



ASTRONO

Truth

changes

Fact

by Peter Doseck

TRUTH CHANGES FACT

by
Peter Doseck

CHAPTER ONE

WHAT IS TRUTH?

We live in a world where very few things are constant. Markets rise and fall, prices change on a daily basis, businesses come and go in our communities, teams win, and then they lose. Everything around us is in a state of flux, except for one thing: the truth. Facts may change, but truth remains the same.

There will always be a battle in society about what is fact and what is truth. Most people are dominated by facts, and therefore never experience the power of truth. Jesus gave His disciples great insight about what truth is when He spoke to them in John 8:31-32. Here's what He said:

"If you continue in My word, then you are My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Word of God is truth. It is the only truth, and it is absolutely unchangeable, undeniable, and everlasting.

The word "free" in the verse above means liberated, exempt, and delivered. Truth can break you free from the enslaving power that binds you, even those bondages which you

have created for yourself. Freedom birthed by truth will cause you to live an unrestrained life where you will experience the fullness of joy. Truth can change fact.

The problem is, most people monitor their lives and measure them by the facts of their existence. If their income is up, then they say they are blessed. If their bodies feel good, then they say they are healed. If their households are at peace, then they say they are living life more abundantly.

Living this way is a roller coaster ride because what is up one day will be down the next, and what is fact today will be false tomorrow. You cannot base your belief on what you see, feel, hear, or even think. If you base what you believe on what you experience on planet earth, yours will be a very disappointing existence.

Truth is in a constant battle with fact. Truth is what God says, while fact is what the world says. Truth is unchanging; fact is ever changing. Truth is unshakable, no matter the atmosphere; fact is unstable and easily shaken by the things that happen around it.

Fact will tell you God does not exist because it cannot see Him, hear Him, or confirm His presence, but truth tells you that God has always been. He existed long before the world began. He is eternal, not confined to time and space, and He is everywhere at all times in

all places. You cannot measure Him, but He is more real than that which can be quantified.

Things Unseen

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 says: "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

The word "temporal" means subject to change; in a constant state of fluctuation. There is no stability in the temporal world.

The things which are unseen are in the Word of God. They are His promises, His truth, His will, and His ways. They are not subject to change. They cannot be manipulated or redefined, but they are set in the sovereignty of God.

This is why the Bible is the only unchangeable, undeniable, eternal, and established truth that exists.

You can see from this passage of scripture that afflictions will come. They are a part of the work of Satan, and they will increase as we draw closer to the end of our age. Much of what you see in the world is the result of the work of iniquity which is beginning to wreak havoc in the earth, seeking to bring about

faithlessness and inactivity.

The things that are happening today are a result of more than the plans of mere men. These things are arising because of a diabolical strategy of the devil who is seeking to increase fear in those who do not know God, as well as in those who do.

As trouble increases and the world system crumbles under its own weight, people will look for a savior, for a messiah, for someone to set them free. This is why they will be so easily drawn into the web of the anti-Christ when he unveils himself in future days.

The church must not turn its eyes from truth because of mounting facts. We cannot allow ourselves to be deceived by changing winds and the stirring of circumstances. No matter the evidence of future failure, we must believe the Word of God and rely on its truth.

You should not be surprised by what you see around you, but you should be prepared to resist and fight.

When you look at temporal facts - at things which are constantly changing, such as the rising cost of living, failing governments, nations rising against nation, diseases running rampant, or the decay of society - repeatedly looking at these things will separate you from experiencing God in a glorious way.

So, don't look at the facts, but look at the truth. Put your gaze upon the glory of the Lord, drink in the truth of His Word, and let the Spirit of God revive you and make you strong.

The Origin of Fact

There are two places from which facts are derived. First and foremost, they come from the distorted half-lies of the devil.

We see this in Genesis when the serpent asked Eve if she and Adam were allowed to eat of every tree in the garden. When Eve answered that they were allowed to eat from all but one lest they die, the serpent said:

"You shall not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5).

At this moment Eve looked at the trees. She knew that God had given them every tree bearing good fruit to eat of, except for this one, but now it looked different to her, because the serpent's words clouded her thinking.

He twisted the truth to make Eve believe God was holding out on her. He deceived the woman, and then the man followed suit because his love for his wife was greater than his love for God. They believed a fact, as presented by Satan, rather than the truth, as

spoken by God.

You could say, "What a mistake!", but let me ask you how many times you have accepted the facts of your existence over the truth of God's Word? Have you ever said, "We don't have enough; we never have enough", when the Word clearly says: "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19)?

What's the difference between Eve and Christians today? We should know better because we have the written Word with thousands of years of proof and fulfilled prophecy to back it up. All Eve had was a conversation with her Father. Who is the worse offender?

Fact According to Man

Facts also come from men, from their intellectual thinking, their philosophical insights, their mental viewpoints based on the things which are seen, and from their logical perspective which says there is nothing beyond what they have experienced in life.

These are only thoughts, but sometimes Christians allow these thoughts to dominate them, and they find themselves giving in to a carnal point of view with no evidence to back it up. This is wrong.

You cannot be dominated by fact, or by the

evidence of your momentary situation. You must not forsake the dominion of God's truth in your life!

Certainly, facts do appear. They come into your life every day. Facts abound on the news, none of them good. Facts scream at us from the doctor's office, the conference room, the shop break room, the newspaper, the internet, TV, and the radio; not to mention from family, friends, and neighbors. We encounter enough facts in a given day to choke a horse, but we cannot let them dominate us.

If you don't fight back, facts will so twist and consume your mind that they become all you think about, and you will forget there is an eternal God who said He will watch over you, care for you, shepherd you, provide for you, and never leave you nor forsake you.

Facts can make you question the very love of God, but you must pull down factual thoughts and replace them with thoughts of truth.

I say this because every thought left to itself is a danger to you. Even if you get away from it for a moment, it will be lying in wait to rise up and attack you when you least expect it. You must deal with every factual thought that denies the truth of the Word, and you do that by heeding this word:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh; (for the weapons of our

warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

You are not in a fleshly battle, but in a fight against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). Your weapons are not carnal, but they are mighty through God, and you can pull down the strongholds of factual thinking with the greatest weapon of all, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).

The only way to pull down a false thought or a spiritual stronghold is by striking against it with the truth. Jesus prayed: "Sanctify them through Your truth: Your Word is truth" (John 17:17; 2 Corinthians 10:3-7).

Take the truth of the Word, and use it to cast down vain imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. Cast down your factual thoughts and replace them with thoughts of God's truth, His Word.

CHAPTER TWO

DISCOVER THE TRUTH

Truth must be discovered. You cannot live a life of faith with presumption as its foundation. I hear Christians say every day, "So and So said this" or "Such and Such said that".

If you are ever going to change the situation in your life and experience the presence, breakthrough, blessing, provision, protection, and health of God, you will have to stop listening to other people, no matter how true what they say may be, and go find for yourself what the scripture says. You cannot live by another man's revelation.

There are two ways to discover truth. You can do it by searching the scriptures, by reading, studying, and digging into the Word, comparing scripture with scripture, and seeking to find buried treasure in the Bible (John 5:39).

You can also discover truth in the midst of an ongoing relationship with the Holy Spirit, the one Jesus called your teacher, helper, comforter, and stand-by, and the one who leads you into all truth (John 16:13).

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 says: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered

into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him. But God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.”

The deep things of God cannot be discovered by the human spirit, but they are revealed by the Holy Spirit to the spirit of man.

The Primary Focus

You have to discover truth, but therein lies the problem with the church, because much of the body of Christ has made its life in the Word secondary to its existence on planet earth.

Many Christians have become more concerned with having their needs met than with spending time with the Need-Meeter. They have become more concerned with hearing teacher after teacher to satisfy their itching ears than with listening to the Teacher Himself. They have become consumed with their outward lives, even while they are dying inwardly. It’s time for this to stop.

God is not a subsidiary of your company. He is the company. He is the president, the manager, the creator and maker of all. He does not take a back seat to anybody, surely not to His creation. He is not your puppet to employ when you need Him, and to ignore when you don’t.

God should be the primary focus of every believer's life; the one and only sustainer; the provider of all wisdom, clarity of thought, future desire, daily bread, and eternal hope. He is your all in all. Who is more than God? And what is more important than His Word - His vision, His will, His thoughts, His actions, His hope and desire for you, His eternal roadmap for blessedness?

You must move from mere existence to a place where you expect to hear these words at the doorway of eternity: "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your lord" (Matthew 25:23).

You must discover truth for yourself and stop listening to what other people say. I know there are many great men and women of God out there, but I am not interested in what they say the Bible says because I want to discover for myself what the Bible says.

(This doesn't mean we refuse the counsel of men and women of God, or ignore what they say and write, but we must experience it ourselves for revelation of God's Word to come.)

If I believe the words of men, it profits me somewhat, but if I believe the Word of God, it brings great faith. Remember Romans 10:17 and Hebrews 11:6. Together they should form the foundation of your understanding of the importance of truth:

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

I want to know what God is saying to me. I want to know that He is writing revelation on the tablets of my heart.

I want something that will be unshakeable in a conflict, something that will be an anchor in my life. I want something that will be a pillar upon which I can build, and something I can hang onto when the storms of life come.

I want something that is more solid than shifting sand, something more stable than the raging sea. I want something more meaningful than the basic necessities of life, something more concrete than the promises of men. I want an unwavering and secure foundation upon which I can stand firm in the midst of my greatest trial.

We all need to build our lives on the Word of God and His truth, and we need to hear what God is saying to us, not just what He is saying to someone else. Let God write upon your heart as He did upon the tablets of stone for Moses, and let God give you the commandments, statutes, and judgments which will lead you to a land of plenty.

Accept the Truth

When truth is discovered, it must be accepted above all other facts or evidence. Many people find truth, but they fail to accept it. When truth knocks on your door, you have to invite it in, and you have to allow it to reign in your life. You cannot afford to know about something, but fall short of accepting it for yourself personally.

Truth will be found by those who seek it with a whole heart, and then it must be received just as Mary received the word of the Lord when she was a young virgin awaiting her wedding day. She said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word" (Luke 2:38).

She had to accept God's proclamation about her life, or it would not have come to pass. You have to accept God's proclamation about your life, or it will not come to pass, either.

What does God say about your life? Read the Word. It's full of proclamations. It's full of declarations of destiny about you, your family, your future, and your eternity.

You cannot appease society or your mind by trying to mix fact with truth. They are like oil and water, and they cannot coexist. Either fact will make truth unfruitful, or truth will override and change fact. The outcome is up to you.

Act On It

Discovered truth will become reality when you accept it and apply faith to it with action and with some form of speech. It's like Peter in Luke 5:1-8.

Peter and his crew had been fishing all night long, and they had caught nothing. Since nighttime was prime time for catching fish, Peter was discouraged.

As he and his men were cleaning their nets, a crowd pressed upon Jesus, and He asked if He could borrow their boat to push away from the shore while He taught the people. Peter agreed, and he got in the boat with Jesus and moved it a safe distance away from the multitude.

When Jesus finished speaking, He looked at Peter and said, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught (a big catch)."

Peter thought for a moment, and I'm sure his thoughts were produced by fatigue and frustration. I have no doubt he wondered if he had wasted his time letting a man use his boat to make a speech, and I'm sure he was annoyed when a carpenter's son tried to tell him how to fish.

Thankfully, Peter ignored the facts, borne of years of experience, and he went with his gut

instinct, moving beyond his knowledge to a place called faith. Peter's reply was measured, but very wise. He said, "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

Peter pushed beyond the facts of a fisherman's existence, and his reward was a boat full of fish in the middle of the day. He caught so many fish, his nets began to break, and he had to call on his friends to help him drag in the bounty. Two boats were filled to the point of sinking, and they barely made it back to shore.

Having experienced such grace, Peter fell down at Jesus' feet, and said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

I love this story because it shows us so many things. When Peter said, "Nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net", he set faith in motion. He accepted the truth of Jesus' words, and he overrode the thoughts of fact that bombarded him. In so doing, truth overcame fact, and blessing was the result.

I wish we would all act like Peter, overcoming our thoughts and submitting to God's Word. If we don't we will become carnally minded. We will give too much credence to what our eyes see, what our ears hear, what our emotions tell us, and what our minds believe they know. We will cave in to the fear of failure, and we

will become useless in the kingdom of God.

A carnal mind says it believes God, but its actions are constantly dominated by the facts that surround it. The carnal mind cannot be subject to the laws of God, and it will always rebel. Even though truth and fact may be equal partners at the place of decision, a carnal mind will never choose truth over fact; thus, it will always fail.

Truth comes to every generation, and every individual who discovers it, accepts it, and applies it will reap the benefits of it, just like Peter. The mercies of God are new every morning, and they are new to every person in every circumstance (Lamentations 3:22-23).

You and I can discover truth. We can accept truth, and then we must surrender our thoughts, words, and actions to God's Word to put faith in motion for a miracle.

Embrace the Impossible

There will be times when you discover a truth so staggering, it will seem impossible. Most Christians decide whether truth is possible or not based on the chances of it happening, or their ability to think of how it could happen, or on their experience of having known someone for whom the truth became reality.

Remember Mary? How staggering was it for her, a young virgin about to marry the man of

her dreams, to be told she would be with child without having been with a man?

She was told the event would occur immediately, so she knew the shame of what the community would believe was sin would be all-consuming. And besides that, the child to be carried in her womb would be the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit by some supernatural means, and His name would mean "God with us". How overwhelming was that truth?

How do you think you would have responded to this shocking proclamation? The fact of the matter is, it was impossible for a woman to have a baby without knowing a man. The fact is, no woman before had ever heard of such a thing. No one on record had ever given birth to one known as the Son of God.

Would you have received the word and acted as Mary did, or would you have stumbled at such an enormous challenge?

Mary faced the battle of her life. This truth, versus the known facts, was more than any person had ever been asked to accept. Yet, her resolve was, "Be it unto me according to your word." She did not blink in the face of impossibility because she knew the hand of God, and she trusted His word above the facts of her existence.

I imagine Mary's mind was going crazy. I

can see the wheels turning and the thoughts flying by, but I can also see the act of faith that stilled the storm. She simply accepted the word, embraced it, and said, "Bring it on."

Truth can absolutely stagger the human mind, but truth is not subject to carnal thinking; it is subject to your faith and God's potential.

Do you believe that God can do anything? Then this is where faith decides who will win the battle of your mind, truth or fact.

CHAPTER THREE

THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH

In Acts 9:32-34, we read a story of the triumph of truth over fact. The Bible says: "And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ makes you whole: arise, and make your bed. And he arose immediately."

The fact was, Aeneas was sick. It could not be denied, and this fact made him a miserable bed-ridden man. The fact was well-established, but then truth came into the room. When Peter said, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ makes you whole: arise, and make your bed", truth struck fact with a death blow.

Peter told this man that provision had been made for him by the stripes of Jesus (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; 1 Peter 2:24). The tangible evidence and the cold, hard facts were met head-on by the power of the truth. The fact which Aeneas had experienced for eight long years held on tight, but somehow he was able to reach out to embrace the truth and stand to his feet for a miracle.

Was Aeneas' evidence real? Absolutely. Was it beyond his control? Yes. Did his fact have the final say? No! Truth has nothing to do with physical evidence or with your ability to change the situation.

Aeneas could have said, "It's been eight years. How am I supposed to get up and make my bed?" But he didn't. He let truth crush fact by acting on the truth.

When truth is acted upon, it can change any fact you are facing. You may or may not be as bad off as Aeneas was. The fact you are facing may be worse, even life-threatening, but you cannot let it deter you from embracing the truth.

If you discover a truth about your situation, and if you accept the truth, put faith with it, and act on it, speaking the truth as you do, your life will change. Truth will change fact.

Don't Give Up!

A simple fact, no matter how long it has been established, steadfast, and seated in your life, cannot stop the freedom that truth can bring. Certainly, Aeneas had been to doctors for years, and every time he had been sent home with the same result.

Thank God for good doctors. I am not against doctors. They can discover underlying problems that we do not even know exist so

that we can fight the good fight of faith and live. They help us deal with symptoms while we stand in faith. Doctors are a God-send to this generation, because without them too many of our brothers and sisters would be off in Heaven now, and we would be fighting this battle alone.

But having said this, we cannot put all of our faith in doctors or in any human help. Despite a physician's deep compassion for mankind, there will be times when he will come to the end of his ability. Though men come to the end of their ability, it does not mean we have reached the end of our hope. Truth will prevail when men fail.

Too often Christians miss what God wants them to have, and they live bound by facts, by intellect, statistics, and reason. No! We are to live by truth. Truth will exempt us from the life of the world and from what the devil is doing, and it will cause us to live by the substance of a place called Heaven.

I don't care how hopeless the world tells you your situation is. Don't give up! You may be faced with facts that have dominated your life for years, but in a moment of time truth can change those facts and cause you to be exempt from the rulership, plans, and power of the devil. God has an answer, and He's not subject to your ability or to your understanding of His ability, but He will do what He has declared will be done.

Win the Battle

2 Chronicles 20:1-27 gives us a great illustration of what truth can do in the midst of a hopeless situation where the facts represent desperate need. The story goes like this:

Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah. He believed in God, but when he heard about three armies joining forces to attack his nation, he was literally paralyzed by fear. He called a fast across the land, and because the need was so dire, even the children and livestock fasted with the adults. The people turned their faces toward God as one, and they sought an answer.

In the beginning, their fear was evident, because when Jehoshaphat prayed he told God that they had no chance against the enemies. In verse 12 he summed it up this way: "O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that comes against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon You."

Notice the hopelessness of the situation. This is not a mere story, but it is a reflection of the lives of real men and women in a genuine crisis. An entire nation feared for its life, and they knew their only hope was in the truth of God.

God had given them an inheritance, but now the enemy had struck fear in their hearts,

and an unseen force threatened to take away everything they had ever known. What was once a peaceful existence had been torn apart in a moment by word of an impending invasion.

What would they do? Where would they go? Would they live or die? Only God knew, and He was about to tell them what to do.

In verses 15-17, a word of the Lord came to a man in the congregation, a descendent of those whose job it was to praise God. The word was this:

“Hearken, all Judah, and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you king Jehoshaphat, thus says the Lord unto you: Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and you shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

“You shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you.”

Jehoshaphat immediately bowed down to worship, and the congregation worshiped with him. The Levite choir stood up to sing praises to God, and fear was suddenly turned to faith.

When the instantaneous response was one of thanksgiving and praise, acceptance of the truth was established, and faith was set in motion for one of the most amazing battles in the history of the world.

You know the story. They rose early the next day, and they began to prepare for battle. Jehoshaphat stood in their midst and said: "Hear me, O Judah, and you inhabitants of Jerusalem; believe in the Lord your God, so shall you be established; believe his prophets, so shall you prosper."

Then he consulted with the people, and he appointed singers to praise God for the beauty of holiness. They set the singers in the lead, marching before the army, and they shouted, "Praise the Lord; for His mercy endures forever!"

As they began to sing and praise, God set ambushments against the enemy armies. Not one arrow of Judah flew, nor did one spear strike its target. They didn't have to, because God stirred the enemy armies to fight each other, and they utterly destroy themselves.

Jehoshaphat and the people came to a place where they could watch in the wilderness, and all they could see were dead bodies for miles around. Not one enemy combatant escaped. The people of Judah ran to gather the spoil, and it took them three days to carry it all away.

Your Fight

You can seek the truth just as Jehoshaphat did. You can go to prayer, and you can hear the voice of God crying out to you with an answer in the Word. You may have to fast, dig in the Word, and study to find the truth, or you may simply turn to a scripture where you will see what God says to you about your problem.

Your word from God will be no less powerful than the one Jehoshaphat and the children of Judah heard. If you will respond to it as they did, with thanksgiving and praise, and then by acting on the word, you will win your own miraculous battle without lifting a finger.

The battle is God's, not yours. Don't get in the way, but simply believe the truth, and watch it change the facts of your existence.

You must take your eyes off of the insurmountable facts, just as Jehoshaphat did, and you must put your eyes on the absolute, unchangeable truth of God's Word (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). Then you must praise God as you enter into the battle, before you ever witness the destruction of your enemy.

Shout unto God with the voice of triumph! Praise Him for victory before a single thing changes, and then you will see the glory of the Lord revealed.

Notice the Lord sent ambushments against the enemies, and the enemies turned on each other, killing every man before Judah ever knew about it. The enemy was dead and gone before anyone saw they were dead.

You need to praise God before you see the results, because He is moving where your eyes cannot see, and He is working on your behalf. Praise Him, and then you will see the salvation of the Lord.

An act of faith, based on a proclamation of truth, ended in not only victory against the enemies of Jehoshaphat, but also in the carrying away of great spoil after the battle was over.

Think about that the next time the devil tempts you to give up too soon. There is a victory on the other side of the hill. There is rich spoil awaiting you if you will seek the truth, find it, accept it, act on it, and praise God for it before you see it come to pass. Eternal truth changes temporal fact.

Set Boundaries

I want to insert a very important point here. When truth is discovered, accepted, and acted upon, it establishes boundaries that keep you from sinful acts. Truth received creates godly character, establishes purity, and generates moral standards that bring conviction to a lost world.

Whenever truth is not found, nor accepted, nor applied in our lives, it opens the door to the adversary, and it allows the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life to extend themselves and get out of control.

This is what happened to Adam and Eve. Remember, the serpent challenged the truth of God, and as soon as they separated themselves from that truth, their boundaries were broken, and sin began to dominate them.

So, you must always apply truth, not only for material things and the blessing of the Lord, but also to set the boundaries that will keep you protected, promote purity, develop godly character, and institute moral standards in your life.

Our time on earth is about much more than survival. It is about living holy lives, creating an atmosphere where the presence of God dwells, and winning the lost to the cross of Jesus Christ. We've got much to do, and little time to do it, so we must be about the Father's business today.

CHAPTER FOUR

TRUTH PREVAILS

In the midst of a troubling situation, God may give you a truth that will astound your mind and make you laugh because of its seeming impossibility. Genesis 17:1-22 tells the story of one such word of the Lord.

A man named Abram was 99 years old when the Lord appeared to him with news that would change the facts of his existence forever. God said: "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be perfect. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

Abram fell on his face, and God kept talking. He said: "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you.

"And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come out of you. And I will establish my covenant between Me and you, and your seed after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto you, and to your seed after you.

“And I will give unto you, and to your seed after you, the land wherein you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

God went on to set the parameters of the covenant, giving Abraham the rules of circumcision. And then God said: “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give you a son also of her: yes, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.”

This was a great word, just what Abraham had wanted, so you would have thought he would rejoice and sing praise, but instead Abraham fell on his face and laughed. He laughed right in front of God, not exactly an act of faith or obedience.

Abraham also dealt with thoughts of doubt in his heart. In his mind he wondered: “Shall a child be born unto him that is 100 years old? And shall Sarah, that is 90 years old, bear?”

Then Abraham said out loud to God: “O that Ishmael might live before You!” but God persisted and said “Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed; and you shall call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

“And as for Ishmael, I have heard you:

Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto you at this set time in the next year.”

That was that. God did not stick around for any more of Abraham’s questions, but left him to chew on the truth he had just heard.

What’s in a Name?

We know that Abraham made a decision to believe God instead of the facts of his existence because he did as God instructed, and he circumcised all the males in his family and among his servants. This act of faith revealed Abraham’s heart change. Though he laughed at the idea at first, later he repented and trusted God.

We also know he accepted the truth because he changed his name and Sarah’s name, and they became known by the names given them by God. Abraham believed God, and his faith set in motion a move toward a dramatic change.

Never again did Abraham call himself Abram. He embraced the truth by embracing his new name. This was important because every time Abraham said his name, and every time he heard it called by someone else, he remembered these words, “Neither shall your

name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you.”

The name Abraham meant “father of a multitude”, and so he spoke faith-filled words every time he said his name. That’s powerful. Romans 4:17-21 shows us what God thought about Abraham’s response:

“Before whom he believed, even God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall your seed be.

“And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.”

Abraham had no earthly reason to believe Sarah would give him a son. He was old, and she was well past child-bearing years. They both had to stand strong against the odds. They had to accept the truth, embrace the truth, act on the truth, and give glory to God for the truth. When they did Sarah conceived and gave birth to Isaac, the son of promise.

It's interesting to me that God told them to name the child Isaac, because the name means "laughter". God created a memorial in his name which reminded Abraham and Sarah forever that their laughter, which was a sign of unbelief at first, was turned to joy unspeakable and full of glory, and the son they longed for gave birth to a nation that changed the world.

You can embrace truth just as Abraham did. It does not matter how hopeless your situation is. You are not alone. You have a God who cares for you as a shepherd. His eyes are upon you, and His ears are open to your cries of faith.

You cannot let fear paralyze you, and you cannot let allow hopelessness to enter into your heart. You must cast down vain imaginations, and you must treat the Word of God as the voice of God. He said it. Now you must believe it, accept it, act on it, and rejoice in it as you expect it to come to pass.

What has time got to do with it? Time will pass no matter if you believe or if you doubt. Stop wasting time. Begin to embrace the truth today, so that it can change the facts of your tomorrow.

"Believe in the Lord your God, so shall you be established; believe his prophets, so shall you prosper" (2 Chronicles 20:20).

Your job is not to work out your situation or lay out a blueprint. Your job is to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Fall on your face and worship God as Jehoshaphat did. Go toward your enemy with praise on your lips as Judah did. Say, "Be it unto me", as Mary did. Get up off your bed of affliction as Aeneas did. Drop your net as Peter did. Obey the Word and give glory to God as Abraham did. Then watch truth change fact as they all did.

Divine Provision

The words of Jesus in Luke 22:35 have always been the rudder of my life. When circumstances have appeared to be full of lack, I have turned to this verse again and again to remind myself of the divine provision promised for all who go in His name.

The verse says: "And He said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, did you lack anything? And they said, Nothing."

Whatever God calls you to do and whatever place you hold - whether it be wife, husband, father, mother, minister, or trash collector - God has made divine provision for your role in life.

When God sends you forth to do something or to become a part of something, He obligates Himself to be the provider in your situation. Whatever you need, He promises to supply.

At your marriage ceremony when you said, "I do", He said, "I do, too." He has been with you ever since, whether you have been aware or unaware, whether you have recognized the truth, accepted it, acted on it, and received the promise, or whether you have lived in darkness because you did not know. God is your provider.

When you held your child for the first time, God was there, promising to meet every need. He was there when you thought He wasn't, when lack threatened to overtake you. He was there in the middle of the night when the fever spiked out of control. He was there when the teenager ran away and broke your heart in two. He was there, waiting for you to access His provision.

Jesus said: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8).

Every man has the potential to understand his wife and comfort her, if he will turn to His provider and ask for help. Every woman has the makings of the best wife in the world, if

she will simply seek the truth. Every parent has enough wisdom available to stand firm in the midst of a storm, if they will knock on the door for a helping hand.

God is Jehovah Jireh in every situation. He plants Himself in your path. He sits down in your midst, and He resides with you. Your job is to look until you find Him.

Did not Paul say: "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). What is a need? Are there financial needs? Physical needs? Emotional needs? Lack of wisdom or counsel? How about a lack of patience?

The fact is, you will run into needs in life, but that does not mean provision is lacking. Provision has been made, and it is waiting for you to access.

You will never be the spouse needed in your marriage relationship without God. You will never be the parent your children need without counsel, wisdom, longsuffering, and the hand of God on your life.

You will never be the leader needed in your workplace without God. You will never be the friend you need to be without Him. You will never be all you are called to be in any area of life unless you connect with God.

Life happens. You go forth, and you run into

facts that change with every wind, but the truth remains the same. It is steadfast and certain, eternal and unshakable. It is more real than anything you can see, feel, hear, or think.

The truth will change every fact, if you will truly believe. The truth resides with you and in you in the Word of God, but you must seek it, accept it, speak it, act on it, be thankful for it, and live by it.



Peter Doseck

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For the past 27 years Peter Doseck has faithfully and zealously declared the message of faith in Christ with demonstration to the four corners of the earth. International Miracle Crusades have resulted in over 1.6 million salvations, and countless healings and miracles. “Peter Doseck has a vision and anointing, and it is an honor to know and love this man of God,” says Oral Roberts. Peter Doseck Ministries (PDM) has also touched more than 33,000 pastors around the world with dynamic teaching and impartation of the miraculous. PDM is dedicated to changing lives through the uncompromising message of a man who believes steadfastly in the present day manifestation of the power of God.