**The Reality of Revelation knowledge**

**By B. D. Tate**

**Two Kinds of Knowledge**

**There are two kinds of knowledge in this world**. The first kind is knowledge that comes to us through our senses to our mind and then our heart. This kind of knowledge is information from the world. This kind of knowledge is carnal (natural) and is skewed by worldly views and opinions. It is based upon the way of this world and the way fallen man understands things. It is the wisdom of this world.

 We need the carnal kind of knowledge to get along in this world to read, write, and function in order to live, operate, and work. For me to work any machine, I need natural knowledge; to drive a car, I need to know how, when, where, and what laws apply. Natural knowledge is not necessarily sinful, it is not always wrong, we need it; however, **when it dominates us that is what is wrong.**

 **The *other* kind of knowledge is *revelation knowledge*** that comes to us through our spirit to our mind and then our heart. This kind of knowledge is from God’s Word. This kind of knowledge is Spirit and truth from God’s view point. It is based upon the eternal truths that are superior to carnal knowledge. **This kind of knowledge is revealed within our spirit by the Holy Spirit bringing understanding, insight, and revealing God’s will to us.** This kind of knowledge takes us from the natural realm to the *supernatural realm*.

 This revelation knowledge is what separates us from all other life in this world, including the animal and the demonic kingdoms. We were meant to rule and reign not by natural means alone, but by the supernatural power of God’s Word through us. **We were meant to rule by our words expressed by faith in God’s grace.**

 **We see this in Jesus.** Jesus became one of us not only to atone for sin and take away the power of the curse against us, but to show us what God had made us to be. Jesus lived in *revelation knowledge* and what distinguished Him more than any other man was the authority by which He operated. He knew God, He knew who God was in Him, He walked in the Holy Spirit; all that He said and did, He received from the Father and never a man lived or spoke like this man.

 Someone might argue that Jesus did these things because He was God in the flesh. We need to understand that Jesus didn’t do anything of Himself, through His divine person, but completely yielded Himself to live as a man under the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 2:5-7). Jesus was indeed our true example; therefore, how did He live?

 Jesus spoke to the fig tree and cursed it and it died. Jesus touched the sick and healed them. Jesus spoke to the winds and the waves and they obeyed Him. Jesus rebuked demons with His words and cast them out. Jesus spoke and every kind of sickness or disease was cured. Jesus lived, moved, and had His being in God’s Word and Spirit. **Jesus lived by revelation knowledge first and so must we!**

**The Kingdom Is Built Upon Revelation Knowledge**

***Revelation knowledge* is what the kingdom of God is built upon.** When Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do the people say that I the son of man am?” They responded, “Some say you are Elijah, some John the Baptist returned, others say you are the Prophet.” Then Jesus asked them, “Who do you say that I am?” And Peter responded, “You are the Christ; the son of the living God!” Jesus commended Peter by saying, “flesh and blood did not reveal this to you but the Father in heaven…” He went on to say that His kingdom is built upon *revelation knowledge* from above (Matt. 16).

 Faith comes from *revelation knowledge* not just from information. Faith comes from the Word of God which is Spirit and truth. **True faith is established in our hearts when we are convinced by the Spirit of God concerning His promises**. Jesus walked by faith and we are admonished to walk by faith and not by sight. Our faith, through revelation knowledge, becomes paramount in being like Jesus; remember it is impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6).

**Bad Faith Understanding**

We have had some bad understanding concerning faith. Sometimes we have thought that faith is some general sense that God exists, God is in control, and that whatever happens we are to trust God in it. Faith like this is almost blind, disarmed, passive, wondering and wandering, while staying steadfast that God is love and all things will work for my good. Furthermore, faith is said to apply when bad things happen that we should trust God. Faith is said to apply when I don’t know what to do or what to say that I’ll just trust God. This kind of faith is vague, in the dark, and confused in comparison to real biblical faith. Biblical faith means in short, “We know; we know that we know—that is what real faith is.”

 **When Faith is so vague it is utterly powerless.** Listen to this warning:

 (2Ti 3:5) “…having a form of godliness, but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

 I would say that the church, as a whole, has a form of godliness but denies its power; and the warning says to turn away from such people!

 **If we are powerless, we need to ask some very honest questions.** If we deny the truth it will not set us free and bring us to the place God wants us. If faith is the victory, and we are experiencing very little, then maybe our understanding of faith is skewed. Much of the teaching about faith is a hold on, stay strong, endure, maintain, don’t give up, don’t let go; a vague kind of approach. When we look at the life of Christ is that what we see?

 Much of what we know in the church has been, “When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be…” but for now, just keep on keeping on. Victory, in other words, isn’t for now; it is for afterward, when this life is over. Is that what we see in Jesus?

 This verse is astounding, listen to it again:

 (1Jo 4:17) “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment (this is about here on earth, the time of trials, testing, and temptations**); because as He is, so are we in this world.”**

 If this verse is true, and there are others that affirm it, then why the discrepancy between what the church is and what Jesus is? We are supposed to be just like Him!

 **A large portion of the answer is that we, as the church, are dominated by worldly (sense) knowledge and not *revelation knowledge***. We are still, for the most part, living by our senses and not by *revelation knowledge.* I think one of the reasons is because we have ***misunderstood faith.*** Faith as a vague thing, an uncertain quality, and as a hit and miss agenda, leaves us lacking any real desire to live by it. In fact, we already live by vagueness and uncertainty, so there is really no difference from the world’s way and being born again with this kind of faith. If this is true, it is no wonder we continue to live by sense knowledge, we are far more experienced, comfortable, and trusting in it.

**Definitions Are a Must**

Some definitions are in order for us to see what is going on: first let’s consider what faith is supposed to be. ***Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1).*** Now evidence is something we can wrap our minds and hearts around. If I have evidence, then I have something rather than nothing to trust in. Evidence is substance, real, tangible, concrete, reasonable, verifiable, something to base my trust upon; evidence knowssomething!

 **Faith “knows something.”** I came to this conclusion actually the other way around it. I found out what doubt is. From James chapter one, I learned that doubt receives nothing from God because it is double minded, swayed, unconvinced, not sure, and ***is not single minded upon God’s Word*.**

Doubt, by definition, doesn’t know God’s Will and is wavering like the seas back and forth from one opinion to another. If we understand that living by faith can be defined as I’m not sure, I’m wavering, wondering, walking blindly, and trusting some vague sense of God’s will (you know the universal prayer that goes like this, “Whatever you will…if it be thy will…”), then we are not in faith.

 We’ve got to understand that faith is to our advantage and being in doubt is no advantage—even if we do call it faith. Jesus walked in advantage knowing God’s will and exercising authority in that will. **Faith knows; doubts don’t. The Spirit knows; the flesh does not**. If we are uncertain, we are in doubt and in the flesh or natural man. We live most of our days and lives in doubt not knowing, this is contrary to God’s will for us. God wants us knowing His will and walking in faith that knows.

 The prayer of faith is not a prayer of guessing, a vague sense of hope, not sure what God’s will is; no, a thousand times no. The prayer of faith KNOWS GOD’S WILL AND PRAYS IT!

 **Therefore, we can embrace this truth: faith knows! No we need to understand *how* faith knows.**

**How Faith Knows**

Faith knows by *revelation knowledge* not by sense knowledge. Faith knows because of the work of the Holy Spirit **witnessing** to our spirit what is the truth. *Revelation knowledge* is revealed knowledge, or truth, to our spirit. The only way we can know *revelation knowledge* is through the work of the Holy Spirit. **It is a Spirit thing**. It is a bearing witness thing!

 Someone might memorize the whole Bible and yet have little or no faith. This is because having information about the Word doesn’t produce faith in the Word. I may know about the Word, but that doesn’t mean I know the word personally.

 Romans 10:17 says “faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” That is the general truth of the matter; however, hearing is a constant state of listening, focusing, and meditating upon the Word that is heard. Just hearing as in sounds, verbs, nouns, and sentences, without applying it to our heart, will do nothing for us.

 It would be like reciting the Lord’s Prayer a thousand times one after the other, after a short while it will only be sounds and words, but have very little meaning. We will be saying the words, but nothing will ***penetrate our understanding***. Recitation has a powerful place in our lives when it is mixed with faith. On the other hand, just reciting something over and over again by rote will only kill it, because we will stop listening to it and it can actually become what hardens our hearts towards it. A mother who constantly repeats herself to her children, in order to get them to do this or that, is actually training her children ***not*** to listen. At some point, we must take it to heart and act upon it. That is why James tells us plainly that faith without works that accompany it, is dead—useless or worthless.

 Heb 4:2 “For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.”**

 Remember also this truth:

 1Co 2:14 “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.”

**The Carnal Mind Problem**

Our natural mind does not receive *revelation knowledge*. What is dangerous and commonly experienced is a church that has taken the Word of God and embraced it from ***a carnal mind***. The carnal mind interpreting scripture produces: legalism, liberalism, and dogmatism. From the carnal mind, when the Word of God is preached, it is with judgment, condemnation, the letter of the law, a works mentality, often guilt driven, self righteousness, presented with condescension, and used as a tool to manipulate, or control.

 Have you ever wondered why the scriptures are filled with *tension*? If seems that almost every point of teaching has its opposite or apparent conflicting point. To the carnal mind these are contradictions, but to the Spirit, they are **safe-guards**. It is not that the Spirit needs to be protected, but that sinful man, carnal man, operating or applying the Word of God, gets is wrong.

 Many doctrines in the church right now have taken the Word of God and run with it without applying its opposite or opposing verses. For example, predestination is scriptural; we can find verses that teach that God has already decided. This teaching takes only one side of this issue from verses and applies it to every one’s soul. Without the opposing verses dealing with God’s given free will to everyone, it leaves us with God having already decided who will be saved. In other words, predestination means some were predestined to hell. The only way this teaching exists is because the opposing, countering, opposite, or conflicting tension causing verses, are being ignored.

 The tension that the Word provides has been relieved by the carnal mind and has come to the wrong conclusion. I can’t stress this enough, just about every wrong doctrine we have is because of the carnal mind deciding what the Spirit means in regards to the Word of God—it’s sad, but true. So often this is the case regarding most doctrines that the tension has been removed by deciding that some verses stand alone and superior to other verses. In essence, not letting the Word of God balance itself within us. I believe God, knowing the carnal mind condition, put the tension in the scriptures to help us stay on the straight and narrow and not go off to the left or the right (See “Tension Theology” for a more thorough explanation of this problem)

 The carnal mind is the problem. **If we think that our natural mind is going to understand the things of the Spirit, we couldn’t be farther from the truth (I Cor. 2:14)**. We must be born again to understand the things of the Spirit, and once born again, walk in the Spirit.

 Col 2:6 “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him…”

**This Is Fundamental**

This is the primary and focal point of *revelation knowledge*. Just as we received Christ the Lord, so walk in Him! This never changes. We don’t arrive at some point and this process is not necessary any more.

**What Is This Process? This Is The Process Of Faith; This Is How Faith Actually Comes…**

**How Faith Comes To Us**

The scriptures tell us that the **Father draws us;** for no one can come to God unless the Spirit draws them. God is the initiator, we are the responders. When we got saved, we had an awakening. First, we realized that we were lost and did not know God. Then we recognized we were sinners, separated from God; then, we began to respond to God’s initiative in our lives to come to Him. We were awakened to call upon Jesus, God’s savior!

 **This was all the work of the Spirit,** through the Word, being proclaimed to us through preaching or someone witnessing to us. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Faith is a gift to us, for we are saved by grace through faith and this is not of ourselves, it is a gift of God, lest anyone should boast (Eph. 2:8). Therefore, our walk with God is a response to His call, His initiative to our heart.

 The truth was revealed to us by the Spirit. **We don’t reveal truth to ourselves, it comes to us from God.** We are subject to the Spirit’s work. The only thing we can control is the condition of our heart. If we have a harden heart then the work of the Spirit is limited. If we will remove those things, or at least confess those things, that are blocking God’s way in our heart, then *revelation knowledge* will flow in greater ways.

 We are to guard our hearts for out of it flow the issues of life (Pr. 4:23). As the gate keepers of our heart, we are the ones that allow God to move, teach, reveal or not. If our hearts are after other things, other desires, money, success, pleasure, or wanting our will, these things hinder revelation in our lives because the Spirit is limited (Mk.4 Parable of the Sower and the Seed). If we are not paying attention, inclining our ear towards God, not providing for God’s Word to work in our lives, we are limiting *revelation knowledge*.

 Faith is the product of *revelation knowledge*. Authority, knowing, and being convinced is the work of *revelation knowledge*; walking by faith is the product of *revelation knowledge*.

 Power In Christ Is The Product of *Revelation Knowledge.*

We Should Make It A Priority To Understand *Revelation Knowledge*!

*Revelation knowledge* is revealed **Spirit to spirit** and is experienced with a dawning, understanding, peace, joy, love, patience, kindness, inner witness, and a growing knowing.

 How do we know we are saved? Do we make that knowing happen? The Spirit bears witness that we are the children of God, so it is with everything we learn from the Lord. *Revelation knowledge* is the byproduct of the ***Spirit bearing witness***. These verses speak to this:

 1Co 2:13 “These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the **Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

 1Jo 2:20 “But **you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things**.”

 1Jo 2:27 “But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the **same anointing teaches you concerning all things**, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”

 James 1:21 “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness **the implanted word,** which is able to save your souls.

 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

 24 for he **observes himself**, goes away, **and immediately forgets what kind of man he was**.”

 **It is a Spirit thing that happens in our Spirit.** We must guard against our carnal mind trying to control things; instead put on the mind of Christ. *Revelation knowledge* is fulfilling, insightful, exciting, peaceful, satisfying to the soul, settling, confirming, affirming, and brings a sweetness and tenderness. It is not threatened, fearful, not insecure, but finds rest; **it is a growing knowing**—knowing is to our advantage!

**Faith Must Be Owned!**

**Faith must be owned. *Revelation knowledge* must be personal from God to us.** If we don’t own it, we can be shaken and moved from it. **Salvation is something all of us must own.** Once we know we are saved and own it, we would not be moved from it by anyone or anything; we will remain steadfast. So it must be with everything we know of the Word of God.

 We can receive from God through someone else’s faith and revelation; however, **it will not be rooted and grounded in us if we don’t own it**. My faith must be from my relationship to God and His Word. I will fade, lose heart, and lose enthusiasm, if I base my faith upon someone else’s understandings of God. **Everything we really know in our knower comes from our relationship to God.** The Holy Spirit bears witness within our spirit, and when we are convinced with no doubts, **grace is established in our hearts**.

 These verses speak about the Word of God being deeply rooted in us so that we are not moved from it when trials, persecutions, failure, struggle, and temptations come:

 Eph 3:17 “…that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, **being rooted and grounded in love…”**

 Col 2:7 “…**rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

 Heb 13:9 “Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. **For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace…”**

 Mr 4:6 “But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and **because it had no root, it withered away**.”

 Mr 4:17 “And **have no root in themselves**, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended.”

**Revelation Knowledge Faith Has Deep Roots!**

When we became born again, we were given new life. In this new life, all the old is supposed to be considered dead; behold all things are new. Under the Old covenant and the law, in the natural man and carnal mind, there was and is this problem: we can’t change. We can’t clean up the old man, make it a believer, or establish in it faith with deep roots! It is impossible that the natural man can discern, receive, and believe the things of the Spirit (I Cor. 2:14).

 Yet, we are being admonished to establish deep Roots in our heart concerning the promises of God. We are through meditation and focus, our disciplined imagination, by abiding in Him, these things provide the Word of God opportunity to be planted in our heart. The truth is, we can’t plant these seeds in our old heart, it will not receive it. Therefore, God gave us a new one! He gave us a new heart that already is just like Him. In our new created heart, we believe, we are established, and we commune with God. We can’t change the old heart nor make it grow in the things of God, so God gave to us a new heart that already is right with Him.

The seed, time, and harvest of the old situation has changed. It is now the process of becoming aware, confident, and more bold in the things God has given us in our new heart. Our growth is about acknowledging, asserting, and standing in what we’ve been given. Our growth is not in substance, but in skill of the things we’ve been born into.

 **Nothing in this world will stand the storms of life if it doesn’t have deep roots**. We’ve been given Christ, we have deep roots that penetrate our new heart and will keep our heart true when persecution, tribulations, storms, doubts, fears, contrary circumstances, and symptoms come our way.

 This is how faith comes, it is when we acknowledge everything good that is in us because of Christ, and stand in it. When we stand in it, we are owning it!

**Faith Is Not Shaken**

**If we can be moved, shaken, made to give up, it is because we don’t own it.** We are not convinced. **We are not established in grace**. *Revelation knowledge* is the by-product of our relationship to the Word.

 **Knowing about something, knowing the facts of something, does not mean we are planted and have deep roots.** We can believe God wants to provide for us, but **if we are not focused** upon the promises, if we are not standing in His grace, we can be swayed and knocked off our believing. This is because we are not abiding, fully embracing the new creation, and fully convinced so that our knower knows. Our knower knows through revelation knowledge!

**Not By Feelings but By Faith**

**Feelings are not the basis of faith**. Feelings can accompany faith, but faith is established in the Word regardless of feelings. I may not feel especially saved right now, but nevertheless, I am saved as much now as when I feel very much saved.

 **Feelings are attached to thoughts, thoughts are attached to values, values are attached to meditations, and meditations are attached in the heart**. What we value we think about. Feelings become fickle because we are conflicted and divided experiencing two hearts. We have two hearts and the one we live to the most will dominate our lives. The old heart is filled with conflicting values in different beliefs from our new heart. Our feelings become indicators on which heart we’re drawing from and meditating in (See booklet: Two Hearts!).

**Faith Knows That We Know**

**We walk by faith, by knowing, that we know**, in the grace of God that is established in the Word of God we know. We are not established through things we know about, or heard before, or even believe is true. **We only become alive in faith when we are alive in revelation knowledge which is the byproduct of our true personal relationship to Jesus. A relationship that is actually intermingled in and had revelation with** the **Holy Spirit borne** in our heart.

 **When we know, when we are convinced, when we have received true revelation, we will not be moved**; we will not give in, not give up, nor be shaken. This is the work of the Holy Spirit to bear witness within our spirit that the Word is true and that we are sons and daughters of the Most High.

 I am convinced of my salvation. I am convinced that Jesus is in me. I am convinced of the authority, power, and deliverance of the name of Jesus. I am convinced we are commissioned to preach and heal; **nothing will ever sway me from that. This was not the work of mind over matter**, it was not the work of memorization, it was not from having all the right answers, it is not from pride or the carnal mind. ***It is the work of the Word of God mixed with faith and the Holy Spirit yielding the increase.***

 Here is the truth: I can’t make myself believe. I can’t make myself have faith. I can’t make myself not doubt or increase my believing; the old man is dead. **I stand in God’s provision of grace!** I can acknowledge the new creation and new heart where God’s Word and Spirit are rooted. I increase this truth by meditating upon it, thus watering it, by imagining God’s Will done in my life, thus empowering it in my heart. I strengthen my faith by focusing, considering, pondering, seeing all that Jesus is to me, is in me.

 **I allow** the word to work and increase in presence, power, and faith. I can take no credit whatsoever for the results of having faith, it is a gift to me, It is my responsibility to keep “the yuck” away and allow the word first place in my life. **The work I do is gate keeping, focusing, meditating, and abiding; the change, the faith, the power, the results are God’s works in me** being manifested through being born of God.

**The Questions I Ask Reveal Which Heart I’m Living To!**

**I can measure my own standing by the kinds of questions I’m asking**. The questions indicate which heart I’m living to. If I’m questioning the very heart of God’s promise as applying today or to someone I love, I’m questioning God’s Word; ***I’m actually in a state of unbelief***. I can tell that is from my old heart.

 When I actually do acknowledge the believing one in me and I’m not re-examining the foundation of my faith again; I’m in the new creation heart. When I remain here, steadfast in the new creation realities, I can move onto those things that are the real **hindrances, the things holding up, or stopping the flow of God’s Word manifesting in my life. The fallen world, the curse of the law, the demonic, and the natural conditions, which are all changeable, subject to, and overcome by the name of Jesus.**

**I Can Locate Which Heart I’m In By My Words**

**I can locate myself by the words of my mouth**. For out of the abundance of the heart our mouths speak (Luke 6:45). If my first inclination is fear, worry, anxiety, then I know which heart I’m in—the natural one. If my first words are words of doubt, unbelief, skepticism, I can locate which heart I’m in again; if my words speak of natural things, natural solutions, and natural answers, etc…then I can locate which heart…

 **If I cave quickly**, if I give in readily, if my first inclination is to run for help, seek others and not proclaim God’s Word, I’m trusting natural things…I can locate which heart I’m in. If I am convinced, knowing, steadfast, I will not give in, cave, or turn away; I am convinced, my heart is steadfast oh God! I can locate that I’m in my new creation heart!

**I Can’t Be Speaking, Thinking, Acting, As A Natural Man And Then Expect To Stand In Supernatural Provisions…**

**Many Proclaim Faithfulness but Reality Shows It**

Many of us may proclaim our faith, what we believe, what we think we have established in our hearts, **but the real status manifests in this world**. Where the tire meets the road, when push comes to shove, and when reality meets fiction, **what kind of fruit does my life reflect?** It is natural or supernatural? Am I receiving God’s power or walking in human power?

 I remember hearing the answer to a survey addressing the amount of time fathers actually spent face to face with their children. The fathers’ answers were something like a half an hour a day, but when the study of actual time was performed, the real answer was 30 to 40 seconds, up to several minutes a day! Sometimes we are not applying our faith as much as we think. Sometimes we are reverting back to old ways instead of staying grace minded.

 Like coming across someone’s garden, **we can all see what was planted**. We can all see the effort or work or attention it was given by the results in front of us. We don’t have to be present when the work is done; we only have to recognize what the results are to know what’s been done.

 Likewise, to be rooted and grounded in God’s Word, for our faith knowing to become greater and our unbelief less influential in our lives, we don’t have to be around someone when the work is done, **we can see by the results.** God wants us to realize that our efforts to be established in grace through faith, takes determination—we take it by force of will. It may take changing our efforts to acknowledge God’s Word in our lives more. **There is no short cut to spiritual vitality is comes from revelation of the Word of God and abiding in His Spirit. It comes from asserting, standing, and remaining faithful to believe what God has done in us.**

**Be Encouraged**

We’ve been given all things that pertain to life and godliness (II Pet. 1:3). This means we already have everything we need and everything we are ever going to receive from God. If we have Jesus what don’t we have? Therefore, understand how God set things up. Nothing comes to us through the natural man; everything has been accomplished in the new creation. As we see Jesus, stand in His provision, we are standing in His grace. This is the essence of this verse:

 II Cor. 3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

 This faith, this transformation, this grace walk happens through accepting, acknowledging, and standing in revelation knowledge. This revelation reveals that God has made us just as Jesus is now (I John 4:17). Again, this is a personal journey of grace that manifests, and becomes real to us, through revelation knowledge. It is the work of the Holy Spirit *bearing witness* with our spirit of the truth that has set us free. Amen.