

Who Did Hinder You?

By Barbara Samuel

I want to share with you out from the Lord's dealing in my heart regarding our glorious Salvation in Christ. And the word that the Lord continues to bring to me is **REALITY**: this is real, this is true, this is eternal, this is spiritual, this is heavenly, but it is REAL NOW. We are not like the Old Covenant saints who had the types and shadows under the Law. Speaking of the faithful under the Law, we read in **Hebrews 11:13**: *"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."* They believed, but they never experienced the Reality of those promises. We should know that the Law never made anything perfect (fully complete), and never will.

But NOW – in Christ (not because of a date on the calendar, but **in Christ**) all the promises have come to be realized, and been fulfilled: not in type and shadow, but in substance, in Truth, in Reality. And because Truth has come, because the Reality is now come, God desires that we come to know: not just intellectually embrace the doctrine of our Salvation, but experience in our souls the Reality of our Salvation and walk daily in the Truth of it. But sadly, rather than living in Truth, most of us are living in a lie: in the vain imaginations of man's religion rather than in The Reality of God's Finished Work of The Cross. People say the life of a Christian is hard, but I disagree. A Christian living a lie is hard! We say we are saved and now we are "on our way to heaven, to see Jesus some day."

But that is not The Truth – The Truth as it is in Christ. The Reality is you are dead, and Christ is your Life - NOW. And in The Truth of His Resurrection God has quickened, raised and seated His Body as One in the heavens (**Ephesians 2:5,6**). And now you can live on the earth in that Reality: not struggling in your own flesh, but resting in His Finished Work. It is when we as Christians are not living in The Truth of God's glorious Salvation, still struggling in the flesh that it is hard.

God's desire has always been for a people to walk (live) daily manifesting, expressing the Truth of His Name in the earth as HE is in their midst. This was the heart of the Apostle John. **II John 1:1:** *"The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; 2: For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever. 3: Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. 4: I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father."* "Walking in truth" means living in the unveiled Reality: in the Reality that is made known to you and operates in you: in the Person of Truth – the Resurrected Christ in the fulness of all that He has done by The Cross, and in the fulness of His Life which we now have. This means not walking in my flesh, according to my flesh, for my flesh: but in the Reality of The Cross that Paul declares in **Galatians 2:20:** *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* It is not simply quoting that scripture and even believing it is true, but being the witness, the expression of the TRUTH of this Reality. And anything other than that may be religious, but it is not the Reality of our Salvation.

We must come to the knowledge of the Reality of this Finished Work. Friends, our religious doctrines are not going to change the Reality of God's Eternal, Spiritual Truth: we can't add to it or take away from it! We have to come to see our Salvation as God planned it, and as the Lord Jesus accomplished it. Look at how Peter describes this Salvation. **II Peter 1:3:** *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* This is by God's Power – His Work, not by the work of our flesh. And it is made effective in us through the knowledge of God and the Person of our Salvation, Jesus our Lord. We have NOW received the promises - not in the future: but now so that we might be partakers of the Divine Nature while we are still on this earth. This is how God knows Salvation: not just forgiving us our sins, but giving us His Life and His Divine Nature. This is what He HATH (past tense) done by The Cross and it is so NOW! This is the Reality of Salvation: not a "better me", but the better One – Christ. Our Salvation is the Resurrected Christ living in us: it is His Life, manifesting His nature. And the word "partaker" here is important. It means to accept and use: to receive and have. But this is not a mystical, vaporous thought: this is the Reality, the substance that we can hold onto and experience – **NOW**.

So this is our challenge. We say we know we have been given Christ now as Life, but have we accepted that? And have we fully accepted the consequences of that: that I am dead, and now the Only Life I have is Christ? And are we using, or allowing to function the Divine Nature, the character of Christ that we have received? And don't forget we have received Christ in His fulness: not in little pieces. **John 1:16:** *"And of his*

fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.” Colossians 2:9: “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10: And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:” We may be learning Him in parts, but we have received Him in His fulness; and God desires to fill us with Christ. **Ephesians 3:19:** *“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”* The question for us is are we walking in that Reality? Is His Divine Nature evident in us daily? His Life, His Nature is in us, but are we allowing that Nature to be manifested in us? The Apostle Paul put it this way in **Galatians 4:19:** *“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.”* He was speaking to those who had received The New Birth and had received His Divine Nature. Paul’s heart is that Christ be fully formed in you: not just in part, but in the fulness of all that He is!

This is where the Lord has been challenging me. Am I living in the REALITY of my Salvation: is my manner of living one that is evidencing the Nature of Christ – not a religion, but The Truth of HIM? Are the things that I am doing daily consistent with His Nature, His Holiness, His Mind? And as we desire to go on to learn Him, to know Him, this will become a real working of the Spirit in our souls. A superficial knowledge of Christ will not generate much of a challenge in this regard because we can look at ourselves and say we are “better” than before we got saved. But as we go on to know Him in The Reality of The Cross everything will be challenged in our hearts. This is to be made evident not by the words that I speak when I am in the pulpit on Sunday morning, but by the life I live every day. It will all be challenged by **The Reality of The Resurrected Christ who now lives in us.**

I am not talking about an outward, fleshly, religious show; but I

am speaking of the inward Work of The Spirit of God in our souls changing us. And this will only truly take place where there is a true seeing, a true beholding of Him – as He is. **II Corinthians 3:18:** *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* **I John 3:2:** *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”* It is only truly by seeing Him by the Spirit that we are changed, because this is the transforming power of God that works in us, conforming our souls to the NEW LIFE we now have – CHRIST. And this is what God desires. Our Salvation is not just that we become “better people”. God desires an expression of His Son. **Romans 8:29:** *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* This means that His Life and Nature be fully formed in us. It is not us growing beards and wearing sandals, but functioning as He is. We talk about the “fruit of the Spirit” as if this is us. **Galatians 5:22:** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23: Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* But this is HIM: the evidence of the Divine Nature: His Nature that is now to be manifest in us as we partake fully of Him.

But I want to sum this up by saying the Lord’s Nature is Truth: He IS The Reality of the Word and Wisdom of God made known. The word “truth” – (Strong’s # 225 – ALETHEIA) means the unveiled reality lying at the basis of what something appears. It is what is “real” - made known, disclosed. **John 1:17:** *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. 18: No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”* Truth came by Jesus Christ! HE is the REALITY

of everything that God had spoken – made known. And please note: Truth must have manifestation. Under the Law there were true things spoken, but The Truth was hidden in types and shadows. THE Truth - and it is always written like that: not “A” Truth, but “THE” – exclusively the ONLY REALITY God has ever planned and desired was made known by The Person of Truth: Christ and what He made known when He came to the earth to go to The Cross!

And Truth must be lived: it is not passive; it must have manifestation, expression. Jesus did NOT come simply speaking about God: He came as an EXPRESSION of the very Heart, Mind and Will of God – making His Nature known in the earth. **John 14:7:** *“If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8: Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9: Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10: Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”* So I am not talking about intellectually learning true facts – that is what Christianity generally is these days. I am talking about a Spirit-given learning of Truth (The Reality made known in our hearts) and living with and by the Nature of Truth: the Reality that Christ is our Life, and outside of Him we have no Life.

Now I know that we are learning the “true things of Christ”, and that is good, that is necessary. But are we living Truth or living a lie? And I ask this question as always in the light of The Cross, so this is not a theological debate but a serious question we must not lightly dismiss. The Apostle Paul desired to

strengthen the Church in The Reality of The Finished Work of The Cross and I do also. **Galatians 5:1:** *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”* And when we know the REALITY of our Salvation we can stand strong and steadfast in what Christ has done by His Cross, and no longer need to be in bondage either to the realm of sin and death, or even to vain religion as Paul is speaking of in this letter to the Galatians who were turning back to the Law. Paul is saying – no! The Reality is that by The Cross of Christ, *“(He) hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”* (**Colossians 1:13**) This is not because of what WE have done, but because of what HE has done! And because of what Christ has done by The Cross we can be free – free from flesh, self, religion and tradition. And now we can find and experience daily New Life in His Kingdom, under His rule and reign. Now we can LIVE in this Reality and be an expression, a manifesting of this Reality in the earth.

Now the Galatians had started out seeing Truth and walking in The Truth of Christ and The Cross, but here was Paul’s question. **Galatians 5:7:** *“Ye did run well; **who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?**”* But the word “obey” here does not mean just following a set of rules and doing things under duress because you are afraid of the consequences. It is the Greek word PEITHO (Strong’s #3982) meaning to convince, to assent to, to rely (by inward certainty), to agree, believe, have confidence, trust, yield up. This is firstly an inward obeying of the soul being spoken of, not the outward show of doing acts according to rules. And notice it is “THE Truth” – not “A truth”: but exclusively The Truth: the Reality that Christ is. And may we never forget that Truth is a Person, not a set of doctrines. Jesus Himself said in **John 14:6**, *“I am ... **the truth**...”* So now this is my question for us. We are learning Truth, but

are we **obeying The Truth**: are we obeying The Person of Truth? Are we obeying The Cross of The Person of Truth? Because you can NOT separate The Person of Truth from The Cross – which IS The Truth, The Reality of God. You can NOT obey HIM and not obey His Cross! And that means daily, in every situation, and every place: willingly accepting and agreeing with the Judgment of The Cross and allowing The Work of The Cross to take place in our hearts.

I really hope we understand that God's Truth does not change. It is fixed and settled in Heaven in the Person of The Resurrected Son of God by The Work of The Cross, and we are not going to cause it to be changed. As I have said, we cannot add to it, or take away from it despite what modern Christianity has done in our religious doctrines. We now can either walk in obedience to Truth or in defiance of it! And especially if we are seeing that "The Truth" is not a set of religious rules we follow or man's doctrines, but a Person – The Reality of The Person of our Salvation now living in us by Resurrection Power and Spirit Life; then we are required to walk in The Truth, in the full light of that Truth that He is. This is not me trying to do "true things" but **the manifestation of The Truth that He is having full expression in us**. It is allowing Him to be – to be God's Truth, to be Reality in us – and that will affect what we do.

Friends, remember we are the lie – without Christ there is no Truth in us! And because He is Truth in us, He has a right to question us, examine us, correct and discipline us if we are not obeying The Truth: The Truth that He now is. This is not how we enjoy having the Lord deal with us, but this is the working of the Spirit of God in us, and it is necessary as we go on learning Christ. This is the chastening, the training, the dealing of God with us as sons that is spoken of in Hebrews 12. And

even though it is grievous to us; it is for God's Purpose. **Hebrews 12:9:** *"Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10: For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11: Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."* And remember The Spirit of Truth will always deal with us in the light, in the knowledge, in the Reality of Truth – not conceding to our ignorance. But we can refuse this dealing. WE can refuse this chastening, this correction. And in our refusal to allow the Lord to work in us and conform us to His image, we are refusing Him and The Truth of all that He has accomplished at The Cross; and that is serious.

So, who hinders us from walking in Truth? **We do!** It is man – especially religious man: the natural mind and heart that tries to understand God according to the flesh and not by the Spirit. And the Apostle Paul strongly cautioned the Church against this. **Colossians 2:8:** *"Beware lest **any man** spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition **of men**, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."* **Colossians 2:16:** *"Let **no man** therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. 18: Let **no man** beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind."* The flesh always strives against the Light, against The Truth, and prefers the lie rather than coming to the full Light of The Truth. **John 3:19:** *"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather*

than light, because their deeds were evil. 20: For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21: But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” The Light is come into the world. That Light is Christ as The Truth of all that God planned and promised – now made known as Reality. But the Light discovers all our evil deeds (even our religious ones) and too often we turn from The Light so that we can remain in darkness and continue doing our own thing according to our own needs and wants.

But he who continually does The Truth (walks in Christ with his Life) continually comes to The Light and allows God to make manifest in our souls His Life, His Nature, His Truth. When we disobey The Truth – and that is a choice WE make – we remain in darkness, and His Truth, His Light cannot cleanse and change us. The one who hinders is **ME**. I am the disobedient one who must come to the obedience of Christ continually, and that means to The Death of The Cross. And as we allow The Reality of that Finished Work to continually work in us, we will walk in The Truth. This is God’s desire for us: that we walk in The Reality of our Salvation NOW. Let no man hinder you from obeying The Truth!

Published By
A Gathering Unto Christ in Spirit and Truth
5025 Solitude
St. Croix, V.I. 00820