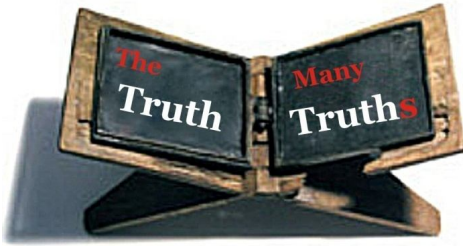# Truths, Truth, and Knowing

The truth about the Truth
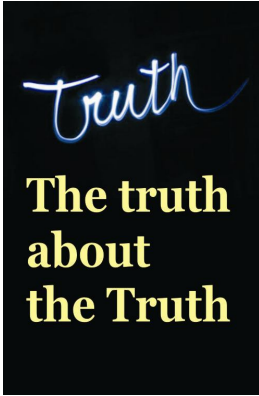*Suggested reading:* John 8:32f and 14:6, 3 John 1:4

A question: If you studied the Bible long enough and hard enough and were able to find all of the truths in it, would you then have the truth? Most Christians would agree that they would then have the truth. But *truths*, plural, is not a biblical word; it is never used in the Bible. Nowhere in the 200 times it is used in the Scriptures is **ἀλήθεια (al-ay'-thi-a)**, the Greek word for truth, used in the plural.

One of the key passages about truth is John 8:31–32: "Then Jesus said to the Jews, who believed on Him, 'If you continue in my word, you are my disciples indeed; then you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'" A large portion of the Christian community understands this passage to say, "If you immerse yourself in the study of the Bible, then you are a Christian and you will be able to extract the Bible's truths, and these truths will make you free."

The Bible is focused on the truth, and it defines truth for all time in John 14:6, where Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." He states clearly that He is truth. Truth is not the sum of truths; truth is a person, Jesus Christ. When you see the word *truth* in the Bible, it is referring to a person, Jesus.

The truth about the Truth

A better translation of John 8:31–32 might be, "If you rest (Puppiness) in me and are obedient (Featherness) to what I ask of you (the word of my Spirit), then you will know me (intimately) and I will set you free." And then, in case there was still any doubt about meaning of the word *truth*, Jesus continues to say in verse 36, "Therefore if the *Son* sets you free, you will be truly free."

How do we get free? The Son sets us free. It is not truths from the Bible; it is the truth, the indwelling person of God the Son, His Life in us, setting us free. It is not knowing the truths or knowing *about* the truth, but knowing the Him who is the truth that will free you.

What does it mean to know the truth? In John 8:32, the Greek word *know* is γινώσκω (ghinoce'-ko). Among other things, the Thayer Greek dictionary indicates that this word is a Jewish idiom for the most intimate relations between a man and a woman in marriage. Here, the "knowing" is knowing in an intimate way. God is not as interested in our knowing about Him (that is called theology—knowing about God) so much as He is interested in our knowing Him intimately.

Please be clear, knowing about is not the same as knowing. Knowing truths is about knowledge; knowing the truth is about an intimate relationship with a person, Jesus Christ, who is the truth.

Prayer: Engage your heart and pray: "Father, I have learned about you and know about you, but my heart's desire is to know you and experience you in a more

intimate way. I want to experience you loving me, encouraging me, speaking to me, and guiding me. Heavenly Father, I want to experience you changing me into the likeness of your Son, Jesus. I give you permission to do whatever is necessary to bring about your heart's desire in my life."