Welcome FilAm! Today we are going to take you on a Journey to define WHAT IS THE TRUTH? ; And as we are going down the hallway of First Corinthians Chap 13; Verses 4-7 we are at verse 6 - Another characteristic of LOVE; And to summarize: We have heard that Love is patient; Love is Kind; that Love does not envy, is never boastful or proud, is not rude, is not easily angered, nor does it keep a record of wrongs; And today - Everyone say TODAY....... We are not going to focus on what Love doesn’t do but we will focus on what Love Does.... And that is that IT REJOICES IN THE TRUTH! Everyone say TRUTH! Are you with me? Let’s begin!

First let’s read this together in scripture aloud: [Slide 2]

4 “Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

LOVE;

The song you heard when I came up here is from an album of The Doobie Brothers a rock and roll group from a 1973 hit called: Long Train Runnin

And the key phrase in their song IS - "Without love, where would you be now?" sung by their lead singer - Tom Johnston
And as the story goes... without a little prodding from the band's producer, Johnston may have never written words for the tune — which he thought of as just a jam that he and his bandmates played in bars and during gigs.

They played this song for a long time, live, with different lyrics.

Or no lyrics - Here's a couple of things they called the song: "Rosie Pig Mosley," "Parliament." And so their producer Ted Templeman says "Dude, write some words. We need to cut this song."

The Lead Singer wasn’t so sure they needed to... As he states, they had been playing this song for three years all over the place, and it was a jam. It had a form, it had (plays chord progression), but there were no real verses. We’d take off and play solos for like, a half-hour.

As he states: “I’d make up the words and it was all non-sensical” - So... He goes in the bathroom in Amigo Studios – in Burbank, California and says, “That’s it... I am going to do this... NOW I MEAN TO SAY HE WAS GOING TO WRITE THE LYRICS TO THE SONG; A strange way to write lyrics but I guess if it works, IT WORKS.

So.... What does the phrase mean; Love – does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth?

And could someone please explain to me what Truth Is?

So.... Let’s define Truth: [Slide 3 : Truth]

The dictionary defines it as: A verified or indisputable fact, proposition or principle or as the state or character of being true. That is also the question that Pilate asked Jesus when he was brought before him during his trial. Pilate did not realize the depth of this question when he asked it, as he was probably just wanting Jesus to defend himself and his situation. To see Him grovel and ask and beg for His Life; However, what Pilate, and many others throughout the centuries, did not realize is that truth is not just a series of itemized facts and figures—truth is epitomized in the person of Jesus Christ.
John 18:37 “Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Pilate was the Roman governor at the time of Jesus’ trial and crucifixion, and he was known to all as a ruthless ruler over the Jewish nation. However, his world was shaken when he met Jesus. Even though he had the power to crucify him, Pilate was intrigued by the man that stood before him and who spoke with such humble strength and authority. Here he is expecting Jesus to plead for his life, but instead Jesus spoke about truth and his purpose for coming to the world. So Pilate asks Jesus the question about “What is truth?” He quickly realized that Jesus was innocent, even though he did not understand the true meaning of Jesus’ words.

[Slide 4]
Affirmatively: Love rejoices in the truth, is glad of the success of the gospel, commonly called the truth, by way of emphasis, in the New Testament; and rejoices to see men molded into an evangelical temperament by the Truth, and made good.

Love takes no pleasure in Man’s sins, but is highly delighted to see them do well and to approve themselves men of honor and integrity.

Example: [Slide: 4] David stated in Psalms 25:5; “Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.”

Psalms David was chosen by God to be the second king of Israel, even though he was one of the most unlikely candidates possible. His own father did not even bring him to the prophet Samuel when Samuel came to his house asking to see his sons. But the reason David was chosen was because he was “a man after God’s own
heart.” David had developed a relationship with God while watching his father’s sheep, and so he wanted the Lord to lead him and teach him truth. He knew ... Everyone say He Knew: that God was his salvation, and that the truth could only be found in him. He never knew Jesus himself, but he prophesied of his coming and was willing to wait for him how long? “all the day long.”

As Christians, we are privileged to be able to have a wonderful relationship with Jesus. This brings us much joy and hope into our lives, because He has given us his Spirit and his word to guide and strengthen us.

Point 1 is this: [Slide 6] We know that God’s word is truth, but we also know that Jesus is truth. Knowing and accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior will set us free from the ravages of sin and death. So as we give our lives to the Lord, we will know the truth and the truth will set us free.

John 8:32 “...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Our worship in spirit and truth is a reflection of our devotion to truth himself, Jesus, who is always pointing us to his father.

Point 2 is this: [Slide 7] Jesus TOLD US HE WAS THE TRUTH!

Jesus Demonstrates the TRUTH; Models the TRUTH; and Desires that we know the TRUTH – HIM!

John 14:6 - In his dissertation in Matthew, Jesus tells His Disciples - I go to prepare a Place for you so where I am, You can be also; And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself;”
4 And where I go ye know, and the way ye know. And Thomas says; “Lord, we know not where you are going; and how can we know the way?” And then Jesus says “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”]

The reason this is a powerful verse, is because it completely describes who Jesus is. It is a key statement that defines Jesus as truth. He is the only way we can reach the Father and have life—now and in eternity.

SO What do I want you to take away from this message?

[Slide 8]

Pt 3/ When we embrace Christ we are embracing the way he treated people while he was on earth. His love for people – You – Me – People He met; He demonstrated Truth in All He Did! How He interacted with people; Always telling them the Truth…. No Sugar Coating; No Pumping them up or manipulating them for what He wants them to do; Very Forthright… Very Open…. You are either on-board with Him [Truth] or you are not. And He knows you better than you know yourself.
I love the Lord, because he not only tells us what truth is, but he also tells us how to treat one another.
God loves the truth, but he also wants us to treat each other with love, kindness, and respect.

Pt 4/ God loves and desires truth.

He is truthful and He desires that we be truthful to who? Him – Yes, but He already knows us better than anyone. He desires us to be truthful with ourselves! Why do we water down the Gospel Message; And not be Transparent with others? Why do we make
believe that all is okay in our lives when it is not.... Living the Lie so to speak? Christ is OUR EXAMPLE... He is real with us and He wants us to be real with ourselves... Self examination goes a long way with Christ as, when we examine ourselves inwardly, we are faced with a dilemma; Do I Bow myself to Him and His ways and ASK FOR His help? Or do I continue to fumble around and pretend that it will all work out in the end?

Christ has already provided the answer to us and begs us to just place our hand in His and say “Please help me through this time, event, circumstance, trial, or situation [you fill in the blanks]. Why we do not do this is because of our Pride; our lack of transparency; and our feeling that we have it all under control.... We have it all together.... We are not at critical mass ------ yet.

And He said: Know the truth and the truth will what... Bind you; Confuse you; Give you excuses for why you can’t; shant; or dare not; No! It will: Set you free!

[Slide 9]

Pt. 5/ You are in a Spiritual Battle; And to do proper warfare you need to Put on Truth Spiritually!

Ephesians 6:14 “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness...”

Many Christians do not realize they are in a spiritual battle each and every day. The devil is always trying to distract and destroy us, so God has given us the armor and means to protect ourselves from his fiery darts. One of the most important defensive pieces of armor he has given us is the belt of truth. Clothing ourselves with truth is like clothing ourselves with Jesus...with light. Now how do you do this? Well I am very glad you asked! You very methodically and prayerfully take charge; you assume a position of strength in
the Lord; In Christ you call on the name of **EL ELYON**: "Most High"
(Deuteronomy 26:19) – derived from the Hebrew root for “to go up” or “ascend,” so the implication is of that which is the very highest. **El Elyon** denotes exaltation and speaks of absolute right to lordship.

Or **JEHOVAH-JIREH**: "The Lord Our Provider" (*Genesis 22:14*) – the name memorialized by Abraham when God

Or **JEHOVAH-RAPHA**: "The Lord Who Heals" (*Exodus 15:26*) – “I am Jehovah who heals you” both in body and soul. In body, by preserving from and curing diseases, and in soul, by pardoning iniquities.

**JEHOVAH-NISSI**: "The Lord Our Banner" (*Exodus 17:15*), where *banner* is understood to be a rallying place. This name commemorates the desert victory over the Amalekites in *Exodus 17*.

**JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH**: "The Lord Who Sanctifies, Makes Holy" (*Leviticus 20:8; Ezekiel 37:28*) – God makes it clear that He alone, not the law, can cleanse His people and make them holy.

**JEHOVAH-SHALOM**: "The Lord Our Peace" (*Judges 6:24*) – the name given by Gideon to the altar he built after the Angel of the Lord assured him he would not die as he thought he would after seeing Him.

**JEHOVAH-ELOHIM**: "LORD God" (*Genesis 2:4; Psalm 59:5*) – a combination of God’s unique name YHWH and the generic “Lord,” signifying that He is the Lord of Lords.

It depends on the situation and what you need but rest assured… take it to God, Lay it at His feet; And pray in Faith that He is already paving the way for your victory…. Then **sit back and watch as God makes a way**!

John 4:23 “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.”

When we love God, our hearts are drawn to him in worship.

Ephesians 4:15 “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ…”

Conclusion
Typically, we look at the **facts as the truth**, but that is only one way of looking at truth. There is another way of looking at truth
and that is **the person, Jesus Christ.** God wants us to not just look at the figures and principles but to look at Jesus as bringing truth to life instead. For Christians, there is more to consider—there is a **spiritual relationship** we can have with our Lord and Savior. We are called to be ambassadors for the truth, so we must handle it correctly so we can encourage others to take that relationship step with Jesus as well.

Now we are going to have an Altar Call and offer to each of you an opportunity to come forward and receive prayer for any number of things: Each week we do this to offer to you the ability to **receive of the Lord** – His Touch for Healing; His Vision for your Life; His Guidance and Direction for Your Walk with Him;

Please – as the music plays – come forward to the altar or to one of our prayer team members and allow Him/Her to touch you for **healing, restoration, or even to help you as you stand in the gap for a Loved One; We all need Him to help us daily and all we need to do is to humble ourselves and ask Him for whatever we need.**

Please do this as the music plays.

As We Close I want to say a prayer for this Body of Believers:
Dear God; In Hope & Faith; for Your Grace of Our Savior we are fully reminded every day of Your Love for us and that You ARE THE TRUTH in all things!

Give *us the ability to know this in our hearts daily; to be reminded of every circumstance that enters our lives; and to learn to call on you – The Truth - in every one of our circumstances. There are those who need to do just that today... allow Christ’s Love-Grace – and Truth to abide in you.