8:37)

- **What does it take to “live by God’s truth” in a world that’s filled with devilish beings, deception and difficulties?**

Living By God’s Truth Requires:

TRUSTING IN GOD’S PROTECTION OVER OUR LIVES

- Jesus - *“I’m not asking You (Heavenly Father) to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.”* (John 17:15)
- **Followers of Jesus are in a real warfare with Satan and his followers whose mission is to hurt, harm and hinder people (1 Peter 5:8).**
- Jesus - *“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.”* (John 10:10)
- **We overcome the Devil’s plans by *Putting On God’s Armor.***
 - *“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.”* (Ephesians 6:11)
 - **The armor of God consists of truth, righteousness, peace, faith, a godly mind and “rhema words” from the Lord, and we put on God’s armor through prayer (Ephesians 6:13-18).**
- **We overcome the Devil’s plans by *Standing Firm In Our Faith.***
 - *“Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.”* (1 Peter 5:8-9)
 - **Our confidence in the Lord will determine our destiny.**
- **We overcome the Devil’s plans by *Accessing God’s Power.***
 - *“Be strong in the Lord, and in His mighty power.”* (Ephesians 6:10)
 - **We can only defeat our enemies when we’re living daily in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).**
- **The Lord is able and willing to protect His followers from the attacks of the Devil and his followers when we are taking the steps we need to take.**
 - *“The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”* (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
- **What are some steps I need to take to overcome the Devil’s attacks and to pray for protection for friends, family members and the people of our region and nation?**

Living By God’s Truth Requires:

COMMITTING TO PURITY IN OUR LIVES

- Jesus - *“They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your word, which is truth. . . . And I give Myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by Your truth.”* (John 17:16-17, 19)
- **The Greek term “holy” (“hagiazō”) literally means to be consecrated and set apart for God’s divine purposes.**
- **Being Holy Requires *Abstaining From Sinful Behaviors.***
 - **What “sinful behaviors” do I sometimes struggle with in my life?**
 - *“Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.”* (2 Corinthians 7:1)
- **Being Holy Requires *Living By Godly Values***

- Jesus -*"Make them holy by Your truth."* (John 17:17)
- **Godly values include: 1) Loving the Lord (Mark 12:28-30), 2) Loving All People (Mark 12:31), Practicing Humility (Mark 9:35), Being Generous (Acts 20:35), Telling the Truth (Ephesians 4:25), Forgiving Others (Ephesians 4:32) Having Integrity (Isaiah 29:13-15) and Pursuing Peace with Others (Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:18).**
- *"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace."* (Ephesians 4:2-3)
- **Godly values also include:**
 - **Protecting and preserving human life (Genesis 1:26; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16)**
 - **Affirming marriage as a commitment between a man and a woman. (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6)**
 - **Addressing the needs of the poor and ensuring access to education for everyone. (Leviticus 19:9-10, 25:35-36; Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 14:31; Matthew 25:31-47)**
 - **Opposing unjust discrimination and pursuing justice for citizens and immigrants. (Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Amos 5:24; Zechariah 7:9-10; Romans 13:10)**
 - **Promoting peace in our nation and pursuing peace throughout our world. (Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18; James 3:18; 1 Peter 3:11)**
 - **Advocating for full conscience protection and religious freedom. (Romans 14:22, Galatian 5:1)**
 - **Caring about God's creation. (Genesis 1:28; Psalm 24:1).**
- *"Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord."* (Hebrews 12:14)
- ***What are some steps I need to take to live a godlier life?***

Living By God's Truth Requires:

CARRYING OUT JESUS' PRIORITIES IN OUR WORLD

- Jesus *"Just as You (Heavenly Father) sent Me into the world, I am sending them into the world."* (John 17:18)
- ***What did Jesus come to do in our world?***
- **Jesus Came To Our World To *Bring People Grace And Forgiveness.***
 - **Sin in our lives separates us from God and can keep us from going to Heaven.**
 - *"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins."* (Colossians 2:13)
- **Jesus Came To Our World To *Bring People Into God's Family.***
 - *"God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ."* (Ephesians 1:5)
- **Jesus Came To Our World To *Bring People Godly Fulfillment.***
 - **The Devil and devilish people want us to live discouraged and defeated lives.**

- Jesus - *“My purpose is to give people a rich and satisfying life.”* (John 10:10)
- **Jesus Came To Our World To Bring People The Great Future Of Heaven.**
 - *“For God so loved the world He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)
- **It is our mission as Christians to use our words, actions and resources to help people experience God’s forgiveness, freedom, fulfillment and future of Heaven in their lives.**
- *“God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors . . .”* (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)
- **A big question for us is “Are we more focused on promoting our political agendas than we are on connecting people to Jesus?”**
- ***What are some steps I need to take to better carry out Jesus’ message and ministry in today’s world?***

- Jesus - *“Now, I am coming to You (Heavenly Father). I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with My joy.”* (John 17:13)
- **The Lord wants His people to live joy-filled lives regardless of the obstacles or opposition we experience in our lives.**
- **Happiness is dependent upon circumstances but joy is deeper and better - and it’s an attitude, and choice that is not dependent on the outer circumstances of life.**
- Jesus - *“I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to Me...You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.”* (John 16:20-22)
- **We can rejoice regardless of the obstacles or opposition we face because Jesus is alive and working in and for our lives and world.**
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message?***

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