

**JESUS IS THE LIGHT, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND  
THE LIFE**

**What Does It Really Mean?**

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Let me give you a mind blowing example of how important it is to know the *meaning* behind the Hebrew words that have been translated into English as we read and study the Bible.

Many who read or study the Scriptures tend to skip over the dozens of genealogies, but our Father God has chosen them to reveal the names of Adam and his children, from Adam to Noah for good reason. As you read Genesis chapter 5 in the English you would never be able to pick up the purpose of these names, but Father has a definite purpose, and the various transliterations from the original lose this purpose.

In **Genesis chapter 5, beginning in verse 4** it reads in the English transliteration that Adam begot Seth who begot Enosh who begot Kenan who begot Mahal'alel who begot Jared who begot Enoch who begot Methuselah who begot Lamech who begot Noah.

Now, what do these Hebrew names mean? Well, Adam means man, Seth means appointed, Enosh means mortal, Kenan means sorrow, Mahal'alel means the blessed God, Jared means shall come down, Enoch means teaching, Methuselah means his death shall bring, Lamech means the despairing, and Noah means comfort.

Let's put it all together: MAN APPOINTED MORTAL SORROW (but the) BLESSED GOD SHALL COME DOWN TEACHING (that) HIS DEATH SHALL BRING THE DESPAIRING COMFORT!

Wow! The Gospel really was preached to Abraham, and way before Abraham. Is this just coincidence? I don't think so.

Let's continue digging deeper into the Hebrew meanings behind the words light, way, truth and life and see what Father

is really telling us.

We know from the Book of John that Jesus is the Word of God. He is not just concepts and thoughts, but the actual words of God in the flesh. In Hebrew thought, when the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah or Moses, the Lord *Himself* came to them. It is clear that the New Testament teaches that the words of God, already firmly established in the Old Testament, took upon flesh and dwelt among us.

There are dozens and dozens of narratives used in the New Testament in which the term '**light**' is used. The following are just a few examples:

- Matthew 5:14 You are the **light** of the world....
- John 12:46 I am come a **light** into the world...
- 1 Thessalonians 5:5 You are all the children of the **light** and children of the day...
- John 11:10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbles, because there is no **light** in him.
- Acts 13:47 ...I have set thee to be a **light** of the gentiles.
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the **light** as he is in the **light**...

Our first thought should focus on the definition of **light**. Why does He use this term so often? Does it have previous significance? Was this a term already familiar to His listeners?

Yes! But what does this word mean to us today? It is symbolic to us. It is that quality imputed to believers as a result of their confession of Christ. He was the light of the world and now WE are the light of the world. Right?

It is true that every man and woman that commits their life to Jesus is the light of the world. So, what do we do with that piece of information? Did Jesus have something in mind when He told us that? Did this term mean something significant to Him? Let's find out.

The English word **light** is taken from the Greek word **phos**. There are a number of English words that use this fundamental term.

This word, as it is with most New Testament finds its origin in the Old Testament. The word for **light** is the Hebrew word **'or**, pronounced as **ore**. Its first appearance is in **Genesis 1:3**. There has always been controversy over the meaning of the **light** in this verse, but I believe that the testimony of the rest of the Old Testament will define what Father means by this **light**.

Remember, words used by the New Testament writers were not created in a vacuum. They have their meanings established in the Old Testament. The writers of the New Testament do not spend time defining words or phrases to the reader. The meaning of the terms are assumed. Assumed from where? The Scriptures.

So let's see how the New Testament dictionary defines light:

- **Psalms 119:130** The entrance of thy words give **light**, it gives understanding to the simple.
- **Proverbs 6:23** For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is **light**, and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.
- **Isaiah 8:20** To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no **light** in them.
- **Isaiah 5:20-21** Woe unto them who call evil, good, and good, evil; who put darkness for **light**, and **light** for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. Woe unto them who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!
- **Hosea 6:5** I have slain them by the words of my mouth; and thy judgments are as the **light** that goes forth.
- **Proverbs 4:18-22** But the path of the just is like the shining **light**, that shines more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they know not at what they stumble. My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep

them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

- In **1 Thessalonians 5:4-5**, concerning the 'day of the Lord', Paul presents a contrast between the sons of darkness and the sons of light. In Hebraic thought, based upon the definition of light, the sons of light or sons of the day are the children of Torah (the Word of God). They are children of Father God's teaching.

The sons of darkness are those *without* the Word of God. They are those who do not know or were deliberately never taught the words of Father God. Their leader is referred to as 'the man of iniquity', the lawless one, the one without **light**.

So now we have defined light. Light is the Word of God.

Let's move on to another frequently used term. In **John 14:6** Jesus says of Himself, "I am the **way**, the truth and the life." What does He mean that He is the **Way**? Does He simply mean that He came to point the way to the Father? Does He mean that He IS the way to the Father? YES!

But why does He choose that particular word? Why doesn't He come right out with it? Why does He keep saying that He is the bread from Heaven, the light of the world, the door of the sheep, the first and the last, the Son of man, the Passover? Why doesn't He just say, "I am God, period!"

Well, He really does, to those who have an ear to hear. Jesus uses terms that are already well defined. His title of the way is one of those terms. So, let's go back to the dictionary to define what the New Testament writers meant when they used this word.

- **Genesis 6:12** And God looked upon the Earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the Earth.
- **Isaiah 2:3** And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the

God of Jacob; and He will teach us His way, and we will walk in His paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of God from Jerusalem.

- **Psalms 119:1** Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the LAW of God.
- **Micah 4:2** And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of God, and to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths; for the LAW shall go forth of Zion, and the WORD of God from Jerusalem.
- **Psalms 119:9** Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy WORD.
- **Psalms 119:30** I have chosen the way of truth; thy judgments have I laid before me.
- **Psalms 1:1-6** Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so; but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For God knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

There seems to be a clear theme connected to this word. **The way of God is the Word of God.**

In the Hebrew, the word for way is *derek*. It means way, path, road, or manner. It is used to show a means by which something is accomplished or sought.

Scripturally, there is always the contrast of God's way or our way. As you can see from several of its occurrences, that when used 'of God', it is most often in conjunction with His words or commandments.

So let's go back to the New Testament and put this definition back into its proper context:

- **Matthew 22:16** And they sent out unto Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying Master, we know that You are true, and teach the way to God in truth...[in other words, We know You teach the words of God in truth...]
- **Revelation 15:3** And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying Great and marvelous are thy works, El Shaddai; just and true are Thy way, thou King of Saints. [Just and true are His words for He is an eternal King.]
- **2 Peter 2:15** Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness. [They forsook the words of God and followed the advice of Balaam, which was to mix with the Moabites (gentile ways).]
- **Acts 9:2** And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women...[Early Jewish believers following the ways of Jesus the Messiah]
- **Romans 3:11-12** There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable, there is none that does good, no not one. [Israel has chosen to go their own way and have abandoned the words of God.]

There are many other Scriptures we could find; the point is that over and over again these terms that Jesus and the other writers of the New Testament Scriptures use are all **examples for the living Word of God--His instructions and teachings.**

**This is where life is--in God's Word.** God's spoken words in Scripture became flesh and dwelt among us. According to Paul and even Jesus, Himself, all who commit their lives to Him are immersed into Him. Jesus is the Word, the Light and the Way of God. These are much more than just symbolic titles. When the Hebrew writers of the New Testament used these terms, it was in light of the meanings found in the Old Testament. We

don't just *mentally* know the Word, but we **LIVE** it. We **DO** it. We **OBEY** it.

This is how the Light shines into the darkness and how the people living in the darkness find the Way out!

We must understand and convey to those we minister to that when a person accepts Jesus Christ as Master and Savior, he or she has accepted and **COMMITTED** to **ALL** the words of Father God. Jesus is not just some *buddy* up there in the sky somewhere. He is not just a coat tail to cling to. He is the living, breathing, Word of God!

We you accept Jesus you are accepting God's Words--**His Ways**. When you commit your life to Christ, you are making a commitment to **OBEY** His Word. When He says 'Do not fornicate'--that means 'stop having sex outside the bounds of marriage'. When He says 'Don't be drunk with wine as in excess'--that means 'stop getting drunk or high misusing alcohol or drugs'. When He says 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself'--that means 'don't do to someone else what you wouldn't want done to you'. We could go on and on, but you get the picture.

**His Words live in you and keep your mind renewed AS YOU DO THEM!**

## **LIFE AND TRUTH**

So now, let's take on another common term. What is the meaning behind Jesus' constant use of the word *life*? Well, again this term did not pop out of thin air. This word has much meaning in the culture in which it came from.

This word comes from the Hebrew word, *chai*. The verbal root of *chai* is *Chayah* and it is generally translated as living or quickened. Hebrew is an action oriented language, and therefore, so is Hebrew philosophy and their view of the world. Hebrew sentence structure places the verb before the noun to express this. In our language, we place the noun before the verb. This is a fine example of why you will begin to see that

most Middle Eastern thinking is opposite to Western thinking. The verbal root of *chay* is *chayah*. *Chayah* is generally translated as **living** or **quicken**. As we have done with other terms, let's see how the *Ruach haQodesh* (Holy Spirit) uses this term.

The first occurrence, as it relates to humans, is in Genesis 2:7: And God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of **life** [*chai*], and man became a living soul.

Man's life came from the breath of '*Echoiym*' (God). What is the breath of God? It is the **word** of God [Psalm 33:6, John 6:63]. Right from the beginning we see that our life comes from the Spirit of God, the breath of God, the Words of God. Let's get some more detail.

**Deuteronomy 32:46-47** And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you, because it is your life and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, wither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

**Psalm 119:50** This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy words hath given me **life**.

**Deuteronomy 30:16** In that I command thee this day to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that thou may **live** and multiply.

**Psalm 119:93** I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast given me **life**.

**Proverbs 13:14** The law of the wise is a fountain of **life**, to depart from the snares of death.

Here we have seen that **life** *is* the laws, precepts, ordinances,

statutes, words, and teaching of the Lord God. It is the Lord Himself. It is not some lofty, ambiguous term left open to be spiritualized away into some meaningless chasm.

When Jesus, who is God, uses these words, He is using them in the same way He has always used them. This is precisely what was to be looked for in discerning the coming Messiah. If He did not speak according to the law and the testimony, then there was no light (Word) in Him (Isaiah 8:20).

So now let's look at some ways in which Jesus used this term. Remember, the term **life** is the Word of God.

**John 6:63** It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life.

**John 1:4** In Him was life and the life was the light of men.

**Acts 2:28** Thou has made known to me the ways of life; thou shall make me full of joy with thy countenance.

**1 John 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of life.  
**Colossians 3:4** When Messiah, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory.

**John 14:6** Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by Me.

**John 5:24** Verily, verily I say to you, He that hears My word, and believes on Him that sent Me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life.

The pattern of God's will become obvious. He is constantly drawing us back to His ways, His light, His life. His words, when obeyed, produces life and freedom.

The concept of **life** in Hebraic thought is not some symbolic utopia. When Jesus said that He came to give us **life** and to give it more abundantly, He was referring to the **power of His words when put into action!**

What about **truth**? Let's continue our study with the term **truth**. What is truth? Pilate asked Jesus this very question. We seem to always want to know the truth. Everybody wants the truth, nobody wants to believe a *lie*. How does Scripture define truth?

In John, Jesus says something very interesting to the Jews who believed on Him. **He said: If you continue in My word, then are you my disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31-32)**

The verse appears in many places other than Bible studies and sermons. It is very often carved on government buildings and court houses, but do they know what they are saying? Let's back up a few verses. In verse thirty, John says that these words were spoken to those who believed on Him.

Then He turns to a specific group of people who believed on Him in verse thirty one. **Those Jews**. Why did Holy Spirit make it a point to single them out? Could it be that they knew the Scriptures **(John 5:39)**?

In context, I believe so. It makes perfect sense for Jesus to make this statement to them rather than believing gentiles. He singles out those who have always been in the word of the Lord, but have only so far honored Him with their lips. He makes it a point to tell us that these Jews now believe on Him. Then He says to those Jews, 'If you continue...'

The Greek word used here is *meinete*. It is in what is known as the *aurist* tense. In this context, the *aurist* tense expresses a **dwelling**, or **abiding** sense. This word is translated as **abiding**, or **dwelling** in the New Testament. In our verse it carries the idea of **remaining**.

As a matter of fact, in verse 35 of chapter 8, this same word is used. “And the servant **abides** not in the house forever, but the Son **abides** forever.” So you see that Jesus is speaking to believing Jews, and asking them to remain in His words, and they will know the truth and the truth will make them free.

Free from what? Free from SIN! Not free from the Lord’s words, commandments, or laws.

Let’s look at the very next verse. “They answered Him, We are Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man. How say You, You shall be made free?” Jesus answered them, “Verily, verily, I say to you, Whosoever *commits sin* is the *servant* of sin.”

Jesus is saying that His words set you free from bondage to sin. He is saying to those who know the Words of God that if they remain in them, these same words will free them from bondage. This is clearly typified in the exodus from bondage in Egypt.

The Hebrews are enslaved to a sinful, worldly, pagan system, and the Lord frees them and takes them to Mt. Sinai to receive His words.

When these words are obeyed, they bless you and free you. When disobeyed, these same words stand against you.

So how does Scripture define truth?

**Psalm 119:142** Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is truth.

**Malachi 2:6** The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.

**Psalm 138:2** I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise

thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou has magnified thy word above all thy name.

**Psalm 119:151** Thou art near O God, and all thy commandments are truth.

**Psalm 119:160** Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endure forever.

**Psalm 33:4** For the word of the Lord is right, and all His works are done in truth.

**Psalm 85:11** Truth shall spring out of the Earth, and righteousness shall look down from Heaven.

Isn't that last verse precious? The same truth that looks down from Heaven will also spring forth from the Earth!~ Wow! Who could that be? Jesus of course!

Jesus claimed to be the **truth**, but now we know what the meaning of truth is. **It is the laws and commandments of the Lord.**

The Old Testament is packed full of words that foretell all about the Messiah. Israel was warned again and again as to who He would be. They were told that He would speak according to the law and the testimony (**Isaiah 8:20**). That He would be a prophet like unto Moses (**Deuteronomy 15:15-19**).

They understood that the Lord's words are truth and purified seven times (**Psalm 12:6**). There is no error or fault in them. This is how you know it is the Lord. His words are pure and holy and without *fault*. Pilate testified to this when he proclaimed that he could find no *fault* in Jesus!

It is this Jesus that we need to proclaim to a lost world. It is this Jesus that we claim as Master, He is ALL the words of God come in the flesh. This is what the Scriptures teach that we are to receive. We need to teach that what we are accepting is much more than just our *Savior*, and that His words, *all* His

words are **truth** and His commandments are not burdensome, but will set us free! (**John 5:3**).

Just look at all the societies around the world today. Are they free from the bondage of sin? No. Even in America, where the 'Word of God' is preached freely--our society is bound up in wickedness. Most people are like that little rat in a cage, running, running, running--never getting anywhere--running in circles. Running after something--they don't know what--that will fill the emptiness in their soul that only one Person can fill. Jesus.

He's what all people, in every culture around the world needs. Folks we have the answer. We have the power to set those people free. We have the Truth. We have the Light. We can show them the Way. We can bring them to the Life and He will set them free. Can you see that all these words come full circle--they begin and end--in Jesus. He is the Word of God come in the flesh. He is the Light of the world. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. When we share God's Words with others, we are really sharing Jesus with them!

