

Monday: 01/21/2018

What is Knowledge?

We need a good understanding of what knowledge is and how it works, because one of the greatest issues facing the church is whether we have knowledge or just belief. When you believe something, you are ready to act as if it were so when the circumstances are appropriate.

Now, it's also important to distinguish belief from commitment here. You may be committed to something even though you don't believe it. We see this in sports all the time. The fans keep cheering for their team—when they are behind by thirty points and there are two minutes left, the crowd is yelling, "C'mon! Beat 'em! We're gonna win!" You can believe or be committed to things that turn out to be untrue. But when you know something, you can count on it.

I define knowledge as being able to deal with things as they are on an appropriate basis of thought and experience. That includes things we know by authority, because we learn so much of what we know from authorities like teachers and books. You probably won't take your car to a repair shop that has a sign out front saying, "We have a lot of luck with our repairs." You want to take it to people who know how to fix it. You will find a place that is able to deal with your car as it is on an appropriate basis of thought and experience.

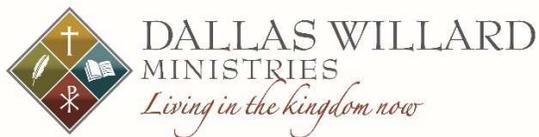
Reflect:

We want people who have knowledge and not just good guesses when it comes to our mechanic who is fixing our car or a doctor who is performing a surgery on us.

(Q) Would you say that you are looking for this level of knowledge from those who are Christian leaders?

Devotional by: Dallas Willard

Book: *The Allure of Gentleness: Defending the Faith in the Manner of Jesus*



*Dallas Willard Ministries is excited to partner with Jeff Whitebread, who, through his work with Capitol Commission, ministers to those serving in the Pennsylvania State legislature, their staff members, and those in the lobbying community. We believe the thoughts and ideas contained in Dallas' book, *The Allure of Gentleness*, are timely guidance for those who seek to stand for truth in a manner that reflects the character of Jesus himself. Dallas acknowledged he gave up trying to get people to do things, preferring instead to inspire them to think things through on their own and come to a different view of matters. We pray that in making this material available, we can continue in his footsteps, playing our part in helping others catch a vision of life with God, becoming his apprentice, and walking in the easy yoke of Jesus — even when engaging the rough and tumble world of the public arena.*