



Scripture Nugget: Know and understand our faith so as to keep it

Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart (Matthew 13:18-19).

Understanding God's Word leads to a clear discernment of God's will. Without discernment of God's will, we are easily misled by human concerns and human ideology (cf. Mark 7:7). A good example from Scripture is the situation when St Peter out of human kindness tried to dissuade our Lord from carrying out His mission as it entailed suffering and death on the part of Christ. Out of ignorance of God's will, even seemingly good intentions can in fact be inspired by the Evil One! *He (Jesus) turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an obstacle to Me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." (Matthew 16:23).* Being cunning, Satan will always try to dress up an evil to make it look good and virtuous. Without true discernment of God's will, it would be hard to walk on the true path, and our lives will be no different from that of non-believers as our life choices will not differ much from theirs. Unconsciously, we practise a watered down version of our faith because we fail to understand it. With the passage of time, such weak faith will be easily undermined by apathy, complacency and lukewarmness. Lacking in conviction in our faith, we will be Christians only in name, and will find it difficult to hold on to our faith in times of adversity.

Understanding God's Word leads to a clear discernment of the truth of the difference between good and evil. We live in an unprecedented era when even false ideologies can be aggressively promulgated like a true religion. Riding on the crest of popular acceptance is the false gender ideology which is spawning a sexual revolution in the west. A short time back, it would have been considered irrational to suggest a person can simply choose one's gender based on feelings and blatantly ignoring the reality of biology. Not so now. It is now politically correct to support such defective human thinking, which is really a fantasy trip of the mind away from reality. Seeking the truth has taken a back seat to practising political correctness. However, Scripture has a simple answer to this confusion and error. Scripture tells us clearly God made them male and female (cf. Genesis 5:2). Being the immutable truth, God's Word provides us with a reliable yardstick with which to adjudge falsehoods or moral relativism presented to us as true and virtuous. We need to know, understand, and live God's Word in order to remain in the Truth, and to adhere to our Christian faith.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are the Incarnate Word of God. You are the Eternal Truth (cf. John 14:6). You tell us that the truth will set us free (cf. John 8:32). It will set us free from lies, deception and eternal damnation. Your Word is truth (cf. John 17:17). Heaven and earth will pass away but Your Word will never pass away (cf. Matthew 24:35). Give me a great love for and deep insight into Your Word. Let Your Word be the joy of my heart and the light to my feet. *The law of Your Mouth is more precious to me than heaps of silver and gold (Psalm 119:72).* Your Word is the unfailing light that will lead me safely to my glorious eternal inheritance that God has prepared for me. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk