

# TRUTH THAT CONFIRMS ITSELF

## How to Know and Know You Know

*Some truth can be verified. Let's call it "self-authenticating truth." Here's how it works. Faith placed in certain truths produces obvious results, often immediately, that can be verified. For example, if you put your faith in one of God's promises, and that promise comes true, the truth of that promise is confirmed, authenticated, or verified. But, be careful! God usually verifies truth through faith. Faith precedes verification. No faith, no verification!*

### TRUTH WORKS

Truth confirms itself by working in your life. This is how you can know without any doubts that a principle or promise in the Bible is true: Truth works! You can actually experience the results of applying certain kinds of truth. For instance, you can see your attitude change slowly for the better by walking in the Spirit—more love, joy, peace, and patience. Principles that work and promises fulfilled confirm the truth of principles and promises in the Bible.

### BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

The basics of the Christian life work. Basics include confession of sin (1 John 1:9), the filling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18), growing in the Word (Heb 5:12–14; 1 Pet 2:2), growing in faith (Rom 10:17), and developing the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23). In my case, after six months self-pity and depression were replaced with happiness and peace of mind about half of the time through confession of sin and listening to daily Bible teaching; and finally all of the time after a full year. But I can still remember my fear of losing this inner happiness and peace because I didn't fully understand how it was produced. It took two full years of confession and daily Bible study to understand how the fruit of the Spirit is produced and how, if lost, to get my joy and peace back immediately through confession and claiming promises. After two full years I could relax and turn joy and inner peace on and off at will like a faucet.

### TYPES OF TRUTH YOU CAN VERIFY

- 1) *Salvation* and spiritual growth produce a new creature in Christ (2 Cor 5:17).
- 2) *Claiming promises* produces the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, et al. (Gal 5:22–23). Claiming promises usually results in immediately sharing God's nature (2 Pet 1:4). Put your faith, for example, in a promise such as "all things . . . work together for good" and immediately you will receive back inner happiness and inner peace (Rom 8:28). This immediate result is experiential and confirms the truth of this promise—it works!
- 3) *Testing* produces last minute saves and proves there is a God in control of everything (2 Chr 32:1–22; 1 Cor 10:13). Who else but God can time deliverances so precisely—just seconds, minutes, or hours before it's too late?
- 4) *Spiritual growth* produces knowledge, understanding, and wisdom—and wisdom is self-authenticating truth.
- 5) *Illumination* and *thought implantation* from the Holy Spirit is truth that often confirms itself by solving difficult problems in my church. The truth imparted is usually too complex and too perfect to originate in my mind.
- 6) *Answers to prayer* confirm the truth of "ask and you will receive" (Matt 21:22; John 16:24).
- 7) *Specific revelation* to Moses, the prophets, and apostles through angels, dreams, visions, or an audible voice (Exod 33:11): truth from God sooner or later confirms itself since God always tells the truth (Deut 32:4; John 17:17).
- 8) *Seeing miracles*, such as the parting of the Red Sea (Exod 14:21–22) or manna falling from heaven in the wilderness for forty years (Exod 16:35; Num 11:9), confirms the truth of God's promises (Exod 6:6–8).
- 9) *Fulfillment of prophecies* confirms the truth of what God promises in those prophecies (Deut 18:22).
- 10) *Sign gifts* such as tongues, healings, miracles, prophecy, and the interpretation of tongues confirms the promised ratification of the New Covenant (Jer 31:31–34; Joel 2:28–29; 1 Cor 12:10; Acts 2:1–4, 17–18, 33).

### REASONS GOD ALLOWS SOME TRUTH TO BE VERIFIED

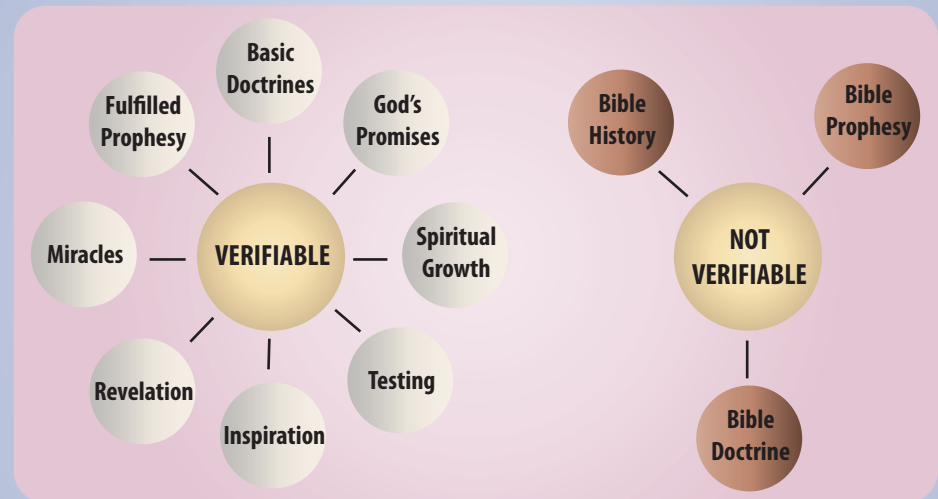
- 1) So you never abandon truth for some other belief, false doctrine, or religion.
- 2) So you are compelled to teach truth always because nothing else works. All else is a waste of time.
- 3) Because you don't want to deprive others of what works for you. It's the only thing that works.
- 4) So you will make sacrifices and die for truth if necessary because you know for certain it's true.

### TRUTH YOU CAN'T VERIFY

Truth that does not confirm itself, that is, truth that cannot be experienced but only believed by faith, can confidently be accepted as true simply because a much smaller body of basic truth confirms itself. Why? Because, if several kinds of truth can be seen to work in your life, most likely all truth works—even truth that can't be validated. If you can trust one, two, or three principles or promises, you can trust them all (Psa 119:160; John 17:17).

### KINDS OF TRUTH YOU CAN'T VERIFY

- 1) *Bible history*, such as Creation (Gen 1), Adam and Eve (2–3), the Fall (3), the Flood (6–9), the Confusion of Tongues at Babel (11), the Ten Plagues of Egypt (Exod 7–12), and the Parting of the Red Sea (14).
- 2) *Prophecy* about the Tribulation, Millennium, and Eternal State (Matt 24–25; Rev 6–22).
- 3) *Bible doctrine*, such as Theology Proper, Soteriology, Pneumatology, Christology, and Angelology.



### DEPARTING FROM TRUTH

Why do Christians, even church leaders you love and respect, abandon truth? When you think about it, the answer is pretty simple: they haven't experienced truth that works in their lives. They haven't seen truth authenticate itself! They have faith in God's Word, yes; but, please note—faith without authentication is weak! They have not fully understood, applied, and integrated the basics of the Christian life (confession of sin, filling of the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, spiritual growth, claiming promises, and the fruit of the Spirit) into a workable system of daily practice, so they have no roots, no conviction, and no validating evidence that the truth they believe works. Without such evidence, they may at any time start looking for something that works and, with hope, turn to other beliefs, doctrines, and religions. They are 'always learning and never able to come to a full knowledge of the truth' (2 Tim 3:7 RCL). In other words, they depart from truth because they've never seen it work in their lives. And, sad to say, their new search is in vain: they leave what works for what will never work—and forfeit the rich blessings that come from applying the truth of God.