

# COLM

**COMMUNITY OF LOVE MINISTRIES**

**AUGUST 2025**

WHERE LOVE LIVES... LOVE FOR GOD... LOVE FOR PEOPLE

**IS IT REAL TRUST...  
OR JUST SOMETHING WE TELL OURSELVES?**

**THE THREE FACES OF TRUTH**  
*Relational · Revelational · Redemptive*

**IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!**  
*"Confession"*

**SELF-CONTAINED:  
GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR WELLNESS**  
*Rediscovering Natural Health, Movement, and the Wisdom Within*





# THIS IS HOW I SEE IT...

Vashti

We have all been blessed to have our own opinion, perspective, or point-of-view....

It's not necessary that we all agree. It is my hope that you see the truth within my words for this is how I see it....

bycherylvashti

## IS IT REAL TRUST... OR JUST SOMETHING WE TELL OURSELVES?

There's something God has been quietly working out in me. It's the difference between thinking I trust Him and actually trusting Him. I'll never forget 2008. The world was reeling from the recession. People were losing jobs, homes, and hope. My husband lost his job too, and we found ourselves living without a paycheck, without the safety nets the world says we're supposed to have.

I was scared. I shed plenty of tears. And that's when I discovered something about myself: I thought I had been trusting God all along... until I actually had to. Yet through it all, God provided.

We kept our home. We always had food on our table. And God provided in ways I could never have orchestrated on my own. Without us even asking, He answered the call through family who helped us pay our mortgage. Friends sent tokens of love—just because. And then came a provision I'll never forget. God prompted me to ask my husband to call the city—about a refund he had inquired about three or four years earlier. The first time he called, they told us there was nothing owed to us. But after the job loss, I heard a whisper in my spirit to ask him to call again. He replied, "I already did that back when they were doing the refunds," and I said, "You never know." So he called again. This time, the city informed us there were several checks waiting for us—dating back to his first inquiry. A little over \$6,000 was due to us. God released it at just the right time. His provision was already in place before we even knew we'd need it.

That experience taught me something I've carried ever since: "We really don't know what we believe in... until we have to believe it." Trusting God is easy to say when everything is stable, but what about when things shift? Fast forward to now. My faith has grown, and I've seen God provide time and time again. But I still wrestle—especially with finances. As a freelancer, income comes in waves. So when I get extra, I tuck it away "just in case." There's wisdom in saving—but sometimes, I sense God asking: "Are you saving out of wisdom... or out of fear that I won't provide again?"

That's a hard but holy question. Sometimes we trust the safety of money more than the faithfulness

of God. Real trust isn't reckless—it's obedient. The greatest evidence of trust is peace. It's the steady anchor that says: He has come through before, He'll do it again, and my security is not in my account—it's in my God.

I believe God is preparing me for a new season. My photography work has slowed down, and I'm okay with that. I believe my books are part of my future income so I can give more time to ministry. I never planned to write books, but God awakened a gift I didn't even know was there. Now I know: God's vision for my books isn't just income—it's impact. To encourage. To heal. To speak life into hurting hearts. Even if I never make a dime, I'll keep writing—because God uses words to carry healing.

These days, people are so busy and isolated. Many have more relationship with religion than with the reality of God. But He is near. We actually see Him every day—in divine timing, in small nudges, in peace that makes no sense.

So I'm asking myself—and maybe you can too: Is my security in my bank account or in God? Am I being wise, or is fear leading me? Do I trust Him enough to act when He speaks—even if it empties my wallet? Do I believe He is enough?

**This Is How I See It!**




*“Trust is the bridge between  
God's promise and our peace.  
It's not built by knowing how,  
but by believing He will.”*

### **MY PRAYER FOR US:**

Lord, help us trust You—not just with our minds but with our whole hearts. Remove the fear that whispers “what if” and replace it with the steady assurance of who You are. Remind us that You are the same God yesterday, today, and forever—the One who has always made a way, even when we couldn't see it coming. Help us release our grip on control and surrender to the truth that You already know what we need before we even ask. Teach us to lean into that truth when life feels uncertain.

Thank You for the ways You've provided before—the moments we didn't even realize You were working behind the scenes. You had family prepared to help us, friends moved by compassion, and checks with our names on them long before we knew we'd need them. You are not reactive—You are always ahead of us. So today, remind us that Your provision is not just material, but emotional and spiritual too. Help us see that every open door, every gentle nudge, every unexpected peace, is You showing us we are not forgotten.

Help us rest in Your care, obey when You speak, and recognize You in the ordinary. Let us not become so consumed with fear or self-preservation that we miss the joy of walking by faith. Give us the courage to act when You say move, and the patience to wait when You say rest. Open our eyes to see You in the everyday—in the sun rising, in the kindness of others, in the quiet moments where Your presence meets us. Thank You for being a faithful God who can be trusted with everything. We trust You again today. Amen. 



# The Three Faces of Truth

## Relational · Revelational · Redemptive

by michaelgordon

**"If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."— John 8:31-32**

In our cultural moment, truth is often treated like soft clay—something each person kneads into a shape that fits their story. We hear, "That may be your truth, but I have mine." Yet iron sharpens iron, and the very edge of Scripture reminds us that real truth is not pliable. It is not an opinion, a principle, or even a creed. Truth is a living Person—Jesus Christ, the One who boldly declared, "I am the way, the Truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

John 8:31-32 unveils three radiant "faces" of this living Truth. Each face invites us deeper, like steps cut into a mountain path that lead to a breathtaking summit.

### 1. RELATIONAL TRUTH

**"If you continue in My word,  
you are truly My disciples..."**

A disciple doesn't merely like Jesus on spiritual social media; a disciple abides in Him. We linger in His words until they linger in us. The Greek word for "continue" (meno) means to remain, to make a home. When we let Scripture become the address of our hearts—studying, trusting, and obeying—truth becomes more than information; it becomes relationship. We move from tourists who visit the Bible on Sundays to residents who live in its neighborhoods every day.

### 2. REVELATIONAL TRUTH

**"...and you will know the truth..."**

Relationship births revelation. The more we walk

with Jesus, the more He unveils who He is, who we are, and how His kingdom really works. Truth is timeless—unchanged by trends, moods, or politics—yet it is also timely, freshly applied by the Holy Spirit to the exact contours of our lives. A heart open to truth becomes fertile soil where insight can sprout. Conversely, when we resist truth, we invite deception to plant weeds. But the promise stands: a teachable spirit will never be left in the dark. When the student is ready, the Teacher appears.

### 3. REDEMPTIVE TRUTH

**"...and the truth will set you free."**

Revelation always carries redemption in its wake. Divine truth does not only inform; it transforms. It snaps the chains forged by lies, pries open the doors of fear-filled prisons, and rewrites the painful narratives whispered by the enemy. When truth reigns, shame loses its throne, and freedom becomes our native air. Perspectives shift, worldviews heal, and destinies realign with God's original design.

### A CALL TO RECEIVE

Truth wears three faces because God desires us to know Him, see Him, and be liberated by Him. Relational, revelational, redemptive—each facet greets you with the same invitation: "Receive Me." Today, choose to dwell in His Word, ask for unveiled eyes, and welcome the freedom only Christ can give. When Truth moves from the page to the pulse of your life, counterfeit "truths" crumble, and authentic freedom stands tall.



## PRAYER

Thank You for sending Jesus—Truth in living flesh. Plant my heart deep in Your Word until I breathe its very cadence. Reveal to me what is real, expose every lie, and lead me into the wide-open spaces of Your freedom. May my life echo Your relational, revelational, and redemptive love so others may taste and see that the Lord is good.

Teach me to walk in truth when it's inconvenient, and to stand in it when it's costly. Help me to love truth more than comfort, more than approval, more than being right. Let Your Word become the lens through which I view myself, others, and the world around me. Train my heart to crave what is eternal over what is temporary.

Where I have unknowingly embraced lies or leaned on my own understanding, lovingly confront and correct me. Break down every false narrative, and let the light of Your truth restore clarity, identity, and purpose. Make me sensitive to the whispers of Your Spirit, and bold enough to follow even when the path is unfamiliar.

Let the freedom You give take root deep in my soul. May Your truth unlock joy where sorrow lingered, hope where fear once ruled, and clarity where confusion clouded. Use my life as a witness to the freedom and peace that can only come from knowing You.

In the name of Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life—Amen.



### It's All Greek to Me! "CONFESSION"

*"Agreeing With God from the Heart"*

by michaelgordon

Confession—what a loaded word. For some, it stirs images of whispered prayers behind a curtain. For others, it's associated with public

embarrassment or religious ritual. And for many Christians today, confession has been reduced to little more than reciting positive affirmations or quoting favorite scriptures. But the biblical meaning of confession goes far deeper. It's not about repetition—it's about agreement.

Our English word "confess" is rooted in the Greek compound word *homologe* (*homos* meaning "same," and *logos* meaning "word"). Put together, it literally means "to say the same word"—or more fully, to agree with God. Confession, then, is not about stringing together spiritual phrases to sound holy or rehearsing affirmations until we believe them. It's about aligning our hearts, our words, and our understanding with what God says. When we confess, we are saying, "God, I see it now—I agree with You."

Confession begins with humility. It requires that we lay down our pride, remove our filters, and admit where we've missed the mark. But it doesn't end there. When we confess our sins, as 1 John 1:9 promises, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Confession isn't just about admitting what's wrong—it's about coming into alignment with the One who makes all things right. It's not a shameful act—it's a healing one.

True confession is both a discipline and a gift. It is God's invitation to get honest, to be known, and to be made whole. Whether we are confessing our sin, our need, or our faith—confession draws us into closer relationship with the heart of God. It is where conviction meets mercy, where truth meets grace, and where bondage meets freedom. When we speak what God speaks—about our condition, about His promises, about our identity in Christ—we step into the beautiful rhythm of restoration.

So today, let us return to the true meaning of confession. Not as empty words, but as an act of surrender and agreement. Let us say with open hearts, "Lord, I agree with You." And in that agreement, may we find healing, peace, and the joy of being one with His truth.





# Self-Contained: God's Blueprint for Wellness

## REDISCOVERING NATURAL HEALTH, MOVEMENT, AND THE WISDOM WITHIN

bycherylvashti

In our natural, God-designed state, we were not made with genetically modified organisms, processed chemicals, or artificial additives. God formed us with wisdom and balance, giving us what we need to thrive through His creation—not through the artificial things man has made.

Yet today, we are bombarded by food that poisons, technology that overstimulates, and medications that often treat symptoms instead of causes.

### The Word of God reminds us:

**“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...”** – Hosea 4:6 (KJV)

It's not always instant destruction—it's often a slow breakdown caused by unawareness. But when we begin to feel that something is off, that may not just be a physical issue—it may be God alerting us through our body, calling us back to His wisdom.

When I move—even when I don't feel like walking, jumping, or lifting—I always feel better afterward. I don't need an energy drink. I just need to move my body. And how beautiful is it that God designed us to receive energy simply by allowing blood to flow through our bodies?

**“For in Him we live, and move, and have our being...”** – Acts 17:28 (KJV)

It's amazing: we are self-contained systems of healing and strength—crafted that way

by our Creator. And yet, many of us are unknowingly ailing. Doctors, seeing patterns based on age or statistics, often prescribe the same treatments to everyone without understanding the individual. But we live with our bodies 24/7. When something feels “off,” we should pause, reflect, and backtrack.

This past weekend, I wasn't feeling well. I had stayed up too late for two nights trying to complete some work, and my body felt the effects. But instead of giving in to that feeling, I walked.

- The first day, I pushed past the fatigue and walked four miles. My heart was pumping, my blood was flowing—I was on my way to recovery.
- The second day, still not 100% but better, I walked another four miles. Things were getting back in order.
- On the third day, I woke up energized and ready to move. I walked three miles—and I felt fully alive: energized, clear, and strong.

### Here's the spiritual foundation:

**“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”**

— Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Paul isn't just talking about spiritual acts here—he's saying that how we live in our physical bodies—what we do with them, how we care for them—is part of our worship. It's not just

Hippocrates —  
'Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.'

what happens in church or during prayer. Worship is a whole-life response to God's mercy.

When we:

- **Honor our bodies** through healthy choices,
- **Rest** as an act of trust,
- **Move and exercise** as a celebration of life,
- **Nourish ourselves** with what God created.

We're not just "being healthy"—we're giving God glory through stewardship. That's worship.

"Worship isn't only a song—it's every decision that honors God with the life He gave you. Stewardship is worship in motion."

And when I reflect on what God has already provided in creation, I remember:

**"And the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine."** – Ezekiel 47:12

#### Deeper Revelation:

Ezekiel 47:12 isn't just about natural health—it also points to spiritual truth.

- The **fruit** nourishes the body—and spiritually, it represents the **Fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5:22–23): love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the qualities that feed and build others up as we live them out.

- The **leaves** bring healing—and spiritually, they represent **the influence our lives have on others**. Just as leaves are used for medicine, your testimony, example, and obedience to God can become healing for someone else.

When we live well—spiritually and naturally—we not only feel better, we become better vessels. We feed others through our character and help heal others through our witness.

This is not a prescription. It's a testimony. I'm 67, moving into 68, and though I was diagnosed

years ago with high blood pressure, I made a choice. I told the doctor, "No pills. Let me work with my body." I made changes. I removed certain foods. My blood pressure corrected. Not because I ignored it—but because I listened to my body and to God.

Let your body teach you. Let God lead you. Take what He's already given—and use it.

*This is how I see it.*

**"God didn't just give us a spirit  
to worship Him.  
He gave us a body to steward,  
a mind to reason,  
and a life to live fully."**



**"TRUTH ISN'T  
ALWAYS LOUD,  
BUT IT IS ALWAYS  
STEADY.  
IT DOESN'T SHIFT  
WITH OPINION OR  
EMOTION—  
IT SIMPLY WAITS  
TO BE SEEN,  
HEARD, AND  
LIVED."**





## ♥ PRAYER REQUEST ♥

KINGDOM AWARENESS IN THE CHURCHES  
MARRIAGES - OUR NATION / AMERICA  
OUR INDIVIDUAL FAMILY UNITY  
OUR CHILDREN  
PASTORS AND LAY MEMBERS  
PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND FAMILY  
MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON  
GOVERNOR • SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE  
BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS  
THE HOMELESS / THE SICK / THE BEREAVED  
THE CITY OF CHICAGO  
OUR INDIVIDUAL NEIGHBORHOODS  
OUR NEIGHBORS  
THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE  
DOCTORS AND NURSES  
FIREMAN AND FIRST RESPONDERS  
PARAMEDICS / LAWYERS  
PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

## PLAN OF SALVATION

*Jesus loved you enough to die for YOU so that you could have eternal life. (John 3:16) If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, He will come into your life now. (Acts 16:33; Luke 13:3) Just do these four things to begin your new life in Christ.*

1. Realize that God loves you and has a good plan for your life. (John 3:16; Romans 10:10)
2. Realize that Man is sinful and separated from God and, therefore, cannot know or experience God's love and plan. (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23)
3. Realize that Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Only through Him can you know and experience God's love and plan. (Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6)
4. Realize that we must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:1-8)

If you are ready, I invite you to pray this prayer and God will come into your life right now: *Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be.*



To view our "Voices of Fatherless Child" project scan the QR code or go on YouTube to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10y6RXEnM8E>



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