

# What if you DO have the truth?

Editorial

*“I have the truth because God says that the Spirit will lead me into all truth! That means others who disagree with me must not have the truth!”*

There’s entirely too much of this kind of thinking within the Church of God, i.e., the called out ones. Is this truly what the scripture says? Does God give one specific group or organization of people complete understanding and leave everyone else in ignorance of the truth, and hence in sin?

Let’s look at the scripture in question. **Joh 16:13** states as follows: “However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.”

What is important to note about that scripture is that it is out of context. However, putting that scripture into context does not deal with the problem we see in the opening statement.

Dealing with the scripture first, there is one word missing that completely changes the meaning of the scripture, and consequently shows that the opening statement is not scriptural at all. That word is “immediately.” That scripture does not say that the Spirit will lead us into all truth immediately. In fact the scripture says that the Spirit will “guide” us, but even then, the guiding is not immediately finished.

Therefore, any idea that any one of us might actually have all truth is an idea that is not supported by the scripture used by others to prove that they know and others do not know. Guiding implies that it is an ongoing process to learn the truth, not that somehow one will suddenly become imbued with all knowledge to the exclusion of others. If that had been what the Christ meant, He would have said that the Spirit would come and instill all knowledge.

Why would this be that God would not just impart all knowledge? That is a hard question to answer since God doesn’t spell out his mind on the matter on this. However, we can deduce several things from what He has led us to know.

First, we read in Jas 4:17 “Therefore to him who knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin.” This implies that there are those who do not know to do good as God defines it. It necessarily implies that not doing that good is not sin. Evidently, and importantly, God seems to judge us where He has placed us, not where others whose knowledge is also imperfect think we should be.

Of course, this scripture also applies, “Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.” 2Ti 2:15 . That word “study” in the English means to use speed or make an effort. So, we ought to be earnestly making an effort to present ourselves approved. That would necessarily learning the way to act from the scriptures.

Because we are all at different places in our growth, in our understanding, it becomes incumbent on us to diligently apply Jesus’ words: “By this all shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love toward one another.” Joh 13:35.

Moreover, in 1Co 13:4 we read that “Love has patience, is kind; love is not envious; love is not vain, is not puffed up...”

Those who proclaim that they are the “one true church,” “alone have the truth” or berate those having a different understanding of scriptures, proclaiming that others worship a different god, have a problem with the scriptures, and with love for their brethren. These same, when gathered into groups, under a guru, invariably demonstrate a lack of understanding of the basic scriptures on love, a quality which Jesus said would mark His disciples.

Our brethren who are afflicted with this lack of love need our prayers. We who love them should do so.

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