
Text: [Psalm 25:4-5](#) (NIV); *and many more*

Republic, February 02, 2025

Title: "Do You Live a Life of Truth?" (Thinking Exactly Like God thinks)

[Psalm 25:4-5](#) (NIV)

One of David's prayers

⁴ Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;

⁵ guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

We see in [Psalm 25](#), that David tried hard to learn truth. He started this prayer with "Show me your ways, O Lord." Then he said "teach me your paths." Then in verse 5 David says "guide me in your truth" "and teach me." That is 4 different times David is asking God to help him to learn to think like God thinks. I believe all 4 are just different ways of asking for the same thing. (which is a poetic style of saying it)

David wanted to know the ways of God. He wanted God to teach him how He wanted Davud to do things. He wanted to learn the mind of God. He wanted to be a man after God's own heart, to accomplish what God wanted to accomplish through David's life.

What does it mean to want God to teach us His ways, or for us to learn Truth?

It means we want Him to remove from our thinking anything that is not "His ways." When God teaches us, He will help us to remove old ways of thinking, old worldly ways of thinking, and replace them with new ways of thinking, God's ways, so that we DO the things He wants.

Look at what Stephen said about David in:

[Acts 13:22](#) (NKJV)

²² And when He had removed him (*King Saul*), He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He (*God*) gave testimony and said, '***I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.***'

When we learn truth, or we can say it like this, when we learn the ways of God - it will cause us to think like God thinks. Once we know that, we get better at handling things the way God wants things done. And, once we think like God it can help calm us some with things like "Why is God waiting so long?"

[Psalm 25:4-5](#) showed that Davd wanted that. And, his desire turned him into a man who was after God's own heart and would want to, 100%, do (all) God's will, all that God had in mind.

Thinking creates feelings, and feelings lead to actions. We change by allowing God to help us change our thinking. It is where it all starts.

Ask yourselves this morning: *How much of the world's way of thinking is still in my*

thinking? How much of my own attitudes are still worldly attitudes? Do I really know how God thinks so that I can think like Him? Do I have a heart like David, a heart after God's own heart?

Introduction -

What God means by truth - Truth is the way God thinks or views something. And, more importantly it is the way God wants us to think, and to act. In this message any time I use the word "truth" or the words "the ways of God" it means the same thing.

Hopefully, all throughout our lives, we will be growing in truth. Truth changes our thinking. It replaces old, worldly thinking, with new thinking. This new thinking will change our attitudes, and then it will change our behaviors.

The more you read the bible, the quicker you will get an understanding of the way God looks at things. The less you read the bible, the more of the world's thinking will still be in you. The world's way of thinking will cause you to handle things in a wrong way, a way that God does not want you to do things. It also will cause people to see the ugly side of you instead of the wonderful side of God coming through you.

This message will involve 2 main parts:

I. Some Bible verses about truth.

II. 10 Examples of how a person of truth should think

I. Some Bible verses about truth:

John 1:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ The Word (*Jesus*) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

So, right away, in the beginning of the book of John, John tells us that Jesus came full of the power of God and the mercy of God, (*grace*) as well as full of truth. (full of the ways that God thinks)

John 14:6 (NIV)

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way **and the truth** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus was saying I am the way to heaven. But, He was also saying I have truth within me. You will see it by the way I live and the words I say. I am showing you how God

thinks and how I want you to live and think in order to do the will of God and someday make it to heaven.

John 7:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

Think about those words for a moment. *What are those words saying to us?*

If you spend most of your life running around expressing your own opinions and judgments on things and on others, most of that will be all about you, to honor how brilliant you are. You basically gain honor for yourself.

HOWEVER, if you choose to always want to honor God, then you will think like God and get your words from God. In other words, the things you say will be truth. *What does that mean?* It will God telling you to say exactly those things. People will see and hear God coming out of you. There will be nothing false about you, meaning nothing fleshly, nothing of your own attitudes, coming from you.

Look at 2 gospels, Matthew and John, for example. How many times does Jesus talked about truth?

In the book of Matthew (NIV bible), Jesus is quoted 11 times saying "I tell you the truth."
In the book of John (NIV bible), Jesus is quoted 28 times saying "I tell you the truth."

Most of those occasions He was clarifying the way God thinks about it. Basically, He was saying "The world things this way, but I tell you the truth, this is how God thinks."

Look at some other things that Jesus said about truth:

John 3:21 (NIV)

²¹ **But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light,** *(when we live by God's way of thinking what happens --->)* so that it may be seen plainly *(people can tell)* **that what he (the person who lives by truth) has done has been done through God."**

Whoever lives by truth, in other words whoever change their thinking to think exactly the way God thinks about things, to look at everything the way God wants you to look at it, to see people & situations like God wants you to, to handle people like God wants you to, then you are going to receive more light from God. He will increase your spiritual insights. He is going to show you much more spiritually.

Then what else that happens according to the second part of verse 21, is people are going to see that the things you do and say, come from God. They can tell it's God.

Do you see that promise? Learn the ways God thinks on every single thing you encounter in life, even frustrating things, learn to see everything from God's perspective, and God will bless you with more light. Then when you get more light, more of God is going to come out of you.

Would you like to have more light? Would you like to know that the things you say and the things you do come from God? Well, there you go, live by truth, live by the way God thinks about everything. Try to see everything like God sees it, and act and do, accordingly.

Are you one of those that tries hard to learn how God wants you to think on everything? Or, do you find yourself sitting around coming up with your fleshly views?

Have you learned to take your previous negative thinking about people & circumstances, put them aside, and let God show you His insight, then learn from it?

Growing up in God involves learning to think differently. It quits blaming other people. It starts to see from God's perspective.

When Jesus was dealing with the religious leaders you can see the difference in who is really living for God's honor, and who is wanting their own honor. Those Jewish leaders didn't live to honor God. They lived to honor themselves.

Jesus told those leaders in:

John 8:44 (NIV)

⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for **there is no truth in him**. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The opposite of the way God thinks would be the way Satan thinks. There is none of God's truth in Satan. If we think like Satan, or have Satan's attitudes, or Satans's actions, we represent Satan. What will be coming through our lives is Satan.

I have seen it in churches from people who did not live 100% for the honor of God. They still think like the world, and occasionally you see that coming out in their actions.

So, we have a choice in life. We are the ones that make this decision. *Do you want to think and act like Satan, and let him come through your life, or do you want to think and act like God, and allow God to come through your life?*

David desperately wanted to think like God. He wanted to be taught by God. He wanted God's truth in him.

What did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit:

John 16:13 (NKJV)

¹³ However, when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, **He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own authority, but **whatever He hears He will speak**; and He will tell you things to come.

"Whatever He hears He will speak." The Holy Spirit is in tune with God. He does not do anything on His own. He will not speak on His own authority. He will not say whatever He wants to say. He listens, then He speaks the words of God.

The Holy Spirit will help you by guiding you into all truth. He will show you the ways of God if you will consistently try to listen. He is called "The Spirit of truth."

So, if the Holy Spirit is careful to not speak on His own authority, or say whatever He wants to say, why do we think we can say, or do, whatever we want? Don't you think that it's rather arrogant of us to live any different than the Holy Spirit?

What is the main tool the Holy Spirit uses to guide us into all truth? What does the bible indicate that tool is, according to Ephesians 6:17? ("sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.")

As you read bible verses, you need to let the Holy Spirit show you things. Many times He will show you how God wants you to think, or how God wants you to act, or what not to do, or even that your perceptions are wrong, or that you are judging, or you are being too harsh.

Other times, the Holy Spirit will bring things into your mind where you can tell what you are supposed to do.

To best learn truth, or how God thinks, you will do it better if you journal things (write down what God is teaching you, including the bible verses God is using to change you). We need to keep a file in your phone, or tablet, or computer, of bible verses, or just things you felt He said to you. This will help you to not forget what God is trying to teach you.

In Jesus' final prayer before the cross, He prayed this for His followers:

John 17:17-19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ **Sanctify them (my followers) by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

Jesus was praying for His disciples, and all future disciples, that God would set them apart make them holy, by helping to change their thinking to want to think like God thinks. He knew if they would really start to think like God thinks, it would also cause more devotion to God. It would sanctify them, or set them apart from their own life to want God's life.

Then, Jesus makes it clear, probably for the disciple's benefit, "Your word is truth." What we read in the bible is where we will find most of that truth. Your word is truth.

When Moses was overworked, trying to do too much, his father-in-law gave him this very godly advice. When you look at these words, you can tell that God gave the father-in-law truth:

Exodus 18:17-22 (NKJV)

- ¹⁷ So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do *is* not good.
- ¹⁸ Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing *is* too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.
- ¹⁹ Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. (*Moses was to bring the people's difficulties to God with prayer. It was a higher priority for him to do.*)
- ²⁰ And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. (*Moses also was to teach God's ways*)
- ²¹ Moreover **you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth**, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. (*Moses was to find leaders to help him who feared God to the point they wanted to honor God, and they wanted to think like God thinks. And, he was to have Captains, Lieutenants, Sergeants & Corporals*)
- ²² And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be *that* every great matter they shall bring to you, (*Moses will take the bigger matters and handle those*) but every small matter they themselves (*your supervisors*) shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear *the burden* with you.
-

The main leader's job is not supposed to get stuck with a bunch of things the lay people can do. He has to have time to hear God, deal with the bigger issues, oversee the entire thing. That is what Moses' father-in-law was saying.

Moses must select people for authority positions who live their lives understanding how God thinks. (**men of truth**) They must be people who fear God, fear making God unhappy by their attitudes, or actions. Then, Moses' helpers will make all the right decisions.

How can we use that advice in the church? Right now we need to slowly be changing it so that we don't dump a bunch of stuff on the pastor that someone else can do. We

start now with being careful about this. Then we do this more and more as we grow. No one else among the millions of people thought of this. Think about that. ONLY Moses' father-in-law heard God about it, and moved to protect Moses.

We do not pick talent alone. We look for men and women of truth. We look for men and women who live their lives by the ways of God, where you see God consistently coming through, and we rarely see their flesh.

II. Here are some examples of how a man or woman of truth should be thinking:

1. God is smarter than me, no matter how talented I think I am. [Isaiah 55:8-9](#)

He knows the future. He knows what I need to do. He knows what decisions I need to make, and how it will effect everything. He knows how I need to handle everything.

Therefore, it is very important for me to always find out what He wants even if I think I know what is best right now.

Be careful with thinking things like:

"But, everything about this decision looks right, why do I need to check with God?"

There needs to be at least a little bit of fear in us of displeasing God with all the things we do. I would define that as fearing God.

The ways of God should be teaching me that:

2. Whatever I do by God's guidance, I know it will be the most effective thing I could possibly do.

[John 6:63](#) (NKJV)

⁶³ It is **the Spirit who gives life**; (*is effective, lasts forever*) the flesh profits nothing...

I absolutely have got to get good at hearing God because what I do on my own, profits nothing, and can even cause messes and division in the church. I want to do what God's Spirit directs me to do.

Let me make a very important point here: Consistency is the key, along with not becoming overly confident in ourselves. Here is what I mean.

We can know how to find God's will on the music, or on a Sunday School series, or even a sermon, or when we get a chance to witness. We may have had some success in each of those things to the point to where we think we have "this finding God's will thing down to an art." Then we start thinking everything that enters our mind is from God. NO IT'S NOT. **That way of thinking is very dangerous.**

The same **careful method** we used to find God's will in those other things I mentioned, are the same careful things we should be using everywhere - at home with our spouse and family, on our your jobs, on the church board, or in any conflict for that matter. Over-confidence will make you prone to doing things God does not want you to do. Over-confidence can cause you to even do the things Satan wants you to do. Look at Peter when he argued with Jesus about Jesus going to be crucified. Jesus looked straight at Peter and said "Get behind me Satan!"

NEVER get over-confident in hearing God. KEEP doing the same things that worked on the other times you heard God, and keep doing them with all the parts of the rest of your life. A few successes in hearing God does not allow us to get over-confident in ourselves. If you are **not consistent** in finding God's will you will be part of the problem. You will move in the flesh, tick off other people, make bad decisions, etc.

God's ways should cause our thinking to be like this:

3. When finding God's will, I need to test things to be sure my thoughts are God's thoughts, and not my own.

Is this what God wants, or is this what I want? Is this what God wants, or is this what I think He wants?

Sometimes it is really hard to know the difference. You have to care enough to want to try hard to be sure. To be careful. To be sure we have not come up with an agenda of our own that we are trying to force God to have to work in.

The same way with decisions. Tell yourself that "A HUGE guide for me needs to be a feeling of peace" about it. If I do not have peace, it is probably not God's will. And, for sure, if I feel I rushed about a particular decision, like I have to do such-n-such **right now**, you can bet, most of the time, you are about to make the wrong decision.

What are we doing by being careful and looking for peace in our decisions? We are showing God we do not want to make a mistake. He will see it, and honor and bless you.

God's way of thinking should cause me to know that:

4. If I'm unsure whether something is of God, I will slow down, or maybe even stop what I was about to do, until I am more sure this is "of God."

Again, that shows God you really care about hearing what He wants. It is also let's you be sure about His ways.

God's way of thinking should cause me to know that:

5. The Timing of God is just as important as finding out what God wants me to do.

We can miss God's will if we get ahead of His timing. In other words, we can have the right idea of what He wants us to do, but have the wrong timing, and therefore miss God's will. Finding out what God wants and having His timing have to work together.

Slowing down in order to find the timing of God is, again, honoring God. It is caring about making sure when He wants me to do something.

We should use this in making purchases. We should use this in changing jobs. I have had jobs in the past that I could not wait to leave that job, but I could not get peace that it was the right timing. So, I put up with what I did not like until God opened the right door for me to move on. We should use this in whether we should ever move away, as well.

God uses "timing" in answering our prayers, and He uses timing in His blessings for us. SO, *if He is a God of perfect timing, then why do we think we are any different? Why shouldn't we be paying attention to finding the right timing of God?*

Find God's will, then find out the timing of when to do it. Then you will understand one more thing about "the ways of God."

God wants me to know how to see things when we get angry. Here is what to say to yourself:

6. I know that when I am angry about something, or angry at someone, I will have a harder time hearing God accurately. I am prone to making some very bad decisions.

- 1.) My anger, most of the time, will make me want to do something about it right now.
- 2.) My anger can move me into being prideful, then judgemental, and many times, revengeful. "I will show them." This is another reason why we should never let "the sun go down on our wrath." ([Ephesians 4:26](#)) Wrath is the strongest emotion of our anger.
- 3.) Initial anger is not a sin yet, depending what happens with that anger. Staying angry is sinful. Sin brings darkness. If you are living in darkness, you cannot hear God and cannot see what you are supposed to do. You are very prone to doing the wrong thing.

If there is a delay in getting totally past your anger, you are going to have to watch yourself very closely (carefully) so that the anger does not effect your judgement. Make sure you know you are vulnerable right now while you are processing it.

How can we hear God when our anger has made us prideful, judgemental, and revengeful?

The ways of God will teach you to get better at your anger. Ask God to help you get better at handling anger. But, realize this, everything effects everything. Getting over something like anger, (or many other problems in life) many times involves more things than just anger.

In counseling, sometimes someone comes for drug or alcohol counseling. As the counselor tries to help that person, quite often they see other factors involved. Counselors call that a "dual diagnosis." In other words, you need to conquer some other things that are making

it harder for the person to change.

There are other factors that tend to keep you the way you are. You don't just tell someone one time what they are doing wrong, then they suddenly forever change. *Can that happen? Sure. Is it realistic to think that will happen?* No

Look at all the things that can keep us angry that we need to change on:

Pride - The more pride, the worse the anger problem.

Judging - The more you make the conclusion the other person is 100% wrong, and you have nothing to learn from this, the harder to get past the anger.

Past hurts - that you never forgave someone make you prone to anger when someone does something similar to what hurt you before.

When you try to change one area you struggle with, the chances are very high there can be a multitude of other things that need to change with it.

Let's say you find yourself getting angry at someone. If you do not resolve it in your mind you will become disrespectful to that person. Now you have committed another sin. Then let's say that person did not like your disrespectful comment. And, they say something to you that is also disrespectful. Then let's say other people saw what happened. And they pick sides on who they think was right, and who wasn't right. Now we got a mess going on.

Everything effects everything.

To change one problem area, will almost always involve at least one or more other problem areas. To get to the point that you are finally living in truth, you may have to deal with every issue God has been trying to show you. *Pride? Opinionated? Judgemental? Get your feelings hurt too easily?* It can be anything.

Everything effects everything.

Truth, or the ways of God are bigger than we think. They involve a lot of honesty with ourselves, and a lot of allowing God to show us things about ourselves.

Last thing about this, if it is always 100% someone else's fault, or at least you think there is nothing you did wrong, no body language issues that brought this on, nothing, I guarantee you God still wants to teach you something. You will have the chance to learn, or just get bitter.

Living by the ways of God should cause us to:

7. Constantly be evaluating our own life.

But, we evaluate our life with God's help, not by our own thinking. Otherwise, we are always right. We need to talk to God about it, maybe even thumb through the bible to see if verses jump out at us. And, it would even be good to have a honest, open desire

like David.

David prayed in Psalm 139:23:

Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Look at each phrase of that prayer, especially what is underlined. You could tell that David was wanting honest evaluation *Are you willing to do the same?*

God's way for us to think should involve the belief that:

8. The word of God must be my guide on all my attitudes and all my decision making.

The Word of God is truth. It shows us the ways of God. If I am violating it in any way, what I am thinking, or what I am doing, or what I'm about to do, is not the will of God.

You want to know the ways of God? Read the Word. Take notes. Create files for verses you are learning. Put some work into it.

Learning God's ways you cause you to remind yourself that:

9. I hate no one. That is how all Christians should view people.

Do I dislike certain parts of people's personalities? Absolutely. Do I not like how someone treated me, or not like how they treated someone else I know? Yes, that happens. Have I lost respect for people because of how they acted? Yes, I have.

But, I must continue to do right, myself. At times, I have "turned people over to God" for Him to deal with them because of how bad they were acting. But, I refuse to hate anyone. To hate a person is saying you condemn them. To hate can be offensive to God because God forgives us, *and yet we do not forgive?* To hate a person is not living in God's truth, and therefore it is not the ways God wants me to live.

Do you remember the 7 things God hates from last week's sermon? Those were qualities in a person's life that God hated. God hates the evil qualities in people when they adapt their own behaviors to the behaviors of Satan. He hates those qualities they are using, but God is still a God of love. He wants them to change. He wants them to correct their behavior. Many times, God holds off from dealing strongly with them, hoping they will change.

If you know the ways of God, and how He looks at people, you know there will be times you have to put up with a little more while God is waiting on that person to change. He is having mercy on them, while you have to struggle while waiting. Then, if they do not change, and when God has had enough, He will deal with them. If you understand the ways of God, you will take that into consideration when you are putting up with things.

Look at the things David said in various parts of the book of Psalms. You can see he was

frustrated while waiting on God to deal with evil people. Some of those times David prayed "How long O Lord do I have to wait?"

But, knowing the ways of God will sometimes help us to wait for God to deal with it. We put up with more while God hopes they get it, and change.

Sometimes His love has to come down hard on people. It is the most loving thing He can do for them to give them a better chance to change. Some will change from it, and some will not change.

Other times He has to come down hard on people because their behavior is effecting innocent people's lives, or even effecting His church. He is simply not going to allow it to continue to go on. He is not going to allow someone to continue to bring discord among the brothers/sisters. Understanding all of this is part of learning God's ways.

But, the point is no christian is to ever be in the hating/unforgiving business. You can tell yourself things like "I do not like what they said or did. I am unhappy about it." "I have lost respect for them, but I refuse to hate them." In fact, "I refuse to treat them differently because of what they have done to me. I will treat them like God wants me to treat them."

When you treat people differently, you start creating more problems. You make it twice as hard for them to change, or for God to help them to change. They see your attitude instead of seeing themselves. YOU are actually part of the problem they are not changing. God taught me that one day long ago.

I believe the ways of God are trying to keep me doing the right things with people even when I am not real happy with them. People can read "defensiveness." They can read anger. All you're doing is adding to the problem. The ways of God will show you how you need to not be part of the problem.

I will admit this that there are some bible verses that talk about God hating evil people, ([Psalm 11:5](#)), and even some where David hated those who hate God. ([Psalm 139:21](#)) I have not done a full bible evaluation on those verses to get insights. I will just tell you this

for now, do not go down that road. Do not use some rare bible circumstance to try to justify hatred. Jesus' words do not include hatred. He said Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you..." Stay out of the hating business. It is part of learning God's ways.

Our final things we need to consider as we try to learn the ways of God for our lives is to:

10. Evaluate every attitude you have, and every decision you are about to make by these questions:

"Is this a prideful attitude or a humble attitude?"

"Is this decision I'm about to make a prideful decision or a humble decision?"

"How I treat a person I'm not happy with, will it be prideful or humble?"

Jesus said to learn from Him **"for He is gentle and humble in heart."** ([Matt 11:29](#))

We have to include that in our understanding of God's truth or God's ways.

Conclusion -

We have looked at just 10 truths today, Or, we could say 10 of the Ways of God. There is a lot more we can learn. I have also given some examples of worldly thinking.

Ask yourself this morning these 3 questions:

"How much of my thinking is based on how God thinks, or God wants me to think?"

"How much of my thinking is still not how God thinks, or wants me to think?"

"How much of my life is led by God, and how much of my life is not led by God?"

"Am I over-confident in my ability to hear God because I have had some success in certain areas? And, has that overconfidence caused me to not use the same successful techniques in other parts of my life? My home life? My work life? etc.

There is so much more we could have done with this sermon. There is much, much more about how God thinks, than we talked about. But, the point has been made well enough. God has a certain way that He thinks and we are to learn to think like Him.

We should always be growing and changing. Most of the time our change is going to come in our thinking. We have to see how much worldly thinking is still in us. We have to let go of all of that in order to allow God to show us how He thinks.

We need to be people of truth. We need to be people who totally know the ways of God. We should think like God and look at everything like God wants us to look at it. We should get so good at it that we could almost guess what is the right way to think and do. If we are still unsure, ask God how you should think.

Whatever is from you, the world will see YOU coming through your life. But, whatever is of God, they will see God coming through.

[John 18:37](#) (NIV)

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king.

In fact, for this reason I was born, and **for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."**

Learn God's truth. Learn the ways of God...

Closing prayer -