

The Application of Truth

We Have Already considered the words of the Lord Jesus in John 8:31, “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Notice again the important fact that it is the *application* of truth that sets me free, not the *acquiring* of truth. There are many true Christians whose knowledge of doctrine is correct in every detail. They can spot the mistakes in the sermon and they can correct the flaws in the argument, but they do not have a present enjoyment of the truths they know in their heads. Because of this, there is something missing in their lives. Some unknown deficiency of personality shows itself in their daily experience. As a result they themselves are disappointed both in their daily experience and in their outside interests. Somehow, they have never found the secret of being a saint.

Some people are just naturally gracious and pleasant in their ways. But when we consider the secret of being a saint we are moving into an experience which goes far beyond mere pleasantness. Many of us would dearly love to be more saintly in our ways and behavior, so that we could attract more people to the Lord, but so often we write ourselves off as a dead loss. We accept our temper and meanness as hereditary, we satisfy the prickings of conscience by looking back and seeing the same characteristics in our parents and our grandparents.

(Knowing God's Secrets: The Secret of the Effective Christian Life by John Hunter, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1967 [1965], 18)