

# Letters on the Word

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## TRUTH VS. SENSE KNOWLEDGE

*The Lord ... will have all men saved and come to the truth (1 Tim 2:4).*

Greetings dear brothers and sisters in the Lord!

What an accurate, precise and wonderful God of truth we serve. I spent yesterday evening sitting under and enjoying the ministry of Prophet C. Y. Annor at the International Central Gospel Church (ICGC) in Atlanta, and continue to marvel at the precision and accuracy of our God. Through the gift of prophecy, the accuracy of our Lord's knowledge was demonstrated over and over again as the prophet called out various people from the congregation by name and location (e.g., row, 7, seat #1 from the right, etc.), prophesied to them and prayed for them.

The Word of God tells us that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (i.e., the anointed one) is the truth

(John 14:6). The same Word tells us that if we know the truth, the truth will make us free. (John 8:32)

What is truth? This is a question that many have considered at one time or another. The Lord has been teaching me about truth and has opened my eyes to some revelations on the truth. The truth is not compartmentalized. It is not confined to Sunday mornings and services. It is the very foundation of *every area* of life. And our Heavenly Father will have us know and walk in the truth. Indeed, he says that he has no greater joy than to hear that *his children* walk in truth.

Who are *his children*? They are those who have entered into covenant with him through his only begotten son Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

How do you enter into covenant with him? You acknowledge that you have sinned and fallen short of his glory (Romans 3:23). You receive his only begotten Son as your Lord and Savior, and walk into eternal life (John 3:16): into the promises and blessings of the New Covenant, recorded in the New Testament. The Lord is eager that all be saved and come to know the truth (1 Tim 2:4). However, *you* have a part to play in being saved and becoming his child. The way you become the child of God is through spiritual adoption through his only begotten Son (Eph 1:5). Thus, according to his Word, he created everyone (Gen 1), but only those who are spiritually adopted into his Kingdom through His Son are His children. Become a child of God and walk in the truth. The truth will make you free! Glory be to God!

### PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, this is the day that you have made and I rejoice and am glad in it. I do not take today for granted. Thank you for your continued provision, protection and guidance. Open my spiritual eyes (i.e., my understanding) and cause me to know the truth and walk in it, in every area of my life, so that my life will be a testament to Your awesome glory. And I will return to you all the glory, honor and praise in Jesus' precious name, Amen.



*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth (1 John 1:4)*

*...[God] will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2: 4)*

# WHAT IS TRUTH? HOW DO I FIND IT?

What is *truth*? Truth is defined as the body of real things, events and facts; *actuality* (Merriam-Webster, 2003). The Bible tells us that the truth is in Jesus (Eph 4:21). Jesus says: "I am the way, the truth and the light." (John 14:6). Therefore, not only is the truth in Jesus, but *Jesus is the truth*. The Word tells me that if I know the truth, then the truth shall make me free (John 8:32). Small wonder then that I am unrelenting in my pursuit of knowing the Lord intimately.

**Truth is the body of real things, events and facts; actuality.**

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the God of truth.

**He is the Rock. His work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. (Deut 32:4)**

This *same* God is the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, (i.e., the anointed one) is the *full manifestation* of the glory of God in the flesh. He is the image of the invisible God (Col 1:15). The Bible says that Jesus, the Word, was with God in the beginning (John 1:1). The Bible also tells us that Jesus knew all things that should come upon him (John 18:4). Thus, we see that Jesus' knowledge of the truth encompasses the past, present and future.

Jesus is the only begotten son of God. All other sons of God become sons by spiritual adoption through Jesus Christ, who is the firstborn among all brethren in the Kingdom of God (Romans 8:29; Col 1:15).

**For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)**

What does it mean to be a *son of God*? It means that you are *led by the Spirit of God* (Romans 8:14).

**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

**Romans 8:14**

As a son of God then, you will come to know the truth: it is inevitable; so long as you are led by the Spirit of God, you will come to know the truth. This is part of your heritage as a son of God. Indeed, the Word tells us that when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide us into all truth (John 16:3a).

**Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**

**John 16:13**

Thus, truth is revealed to the sons of God by the Spirit of truth. This Spirit of truth is the same Holy Spirit who was promised in Mark 16:17 and John 14:26, and given to the followers of Jesus Christ at Pentecost (Acts 2):

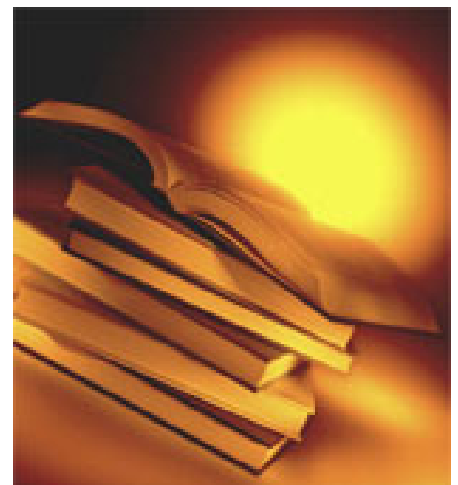
**1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2: 1-4)**

Not only does the Holy Spirit lead us (i.e., the followers of Jesus Christ) into all truth, he also teaches us *all things*.

**But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. (1 John 2:27)**

Today, over 2000 years since the Holy Ghost came to dwell within the followers of Christ, He continues to lead us into all truth, so long as we are born again and submit ourselves to be led by the Spirit of God. In other words, I come to know the truth by revelation. Indeed, the whole Bible is a revelation from God to man. It is *revelation knowledge*, contrasted with *sense knowledge*. Sense knowledge is *derived from* the five senses of man: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch.

The truth is not subject to change from one generation to another or from one location to another (Psalm 100:5). However, based on experience, we find that knowledge gained solely through the five senses can change across the centuries of time and from place to place. From God's perspective, there is no new thing under the sun (Eccl 1: 9b) but from our limited perspective, there is progressive discovery, subject to corrections and refinements over time.



# REVELATION KNOWLEDGE VS. SENSE KNOWLEDGE

The differences between revelation knowledge and sense knowledge are addressed in Dr. E. W. Kenyon's treatise: *"The Two Kinds of Knowledge"* (2004). Dr. Kenyon explains that the great body of knowledge we have in the world today has come to us through the five senses. "The human body has really been the laboratory for the testing and investigation of all human activities. Every step in the fields of Chemistry, Mechanics, Metallurgy, Surgery, Mental Sciences, and the Arts, has come from one common source: [the five senses]." ... However, they are not always reliable:

"Their findings are continually being revised.

Their limitations are known and reckoned upon.

Yet what ministers they have been.

We would not, for one moment, criticize them.



[However], we know where their frontiers are located." ...

"They cannot know the beginning of things.

They can only speculate when they arrive at the last frontier of experimentation.

They know nothing of:

- The reason for creation.
- The reason and origin of man.
- The origin of life.

- The origin of motion.
- The origin of matter.
- The origin of force." ...

"You know whenever man has reached the limits of Sense Knowledge. He at once turns philosopher or guesser."

Dr. Kenyon goes on to contrast sense knowledge with God's *revelation knowledge*: i.e., the knowledge we receive directly from God: some of which has been recorded in the Bible, some of which is being received today; and some of which will be received in the future — all of which are united by constancy and consistency, not subject to change as a function of time and space.

"This Revelation has come to us on the level of Sense Knowledge, in language we can understand." ... "It would be the most natural thing in the world if God should wish to communicate with this man, and if He did communicate with him, He would need to come to man's level. It would have to be a communication that the Senses could understand. It would be in the realm of Sense Knowledge." ... "It would need to be written through men whom He controlled, who yielded themselves to His sway and wrote as He moved them." The Bible is thus a revelation from God to man.

**The Bible's "outstanding characteristic, which differentiates it from every other book is that it is a Revelation from God to man."**

**-E. W. Kenyon**

- "It is a Revelation of the Reason for Creation.
- It is a Revelation of the Way of Creation, how it actually came into being by faith, and that the Creator is a Faith God.

- It is a Revelation of the source of Life.
- It is a Revelation of sin and its origin and of man's redemption from its dominion and authority.
- It is a Revelation of the family of God, of man's place in the heart dream of the Creator.
- It is a Revelation of the why of the Jewish nation.
- It is a Revelation of the most outstanding character of human history, the Man of Galilee, proved to be the Son of God by His Resurrection from the dead.
- It is a Revelation of a perfect Redemption on legal grounds.
- It is a Revelation of a New Creation created in Christ Jesus.
- It is a Revelation of the cause of sin, suffering, and death, and of their final destruction.
- It is a Revelation of the New Heaven and a New Earth and man's eternity with God in perfect bliss.

This Revelation is necessary to Sense Knowledge.

It crowns Sense Knowledge." ...

"Revelation Knowledge is needed to fill the gaps of Sense Knowledge."

How have these truths helped me? In at least three ways. First of all, the growth and progressive refinement of sense knowledge over time makes me realize more clearly that *every generation has the luxury of believing that they are at the cutting edge of knowledge*. Just as we in the 21st Century believe that we are most modern and advanced, so did the generations of the 19th, 10th and 5th centuries; and so, most likely, will the generations of the 22nd, 34th and 69th centuries, if they have the opportunity to live out their lives on earth. And just as our generation today regards generations of the 6th and 7th Centu-

# VALUING TRUTH

ries as relatively backward, so, most likely, will the generations of the 66th and 67th centuries regard our 21st Century generations as relatively backward ... Sense knowledge is incomplete and thus subject to change ...

**Every generation has the luxury of believing that they are at the cutting edge of knowledge.**

Second, the changeless truth is all the more invaluable to me. I desire earnestly to know the truth that transcends all time and space: that which does not change across the centuries of time or from place to place. I can operate within the current frontiers of sense knowledge, appreciating its benefits and yet understanding its limitations. I turn to Jesus Christ for the unchanging truth, however, understanding that the Holy Spirit has been commissioned to lead me into all truth. This truth is not compartmentalized: it is truth in every domain of human activity. My access to revelation knowledge is essential for receiving my salvation, eternal life, knowing and executing my purpose within the Kingdom of God here on earth, and living a life that is pleasing to my Heavenly Father, just as it is essential to my making *enduring* contributions to scientific and engineering knowledge. Indeed, several scientists and engineers have acknowledged the importance of revelation knowledge in their work. For example, the well-known scientist Albert Einstein reflects his desire to know

the revelation truth of God as Creator in one of his famous quotes: “*I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know his thoughts. The rest are details.*”

**I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element.**

**I want to know his thoughts.**

**The rest are details.**

**-Albert Einstein**

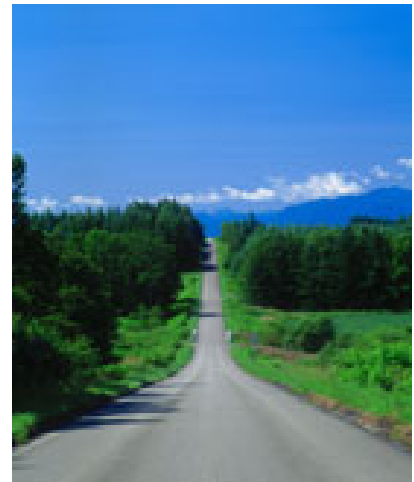
The *truth content* in the world’s current body of knowledge will *never change*.

Third, I am all the more interested in cultivating a *stronger relationship* with my Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Why? Because, among numerous other blessings, the secret (i.e., revelation knowledge) of the Lord is with those who are close to him.

**The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him ...**

**Psalms 25:14**

Indeed, when the Lord calls you friend (rather than servant), it means that unlike a servant, you are privy to what He is doing (John 15:15). As the Lord says in James 4:8a, if I draw near to Him, He will draw near to me. The quality of my relationship to God is thus controlled by me, not by Him. This tells me that, be-



yond being born again, I am responsible for cultivating an intimate relationship with my Heavenly Father.

**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.**

**James 4:8a**

The Word gives me the recipe for cultivating a deeper, more intimate relationship with our Father. And I am thoroughly encouraged because the Lord ... will have *all men* saved and come to know the truth (1 Tim 2:4).

## References

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*Your blessings abound in Christ Jesus, the Son of God!*