

³⁶ Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

³⁸ "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. John 18:36-38

Something very special is happening around the world.

1. It is happening in the United States.
2. Post Christian Europe.
3. Even in places like China and Russia.
There has been a renewed spiritual hunger.

There is an emptiness and a searching.

This year alone, Bible sales surpassed 14 million in the first 11 months.

1. Spare: Prince Harry: 1.2 million copies.
2. It ends with us: 1.29 million copies.
3. Bible?
<https://richardessimmons3.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/rod-long-DRgrzQQsJDA-un-splash-scaled.jpg>14
4. Millions and Counting.
5. That has been true every single year in the modern age.
6. No book has ever outsold the Bible!
7. But the last few years—Bible sales are increasing.

Why? Many are commenting.

1. Covid. Anxiety. Realization of mortality. No guarantees.
2. The death of trust in anything or anyone.
3. Politicians, World Health Organization. CDC.
4. Lies and Manipulation by those in authority seem to be commonplace. The rule rather than the exception.

Evidently, Truth does matter!

Please Listen..

The current generation may not be able to put it all together in this way, but they know something is amiss.

1. They see the incoherency of a world view that denies God and then claims hope and meaning.
2. They yearn for truth, meaning, purpose and a sense of direction.
3. So they are looking for an objective source, something to guide them to what is real, what is true, what can be trusted.

What does this mean?

First: We live in a time of great opportunity.

We must be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us.

We must be willing to do the hard work of discipleship.

To speak the truth into culture.

To understand the needs of culture and then show how the Gospel –in fact—only the Gospel—can meet the deepest needs of the human heart.

- *I've been waiting for this moment!*
- *I've got my second wind.*

III Studio London. Text One. Camaras and Questions.

Second: We live in a time of great ignorance.

- We must know what we believe and why we believe it.
- We must know the central tenets of the Gospel and be able to communicate those basics to those who are searching for the hope that is found in the Gospel.
- We must lead the way not merely in experience but in intellectual understanding.

If we hope to change the world beginning with this valley, we must reject shallow spirituality and intellectual laziness.

Third: We live in a time of a counterfeit gospel.

The human tendency is to travel the road of least resistance.

This is the reason many will begin to read the Bible, but without understanding, will gravitate toward a “feel good” faith that grants everything and requires nothing.

This is the most popular form of “Christianity” in America.

III: Joel Olsteen: No sin. No Hell. No Judgement. No salvation.

1. Just you best life now.
2. Wealth and riches.
3. God is for you and Life is all about you.

This will appeal to many.

This deeply concerns me.

1. As there is a massive return to spirituality.
2. As there is a massive movement back toward the Bible.
3. There must be a concerted effort to Discipleship!
4. The church must do what it was called to do.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

Therefore, for the next eight weeks, you have this awesome opportunity.

One that does not often come along.

1. You have the opportunity to be discipled.
2. You have the opportunity for a spiritual check up.
3. You have the opportunity to be equipped to give a reasons for the hope that is within you.

And it all begins with this simple concept. TRUTH!

The culture in which you and I find ourselves must be understood.

1. This is a culture that believes there is no such thing as truth.
2. Truth is relative. Everyone must discover their own personal truth and then live by it without outside interference.
3. If that is your definition of truth, if you think truth is not objective, there is no way you will be able to become a Christian and follow Jesus.
4. When you come to something that is difficult or counter cultural, you will deconstruct and reconstruct to make what Jesus teaches fit into your preferred world view.
5. This is what it means to create Jesus into your own image.

As we disciple the next generation we must begin with the idea of Truth and show:

1. Truth is objective. There are things that are true whether you believe them to be or not.
2. Truth is discoverable. There is a way to discover what is true and what is false.

3. Ultimate Truth is discovered in Jesus Christ and His gospel. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

First: Truth is Objective.

III: CNN debate about Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.

One of the hosts: Kamala lost me early on because she kept talking about "*my truth*" and "*your truth*." As soon as I heard her say that she lost me because there is no such thing as "*your truth*" or "*my truth*." **There is only "the truth."**

Rebuttal: That's not true!

The absence of categoric Truth makes life unlivable.

If there is no God, objective moral values do not exist.

1. Who are we to tell the Hutus they are guilty of moral atrocities when they slaughtered one million Tutsis in just over ninety days in April 1994?
2. On what basis do we take any moral position or claim any moral high ground? As soon as we say to someone, "You ought to....." We assume objective moral values. We assume God. *Any other position is logically indefensible.*

You cannot escape Objective truth!

To deny it is to proclaim it!

Objective Truth: A truth exists independently of individual perception or opinion and is true for everyone regardless of their beliefs or perspective.

1. It's 78 degrees, no matter what you feel.
2. The Earth is round, no matter what you feel.
3. "That felt like a birdie." But it was a Par.

THERE ARE OTHER GOOD EXAMPLES.

Imagine a Pilot who says, "*I know these are the laws of aerodynamics but I just think a plane should be able to fly without wings.*"

Insane: What one thinks or feels does not correspond to reality.

For some reason, many will admit that objective reality exists but as soon as they begin discussing the topic of God, Faith, Religion and especially Christianity, suddenly, objective truth goes out the window. Why?

One: *The misconception that Religion is totally based on feeling and is in no way related to anything factual.*

1. **"Faith"** is defined as **"Blind Belief."**

No where in the Bible is Faith defined in such a way.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Two: *If objective truth does exist concerning God, such truth is unknowable because God is not knowable.*

Ok, herein lies the rub.

When you begin to open the Bible, you do so to discover truth.

- You are hoping to find something that will anchor your life.
- Something that will give you certainty regarding *origin, meaning, morality, destiny, Hope.*
- And that is exactly what the Bible does.
- The Bible claims to be the revelation of God to us.

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For 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. Romans 1:18-20

We don't merely "feel" that God exists.

He exists based upon the facts.

Based upon the logic of **First Cause**

Atheistic Evolution is an objective falsehood.

- *Something coming from nothing is not science.*
- It is a doctrine concocted by those who deny the objective truth of God's existence.
- And it is downright ridiculous—no matter how many letters come after your name!

Christianity is not based on feeling but reality.

What reality?

1. God exists.
2. He has chosen to reveal himself in creation: *General Revelation*.
3. He has chosen to reveal Himself in the person of Jesus Christ: *Special Revelation*.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. Hebrews 1:1-2

Result?

Since the resurrection of Jesus Christ is historically true, I can affirm that God has revealed Himself in the person of Jesus Christ and that Jesus Christ is Truth!

Therefore, His word is truth!

He is the **Way!** He does not show you the way-He is the Way!
He is the **Truth!** Regardless of what you feel, His word is true.
He is the **Life!** Life is found in Him!

But then we come to the real problem in our time.

"Ok Jeff, truth is objective. I got it. The problem is that truth is unknowable. Therefore, it does not matter if it is objective. No one knows or has the truth."

So the second issue concerns the question:

Is Truth knowable? How can it be discovered?

How can you and I discover this Truth?

How can we know with a level of certainty, the Truth about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and our lives?

First, what do we mean by "Truth?"

Truth is understood in terms of reality.

A proposition is said to be true if the statement accurately reflects reality.

- A Belief is true if it matches up with the way things actually are.

"It is safe to lay down on the 210 during rush hour traffic."

"The Raiders are the best team in football."

"The Angels won the World Series in 2002!"

Now—follow me here.

Many of us were not present when the Angels won the world series—therefore, how do we know they actually achieved such a feat?

- We ask a simple question: Where does the evidence point?
- Our legal systems use the phrase "beyond reasonable doubt."

When determining the truth or falsehood of someone's guilt or innocence, prosecutors often present oral testimony, eyewitness accounts, and forensics to the jury, challenging each person to pronounce guilt or innocence based on the direction the evidence points.

- To what reality does the information point?
 - What conclusion does the evidence yield?
- Truth is knowable and discoverable through knowledge learned or knowledge given.

How can we discover what is True?

First, there is propositional knowledge:

Knowledge that something is factual, beyond reasonable doubt.

- Where does the evidence point?
- Does the evidence affirm a specific reality?

EXAMPLE: Christ-followers believe the Bible is the Word of God because of the overwhelming evidence that points in this direction.

1. *No archaeological find has ever controverted a Biblical reference.*
2. *When we apply tests of authenticity to the Old and New Testament manuscripts, the Bible far exceeds any other literary work of antiquity.*
3. *The Bible we are reading today is an accurate reflection of the original.*

Combine this with the miraculous nature of **Fulfilled Prophecy** and the evidence seems to point overwhelmingly to the truth that the Bible is indeed God's revelation to us.

Fulfilled Prophecy? There are 88 specific prophecies about Jesus in the Old testament—hundreds of years before Jesus is born.

- Zechariah, who we know lived almost 600 years before Jesus, prophesied in detail that Jesus would be:
 - 1)betrayed by a friend for thirty pieces of silver
 - 2)thrown down in the house of the Lord
 - 3)and that they money would be used to buy a potter's field.

David also, hundreds of years before the first Christmas wrote an amazing prophecy as well.

1. David prophesied the manner in which Christ was going to die—crucifixion.
2. What's even more amazing is that the Romans hadn't even invented crucifixion as a way of capital punishment yet.
3. So David predicted Jesus death by crucifixion when no one even knew what crucifixion was—that's pretty astounding.

Daniel foretold the date that Jesus would appear on Earth for the first time,

1. giving the number of years the Messiah would come after the reign of King Ahasuerus The First..
2. issued the decree for the Jews to leave Persia and go up to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls.

And Just as Isiah Predicted hundreds of years before Jesus was born..

- They gave Him a scepter, bowed down before Him, before they spat upon him and scorned him and said,
"Hail. King of the Jews."
- **Then they led him out and crucified Him.**
- But not before they published His crime above His head on the cross in three languages. *"The King of the Jews."*

Mathematician **Peter Stoner** says that the probability of fulfilling **all forty-eight** specific prophecies of the Messiah is One chance in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion.

This is equal to the **number of miniscule atoms** in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, billion universes the size of our universe!

Point? The odds alone **say it is impossible** for anyone to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies, and yet Jesus, and **only Jesus** throughout all history—managed to do it.

But the things which God announced beforehand by the Prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

Acts 3:18

Simon Greenleaf: Wrote: “**Treatise on the Law of Evidence**”

How to determine historical truth.

Brilliant. Still used by the institutions of higher learning.

Harvard Law: Described him in one word: Genius!

He applied his Laws of Evidence to the Bible.

He became a dedicated Christ-follower and wrote these words.

Of the Divine character of the Bible, I think, no man who deals honestly with his own mind and heart can entertain a reasonable doubt. For myself, I must say; that having for many years made the evidences of Christianity the subject of close study, the result has been a firm and increasing conviction of the authenticity and plenary inspiration of the Bible. It is indeed the Word of God.

Simon Greenleaf

1)The evidence points toward the truth that the Bible is indeed the Word of God—God’s revelation to us.

2)Moreover, the evidence points to another astounding truth, that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. That’s a pretty big deal!

Christ-followers also believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the world's Savior based upon the Truth of the resurrection.

- The Resurrection is an accurate reflection of reality.
- Jesus rose from the dead in real time and space.
- Christians accept this reality because of the overwhelming evidence associated with it. What evidence?

Historically speaking here is what we know.

1. The tomb is empty.
2. No Jewish polemic resources deny an empty tomb.
3. The excuses given are not only not plausible but border on the ridiculous.
 - a. Jesus Swooned. Jesus recovered after the Disciples stole the body. Hard to convince anyone.
 - b. Jesus had a twin or stand in. Really?

Moreover..

Secular historians seriously doubt that a small group of disciples and a dead Messiah could transform the Greco-Roman world.

1. Something dramatic had to have happened.
2. No other plausible explanation.

Other historians seek to comprehend how Jews,

- at least 15,000,
- steeped in thousands of years of tradition,
- suddenly, overnight, began to worship Jesus as God,
- leaving behind the Sabbath Temple
- and worshipping God on the First Day of the week.

The only plausible explanation is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead in real time and space.

First, there is propositional knowledge:

Knowledge that something is factual, beyond reasonable doubt.
Something that is true because the evidence points in that direction.

Second, there is testimonial knowledge.

We discover truths through the testimony of others who already know these truths.

How do you know anything happened in the past if you were not there?

- 1. Circumstantial evidence.***
- 2. Eye Witness testimony.***

The question concerning testimonial knowledge is,

1. "Can these witnesses be trusted?"
2. Once again, this is why many, if not most, historians respect the Bible as a work of literary antiquity.
3. The recorders of Scripture have been proven trustworthy.

They are accurate in their historical references and consistent in their messaging.

Testimonial knowledge is an effective way of determining whether or not something is true.

1. The same is true in our legal system.

<https://media.newyorker.com/photos/65283b4e5ebc1b662f97d7b3/master/pass/Brody-Anatomy-of-a-Fall.jpg>

2. The eyewitness testimony of any event is only as strong as the character and integrity of the one expressing it.

So..

Can the New Testament authors be trusted to accurately reflect the events of Jesus' life?

Are the eye-witnesses trustworthy?

Can we trust the Authors to record accurately the words and teachings of a man called Jesus?

Believe it or not those who study works of antiquity have **five major questions** that are asked of a work to determine whether or not the authors (*the eyewitnesses or investigators of eyewitnesses*) are reliable.

I. Was it their intent to be historians? Or, did they sit under a tree and say, let's write a good story?

b. Luke 1:1-2

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled^[a] among us, **2** just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. **3** With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **4** so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. Luke 1: 1-4

II. Does a level of consistency exist between the accounts that were written (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

I have heard the accusations of contradiction all my life. My experience? Motivated out of disdain for authority, wounds of the past, or just downright hatred for God.

Example:

Matthew says

"The centurion came and asked Jesus to heal his servant."

Luke says, "The Centurion sent the elders to do this."

Contradiction?

III: *"The president today announced. . ."*

Truth: **Speech written** by a speech writer

Speech delivered by the press secretary.

Similarly: Emissaries have always been part of the ancient world.

A centurion could go himself or send his messenger but either way—it was the **centurion who was asking for help**.

Important point: *Servant was healed.*

Second: If the Gospels would have been identical to each other, word for word, this would have raised charges that the authors corroborated together.

Historically speaking: this would have invalidated them as independent witnesses.

Point?

We don't all write the same way.

We tell our *stories differently*.

We *emphasize* different details.

We *express ourselves* differently.

But the **basic data** must agree.

Again, the fact that the data agrees is a **test to the authenticity** of these events.

1. Different **datings** on the writings.
2. From different **areas**
3. To **different** people. (*Matthew: Jewish Luke: Gentiles*)

Remember—

No telephones, fax machines, or mobile phones. Yet:

--Their differences show their uniqueness.

--Their similarities show their accuracy.

I. Was it their intent to be historians? Or, did they sit under a tree and say, let's write a good story?

II. Does a level of consistency exist between the accounts that were written (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

III. Did the authors stand to make great gain out of propagating their message? (*The Bias Test*)

Did they have a *vested interest in skewing* the material upon which they were reporting?

1. Money making?
2. Career making endeavor?

***Research determines an undeniable truth.**

1. These disciples had nothing whatsoever to gain except *criticism, ostracism* and ultimately *death*.
2. They certainly did not have anything to gain financially.

Remember, **history shows** that all but one of these men died horrible deaths.—REJECTED BY THEIR OWN RELIGIOUS LEADERS!

https://saltandlighttv.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Martyrdom_of_Matthew-scaled.jpg

- a. Stabbed, crucified, dragged, and beaten to death.
- b. No, they had nothing to gain, but instead, according to the world, everything to lose.

Remember:

Our knowledge of the past events is based on testimony!

- a. Do you **believe** that Napoleon lived? Yes.
- b. Have you **seen** Napoleon? No

Then how do you know?

How do you know with a degree of certainty anything that happened in history?

1. How much confidence do you have that things like the Rwandan and Armenian Genocide occurred in real time and space?
2. How confident are you that slavery happened here in the US AND IN Europe?
3. How about the First and Second World Wars?
4. There are people who deny these things.

How do you know? You rely on two things:

First:

You Rely on the testimony of those who have written an account. You trust the men and women who wrote the history—years and years and years ago.

How does this apply to our argument?

How do you know you can trust the testimony of those who wrote the history of the Bible?

Friends--One of the greatest arguments here is that **those who were responsible for writing these words**, believed them to such a degree as to give their lives to further this truth.

Response is usually,

"So, what, a lot of people have died for a lie!"

True: But they thought it was the truth.

People have died for a lie they believed to be the truth—but not for a truth they knew to be a lie.

See, one thing we know for sure is:

When it comes to the disciples, **they would have known** whether or not Jesus resurrected from the dead because the story came from them first!

So, did they have anything to gain? **Absolutely not.**

This is known as: The bias test.

Second: You rely on circumstantial evidence.

If what they are saying is true, what would the impact be?

Do we see such an impact occurring after the events?

Secular historians seriously doubt that a small group of disciples and a dead Messiah could transform the Greco-Roman world.

3. Something dramatic had to have happened.
4. No other plausible explanation.

Other historians seek to comprehend how Jews,

- at least 15,000,
- steeped in thousands of years of tradition,
- suddenly, overnight, began to worship Jesus as God,
- leaving behind the Sabbath Temple
- and worshipping God on the First Day of the week.

The only plausible explanation is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead in real time and space.

4. Did the authors try to manipulate the material so as to cover up anything that might be embarrassing or difficult?

Mark was Peter's traveling companion and the one who wrote the Gospel of Mark.

Yet, **Mark's perspective of Peter** is consistently unflattering! And Peter is the Leader of this band.

All his failures are presented.

- a. *Speaking* before he thinks. I will never leave you.
- b. *Rebuking* Jesus.

c. *Ultimately denying* Jesus when Jesus needed him the most.

Moreover,

The disciples appear to be incredibly thick.
Jesus has to explain things again and again.

In fact—(Mark 9) **James and John** are portrayed as acting like little children *jockeying for position*, even *send their mother* to talk to Jesus and persuade Him.

Dr. Craig Bloomberg, *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*
“They (the Disciples) look like a bunch of self-serving, self-seeking, dull witted people a lot of the time.”

Futhermore: John ends his gospel:

“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.”

John 21: 25

If they could pick and choose—why not leave the difficult, embarrassing stuff out.

Friends—Many scholars believe that these facts alone

Suggests a *strong compelling* by the disciples to record what they had seen and heard, even if it was difficult or embarrassing.

Dr. Craig Bloomberg:

“If they did not feel free to leave out stuff when it would have been convenient and helpful to do so, is it really plausible to believe that they outright added and fabricated material with no historical basis?”

This does not seem plausible or tenable.

Remember, we are simply asking the questions that are asked of any work of literary antiquity in order to discover if such a work is trustworthy.

5. How trustworthy is the author concerning the people, places, and events about which he writes?

In other words,

When Luke mentions people, places, and events, do they check out to be correct in cases in which they can be independently verified?

- Such affirmation is invaluable in assessing whether or not a writer can be trusted.
- Well, without a doubt, the **overwhelming consensus** of both liberal and conservative scholars is that *Luke is an extremely accurate historian*.

How accurate? When scholars of the past have believed that Luke was in error concerning some detail—**archaeology** or other works of literary antiquity proved that it was Luke that was correct.

Examples:

1. **Luke 3:1** claims Lysanias was *Tetrarch of Abilene* in ad 27.
 - a. For Years Scholars said, “Wrong-Lysanias not tetrarch but rather the **ruler of Chalcis** half a century earlier.
What’s wrong with Luke?
See, can’t be trusted!
 - b. But then--**Archaeology** uncovered an inscription from the time of Tiberias from ad14-ad 37. It names Lysanias as *Tetrarch in Abila near Damascus*—just as Luke had written.
2. **Acts 17:6** Luke refers to *politarchs*-translated “*City Officials*” in the city of Thessalonica.
 - a. Problem: Scholars said, “No evidence of the term “*politarchs*” has been found in any ancient Roman documents.
 - b. But today, if you travel to the **British Museum** you will see that archaeologists have found more than 35 inscriptions that mention *politarchs*, several from the Thessalonica period.

Now in the 21st century we can categorically state that where their have been contradictions between the historical records and the Biblical accounts—**archaeological discoveries have proven the Biblical account to be more accurate.**

Every time.

My personal favorite example:

Old Testament makes frequent references to the **Hittites**—an enemy nation to Israel.

Historians-ha! Ha! No evidence of Hittites!

Until 1906 when a dig confirmed the existence of the Hittites and in fact unearthed the *capitol city* and *40 other cities* that make up their empire.

****Just goes on and on and on.*

Ok Quickly..

Truth exists and is knowable.

To discover what is true, what accurately represents reality, we look at:

First, Propositional knowledge:

Knowledge that something is factual, beyond reasonable doubt. We look at the information available and ask, "Where does the evidence point?"

Second, there is testimonial knowledge.

We discover truths through the testimony of others who already know these truths and determine whether or not they can be trusted.

Third, there is experiential knowledge.

Even if I know the facts about marriage, the only way I can truly understand it is to experience it.

I know numerous facts about Tiger Woods, but I cannot say I know him personally.

My wife is a different story. I know facts about her, but I also know her personally and intimately.

Psalm 34:8 says, "**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**"

Paul speaks of his desire to know Jesus, His resurrection power, and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings (Phil. 3:10)."

Experiential knowledge is knowledge by acquaintance.

Once again, listen carefully..

It is true that Jesus dramatically transforms lives.

Ill: Sheila: Only uneducated people believe in Jesus.

1. Blaise Pascal.
2. James Simpson
3. Sir Isaac Newton: 1.3 million words on Christianity.
4. John Polkinghorne
5. 30 percent of the most well-regarded scientist are Christians.

Christ-followers come from all walks of life.

From Great Athletes who encountered Jesus to everyday blue-collar workers whose lives have been transformed by the risen Christ.

- Gangsters like Mafia Boss Michael Franzese.
<https://m.media-amazon.com/images/S/amzn-author-media-prod/javsc6nsgohrs6dljo4j07v45.jpg>
- Hollywood stars like Jim Caviezel and Denzel Washington.
<https://i.pinimg.com/736x/ef/f8/c6/eff8c6705c4164c6ee8bcb57b4db208d.jpg>
https://assets.gqindia.com/photos/64f5ef3bf0422a5f6211860d/16:9/w_2560%2Cc_limit/The-Equalizer-3-Denzel-Washington-fees_004.jpg
- Poets, Artists, George Frideric Handel, Florence Nightengale have all experienced the risen Christ.

First, Propositional knowledge:

Knowledge that something is factual, beyond reasonable doubt.

We look at the information available and ask,

"Where does the evidence point?"

Second, there is testimonial knowledge.

We discover truths through the testimony of others who already know these truths and determine whether they can be trusted.

Third, there is experiential/personal knowledge.

Even if I know the facts about marriage, the only way I can truly understand it is to experience it.

When Jesus prayed for you and me, he prayed, "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent (John 17:3)."

When you commit to follow Jesus, (God) places His spirit within you for the purpose of communication.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 1 Cor. 2:10

The truth about God, about your life, about origin, meaning, morality and destiny is revealed in part as the spirit and the word work together to bring understanding and knowledge of God.

Ok. This is a discipleship series.

If I am going to follow Jesus, what does that mean?

Not..Want do I feel it means-

Rather, What does it actually mean?

First: Dirt Road discipleship means that I believe that objective truth exists and is discovered in the life, words, and teachings of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible.

Culture may "feel" that something should be true, but my objective source is Jesus whose words are discovered in Scripture.

When cultural beliefs contradict Jesus' revelation, I follow Jesus.

The guy that rose from the dead. I'm going with that guy!

The journey of my life regarding all issues:

1. Salvation
2. Faith
3. Sexuality: Transgender, Same sex, Marriage, Divorce, and everything related.
4. Money, generosity, sacrifice, giving, serving, and everything related..

The journey of my life is to discover and live by God's will concerning all these issues.

An unwillingness to live this life is an unwillingness to follow Jesus. You may be a fan but not a follower.

Second: Dirt Road discipleship means that I commit to seek the will of God and the truth of God for every area of my life—as revealed in Scripture.

Because I believe the scripture is true and is profitable for..

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so

that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Listen carefully.

- There will always be pseudo scholarship that attempts to undermine the authority of scripture.
- Why? The wisdom of God is foolishness to man.

People look at the world around them and say, *"I know the Bible says this, but we must be mistaken in our understanding. This just does not seem right to me."*

Do you know the serious work of scholarship that has gone into the Bible for hundreds of years?

I have heard it all over the course of my life.

1. *The Bible has been changed.*
2. *The Bible is a powerplay by men who wanted to impact culture.*
3. *The Bible has contradictions.*
4. *The Bible will be eradicated.*

The Bible continues to outlive its pallbearers.

Still the number one selling book.

People still turn to it for origin, meaning, morality and destiny.

Why? Because it is the inspired word of God.

The journey of my life is to conform my life to the image of Jesus Christ---as discovered in His revelation to us.

- Jesus loves you! He proved that!
- You are His child!
- He does not give His law arbitrarily.
- He is your Father. Abba!

Trust His wisdom! Obey His Word!

That's a true Disciple of Jesus Christ!

Third: Dirt Road discipleship means that I become involved in a relationship with Jesus based on truth not mere feelings.

Ill: God is telling me to leave my family and go to Africa.

God does not violate His own word.

Ill: God is telling me to date this non-believer.

Ill: God is telling me to have this affair.

Ill: God is telling me that same sex marriage is ok.

Ill: God is telling me its ok to take what does not belong to me because He loves me.

Ill: God is telling me I can sleep with her because I love her and eventually we will get married anyway.

Ill: God is telling me I don't need to tithe because I give my time instead.

What do all of these have in common?

Direct violations of Scripture.

You may feel this way but Truth is objective, not subjective.

Warning: We are experts at rationalization.

We are self-preserving. Submitting is not natural to us!

We have been tainted by sin.

Dirt road discipleship means that we are going to take our feelings by the scruff of the neck and lead them to what we know is true.

Fourth: Dirt Road discipleship means that I love the Lord Jesus with all my heart, soul, mind and strength.

He becomes my greatest pursuit in prayer and devotion.

He becomes the Lord of my life in every aspect.

He has preeminence in my life!

It all begins with R.S.V.P.