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## *Lesson 2: Our Core Beliefs*

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### **QUESTION: What are the core beliefs of Truth Church?**

- **JESUS CHRIST**

- We believe that in Jesus Christ dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9).
- We believe that God came to us manifested in the flesh as Jesus Christ (John 1:1-14, I Timothy 3:16), born of a virgin (Matthew 1:23), that he lived a sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), was crucified on Calvary for our sins (Matthew 26:28), and bodily rose from the grave (Romans 6:9).
- We believe that through his death and life we have personal salvation and power for victorious living (Romans 6:5-7).

- **SALVATION**

- We believe that all men have sinned and stand in need of redemption (Romans 3:23) which is obtained through the new birth by faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:28).
- Those who repent of their sins and are born again of water and Spirit (John 3:3-5, Acts 2:38), through water baptism in Jesus' name by immersion (Acts 4:12), and through the infilling of the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in an unknown tongue (Acts 2:1-4, 38-39), become children of God and heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).

- **CHRISTIAN LIVING**

- As Christians, we are to love God and to love others (Mark 12:28-21). We are to worship God joyfully and seek to live a life of holiness that is pleasing to him both inwardly and outwardly—in our thoughts, words, motives, attitudes, and actions (II Corinthians 7:1, Hebrews 12:14).
- We are empowered to live a life pleasing to God through the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:19-26). As a Spirit-filled church, we believe that the supernatural gifts of the Spirit are for the church today and are available to all Spirit-filled believers.

- **WORSHIP**

First, we need to understand that worship is not ritual, program, or format. Worship has to be real, sincere, and heartfelt. Our worship is not a scripted religious activity, but it is born out of a relationship with God.

- John 4:23 - But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.
- Acts 17:22-23 - Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."

In their ignorance, they did not know who or what they were worshipping. True worshippers do so not because of tradition, nor do they go about it ignorantly. True worshippers know Who they worship. True worshippers are sincere and real in their worship.

- John 4:24 - God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

We do not just go through the motions. It is spiritual. It is supernatural (which means beyond what we see). We do not tell people how to worship. How a person worships is an individual thing. However, the Bible does outline some acceptable ways to worship.

- Psalms 111:1 - Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.
- Psalms 141:2 - Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
- Psalms 47:1 - O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
- Psalms 149:3 - Let them praise His name in the dance: let them sing praises unto Him with the timbrel and harp.
- Psalms 98:4 - Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

On the day of Pentecost, after the 120 believers received the Spirit of God (Holy Ghost), they started to worship. Those Jerusalem streets were full of people from all over to celebrate the Festival of Pentecost. The crowds looked on these believers recently filled with the Spirit and accused these believers of being drunk because of their possible dancing, staggering, shouting, crying, and laughing.

- Acts 2:12 - And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, "What meaneth this?" Others mocking said, "These men are full of new wine."

Another example is when the lame man outside of the temple was healed.

- Acts 3:8 - And he, leaping up, stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

The point is that people worship in different ways, but the fact is something should happen...we should have some kind of response. It is okay to be emotional in church. It is okay to get excited.

- I Timothy 2:8 - I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

We need to realize that worship is not just a formality that we check off the services' to do list. God is looking for and desiring true worshippers. And the Bible tells us that God will be Worshipped.

- Luke 19:37-40 - And when He was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; saying, "Blessed be the King that cometh in the Name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest." And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, "Master, rebuke thy disciples." And He answered and said unto them, "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

## • GIVING

How we handle our money reveals much about the depth of our commitment to Christ. That is why Jesus often talked about money. In the Bible, there are 523 scriptures about prayer and its importance. However, there are 1,539 scriptures about money and giving. Giving to God is not a modern-day invention or concept. It was established long ago, and like everything else God does, it was done for a purpose.

- Deuteronomy 14:22-23 - You must set aside a tithe of your crops, one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year. Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship, the place the Lord your God chooses for His name to be honored. Doing this will teach you always to fear the Lord your God.

Tithing helps to teach us to always fear (honor or respect) the Lord. Tithes are considered to be the first fruits, which means they take priority. God gets what is first. This is a principle found throughout scripture.

Jesus is FIRST in every area of our lives...and that includes finances. The Lord instituted the idea of giving to prevent money from taking His spot as the most important thing in our lives. How

serious is the topic of money? Paul says some have erred from (wandered from or left) the faith because they coveted it.

- I Timothy 6:10 - For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Some people have loved money so much that it has caused them to leave the Church. God, in His wisdom, established a long time ago that we are to give to Him first. It teaches us to fear, honor and respect God. This way if we do not get caught up in the love of money, our priorities will always be right. God saw the very real possibility that we could fall in love with money and He gave us these principles to prevent it.

**QUESTION: How do you give to Truth Church?**

- Church members give electronically through a service called Tithe.ly and/or in person during our offering. Please designate where you desire your giving to go; whether giving online, or by using the offering envelope. If giving by check, please write a separate check out for Tithes and Offerings since they are deposited into two different accounts. Our giving pamphlet provides more details.
- You can Download the Tithe.ly App here if you would like (QR Code) or go to our website [www.truthchurch.cc](http://www.truthchurch.cc) to give electronically.



Apple



Google

- Areas of giving:
  - Tithes - 10% of our income that God requires to support the ministers and their families.
  - General - An amount we give beyond our tithe to help cover operating expenses of the church (Administration, Audio / Visual, Bus Ministry, Evangelism, Facility Maintenance, Revivals, Sunday School, Utilities, etc.).
  - Capital Campaign – Pays for church renovation and expansion efforts (Moss Memorial Building, Townsley Townhouse, etc.).
  - Missions - A special sacrificial offering we commit, with God's help, to give monthly support to World Missions; 40 Global and 7 North American Ministries.
  - Special One-Time Offerings - Offerings to support other special needs throughout the year such as: CAMP, Christmas for Christ, Family Fun Day,

Firefighter Meal, Lighthouse Meal, Mother's Memorial, Move the Mission, Save Our Children, Special Speakers, etc.

- Vision Ahead - This offering is designated as a special offering to help offset additional costs for improvements to our church property and vehicles.

- **FAITHFULNESS**

As you learned last week, Rev. Roy Moss started this church in 1967. He started as a single man, with only \$297 to his name, and no place to have church. He lived in very humble accommodations. No doubt, there were some days that he thought, "Why bother?" As he poured time, effort and money into starting a church, it is reasonable to assume he might occasionally think, "Is it worth it?" However, he realized the need for people to assemble together. He saw the biblical need for a place that like-minded believers could gather together. Truth Church called the building on Hickory Street home for 18 years. Then Truth Church was relocated to the property where we are located today.

There are some that will debate and argue whether a Christian must faithfully attend church. Well, certainly Christians should strive to obey the Bible and the Apostle Paul writes:

- Hebrews 10:25 (KJV) - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
- Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) - And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of His coming back again is drawing near.
- Hebrews 10:25 (Amplified Bible) - Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.

If we obey the Bible, then we must assemble together with other believers.

- **THE WORD OF GOD**

- II Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...
- Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

The Word of God is eternal. The Bible is final authority. We regard it over preachers, angels, and traditions because it is eternal. We are to read it, study it, learn it, and apply it to our lives!

- **PRAYER AND FASTING**

Prayer is one of the most important things you can do in your walk with God. In his book *Power Through Prayer*, E.M. Bounds writes, “We are constantly on a stretch to devise new methods, new plans, and new organizations. Men are God’s methods. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods but through men. The Holy Ghost does not come on machinery, but men. The Holy Ghost does not anoint plans, but men.” – Men of Prayer

- James 5:16 - ...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Prayer should not be used as a “Heavenly 911 Lord help, I’m in trouble!!,” but we should always have a spirit of prayer.

- Luke 18:1 - And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint...

The Bible is clear that we are to pray and fast. Some people have looked at fasting as a way to get prayer credits in heaven, and when you get enough, God answers your prayer. Although it is Biblical to fast for situations (Isaiah 58:6-7), fasting changes US.

When God comes into your life, that is wonderful. The problem is that you still have flesh. God is on the inside, but you are still human. We have this battle; a tug of war. It is our flesh versus the Spirit of God, and these two forces are constantly at war with each other.

What fasting does, is it tells the flesh, “You are not in control here.” We are not going to always do what we know is correct. Our flesh wants to eat, but when we fast, we are decreasing the influence of flesh and increasing the influence of the Spirit. You become spiritually stronger and the flesh becomes weaker. Therefore, the next time the flesh wants to lie, cheat or sin, you will be more spiritually strong to overcome that desire.

Now, with that being said, your prayers will definitely be more effective. We fast to help us resist sinning and it gives power to our prayers. Old Testament believers fasted. Jesus fasted in preparation for His earthly ministry. The Book of Acts church fasted. It is clear through the word of God that we should fast.

There is power that we can gain as a Christian through prayer and fasting.

- Matthew 17:14-21 - And when they were come to the multitude, there came to Him a certain man, kneeling down to Him, and saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not cure him.” Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him hither to Me.” And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, “Why could not we cast him out?” And Jesus said unto them, “Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if ye

have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”

There are certain experiences we will never see without prayer and fasting.

- **SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY**

God places leadership in our lives for spiritual growth and accountability.

- Ephesians 4:11-12 - And He gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

God also provides oversight and protection.

- Hebrews 13:17 (CSV) - Obey you leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

## **QUESTIONS?**