

## Spirit and Truth

### Balancing Sound Doctrine and Spiritual Life

#### John 4:22-24

<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

#### Matthew 22:29

<sup>29</sup> But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.

In Jesus mind, the one revealed the other- they were 2 sides of one coin.

In all of truth, there is a tension, and we have to engage with the tension!

The devil would love to keep us one-sided, comparing head knowledge, keeping the realms of experience out of view.

Or he would have us only live for new experiences, and remain ungrounded in the truth of God's Word.

In Biblical truth (God's truth), information is meant to be a gateway, with experiential knowledge as the destination.

#### John 3:7-10

<sup>7</sup> Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?

Jesus presumed that careful study of the scriptures would logically lead to revelation of truth and the power of God.

Jesus said whoever is born of the Spirit would live life coming and going with an unseen force driving them on.

For this to be possible, we must maintain a BUOYANT SPIRIT, which is a sure indicator that we are spiritually healthy.

#### Balloon illustration

If we are excessively weighed down with head knowledge, we will be too heavy to be blown by the wind of God.

If we are full of the Spirit only, and have no sound teaching, or doctrine within, we will simply float away.

Doctrine keeps us grounded when we are touched by the Life of the Spirit.

A Bouyant Spirit is achieved by pursuing a balance of Spirit and the Truth.

We may need to pursue one more than the other for a while to reach a place of spiritual health.

For the one bogged down with head knowledge, and needing to grow in the things of the Spirit:

Psalm 131:1-3

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; Nor do I involve myself in great matters, Or in things too difficult for me. <sup>2</sup>Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child *rests* against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me. <sup>3</sup>O Israel, hope in the Lord From this time forth and forever.

Pull away from controversy and endless disputing, and return to simplicity of faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Ecclesiastes 12:11-13**

<sup>11</sup>The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of *these* collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd. <sup>12</sup>But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion *to books* is wearying to the body. <sup>13</sup>The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person.

Add a new shelf to your library, and take the things you read and diligently put them into practice.

For the one ready to float away in your zeal and passion for the things of God:

### **John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup>Jesus *\*said* to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Remind yourself that pursuing truth in the Spirit is the pursuit of Jesus Himself, and He will lead you to the Father!

### **1 Corinthians 8:1b-3**

<sup>8</sup>Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. <sup>2</sup>If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; <sup>3</sup>but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

### **Psalm 62:11-12**

<sup>11</sup>Once God has spoken; Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God; <sup>12</sup>And lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, For You recompense a man according to his work.

If we will seek Him out, God will reveal to us the reality of His presence, the truth of His Word, and His power that dwells in us.