

Freedom In Christ

Step Two: Deception Vs. Truth

I. Introduction

In this series, I want to focus our attention on some critical issues that effect our entering into the freedom Jesus Christ made possible for us. Called Steps To Freedom, these simple steps offer us tools to help us resolve our personal and spiritual conflicts that keep us from experiencing the freedom Christ purchased for us on the cross.

You can purchase a copy of Neil Anderson's booklet, "Steps To Freedom in Christ" in German, through a web site in Switzerland: www.freiheitinchristus.ch

A. God Desires Your Freedom

God desires to make His people free. In fact, this is why He sent Jesus Christ to us.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives . . . to set free those who are downtrodden (Luke 4:18).

The Lord has anointed me—to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners (Is. 61:1).

Defining freedom

a. Greek New Testament

Eleutheros – to liberate, i.e., to exempt from liability

b. Freedom –

- not under control of other people or power
- able to choose for yourself, to determine action freely; spontaneous
- able to act or think without *compulsion*
- able to choose own thoughts, emotional responses, and behaviors
- not controlled by debts or traditions
- not held or confined by prejudice or bias
- acquitted from debts
- not in bondage to others
- able to freely love others without expecting something back

B. Basis of Freedom

The finished work of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives are the only means by which we can come into more freedom and find love, security, acceptance, and value (Neil Anderson, "Steps To Freedom in Christ"). Christ alone can meet our deepest needs for meaning, purpose and identity.

C. Today's Issue: Deception Vs. Truth

Today, I will focus our attention on the issue of “deception versus truth.” In my search to know God better, receive healing for my broken heart, and experience freedom, I discovered that a commitment to truth—in the psychological and spiritual dimensions—is a powerful tool in our journey to wholeness.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Your word says that You cannot lie, and You have made us in your image. You have made us for truth, not lies. I pray that You will open the eyes of my heart to receive Your truth. Send your truth I pray. Thank you Lord, In Jesus' name, Amen.

II. We Were Made For Truth

A. God Cannot Lie

See my program notes for 22 April 2007 on this theme: Can You Trust God?

- It is impossible for God to lie...(Heb. 6:18).
- ...God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all... (I John 1:5-7).

1. God's Words are truth—God is the source of truth

...Thy Word is truth (John 17:17b).

...He brought us forth by the word of truth...(James 1:17,18).

...I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth (Jer. 33:3).

2. Jesus is the “Truth”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father, but through me (John 14:6).

Jesus answered...For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth... (John 18:37b-38).

3. Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth. Jesus promised to send us the Holy Spirit, . . . and He will be in us and guide us to truth.

The Spirit of truth...but ye know him for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you (John 14:17).

...and He will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13).

B. Made In The Image Of God & Called To Be Like Him

1. We are made in His image, and He cannot lie

...and God created man in His own image (Gen. 1:27-28a, 31a).

2. We are called to be like Him—to be people of the truth

...therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children (Eph. 5:1).

...the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked (I John 2:4-6).

...God has chosen you ...for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth (II Thes. 2:13).

True worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth...God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24).

3. We are made to function and live in truth

God made us for truth—not for lies, deception, delusions, distortions, fiction, illusions, and ignorance. We have been called to walk in the light as He is in the light (I John 1:7).

Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being (*our inward parts*) and in the hidden part Thou will make me know wisdom (Ps. 51:6).

...speaking the truth in love we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ (Eph. 4:15).

...who desires all men to be saved and come into the knowledge of the truth (I Tim. 2:4).

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God...handling accurately the word of truth (II Tim. 3:14).

For my mouth will utter truth and. . . all the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverted in them (Proverbs 8:7).

Do not let kindness and truth leave you...Write them on the tablet of your heart... (Proverbs 3:3).

C. Blessings Of Truth—Our Well-Being

Truth deeply impacts our sense of well-being. It is essential for our relationship with God and good emotional and mental health. It also effects our relationships with others and our capacity to love others honestly.

1. Enables us to hear the voice of Jesus

Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice... (John 18:38).

2. Brings us the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ

Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights... in the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be...the first fruits among His creatures (James 1:17,18).

3. Makes us free

...If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free (John 8:31-32).

4. Cleanses and purifies our souls from lies

Since you have in obedience to the truth, purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren...(I Peter 1:22a).

5. Sanctifies us—making us holy in every dimension

Sanctify them in the truth; Thy Word is truth (John 17:15-17).

6. Enables us to walk in the light, not in darkness

...he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God (John 3:20-21).

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth, but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another... (I John 1:5-7).'

7. Produces right things and good actions

The opening of my lips will produce right things. For my mouth will utter truth and. . . all the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverted in them (Proverbs 8:7).

8. Enables us to obey God

But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God (John 3:20-21).

9. Leads us to God's dwelling place, throne, and presence

Oh send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Thy holy hill, and to Thy dwelling places, then I will go to the altar of God, to God the gladness of my joy (Psalms 43:3,4).

Lord, who may live in Thy holy hill? He who walks with integrity (*unity, completeness, wholeness*) and works righteousness and speaks truth in his heart (Psalms 15:1,2).

10. Enables us to worship the Father as He desires us to

True worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24).

11. Brings us favor from both God and people

Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man (Proverbs 3:3).

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God...handling accurately the word of truth (II Tim. 3:14).

12. Gives us a good reputation with God and others

Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man (Proverbs 3:3).

13. Brings us fellowship with others

Enables us to walk in peace and not in conflict with others.

Constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth...(I Tim. 6:5a).

...if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another... (I John 1:5-7).

14. Enables us to love others in an authentic way

Since you have in obedience to the truth, purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren...(I Peter 1:22a).

15. Helps us to not discredit our ministry or causing offense in anything

...giving no cause for offense in anything, in order that the ministry be not discredited...in the word of truth.....(see entire list)...(II Cor. 6:3,7).

16. Gives us a piece of armor to resist evil powers & be victorious over the devil

Stand firm therefore (*against the plans of the devil*), having girded (*to dress, or encircle*) your loins (*the region of strength and procreative power*) with truth...(Eph. 6:14).

17. Frees us from snares of the devil

.....leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will (II Tim. 2:25, 26).

18. Protects us from deception and judgment

...with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved (*sozo: delivered/protected; healed, be made whole; keep safe; help us do well*)...

God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that all might be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness (II Thes. 2:10-12).

19. Enables us to experience God's peace, joy, righteousness

How blessed is the man...in whose spirit there is no deceit (Ps. 32:2).

...I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth (Jer. 33:3).

But to those...who do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath, and indignation, there will be tribulations and distress... (Romans 2:8,9).

20. Brings us health and healing

...I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth (Jer. 33:3).

D. Defining Truth

1. Truth is that which is real

- Truth is that which is true, real, genuine and honest – not concealing anything.

- Truth is the quality of keeping close to the facts or to things as they are and avoiding such distortions as lies, fictions, or misrepresentations.

That which is false is unreal—not genuine or authentic

2. Truth is reality

- Truth signifies the reality lying at the basis of an appearance.
- Reality is the quality of being true to life—not merely seeming, pretending, imagining.
- Reality is that which is authentic, genuine—absolute, essential, ultimate

3. Words Referring To The Opposite of Truth

- Lie Deception
- Delusions Distortions
- Fiction Illusions
- Ignorance Pretensions
- Acting Imaginings
- Unreal Misperceptions

III. Mental & Emotional Health Influenced By Lies

According to American psychiatrist, Dr. Scott Peck (*The Road Less Travelled*), one of the roots of mental and emotional ills and neurotic symptoms is an inter-locking system of lies we have been told and lies that we have told ourselves.

A. Lies Distort Our View Of Reality

Peck describes our view of the world as like a “map” we use to negotiate the terrain of life. The more clearly we see the reality of the world, the better equipped we are to deal with the world. If the map is false and inaccurate, we generally will be lost. Because of false beliefs, we see the world around us and ourselves in a distorted way. The process of active holding on to an outdated view of the world (reality) is the basis for much neurotic suffering. It is essential that we come to understand the world in a realistic way – a way that conforms to the reality of the cosmos and our role in it (Peck).

Lies Cause Formation of Neurotic Symptoms

Since we live in a real world, we must understand the reality of the world as best we can. Because many aspects of the reality of the world and our relationship to it are painful to us, we try to avoid this pain and effort through a variety of defense mechanisms – and limit our awareness. But our deeper self, our unconscious, knows the truth and tries to warn us, perhaps through nightmares and via bad dreams, panic attacks, depression or other symptom formation. It is trying to tell us that we are not in touch with reality as it is (Peck).

Lies Influence How We Order Our Lives

Our map of the world influences the way we order our lives. If we see the world as it is – in truth – we are more able to make good decisions and life-giving choices. If we see the world through a faulty lens – lies, illusions, false imaging’s, hypocrisy – we will be unable to negotiate life’s difficulties and conflicts in life-giving ways. If we refuse to see the reality of the world, we will make wrong decisions and choices (Peck).

B. Lies Introduce Negativity Into Our Consciousness

When we believe something that is not true we call it a lie. And lies introduce a system of negativity into our consciousness that influence our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors.

Lies form basis for negative emotions, attitudes & defense mechanisms

The lies are folded into our attitudinal patterns and become strongholds or fortresses in our thinking. Interwoven into this negative system of beliefs are destructive emotions such as self-hatred, hopelessness, despair, rejection, fear, shame, and jealousy as well as destructive emotions like revenge, bitterness, hate, and unforgiveness. They form habit patterns of responses to situations around us. .

Negativity has a filter or a screen, between the world and you that distorts everyone you see, hence being very difficult to break through (David Seabury).

Lies produce negative and destructive behaviors & life themes

A negative way of thinking and feeling works to hold us in darkness, producing negative and destructive behaviors. We live out in our behaviors what it is that believe about ourselves and the world we live in. The embedded lie dictates how we will respond to life and live it.

Lies influence our choice of relationships

We typically form intimate relationships based on our believe systems, not on what is good or bad for us. We most often develop relationships with people who are at the same maturation status or level as we are (Ed Smith, Theosphostic Ministry).

Lies influence our response to situations around us

Using a variety of defense mechanisms, lies inhibit the entrance of truth. The act as filters or barriers, allowing only certain types of information to be received. They do permit the entrance of truth. When truths are spoken, they are incorrectly interpreted by the lie and heard as an insult.

Lies produce great pain and unhappiness

When someone's behavior, words or actions trigger our historic wounds and embedded lies, we will be flooded with many negative emotions.

C. Lying To Others Influences Our Well-Being

Deceiving others also effects our sense of well-being. If we tell white lies, exaggerate, stretch the truth or anything other type of falsehoods, it causes something negative to happen with in us. According to the Bible, some part of us will begin to wither and dry up.

He that speaks lies will perish (*wither, dry up*) (Proverbs 19:9; 21:8).

IV. Sources of Lies and Deception

A. An Injured Spirit In Childhood

The attitude of negativity develops from losing the confidence of youth: Early home environment and enculturation destroys or injures the spirit of the child, robbing them of the special spirit of childhood—their ardor, energy, and enthusiasm. Their feelings of not

being understood were not wisely handled, and the child's hopes turned into doubt and a doubt-filled frame of mind (Seabury).

1. Dysfunctional families teach us to lie

Some families are so dysfunctional that they have to create a set of rules for survival. These rules teach family members...

- ❑ to deny and distort reality
- ❑ to lie to themselves
- ❑ to lie to each other about what they see or feel
- ❑ to deny their feelings
- ❑ to deny what they see and what they think.

Denial Rule: child is told, in subtle ways, you don't hurt that bad, its not that bad. What child sees and hears is denied. When the child's reality is challenged & denied over and over, they grow up not knowing what is normal.

Silence Rule: children are taught not to talk about what they see or feel: "don't talk, don't trust, don't feel, don't speak, don't cry, don't have an opinion, don't disagree, don't be unhappy". Emotional silence is always there; no one can express their anger or pain. No place for emotional honesty—not permitted because they do not know what to do with it.

2. Personal Experiences

- ❑ Father lying drunk: I woke up and heard noises, and saw my father laying on the back steps. My mother told me nothing was wrong, go back to bed.
- ❑ Mother told me my grandfather was dead. This was a half-truth; he was dead when she told us this. He had died when she was 18, but she did not tell us that he had abandoned the family when she was a small child.

B. Bible—Three Sources Of Lies

1. Other people can deceive us, including false teachers. *Let no man deceive you* (Eph. 5:6; II Thes. 2:3; II John 7).
2. We can deceive ourselves (I John 1:8; I Cor. 3:18; II Pet. 2:13; I John 5:7,19).
3. Satan and lying spirits can deceive us. (John 8:44, Rev. 12:9; 13:14)

C. We Are In A Spiritual Battle

The Bible speaks about the existence of two opposing kingdoms, the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God. It depicts an ongoing spiritual battle between these two kingdoms.

1. Satan is making war against the church

Satan and the powers of darkness are making war against the church. Jesus defeated Satan, and he was kicked out of the heavens, and is here on earth waging war against the Body of Christ and freedom loving people.

There was a war in heaven, Michael and his angels, waging war with the dragon...and the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him... But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has

gone down to you! He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short...Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 12:7-9, 17).

Jesus said that he saw "Satan fall like lighting from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

2. Nature of the enemy

We can know the enemy by the names used for him.

Abaddon, "the destroyer" (Rev. 9:11)	Accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10)
Father of lies (John 8:44)	Adversary (I Peter 5:8)
Deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9)	Condemner (Rom 8:1)
Devil "slander"	Fleeing Serpent (Is. 27:1).
Dragon (Rev. 12:4,7,13,16,17; 13:2,4; 16:13; 20:2)	Dragon who lives in the sea (Is. 27:1)
Enemy (Luke 10:19; Matt. 13:25,28,39)	God of this Age (III Cor. 4:4)
Liar (John 8:44)	Murderer (John 8:44)
Old Serpent (Rev. 12:9)	Roaring Lion (I Peter 5:8)
Satan "adversary"	Serpent
Wolf (John 10:12)	Angel of light (?)

3. Father of lies works by deceiving us

From these names, we can see that the primary tool used by Satan and the kingdom of evil is **deception**. Satan is a liar, he works by trying to deceive us. Satan keeps people in bondage by deceiving them and by blinding the minds of the unbelieving.

And in every sort of evil that "deceives" those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved (II Thes. 2:10).

He deceived the whole world, them that dwell on the earth. (John 8:44, Rev. 12:9; 13:14)

The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God. (II Cor.

4. Power of Satan is in the lie

Satan cannot speak from truth because there is no truth in him. He can distort the truth, and he will even quote Scripture as he did when he tempted Jesus. The power of Satan is in the lie and half truths. If he is able to deceive Christians into believing a lie, they will be spiritually impotent. He can't do anything about our identity and position in Christ, but if he can get us to believe it is not true, we will live as though it isn't. When the lies are exposed, Satan's power over us is broken. (Neil Anderson, *Steps to Freedom In Christ*).

5. The battle is real

We need to understand the reality of this spiritual war, otherwise we will be deceived or destroyed.

Be sober, be watchful, your adversary, the devil walks around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour (I Pet. 5:8).

In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes (II Cor. 2:11).

V. Areas of Deception

There are many ways in which Satan, the god of this world, seeks to deceive us. Just as he did with Eve, the devil tries to convince us to rely on ourselves and to try to get our needs met through the world around us, rather than going to Jesus and trusting in the provision of our Father in heaven (Neil Anderson, *Steps to Freedom In Christ*).

Personal example: “I don’t need anyone”

Deceived About Who We Are As God’s Child

1. Eight Categories of Lies (Dr. Ed. Smith, TheoPhostic Ministry)

Here are eight common categories that many of our lies will fit into.

1. Fear
2. Abandonment
3. Shame
4. Tainted
5. Confusion
6. Hopeless
7. In-validation
8. Powerless

2. Personal Experience—Rotten To The Bone

For six months I’d been praying, “Lord, there is a lie somewhere in the depths of my personality, would you heal it?” Then I had a dream that told me some healing was about to happen. Two days later, my husband and I were discussing something Psychiatrist M. Scott Peck wrote in “The Road Less Traveled”: Our earliest memory often reveals our view of the world and our place in it.

Jerry asked me what my earliest memory was and I told him: “My earliest memory is that of looking through a window at my mother holding my new baby brother. I could not go to her because I was sick. I was two and half and staying with my grandmother. I started crying for my mother and my grandmother laughed at me for this.

As I told this memory to Jerry, intense pain welled up within me. I began to cry, it was the cry of a broken-hearted child. During the next hour I experienced deep and profound healing. I saw with the eye of my spirit, the lie that I was not loved—it was all a lie, my mother had loved me. I also saw this lie being pulled out the structure of my personality. It is hard to explain, but I like to think of the personality as a basket consisting of many strands all woven together, and it carries the life God has given me.

This was quickly followed by two more lies. The second was the lie that I was not wanted or important to my Mother. Again I saw that it was all a lie, I had been deceived. My mother had wanted me and I was important to her. It too was pulled out of the structure of my personality.

Because of believing these lies, I had opened myself to the lies of self-rejection and self-hatred; and they had also entered into the structure of my personality .

B. Deceived Things or People Will Make Us Happy

C. Deceived About Father God

Sometimes we are greatly hindered from walking by faith in our Father God because of lies we have believed about Him. We are to have a respectful fear of God – awe of His holiness, power and presence – but we no longer need to fear punishment from Him.

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption a sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' (Rom. 8:15)

See Dr. Neil Anderson's booklet, "Steps To Freedom In Christ" for a more complete description of areas of deception in our life. In particular, see Appendix C, The Truth About Your Father God (p. 36).

VI. A Commitment To Walk In Truth

The Christian's journey to wholeness is a journey to truth—on every level and dimension of our life. Truth or reality is avoided when it is painful, so we must make a commitment to truth. A total dedication to truth is necessary for a life of total honesty. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth will help you.

A. Why Are We Afraid Of Truth?

1. Seeing truth is painful

Even though we love God and desire to do His will, we can spend our whole lives defending ourselves against a truth. I am sure some of you are asking, "What do you mean by this, Judith?" I will tell you a little story about me that happened more than fifteen years ago.

"You Are Self-Righteous"

My husband and I were in the midst of a heated conflict, when he angrily came out with these words, "Judy, You are so self-righteous". Ouch! These words pierced my heart and I hurt. I cried loudly as if a great injustice had been done to me. Yet at the same time, on the inside, I knew it was true. I was indeed a very self-righteous woman. But I certainly did not like hearing it or seeing it, let alone admit it. Yet in seeing the truth, I was set free; I was healed of my own self-righteousness. And we found more peace and joy in our marriage.

So why did I not want to see this truth? Here, I am a Christian woman who loves God and wants to grow in His ways, yet I fight like a cornered wild cat when I confronted with the truth about me.

The answer can be found partly in the thought that it was too painful for me. This truth fractured my image of my self, an image that I fought to project and maintain. But my husband and my family knew the image I projected was not true.

We also do not like changing the way we see things. We prefer to live with the lie rather than with the truth. When I told my spiritual advisor what I had seen, he said, I could have told you this a long time ago, but I knew you would not have received it.

2. Truth shatters our illusions

Truth can be very painful—it is painful to break my illusions of something, somebody or myself. How many of you have been disillusioned in your life. That is a very good thing to happen. We need this to happen. Because our lives must be built on truth, not illusions of what we want or expect people to be.

Illusions Of The Leaders

Right now, many Christians in the United States are very angry and disillusioned with their priests and their churches. Why? Because they had not seen these people through the eyes of truth—the eyes of reality. Probably the truth was too painful, so they avoided looking, and even participated in the cover ups. Because of the fear of exposure of the truth, fig leaves were used to cover up someone's true condition. Now the consequences of hiding the problems, lying, not bringing things out in the open have become much more painful and costly.

Because of this, we often struggle with all of our power to avoid truth. Yet there is a time when God allows are illusions and self-deceptions to crumble and fall, so He can do a deeper work within us.

“Not My Son”

I remember an experience of my friend, a Catholic woman, from northern Vermont. She and her husband were in full time Christian ministry when their oldest son, a hard working honor student, went off to the university. A year later, she began to hear stories about this son. He was taking drugs and also selling them. She absolutely denied this to all of her friends who told her: “Not my Michael, he wouldn't do this”. Then one day, she saw him herself, and she had to accept the tragic truth. It was very painful for her. Why? Because she had an image of her beloved son, and when the image of him broke, it hurt very much.

This is the way it is with all of us. We have an image of ourselves, and we fight very hard to protect this image. We have an image of our families, and we fight to protect it. We have an image of our church, and we fight to protect it. We have an image of God, and we fight to protect it. However, when we do this, we set ourselves up for more serious problems.

B. Jesus Came To Set Us Free

1. Jesus And Truth

Just as truth is in Jesus... (Eph. 4:21)

This is truth, Jesus came to set us free (Rev. 12:9)

Jesus said, I am the way and the truth and the life . . . (John 14:6)

Everyone who is of truth hears my voice. (John 18:37)

Grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17b)

2. Jesus Destroyed The Works Of The Devil

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (Acts 10: 37-39).

Through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death (Heb. 2:14-15).

Now the salvation and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night (Rev. 12:10).

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Col. 2:13-15).

3. Go To Jesus, He Is Your Only Hope

And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross (Col. 2:13-15).

You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

4. We have been given the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth

The Holy Spirit is called the Helper, the Spirit of truth. Jesus promised to send us the Holy Spirit, . . . and He will be in you . . . and He will guide you into all truth. (John 14:16,17; 16:13)

5. Have Been Given Everything We Need To Live Victoriously

God has given us everything need to live and walk in freedom from the curse. He has given us the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, the anointing, the power of spiritual authority, and the spiritual armor. We can't separate any of these things; they all are important and work together. We must learn to flow with the Holy Spirit

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses—to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Grant that Thy bond-servants may speak Thy word with all confidence, while Thou dost extend Thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Thy holy, servant Jesus . . . when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:29-30).

The Power of Spiritual Authority

God has invested us with unbelievable power of spiritual authority (*exousia*) to wage war against the enemy, cast out every evil spirit, and break every demonic bondage.

You are a believer, the authority is in you. He has called and equipped us, the believers, with the authority to cast out demons (Luke 9:1) in the name of Jesus Christ.

Defining "Authority"

In the Greek NT, authority (*exousia*) means privilege, i.e., force, capacity, competency, freedom, delegated influence—*exousia* refers to the sense of *ability*.

Behold I give unto you power...over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall be any means hurt you (Luke 10:19).

And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name they shall cast out devils
(Mark 16:17a).

C. Need Truth Deep Inside

According to the Psalms, we need truth deep in our inner most being, not just in our heads.

Lord, Thou does desire truth in my innermost being (my inward parts) (Psalm 51:6).

D. The Process—Repent, Renounce, Resist

We experience God’s freedom as we choose to agree with and believe God’s truths. Others cannot do this for you. We must do it ourselves. We are called to come out of agreement with the enemy and choose God’s truths.

We must receive the truth, believe it, speak the truth aloud, confess our sin of believing a lie, receive God’s forgiveness of it, renounce it and turn away from it.

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded ...(James 4:7,8).

Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:11).

1. Repent

We need to come out of agreement with the kingdom of darkness and its ungodly lies and deceptions, repent of it, and renounce it. We make a decision to no longer accept the lies of Satan, to agree with it, or to give it a place within us.

Repentance (*Metaonia*) means *change, to turn around and go the other way*. It means something more than feeling sorry; it means to literally turn away from behaviors and thoughts that are producing no life in you or in the people around you and towards something else.

It means to change your direction in the aspects of your life that are bringing death to you.

...let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands...(Heb 6:1b-2a).

“Repentance from dead works” – means to literally turn away from destructive behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs that are producing an inner death within the structures of our personality, our soul, heart, mind and relationships. We recognize that the fruit of this way of thinking and functioning results in death – not life.

2. Renounce

Renounce is the first step toward repentance. A public declaration: “I renounce you Satan and all your works and all your ways” has historically been a part of the Church’s profession of faith since its earliest days. Most liturgical churches still encourage this public profession at salvation or confirmation.

In Early Church, the believers would literally face west and make that declaration. They would face east and declare their belief in God. Every work of Satan and every way of Satan had to be renounced in order for repentance to be complete.

Renounce means *to forsake* or *say no* to something or someone.

3. Resist

From the Bible, it is clear that we may need to resist the devil and his legions of evil beings, throw them out using our spiritual authority, faith, and the wonderful name of Jesus Christ!

Resist the devil and he will flee from you...(James 4:7,8).

Resisting the devil means taking a verbal stand, taking their rightful position at Christ's right hand and standing against the devil, using the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Exercising dependence upon God and the authority they have in Christ.

Often we do not even need to throw these evil things out, when we have received the knowledge of the truth in that particular area, the demons often just quietly leave.

Seven sons of Sceva were unbelievers trying to cast out demons in Jesus' name without an authentic relationship with Him. (Acts 19:11-16)

VII. Ministry Time

A. Welcome the Holy Spirit into your life.

But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth... (John 16:13).

B. Ask the Lord: "What Truth Do I Lack?"

Ask Him what is the knowledge or truth you are lacking.

You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free (Jesus).

C. Identify Lies & Deception

Ask the Lord to reveal the deception.

We must trust God to expose the deceit, remembering that the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. We have divine power to demolish strongholds. We use truth to demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ

D. Declare the truth

Declaring the truth is a powerful experience for many who have been deceived for years.

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation (Romans 10:1-11).

E. Learn To Listen To The Holy Spirit

F. Prayers

Scriptural prayers

1. Teach me Thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth. . . (Psalm 86:11)
2. Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, for Thou art the God of my salvation. (Psalm 25:5/6)
3. Oh send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Thy holy hill, and to Thy dwelling places, Then I will go to the altar of God, to God the gladness of my joy (Ps. 43:3,4).
4. Sanctify me through Thy truth, Thy word is truth (John 17:17).
5. Lord, make me to know truth in my innermost being (my inward parts) (Psalm 51:6).

Sample prayer

Heavenly Father,

I know that You made me for truth and want me to have truth deep in my innermost being. I desire Your truth. I ask You to open my heart to receive Your truth. I thank You that it is the truth that will set me free. I ask You to reveal the ways I have been deceived by Satan, the father of lies, by others, and by myself.

Lord, I recognize that I have been deceived by others, by Satan, the Father of lies, and by myself. I confess my sin and I now repent of lies about who I am in You. Lord, I renounce the lie that I am...

Rejected, unloved, dirty or shameful—because in Christ I am completely accepted.

Guilty, unprotected, alone or abandoned—because in Christ I am totally secure.

Worthless, inadequate, helpless or hopeless—because in Christ I am deeply significant and I have been given everything I need for Godliness.

Weak and powerless, because in Christ I have been given the power of God through the Holy Spirit.

Father, I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, by virtue of His shed blood and Resurrection, asking You to rebuke all evil spirits that are deceiving me.

I have trusted in Jesus alone to save me, and so I am Your forgiven child. Therefore, since You accept me just as I am in Christ, I can be free to face my sin and not try to hide. I ask for the Holy Spirit to guide me into all truth.

I thank You for Your forgiveness, and I commit myself to believing only Your truth about who I am in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen. (Adapted from Neil Anderson, Steps To Freedom In Christ).