

## To Hear the Truth, You Must First Know the Truth

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Say you walk into your neighborhood church to listen to the weekly sermon. How do you know what you are hearing is the truth? If you have no knowledge of the Bible, the speaker could say anything and you would be none the wiser. You believe what is said because you trust the one speaking. Surely, you reason, he / she wouldn't be in that position unless he / she were trained and proven. But what credentials does he or she really possess? Do they know the truth or are their many words leading you astray?

**Fun Fact:** Just because someone in a church says good things doesn't mean what they say is biblical truth or biblically accurate. The world, and every religion known to man, has many platitudes, laws, opinions, warnings, ideas, directions, sage wisdom, old sayings, encouraging words, stories, etc. These are all fortune cookie religions. They all sound good and you might agree with everything said. In fact, you can't have a religion without these nice sayings.

However, the religions of today are worthless and cannot help you in the present or in eternity. It is the relationship with God that is all important, and the Spirit of God given to you by God that makes all the difference. Religion is neither required nor desired.

**The relationship with God and the abiding Spirit is not a religion.**

Christian religion today is a mix of many opinions and ideas about the Bible. Some differ vastly one from the other to the point they cannot all be true. Those who hold their beliefs do so tenaciously and with great conviction, certain in their heart they are right, and that there is no greater truth. Among these are the Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals, Presbyterians, Methodists, the Mormons, Charismatics, and many others, each one very different. Their preachers have charismatic personalities, are persuasive speakers, and with their talents can convince many to believe what they say is true. But is it? The religions mentioned above all fail the Bible truth test.

### It Can't be Taught

In most disciplines, there is a clear-cut, time honored, proven truth that is beyond question. You listen and learn unwavering facts from a credible source. A math class, a seminar on roofing, or a cooking class are good examples. This is **not** the case when it comes to the Bible and spiritual growth. No one can teach anyone the things of God. No one can learn the things of God from anyone. No one can grow spiritually on their own or with help from an institution, class, school, books, or seminars. All these helps are useless and incapable of giving you anything beyond their opinion on the false religions they believe and follow.

(See the article on this site "[You Can't Teach the Bible](#)" PPGpilot.com)

The truth of the Bible must be given to you by God, revealed to your mind by author of the Bible: the Spirit of God that is a part of you. God uses His Word, the Bible, and all the world around you,

including the lives of others, even nature itself to enlighten your mind. The indwelling Spirit quickens your thoughts and opens your eyes to see the truth from many sources, not just the Bible.

Before God can reveal the truth to you:

- **You must first have the key that unlocks the Bible to your mind: the Spirit of God.**
  - You can only have the Spirit of God if you are a child of God.
  - To be a child of God you must want to be His child.
  - To become a child of God you must turn your life to God in faith.
  
- **Before you can profit in your search for truth and find spiritual growth:**
  - You must desire the truth in such a way that you search for it diligently.
  - You must believe that God will give you what you seek.
  - You must have faith that God will cause your growth, and
  - You must have faith that the Bible is God's word to you and that it is true.

As you can see, it all begins with a person choosing God and receiving His Spirit. Everything that follows in your life is a direct result of that decision, including the knowledge of God and an understanding of the Bible. You can never understand God or the Bible any other way.

## Conclusion

Say you walk into a church as a child of God with the knowledge of the Bible given to you by the author of the Bible: the Spirit of God. You will know if what you hear is truth or error because the Spirit will quicken your mind to discern the truth.

On the other hand, if you have the Spirit of God and the truth of the God, what are doing in religion? Religion can't do anything for you.

Before you can know if what you hear is true, you must first know the truth, and that from the mind of God.