

The Christian's Authority: Experience or the Word, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 2 Peter 1.

B. A great part of Peter's preaching was that Christ was going to come.

II. All experience must be validated with divine Scripture.

A. A major flaw of the charismatic movement is that they rely upon experience for truth.

B. The knowledge of the Word of God must be pursued also to validate experience.

C. The roots of reliance upon experience is the false systems of men.

D. The Christian life is built on the mind. (Ephesians 1:17; 3:18-19; Colossians 3:10; Philippians 4:8; James 4)

E. Truth is gained not through historic Christianity in the charismatic movement but humanism.

F. Christianity is based on a high view of Scripture and doctrine.

G. A subjective internal experience is no way to evaluate truth.

H. Worship experientialism was only advocated in Baal worship in the Old Testament.

I. Abraham's faith was founded on the Word of God.

J. Paul depended on the Word of God for truth not his personal experience. (Acts 17:2; 28:23; 1 Corinthians 10:15; 2 Timothy 3:15-16)

III. Scripture is sufficient.

A. The Word and the Spirit are synonymous. (John 6:63; 4:24)

B. One cannot worship the Spirit of God in an experience that violates the truth of God. One cannot worship God on one's own terms—he must worship God in Spirit and in truth. (1 Samuel 15:3, 7-8; 2 Samuel 6; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 32:8; John 14:7)

C. We do have experiences, but they must be validated with historical Christianity. (Luke 24, Romans 14:7, Matthew 22:37, Psalm 34, 1 Corinthians 15:14; Acts 17:20)

Application Questions:

1. Why is truth based upon experience only such a dangerous thing?

2. How did God's heroes in the Bible rely on God's word for the truth?

3. What is your plan for getting into God's Word in a way that that can give you a better understanding of God's revealed truth? Explain.
