**Lesson: Knowing That We Know**

How do we know that we know? I mean, how can we be sure, given the myriad of speculations being advanced as truth? To the secularists all truth is relative to their vantage point but not necessarily to anybody else’s. To the atheists and nihilists, it doesn’t matter since they do not believe they will be held accountable by a supreme being. Since they believe that death is the end, then it will be over for them at the second death. In the interest of space, we will forgo calling out other false doctrines and errant belief systems which do not trust in the salvation of Jesus Christ (MAT 16:13–16).

Perhaps an equally poignant question is how do we know that we don’t know? Well, my friends, that is a far easier question to answer. For example, we don’t know when we will die, or when Christ will return, or if there is profound meaning to be gleaned from random events, dreams, or life’s turns and stop signs. There are plenty of theories about the relevance of such things, but they are unproven and/or ambiguous. Do not trust in partial truths; by definition, truth must be impartial and incontrovertible. When you keep searching you eventually find it.

To be absolutely sure necessitates verification and validation. To illustrate, our judicial system is not supposed to convict someone of a capital crime when there is reasonable doubt. But to be utterly assured of justice one would require no doubt. This alternative implies truth or certainty which is absolute. Unfortunately, only God’s justice is absolute. The aforementioned skeptics cannot accept absolutes, especially when it comes to truth. As such, they must be absolutely wrong because truth can be verified if it comports with reality. However, truth can change when reality changes. That you are alive today may not be true tomorrow; whereas you cannot be alive and dead at the same time. But is it possible to die and live again? Yes, if you believe God’s Word.

* GEN 27:2 ~ Isaac said, “Now I am old, and I know not the day of my death.”
* DEU 18:20–22 ~ If a prophet presumes to speak on my (God’s) behalf when I have not directed them to do so, or speaks in the name of other gods, he or she will die. If people wonder how they will know what prophecy comes from the Lord, they can observe if the words spoken by the prophet come true or not. Do not be afraid of a prophet who speaks presumptuously.
* MAT 24:35–36 ~ Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will remain true forever. Truly I say to you, nobody knows that day and hour, not the angels in heaven, but my Father only.”
* 1 CO 13:12 ~ For now we see a dim image as if looking into a cloudy mirror; but someday we will see clearly, face to face. Now I know in part; but then I will know in full, even as I am known.

The most sought-after truth is whether God exists. Interestingly, when you ponder it carefully it becomes intuitively obvious that He does. Then there is the question of the truthfulness of God’s Word. It is unscholarly to outright dismiss the vast evidence demonstrating the reliability and validity of the Holy Bible, especially in the case of Biblical prophecy which comes true to the finest detail. There is no other explanation but God. How often does it happen when all of the evidence points in one direction? You see, everyone gets to examine the proof of God, because He is everywhere and so is the proof. Even the demons believe there is a God and it scares the daylights out of them, for they know they have double-crossed Him and are doomed. When Christ cast out demons they evacuated posthaste; they feared Him and acknowledged that He was God’s Son (MAR 5:1–16).

* EXO 18:10–11 ~ Jethro (Moses’s father-in-law) said to Moses, “Now I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods because of the things He did to Pharaoh and the Egyptians on behalf of Israel.”
* JOB 42:1–2 ~ Job said to the Lord, “I know that you can do everything, and that no thought can be hidden from you.”
* PSA 135:5–6 ~ I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever pleased the Lord, that is what He did both in heaven and on the earth, including the seas and the depths.
* MAR 1:23–25; LUK 4:33–35 ~ A man possessed by a demon came out from the synagogue yelling, “Leave us alone; what do want with us Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” Jesus told him, “Be quiet,” and ordered the demon, “Come out of him.” And the demon threw the man to the ground and came out, leaving the man unharmed.
* 1 JO 5:19–20 ~ We know that we are of God, and that the whole world is wicked. We also know that the Son of God has come giving us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we abide in God who is true, including His Son Jesus Christ who is truly God and the way to eternal life.

As was the case with Israel, the USA has seen the providence of God working throughout our history. Our forefathers and founders spoke of this often. It defies the laws of probability the number of calamities our nation dodged, the adversity that we overcame, and the odds that we beat to make it this far. As a research psychologist and statistician, I find that amazing and convincing. Then there is the magnificence of God’s creation itself with its countless intricacies, calibration, and beauty. How can one deny that it is beyond anything humankind has ever invented, produced, or imagined? The mystery is how did God create all of this from things that we cannot even see, perceive, or observe?

To be sure, there is power in truth for the Holy Spirit is Truth (JOH 14:26; JOH 16:13–15). And He doesn’t only breathe life into every soul, but the Word (*Logos*) itself is God-breathed. That the Word gives life must certainly be true because Jesus Christ, who was the Word made flesh, was revived by the Holy Spirit after being tortured to death. Thank God for that because it makes the promise of the resurrection secure for all who believe. Those clinging to that truth rejoice and have hope, despite life’s setbacks. Regarding God’s chosen who make it out alive and into His kingdom, it will be the last they taste of death; for the rest it will be the last they taste of life.

* PSA 119:160 ~ God’s Word is true from the very beginning; every one of His righteous judgments endure forever.
* ECC 3:14–15 ~ I know that whatever God does it will endure forever; nothing can be added to it or subtracted from it. God does this so that people will fear Him. Whatever is, already has been, and what is yet to come also has been, and that which has passed will be brought to account.
* JOS 2:9 ~ Rahab said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given to you this land, and your terror is coming upon us; all the inhabitants of Jericho will faint because of you.”
* ROM 8:26–28 ~ God’s Spirit helps us in our weakness; His Spirit intercedes for us when we pray. The mind of the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to God’s will. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.
* 2 TI 3:16 ~ All scripture is inspired by God. God’s Word provides the doctrine of truth, refutes that which is false, and instructs all people in the ways of righteousness.
* HEB 10:30 ~ We know the Lord who has said, “Vengeance belongs to me, I will recompense. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.”

Consider the sophistication of every inhabitant on Earth. Unquestionably, human beings are among the most complicated of God’s creations. And He has given us dominion over this planet and other creatures. What did we do to deserve this? Not a thing, only that God loves us like His own sons and daughters. He wants our respect and trust, as a perfect Father deserves. Isn’t respect what you want from your kids, or from your parents? It makes more sense to put your faith and hope in God than in someone else, however. Not that people can never trust one another, but not absolutely; even so, we should respect others whether we trust them completely or not.

* JOB 19:25–26 ~ I know that my Redeemer lives and that He will stand upon the earth. And although my flesh will have been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. I will see Him with my own eyes and I yearn for that day.
* PSA 144:3 ~ Oh Lord, what are humans that you are mindful of us! Or our children that you also would think of them?
* 1 JO 3:2 ~ Dear friends, now we are the children of God, and what we will become is not yet known. But we do know this: when He returns for us, we will become like Him, for we shall see Him as He really is.

God provides all we need to sustain our bodies and lives, not to mention the wisdom and understanding to know Him: His laws, His truth, and His ways. He began dispensing this knowledge to the Jews via Moses and the prophets, and then turned to educating the world through His own Son and the apostles. People of all walks are discovering the truth and following Jesus. God has revealed essential knowledge in His Holy Word; and it is still spreading like wildfire. Everyone can come to God in prayer and ask Him anything, and He will answer. I recommend that the first thing you ask Him is for forgiveness through His Son. Then you can prepare to bring others to faith and everlasting life, so the truth will continue to proliferate.

* PRO 2:1–6 ~ My child, if you would receive my words and hold fast to my commandments, so that you listen to wisdom and desire understanding; if you seek knowledge and truth instead of worldly riches; then you will understand the fear of the Lord and you will find the knowledge of God, for He alone provides wisdom and from Him comes all knowledge and understanding.
* JOH 3:2 ~ A Pharisee named Nicodemus came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, because no man can perform the miracles that you have done unless God is in Him.”
* JOH 4:25–26 ~ The Samaritan woman at the well said to Jesus, “I know when Messiah comes who is called Christ, that He will teach us all things.” Jesus replied, “I who speaks am He.”
* JOH 8:31–32 ~ Jesus said, “If you continue in my Word, then you are indeed my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
* JOH 11:24–26 ~ Martha said to Jesus, “I know that my brother Lazarus will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus replied, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, though they were dead, yet shall they live. Whoever believes in me will never die.”
* JAM 1:5 ~ If any of you lack wisdom, ask God who gives generously to all people.

One thing that sets people apart from other living creatures is our realization of morality. Everybody has a conscience and inherently knows right from wrong. It is spelled out in God’s Law which is the foundation of other laws and standards of decency. Even those who deny God still manage to obey man’s laws, fully understanding the consequences if they don’t. Listen to your inner spirit where God has implanted into your heart the truth, the freedom to choose, and the knowhow to obey Him. God selects those who choose Him to be His people, though all are equally special and loved by Him, even the ones that don’t make it. It follows that we should treat one another as special and worthy of our love.

* ECC 8:12 ~ Though a sinner does evil and lives a long life, I know it will be better for those who fear God and worship Him.
* ISA 59:12 ~ Our transgressions are innumerable and they testify against us. Our sins follow us all of our lives for we know what we have done.
* JER 11:18 ~ The Lord warned me about certain people and told me what they were doing.
* ROM 7:14 ~ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold to sin.
* ROM 7:18 ~ I know that nothing about my flesh can be good; though I want to do good I cannot seem to do it.
* ROM 8:22–23 ~ We know that the whole creation groans with pain together until now. We who possess the fruits of the Spirit groan within ourselves, as we await the adoption and the resurrection of our bodies.
* 1 TI 1:8–9 ~ We know that the law is good when applied lawfully; the law was not meant for the righteous but for the lawless, ungodly, disobedient, and unrighteous.
* 1 JO 2:3–4 ~ We know that we can know God if we keep His commandments. Whoever says, “I know Him,” but does not keep His commandments is a liar, for the truth is not in him.
* 1 JO 3:24 ~ Those who keep God’s commandments live in Him, and He lives in them. We know that He lives in us by the Spirit which he has given us.

So then, the best way to know that you know is to listen to the Holy Spirit who knows all things. He has revealed much in the Holy Bible and through His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. If you seek truth, you should start with the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. His truth is absolute, so anything that does not agree can never be true. Faith is required since the Holy Spirit is what enables us to grasp God’s complicated truth and acquire pieces of His wisdom which transcend the whole of humanity.

Thus, the primary source for validating truth is to ensure it agrees with the Holy Bible. If it comes from the mouth of God, believe it. Science is a secondary means of verifying facts by examining God’s other major work, the Book of Nature. The examination of the universe, its reality, enormity, and regularity can produce truth, and the way we can be sure is when it agrees with the Bible. In other words, when the Bible and science converge upon a single truth, we can know that we know. For instance, in the last century science figured out that the universe (and Earth) had a beginning, just like every lifeform which has lived on this orb. The Bible presented this truth from the start of Genesis, thousands of years ago. We also know from science that the universe will fade away through a process called entropy; this agrees with the Bible which clearly states that heaven and earth will pass away (MAT 24:35; MAT 28:18–20; REV 21:1). Similarly, living beings will live and they will pass away; both science and the Bible are in perfect agreement on this matter.

What science cannot establish is that the dead will come alive again to face judgment (ISA 26:19; REV 20:5–15), after which those judged not guilty will live forevermore while the guilty will die a second death (DAN 12:2; JOH 5:28–29). Such wisdom only can be grasped by trusting the Word of God, who has promised eternal life via the sacrifice of His Son and His subsequent resurrection. Science will not be able to corroborate the resurrection of humankind since it has not happened yet (though the resurrection of Christ has been confirmed). Science cannot prove the resurrection of humankind to be true or untrue since this event cannot be observed, predicted, or measured scientifically. Actually, there are a great many true and factual things which science has yet to explain, such as how the universe could have come into existence from “nothing” or more accurately, from “things unseen” (2 CO 4:18; HEB 11:3). Anyone who knows God knows that He created all things whether visible or invisible, with one exception: Himself, for God is not a created being, He has always been and always will be (MAL 3:8; HEB 10–11; HEB 13:8; JAM 1:17). But one could suppose that God is the reason for His own existence. God certainly and without a doubt is the reason for our existence, and science cannot dispute this fact though many scientists will try. Not me, for I am convinced beyond all possible doubt (a standard seldom achieved through science where reasonable doubt is usually set at five percent). How can you know that you know? When there is absolutely zero doubt. If you are reading this, you are not dead, yet. Is there any doubt in your mind about that? If so, you might want to consult a psychiatrist.

In conclusion, what is your answer to this question, “Do you know that you are saved?” Do not reply with another question such as, “How do I know that I know?” If you are not sure, examine yourself. You know the rules: love God first and love everyone second including yourself. Also, love that which is good and hate that which is evil (ROM 12:9). I mean, doesn’t wickedness and malevolence repulse you? Doesn’t love and kindness uplift you? Exercise the fruits of the Spirit, such as kindness, joyfulness, faithfulness, patience, humbleness, peacefulness, self-control, etc. (GAL 5:22–23; PHP 4:6–8; 2 PE 1:5–10). In short, do you act like a Christian? Are you proud to be a child of the living God? Do you confess your faith in Christ and let your light shine? As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and I will see God in my flesh when Christ returns (JOB 19:25–27).

* PSA 119:59 ~ When I think about my ways, I return to your words, oh Lord.
* LAM 3:40 ~ Search and test your ways, and turn back to the Lord.
* 2 CO 13:5 ~ Examine yourself, whether you are in the faith; prove it to yourself. Don’t you know that Jesus Christ is in you? If not, you’re probably a reprobate. (See also 1 CO 11:27–29 about examining yourself.)
* 2 PE 1:10 ~ Be diligent in making your calling and election sure. If you exercise your spiritual gifts you will not fail.
* 1 JO 3:19–25 ~ This is how we know that we are of the truth, and assured in our hearts before God. If your heart condemns you, remember that God is greater than your heart and knows all things. Who is a liar if not the one denying Jesus Christ? A person is an antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Those who deny the Son deny the Father; those who acknowledge the Son acknowledge the Father. Let that knowledge abide in your heart, which you have heard from the beginning. If this remains in you and you continue in the Son, you are in the Father, and you will receive the promise of eternal life.
* REV 2:5 ~ Jesus said, “Remember how far you have fallen. Repent and return to the things you did in the beginning of your walk. If you do not, I will come to remove your lampstand” [you will lose the light and fall into darkness].