



Berean Christian Fellowship

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How Do You Know?

“O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly *and* empty chatter *and* the opposing arguments of what is falsely called ‘knowledge’ ” (1 Timothy 6:20 NASB).

Have you ever stopped to consider just how much of what you “know” comes from what you hear? Are you aware of where your doctrines come from? There is very little in life that we know first-hand—the vast majority of what occupies our minds comes from others. For example, someone might ask you why the Sun rises, why it rains, or how a light bulb works, and you would likely say you “know,” but where did your knowledge come from? Have you toured space, hugged a cloud, or built a light bulb from scratch? Most likely not—you trust other people who claim to have done just that, and what they say to you seems believable. We take men’s words on faith, but out of the same men’s hearts come “*evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders*” (Matthew 15:19) - not the most charming result from a background check, is it? Much of what we “know” about life is taken entirely on faith from what men of the world say, because we believe no one could get away with lying to us. For Believers, however, the only knowledge we TRULY know comes from God’s Word under the instruction of the Holy Spirit, for God “*cannot lie*” (Titus 1:2).

We should remember this when listening to news about things happening in Washington DC, China, or the Middle East—few of us can verify this testimony. We take it on faith, believing it is true because we are told they are “trustworthy” sources and how could they lie to so many people? How trusting of us!

Throughout history conspiracies large and small have provided false knowledge to sway individuals and nations to certain actions.

As Believers, we need to look no further than the conspiracy in the Garden of Eden—here, the Serpent gave Adam and Eve false knowledge to bring a desired outcome. Adam and Eve believed what they heard because he seemed like a trustworthy source, and he told them something that seemed believable. The same spirit that spoke through the Serpent is speaking today through microphones, speakers, newspapers, internet, and TVs in the world he rules (John 12:31). Is he content with that? No, he even infiltrates the Church and speaks from the pulpit itself: “*From among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them*” (Acts 20:30) — “*beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves*” (Matthew 7:15). A prophet is supposed to bear news from a trustworthy source, but what if that source isn’t trustworthy? — “*such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light*” (2 Corinthians 11:13-14) — swaying people to act by their “knowledge.”

But true Believers are entrusted with knowledge from God having “*received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words*” (1 Corinthians 2:12-13). May we guard God’s Word and pay attention to what we open our ears to, testing “*the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world*” (1 John 4:1). Even so. Amen.