

June 21/22, 2025
"The Truth Test"
Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [1John 2:18-23](#) | The Truth Test

I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 1 John 2:21

John, the aging disciple, writes a letter to believers in Ephesus because he is concerned about them. False teachers and prophets are trying to lead them away from Jesus with incorrect teachings about him. These teachers claim to know the truth about Jesus, but they are teaching lies. They deny that Jesus was fully human and fully God. John had already taught these believers the truth about Jesus. Now he tells them to stay with that truth and not listen to the lies. To spot what is false, they must first know what is true.

The same is true for us today. We must grow in our knowledge of the truth. Doing so helps us identify and resist that which is false. Social media, podcasts, books, TV series and music allow people with varying perspectives to share their ideas and beliefs. Many people and voices offer their thoughts on what is true, including those related to Jesus Christ. But we must recognize that many of the voices in our world today share lies (even if they contain a hint of truth).

TODAY: Commit (or re-commit) to be a student of the truth. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" ([John 17:17](#)). God's Word, the Bible, is our source of truth. We need to read, study, memorize and obey Scripture, allowing it to shape and direct our lives. Ask God to help you become a more faithful student of his Word. Ask him to help you learn to turn from every wrong path, through understanding Scripture ([Psalm 119:103-104](#)).

Day 2 [1John 2:18-22](#) | Antichrists

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18

John desires to see his spiritual children remain in the truth. He writes to warn them about the "antichrists." These false teachers threaten believers' ability to remain in the truth. John tells of a primary antichrist—a key and powerful world leader who deceives many, opposes God and persecutes the church. He also warns of many "antichrists," some of whom had been part of their community. The "antichrists" include anyone who opposes Jesus and deceives others about him.

It is crucial that we hold a correct view of Jesus and his finished work. The greatest threat to the church isn't external, it's internal. It's believing an almost truth or a distorted truth about Jesus. We must be grounded in the core truths of the gospel and the Christian faith. The heart of true teaching about Jesus includes at least three correct beliefs about him: Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the Savior. Jesus is the King. To remain in the truth, we must be convinced of these realities and resist teachings that suggest the contrary.

TODAY: Take action to protect yourself from distorted teachings about Jesus. Make a list of the spiritual voices you listen to regularly. Ask yourself, "Do they teach that Jesus is the Son of God? Do they teach that Jesus is the only way to God? Do they treat Jesus as the ultimate authority?" Ask God for help in recognizing when someone is distorting the truth about Jesus.

Day 3 [1 John 4:1-3](#) | False Prophets

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

John warns his readers about false prophets. In Scripture, a prophet represented God to people. Scripture tells of many true prophets, such as Moses, Elijah and Jeremiah. They spoke God's words to people. In contrast, false prophets misrepresent God to people. John teaches believers to "test the spirits." By this, John is encouraging them to exercise spiritual discernment. They are to check both the content and character of their spiritual influences. If their content and character do not align with God's already-revealed Word, believers should not listen to them.

Similarly, we need to be careful and discerning with the voices we listen to today. Two questions can be helpful in this process of discernment. 1) Does this message align with the Bible? 2) Does this messenger look and sound like Jesus? The content and character of a messenger of God should align with Scripture's teaching and the fruit of the Spirit. This is also why we need to regularly study our Bibles and put Scripture's teaching into practice. The more familiar we become with Scripture's teaching, the more we can discern right from wrong in both character and content.

TODAY: Commit God's Word to memory to discern truth from error. Commit [1 John 4:1](#) to memory, which is a charge to "test the spirits" or exercise spiritual discernment. As you memorize these words, ask God for the wisdom, help and strength to put this charge into practice. For more discussion on knowing and living out God's truth, listen to the [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#).

Day 4 [1 John 4:4](#) | Overcomers

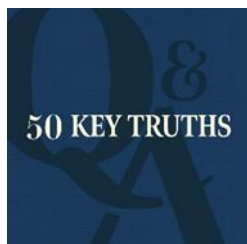
You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

John warns his readers about some of the spiritual dangers of their day. However, John also gives them good news. A greater spiritual force lives within them. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth who guides God's people into the truth. John writes to encourage these believers that they can discern the truth because they have the Holy Spirit within them. The Spirit will help them and guide them as they seek to remain in the truth.

The Holy Spirit is still actively at work within God's people today. The Spirit helps us better understand and walk in the truth. One of the best ways we can discern the Spirit's leading is whether an inclination aligns with the Word of God. The Holy Spirit works in tandem with the Word and will never contradict what the Bible says. This is like two-factor authentication. As a result, we need to read and study the Word of God for ourselves. We should also surround ourselves with mature believers who know Scripture and its teachings. Intentional relationships with other believers can help us stay close to Jesus and his Word.

TODAY: The Holy Spirit guides and leads God's people. Bring your questions and need for discernment to God in prayer. Ask God to help you discern his leading. Also, ask a mature Christian friend to pray with you to help

discern God's leading. As you do, be encouraged that the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.



Day 5 [John 13:12-17](#) | Question 24: Jesus Our Teacher

Question: How should we respond to Jesus's teachings?

Answer: We should follow Jesus as our teacher, obeying his commands and imitating his example.

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." John 13:15

After washing his disciples' feet, Jesus explains he has given them a pattern to follow. This is at the heart of discipleship. Jesus calls his disciples to follow his example of humble, sacrificial service. Jesus called Matthew, Peter, James, John, and the other disciples by saying, "Follow me" ([Matthew 9:9](#)). Rabbis used this phrasing when they wanted younger men to spend time with them and learn from their wisdom. They are to pattern their lives after the rabbi's. This call is another way of saying, "Come, be like me." Jesus sets a high standard. Whoever wants to be his disciple must deny himself and take up their cross daily and follow him ([Luke 9:23-24](#)).

Jesus sets a high standard for us, too. Following Jesus's example is a goal we pursue for the rest of our lives. Yet this isn't about earning salvation—that's a free gift. It's about recognizing that following Jesus transforms every aspect of our lives. Jesus is our model of life and love. He shows us what it means to love sacrificially. As Peter encourages Jesus followers, "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" ([1 Peter 2:21](#)). Jesus calls us beyond a standard expectation to care for others. He calls us to serve and give our lives away, as he did for us.

TODAY: Consider one specific way you can follow Jesus's example today. Ask God to help you imitate Jesus's actions, whether through serving others, showing patience or demonstrating sacrificial love. Read [John 13:1-17](#) and reflect on how Jesus's example of humble service challenges your attitudes and actions. Learn more about Jesus as our teacher in our We Believe document [HERE](#).