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Doctrine Through Tongues

All of our Christian beliefs are based on the truth and understanding that we hold in our hearts. All through the New Testament, we find encouragement to grow in the knowledge of God. The purpose of learning more of God's truth in our life is to safeguard us from wrong paths that can hold us back from the fullness of what God has for us. When we began our walk with God, we had a mixture of truth and superstitions about God, and as we matured, we were able to outgrow the falsities we had about ourselves and God.

I've heard some people dismiss doctrine as something that is for boring introverted Christians or professors at Bible colleges. These people might encourage you to stop spending too much time with God and go win the world. Usually, they mean well, but it's hard to tell the lost about the kingdom if you haven't spent the time to know the King of Kings. Even though I agree that sharing the gospel is a good thing, it is also a good thing to mature in God. Paul encouraged Timothy not only to follow his actions but much more.

It says in 2 Timothy 3:10-17, "But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Growing in truth from God is essential for all believers, and unfortunately, I see so many people pursuing experiences and following men instead of becoming established in Scripture. During the evolution of social media, I've watched the ability for people to spread their options (right or wrong) go from their neighborhood to the entire world. Thirty years ago, if you wanted to spread a message, you would need to convince enough people to believe in you to raise the money necessary for a tv camera, a studio, and to purchase airtime on a station. Today all you need is a phone, and you can share your thoughts with the entire world for free. The integrity of truth has been diluted because of the ease of sharing information.

I wasn't raised in the church, but I remember my neighbor friend inviting me to Sunday school when I was ten. As we were singing a Christian song, I added a few words to the verses in the attempt of getting a laugh. My friend looked at me with fear in his eyes and warned me that my actions might have just made God angry at me, and now I was

cursed. My elementary-aged friend had just taught me a false doctrine that stuck with me for many years. Look at doctrine as the building blocks of understanding that become a foundation for the next layer of blocks to be placed on top. So years later, when a preacher said that God would send me to hell for having an unrepentant sin, that block of false truth fit perfectly upon the block that my young friend gave me. The image of God and myself were being built on falsehoods, but I didn't know. The real power of deception is that you don't know you are deceived or wrong; you think you are right.

Many people out there today share their opinion, but most don't realize they are sharing a wrong doctrine. They freely share their beliefs of God without accountability or concern of how they may affect people who hear it. Every opinion you have of God and yourself is because of the doctrine that is already in you, which is why if it is wrong, then everything built upon it is wrong. Peter had a dire warning for the church about people who were twisting the truth and then leading them down the wrong path.

2 Peter 3:14-18 says, *“Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”*

Every day for the rest of eternity, we will learn something new and amazing about God. These building blocks of truth are why you believe the way you do. Don't trust your doctrine to your past or any man. Jesus was very clear about who we should look to as our teacher. He called the Holy Spirit our helper and our teacher. Let's spend some time praying in tongues with Him, removing the false stuff, and getting the real stuff in us.