

January 23

Ephesians 4:14-15 (NIV) ⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

At church yesterday, we were discussing the various reactions to the inaugurations. At times we were hearing about Jesus and how we need to unite this nation. Then we heard one celebrity state that she had thought about blowing up the White House but decided that would not do any good. Later, a good friend and I began talking about our need for Godly friends who would tell us the truth in love. None of us can walk with Jesus without friends who love us enough to tell us the truth and point out what we might be doing wrong. Our conversation lasted for several minutes as we discussed the importance of correction in our lives and our reaction to it. As the conversation ended, I thanked the Lord for placing such good people in my life. I thanked Him for His truth that is spoken in love. Then, I heard the Lord say, “And you need to listen in love, David.”

These past few days have been filled with words of healing and words of division. We hear some thanking God for what he is doing in this nation, and then we hear words of anger. We are not to get caught up in the angry messages of the world. Our emotions and words are not to be blown around by every wind that crosses our lives. Instead, we are to speak God’s truth in love. However, that truth can be divisive and cause others to react in a negative way. Thus, we also need to hear the truth in love. Even in the church, when we are corrected or when we hear a different opinion, we need to listen in love so that we do not become offended or react in retribution. I encouraged my friend not to hesitate speaking the truth to me. If he sees me drifting from God’s path, I want him to say something. When he does, I need to hear what he says in love. Doing so allows the truth to work in all our lives. Doing so keeps strife and anger from finding a foothold.