

# FAITH REQUIRED

## 2: TO GUARD THE TRUTH

*“Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.”*

2 Timothy 1:14 NLT

Timothy had been given the mandate to “*guard the precious truth*” because it has been “*entrusted* (the care and protection has been given) *to you.*”

What an extreme responsibility for such a fragile thing – TRUTH.

This isn't just any concept or idea – we are talking about the verified proof of what is the difference in right from wrong – good from bad – moral and immoral.

The good news? We're not left without good superior help.

TRUTH defined: “*A fact that has been verified*” – or “*conformity to reality or actuality.*”

To verify the truth as a standard for living, we go to the author of life – the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The living and true God of the universe.

### 1 GOD COMMUNICATED TRUTH TO US THROUGH HIS WRITTEN WORD.

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Jesus said in **John 17:17**, “[Father] *Your word is the truth.*”

He left us with truth that has been passed down from Him through the human experience and into written form by His appointed scribes, guided by the Holy Spirit. This is God's library of 66 books, originally written in three different languages over a span of 1,500 years. We call this text – *the written Word of God.*

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong*

*and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

**How could the Bible claim to have been written by humans and also by God?**

*“Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, <sup>21</sup> or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.” 2 Peter 1:20-21*

And so were the authors of the manuscripts we have compiled as our copy of the written word of God.

While it’s been several thousand years in the formation of our current text, we have over 5,000 manuscripts and manuscripts fragments of portion of the New Testament that have been preserved from the early centuries of Christianity. “Overall, 97-99% of the New Testament can be reconstructed beyond any reasonable doubt, and no Christian doctrine is founded solely or even primarily on texturally disputed passages” – Craig Blomberg, *Reasonable Faith*.

A noted archeologist, Dr Nelson Glueck, was quoted in a book review for the New Your Times saying, “No discovery has ever been made that contradicts or controverts historical statements of Scripture.”<sup>i</sup>

**The Bible is relevant today and God uses it to instruct and bless us.**

*“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” Hebrews 4:12*

The truth will come to us, guided by the Holy Spirit’s work in us (John 16:13).

## **2 JESUS IS THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD**

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<sup>6</sup> *“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*

<sup>9b</sup>Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! ...The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.” John 14:6, 7, 9a, 10b

“So, the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.” John 1:14

### 3 JESUS IS THE TRUTH THAT GIVES FREEDOM

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“Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. <sup>32</sup> And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ... <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” John 8:31-32, 36

#### From Sin:

“We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. <sup>7</sup> For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.” Romans 6:6-7

“Through Him everyone who believes is set free from every sin.” Acts 13:39 NIV.

#### From captivity:

“He has sent me [Jesus] to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free...” Luke 4:18

### 4 JESUS IS THE TRUTH THAT FULFILLS GOD’S PROMISES

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All prophecy was fulfilled in the presence of Jesus the Christ, the promised one. There is no greater passage to understand how God fulfilled His promises than through **Matthew 22:37-40**.

<sup>37</sup> “Jesus said, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> The **entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.**”

Through Jesus the Father has taken care of restoring His relationship with sinful man.

He has made perfect His affection for us by the presentation of love, through Christ, for all eternity.

He has shattered the demands of the law and replaced the law with His grace.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV*

## 5 SO, GUARD THE TRUTH THAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO YOU

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### Hebrews 3:12-19

*“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. <sup>14</sup> We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. <sup>15</sup> As has just been said:*

*‘Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts  
as you did in the rebellion.’*

*<sup>16</sup> Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? <sup>17</sup> And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.”*

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