

Faith, Facts and Feelings
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Introduction: There is great power in our emotions.

- A. Often great football coaches are known as motivators, enabling their team to play with great strength at a crucial moment.
 - 1. Great coaches also know that emotion alone will not help. One must know the fundamentals.
 - 2. One of the great challenges to knowing God's word is the ability to distinguish between our feelings and what God says. **(Jer 10:23)**
 - B. When a religion ceases to appeal to a reasoned approach upon the word of God, they will use "fleshly" appeals to gain their man-made goals.
 - 1. Sometimes flattery, large buildings and large crowds are appealed to. **(Rom 16:18; 1 Thess 2:5; Jude 16)**
 - 2. Others will appeal to emotionalism and claim the Holy Spirit is responsible.
 - 3. The current trend in religion is performance worship. You can use music and drama to powerfully influence the will of men.
 - 4. Cults will use these things plus other systems to provoke and manage emotions that will bring one to be a willing slave of men.
 - C. Our emotions are God given and there for have an important place in our service to Him.
 - 1. Emotion should be a by-product of things deeply believed.
 - 2. It is possible to by-pass the mind and appeal directly to the emotions.
 - 3. Many claim these emotions as a sign that god is working directly.
- I. How Does God Speak to Man?**
- A. God has chosen the gospel. **(1 Cor 1:18, 21-13)**
 - 1. Many today will fall into one of these categories. They will not let God be God!
 - 2. When you "seek a sign" you may find one. But is it of God? **(1 Thess 2:9)**
 - 3. Most men stumble over the gospel because of preconceived ideas.
 - B. Man cannot change the will of God.
 - 1. Has God chosen an objective standard or a subjective one? **(1 Cor 1:18, 27; Rom 1:16)**
 - 2. When we know God we submit to His ways and not try to force God into our ways. **(Isa 55:8)**
 - 3. Men who do not know God will try to find short cuts, both in this life and the life to come. **(Luke 16:27-31)**
- II. The Fruits of Subjective Religion**
- A. Subjective religion is dependent upon how you feel and what you want to believe.
 - 1. Consider the person who saw "Jesus" on a hospital door.
 - 2. Consider the young lady who saw the "virgin Mary" in a cow pasture.
 - B. Mormonism and Subjective Religion.
 - 1. How does one become a Mormon?

2. What do Mormons believe?
3. How do they appeal to people?
 - a. They claim a direct operation of the Holy Spirit. **(Moroni 10:4-5)**

[4] And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. [5] And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

b. They appeal to feelings and experiences as evidence. **(D.+C. 9:8)**
 8 But, behold, I say unto you, that you must ^astudy it in your ^bmind; then you must ^cask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your ^dbosom shall ^eburn within you; therefore, you shall ^ffeel that it is right.

- c. They give personal testimony of their private experience.
- d. Plain statements in the word of God are denied. **(2 Nephi 29:10)**

[10] Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.

- C. This appeal is commonly used by men.
 1. If there is no foundation, what will be the results? **(2 Peter 2:18-19)**
 2. Note the appeal for money. (Ex. Oral Roberts, Radio DJ)
 3. Sadly, I have seen Christians run to this as a reactionary religion.

III. Does the Bible Tell Us to Follow our Feelings?

- A. I do not deny that people have experiences.
 1. The question is, should we follow them?
 2. If a man claims an experience should I believe him?
- B. The Prophet of 1 Kings 13
 1. God gave him plain instructions. **(1 Kings 13:9)**
 2. The other man appealed to his “experience” **(1 Kings 13:8)**
 3. Which way was right? What did God do?
- C. Should we follow an angel? **(Gal 1:8)**
- D. If feelings are our guide, who then is right? **(1 Cor 14:33)**

IV. How we can be certain?

- A. The Bible claims we can know the truth through the written word. **(1 John 5:13; John 20:31; Luke 1:3-4)**
- B. The Bible claims we must test others through this written standard. **(1 Cor 14:37; 1 John 4:1-3)**
- C. The Bible teaches that spiritual gifts were temporary and would cease when the written word was completed. **(1 Cor 13:8-10; Jas 1:25)**

Conclusion: Will you trust in God or Man?

- A. Are you a Christian? How do you know? **(Rom 8:16)**
- B. Are you basing your assurance upon feelings, or the word of God? **(Rom 10:1-3; Acts 8:3; 9:1; 26:9)**