

**KINGDOM  
VALUES**

*Devotional*

**TONY EVANS**

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Books by Tony Evans

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*Kingdom Men*

*Kingdom Men Rising Devotional*

*Kingdom Values*

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**TONY EVANS**



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# KINGDOM VALUES

## INTRODUCTION

We live in a time of cultural chaos. One of the primary reasons for this is the absence and rejection of a commonly held values system that develops and transfers a righteous and justice standard for character development based on an objective standard of truth.

Values refer to the desirable qualities that build character in people's lives. When the right values in the lives of people are cancelled or replaced by the wrong values, then not only is the character of a person diminished, but the environment in which they live becomes increasingly chaotic.

There is a need for God's people to lead the way in communicating and modeling God's values system in their own lives, and then aggressively transferring biblical values to those within the sphere of their influence.

God has given us a clearly defined list of values that ought to be the pursuit of everyone who takes God and His Word seriously. Because God and His Word are truth, then the values He outlines for us in the Beatitudes provide us the perfect paradigm for helping to replace chaos in the culture with order, decency, honesty, purity, unity, spirituality, and a myriad of other benefits that can help bring order to an otherwise uncivil life and society.

When God's truth serves as the foundation for defining and identifying the building blocks of character as His values are developed in and through our lives, then we can begin to see and experience the blessing and divine favor that He promises as the natural outgrowth, outcome, and result of operating on a kingdom values system.

Each devotional in this book provides a Scripture passage, a reflection, a chance for you to react and reflect on what you've read, and a prayer. Our hope is that these daily readings will help you think through God's truth and then apply it to your life. The end goal is for you to reflect the character and values of God in your family, your church, and your community.

# One

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“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

John 16:13

Truth reigns as the fundamental building block upon which all else either stands tall or topples. Somehow our culture has made followers of truth look like second-class citizens, outdated or old-fashioned. It’s popular to believe truth is subjective, or that everyone should search out “their own truth.” But truth, it turns out, is universal—we can’t make it up as we go along. Truth be told, everyone depends on truth.

Without truth, the whole world will collapse. Even the opponents of truth depend on it to function every day.

For example, how would you feel about flying on an airplane with an unsure pilot? If you heard your pilot come on the speaker before the flight and say, “We are about to take off and I’m pretty sure I know what buttons to push, but sometimes I like to mix it up,” what would you do? If you were like me, you would get off that plane.



Or, how would you feel about a surgeon who has discarded truth in his or her field? Let's say you were having a consultation with a surgeon and he or she said, "I watched a surgery like this online the other day and that surgeon was doing some pretty cool new things that I'd like to try to save time. I think I know where to cut, but I'll look again at that video just to be sure." Would you even stay for the rest of the consultation or would you, like me, get up and walk away?

What about a pharmacist who admits to guessing as your medication is put in the bottle? Would you take it? Or what if the pharmacist said, "I have a lot of meds to choose from on these shelves. Let me pick one that I feel is right for you!"

Truth governs all we rely on for our very existence. The truth that makes up the oxygen we breathe or the gravity that keeps us on this earth can't vary based on how it feels. We need truth, more than we realize sometimes.

*Reaction:* On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the most), indicate how highly you esteem truth as an absolute standard we must all follow.

1---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---10

## One

On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the most), indicate how highly you feel our society esteems truth as an absolute standard we must all follow.

1---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---10

What do you think is the major reason for the difference between the two scores?

*Prayer: Jesus, guide me into the full knowledge of truth. Show me where I am in error in my thoughts or beliefs so that I can correctly align myself under Your truth. Help our society to value truth more fully and honor it through actions that glorify You. Reveal ways in which I can better influence society and those around me to both love and value truth. Thank You for all You are doing in this area in my life. In Your name, amen.*

# Two

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But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 3:1-7

Have you ever played hide-and-seek? If you have, then you know that while one person counts, the rest of the people playing go hide. Well, it seems that in today's culture, truth has gone and hid. It's not hidden because God has hidden it. No, it's been hidden by the overabundance of our reliance on our emotions and ideologies to guide our thoughts and beliefs.

Too much of our culture today is operating based on how they want to think. Like the verse in Judges,

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (21:25).

Decisions these days are primarily being made based on feelings. Truth is being redefined based on feelings. Cultural norms are being established based on feelings. And while that is dangerous in and of itself, it gets even more dangerous when you realize that feelings change. In fact, they can change on a dime. Not only that, but feelings are different based on who you are and what perspective you have.

Feelings don't determine what's true. They never have, and they never will. Regardless of this truth, it seems as if everything has been left to be defined by emotions, manipulation, propaganda, or agendas, which has led to cataclysmic confusion and chaos in a myriad of realms.

For starters, we are witnessing psychological chaos all around us. People's mental trajectory has gone astray because truth no longer serves as a baseline for the mind. We also see philosophical chaos as individuals and scholars doodle with ideas and theories ad nauseum. Scripture calls this ever-learning yet never coming to the knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 3:7). Today people collect information like they used to collect trading cards or limited-edition Beanie Babies.

In order to return to a culture based on God's Word as the ultimate source of truth, we must pursue the

knowing of God and His Word with great sincerity and fervor. We must proclaim His Word as much as possible. And we must seek to model His kingdom values in all we say and do.

*Reaction:* In what ways does consistent time in God's Word help align your thoughts and actions with truth?

How does a removal of God's Word from society impact society's values?

This week, identify and commit to one way that you can increase your awareness and application of God's Word in your own life. Write down what you plan to do.

*Prayer:* Jesus, I want to know Your Word more than I do already. Will You give me an increased desire to spend time in Your Word? Show me how practical it is when I apply it to the everyday decisions of my life. I ask that You will open my spiritual eyes so that I can discern truth from lies in what I hear all around me, and do this by primarily rooting more of Your Word in my mind, heart, and soul. In Your name, amen.