



The Voice Of Truth

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Can We Know Truth?

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In John chapter 8 we find Jesus speaking to the multitudes. **John 8:30** says many believed. Then we read: "Jesus therefore said to those Jews that had believed him, If ye abide in my word, then are you truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (**John 8:31-32**). Now there you have the forceful statement that one can know truth. If we cannot know truth, then we can't be free. Too, to abide in His word one would have to understand it. Only then could you be a disciple.

Yet notice another passage. Paul said, "Whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ" (**Eph. 3:4**). Paul says to the Ephesians that we can perceive Paul's understanding in the mysteries of the Christian religion. Paul was an apostle. He understood the mysteries of Christ. He said they could understand the mysteries of Jesus Christ. Why would God give us truth if we could not understand it? Cannot God

communicate to His creatures?

But again, Paul made another absolute statement to the Ephesians. He said, "Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord's is" (**Eph. 5:17**). God's will is nowhere but in the Bible. We can understand that will, so we must be able to understand the Bible. We may make mistakes and misinterpret, but if our heart is right and we do it right, we can understand the Bible.

Let's briefly notice a few passages. **In 2 Timothy 3:16-17**, Paul, in context, says evil men and impostors shall wax worse and worse. Due to their problem, they cannot come to the knowledge of the truth. Paul rebukes them and implies they should come to knowledge of the truth. If they can't, why rebuke them?

Please read 1 Corinthians 1:10. If we can't know truth, how could we ever speak the same thing and be perfected in unity as

Paul says we should do? Jesus said, "If any man willeth to do his will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from myself" (**John 7:17**). This shows the will is involved in understanding Scripture. In **Romans 15:4**, this passage implies learning is possible!

Why did the apostles do miracles?

When Moses went to Egypt to deliver the Israelites, God gave him power to do signs and miracles to confirm the truth of his mission, to the Israelites and to Pharaoh (**Ex. 4:1-8, 29, 30**). He first spoke the truth and then confirmed it with signs. Before Pharaoh permitted the Israelites to leave Egypt, Moses had to perform the ten miraculous plagues.

The miracles that Jesus performed were to confirm the truth of his mission and Divine Sonship (**Matt. 11:2-5; Jno. 20:30-31**).

Why did the apostles do miracles? They did so to confirm that the word they spoke was really from God. Again, supernatural confirmation was needed for supernatural testimony. To prove they spoke from God and were moved by the Holy Spirit (**2 Pet. 1:19-21**), they worked miracles by the Holy Spirit. Notice Jesus said, "And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing it shall

in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (**Mk. 16:17-18**); but why? The reason is given in verse 20: "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen" (**Mk. 16:20**). They did signs to confirm the word, just as we said. Not only that, the Scripture says the word **WAS** confirmed. Notice: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation? Which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard: God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders, and by manifold powers, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will" (**Heb. 2:3-4**). The word was confirmed. There is no need for more. Once miracles confirmed the word, their purpose ceased and they passed away (**1 Cor. 13:8-10**). This passage definitely teaches that miracles have ceased. Let no one think that God has abandoned us because miracles have ceased. No, He still works by answering our prayers. Without miracles, He answers our prayers.