

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church
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Thursday Evening IMPACT Bible Study

“The Importance of Believing the Truth” (December 8, 2022)

“The Five Levels of Truth”

Level # 1- You must “**know**” the truth.

Level # 2- You must “**understand**” the truth.

Level # 3- You must then “**believe**” the truth.

Level # 4- You must “**apply**” the truth.

Level # 5- You must finally “**stand**” on the truth.

We will be focusing on **Level # 3:** You must “**believe**” the truth.

I. The Definition

What is the difference between “**understanding**” the truth, and “**believing**” the truth?

We “**know**” or have at least heard about the following five branches of math:

1). Algebra, 2). Geometry, 3). Trigonometry, 4). Calculus, and 5). Statistics

The only way that you can have “confidence” in your ability to solve any mathematical problem, that may fall under any of these categories, is if you “**understand**” them (the 2nd level of truth).

Once you “**understand**” them, then you will arrive at a conclusion that says, “I can work out these particular categories of problems!” “**Understanding**” something leads you to “**believing**” something”!!

EXAMPLE: The reason that I personally “believe” in tithing, is because I “understand”, what the Bible says about “giving”. A person can “believe” better, when they “understand” better. And then, they are able to “do” (or **apply** it better).

The two “**hardest**” times to “believe” the truth, or to “believe” what’s in the Bible, is when you experience “**delay**” or “**difficulties**”.

II. The Delays

FIVE STAR SENTENCE: God will “**deliver**”; but He may also possibly “**delay**”.

We can see both of these, “**delay**” and “**deliverance**” in the following examples from the Bible:

A). Joseph- Genesis 37:2, 5-11; 41:37-46.

² These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being **seventeen years old**, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

⁵ And Joseph *dreamed a dream*, and he told it his brethren: and they **hated** him yet the more.

⁶ And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

⁷ For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, **my sheaf arose**, and also stood upright; and, behold, **your sheaves** stood round about, and **made obeisance to my sheaf**. ⁸ And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they **hated** him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

⁹ And he dreamed yet **another** dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the **sun** and the **moon** and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

¹⁰ And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father **rebuked** him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? **Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee** to the earth?

³⁷ And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said unto his servants, *Can we find such a one* as this is, a man in whom the **Spirit of God is?** ³⁹ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:*

⁴⁰ **Thou** shalt be **over** my house, and according unto **thy** word shall all my people be **ruled**: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. ⁴¹ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee **over all** the land of Egypt.

⁴² And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; ⁴³ And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁴ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall **no** man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁵ And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out **over all** the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶ And Joseph was **thirty years old** when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

B. King David- I Samuel 16:1; 12-13; II Samuel 5:1-5

And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

¹² And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

II Samuel 5:1-5- Then came **all the tribes** of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. ² Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

³ So **all the elders** of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and **they anointed David king over Israel**. ⁴ David was **thirty years old** when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

⁵ In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

C. The Fig Tree- Mark 11:12-14; 20-22

¹² And **on the morrow**, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: ¹³ And seeing a **fig tree** afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found *nothing* but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

¹⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto it, **No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever**. And his disciples heard it. ²⁰ And **in the morning**, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree **dried up** from the roots.

²¹ And Peter calling to **remembrance** saith unto him, **Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away**. ²² And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have **faith** in God.

IMPORTANT BIBLE APPLICATION: Anytime you find yourself in between “**deliverance**” and “**delay**”, you must “**walk by faith**”.

Whenever a child of God experiences a “**delay**”, he must immediately do *three* things:

- 1). **Pray**
- 2). **Praise**
- 3). (Trust God’s) **Promises**

The # 1 thing that you must do, is to “**believe**” the promises of God. These promises are found in the Bible.

1). Mark 9:23- Jesus said unto him, If thou canst **believe**, all things are possible to him that **believeth**.

2). John 11:25-26- ²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. **Believest** thou this?

3). Acts 16:30-31- ³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹ And they said, **Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Next, shift to the # 2 thing that you should do, give God **“praise”**, for the certainty of His **“promises”**.

When “you” believe, it then becomes “*your*” truth. The three types of truth:

- a). **Textbook truth-** You obtain this truth from reading it in a book.
- b). **Inherited truth-** This truth is obtained from another person
- c). **Personal truth-** This is truth that you have personally experienced.

III. The Difficulties

You have already, and will continue to, bump into many difficult problems and situations. That is a guarantee!!! But what will help you to make it through each and every one, is if you place them under the same umbrella.

We will refer to this as the **“All Umbrella”**. In the middle of “difficulties”, you must **“believe”** the following:

1). Romans 8:28- And we know that **all things** work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2). James 1:17- NABRE)- **all** good giving and every perfect gift[Ⓜ] is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change.

3). Philippians 4:13- I can do **all things** through Christ which strengtheneth me

- 4). Philippians 4:19-** But my God shall supply **all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- 5). II Timothy 3:16- All** scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- 6). Mark 9:23-** Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, **all things** are possible to him that believeth.
- 7). Mark 10:27-** And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God **all things** are possible.
- 8). Job 42:2 (ESV)-** "I know that you can do **all things**, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.