

“To Tell the Truth”

When I was growing up, there was a popular television game show called “To Tell the Truth.” Many of you remember it. Bud Collyer, the host, would introduce three people, all claiming to be the one person of notoriety among the three. The object of the game was to fool the panelists into choosing an imposter as the real person of notoriety. The imposters had to lie—the real person could only tell the truth.

I can’t stand it when a person lies to me. I have a pretty trusting nature, and when I’ve been lied to, it certainly bothers me a great deal. I tell my students that I don’t like cheaters, but a cheater who LIES about it gets the full measure of my disdain.

One of the great things about having Jesus Christ as a brother is that He has promised us that He will never lie to us. The words He spoke were God’s words, and we know from **Titus 1:2** that God does not lie—that it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to do so. (**Hebrews 6:18**) Over and over in the gospels, Jesus reassured those he spoke to that the things He told them were the truth. “Verily, verily I say unto thee...” (King James Version) became “I tell you the truth” and then “Truly I say to you” in the New International Version. “**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,**” Jesus told us in **John 14:16**. He called Himself the truth because He was the one and only source of God’s truth.

In no particular order of importance (because they are ALL important) here are 10 affirmations of truth Jesus gave to all of us. All of these get the “I tell you the truth” statement from Him:

1. Those who do their acts of righteousness (giving, praying, fasting) in order to receive the praise of men have already received their reward for those acts here on this earth, and God owes them no additional reward. (**Matthew 6:2, 5, and 16**)
2. A strong show of faith from someone who is thought to be less spiritual is more meaningful (and surprising) to Jesus Christ than a weak show of faith from one who considers himself to be “religious.” (**Matthew 8:10**)
3. God will reward those of us who help those who are in need (**Matthew 10:42**)
4. Nothing is impossible for the person who has faith. (**Matthew 17:20**)
5. We must accept God with the absolute faith and trust, the same way that a child accepts an adult. (**Matthew 18:3**)
6. If a person wanders away from his relationship with God and then comes back, God is overjoyed. (**Matthew 18:13-14**)
7. We can’t let anything here on this earth take precedence over our relationship with God. (**Matthew 19:23**)
8. The obedient “sinners” will be rewarded; the disobedient “righteous” will not. (**Matthew 21:31**)

9. True sacrificial giving is more important to God than piles and piles of what economists call “discretionary income” – the “leftovers.” **(Mark 12:43)**
10. No one can see God’s kingdom unless (s)he has been baptized into Jesus Christ and changed the focus of his/her life. **(John 3:3,5)**

There are LOTS more, too many to include in this NEWSLETTER article. However, from what we’ve seen, it is obvious that Jesus’ words are pure truth, and it is holding on to His truth that guarantees us of our greatly coveted reward.