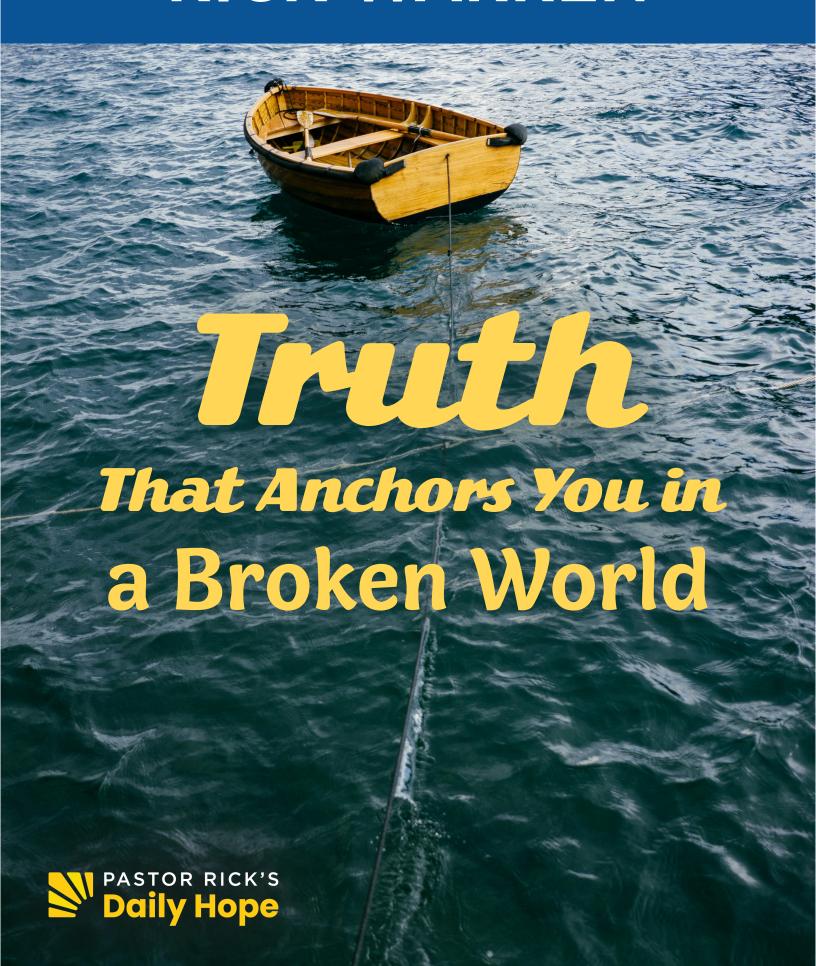
# **RICK WARREN**

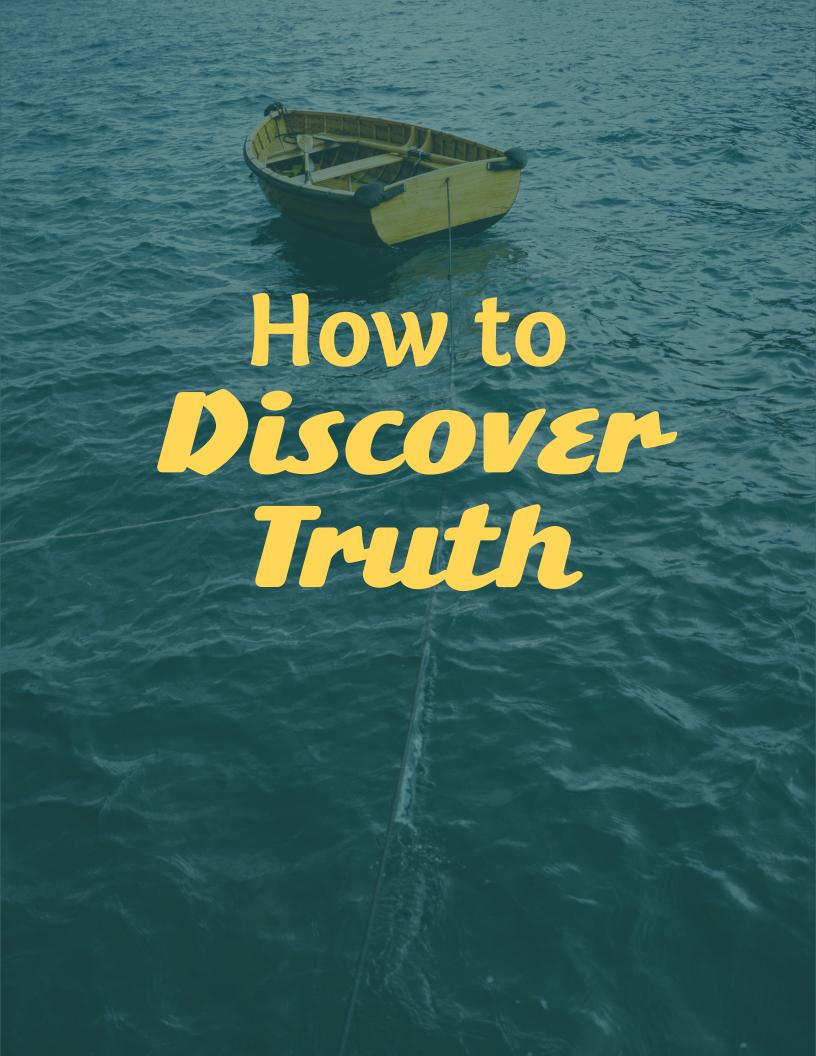


Every day, we're bombarded by the idea that truth is relative, that everyone has their own version of it. And yet, you can't miss the pain and brokenness all around you—maybe even in your own life.

But God has something to say about all of that! He wants you to know the truth—real, unshakable truth—and to be confident that even in the middle of the brokenness, he's still in control. He still holds this world—and your life—in his hands.

The Bible says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1 ESV). So how do you live out God's truth in a world that feels upside down? It starts by knowing what truth is. Then, you can live with confidence and hope, even in the chaos.

Let's explore five ways to discover truth—and then look at four ways to live it out in this broken world.



Can we really know what's true? The reality is—yes, you can! Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32 NIV).

Here are five ways to discover truth:

#### 1. Through Creation

You can learn a lot about God simply by looking at nature—at his creation. Romans 1:20 says, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse" (NIV). In other words, you can learn a lot about God just by going outside. You can see that he loves variety, he's powerful, he's creative, and he's organized.

## 2. Through Conscience

God has hardwired a conscience into each of us that tells us some things are always right and some things are always wrong. The Message paraphrase says it like this: "God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within them that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong" (Romans 2:14-15).

## 3. Through Consideration

God gave you the ability to reason, so don't waste it when it comes to figuring out the truth. He wants you to take time to examine evidence and investigate things you're not sure about. Proverbs 14:15 says, "Fools will believe anything, but the wise think about what they do" (NCV).

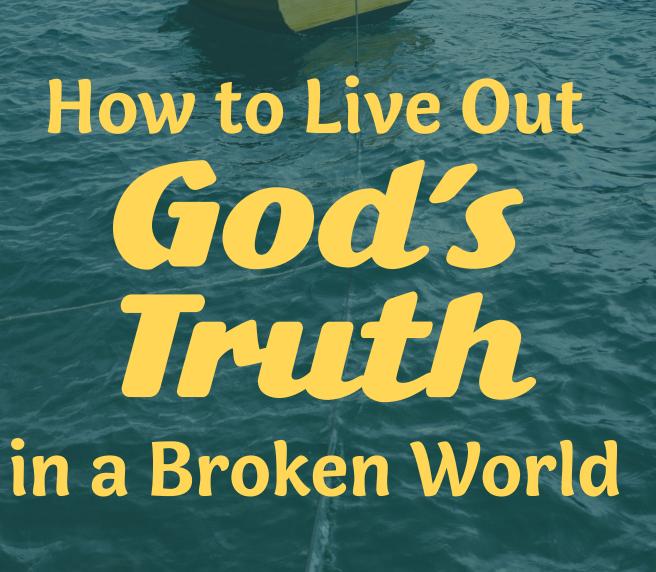
## 4. Through God's Commandments

Second Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right" (NLT). The Bible helps you know what is—and isn't—true about the world around you.

## 5. Through Christ

In Christ, God came to earth in human form to personify truth. Truth is not a principle or a religion or a ritual; truth is the person of Jesus Christ. One of the clearest verses in the Bible says, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6 NIV).

Are you questioning what's true? It's time to get some clarity—because the answers are going to shape how you live. When you ask God to reveal his truth to you, he won't disappoint! The Bible promises, "Those who believe him discover that God is a fountain of truth" (John 3:33 TLB).



God wants his people to be a light in the darkness, not to withdraw and hide from the world. He wants his message of hope to reach everyone. The Bible says, "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house" (Matthew 5:14-15 NLT).

Here are four ways to live out God's truth in a broken world:

## 1. Receive God's grace daily.

One day God will put all things right in this world. But today, he offers grace daily to his followers. The Bible says this: "Through the sin of [Adam] death began to rule. . . . But how much greater is the result of what was done by the one man, Jesus Christ! All who receive God's abundant grace and are freely put right with him will rule in life through Christ" (Romans 5:17 GNT).

## 2. Remember this place is temporary.

Don't get too caught up in the values and trends of this fallen world. Nothing you see here is going to last. In fact, there are only two things that will last: God's Word and people. So invest your life in those two things. As The Living Bible paraphrase says, "This world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven" (Hebrews 13:14).

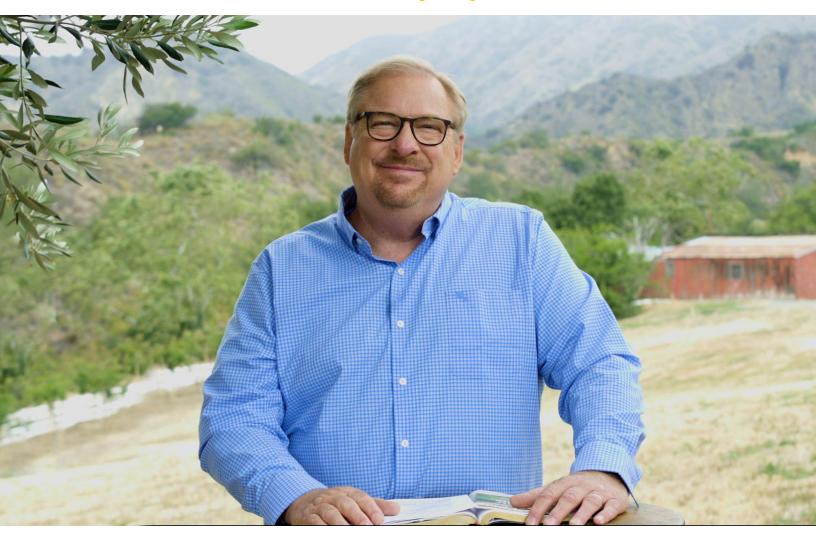
## 3. Reject man-made solutions.

Because this world is broken, we all have unmet needs. Yours might be for love, sex, physical health, companionship, or wealth. But don't give in to the temptation to meet your needs your own way. Instead, follow God's plan—it's the only way to be satisfied in the long-term: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst" (John 4:13-14 NIV).

#### 4. Reach out with God's love.

All around you, people are living without hope. So once you find hope through Jesus, you need to pass it on! As The Message paraphrase says, "Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the life-giving Message into the night" (Philippians 2:15).





Rick Warren is the founding pastor of Saddleback Church in Southern California with campuses in major cities around the world.

He is the author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, which has been translated into over 200 languages and sold more than 50 million copies in all formats.

Pastor Rick offers encouragement each day through Daily Hope—his trusted Bible teaching ministry. You can read, watch, or listen anytime at <a href="PastorRick.com">PastorRick.com</a>.