

Know the Truth and You'll be Free! How?

Sometimes the revelation you get from Holy Spirit is a real 'clanger', one that turns everything upside-down. Here's the one I received today.

Jesus said that we'd know the truth and it would set us free.¹ We can add to that Jesus's statement that when he sets us free, we'll really be free.² That means we should be free in the real sense, having no bondages.

However, the issue for us has been the word 'know'. We gained knowledge (knowing) from the Bible and we thought it would set us totally free. It didn't. How do I know? Look around and see all the saints who are in bondage to something – religion, legalism, Zionism, porn, alcohol, worry... the list goes on and on.

A 2016 Barna report³ found that 57% of pastors and 64% of youth pastors admit they have struggled with porn, either at that time or previously. Around 21% of youth pastors and 5% of pastors claimed they were addicted to porn. That's bondage, not freedom. In addition, theologians who've studied the Bible in minute detail still have bondages. A close look at history and around the world today will show this is the case. These are all Bible experts and teachers who are supposed to be free (in the Kingdom sense), so if biblical knowledge is the key to freedom, it isn't.

If biblical knowledge can't make us free, what can? That brings us to answer the question, what does "know" really mean, if not 'knowledge'?

The answer is the same as it has been for "I never knew you"⁴. 'Know' is a term of personal experience, one that has intimacy inherent in its use.⁵ That means (and here's the 'clanger'), we must intimately know the truth so we can be free. That can't be referring to a holy book, because you can't be intimate with literature. **Knowing the truth means intimately knowing The Truth⁶, the person (King Jesus)**. That's the reason the Son can set us free and the truth can also set us free – they're one and the same.

Wow! Have we been 'short-changed'.

All this means, that living in intimacy and oneness with our King allows us to know him through experience, and that experiential knowledge frees us, not our head knowledge. We experience his love and his goodness, and that's so wonderful, that we don't want to go back into bondage, to anything that robs us of our existence in his love and care. We choose to be free because we've experienced freedom. It's not an inherent state of the Kingdom.

That doesn't mean that there aren't other things that can prevent us moving fully into the freedom that's ours as sons. For example, if we live in unforgiveness we are still in a form of bondage, so we're not truly free.

Father recently said this about the need to move out of unforgiveness so we can be free:

*"Forgive those who have used, abused, or hurt you in any way because unforgiveness will become your personal prison. It costs you nothing to forgive just as I have forgiven you. But holding on to past offenses will keep you from the fullness of My blessings and rob you of peace. **Let go and move into the divine realm of freedom that forgiveness offers.**"*⁷

If we want the freedom and liberty that's available to all of us, it has to be worked on to be achieved. It also has to be maintained, and that takes place as we live in oneness with the Trinity. With our surrender, they deal with our shortcomings so they don't enlarge into bondages that ensnare us again.

1 – John 8:32

2 – John 8:36

3 – "The Porn Phenomenon" (April 2016) www.barna.com/the-porn-phenomenon

4 – Matthew 7:23

5 – In Hebrew, the word is used for the intimate relationship between a husband and wife.

6 – John 14:6

7 – Marsha Burns "Small Straws in the Soft Wind" (August 13, 2022) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2022.htm]

WATCH: “Knowledge by Experience” (Mike Parsons) youtu.be/6-lKw-I02wk

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