Speaking truth in love

Jesus is THE truth; He is the only truth. His truth is absolute, and perfect. If we are going to steward truth rightly, our words must be the words of the Great Steward. Sometimes speaking truth to a brother, or sister, is not easy. Often speaking truth outside the house of God is treacherous. Jesus tells us, “*If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you; but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you-because you are not of the world*” (John 15:18-21). The words from our lips will sometimes cause us to be hated by the world. Are we, as righteous slaves, content with “just” becoming like the Master or do we shy away from speaking pure, absolute, perfect truth. Do we not want to experience the shame and abuse that Jesus experienced for us? Are we afraid of truth? When Jesus told His followers that a slave is not greater than a master, He is insisting that our words and deeds (15:22, 24) should not deviate from His words and deeds, at all, zero. They must be the same as the Lord’s, mirror images. We are image bearers of Jesus. This is the way of Imago Dei.

What hinders us from speaking exactly what Jesus, through His Spirit that dwells in us, tells us? Why are we not doing greater things than He (John 14:12)? One reason is we may be afraid of what others (like father, mother, wife, children, brother, sisters, Luke 12:26) might think, like the parents of the blind man. At our core, we seek the approval of others. This is not right. Jesus speaks to the impossibility of believing in Him if I am seeking the approval of man (John 5:44). I cannot believe in Him if I am consumed with seeking glory from others. A greater reason is my belief. Do I believe that Jesus will speak into the ears of my heart (The heart has ear) each day, each moment of that day, what to say and do, and how to say and do it? If I doubt that He will speak and show me, and thereby not stewarding my life in such an **anticipatory** way that bears fruit to the praise of His glory, I will not become like the master; the teacher I will disdain.

As a follower of Jesus, I have a gift. This gift is precious and promised from ancient days. Jesus gives each true believer the gift of the Holy Spirit. He is streams of living water. He is abundant, and He overflows. “*My heart overflows with a good them, I address my verses to the king; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer*” Psalm 45:1. Are our tongues, with pens in hand, ready to write the fragrant melody of the Spirit into the world, each day and each moment? Do our mouths speak the praise of Hannah, Elizabeth, and Mary? We must believe, and order (steward), our words and our days according to the belief that He will *give us commandment as to what to say, what to speak, and what to do* (John 12:49). If we do this then we can throw away all self-made religion that has the appearance of wisdom (but has nothing to do with love and the gospel), and thus begin to live abundantly and in complete peace and security. Jesus is the life. Remember Jesus promised this thing: *you will know the truth and the truth will make you free* (John 8:32). We are free in Christ. He has considered us worthy to possess the pure, absolute, and perfect truth. He is the way, truth and life.

How do these things happen? By spending time with Him. A lot of time, as in continually. Places I will go to spend time with Him are daily Scripture reading, hourly prayer, and weekly meeting with His church, the chosen and the called. Throw in seven dashes of praise (Psalm 119:164) and my heart overflows with a good theme. If I do not speak what my Master tells me then my words are idol and careless and He will ask an account of how I stewarded my words (Matt. 12).