

# My Facts or God's Truth?

By Mary Kane

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A few years ago, I attended a faculty meeting for a teacher in-service day at the school where I work. The theme of our meeting was right brain/left brain learning. After we were seated, and opening remarks were dispensed, our principal directed our attention to the projector screen which featured a hologram of a mannequin spinning upon an axis. Our principal then asked us to identify the direction in which the mannequin was spinning, clockwise or counterclockwise. Much to my surprise, every teacher except one said that the figure was spinning clockwise. The other teacher insisted that the mannequin was spinning counterclockwise. I was the "other teacher." Despite being outnumbered by all the clockwise teachers I stuck to my answer; I trusted in what I saw. Similarly, the "clockwise teachers" also trusted what they saw. We both insisted that our answers were correct. We turned to our principal to solve the dilemma. He informed us that the direction one perceived the mannequin to be spinning was dependent on which hemisphere of the brain a person predominantly operated from. Who was right? Who was wrong? We both were right and we both were wrong. Confusing.

Life can present us with equally confusing situations. The world says one thing but God's Word says another...which should we believe? What if our facts don't seem to agree with what God says we should do? What if our feelings tempt us to go in a direction opposite of God's truth? Who has the final say— our facts and feelings or God's truth? Before we look into these questions please take a moment to approach our Father and ask forgiveness for any sin on your heart. Now ask him to fill you with His Holy Spirit and open the eyes of your heart to the truth of His Word.

**Please write down any well-known idioms you've heard that contain the word *heart*.**

How about, "To thine own heart be true," or "Follow your heart," ... "Heart of gold," ... "from the bottom of my heart," ... "Out of the goodness of my heart," or the ever famous, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

**Please record what you think of when you consider your heart.**

**To what degree do you trust the leading of your heart?**

Now please read Jeremiah 17:9.

**What does God say about the human heart?**

He says that our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. In the original language, *deceitful* means exactly what you think it means...sly, tricky, and slippery. The meaning of the word *wicked* is a little surprising; it means sickly, weak, frail, incurable. Do you want to trust in something that is weak, frail, sickly and prone to lead you astray? I know that the times that I've trusted in my heart over God's word have ended in disaster.

**Now please write Proverbs 3:5 in the space provided:**

**In whom should we trust above all else?**

We should trust in the Lord with all of our hearts. Our hearts contain the seat of our emotions and feelings, our will, our intellect, our passions and our desires. When we trust in the Lord with all of our heart that means that we place passions, desires, will, intellect, feelings and emotions under the authority of God's Holy Word. In other words, we act upon His truth despite our circumstances or feelings.



Now please read Genesis 16:1-5, 15-16 and add new truths and facts to the chart above.

**Have any of God's truths changed?**

No, God's calling and promise still applied to Abram and Sarai.

**Have any of Abram and Sarai's facts changed?**

Yes, they tried to solve their barrenness themselves and have another wife and a son to deal with. Now please read Genesis 17:1-5, 15-19 and add new truths and facts to the chart above.

**Have any of God's truths changed or had God promised any new truths?**

**Have any of Abram and Sarai's facts changed?**

Now please read Genesis 21:1-7 and add new facts and truths to the chart above.

**Have any of God's truths changed?**

**Have any of Abraham and Sarah's facts changed?**

**Now please go back and read Genesis 16:1-5 again and record what happened in Abram's family as a result of believing their facts over God's truth:**

The struggle between the descendants of Ishmael and Isaac continues to this day.

**In general, what were Sarah's facts concerning her ability to have children?**

The Bible specifically says that:

1. "Sarah was barren" (Genesis 11:30), she could not have a child without divine intervention.
2. Sarah was past the age of childbearing (Genesis 18:11).
3. Sarah was well advanced in years—in fact she was at least ninety (Genesis 17:17).

It was a fact that Abram and Sarai were well beyond the age of child bearing, BUT God's truth says, "Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you according to the time of life and Sarah shall have a son." "Human improbability often sets up in contradiction to the divine promise. The objections of sense are very apt to stumble and puzzle the weak faith even of true believers."<sup>i</sup> But as Matthew Henry continues to point out, thus Sarah should have said, "Lord I believe, help me with my unbelief."

In Biblical times, bareness was considered a disgrace and a sign of God's displeasure. Children were a blessing from the Lord; a help in one's old age. Hebrews regarded the presence of children in the family as a mark of Divine favor and greatly to be desired. The birth of a male child was especially a cause for rejoicing ([Ps 128:3](#), Hebrew); more men, more defenders for the tribe. If there were no sons born to a household, that family or branch became lost (Blue Letter Bible).

**How do you think Sarah was feeling concerning her inability to have children?**

Despite her feelings, facts and experiences, Sarah should have continued to trust God and wait for His promise to be fulfilled. This is easier said than done however.

**How about you, do you trust God above your feelings?**

**What about above your experiences?**

**Do you trust God above your facts?**

**Have you ever trusted your facts or feelings above God's truth?**

**If yes, what was the outcome of the situation?**

The Israelites faced a similar challenge in the desert. God had just delivered the Ten Commandments to His people. The Hebrews were commanded to have no other gods except the Lord. They watched as Moses went up on the mountain into the thunder, lightning, smoke and fire (Exodus 24) to meet with God. When Moses delayed in returning the people asked Aaron, Moses brother, to make them a god to follow. Let's consider the facts that led the people to make this request of Aaron:

Fact: The people watched Moses walk into a dark cloud of thunder, lightning and fire.

Fact based on experience: People do not walk through fire and survive.

Fact: Moses return was delayed by forty days.

I believe the Hebrew people thought that Moses had perished.

BUT God's truth says, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire you shall not be burned." God had also told His people that He would "...bring them up out of affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites ...to a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:17). God did not say He'd lead them to Sinai and then abandon them in the desert. As a result of believing their facts and experiences over God's truth, three thousand people died (Exodus 32:28). Like the Israelites in the desert, whenever we believe our facts over God's truth we bring "death" into our lives and the lives of others. We need to walk by faith and not by sight. His ways are not our ways.

Please consider the following people and the harsh facts and circumstances they faced yet they chose to believe God. Also, think for a moment about the results of these people choosing to trust the Lord.

**Joseph** was a prisoner and slave, but God's truth said that the sun moon and stars would bow down to him and he saved thousands from starvation (Genesis 37:9).

**Moses** was a fugitive, but God's truth made him a deliverer (Exodus 3:10).

**Ruth** was a Moabite widow and Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute, but God's truth included them both in the family line of Christ (Matthew 1:5).

**Gideon** was fearful, but God's truth named him as a mighty warrior and he brought relief to Israel from their enemies (Judges 6:11-12).

**David** was a lowly shepherd, but God's truth proclaimed David a king. He led the people of God and defeated many enemies (1 Samuel 16:12).

**Esther** was an orphan, but God's truth declared her a queen and she brought deliverance for her people (Esther 2:17).

**Daniel** was a captive exile, but God's truth promoted Daniel to a position of leadership in the province of Babylon when the king went insane (Daniel 3:30).

**Mary Magdalene** was possessed by several demons, but God's truth provided for a filling of the Spirit (John 14:16).

**Saul/Paul** of the New Testament was willing to kill for his faith, but because of God's truth he was willing to die for his faith and wrote several books of the New Testament (Philippians 1:20-21).

All of these people had to make a choice between trusting in their facts or trusting in the truth of God's word. Thankfully they chose to trust

God and we reap the benefits of these faithful decisions to this day. In contrast, others chose to follow their own feelings and facts: Lot's wife looked back, Esau sold his birthright, Orpah returned to her gods, King Saul feared the people and Judas betrayed his Savior. Because these people trusted in their facts and feelings and did not repent they lost their influence and left a legacy of disbelief and failure. We face the same choice— our facts and feelings or the truth of God's Word. When we choose the way of truth and faith we also will affect our world for generations to come.

**Are you currently faced with a situation in which you are tempted to trust your feelings or facts over the truth of God's Word?**

Perhaps your situation is a divorce. Your facts might be:

**My Facts:**

- My husband left me.
- I don't have an income.
- I don't have a college education.

But God's truth says:



### My Facts:

- My husband left me.
- I don't have an income.
- I don't have a college education.

### God's Truth:

- I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).
- God will supply all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19).
- As each one has received a gift, minister it one to another (1 Peter 4:10).

Let's try to map out a few facts and truths about a situation you are currently facing. For every fact you list use your Bible to find a truth from God's Word that speaks to your situation. (If you are unfamiliar with locating specific Bible verses use the concordance in the back of your Bible. For example: If your situation has to do with *bitterness* look up the word *bitterness* in your concordance and you will find a listing of verses that concern *bitterness*. If your Bible does not have a concordance you can look up verses at [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)).

My Facts:

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God's Truths:

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What do we do with this information now that we have it? Write the truths you recorded above on index cards. Take your index cards with you every where you go and every time you are tempted to believe in your feelings or your facts, say God's truth out loud. Now, from this point forward base all your decisions upon the truth of scripture instead of your feelings and facts. If you have "blown it" and made decisions or acted upon your facts instead of truth, **tell God** and ask for His forgiveness. Also, ask Him to change your heart to believe His truth. The next time you are faced with a decision that concerns your situation act upon His truth not your feelings. Do not wait for your feelings or facts to change. You can act on truth regardless of how you feel or how dire your facts.

Let me leave you with a big dose of encouragement from God's Holy Word. Below you will find a list common "facts and feelings" we deal with on a daily basis. Next to these "facts and feelings" is the TRUTH. It is my prayer that you will be greatly edified as you focus on God's truth.

*I am ugly... "Behold, you are beautiful, my love. Behold, you are beautiful." Song of Songs 1:15*

I am stupid... *"The law of the LORD [is] perfect, converting the soul;  
The testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple."* Psalm  
19:7

I'm not good at anything... *"As each one has received a gift, minister it  
one to another."* 1 Peter 4:10

I am weak... *"Let the weak say I am strong."* Joel 3:10

I can't do it... *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*  
Philippians 4:13

I can't be forgiven for what I've done... *"White as snow, white as snow,  
though [your] sins are as scarlet..."* Isaiah 1:18

There's no hope for me now... *"Indeed surely there is a future hope,  
and your hope will not be cut off."* Proverbs 23:18

I'll never beat this... *"Yet in all these things we are more than  
conquerors through Him who loved us."* Romans 8:37

I'll never heal from this situation... *"And we know that all things work  
together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called  
according to [His] purpose."* Romans 8:28

### **Your facts vs. God's Truth**

*Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar.  
As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words,  
And may overcome when You are judged."  
Romans 3:4*

Walk in His truth.

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<sup>i</sup> Henry, Matthew. "Commentary on Genesis 18." . Blue Letter Bible. 1 Mar 1996.  
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