

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## Compressed Truth

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### Introduction

The last issue of Present Truth presented “self-evident truths” that God has built into creation as absolutes—there is an Unchanging King and an Unshakable Kingdom. From these we derive certain benefits—life, liberty, and righteousness. Our goal is to come into the government of the Unshakable Kingdom by submitting ourselves fully to the Unchanging King and exhibiting His life, liberty, and righteousness.

This issue of Present Truth will look at “compressed truth”. Anyone who has used a computer for any length of time understands the idea of compressed files, sometimes called “zipped” files. These are files that have been compressed by having extraneous space removed and repetitive data linked rather than repeated. This is done to save disk space by reducing the size of the file that is stored. A compressed file can no longer be read by the software that created it unless the compressed file is first un-compressed or “unzipped”.

The Lord has done something similar to this with His presentation of Truth to us. Many aspects of truth have been compressed and cannot be read, that is, understood, until the Holy Spirit brings revelation by de-compressing the truth so that we can understand. Compressed truth is hidden truth which can only be revealed by the Holy Spirit.

### Parables

Jesus spoke many things very plainly to the people. At other times, He only spoke to them in parables.

[Matthew 13:34 NASB](#)

(34) All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable.

Parables are a form of compressed truth. They cannot be fully understood unless the Holy Spirit decompresses the truth, that is, expands the fullness of the truth so that all aspects of it can come

into our understanding. Parables are a way of hiding truth from those who do not have the proper “decompressing software”, that is, from those who do not have the Holy Spirit to open the Truth.

#### Matthew 13:10-11 NASB

(10) And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

(11) Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

From this we see that Jesus purposely used parables so that the only ones who would understand would be the ones who “had been granted” access.

#### Matthew 13:13 NASB

(13) "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

While people could see and hear what was said, they did not understand because the parables were compressed truth that had to be decompressed by the Holy Spirit in order to be understood.

The English word “parable” is simply a transliterated form of the Greek word *parabole*, a compound word which means “to cast alongside.” By this definition, a parable is a truth placed alongside of previously existing revealed truth with the additional truth given to help explain the previously revealed truth.

This is why these parables could be understood by the disciples but would be meaningless to others. The matter hinged on whether or not the previously revealed truths had been received.

Jesus began to speak with parables when He began to speak of the things of the Kingdom of God. Understanding the Kingdom is given to the disciples of the Lord but not to the general public. The multitudes only heard the beginning word of the Kingdom—the word of repentance. So, one of the areas of compressed truth is in “Kingdom understanding”, which requires the Holy Spirit to reveal it.

The parables “cast alongside” each other by building on or adding to the revealed truth of the previous ones. In other words, one parable can take an “uncompressed” truth from a previous parable and, when it is opened by the Holy Spirit, provide further truth that adds additional understanding.

An example of this is in Matthew chapter 13. Verse one tells us that Jesus left the house and went down by the sea. There He spoke to the crowds and told four parables of the Kingdom of God. Then, verse 36 tells us that Jesus sent the crowds away and went back into the house. There He explained the parable of the wheat and tares to the disciples and told them three more Kingdom parables.

So, in this we see two groups of parables concerning the Kingdom of God. The first group told by the sea is to the crowds and relate to one another with general understanding so that each parable provides additional truth to the previous. The second group is told in the house and only to the disciples, so we would expect them to be related with deeper understanding of the Kingdom for the disciples than the previous group. Later, Jesus told His disciples another group of Kingdom parables in Matthew chapter 25, which all related to His return and events at the end of the age. The “compressed truth” in each of these groups of parables can only be understood as the Holy Spirit begins to decompress and relate them to one another.

## Hidden Truth

Later, Jesus even told His closest disciples that He had things to say to them, truth to be revealed, but they were not ready—they couldn't handle the truth at that time. But, He was making provision for them to understand later when the Spirit of Truth would come and guide them into understanding.

### John 16:12-14 NASB

- (12) "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.
- (13) "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
- (14) "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

Paul said similar things when he was teaching the Corinthians. From what he said, it is obvious that their problem with understanding was immaturity in spiritual things.

### 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NASB

- (1) And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.
- (2) I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,
- (3) for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

They could not receive more truth because they still operated in a fleshly manner, being ruled by the desires and ambitions of the flesh.

The writer of Hebrews had much more to say but found it difficult to explain spiritual things to them because of their spiritual condition. Apparently, their spiritual understanding had deteriorated to the point that only basic truth was understood. They had become “dull of hearing” which is what Jesus had said, “hearing they don't hear”.

### Hebrews 5:11 NASB

- (11) Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

They had become dull of hearing because they were not progressing toward maturity but instead had actually “backslid” to an immature level.

### Hebrews 5:12 NASB

- (12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Maybe this doesn't bother anyone else, but it bothers me. I want to continue to grow, to mature, to come to full understanding of the things of the Lord. I want to put off anything that hinders the Holy Spirit from bringing revelation. I don't want to continually revert to milk; I want solid food.

## Paul's Prayer

Paul told the Ephesians that he gave thanks for them and mentioned them in his prayers. This is what he included as things that he prayed for them.

### Ephesians 1:17-20 NASB

(17) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

(18) *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

(19) and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

(20) which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

He prayed that they would receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Everything begins with revelation knowledge of Jesus—He is Truth. The spirit of wisdom and revelation opens the eyes of the heart and enlightens our understanding with the result that we know these three things:

1. what is the hope of His calling;
2. what are the riches of His inheritance in us;
3. what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us.

These are three areas of compressed truth. It takes the Holy Spirit and His revelation in us to begin to comprehend the Lord's intention and provision in these three areas. God has empowered the Spirit for revelation in these areas with the same working of strength and power that He used to raise Jesus from the dead and seat Him at His right hand in the heavenlies. So, the moment that we reach a spiritually mature place where we are able to “handle the truth”, that is, able to bear it now, the Holy Spirit is ready to reveal it with the fullness of the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. The moment that we are able, the power of revelation is available to “unzip”, decompress, truth for us.

## Hindrances

Since the bulk of “Kingdom truth” is compressed into parables, we could expect the first Kingdom parable to speak to the issue of things that would hinder us from understanding. Jesus explained the first parable for us and even told us that it is basic to understanding the rest.

### Mark 4:13 NASB

(13) And He \*said to them, "**Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?**"

We call this first parable “the parable of the sower” but, actually, it should be called “the parable of the soils” because that is the key element for the seed and the fruit. The “soils” are the hearts of those who hear the word of the Kingdom, which is compared to a seed that is to grow and produce fruit.

The hindrances to understanding are given in Jesus' explanation:

1. **Ignorance.** The hard ground of the roadside cannot receive the word of the Kingdom. The Devil takes it away before it can sprout.  
"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. (Matthew 13:19 NASB)
2. **Shallowness.** Rocky soil is not deep enough to sustain long term growth. The seed cannot come to a place of productivity.  
"The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; (21) yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. (Matthew 13:20-21 NASB)
3. **Distractions.** Soil that is full of thorn bushes cannot produce fruit from the Kingdom seed because the thorns choke out the things of the Kingdom. Worldly distractions hinder the growth of the seed in us.  
"And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22 NASB)

Remember that Jesus is speaking of the "word of the Kingdom" in this parable, not the word of salvation. Jesus told Nicodemus that you must be born again to see the Kingdom. So, the word of the Kingdom is for the *believer* not the unbeliever. It is the word of the Kingdom that is to produce fruit in our lives. Salvation is just the beginning point.

Fruit is hindered or even prevented by these three things: ignorance, shallowness, and worldly distractions. The hearts that contain these things will not be productive for the Kingdom of God.

We need to ask the Lord to plow our hearts (soil); break up the "hard pan" of the shallow ground and "bush hog" the thorns so that our hearts can receive the seed and grow the expected crop.

If we don't do this, we may be shocked at the judgment seat of Christ. We may find ourselves called an "unprofitable servant" by the Lord.

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