Devotion #310

**Godly Interaction**

**Zechariah 8:16 (NASB)** *“These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates*.”

Our world is greatly distorting what truth is. Truth by its very definition proclaims or defines certain things that are real and relevant and without error. But in our world today, truth is relative, however, there is no such thing as truth and also relativity. They cannot coexist. To be truthful or to live in truth or to speak the truth cannot be accepted or rejected just because someone doesn’t agree. It is either the truth or it isn’t. There is no subjectivity to truth. There are different opinions and even different points of view, but to speak of something being true means there is no arguing about it. Truth defines itself. It cannot be one thing for one person and another thing for someone else.

God is the God of truth. Jesus said of Himself, **John 14:6 (NASB)** "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me*.” John would also write this of Jesus, **John 1:14 (NASB)**  *“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* What the Lord meant was that He was, and is, the full embodiment of truth. He is the very manifestation of truth. In Him there is no error. We are to fully embrace Him as the truth of our lives and the source of all truth. When we come against something that we are not able to discern or some situation that we are not able to maneuver through, we are to look to God – the One who knows the way and the answer.

Because Jesus is the very embodiment of truth, He expects and longs for His children, those who are born again, to live in truth - so much so that we are to always speak the truth and pattern our lives on truth. That is what God was telling the Hebrew people through the prophet Zechariah. In 538 BC, Cyrus the Persian freed the people of Israel to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. So 50,000 people went back to do so. But great opposition from within and without slowed the process. So through Zechariah and Haggai, the Lord stirred up the people so that the mission would be accomplished. To keep the people on the right track with one another and the people around them, the Lord said that truth is the foundation of all they were to live by. First, the truth that He had sent them back to rebuild and, secondly, that they live in truth with one another. Their conversations were to be truthful. Their judgements over issues were to be truthful.

God commissioned the prophets to proclaim the message of truth because the human heart will always follow the easy way out or give in to its own sinful desires. When that happens, many distractions occur - one of which is that truth is relegated to opinion or point of view or even, as I said earlier, it becomes subjective. God is not subjective or relative or a matter of opinion. God is truth. Therefore His people are to live in light of His truth always.

To live in truth does not give anyone a license to be mean-spirited or hurtful when they proclaim the truth. God said through the Apostle Paul, **Ephesians 4:15 (NASB)**  *“Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.*”. This means that we are to always blend truth with love and vice versa. To leave either out is to miss how God intends for us to be as we interact with one another.

So beloved, our motive for life is not only to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds, but also to speak truth and live truth with one another. To be or do anything less is to ignore Him and follow after our flesh.