

# Challenging our faith

## THE CHALLENGE

- “...examine yourselves, whether ye be “in the faith...” - 2 Cor. 13:5 (self-examination)
- Hebrews 5:14 - solid food is not for everyone...  
(the spiritual exercise of our senses)

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH: AN EVER-PRESENT CONCERN

- Judges 2:10 - another generation ‘knew not’...
- Hosea 4:6 - lack of knowledge destroys

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God purposefully formatted His will.  
The reason was two-fold - - - to reveal:

- the condition of our spiritual hearts.  
This will, in turn, explain:
- the difficulty or ease we each have in understanding God's will.

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Consider the NATURE of God's revelation...

When we examine the Bible...what do we find?

- While the bible has commands; it is not a book of commands ONLY ...  
i.e., “do/don’t...”; “thou shalt/thou shalt not...”
- HOW truth IS revealed to us in the bible?

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~ Jesus' 3 year ministry ~

- When asked questions, how did He answer?
- He always gave answer so as to cause the person who asked the question, to see his own heart's condition (motive).
- 7x = Matt. 16:1; 19:3; 22:35; Mark 8:11; 10:2; Luke 11:16; John 8:6

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- Jesus would answer in such a way so as to reveal their motives.
- From this example alone of Jesus, I hope we can begin to see WHY truth is not in a 'yes' and 'no'; 'do/don't' format.
- TRUTH was purposefully revealed to us in such a way that its worth can be seen ONLY by a certain kind of person; one whose heart is good and honest.

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How valuable is the gospel message to you?

- *What price are you willing to pay to understand truth?*
- *How much are you willing to sacrifice of your time to know truth?*
- *Lastly, what plans do you have once you learn truth?*

Having discussed WHY truth is formatted in this manner; consider now an example of HOW truth is often found in our bible.

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**“When the children came inside, they removed their mittens, their scarves, and their toboggans. Where had they been playing?”**

- A) the sandbox**
- B) the swimming pool**
- C) the snow**



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- Think about **HOW** you arrived at your answer.
- Do you know what it required?
- It required you to make/draw a conclusion; but not just ANY conclusion!

The conclusion **MUST** be in harmony with the facts.



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You must make discernment as to why only one answer is correct, while at the same time learning WHY the other possibilities are wrong. That's the way it is with our Bible. **ITS TRUTHS ARE PURPOSEFULLY FORMATTED SO THAT YOU MUST EXERCISE YOUR SENSES.**

This is WHY the bible is not in a “do” or “don’t” format, full of “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not’s”.

**Heb.**

**5:14**

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**Making a decision that is in harmony with the facts is known as drawing a necessary inference/conclusion.**

*(not a random/biased conclusion)*

**Similar reasoning is necessary to our understanding of God's will.**

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Everything in the Bible is not answerable with a simple 'yes' or 'no'. Many questions are answered only after considering information scattered throughout the Bible on the subject. **Yet we must employ our reasoning and "act on the facts".**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 2:14**

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Did Jesus convert everyone He taught?

Some who heard Jesus speak but once, understood His teaching, believed and were converted; others never did believe Him or understand His teaching.

What was the difference?

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- The difference was **their heart; their motives!**

7x = they came... “tempting” Him.

- Motive is brought out by the unique nature of God’s truth.
- **Truth does not appeal to everyone;**
- It is **ONLY** for the person who has the utmost respect for it!

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Truth is something that is to be taught & learned. (*Isa. 54:13; Jer. 31:34 ~ John 6:44*)

“...they shall...be taught...”

1 Tim. 2:4 -

Titus 2:11-12 - (John 1:17) ~ teaching

**Some have difficulty ‘seeing’... WHY?**

- 2 Thess. 2:10 - no love for truth???

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- What then **IS** the key to understanding truth?
- Jesus answered that for us in John 7:17 -
- Does understanding the truths in the Bible come with difficulty for you or with ease?
- Ultimately, truth calls upon you to make changes in your life. **THAT** is where the crux of the matter is.



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- It is not that the Bible is hard to understand; it is hard to change your life to conform to the truth.
- Sadly many change the truth of God to conform to their life.
- What about YOU?