



The Power of Declaration

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Why is life a struggle at times, not just for me, but for all of us? John 10:10 says: *The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows) (Amplified Bible)*. This is a clear description of our daily battle. Satan works overtime to steal, kill and destroy. The work of Satan is not God's plan for our lives. He wants us to live abundantly. However, to enjoy the abundant life requires a daily battle and the battle ground is our mind.

Satan steals, kills, and destroys because of our ignorance, not because he is powerful.¹ We are ignorant of the truth or we lose sight of it as the details of life overwhelm us. Believing Satan's lies grants him power. The truth is that he has no power other than what we allow him to have. Our understanding of truth will change our spiritual warfare from being devil-focused to one of pursuing revelation knowledge of the truth. Truth is light. Wherever we believe truth, the light dispels darkness; but when we are ignorant or reject knowledge, we create a playground for our enemy.²

I must admit that every day is a struggle in my mind between trusting God and His Word or trusting what I see, hear, feel, taste and smell with my five senses. My tendency is to wake up each morning with a certain level of heaviness. Even prior to rising this morning, I had a weird and discouraging dream. Most mornings I spend time focusing on God and His truths, but as the day progresses, that battle still rages and I often succumb to Satan's lies and in turn become discouraged.

Each day brings specific, additional battles. For example, this morning I was in the kitchen worshipping to music while fixing coffee. As the coffee finished, I accidentally dropped and broke a glass. In this and every other situation, I am forced to decide: will I praise God or get upset? As I go to work, what will I find? Will our company's monthly financial statement reveal less profit than we had hoped for? Will that determine my focus?

If I am not careful, fear can easily set in and rule my daily life. Recently I learned that one of my sons made a wrong decision that could have serious consequences. Again, I struggled with fear. I long for greater intimacy with God but throughout the week, as fatigue sets in from being pulled in myriad directions, I begin to feel like I don't really care about spiritual things. This indifference scares me and can eventually lead to a downward spiral into further discouragement, especially if I begin to doubt God's goodness.

John 8:32 says: *And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free (Amplified Bible)*. When we struggle with fear, discouragement, stress, depression and insufficiency, we believe a lie and empower the enemy. Focusing on the truth – in a sense, turning on the light switch – floods the darkness with light and defeats the enemy.

We must reset our minds on truth moment by moment. Colossians 3:2 says *And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on earth (Amplified Bible, emphasis mine)*. The enemy is eager to have us set our minds on the details around us – the things we perceive with our five senses. When we focus on these things, we begin the slide toward fear and discouragement.

¹ *Victorious Mindsets*, Steve Backlund, pg. 54

² *Ibid*

So, how do we set our minds on truth instead of lies? On a daily basis and with a sense of desperation we must deliberately feed on the truth. God's truth is our daily bread for every moment of every day. We must purposely focus and meditate on God's truth, not on the negative details of our lives and the world around us. We must be careful not to concentrate on negative news that constantly barrages us through television, newspapers, the Internet, and even over the smart phones we carry.

There are many ways to focus on truth. For example, soaking worship (resting in God's presence while listening to worship music), reading and meditating on the Word, prayer, encouraging one another, confessing truth and so on. Recently, God has been calling me to increase times of soaking worship and to confess and declare truth on a daily basis. Romans 10:10b says: *...and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms {his} salvation* (Amplified Bible). Confessing truth and declaring truth are one and the same. As we declare truth day by day, the lies of the enemy slowly begin to lose their grip on our minds, enabling us to stay focused on true reality. If I find myself stumbling during the day, I know I need to take a few moments to refocus on God's truth.

Worship songs as declarations of truth are especially meaningful for me. A few minutes of worshipping can help reset my mind during the day. I bring my MP3 player with me nearly everywhere I go. We can carry declarations of truth with us to easily review and remember. These can be on 3x5 cards, in a journal, or declaring from your New Testament. Currently, I have laminated a two sided page of declarations that I keep handy.

Here are a few declarations (or confessions) that are currently gaining power in my life as I declare them on a daily basis:

- God is a good God, He is good all the time, and He is the One who goes before me (Psalm 46:1; Deuteronomy 31:8).
- Through Jesus, I am wholly loved and worthy to receive all of God's promised blessings (Galations 3:1-5).
- God will fill me with joy and peace as I trust in Him and I will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).
- I can live and walk in peace regardless of the circumstances (John 14:27).
- My prayers to God are powerful and effective (2 Corinthians 5:21; James 5:16b).
- But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15b).

Though focusing on truth and fleeing from discouragement has been a lifelong struggle, I have been making progress in recent years. My desire is to become a man who sees God's goodness in every situation, a man who lives by the truth and who does not waiver no matter what happens around me. As my expectancy in God's goodness increases, I believe there will be an increase in the manifestation of that goodness in my life.