

What Defines Truth for You?

After absorbing content from Gary Moon (chapter called “Learning to Listen”, and God’s Voice Within (Thibodeaux, 2010) (for a summary check out Discernment JS blog), take a moment to scan the list at the end for pieces of the Good Shepherd/Truth characterization list included here as well as the supplemental brainstorm starters listed below. Look for things that distinguish the Voice you can trust for you personally.

Take a breath and wonder what other things you might include in YOUR specific experience of God and his goodness and the enemy and his lies. Pick and choose the frequent flyers in your mind or those that stand out as recognized. What sounds familiar?

W-TRUTH/Good Shepherd	W-LIE/Thief

W-TRUTH	W-LIE
Leading and inviting	driving or pushing
Quiet	loud
Invited (wanted).....	illegal entrance
In line with scriptural principles.....	proof texts
Has an inner solution.....	outer solution
Merciful	no mercy
Corrects actual behavior	condemns worth
Peacemaking.....	divisive
Now-present focused	future or past focused
Practical And Mundane	impractical and sensational
Simple and definite	complicated and confused
Love, peace, joy	anger, worry, discouragement
Hope.....	hopelessness
Faith increased	faith deflated
More understanding of others	despising of others

G. Moon (2004). *Falling for God*. Waterbook Press. Colorado Springs, CO.

God the Good Father - If God is the Good Father as he says he is (Psalm 103:13, Matthew 7:9), consider this list of what a Good Father does (author unknown) and which attributes stand out to you as truth-discerners of W-Truth:

- Fixes things/heals
- Believe in their children
- Show children the world
- Help children discover what they love
- Show them how to love their wives and husbands
- Gives permission to go into all the world
- Bless
- Provide
- Serves their family
- Creates a family culture
- Creates family memories
- Sets standards of truth
- Introduces their children
- Gives identity
- Teaches and models thankfulness
- Gives from abundance/ eschews identity of lack
- Teaches beauty and mystery
- Gives direction,safety and freedom
- Shows affection and healthy emotions
- Puts relationships first
- Creates opportunities
- Give inheritance and leaves legacy
- Willing to pay a price
- Don't burden children before they're ready
- Create a joyful, faithful, and thankful culture
- Redeems lost years and bears shame

25 Attributes of Christ

1. Full of wisdom	Isaiah 11:2
2. Unchanging	Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17
3. Compassionate	Mark 1:41; James 5:11
4. Sovereign	Jude 4
5. Eternal	Genesis 21:33
6. Loving	Romans 8:35-39; Eph 2:4-5; Rev 1:5
7. Merciful	Titus 3:5; James 5:11
8. Generous	2 Corinthians 8:7-9
9. Just	Acts 17:31; Romans 3:25-26
10. Trustworthy	Psalms 19:7; 119:138
11. Forgiving	Matthew 6:14; 1 John 1:9
12. Long-Suffering	1 Timothy 1:16
13. Infinite	1 Kings 8:27
14. Full of truth	John 14:6
15. Kindness	Eph 2:7; Titus 3:4-5
16. Unites	Deut 6:4
17. Full of Goodness	John 10:11; 1 Peter 2:3; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16
18. Creative	Genesis 1:26;
19. All Knowing	John 1:48
20. All Powerful	Matthew 28:18
21. Holy	1 Peter 1:15
22. All Present	Psalms 139:7-12; Matthew 18:20
23. Faithful	1 Corinthians 1:9; 4:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:3
24. Righteous	1 John 2:1, 39
25. Gentle	Matthew 21:5; 2 Corinthians 10:1

Identifying Self-Destructive Messages

- I can't do anything right
- I will never heal
- I can't be accepted because I _____
- This will never go away
- My life will never be good
- It is better for me to hide than be noticed
- I don't have anything to bring to the table
- My gifts are not what most people care about
- I don't have strengths like most people
- I will never forgive myself
- God can never forgive me
- I judge myself by my own set of standards
- If I could just _____ there wouldn't be problems in my _____
- I should...
- I need to...
- If I just tried harder, I could _____

- If I _____ my whole life would change
- I am not worthy of a good relationship
- I have to do or produce more
- I am not good enough
- I don't have a right to complain.
- I need someone to take care of me.
- If I don't control everything, I will be hurt.
- It is more important to prevent others from being hurt than to protect myself
- All people see when they look at me is _____ (my nose, fat, ugly, etc)
- There is something wrong with me
- I do not want to be in a confrontation.
- I am too lazy to get this done
- It is too complicated
- I don't have the resources
- There is not way it will work
- I don't have a talent
- It's no use
- Sometimes I just hate myself
- I am no good
- I am too shy
- Why try, it's not going to work anyway
- No one likes me
- I just can't handle this
- My _____ (depression, anxiety, self hate) will never go away

Moon, Gary W. *Falling for God: Saying Yes to His Extravagant Proposal*. Waterbrook Press, 2004.

Thibodeaux, Mark E. *God's Voice within: the Ignatian Way to Discover God's Will*. Loyola Press, 2010.