Daily Devotion #182

**Know What You Know and Why You Believe It**

**Ephesians 4:14-15 (NASB)** *“We are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming.”*

There are certain things in life that fascinate me. Mostly, they are subjects that are pretty worthless - random information about things that most people don’t give two hoots about. But for me, they are interesting. And because they are interesting, I spend a lot of time looking at things and learning about things that pique my interest. Mostly, those subjects have to do with mechanical things, like motors and tractors and RC cars and trucks and planes, etc.

I don’t know why they are interesting to me; they just are. I have no explaination. But it could be because when I was young, I didn’t feel like I knew or understood much. In fact, I was a terrible student. When it came to tests, I would often freeze and break out in cold sweats, just hoping the time would pass and that maybe God would supernaturally give me the answers to the questions or problems.

But then I learned something valuable. Someone said to me that God will certainly help you remember the answer to the test questions as much as you have put time into your study. They said that there is a direct correlation to our effort and God’s willingness to give us answers. That revolutionized my life. Study became critically important to me. I learned the more I take time to study, the more God reveals to me things I’ve studied when the time calls for the answers. That’s not to say that God can’t and doesn’t still do miracles, He does, but most often God wants us to do our part and He fills in the gaps, so to speak.

As the Apostle Paul was mentoring the people in the church in Ephesus, apparently there were some in the church who should have known more about the Scriptures and about God. But for some reason they were not growing in their faith like they should have been. So Paul, lovingly, but clearly, says to them. “Listen. You cannot live your spiritual lives bouncing back and forth, tossed around like you are in the midst of the ocean and gravitating to every kind of spiritual teaching out there”. Because, if you do, Satan, in effect, will eat your lunch”, (My paraphrase).

Paul knew that in order to know God and the way He wants us to act and react to life, we need to know His Word. His Word contains everything we need for this life. But too often, God’s people are blown about, using Pauls words, by everything that sounds good, instead of spending time in His Word to know the truth for themselves.

It is no wonder the church of Christ is weak today and has been growing weaker over the years. It is because God’s people are not taking the time to learn what God says and sadly they just take what they are taught for granted without studying for themselves. When that happens, anything goes and whatever someone else says or teaches becomes the truth.

Think of it like this. If you take your car to the mechanic, and he says you need new brakes, but you don’t know anything about brakes, you will pay the guy to do whatever he tells you. I’m not saying everyone should know mechanical things, but I am saying, according to God’s Word, you and I cannot stay spiritual infants. We have to grow in our knowledge of God’s Word or we will be taken advantage of by Satan. One of my spiritual mentors often said, “You have to know what you know and why you believe it.”. Meaning, you have to have a good handle on what you know, but not only that, you have to know why you believe what you believe.

So, where are you beloved? Are you being tossed around spiritually? The remedy is solid teaching from people you trust. But there is no substitute for personal study. That way, when you need the answer, God can give it to you much easier. And in this day and age, people needs spiritual answers. You and I are God’s tool to help them. Study. Study. Study. And you will grow, and you can help others know that God has the answers to all of the questions of this life.