

Introduction:

A year ago things changed drastically in our country. Now we are looking at things from a different perspective. One word that kept coming to my mind was “knowledge.” People in medicine have learned better how to treat it, new drugs created, immunization efforts seem to be paying off. Eventually we will know so much about COVID 19 that deaths will become rare. But over half a million people died, many of them died because our knowledge was incomplete. I want to make a comparison with our spiritual knowledge.

I) Knowledge

A) Defining

1. Dictionary - acquaintance with facts, truths, or principles, as from study or investigation
 - a. familiarity or conversance, as with a particular subject or branch of learning:
 - b. acquaintance or familiarity gained by sight, experience, or report:
 - c. the fact or state of knowing; **the perception of fact or truth**; clear and certain mental apprehension.
 - d. awareness, as of a fact or circumstance:
2. To know by studying a subject, to know by personal experience.
3. Science - It originally came from the Latin word scientia which meant knowledge, a knowing, expertness, or experience

B) We make decisions based on two things

1. What we know or what we think we know.

- a. If our knowledge is erroneous or limited, we will make poor decisions.

Acts 17:22 *Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; 23 "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:*

- b. Paul proceeded to teach them about the true God.

Acts 17:24 *"God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;*

- c. With knowledge we can make proper decisions.

- 2. Emotion – how we feel about something.

Genesis 37:31 *So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. 32 Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?" 33 And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild*

beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces." 34 Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.

- a. How do I feel about the vaccine? Or, how do I feel about homosexuality, or abortion, or any other subject.
- b. Feelings are a powerful tool or hindrance.
- c. Human traditions are often connected with our feelings.

Galatians 1:14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

- i. Not all traditions are bad as stated in ***2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.***
- ii. Human traditions can often be masquerading as "knowledge" everybody knows, or it has always been done this way, etc.

Mark 7:7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." 9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat

you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- iii. Religious traditions are hard to give up, that is what my grandma used to do, or my family has always...
3. When we learn something which contradicts our “knowledge” what do we do?
- a. Get angry, ignore it, try to refute it, examine it?
 - b. React purely emotionally?

Acts 19:23 And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. 24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. 25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26 "Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 "So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." 28 Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

- c. Have an ungodly zeal?

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and

*prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.
2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for
God, but not according to knowledge.*

4. Be ware false knowledge may make us feel good, and safe but will eventually end in destruction.

***Romans 1:22** Professing to be wise, they became fools,*

***Romans 1:28** And even as they did not like to retain
God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a
debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*

5. Misuse scriptures to justify ourselves.

***2 Peter 3:16** as also in all his epistles, speaking in them
of these things, in which are some things hard to
understand, which untaught and unstable people twist
to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the
Scriptures.*

II) Spiritual Knowledge

A) Knowledge is based on “truth”

1. Not something man discovers or invents but which exist.

***John 17:17** "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is
truth.*

***Psalms 119:142** Your righteousness is an everlasting
righteousness, And Your law is truth.*

2. Truth exist whether we like it or not, you can't argue with it,
not based on how you feel about it.

B) Is revealed from God.

***Luke 1:76** "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the
Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare
His ways, **77** To give knowledge of salvation to His people By
the remission of their sins,*

1. Jesus' very mission was to reveal the Father, to reveal truth to mankind.
2. Jesus spoke of being truth.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

C) Must be sought

1. Not something inborn but learned which implies some thing must be done, teaching, reading, and doing.
2. How to obtain knowledge?

Ephesians 3:3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, **4** by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

D) Knowledge connected with spiritual growth.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; **10** that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1. Learn to do more, and to learn even more about God and His righteousness.
2. Study so as to apply the word of God, don't just be a scholar be a living scholar.

E) In Knowledge we learn about love

1. Knowledge is to be mixed with love.

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge

puffs up, but love edifies.

1 Corinthians 13:2 *And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

2. God's word teaches what love is and how to apply love.

Conclusion:

Our knowledge may change but truth does not. **"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17.17)** For us to make informed and good decisions we must know God's word. Must respect His word, accept His word, and live His word.