

Truth Search

The Truth Search is a means of studying the scripture to gain insight and application. It is a meditative approach to a selective passage of scripture identifying a life principle. How is this life principle (truth) identified? The Holy Spirit – He is the Instructor. Once a principle has been identified and written out, a reference is then made (from the other testament when possible) to substantiate this principle throughout the scriptures. Application is made in the form of a question, so that it can be direct and meaningful. (See examples on page 2.)

GUIDELINES TO TRUTH SEARCH:

- Keep it simple (the profound is not always complicated).
- The truth should be stated in no more than 8-10 words.
- All of the elements - the passage, the truth, the reference, the application questions – should be written out. The reason for this is that you have a clear understanding of your truth, and a clear record of the search.
- It is very helpful to ask more than one application question in order to demonstrate how God is making this truth alive to you.
- Reminder: the truth can come from just one word, a phrase, a verse, or an entire chapter/passage.
- Study aids are encouraged:
 - Various Bible translations
 - Webster's Dictionary
 - Commentaries
- Truth Search is most effective when not done at the last minute due to the relationship you establish with the Holy Spirit as teacher, so as not to rush the "Lesson." Consequently, give yourself time to read the passage several times over several days. The Holy Spirit will illuminate particular truths to you as you consider what you've read.

EXAMPLE #1

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.” (Psalm 23:1)

T: When I want, I'm not allowing God His rightful place.

R: *“...for I have learned to be content in whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want, I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”*
(Philippians 4:11-13)

A: Do I realize that my discontent can defeat His Lordship? Is my attitude typically critical? Am I grumbling, fearful or angry?

EXAMPLE #2

“Shepherd...” (Psalm 23:1)

T: God wants to offer my life leadership, comfort and security.

R: *“My God shall supply all my needs according to His riches and glory.”*
(Philippians 4:19)

A: Am I living by God's provision or my effort? Do I have His peace or my self satisfaction? Do I have a sense of God leading and direction my life? Do I lack confidence in any area of God providing for me? Where can I gain a greater confidence in God's leadership?

EXAMPLE #3

Psalm 23

T: Life is a journey of God's leadership through times of peace (green pastures), right works, uncertainties (valleys), abundance (banquet table), conflict (enemies), stillness (waters), and His presence (House of the Lord).

R: The adventures that Paul experienced after his conversion: successful preaching, ship wreck, beatings, the miraculous.

A: Is God a part of the full spectrum of my life experience? Do I let a change of scenery surprise me? Am I unwilling to move forward in my journey, especially in the areas that are dark and uncertain (valleys)? Do I understand the variety the journey offers, is actually the abundant life God speaks of?