

Telling the Truth

Week 3 - Telling the Truth...to God

June 4, 2006

- ✓ Is it possible to lie to God.
- ✓ God knows everything about me.
- ✓ Trying to deceive God bears deep consequences.
- ✓ Honesty with God reaps huge benefits.

1. I tell God the truth through **CONFESSION**

Toward evening they heard the LORD God walking about in the garden, so they hid themselves among the trees. The LORD God called to Adam, "Where are you?" He replied, "I heard you, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked." "Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten the fruit I commanded you not to eat?" "Yes," Adam admitted, "but it was the woman you gave me who brought me the fruit, and I ate it." *Genesis chapter 3, verses 8-12*

We all have a tendency to hide from God.

- ✓ Confession an absolute necessity and privilege for every Christ follower.
- ✓ Un-confessed sin is like carrying a weight around.
- ✓ With God I will never experience humiliation & I will always find forgiveness.

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it. *Hebrews chapter 4, verses 15-16 (922)*

Confession is telling God what he already knows to be true about me.

2. I tell God the truth through **WORSHIP**

For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

John chapter 4 verses 23-24 (811)

Because of your unfailing love, I can enter your house; with deepest awe I will worship at your Temple.

Psalms chapter 5, verse 7 (416)

Worship is telling God what he already knows to be true about himself.

- ✓ "Worship is expressing our love to God for who he is, what he's said, and what he's doing."
- ✓ Worshiping with other Christ followers is what God desires for me on a regular basis.
- ✓ When I worship I make God the focus.
- ✓ Worship is not limited to what I do at church

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you, let them be a living and holy sacrifice-the kind he will find acceptable. *Romans chapter 12, verse 1 (866)*

When I worship God with my life my praise has credibility with God.

3. I tell God the truth through PRAYER

I cry out to God without holding back. Oh, that God would listen to me! When I was in deep trouble, I searched for the Lord. All night long I pray, with hands lifted toward heaven, pleading. There can be no joy for me until he acts. I think of God, and I moan, overwhelmed with longing for his help. You don't let me sleep. I am too distressed even to pray! I think of the good old days, long since ended, when my nights were filled with joyful songs. I search my soul and think about the difference now. Has the Lord rejected me forever? Will he never again show me favor? Is his unfailing love gone forever? Have his promises permanently failed? Has God forgotten to be kind? Has he slammed the door on his compassion? And I said, "This is my fate, that the blessings of the Most High have changed to hatred." *Psalms chapter 77 verses 1-10 (448)*

Honest prayer is telling God what he already knows we are feeling.

- God is not put off by hearing our true thoughts & feelings.
- The more I pour my heart out to God the more he is pleased & the more I trust Him.
- Letting God know that we know that he is our first, last and only option is a good thing.
- Those who don't share their true feelings with God tend to pull away from him.
- God can handle our tough questions!

What are your questions for God?

Next Week: Telling the Truth...to others

This study is based on the series "28 Days of Telling the Truth" first taught at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill. Bill Hybels is the Sr. Pastor of this dynamic church that God is using to challenge tens-of-thousands of churches around the world, including Bethel. You can visit Willow Creek at www.WillowCreek.org