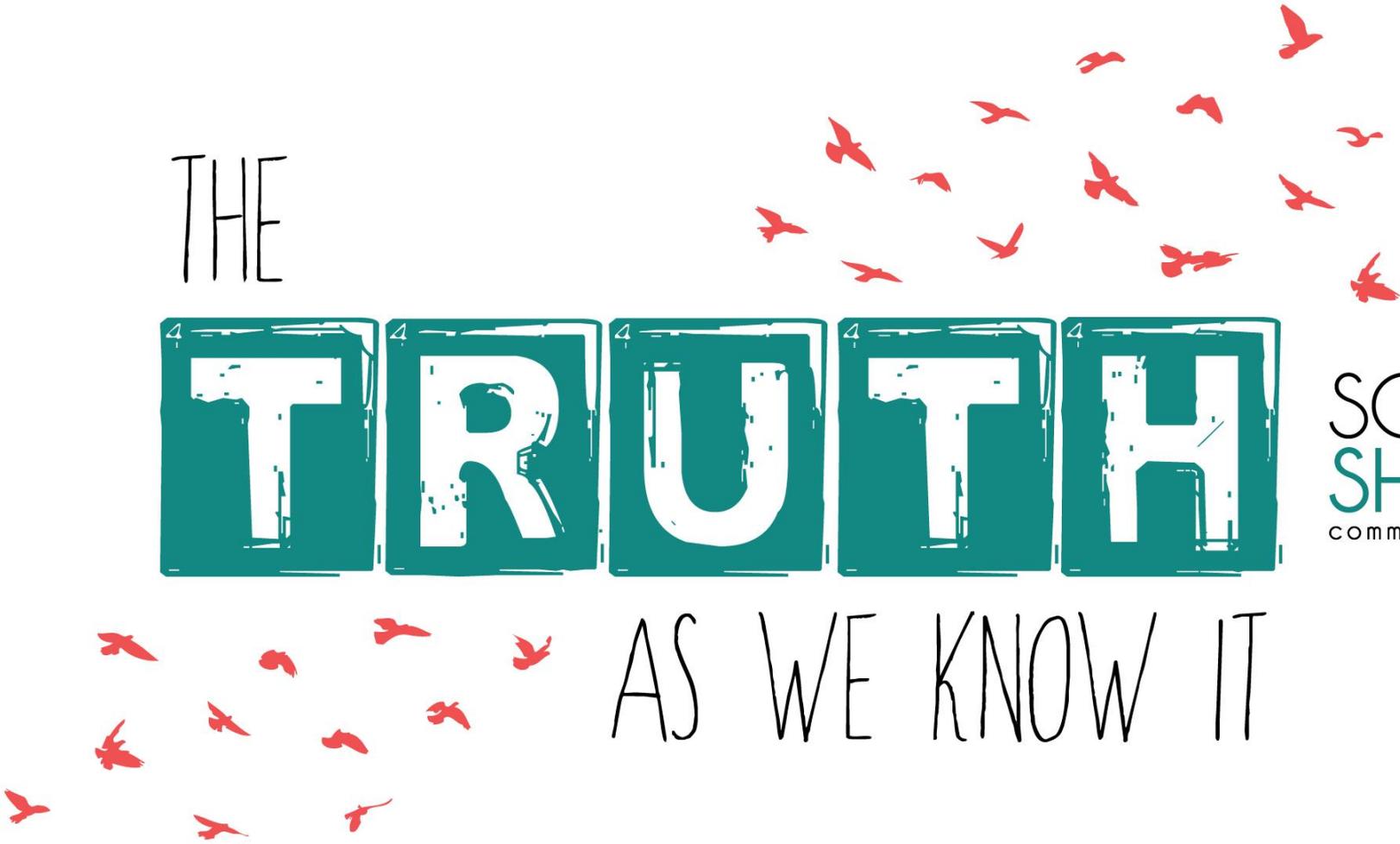


THE

TRUTH

AS WE KNOW IT

SOUTH  
SHORE  
community church





- “Your focus must empower you” – Graham Cooke
- Hebrews 3:1 says: “...fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and High priest whom we confess.”
- Hebrews 12:2 says: “...let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith”



What does Jesus have to say about the circumstances of my life today?

What does He have to say about the issues I'm facing?

What truths, promises, resources has He given me that I am supposed to claim today?



- Nothing is impossible with Me. Luke 1:37
- You can do all things with the strength I give you. Phil. 4:13
- My grace will be enough for you because my power be made perfect in your weakness. II Corn. 12:9
- You'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things that are true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Phil. 4:8



- I will be your refuge and strength. A stronghold for you in times of trouble. Ps. 46:1
- I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13
- Don't forget to thank Me no matter what happens in your life. I Thess. 5:18



- I, the Lord will fulfill my purpose for my life. Psalm 138:8\
- Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Phil. 4:6
- Be strong and courageous. Do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
- My ways are not your ways, nor my thoughts, your thoughts; as high as the heavens are above the earth so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8



We need to remember that for every problem we face, there is a provision attached to it. You and I need to be disciplined enough to focus on Jesus, find the provision and let it empower us.



“Moses sent them to scout out the land of Canaan, and said to them, Get up this way by the South and go up into the hill country, and see what the land is and whether the people who dwell there are strong or weak, few or many, and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the cities they dwell in are camps or strongholds, and what the land is, whether it is fat or lean, whether there is timber on it or not. And be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes.



So they went up and scouted through the land....and cut down from there a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they brought also some pomegranates and figs....they returned from scouting out the land after forty days.

They came to Moses and Aaron and to all the Israelite congregation in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh, and brought them word, and showed them the land's fruit. They told Moses, We came to the land to which you sent us; surely it flows with milk and honey. This is its fruit.



But the people who dwell there are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; moreover, there we saw the sons of Anak of great stature and courage.....

.....Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; we are well able to conquer it. But his fellow scouts said, We are not able to go up against the people of Canaan, for they are stronger than we are.

So they brought the Israelites an evil report of the land which they had scouted out, saying, the land through which we went to spy it out is a land that devours its inhabitants. And all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature.



There we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who come from the giants; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. And all the congregation cried out with a loud voice, and they wept that night.

All the Israelites grumbled and deplored their situation, accusing Moses and Aaron, to whom the whole congregation said, Would that we had died in Egypt! Or that we had died in this wilderness!



Why does the Lord bring us to this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and little ones will be a prey. Is it not better for us to return to Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us choose a captain and return to Egypt. Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of Israelites.



And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among the scouts who had searched the land, rent their clothes, and they said to all the company of Israelites, The land through which we passed as scouts is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land flowing with milk and honey.



Only do not rebel against the Lord, neither fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their defense and the shadow of protection is removed from over them, but the Lord is with us. Fear them not. But all the congregation said to stone Joshua and Caleb with stones.”  
Numbers 13:17-14:10



## 1) **We occupy the position of an overcomer**

- Caleb was convinced of his identity. He fought from a place of victory.
- We must be convinced internally of our identity as an overcomer in Christ over the external difficulties we face. Our identity and the resources of God at our disposal should always overshadow the circumstances of our life.



## 2) **Too often we unequally yoke ourselves to the negative**

- Negativity is like allowing a Trojan horse into our lives. With it comes doubt, anxiety, fear and distrust. Negativity takes your focus off of God. It is spiritually draining and disempowering.



### 3) **You do not drift into empowerment**

- Caleb chose to remember what God had promised. He chose to remember the power that went with them. He chose to respond with faith, not fear.
- You don't drift into empowerment. It's something you must choose.
- We must choose to focus on Jesus and His truths, His promises, His provisions, His resources for whatever we are facing each day. This must be done on purpose. Deliberately. And then allow that focus to empower us by the way we live out our faith.