

The Transforming Power of Truth

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,

*but let God **transform** you into a new person by changing the way you think.*

Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Our lives are constantly consumed with the things of “this world,” such as keeping up with Jones’ and caving into the pressure of pleasing everyone, except the only One we should be living to please, God. We are constantly bombarded with lies and deceitful tactics from our great enemy, Satan. Without the Truth, we can never have the opportunity to live the victorious life that Jesus died to give us. God intends for you to experience life abundantly, *NOW*. I want to show you why Truth, the Word of God, can transform your life in more ways than you can possibly imagine.

On a day to day basis, we are filled with an abundance of questions in life, and when you're seeking answers, your only desire should be to know, the Truth. Who would ever desire to live in a world where everything was a lie? The sad truth is that many of us *do* live a life based on lies. An overwhelming number of Christians are walking daily in the lies that they have learned to “just accept” and they are living lives that are *far* from victorious. God never intended for us to *endure* life, but to *enjoy* it, to the full. Truth, the Word of God, is the only way to a victorious life. The answers to our questions regarding life come from one place and one place only, God.

Is God For Real?

*“I solemnly swear to the Lord, God Most High, **Creator** of heaven and earth,”*

Genesis 14:22(NLT)

Let's start at the beginning and ask the basic question, how do we know there is a God? To address that question, I'd like for you to imagine for a moment that we are in an Art Museum. And we, along with everyone else there, were admiring the beautiful art hanging on display. Neither of us, nor anyone else, would question whether or not there was an artist. We just know, with all certainty, that there is One. Someone had to have painted the picture, and we need no other proof of that, than the simple viewing of the painting. We do not entertain any thoughts of doubt in our conclusion.

So, shouldn't we assume there is a Creator for the world in which we live, and that the Creator gave us our very existence? And if we agree that there is a Creator, wouldn't the Creator know the optimal way to live our lives? Let's for the sake of the discussion, just go with the assumption that we have a Creator and let's gain a better understanding on how He intended for us to live and operate at our highest capacity. We were made to live triumphantly in every way and if you aren't operating at a level where you are experiencing true joy, contentment, and peace, then let me enlighten you on how Truth can transform your life!

Life's Little Instruction Book

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing

God wants us to do.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

Now let's take for example, in our rapidly progressive, technology driven lives, every device you own (computer, cell phone, etc.), comes with a set of instructions, or "Owner's manual."

What if I said to you, "I have the actual Owner's manual to *life*, with all of life's instructions that will help you to live a successful, fulfilling, and prosperous life, in every way?" I'd guess you would say "Where can I get it?????" I'm also guessing you wouldn't be too concerned about the price, if it did in fact exist. What I'm getting at, is that the Creator of every creation, knows best how to operate it. And so God, our Creator, loving us, gave us the Bible. He gave us His Word, our instructions for life. This is Truth.

Let me further explain. Now what happens if you purchase a new computer and you open the package and just begin clicking around haphazardly? You could possibly ruin the computer permanently. Obviously, the more intelligent course of action would be to read the set of instructions so that permanent damage isn't done, or you don't waste your

time performing tasks that aren't necessary. (I still have to work on this one.) There is no difference in our very own lives. Our Creator (Revelation 4:11), has given us His Instruction Manual, The Bible, and it is up to us to not only read it and know it, but apply it, so that we might have the abundant life God intends for us, instead of ending up with a life full of chaos and destruction.

Since most people own computers, let me explain how this works. When your new computer arrives, it is in raw form, it is not loaded with any software to protect your computer, and it is not corrupted by viruses (corrupted ways of thinking), similar to how we are, when we are born. It is our responsibility to obtain, and load "antivirus" software, into our computer to protect it. We need a firewall to keep intruders out, and a virus protection program loaded to keep our hard drive from being corrupted. Our life is no different. The problem is, over the years, if the data that has been entered has not been the Word of God, we will have no "firewall" to protect us from the lies that surround us every day. Without the Word of God, we won't even see an attack coming and we will find ourselves amid the destruction wondering if there will be anything left of us in the aftermath.

Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. 1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

Yes, I want to say that the Word of God, the Bible, is our "firewall" to protect us against the lies of this world. Without it, we cannot live in complete victory. Without it, we

remain completely vulnerable to the lies and deceit of our enemy and devastation is sure to follow.

First and foremost, it should bring great comfort to us, that there is no situation or question in life that is not covered in the Bible. In God's Instruction manual, He has given us the ability to find every answer we could possibly be seeking, and with His help, we are led *into all* Truth. So I ask you to take a leap of faith, if you have never experienced the power of the Word of God. When life remains ever changing and you are surrounded by chaos, why not take a chance, that God, just might be the "real thing."

Now, let me also pose this question? If you've purchased a "Dell" computer and you're having problems with it, you don't contact HP, Compaq, or Gateway customer service to get help! Likewise, why are we expecting to get correct answers and proper, helpful advice from friends, family, media outlets, and so-called trained professionals, when a problem arises in our life? No one knows better WHY and HOW you were created, HOW you are motivated, and HOW best to get YOU into "optimal" working condition again, than your Creator.

God has designed each of us with an individual plan and purpose. If someone is not steering you to God for your answers and solutions to your problems, then it is not advice that is beneficial for you. How is it possible that anyone else can know the will of God for your life? God desires to share these ideas with each of us individually and He speaks directly to us in a way that only we can completely understand. God has hidden secret desires, motivations, and spiritual gifts, within us that can many times only be known by us and Him.

The Word of God becomes powerful because it brings us back into alignment with God's will for our life. It brings us back into connection with our Creator so that we might be led in a way that fulfills His purposes for our lives. We are programmed with a desire to have purpose in this life. When we are filled with God's Word, we are suddenly reprogrammed and able to operate at a higher level.

Have you ever experienced technical difficulties with your computer and had to call into the technical department within your company? Many times you can sit back as they suddenly take over your computer and you watch them before your eyes begin to work within the windows of your machine. Or maybe you've called technical support and they've walked you through the steps to resolve your issue, without them even looking at your computer or touching it. I have always been astounded at how these individuals do this, and I sit in awe as I try to figure out just "how do they do that?!" Well, that is exactly the way God asks us to come to him. By *applying* the Word of God to our life, we are relinquishing OUR control and giving control to Him, the One who knows best how to operate it. I can tell you, you will stand in awe and amazement at His work as well, as He takes over your life, and you suddenly find yourself living out His purposes. You will wonder how you ever operated without Him.

Tearing Down Strongholds

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do.

We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons,

to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God.

We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NLT)

Now, let's talk about the mind for a moment, because it is vital to understand WHY it is important to tear down strongholds, places where lies are entrenched, and renew the "mind." I would actually argue that the majority of our lives are lived out in our minds. How much time do we spend worrying, running scenarios through our heads, conjuring up perspectives that hold no validity to them at all....we all have quite an imagination! If we think about it, most of our daily battles are fought in our mind. And more often than not, they are wasted, meaningless battles! Many times the battles within our minds create more destruction than originally existed in the physical world! So we truly need to take every thought captive and "reprogram our minds!" We use Truth, to tear down these strongholds in our minds, instead of allowing our minds to become captive by these strongholds. We must be proactive in our lives by focusing on what is true, instead of just accepting whatever the world puts in front of us, or whatever the enemy places into our minds. We were not created to be victims, but victors!

You see, what Truth does, is eliminate and replace falsehood. Just like an antivirus program catching and eliminating corruptive programs, God's Truth, takes that false thought, or idea, and casts it out. When we refocus our minds on what is true, in a simple moment, by our perspective alone, we can be transformed. The greatest example of declaring truth to cast down lies is shown in the "Temptation of Jesus" (Matthew 4:1-11). Now I LOVE how God gave us examples, of HOW His promises work. When Jesus was

tempted by Satan, Jesus immediately replied, “No! The Scriptures say....” and He would quote Scripture that would tear down the lie. This is how Jesus taught us to cast down lies and stand upon Truth. And He didn’t sit and ponder on the temptation, He cast it out IMMEDIATELY! There is simply no clearer example of how we are to act, in obedience to God’s will for us. Being filled with God’s Word, Truth, is the *only* way to overcome the lies of the Enemy, especially in our weakest moments and greatest times of need.

The Transformation

*What counts is whether we have been **transformed** into a new creation.*

Galatians 6:15 (NLT)

So now we need to address the HOW. If we accept God’s Word as Truth, by faith, then how do we take Truth, and transform our lives by it. Let me take us back to our technology analogy.....

In this Instruction Manual, the Bible, God has also included in it His “troubleshooting” reference. I find these always come in very handy in everyday instruction manuals! And God’s troubleshooting reference comes in very handy when we find ourselves in a place in life where we are broken, fighting depression, overcome with grief, lacking hope, and under the stress of unspeakable circumstances. This section of the Bible is the Concordance and it leads us to the place in God’s Word that will speak directly to us. In this case, and for what we are discussing, if you were to turn in God’s

“troubleshooting” section, and seek help for *all* the problems in your life, it would state, “Renew Your Mind.- Romans 12:2” I believe when your system is “corrupted,” this verse is where you need to *begin* “disinfecting” your spirit. Romans 12:2 (NLT) says,

*Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the **[entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].***

This verse could not shed more light on the power of the Scriptures and what it will do in your life. The Bible, the Truth, will lead you into those things which are good and perfect in the eyes of your Creator. And God wants you to live a life of abundant blessings in every way you can possibly imagine!

As we take a look at HOW to renew our mind I would start with one simple Scripture that I think would appeal to EVERYONE! Let’s start right now and renew your mind.....when you are filled with negative thoughts and beliefs about your future, you must replace those thoughts and beliefs with Ephesians 3:20 (AMP):

*Now to Him, Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do **superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams.***

Now I don't know about you, but I can conjure up pretty high desires, thoughts, hopes, and dreams! And I'm sure, just like myself, there are many out there that would jump at the chance to lay claim to this Promise. And that is exactly what the Word of God is to us. It is His Promises to us. But how can we claim something we have no understanding of in the first place. And what if we were not aware of this promise and we just accepted our circumstances and lived our lives fulfilling the goal of our great enemy, to keep our hopes and dreams from ever being realized. Think for a moment, what if there was a bank account in your name with millions of dollars in it...the problem was, you didn't even know it existed. It would be absolutely useless! And wouldn't it be very upsetting to get to the end of your life and look at what all you could have had? This is why it is so detrimental that we learn the Scriptures, learn the Truth, and *apply* it to our lives, so that we are not filled instead with thoughts like, I'll never find the spouse I'm looking for, I'll never get into that home for my family, I'll never be able to climb out of this debt, I'll never get a good job, I'll never get over this depression, etc. NO, God has *promised* that He can do MORE. How? When we put our trust and faith in His Word! It's laying claim to what is ours in the first place.

God tells us that He must do a work *within* us to accomplish these things, so we must seek after Him and His ways. Notice He doesn't say that He's going to promise to change all of our circumstances and make all of our problems, go away. He wants to do a work *IN us* and He's after a personal relationship. He's shaping us, preparing us, to live with Him for all eternity.

Now there is so much money spent on self help, "pep you up" seminars, and don't get me wrong, that is wonderful, however, there is no "supernatural power" in it. You see,

those are not our Creator's set of instructions, that is just someone's instructions on how to "better" live life, in "their" experience, but not necessarily how it is best to live each of our lives according to the One that created us. Our Creator has a different plan for each of us, a specific path that meets each of our individual needs and desires. The advice we get from others *can* have short term benefits, at times. You can leave a self help session incredibly lifted up, and with a positive mind set, but a positive mind set will not move mountains, *faith in God will!* (Mark 11:22-24) The Truth will have supernatural power in your life and **long** lasting effects. Each time you speak the Word of God into your life, God jumps at the chance to grow your faith in Him. And believe me you will long to know Him more!

So let me give you some other examples. Let me take you to the person who believes they will never overcome an addiction, to that God says in *1 John 4:4 (NLT)*, "*Greater is He that is in you than he that is in this world.*"

To the person who believes they are constantly ridiculed, and under attack, to that, God says in Proverbs 30:5 (NLT), "*Every word of God proves true, He defends all who come to Him for protection.*"

Maybe in general someone doubts they can acquire the promotion they need or get accepted to the university they desire to attend, or they are diagnosed with a disease or illness they are told is incurable, to that, God says in Mark 10:27 (NLT), "*Humanly speaking it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.*"

And what about the many millions of people who suffer from depression.

Through the Scriptures *Psalm 56:8, Job 12:22, and Psalm 145: 18-19 (NLT)*,

We know that God has kept track of all our sorrows, He has collected our tears in a bottle and recorded each one in His book, He is near to all who call upon Him and He will hear their cry and will save them. We are also told that He floods our darkness with light and brings light to the deepest gloom.

These are God's Promises, this is Truth. You see, I'm not talking about "Believing IN God....I'm talking about BELIEVING God!" There is a profound difference and it is the difference between a transformed life and one that remains in the unstable ways of this world. When we BELIEVE and put our faith in God's Word, we are replacing those strongholds in our minds with the truth that has been given to us by our Creator.

I can tell you from experience through my ScriptureNow.com Ministry, by simply praying these Scriptures into the lives of others, they are transformed. In that moment, they are connected with their Creator, and there is no greater feeling. Hope, faith, love, and peace, are restored, and these are the desires our souls were programmed with since our creation.

There truly has been a common way that I have seen the Word of God transform people's lives and in EVERY single case, no matter WHAT the situation, whether the person is struggling with an addiction, with depression, fear, with grief, or just a lack of hope because of financial difficulties, the transformation has occurred in exactly the same way, every time. When the Word of God is spoken (prayed, meditated) into their lives,

the transformation occurs because they suddenly see their life, not just from their perspective, but from a higher viewpoint, from the viewpoint of God. I've only gotten a glimpse here and there, but one thing is for certain, it looks A LOT different from up there!

Many times, our frustrations and problems in life come from trying to force life to happen in the way that we want it to. More often than not, we are living in our own will instead of the will of God. And many times the trials and tribulations, self defeating beliefs, etc. are not what they appear to be on the surface. We need to understand that God may not always change someone or our circumstances, but He can, and will change us! And this is what the Word of God does. God can change *you* by *transforming your mind with Truth*. In Proverbs 23:7 we're told "as a man thinks, so is he." So what have you been thinking about lately? Is it everything that is honorable, true, pure, lovely, and worthy of praise? If you haven't, then you've been falling short of God's glory and the abundant life He longs for you to live. As you seek Truth, and your spirit begins to feed upon it (Matthew 4:4), almost immediately your life begins to change. Your focus is no longer on your own abilities, which are completely inadequate, (this is where a lack of hope develops) you are accessing the supernatural powers of God. He is MORE than adequate and you'll learn His grace is MORE than sufficient!

So if there's something in your life that you'd like to change, let God change YOU first, by renewing your mind and the way that you think, and all the rest will fall into place.

The Word of God will transform your life because by placing your trust and faith in Him,

you will find yourself following a different path and seeing life in the light instead of darkness, as you walk into the will of God.

Now don't get me wrong....this is not a "quick fix" solution...we must continue to seek God and His Truth. It's not a one time thing. We are told in Psalm 105:4 (NLT) to "Search for the Lord and His strength and *KEEP ON* searching." If you look at this in my "computer" analogy, we must "update" our antivirus software!!! My best advice is don't look for that renewal notice, and definitely don't let it expire. Be proactive and be protected by the Truth before you start each day, because more than likely you are going to have a battle ahead that you are not yet aware of.

Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. Ephesians 4:23 (NLT)

The Truth That Sets You Free

"And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

John 8:32 (NLT)

I want to leave you with one vital Scripture about the Word of God, John 8:32, "And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." You might ask, free from what? The Truth will set you free from depression, anger, pain, emptiness, loneliness, hopelessness, un-forgiveness, addictions, and any other chains that bind you on a daily basis. This is God's Promise, you will be set free!" Free from whatever it is that binds

you today and everyday. You may not see how you will ever make it in the situation you face, but God has already made a way. He will not take you over it, around it, or under it, He will take you *through* it. Each spiritual battle, each trial and tribulation you encounter, is an avenue, an opportunity for God to build your faith in Him, and bring you into a deeper relationship with Him, to transform you into His image. And when you rely on His Word, you will find that, He is always before you, and at times, He is walking with you, but more often, He is carrying you. It is your *faith in His Word that will transform your life*, by bringing you into a closer relationship with the One who created you. There is no greater source of strength, hope, and peace, than the God Almighty. Ask Him *now*, to reveal Himself to you through His Word, and get ready to listen, because He is speaking to you!

If you would like to take the first steps in transforming *YOUR* life with Truth, then visit me at: <http://www.ScriptureNow.com> or email me at: godsword@scripturenw.com May God bless you abundantly in every way!

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