

**What is the truth?**

**John 14:6** - Jesus said to him, **I am** the way and **the reality** and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

**John 18:37** - Pilate said therefore to Him, So then You are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been **born**, and for this I have **come** into the world, that I would **testify** to the **truth**. Everyone who is **of the truth** hears My voice.

**1John 1:6** - If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not **practicing the truth**;

The Greek word *[truth]* means **reality** (the opposite of vanity), verity, veracity, genuineness, sincerity. It is John's highly individual terminology, and it is one of the profound words in the New Testament, denoting all the realities of the divine economy as the content of the divine revelation, conveyed and disclosed by the holy Word as follows:

**(1) God,**

- who is **light** and **love**,
- **incarnated to be the reality** of the divine things, such as
  - the divine **life**,
  - the divine **nature**,
  - the divine **power**,
  - and the divine **glory**,
- for us to possess,
- that we may enjoy Him **as grace**, as revealed in John's Gospel (John 1:1, 4, 14-17).

**John 1:1** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was **God**.

**John 1:4** - In Him was **life**, and the life was the **light** of men.

**John 1:14** - And the Word became **flesh** and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of **grace** and **reality**.

**John 1:15** - John testified concerning Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, He who is coming after me has become ahead of me, because He was before me.

**John 1:16** - For of His fullness we have all received, and **grace** upon **grace**.

**John 1:17** - For the law was given through Moses; **grace** and **reality** came through Jesus Christ.

**(2) Christ,**

- who is **God incarnated** and in whom all the **fullness** of the Godhead dwells bodily (Col. 2:9),  
**Col 2:9** - For in Him **dwells** all the **fullness** of the Godhead bodily,
- **as** the reality of
  - (a) God and man (John 1:18, 51; 1 Tim. 2:5);  
**John 1:18** - No one has ever seen God; the **only begotten Son**, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has **declared Him**.  
**John 1:51** - And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the **Son of Man**.  
**1Tim. 2:5** - For there is one God and one Mediator of God and men, the **man** Christ Jesus,

(b) all the types, figures, and **shadows** of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16-17; John 4:23, 24 and notes 4 and 5);

- Col. 2:16 - Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
- Col. 2:17 - Which are a **shadow** of the things to come, but the **body** is of Christ.
- John 4:23 - But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the **true** worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and **truthfulness**, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- John 4:24 - God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and **truthfulness**.

(c) all the divine and spiritual things, such as

- the divine **life** and resurrection (John 11:25; 14:6),
  - John 11:25 - Jesus said to her, I am the **resurrection** and the **life**; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
  - John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way and the **reality** and the **life**; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- the divine **light** (John 8:12; 9:5),
  - John 8:12 - Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the **light** of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
  - John 9:5 - While I am in the world, I am the **light** of the world.
- the divine **way** (John 14:6),
- wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30).
  - 1Cor. 1:30 - But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became **wisdom** to us from God: both **righteousness** and **sanctification** and **redemption**,
- Hence, Christ is the **reality** (John 14:6; Eph. 4:21).
  - Eph. 4:21 - If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the **reality** is in Jesus,

### (3) **The Spirit,**

- who is **Christ transfigured** (1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17),
  - 1Cor. 15:45 - So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam *became* a **life-giving Spirit**.
  - 2Cor. 3:17 - And the **Lord is the Spirit**; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- **as** the reality of Christ (John 14:16-17; 15:26) and of the divine revelation (John 16:13-15).
  - John 14:16 - And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,
  - John 14:17 - *Even* the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know *Him*; *but* you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.
- Hence, the Spirit is the **reality** (1John 5:6).
  - 1John 5:6 - This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the **reality**.

### (4) **The Word of God**

- **as** the **divine revelation**, which not only **reveals** but also **conveys** the reality of God and Christ and of all the divine and spiritual things.
- Hence, the Word of God also is **reality** (John 17:17 and note 3).
  - John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; Your **word** is **truth**.

John 17:17 **word**

The Father's word carries the reality of the Father with it. When God's word says, "God is light," it carries God as light in it. Hence, God's word is reality, the truth, unlike Satan's word, which is vanity, a lie (8:44).

(5) **The contents of the faith (belief), which are the substantial elements of what we believe,**

- **as** the reality of the **full gospel** (Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5);
  - Eph. 1:13** - In whom you also, having heard the **word of the truth**, the **gospel** of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
  - Col. 1:5** - Because of the hope laid up for you in the heavens, of which you heard before in the **word of the truth of the gospel**,
- these are **revealed** throughout the **New Testament** (2 Cor. 4:2; 13:8; Gal. 5:7; 1 Tim. 1:1 and note 1, points 1 and 2; 2:4 and note 2; 2:7b; 3:15 and note 5; 4:3; 6:5; 2 Tim. 2:15, 18, 25; 3:7, 8; 4:4; Titus 1:1, 14; 2 Thes. 2:10, 12; Heb. 10:26; James 5:19; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2 Pet. 1:12).
  - 2Cor. 4:2** - But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor adulterating the **word of God**, but by the manifestation of the **truth** commending ourselves to every conscience of men before God.
  - 2Cor. 13:8** - For we are not able to *do* anything against the **truth** but *rather* for the **truth**.
  - Gal. 5:7** - You were running well.  
Who hindered you that you would not believe and obey the **truth**?
  - 1Tim. 1:1** - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the **command** of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,
  - 1Tim. 4:3** - Who forbid marriage *and command* abstaining from foods, which God has created to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who believe and have full knowledge of the **truth**.
  - 1Tim. 6:5** - Perpetual wranglings of men corrupted in mind and deprived of the **truth**, supposing godliness to be a *means of gain*.
  - 2Tim. 2:15** - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the **truth**.
  - 2Tim. 2:18** - Who concerning the **truth** have misaimed, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and overthrow the faith of some.
  - 2Tim. 2:25** - In meekness correcting those who oppose, if perhaps God may give them repentance unto the full knowledge of the **truth**,
  - 2Tim. 3:7** - *And* are always learning yet never able to come to the full knowledge of the **truth**.
  - 2Tim. 3:8** - And in the manner that Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these also oppose the **truth**; men corrupted in mind, disapproved concerning the faith.
  - 2Tim. 4:4** - And they will turn away their ear from the **truth** and will be turned aside to myths.
  - Titus 1:1** - Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ according to the faith of God's chosen ones and the full knowledge of the **truth**, which is according to godliness,
  - Titus 1:14** - Not paying attention to Jewish myths and the commandments of men who turn away from the **truth**.
  - 2Thes. 2:10** - And in all deceit of unrighteousness among those who are perishing, because they **did not receive** the love of the **truth** that they might be saved.
  - 2Thes. 2:12** - So that all who have not believed the **truth** but have taken pleasure in unrighteousness might be judged.
  - Heb. 10:26** - For when we **sin willfully** after receiving the knowledge of the **truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice *of bulls and goats* for sins,
  - James 5:19** - My brothers, if any one among you is led astray from the **truth** and someone **turns him back**,
  - 1Pet. 1:22** - Since you have purified your souls by your obedience to the **truth** unto unfeigned brotherly love, love one another from a pure heart fervently,
  - 2Pet. 1:12** - Therefore I will be ready always to **remind** you concerning these things, even though you know *them* and have been established in the **present truth**.

(6) **The reality concerning God, the universe, man, man's relationship with God and with his fellow man, and man's obligation to God,**

- **as** revealed through creation and the Scriptures (Rom. 1:18-20; 2:2, 8, 20).
  - Rom. 1:18** - For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold down the **truth** in unrighteousness,
  - Rom. 1:19** - Because that which is **known of God** is manifest within them, for God manifested *it* to them.
  - Rom. 1:20** - For the **invisible things of Him**, both His eternal power and divine characteristics, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being perceived by the things made, so that they would be without excuse;
  - Rom. 2:2** - But we know that **the judgment of God** is according to truth upon those who practice such things.
  - Rom. 2:8** - But to those who are selfishly contentious and **disobedient to the truth** and obey unrighteousness, wrath and fury.
  - Rom. 2:20** - One who disciplines the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the **proper** form of the **knowledge and truth** in the law;

(7) **The genuineness, truthfulness, sincerity, honesty, trustworthiness, and faithfulness of God**

- **as** a **divine** virtue (Rom. 3:7; 15:8)
  - Rom. 3:7** - But if the **truthfulness of God** has abounded in my lie unto His glory, why still am I also being judged as a sinner?
  - Rom. 15:8** - For I say that Christ has become a servant of the circumcision for the sake of **God's truthfulness**, to confirm the promises *given* to the fathers,
- and of man **as** a **human** virtue (Mark 12:14; 2 Cor. 11:10; Phil. 1:18; 1 John 3:18),
  - Mark 12:14** - And they came and said to Him, Teacher, we know that **You are true** and do not fear anyone, for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the **way of God in truth**. Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? Should we give, or should we not give?
  - 2Cor. 11:10** - The **truthfulness** of Christ is in me, that this boasting shall not be stopped as it regards me in the regions of Achaia.
  - Phil. 1:18** - What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in **truthfulness**, Christ is announced; and in this I rejoice; yes, and I will rejoice;
  - 1John 3:18** - Little children, let us not love in word nor in tongue but in deed and **truthfulness**.
- and **as** an issue of the **divine reality** (John 4:23-24; 2 John 1a; 3 John 1).
  - John 4:23** - But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the **true worshippers** will worship the Father in spirit and **truthfulness**, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
  - John 4:24** - God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and **truthfulness**.
  - 2John 1** - The elder to the chosen lady and to her children, whom **I love in truthfulness**, and not only I but also all those who know the truth,
  - 3John 1** - The elder to Gaius the beloved, whom **I love in truthfulness**.

(8) **Things that are true or real, the true or real state of affairs (facts), reality, veracity,**

- **as** the **opposite** of falsehood, deception, dissimulation, hypocrisy, and error (Mark 5:33; 12:32; Luke 4:25; John 16:7; Acts 4:27; 10:34; 26:25; Rom. 1:25; 9:1; 2 Cor. 6:7; 7:14; 12:6; Col. 1:6; 1 Tim. 2:7a).
  - Mark 5:33** - But the woman, frightened and trembling, knew what had happened to her, and she came and fell down before Him and **told** Him the whole **truth**.
  - Mark 12:32** - And the scribe said to Him, Well *said*, Teacher; **in truth** You have said that He is one and there is not another besides Him;
  - Luke 4:25** - But **in truth** I say to you, There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land;

- John 16:7** - But **I tell you** the **truth**, It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.
- Acts 4:27** - For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,
- Acts 10:34** - And opening his mouth, Peter said, **In truth** I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons,
- Acts 26:25** - But Paul said, I am not insane, most excellent Festus, but **I am uttering** words of **truth** and soberness.
- Rom. 1:25** - Who exchanged the **truth** of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- Rom. 9:1** - **I speak** the **truth** in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit,
- 2Cor. 6:7** - **In** the word of **truth**, in the power of God; through the weapons of righteousness on the right and on the left,
- 2Cor. 7:14** - For if in anything I boasted to him on your behalf, I have not been put to shame; on the contrary, as **we spoke** all things **in truth** to you, so also our boasting before Titus turned out to be the **truth**.
- 2Cor. 12:6** - For if I desire to boast, I will not be foolish, for I will **speak** the **truth**; but I refrain lest anyone account of me *something* above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.
- Col. 1:6** - Which has come to you, even as it is also in all the world, bearing fruit and growing, as also in you, since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in **truth**;
- 1Tim. 2:7** - For which I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I **speak** the **truth**; I do not lie), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and **truth**.

✚ Of the **eight points** listed above, the **first five** refer to the **same reality in essence**.

- God, Christ, and the Spirit—the **Divine Trinity**—are essentially one. Hence, these three, being the basic elements of the substance of the divine reality, are actually one reality.
- This one divine reality is the **substance** of the **Word of God** as the divine revelation. Hence, it becomes the revealed divine reality in the divine Word and makes the divine Word the reality.
- The divine Word **conveys** this one divine reality as the **contents** of the faith, and the contents of the faith are the substance of the gospel revealed in the entire New Testament as its reality, which is just the divine reality of the Divine Trinity.
- When this divine reality is **partaken** of and **enjoyed** by us, it **becomes** our **genuineness, sincerity, honesty, and trustworthiness** as an excellent virtue in our behavior that enables us to express God, the God of reality, by whom we live;
- and we **become** persons **living a life of truth**, without any falsehood or hypocrisy, a life that corresponds with the truth revealed through creation and the Scripture.

✚ The word **truth** is used in the New Testament more than one hundred times. Its **denotation** in each occurrence is determined by its context.

- For instance, in **John 3:21**, according to the context, it **denotes uprightness** (the opposite of evil—John 3:19-20),
  - which is the reality manifested in a man who lives in God according to what He is
  - and which corresponds with the divine light, which is God, as the source of the truth, manifested in Christ.

- In **John 4:23-24**, according to the context of that chapter and also according to the entire revelation of John's Gospel, it **denotes** the divine reality becoming man's **genuineness** and **sincerity** (the opposite of the hypocrisy of the immoral Samaritan worshipper—John 4:16-18) for the true worship of God.
  - The divine reality is Christ, who is the reality (John 14:6),
  - **as** the reality of all the offerings of the Old Testament for the worship of God (John 1:29; 3:14)
  - and **as** the fountain of living water, the life-giving Spirit (John 4:7-15), partaken of and drunk by His believers to be the reality within them, which eventually **becomes** their genuineness and sincerity, in which they worship God with the worship that He seeks.
- In **John 5:33** and **18:37**, according to the entire revelation of the Gospel of John, truth **denotes** the divine reality embodied, revealed, and expressed in Christ as the **Son of God**.
- In **John 8:32, 40, 44-46**, according to the context of that chapter, it **denotes** the reality of God revealed in **His word** (John 8:47) and embodied in Christ, the **Son of God** (John 8:36), which sets us free from the bondage of sin (see note 321 in John 8).

✚ **Here in 1John 1:6, truth denotes** the revealed **reality of God** in its **aspect** of the **divine light**.

- It is the **issue** and **realization** of the **divine light** mentioned in v. 5.  
**1John 1:5** - And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is light** and in Him is no darkness at all.
- The divine **light** is the source in God; **truth** is the issue and realization of the divine light in us (see note 82 in ch. 4; cf. John 3:19-21)
- When we **abide in the divine light**, which we enjoy in the fellowship of the divine life, **we practice the truth**—**what we have realized in the divine light**.
- When we abide in the source, **its issue becomes our practice**.

*(The Holy Bible Recovery Version, 1John 1:6 footnotes 6)*