

# ***Can I Trust My Feelings To Guide My Religion?***

I Kings 18:25-29

## ***Introduction***

- The role that feelings play in the religion of many people.
  - A friend tells you they would not trade the way they “feel” about their salvation for a stack of Bibles.
  - When confronted with the contradictions between the Bible and their human creeds, or between their human creeds a Mormon tells you, they have prayed about it, and are doing what seems right to them. (And tell you to do the same.)
  - In conversation with a charismatic, you are told that they have had some kind of supernatural experience that assures them of their salvation, and the correctness of their beliefs.
- These scenarios describe one of the most common obstacles and challenges we can face in trying to teach another the truth. They are using their feelings, emotions as their guide and standard in religious matters. They are placing their subjective feelings, perceived experiences above the word of God.

## ***I. What Does The Bible Say About Following Our Feelings?***

- Prov. 16:25 → There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. (ESV)
- Jer. 10:23 → I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. (ESV)
- Prov. 28:26 → Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered. (ESV)
- Isa. 55:8-9 → For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (ESV)

## ***II. A Look At Some Bible Characters Who Followed Their Feelings.***

- Jacob. (Gen. 37:34-35; 45:26-28)
  - The depth of his mourning nor the length of time that he believed that Joseph was dead did not change the truth.
  - A lie believed will produce the same feelings as the truth.
- Joshua. (Josh. 9:3-6; 8-9; 11-15)
  - Things are not always as they appear, and the Israelites were deceived by looks.
  - They erred in not seeking the counsel of God.
- The man of God from Judah. (I Kings 13:15-18; 21-24)
  - A good man fooled by his feelings.
  - Deceived by one claiming to have received revelation from an angel. (Gal. 1:8-9)
  - The depth of his sincerity did not prevent him from being punished for not keeping God’s command.
- The 450 Prophets of Baal. (I Kings 18:21-29)
  - The overwhelming majority was wrong.
  - The spectacular nature (leaping, yelling, cutting themselves, etc.) of their actions did not render them right in what they believed.
- Saul of Tarsus. (Acts 26:9; 23:1)
  - Was sincere when he was persecuting the church. (Acts 7:58; 22:20; I Tim. 1:15)
  - His feelings, sincerity did not lead in the right way.
- Apollos. (Acts 18:25)
  - He was sincere in his preaching. (Acts 18:25)
  - He was wrong, and needed further teaching. (Acts 18:26)

## ***III. How Can We Know That We Are Right Religiously?***

- Rom. 10:17 → So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- Ps. 119:105 → Thy word is a lamp unto my feet...
- I Pet. 3:15 → ...be ready always to give an answer to everyman that asketh you a reason...
- Acts 17:11 → ...searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (I Jn. 4:1,6)
- II Tim. 3:16-17 → All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- I Jn. 2:3 → By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

**IV. *Feelings Properly Ordered Are The Result Of Hearing And Obeying The Truth***

•Acts 8:38-39 → **38** And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. **39** And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

•Acts 16:33-34 → **33** And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. **34** And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

**V. *In The Day Of Judgment, The Standard Will Be The Word of God...***

•Jn. 12:48 → He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

•Rev. 20:12 → And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

•II Cor. 5:10 → For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.