

## Searching for Truth

My father believed that finding truth could often be a difficult task. I agree. Even when one thinks he or she has found the truth, it is often hard to confirm it. We live in a world where many believe that humans cannot know truth and sometimes it seems that way.

We struggle with a modern problem of what I call, “dueling experts.” The problem has also been referred to as the “white coat syndrome”... that being our modern propensity to believe someone wearing a white lab coat who seems to speak with authority. Some psychological studies have shown that propensity can even lead us to do things the “expert” directs us to do which would normally be repulsive. But, hey... the “expert” said to do it!

The study of truth, finding it and confirming it is called *epistemology* and is defined by Webster as: *the study or a theory of the nature and grounds of knowledge especially with reference to its limits and validity.*

Philosophers can play with the word “truth” but often, everyday people understand it better than celebrated (so-called) “thinkers.” “Can mankind know truth?” they ask. “How do we know that we know truth?” they challenge. It all gets quite cerebral in their hypothetical illustrations. Most often those types of arguments are designed to stop debates and silence opponents of whatever is being discussed in some university discourse.

But let’s challenge the challengers! We know thousands of truths! If my heart stops out on a mountain hike, I die. If my eyes are removed, I cannot physically see. If my brain does not get oxygen, I die. If my arm nerves are severed, my arm becomes paralyzed. If I jump off a bridge with nothing attached, I fall. If I jump into the sea wearing only street clothes, I get wet. I cannot physically jump over the Grand Canyon. Normal cats have four legs. Normal cow's milk comes from cows. If bridges are too weak they fail. If the wings fall off, the airplane comes down. If the engine quits, it will eventually go down.

*It begins to get absurd to claim that man cannot know truth! Philosophical arguments are interesting in philosophy class, but don't try them on your engineering professor! **Man can know truth! We can argue its limits and debate its applications, but man can, indeed, know truth. (Yes, I know that man has often been mistaken about what is truth, but it gets sorted out with time, engineering, math, etc.).***

Now that we understand the simple reality that **man can know truth**, we turn to Jesus’ words, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free,” John 8:32. Free from what? Free from sin and spiritual slavery. Free from the second death (Rev. 21:8). Free from the fear of death that enslaves us (Hebrews 2:15).

Looking for truth? Check out Jesus’ words in His prayer to the Father in John 17, “Sanctify them in truth, Your word is truth,” (verse 17). I’m grateful to all the mechanical, electrical, aeronautical engineers, pilots (and many others) every time I fly. They help get me there safely. And I’m thankful for God’s truths that help me navigate life to God’s eternal heaven. We know truth and we can know **His** truth!

Ray Wallace