Preface

What is Truth? Pilate wanted to know the Truth-- or, so he said. "Pilate therefore said unto [Jesus], Art Thou a king then?" (John 18:37). Many people say that they want the Truth, but, quite honestly, most don't. "For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat" (Matthew 7:13). Jesus told Pilate the Truth, as He has done to the whole world, but He wasn't believed. The Saviour said, "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear Witness unto The Truth. Every one that is of The Truth heareth My Voice" (John 18:37). Pilate then proved that he was not "of The Truth", and that he had not accepted Jesus' definition of Truth as being the "Witness" of His "Voice", when he responded in denial, "Pilate saith unto Him, What is Truth?" (18:38). And this denial was not the result of Pilate doubting what kind of man stood before him-- whether Jesus was a murdered or a thief. No, Pilate freely admitted to the Jews the innocent character of the man who stood before him, when he said, "I find in Him no fault at all" (18:38). Not just, "no fault" in the accusation the Jews had of Jesus. No, Pilate said there was "no fault" in Jesus "at all". And yet, though he could find no reason in his Prisoner to doubt the Truth that He spoke, Pilate's response, in effect, condemned Jesus as being a Liar. "I have not written unto you because ye know not the Truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of The Truth" (1John 2:21). For it was into the very Face of Truth, that Pilate said, "What is Truth?" (John 18:38). "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,) full of Grace and Truth" (1:14). Pilate proved he was not "of The Truth" (18:38) because he wouldn't hear the Voice of the LORD. "He that is of God heareth God's Words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are NOT of God" (8:47). How often have we doubted the LORD with our disobedience? "10 He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. 11 He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:10-11).

What relationship does obedience have to knowing The Truth?

The Scripture solidly answers this. The Almighty speaks: "23 This thing commanded I them, saying, Obey My Voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be My people: and walk ye in ALL the Ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. 24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward... 28 But thou shalt say unto them,

This is a nation that obeyeth not
the Voice of the LORD their God,
nor receiveth Correction: Truth is perished,
and is cut off from their mouth...
13:25 Thou hast forgotten Me, and trusted in falsehood


This is a description of the United States of America. As a nation and a people, we do not obey the Bible. Without obedience to the Witness of His Voice, the Word of God, Truth cannot be known. Jesus is The Truth. "Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). Without obedience to Truth, the Word of God, Jesus cannot be known, for "His Name is called The Word of God" (Revelation 19:13). Without obedience to the LORD Jesus, you cannot, in honesty, claim to know Him. "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His Commandments, is a liar, and The Truth is not in him" (1John 2:4).

- (John 14:6) "Jesus saith unto him, I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."
- (Exodus 19:5) "Now therefore, if ye will obey My Voice indeed, and keep My Covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the Earth is Mine."
- (Hosea 4:1) "Hear the Word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no Truth, nor Mercy, nor Knowledge of God in the land."

You can KNOW that you KNOW Him if you fit His Description. "Every one that is of The Truth heareth My Voice" (John 18:37). After all, "even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right" (Proverbs 20:11).

- (Matthew 7:19, 20 ) "16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?... 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."
- (Matthew 12:33) "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."
- (Luke 6:44) "For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes."
- (James 3:12) "Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh."

Because God "desirest Truth in the inward parts" (Psalm 51:6), so should we. And, in faith, we can claim Promises from His Own Word to bind Him to work the Work in us! "In the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know Wisdom" (51:6). Through Solomon, the LORD says, "That I might make thee know the certainty of the Words of Truth; that thou mightest answer the Words of Truth to them that send unto thee?" (Proverbs 22:21). Oh, what a happy day, when "ye shall know The Truth, and The Truth shall make you FREE" (John 8:32)! Free to obey and to know, in His strength, with Him working Truth in you! "For it is God which worketh in you both TO WILL and TO DO of His Good
Pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

- (Ezekiel 36:27) "And I will put My Spirit within you, and **cause you to walk** in My Statutes, and ye shall keep My Judgments, and do them."

- (Job 13:23) "How many are mine iniquities and sins? **make me to know** my transgression and my sin."

- (Psalm 39:4) "**LORD, make me to know** mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am."

How can my LORD "make me to know" if I am deceiving myself, or if I am really walking in uprightness? Jesus said, that if I listen carefully, "thine ears shall hear a Word behind thee, saying, This is the Way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21). For, He said, "Even the Spirit of Truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:17). But I must respect and love the LORD with obedience, or I will not be careful to listen. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of Wisdom: a good Understanding have all they that **do** His Commandments: His praise endureth for ever" (Psalm 111:10). [Read "Only God Can Change A Heart" -- http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/God.Can.Change.A.Heart.html --. The LORD is the Knowledge and the Wisdom by Whom EVERY man is Lighted 'that cometh into the world' (John 1:9).]

- (Job 28:28) "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is Wisdom; and to **depart from evil** is Understanding."

- (Proverbs 9:10) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of Wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is Understanding."

- (Proverbs 15:33) "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of Wisdom; and before honour is humility."

And if we don't have the "humility" to "honour" God with our obedience, then we are liars to call ourselves Christians. "The fear of the LORD is the **beginning** of Knowledge: but fools despise Wisdom and Instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).

**The Characteristics of a Liar**

Again, without obedience to the LORD Jesus, you cannot, *in honesty*, claim to know Him. "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His Commandments, is a liar, and The Truth is not in him" (1John 2:4). When confronted with Scripture, it's obviously known if a professing Christian is presently "of The Truth" (John 18:37), or not, for that person either hears and bends to the Will of God in loving agreement and obedience-- or refuses. "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby **know** we the Spirit of Truth, and the spirit of error" (1John 4:6). We should know liars when we see their disregard for God and His Word. "5 They will deceive everyone his neighbour, and **will not speak the Truth**: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity. 6 Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit *they*
refuse to know Me, saith the LORD... 11:10 They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear My Words" (Jeremiah 9:5-6; 11:10).

What other characteristics are found in liars? "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge Righteous Judgment" (John 7:24). [Read "Judge Righteous Judgment" -- http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/Judge.Righteous.Judgment.html -- to understand our Christian responsibility in obeying the imperative command to "judge Righteous Judgment"]. "Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver" (Psalm 50:22).

- Liars won't repent. "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts" (Revelation 9:21).

- Liars are hypocritical. "3 Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?... 5 Thou hypocrite, FIRST cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and THEN shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:3,5).

- Liars refuse moral criticism. "Seeing thou hatest Instruction, and castest My Words behind thee" (Psalm 50:17).

- Liars twist the Word of God to vindicate their sin. "5 Every Word of God is Pure... 6 Add thou not unto His Words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:5-6). "Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit" (Psalm 50:19).

- Liars listen to other liars and commend those who act the way they do. "When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers" (Psalm 50:18). "A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue" (Proverbs 17:4).

- Liars ambush with hate. "2 They all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. 3 That they may do evil with both hands earnestly" (Micah 7:2-3). "Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest [slander= false and malicious statements] thine own mother's son" (Psalm 50:20).

- Liars deny that Jesus is Christ, the Anointed One, sent from God the Father. "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son" (1John 2:22). Children of The Truth are as opposite to liars, as God is to Satan. "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me" (John 17:21).

- Liars are the children of Satan. "Ye are of your father the Devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from The Beginning, and abode not in The Truth, because there is NO Truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

- Liars invented the "white" lie. A lie is a lie-- they are all black-- and they all receive the same Judgment. "The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and
whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and **ALL liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the Second Death" (Revelation 21:8).

- Liars do not live in Heaven. "21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or **maketh a lie**: but they which are written in the Lamb's Book of Life... 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and **whosoever loveth and maketh a lie**" (Revelation 21:27; 22:15).

- Liars love lying-- especially about God. "They bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are **not valiant for The Truth** upon the Earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and **they know not Me**, saith the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:3). God does not

Either God is True, or, as the liars say, He is not. "God forbid: yea, let God be True, but every man a liar; as it is written, That Thou mightest be justified in Thy Sayings, and mightest overcome when Thou art judged" (Romans 3:4). The Truth is One. "Let God be True" (3:4). If God says, "Death passed upon all men, for that ALL have sinned" (Romans 5:12), then admit The Truth. "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a Liar, and His Word is not in us" (1John 1:10).

Are you guilty of calling God a Liar? "He that **believeth** on the Son of God hath the witness [or the testimony] in himself: he that **believeth not** God hath made Him a Liar; because he **believeth not** the Record that God gave of His Son" (1John 5:10). What "witness"? Jesus **told** The Truth (demonstrating faith), that is, His actions gave testimony, or "bear witness" of The Truth. "I told you, and ye **believed not**:

> the WORKS that I do in My Father's Name,  
> they bear witness of Me"  
> (John 10:25).

Do your CLAIMS match your WORKS? "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, **how can he love God** Whom he hath not seen?" (1John 4:20).

> "He that saith, I know Him,  
> and keepeth not His Commandments, is a liar,  
> and The Truth is not in him"  
> (1John 2:4).  
> When your works bear witness-- of whom do they bear it?

**Portrait of The Truth**

From the Second Epistle of the Apostle John

The elder [John] unto the elect lady and her children, whom I Love in The Truth; and not I only, but also ALL they that have known The Truth [note: Truth lovers love each other, i.e., "They that fear Thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in Thy Word" (Psalm 119:74)]; 2 for The Truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be WITH US FOR EVER. 3 Grace be with you, Mercy, and Peace, from God the Father, and from the LORD Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in **Truth and Love**" (2John 1-3). It is for the
LORD's sake, Who is "the Vine", that we, "the branches" (John 15:5), live our lives. "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). The Truth, in Love, binds the LORD to His people, and they to Him, and to each other. "He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

"I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in Truth, as we have received a Commandment from the Father" (2John 4). The beloved Apostle had a tender heart for the brethren. John stresses what joy he feels in knowing that this "elect lady" has truly loved the LORD, and His Truth, and has demonstrated her Love by raising her children "in the nurture and admonition of the LORD" (Ephesians 6:4).

- (2Timothy 3:15) "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto Salvation through Faith which is in Christ Jesus."

- (Deuteronomy 6:7; 11:6) "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up... And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

- (Genesis 18:19) "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the Way of the LORD, to do Justice and Judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him."

- (Psalm 78:4) "We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength, and His wonderful works that He hath done."

- (Proverbs 22:6) "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." [Please read "Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me" -- http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Jehovah/Little.Children.Come.to.Me.html -- ]

"5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new Commandment unto thee, but that which we had from The Beginning, that we Love one another" (2John 5). Who knew more about loving the LORD than "the disciple whom Jesus loved FOLLOWING; which also leaned on His breast at supper" (John 21:20)? And it is John who speaks of Love, over and over again, in his Gospel and Epistles. "6 And this is Love, that we walk after His Commandments. This is the Commandment, that, as ye have heard from The Beginning, ye should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2John 6-7). Did not The Deceiver provoke with the lie, "Hath God said...?" (Genesis 3:1). And did not John record the Words of the LORD Jesus saying, "If ye Love Me, KEEP My Commandments" (John 14:15).

- (John 14:23) "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man Love Me, he will keep My Words."

- (John 15:10) "If ye keep My Commandments, ye shall abide in My Love; even as I have kept My Father's Commandments, and abide in His Love."
(1John 5:2) "By this we know that we Love the children of God, when we Love God, and keep His Commandments."

(1John 5:3) "For this is the Love of God, that we keep His Commandments: and His Commandments are not grievous [or, burdensome]."

"8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the Doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the Doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this Doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2John 8-11). The fruit of disobedience to the "Doctrine", or Word of God, translates directly into disobedience to "both the Father and the Son" (9). Even to pray a blessing of "God speed" (10) upon a wayward one, that is, to ask God to bless his deceitful and Laodicean ways, is to become, yourself, a "partaker of his evil deeds" (11). The Doctrine of Christ demands obedience in this. "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).

(Acts 26:18) "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to Light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me."

(2Corinthians 6:14) "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath Light with darkness?"

(Romans 13:12) "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of Light."

(Colossians 1:12-13) "12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in Light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His Dear Son."

(1Corinthians 5:9) "I wrote unto you in an Epistle not to company with fornicators."

(1Timothy 5:20) "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear." [Please read "How to Deal With Backsliders" -- http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/How.to.Deal.with.Backslide.html --]

John parented many Spiritual children whom he suckled with the Word ("bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the LORD" [Ephesians 6:4]). And he importuned them to walk truthfully, as The Truth walked. "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked" (1John 2:6).

(1John 2:1) "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous."

(1John 2:12-13) "12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His Name's sake. 13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from The
Beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father."

- (1John 2:18,28) "18 Little children, it is the Last Time: and as ye have heard that Antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the Last Time... 28 And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His Coming."

- (1John 3:7) "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is Righteous."

- (1John 3:18) "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in Truth."

- (1John 4:4) "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

- (1John 5:21) "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

And John's Spiritual children loved him for all his truthfulness to them. "12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be FULL. 13 The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen" (2John 12-13).

So, the portrait of Truth includes all those who love and follow The Truth. "Every one that is of The Truth heareth My Voice" (John 18:37). And the Embodiment and Essence of Truth, of course, is Jesus Christ.

**Portrait of The LORD Jesus**
From the First Epistle of the Apostle John

Only those who know the Truth of the Word of God can truthfully know the LORD Jesus. "Behold, what manner of Love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not" (1John 3:1). And, only those who know the LORD Jesus, can be like Him, or be Christian, i.e., like Christ. "2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is Pure" (3:2-3).

In defining a likeness of Jesus, we must ask, "What is sin?" "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the Law: for sin is the transgression of the Law" (3:4). No picture of Jesus can be complete without understanding, that, what is so common in mankind, i.e., sin, "for all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God" (Romans 3:23), is NOT a part of Jesus. Sin has no place in Jesus Christ. "And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin" (1John 3:5). This is so much a part of Who Jesus is, that we cannot possibly know Him without knowing this about Him! For, without this deep, heart-core Truth, there is no living in Him, for Him, or with Him. "Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him" (3:6). Not
enough can be stressed upon this point, as John demonstrated in his plea to his Spiritual children. "7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth Righteousness is Righteous, even as He is Righteous. 8 He that commiteth sin is of the Devil; for the Devil sinneth from The Beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil" (7-8). "O, LORD, may Your Spirit drive the Truth of Your Word home to the hearts of those who truly want to know You!" "Forasmuch as YE are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the Living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart" (2Corinthians 3:3).

- (Exodus 32:15-16; Proverbs 3:3;7:3) "15 And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the Testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. 16 And the tables were the Work of God, and the writing was the Writing of God, graven upon the tables... 3:3 Let not Mercy and Truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart... 7:3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart."

- (Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26) "33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people... 19 And I will give them ONE heart, and I will put a new spirit [even the Holy Spirit] within you; and I will take the stony heart OUT of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh... 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart OUT of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."

To be a Christian-- like Christ-- is to live without sin. The church of this Laodicean age does not understand this. "9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His Seed [the Word of God] remaineth in him: and he cannot [because will not] sin, because he is born of God. 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the Devil: whosoever DOETH NOT Righteousness is not of God, neither he that LOVETH NOT his brother" (1John 3:9-10). The passage that goes so perfectly here, is, "22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying The Truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned Love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a PURE heart fervently: 23 being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of Incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1Peter 1:22-23). The Word of God, which we obey in Faith, keeps us from sinning. "For the Word of God is Quick, and Powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a Discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

Being "born again... by the Word of God" (1Peter 1:23) is the Seed whereby the LORD says, "9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His Seed [the Word of God] remaineth in him: and he cannot [commit] sin [because he will not commit sin], because he is born of God. 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the Devil: whosoever DOETH NOT Righteousness is not of God" (1John 3:9-10). Of course, "whosoever" could sin if he wanted to-- if he lost Faith in the Word to keep him from sinning and willed to sin-- of course he could sin, and would sin. But, as long as a person trusts God to "make you perfect in every good work to do His Will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ" (Hebrews 13:21), he won't sin. "The Seed" which is "the Word of God", by which he was "born again", keeps him from committing sin. "Thy
Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee" (Psalm 119:11). Without this, a person has no hope of Heaven. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Please let the Holy Spirit teach this to you. "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing Spiritual things with Spiritual" (1Corinthians 2:13).

- (Psalm 37:31) "The Law of his God is IN his heart; NONE of his steps shall slide."

- (Psalm 40:8) "I delight to do Thy Will, O my God: yea, Thy Law is WITHIN my heart."

- (Isaiah 51:7) "Hearken unto Me, ye that know Righteousness, the people IN whose heart is My Law."

Don't allow the deception that is in the world, and even in the Church, today, keep you from understanding this. "But the Anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same Anointing teacheth you of ALL things, and is Truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him" (1John 2:27). Whenever circumstances, and people, confuse your way TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES. Ask fervently, "LORD, 'what saith the Scripture?'" (Romans 4:3). "For it is God which WORKETH in you both TO WILL and TO DO of His Good Pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

- (Ezekiel 36:27) "And I will put My Spirit within you, and CAUSE you to walk in My Statutes, and ye shall keep My Judgments, and do them."

- (John 8:32) "And ye shall know The Truth, and The Truth shall MAKE you free."

The Apostle John diligently paints the portrait of Christ Jesus as clearly as he can, that his "children" would "know" that they "are OF The Truth." "11 For this is the Message that ye heard from The Beginning, that we should Love one another... 18 My little children, let us not Love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in Truth. 19 And hereby we KNOW that we are of The Truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth ALL things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God" (1John 3:11,18-21). If we will not be honest with God, and admit our sinning against Him, then "ye cannot serve the LORD: for He is an Holy God; He is a Jealous God; He will NOT forgive your transgressions nor your sins" (Joshua 24:19). If we, beloved, condemn ourselves for the sins which we shamefully commit, then, being a Just and Holy God, He condemns us even more. But, if we repent because we have grieved Him, and, by Faith, love Him by living His Word in obedience, then, beloved, "THEN have we confidence toward God" (3:21)! "If ye Love Me, KEEP My Commandments" (John 14:15).

If you cannot recognize this portrait of the LORD-- that Jesus IS His Word (i.e., "His Name is called The Word of God" [Revelation 19:13]), that He DEMANDS obedience to His Word (i.e., "Obey My Voice, and I will be your God" [Jeremiah 7:23]), and that Love is the ONLY motive for true obedience (i.e., "This is Love, that we walk after His Commandments... walk in it" [2John 6]), then, the Truth is-- you do not REALLY know Him. "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His Commandments, is a liar, and The Truth is not in him" (1John 2:4).
The Testimony of John the Baptist

Scripture says, "To the Law and to the Testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no Light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). The Law of God is the Testimony of God. It is His Word. It is His Light. It is His Voice. And, it is His Truth. "All Thy Commandments are Truth" (Psalm 119:151).

John the Baptist, son of Elisabeth and Zacharias (Luke 1:13), gave very public and personal testimony of his obedience to, and faith in, the Law of God. And that testimony cost him his physical life. "3 Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. 4 For John said unto him, It is not Lawful for thee to have her. 5 And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. 6 But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. 7 Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. 8 And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. 10 And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison" (Matthew 14:3-10).

Truth was upheld even in John the Baptist's physical death, for he had a consistent testimony to the Truth that he lived for God-- "For this God is [my] God for ever and ever: He will be [my] Guide even unto death" (Psalm 48:14). O, that our testimony to the Truth of His Word be as faithful! "We having the same spirit of Faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (2Corinthians 4:13). "Thy Word is Truth" (John 17:17)!

The disciples of John the Baptist thought there was a competition between John and Jesus. John set them straight. "25 There arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. 26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, He that was with thee beyond Jordan, to Whom thou barest witness, behold, The Same baptizeth, and all men come to Him. 27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from Heaven. 28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him. 29 He that hath the bride is the Bridegroom: but the friend of the Bridegroom, which standeth and heareth Him, rejoiceth greatly because of the Bridegroom's Voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 He that cometh from Above is Above All: he that is of the Earth is earthly, and speaketh of the Earth: He that cometh from Heaven is Above All. 32 And what He hath seen and heard, that He testifieth; and no man receiveth His Testimony [Note: public opinion did not dissuade John's Faith]. 33 He that hath received His Testimony hath set to his seal that GOD IS TRUE. 34 For He Whom God hath sent speaketh the Words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him. 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given ALL things into His hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath Everlasting Life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see Life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:25-36). John's defence was not of himself, but of God's Truth and Son. "He Whom God hath sent speaketh the Words of God" (3:34).

The Testimony of Jesus Christ
Of men upon this Earth, the greatest prophet of all was John the Baptist. "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11). His testimony was powerful-- but, there is a Greater. "33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto The Truth... 35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. 36 But I have Greater Witness than that of John: for the Works which the Father hath given Me to finish, the same Works that I do, bear Witness of Me, that the Father hath sent Me" (John 5:33-36). Jesus stated that His Witness OF the Father was FOR the Father. In other words, His "Works", or, the things which He did, were directly tied to the Testimony He gave of His Father. The lesson, is that the witness and the works are interconnected; they are as one as the Father is to the Son. "I and My Father are One" (John 10:30).

The direct relationship between works and witness cannot be denied. "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that Faith without works is dead?" (James 2:20). The witness of who you say you are, your credibility, is proven by your works. You can give witness that you are a Christian (i.e., "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith" [James 2:18]), yet the things you do-- the works-- deny this is true. "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16). You may say many things, but your works will show to all just who you really are. "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right" (Proverbs 20:11). It is by "the fruit of [our] doings" that we are judged. "I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give EVERY man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings" (Jeremiah 17:10). Say what you will, but, "I will show thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18). And so will you. And so will every man. Even the supra-natural beings of angels and demons abide by this Rule of the Kingdom. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19). [Please read "Is Faith the Only Condition for Eternal Salvation?" -- http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/Is.Faith.the.Only.Condition.html -- to learn that "Faith is anything but passive"][1]

Therefore, the "Works" of Jesus Christ give Credible Evidence that He was Who He said He was, and that He was sent by Whom He said He was sent. "The Works which the Father hath given Me to finish, the same Works that I do, bear Witness of Me, that the Father hath sent Me" (John 5:33-36). The "Works" were something that Jesus not only did, but that He had "to finish".

"Works" give "Witness" to true identity. "He that hath the Son hath Life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not Life" (1John 5:12).

- (1John 5:9-13) "9 If we receive the witness of men, the Witness of God is greater: for this is the Witness of God which He hath testified of His Son. 10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the Witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a Liar; because he believeth not the Record that God gave of His Son. 11 And this is the Record, that God hath given to us Eternal Life, and this Life is in His Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath Life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not Life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have Eternal Life, and that ye may believe on the Name of the Son of God."

The True Identity of Jesus Christ was witnessed by the Heavenly Father. "And there came a Voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Beloved Son: hear Him" (Luke 9:35).
• (John 5:37) "And the Father Himself, which hath sent Me, hath borne witness of Me."

• (Luke 3:22) "And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a Voice came from Heaven, which said, Thou art My Beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased."

• (2Peter 1:17-18) "17 For He received from God the Father Honour and Glory, when there came such a Voice to Him from the Excellent Glory, This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. 18 And this Voice which came from Heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount."

And the True Identity of the Heavenly Father was witnessed by Jesus Christ, His Son. (Remember the lesson, that the witness and the works are interconnected; they are as one as the Father is to the Son. "I and My Father are One" [John 10:30].)

• (John 5:19-24) "19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. 20 For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth Him all things that Himself doeth: and He will show Him Greater Works than these, that ye may marvel [notice, "Greater Works" for Greater "Witness", "that ye may marvel"]. 21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom He will. 22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed ALL Judgment unto the Son: 23 that all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent Him. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath Everlasting Life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto Life."

• (John 8:26-28) "26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but He that sent He is TRUE; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him. 27 They understood not that He spake to them of the Father. 28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son Of Man, then shall ye know that I AM HE, and that I do NOTHING of Myself; but as My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things."

• (John 14:7,9,15:24) "7 If ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him... 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?... 15:24 Now have they both seen and hated both Me and My Father."

• (John 8:29-32) "29 And He that sent Me is WITH Me: the Father hath NOT LEFT Me alone; for I DO ALWAYS those things that please Him. 30 As He spake these Words, many believed on Him [the "Works" gave "Witness" and "many believed"]. 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, IF ye continue in My Word, THEN are ye My disciples indeed [the "Works" gave "Witness" of identity]; 32 and ye shall know The Truth, and The Truth shall make you FREE."

Just so, our own identity is witnessed by Jesus Christ-- for all to see-- and especially, to our own
selves. "23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way Everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

- (John 8:34-36) "34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth NOT in the House For Ever: but the Son abideth Ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed [free from serving sin-- from committing sin-- FREE Forever]."

- (John 8:37-40) "37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill Me, because My Word hath. 38 I speak that which I have seen with My Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. ("I believed, and therefore have I spoken" [2Corinthians 4:13].) 39 They answered and said unto Him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill Me, a Man that hath told you the Truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham." ("Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the Truth?" [Galatians 4:16].)

- (John 8:41-42) "41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to Him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would Love Me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of Myself, but He sent Me." ("If ye Love Me, KEEP My Commandments" [John 14:15].)

- (John 8:43) "Why do ye not understand My Speech? even because ye cannot hear My Word."

(Note: Obedience is absolutely essential to knowing The Truth. "To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the Word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it" [Jeremiah 6:10].

- (Proverbs 28:5) "Evil men understand not Judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things."

- (Isaiah 6:9, 44:18) "6:9 And He said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not... 44:18 They have not known nor understood: for He hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand."

- (Hosea 14:9) "Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the Ways of the LORD are Right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein."

- (Micah 4:12) "But they know not the Thoughts of the LORD, neither understand they His Counsel: for He shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor."

- (John 5:43) "I am come in My Father's Name, and ye receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

- (John 7:17) "If any man will DO His Will, he shall KNOW of the Doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself."

- (John 12:39-40) "39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."

- (Acts 7:51) "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your
fathers did, so do ye."

- (Romans 8:7-8) "7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

Jesus wants us to be able to KNOW ourselves and others, whether we be deceived or walking according to God's KNOWN Truth. See the way the LORD describes the Devil and his children.

- (John 8:44) "Ye are of your father the Devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a Murderer from The Beginning, and abode not in The Truth, because there is no Truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

A person's response to Truth reveals their true character-- and destination.

- (John 8:45) "And because I tell you the Truth, ye believe Me not."

- (John 8:46) "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the Truth, why do ye not believe Me?"

- (John 8:47) "He that is of God heareth God's Words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are NOT of God."

- (John 8:51) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep My Saying, he shall never see death."

The Bible is the Testimony of Jesus Christ. "1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?... 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. 4 Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a Lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare His generation? for He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was He stricken. 9 And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His Death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD [it served His Purpose and Will] to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His Knowledge shall My Righteous Servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto Death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:1,3-12).

The Bible is the Testimony of Jesus Christ. "19 We have also a more sure Word of Prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a Light that shineth in a dark place, until the day
dawn, and the Day Star arise in your hearts: 20 knowing this first, that no Prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the LORD that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of Truth shall be evil spoken of" (2Peter 1:19-21; 2:1-2).

Conclusion

It is the Testimony of Jesus, when He stated, "11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do KNOW, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? 13 And no man hath ascended up to Heaven, but He that came down from Heaven" (John 3:11-13). If you cannot believe Jesus Christ, Who is the "Alpha and Omega, The Beginning and The End, The First and The Last" (Revelation 22:13), then The Truth has "no place in you" (John 8:37). Into the very Face of Divine Truth, you, like Pilate, have blasphemously insulted the "Fountain of Life: in Thy Light shall we see Light" (Psalm 36:9) by your denial, "What is Truth?" (John 18:38).

- (Ephesians 4:17-25) "17 This I say therefore, and testify in the LORD, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the Life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 if so be that ye have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the Truth is in Jesus:

The Truth is given to us so that we may KNOW it. If you "prove ALL things [and] hold fast that which is Good" (1Thessalonians 5:21), by "comparing Spiritual things with Spiritual" (1Corinthians 2:13) in constantly asking, "What saith the Scripture?" (Romans 4:3), then you can be like "Abraham [who] believed God, and it was counted unto him for Righteousness" (4:3). "1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but TRY the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby KNOW ye the Spirit of God: [Test of Truth #1] Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of Antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. [To deny Jesus Christ is a denial of Truth. This is ground level, rock bottom, BASIC! Now, what other tests of the spirit can you learn from The Spirit of the Word of God?] 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. [Test of Truth #2] 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that KNOWETH God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby KNOW we the Spirit of Truth, and the spirit of error"
(1John 4:1-6). If you "KNOW" The Truth, and you "ABIDE" in The Truth, then you cannot be deceived!

- (1John 2:27) "But the Anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same Anointing teacheth you of ALL things, and is TRUTH, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall ABIDE in Him."

- (1Corinthians 2:12-16) "12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might KNOW the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing Spiritual things with Spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he KNOW them, because they are Spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is Spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man [because he walks in obedience, i.e., "the Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him" (Acts 5:3)]. 16 For who hath known the mind of the LORD, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."

To truly KNOW Jesus Christ, is to obey Him. Anywhere in Scripture, this lesson rings True, for "Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I KNOW Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is Able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (2Timothy 1:12). To KNOW Him is to respect Him, honour Him, love Him."If ye Love Me, keep My Commandments" (John 14:15). If you KNOW, deep down in your heart and soul, that "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh" (1John 4:2), then you will do what He tells you to do. "I will show thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18). But when you do not obey ALL of the Truth that you KNOW, then you are not "of God" (4:2). "Therefore to him that KNOWETH to do Good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). "20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the Knowledge of the LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is WORSE with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have KNOWN the Way of Righteousness, than, after they have KNOWN it, to turn from the Holy Commandment delivered unto them" (2Pet. 2:20-21).

- (1John 5:10-13) "10 He that believeth on [or, KNOWS] the Son of God hath the Witness in himself: he that believeth not [or, KNOWS not] God hath made Him a Liar; because he believeth not [or, KNOWS not] the Record that God gave of His Son. 11 And this is the Record, that God hath given to us Eternal Life, and this Life is in His Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath Life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not Life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on [or, KNOWS] the Name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have Eternal Life, and that ye may believe on [or, KNOW] the Name of the Son of God."

You can KNOW that you KNOW Him, The Truth, if you fit His Description. "Every one that is of The Truth heareth My Voice" (John 18:37). "And we KNOW that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an Understanding, that we may KNOW HIM that is True, and we are IN Him that is True, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the True God, and Eternal Life" (1John 5:20). [Please read, "That Ye May Know That Ye Have Eternal Life" -- http://WhatSaithTheScripture.com/Fellowship/That.Ye.May.Know.That.Ye.html --, to understand the Biblical Doctrine of the Assurance of Salvation, and that ONLY those who abide in Christ may KNOW that they have Eternal Life.]