Remaining in the Truth

Philip & Marli van der Westhuizen 1 July 2025



Life is a beautiful gift, isn't it?

I find it's a rich and complex adventure—one that we as women experience in a unique way. We are not offered a travel plan. We are called to be helpers, followers, nurturers in hostile terrain. Life is often a blind rollercoaster with ups and downs, twists and turns, and sometimes it feels completely upside down!

It's easy to feel overwhelmed in all this unpredictability, and rightly so, considering the speed at which change confronts us. Yet, amid all this inconsistency, we have the promise of God's constancy: His leading, His presence, and His protection—if we choose to take hold of Him.

We do not know what paths our lives will take. At times, life challenges our joy, peace, and faith—even our steadfastness in Christ as Lord and Saviour. Fear, hopelessness, and doubt often try to creep in and wreak havoc. Yet there is a way of peace through the paradoxes of this life.

Here, we hear God the Father speak to us gently through Jesus' words in John 15:4, whispering to our hearts, "Remain in Me."

If you asked any lady whether she would like to remain in God's truth, the answer would almost certainly be yes! Our intentions are good—but then hardship comes, testing our every good

intention to the utmost. Thankfully, God can strengthen our intentions and shape them into true conviction as we learn to:

- AGREE with God,
- FIGHT for the truth, and
- STAND securely on His Word through our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

> The Word is inspired and endorsed by the living God, carrying the authority to both judge rebellion and extend mercy. When we accept its message, it holds the power of salvation in Jesus Christ. When we reject it, it stands as the standard of judgment.

We Choose to Agree with God's Word

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword …" – Hebrews 4:12, NLT
"Your Word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." – Psalm 119:105, NLT

Why is the Bible powerful? The Word is inspired and endorsed by the living God, carrying the authority to both judge rebellion and extend mercy. When we accept its message, it holds the power of salvation in Jesus Christ. When we reject it, it stands as the standard of judgment.

The pages of Scripture reveal Jesus—the Word made flesh (John 1:14). This is why the Word transforms us into His image: spiritually alive, pure, and complete in Him. Jesus is waiting to be searched out in the Word like buried treasure.

But this transformation can only happen as we learn to agree with Jesus, allowing His truth to shape us. Many claim to believe in Jesus yet struggle to agree with His teachings. Some live under man-made rules, trapped in religiosity; others pride themselves on being more "open-minded" than Jesus Himself. True agreement with His Word allows His power to work in us. God leads us through revelation and repentance—pulling out the weeds of lies and sin until only His truth remains. It's not wasted time; it's a precious, relationship-building process.

To remain in His hand, we must agree with His truth.

We Fight for God's Truth to Reign in Our Lives

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world …" – Ephesians 6:12, NLT

Our battles are not always visible. Often, they're fought in secret—through perseverance and prayer in the hidden places of the heart. Yet these unseen victories prepare the way for visible breakthrough.

Satan constantly challenges the truth in our hearts and minds. But we can resist his onslaught by knowing and agreeing with the truth, and by being trained to use it. It is in my own mind and heart that the battle for the truth must be fought and won.

Sometimes, we need to return to the truth of our salvation, to break free from cycles of guilt, shame, and condemnation. The attacks we face may have less to do with our past and more to do with the future God is shaping through His church. We do this together. Though our response to Christ is personal, our strength is communal—we stand shoulder to shoulder as part of the body of Christ.

Armed with Truth, We Stand Secure

"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil." – Ephesians 6:10-11, NLT

Too many of God's daughters stand unarmed today—the truth of His Word unfamiliar to them. Yet Jesus warned us about deception in the last days. God doesn't want us to be easy targets, picked off one by one.

From Eden to now, the enemy has used one question to sow doubt: "Did God really say…?"

He repeats it to blur the lines of truth until we doubt what we once knew God had already spoken.

> Hardship can also serve as training. The seasons that test us most deeply are often those that temper our faith.

How, then, do we stand? When satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he used Scripture, but out of context. Deception often disguises itself as truth. To stand firm, we must know the Word in context, allowing it to anchor us in faith.

Hardship can also serve as training. The seasons that test us most deeply are often those that temper our faith. God desires that we know Him in difficulty as well as in peace and that we discover His power to keep us steady. Let's not despise the seasons of preparation; they equip us to stand.

“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom … And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.” – 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, NLT

The Holy Spirit leads us into freedom by unveiling Jesus to us. To live with “unveiled faces” means to walk without deception—to be transformed into Christ’s image as His truth takes root in us. Like a bride unveiled before her husband, we are being prepared for our union with Him.

As we pray for enduring faith, we can rest assured: God will keep us as we remain steadfast in His truth. By His grace, we will be unveiled together, as His pure and spotless bride, forever united with Jesus.