



What Makes A Truth Real?

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Bible Study

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Instructions

This study is designed to use questions and scriptures to enable believers to gain understanding. While it may be used for individual study, it is designed for a group setting. The Leader's Guide provides a group leader with additional information, scripture passages, and directional comments. Providing scriptures and some background helps to spur direct the discussion. Depending on the response of those participating in the study, additional questions may be required to direct them to the necessary understanding.

If you are going to lead a group discussion using this study, then we suggest that you read the summary first, and then review the discussion, including the discussion points, questions and answers. It is important to provide the Study Homework Section to your group in advance. Instruct them to ready the scriptures and answer the questions before the meeting.

If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary, scriptures and then answer the questions in the Study Homework Section. After you have completed the Study Homework Section, then compare your answers to those that you will find in the Leader's Guide.

It should be noted that this and our other studies often reference scriptural symbolism. As with the parables that Jesus told, a scriptural symbolism represents a deeper truth found within a passage or a group of passages. In order for scriptural symbolism to be valid it must line up with scripture and be supported by scripture and conform to the character of God.

All scripture references found in this study are the King James version, unless otherwise noted. Do not use or allow the use of none scripture references. In particular, books that are not part of the Bible or fictional movies and television shows. If a scripture seems questionable, compare it to the King James and Amplified versions. Also, in a group setting, do not allow anyone to dominate the discussion that will hinder others. Don't allow group members to challenge directly the answers of other group members. They should only present their own views, not challenge the views of another person. The answers presented herein, are not the final answers. These answers serve as a guide.

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About Us

South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.

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? Maybe this seems like a juvenile question, but it lies at the root of what we struggle with as believers.

A truth is real when by definition it is in complete and absolute conformity to the real facts or reality of the subject or state of things. For a truth to be real it must be in exact accordance to that which is, has been or shall be. It must also be completely free from any and all falsehood.

In the world we are surrounded by partial truths and conditional truth. Unlike the absolute truth, God's Word, these so called truths contain that which is not true and can not stand the test of time. Partial truths and conditional truths contain elements of falsehoods; therefore they are not really truth.

Aligning our beliefs with the real truth enables us to walk in the freedom and power of that truth. It is a process of identification. We identify lies that we hold to be truth and replace them with real truth. We must also identify truths that we hold to be conditional or even lies and accept them as unshakeable facts.

The degree to which we accept God's Word as absolute truth is the degree that we will walk in His freedom and power.

This study lays the foundation to enable you to see the truth and accept it as fact.



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Leaders Guide

In order to establish a baseline it is important to define what an absolute is, and therefore an absolute truth. Because God's Word is the Absolute Truth, then it serves as the standard and the authority that guides us and enables us to evaluate the legitimacy of any teaching.

For something to be an absolute it must meet the following conditions:

- 1) Free from limitations or conditions; unconditional.
- 2) Complete in itself; perfect; faultless.
- 3) Pure; unmixed.
- 4) Authoritative

Absolute zero, for example, is the lowest temperature that is theoretically possible. Absolute zero is the point in which the motion of particles that constitutes heat is non-existent. This theoretical measurement is zero on the Kelvin scale, equivalent to -273.15°C or -459.67°F . This temperature measurement serves as the point from which other temperatures are measured. While theoretical because it can not actually be measured or observed, it is an unconditional and unchanging measure, as such it meets the definition of an absolute.

In order for a truth to be absolute, it must be free from limitations or conditions; stand as a fact without change; authoritative on the subject matter. A conditional truth would be defines a something that is true only when the conditions are met. An absolute truth does not require any conditions to be true.

For example, saying that it is daytime is a conditional truth based on the time of day and that point on the earth relative position to the sun. Once the sun sets, then it is no longer daytime for that area. The condition that made the statement true no longer applies.

God's Word is the Absolute Truth. His Word stands on its own. His Word is what must be used to determine truth. His Word has the authority and power to complete any task assigned to it by God. When God says something, it is true. It is something that we can depend on and use to determine what is true.

Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV)

- 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:
- 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Numbers 23:19 (KJV)

- 19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

The fact that God can not lie means He only speaks the truth. If God has said it, then it is a fact. When God said "Let there be light", His Word caused that statement to be true. Up to that point light was not present. After He said it, light was created and came into existence.

God is the one who decides what is sin and what is not, what is right and what is wrong. He alone has determined what will be and by what man will be judged. It is not religion, a church leader or society that decides what is sin and what is not. Because He alone is completely holy and just, then He alone is qualified to determine what is sin.

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When we come from the point that God's Word is the Absolute Truth, then we can build our understanding based on that truth and identify any lies that we hold to be true. It is only the truth that enables a lie that is held as truth to be identified and replaced. Belief that a lie is true does not make it true, but it did give that lie power over those who believe it. The true sets you free from a lie.

John 8:32

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Question

- 1) Explain how truth makes you free.
 - *Truth brings freedom by exposing lies that control, limit and bind you.*
 - *Truth reveals what is real and what is not.*

As you gain knowledge of God's Word you gain understanding about who God is, along with His character, authority, power, wisdom and love for you. As a believer you come to understand your authority and position through Christ with God.

Matthew 21:18-22

- 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.

Every event described in scripture is important. Throughout the Word there are passages with hidden nuggets of truth, there for those who will search it out. The passage in Matthew is one of those.

Question

- 2) 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. It should have had fruit.*
- 3) Symbolically, what does the fig tree represent?
 - *Israel, because of the spiritual condition at the time*
 - *Fruitless Believers - those who have a form of Godliness but no relationship Godly fruit. Israel*

John 15:1-5

- 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
- 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.



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John 15:6-7

- 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.
- 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Question

- 4) 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 and God's judgement.*
 - *Both the fig tree and vine are suppose to bear good fruit.*
 - *Both need pruning to be strong and fruitful.*

A branch that becomes disconnected from the trunk of a tree or vine will dry up and die, because it no longer can receive that which give it life. If we withdraw from God, allow our relationship to wain, then our hearts will become cold and our spirit will begin to die. The truth, no longer supported, eventually gets replaced with lies.

Question

- 5) What is the condition of Matthew 21:22?
 - *You must believe in order to receive.*
 - *It is a matter of trusting God to do what He said and to meet your needs, and answer your prayers.*

The critical condition of the passage in Matthew 21, according to Jesus, is you must believe. If you don't believe that God will answer your prayers, then you should not expect an answer. In fact, if you are asking without believing then you have no expectation to receive the answer you seek.

Hebrews 11:1

- 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

By definition, the word hope, means to have an expectation. Without an expectation all you have is a wish, a desire. Faith is the substance of things expected, even though they might be not seen for a time.

Matthew 21:23-26

- 27 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.

Matthew 21:27

- 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.



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Question

- 6) 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.*

Luke 9:1-2

- 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.

Question

- 7) How could the disciples cast out devils and heal the sick?
- *Through the authority and power that Christ gave them through the words that He spoke to them.*

Jesus gave His disciples authority to do that works that needed done and gave them instructions on what to do and where to go. His words contained the power and authority they needed to perform the work they were assigned to them. Consider again the passage found in Isaiah 55:10-11. His Word has the power and authority to perform what He declares. The disciples received His Word and believed it which gave them the power and authority to do the work needed.

Mark 16:14-18

- 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.

Question

- 8) Do we have the same authority and power of 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.

Question

- 9) As a believer what can you do?
- *We can do anything that Jesus did and more according to Jesus.*



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If we know the truth and walk in that truth; and maintain a relationship with Him; then we are equipped to do the things that Jesus did and greater. If we only have knowledge of the truth then we will not perform the works that Jesus did nor any greater works. Knowledge without understanding is empty and fruitless. Just as knowledge without a relationship leads to spiritual death and eventually, accepting lies as truth.

Isaiah 53: 1-12

- 1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?
- 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.
- 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.
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.
- 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.
- 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.
- 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
- 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.
- 12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Question

- 10) 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 lover for us.*
 - *It restored us into a relationship with God the Father.*

Understanding the full work of the cross is critical for your walk with God. Without that understanding, without knowing the truth, then will accept the enemies lies as the truth.

(The phrase “enemies” means satan and all those angles stupid enough to follow him in his rebellion against God.)

Question

- 11) Are there any conditions placed on receiving the benefits of the Work of the Cross?
- *Fully believe and accept it that it applies to you without your earning it.*
 - *We must walk in the truth of the work of the cross with understanding. Knowledge of that truth is not enough; you must believe to receive the benefits of that work.*



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Understanding the Work of the Cross and believing it is a vital step for a believer. Knowing and believing the full work of the cross and what that means for you enables you to do all that Jesus did and greater. It enables you to walk in the fullness of that work.

Question

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

- *Knowledge does not mean belief or understanding.*

Many believe that God still heals, but many also believe that sometimes He does not. They accept as an unshakable fact that Jesus paid for their sins upon the Cross, but reject that our healing was paid for by His stripes. In fact, many will go to extremes to twist the Word and change meanings of the word “healing” to excuse their unbelief.

Question

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

- *Any truth that you do not accept or have knowledge of is unreal to you, but that truth remains a truth despite your rejection or lack of knowledge.*

Your opinion or your lack of knowledge and understanding of a truth has not impact on that truth. In the days of Columbus, many believed that the world was flat. They rejected the truth provided to them by Columbus; along with his evidence. Their rejection of that truth did not make the world flat. A lack of knowledge is a dangerous thing. A lack of knowledge can cost you everything and can limit you in this life.

Matthew 14:22-33

- 22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.
- 23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.
- 24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.
- 25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.
- 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.
- 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.
- 28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.
- 29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.
- 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.
- 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?
- 32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.
- 33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Question

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

- *The moment that Jesus spoke the word “come”. That word had the power and authority for Peter to do what Jesus said.*



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Consider again, the passage in Isaiah 55; God's Word has the power and authority to perform what God has said. The laws of physics, temporary circumstances, the laws of man, do not place a limit on God or His Word. Jesus told Peter to come.

Question

15) Why did Peter sink after stepping out in faith and walking on the water?

- *Peter accepted the lie of his past knowledge and understanding over the Word of God.*

When Peter saw the wind and waves he began to fear. His fear came because his knowledge and understanding from the past became more real to him than Jesus's Word. Peter accepted a lie as truth, even though he was walking in that truth at the moment. Truth sets you free. A lie brings destruction.

Question

16) What part of the Work of the Cross do you accept as an absolute fact?

- A) What part do you walk in the truth of the Work of the Cross?
- B) What part of the Work of the Cross do you just have knowledge of, but don't actually believe?

Be honest with your answers with yourself. Consider what you actually believe and what you do not. Think on the following and answer truthfully.

Do you make excuses for part of it?

Do you believe that your salvation was paid for in full?

Do you believe that your healing or the healing of others was paid for by His stripes?

When you pray for healing, be it yourself or others, do you actually expect to see them healed or do you just wish it will happen?

Matthew 17:14-21

- 14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,
- 15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.
- 16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.
- 17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.
- 18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.
- 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?
- 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.
- 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.



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The passage in Matthew 17:14 through 21, describes a situation where some of the disciples could not cast out a demon. Note that it does not say which disciples nor if they were of the twelve.

Question

- 17) According to Jesus why were the disciples not able to cast the demon out?
- *Their unbelief*

Authority that you do not know you have or believe that you have, you can not operate in. The demon in this case knew the disciples did not believe, therefore it refused to comply. When Jesus spoke, it left immediately. Jesus operated in His authority the disciples did not because of their unbelief.

Question

- 18) How do we move from knowing about God's Word, the absolute truth, to fully walking in it?
- *Through study of His Word and by building a relationship with God.*
 - *Practice. Practice. Practice.*

Those who pray for the sick will see the sick healed. Those who don't pray because of fear of what people might think or say, or because of their own unbelief, will not see someone healed when they pray. When we pray for the sick or someone's need, our responsibility is to pray and believe. God's responsibility is to do that which we have asked, according to His Word. We are not to judge others because they don't receive a healing, nor take the burden on ourselves. The more times you pray for people, the more prayers you will see answered.

Question

- 19) What roles does obedience play in learning to walk in God's Word, the absolute truth?
- *Rebellion begins with a lack of trust and a failure to accept God's Word as truth.*

When we understand that God has a perspective that we do not and accept as a truth that He is always working things out for our good, then we can trust that what He asks us to do is what is best and wisest.

If you know what God wants you to do, but you refuse to do it, then you are in rebellion. According to the first part of 1 Samuel 15 verse 23, rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. King Saul's failure to do what God told him to do cost him the kingdom. Rebellion is something that God hates.

Matthew 7:21

- 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Knowingly not doing God's will, acting in disobedience can cost you eternity with God, according to Jesus. You may not understand it. You may not like it. But He will always have you do what is best for you.

Know the truth and accept it as fact; build your relationship with God through worship, prayer and study; spend time listening in prayer, not just talking; and you will walk in the fullness of what Jesus paid for on the Cross. You will do the works that He did and greater works!



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Study Questions

Answer the following questions, using scripture to support your answers where appropriate. The goal is to gain understanding, not to adhere to short, pat answers. Don't limit yourself to the space on the page between questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet if necessary. Do not include answers based on the books that are not part of the Bible. The opinions of man and blending the works of man, in particular false books, will hinder your walk and understanding.

Read

John 8:32	Mark 16:14-18
Matthew 21:18-27	Isaiah 53
John 15:1-7	Matthew 14:22-33
Luke 9:1-2	Matthew 17:14-21

Questions

John 8:32

- 1) Explain how truth makes you free.

Matthew 21:18-22 and John 15:1-7

- 2) What was the condition of the fig tree when Jesus came to it the first time?
- 3) Symbolically, what does the fig tree represent?
- 4) How does the fig tree in Matthew 21:18-22 relate to John 15:1-17?
- 5) What is the condition of Matthew 21:22?

Matthew 21:23-27

- 6) Why did the chief priest question Jesus' authority?

Luke 9:1-2

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

Mark 16:14-18

- 8) Do we have the same authority and power of sickness and demons as did the disciples or did they have something extra?
- 9) As a believer what can you do?



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Isaiah 53

- 10) How would you describe the work of the Cross?

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