

I WILL TEACH YOU

God does not make arbitrary statements – He says what He means and means what He says
Numbers 23:19 / Romans 5:5 / Galatians 4:6-7 / 2nd Corinthians 5:16 / 1st John 3:8(b) & John 10:10

Proverbs 3:5-6 / Jeremiah 10:23 / Micah 6:8 / 1st John 1:1-10 / Acts 17:18 / John 14:6

SPIRITUAL WISDOM

1st Corinthians Chapters 1 & 2

(2:10-16 - 10) But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 *For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.* 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Man can teach you but it remains just a fact (head knowledge). Most times we try to fit it into our present understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). It doesn't become a heart truth until the Holy Spirit guides us to all truth and allows us to experience it for ourselves personally. Think of in times past when previous generations fit their understanding of the Bible into their limited understanding. This is exactly what the Pharisees did and why the Holy Spirit is your teacher and not man. God may use someone else as an initial intermediary to inform you of a subject, but it is God who makes it truth in your life. Many commentaries by professional scholars will and have disagreed with this truth, but in doing so they are contradicting God's word, and defining His meaning by their finite understanding contextualized by time and place in their lives; and they are also providing a shining example of why God teaches you and not them. They simply introduce the subject as inspired by God, but it is He who dots the "I's" and crosses the "T's" and makes it personally applicable to you. Discipleship is following Christ, not man. Even Preachers words to you are only as good as their relationship with God. That means it is always skewed in some way unless they are truly listening to God and saying exactly what He tells them to say. However, it remains just a fact, or head knowledge incorporated into your present understanding. Of course, God can have you hear what He wants you to hear, e.g. visions; but God still has to walk it out with you personally so that you will rightly understand. Even me, I am only a partner with the Holy Spirit to start the process, and to meet you where you are at. With the Holy Spirit we don't have that problem because, well...

He IS God, and IS the final Word.

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God does work with and through man but is not limited to only that way. A lot of people get messed up if God speaks to them directly audibly... but He can also speak from their heart – Exodus 20:19-22 / John 10:27 / Romans 5:5 / Galatians 4:6-7

The Truth Shall Set You Free

John 8:31-32 - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 15 all)

John 16:13 - But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth

1st John 2:27 (NLT) - But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true--it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.

Psalm 32:8 - I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Isaiah 48:17; 54:13;

But the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit and whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things. John 14:26

It is written in the prophets, and they shall all be taught by God. John 6:45

In Matthew 23:8-10, Jesus says, for you have one teacher, the Christ. Notice Jesus did not say, "I am your teacher." He said, "the Christ;" Christ means the anointing or with God's spirit. So Jesus is telling them that the anointing, or the spirit of God, is their one teacher. Now John is telling us the same thing: the Christ, the anointing, the Spirit of God, is your teacher, and you need no man to teach you. When you have the anointing, you have the truth. When you have the anointing, you have the Spirit of Jesus in sufficient measure to be guided in what to say and what to do. God must be worshipped in spirit and truth; it must be in His spirit to worship; it must be the truth of the life He produces in your heart, which life is the light, which light is the anointing, which is truth and is no lie — the inward truth.

It requires the operation of the Holy Spirit, to understand, to grasp the immensity of these tremendous things, to be thrilled and gripped with the excitement of what God has set before us. This then is why we do not have any need of human teachers. At this level, only God can do this. Only the Spirit of God can touch the human spirit and give insight to it. That is why at this level no human being can help you, although the Holy Spirit will often base his teaching upon the word which the human teacher brings.

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You have a clear example of that in Matthew 16, when our Lord asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" (Matthew 16:13b RSV). They named various ones, and then he said, "But who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15b RSV). Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," (Matthew 16:16b RSV). Now, Peter had been observing the Lord, but he was puzzled by him, as all these disciples were. They could never figure him out. They did not understand why he did what he did, and said what he said. They were drawn to him, but they were continually amazed at him, and puzzled by him, Peter along with all the rest. But when Jesus asked that question, "Who do you say that I am?" suddenly it all came clear to Peter. He saw it in a flash, in a sudden grasp of truth, and he said, "Why, you're the Christ, the Son of the living God!" The Lord Jesus said to him, "Peter, blessed are you! [Because God had done something for him.] You didn't learn that by flesh and blood. You didn't reason that out, you didn't amass all the evidence and come to a reasonable conclusion as to what I am -- but my Father has revealed it to you," (Matthew 16:17). That is the anointing, the teaching of the Spirit. There are three very clear instances of this in Luke 24:

After the resurrection, when our Lord joined the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, he found them troubled and disturbed. He said to them, "'O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them [or he opened to them] in all the scriptures the things concerning himself," (Luke 24:25-27 RSV). They had not seen these truths before. They had read these Scriptures many times, but they had never seen that they referred to the Messiah, to the Christ. They still did not know who this stranger was, but now they knew that the Scriptures described a suffering Messiah.

Then in Verse 32, after he had revealed himself to them, and disappeared, "They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?'" (Luke 24:32 RSV). They had heard what he was saying, but they did not grasp it until he opened their eyes -- the eyes of their hearts -- and the minute he did, their hearts began to burn. They were captivated by what they saw, caught up by it, entranced by these magnificent truths. That is what the anointing does. The Spirit of God takes the Word of God and opens it to us. Look at it again in Verse 44 of this same chapter. Again, our Lord appears to the disciples, and says to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled," (Luke 24:44 RSV). They had heard these many times, but "then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures," (Luke 24:45 RSV).

Now, I think we can see what this is, this anointing of which John speaks. It is an illumination of the mind and the heart, and a deep persuasion from the Holy Spirit. It involves intense powers of persuasion, it is a compelling thing, but it is not an impartation of knowledge. It is not a case of the Holy Spirit giving information which is not recorded in the Bible; it is a taking of the Scriptures and confirming them. It is a witness, confirming a fact. An exterior fact, with an interior confirmation or witness.

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In the book of Acts, as Paul is on his way to Jerusalem, he said to the people on his last journey, "The Holy Spirit everywhere witnesses that bonds and afflictions are awaiting me when I get to Jerusalem," Acts 20:23). Was this some special secret information that the Spirit of God was giving him? No, as they spoke of the possibility of this, the Spirit bore witness within him that what they said was true. It had the ring of truth, there was an inner confirmation that this was what was awaiting him, as it surely proved to be.

Perhaps you have often had the experience of reading a passage of Scripture a hundred times, having studied it, and perhaps even taught it, but the 101st time it suddenly comes alive with a wealth of meaning that you never saw before, and it simply glows with significance. That is the teaching of the Spirit. This is why the Bible never becomes a dead book. You can finish one book, turn around and start back at the beginning and go through it again, and it is as though you have never read it before. I do not think I have ever preached a series of sermons on a book of the Bible but that, when I had finished it, I did not want to start back at the beginning and go through again. I had learned so much, and I knew I would learn that much more going through it again. That is the marvelous ministry of the Holy Spirit to teach us.

Now it is not limited to Christians. All men can experience this, and, perhaps, have at times. I rather think all the great discoveries of science have come about through this. Men can hear a chance remark, and it may not seem significant in the context of the conversation they are holding, but a word from another person may strike a fire in an individual heart to give him a key to the clear grasp of a situation. That is the Spirit of God at work in men. But for the understanding of divine truth, especially that which concerns man's relationship to God, only the believer can enter into this realm. This anointing abides in the believer, i.e., it is always ready to work.

Notice what John says about the scope of the teaching. "His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie." As I said in an earlier message, that does not mean that a Christian is a know-it-all. There is nothing more abrasive, more difficult, than a know-it-all. But it means that there is no subject of human knowledge that is excluded from this experience of the teaching of the Holy Spirit. But, because it is primarily centered in the believer, upon the most central subject of all -- the relation of us, as men, to God, as God -- it therefore touches everything in your life. Read what Paul has to say in the second chapter of First Corinthians about this. There is a wisdom, he says, which is imparted to you which concerns "the deep things of God," (1st Corinthians 2:10 KJV). Think on that phrase, "the deep things of God!" These amazing themes, these profundities of life, these mysteries of life hidden in Christ, are revealed as the Spirit teaches you from the Word, so that you grasp the basic issues of living and grow in grace. You learn that, at the heart of creation, of all human significance, is planted the cross, the resurrection, and the enthronement of Jesus Christ. Now, he ends with this admonition to us that reveals both the narrowness and the necessity of this witness of the Spirit.

...just as it has taught you, abide in him. (1 John 2:27b RSV)

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The emphasis here is on those words, "as he has taught you." What the Spirit has taught you, not that he has taught the other fellow. Remember, after the resurrection, Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my sheep," (John 21:15-17 KJV). And Peter turned and looked at John and said, "Lord, what do you want this man to do?" John 21:21). Do you remember what Jesus said? "That is none of your business. You follow me. What I teach this man to do is for him to know. What I have said for you to do, that is for you to do," John 21:22). This is what John is saying here -- what it (the anointing) has taught you.

This is an intensely personal thing. It is to be the ground of your actions: what you have learned from the word of the Spirit, through the intermediacy of human teachers. But your activity must always be based on the conviction of what has come home to you. In other words, you walk by faith in the Word of God, as God has taught it to you. Not what you have learned by tradition. Tradition has, traditionally, been one of the most deadly foes of the church and has held people back from advancement in their spiritual life. Or not what you have learned through some church hierarchy.

Anytime you condition men to take their truth secondhand through some other individual, some line of men standing in succession above them, you have conditioned them to respond immediately to falsehood as well if it starts from the top. That is why hierarchies go astray so quickly and so easily. No, in the Christian life, all truth is intensely personal and comes directly to you from the Holy Spirit. Is that not wonderful?

That means you do not need to have a scholar interpreting the Word of God for you. You are not dependent on scholars. You can be grateful for them, you can read their very helpful comments, and the Lord will use them to teach you something, but you are not dependent upon them. You have no need that any man teach you at that level, for the Holy Spirit can instruct you. We must be open, of course, to hear all that others have to say. Charles Spurgeon once said, "I do not understand those men who have such a high opinion of what the Holy Spirit says to them, and such a low opinion of what he says to anyone else." We must remember that the Spirit of God does speak through other men, as well as through us. But, finally, we must act only on what the Lord has said to us. That is what made it possible for Martin Luther to stand before the Roman Emperor, with all the assembled dignitaries of state and church arrayed in opposition to him, one lone man, and to say, "Here I stand! I can do no other, God help me." He was listening to the voice of the Spirit to him.

Now this obedience is absolutely necessary because it is only on this basis that you can "abide in him," and that is where fruitfulness comes from. You cannot go another's route, you cannot live another's spiritual life for him, or force him to go your route either.

You are to open the Word, pour over it, listen to the Holy Spirit in it, listen to others as the Holy Spirit has taught them, and then, faced with this entire array of external testimony, obey that which the Spirit confirms to your heart is the truth. John says when you do that, you will abide in him.

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The New Covenant Hebrews 8:10-12 ... 10This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will put My laws in their minds, and inscribe them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they will be My people. 11No longer will each one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12For I will forgive their iniquities, and remember their sins no more."...

Isaiah 54:13 "All your sons will be taught of the LORD; And the well-being of your sons will be great.

Jeremiah 31:34 "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

John 6:45 It is written in the prophets: 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from Him comes to Me...