

# **“To Virtue, Knowledge”**

Growing in the Faith 2018

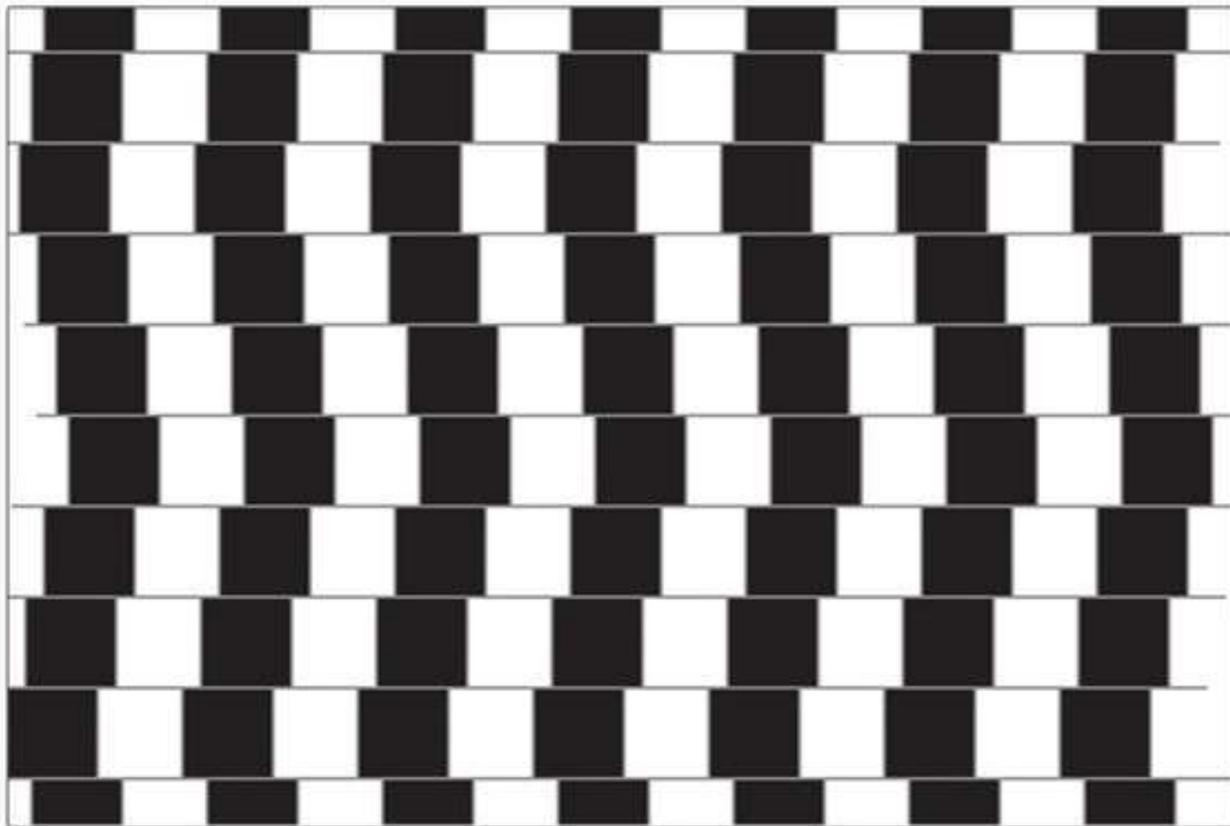
*“Make Your Call and Election Sure”*

*2Peter 1:5-11*

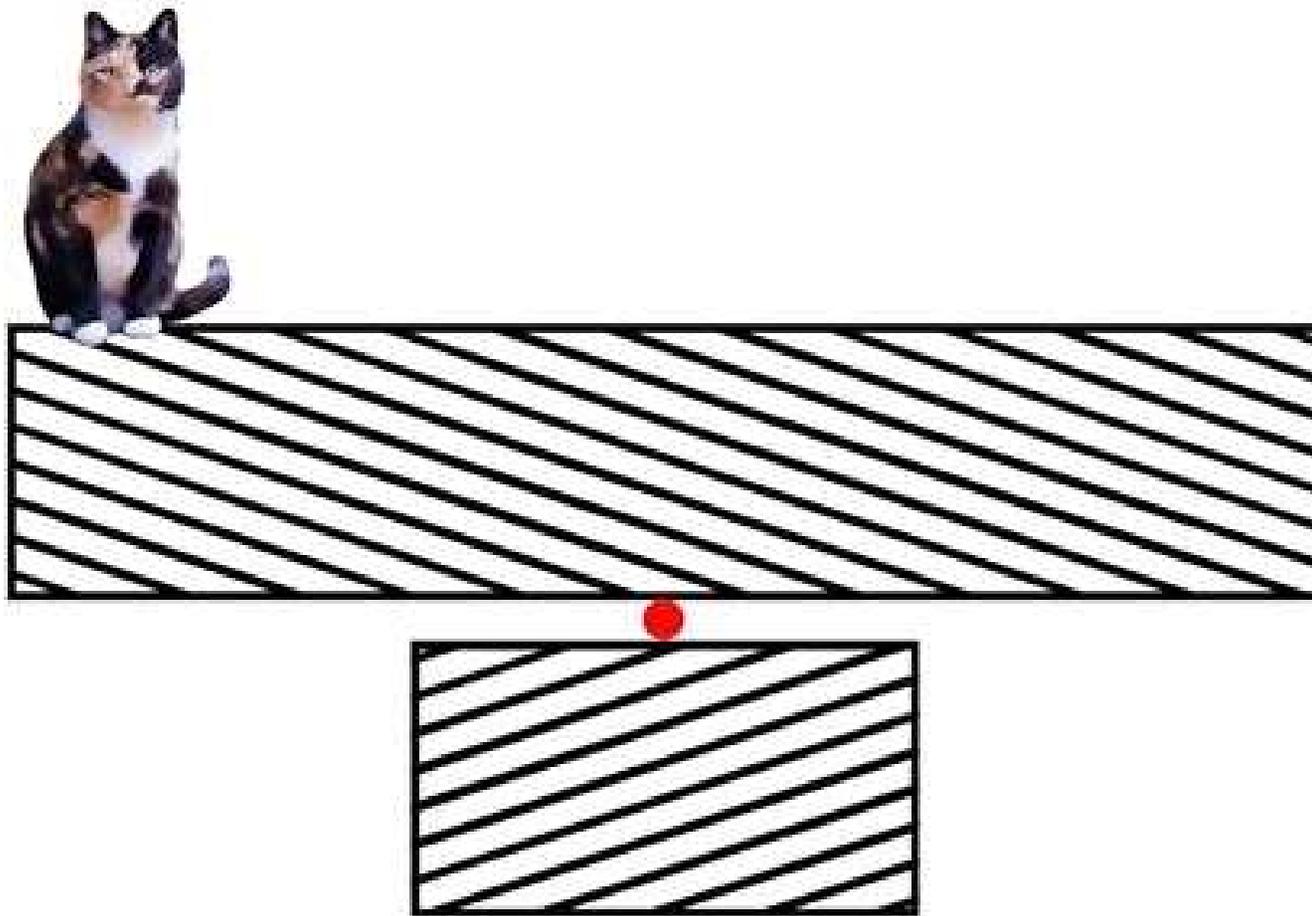
# How Do We Know?

- What we see, hear, touch, taste, smell?
  - Our eyes deceive us
    - Dr Isabelle Mareschal, Researcher for Vision Centre and University of Sydney [quote from Sciencealert.com]
    - “We tend to regard what we see as ‘the real world. In fact a lot of it is distortion, and it is occurring in the early processing of the brain, before consciousness takes over.”
    - “Our latest work shows that the cells of the primary visual cortex create small distortions, which they then pass on to the higher levels of the brain, to interpret as best it can.”

# Tilt Illusion 2



# Tilt Illusion 1



# True Knowledge

- If the distortion lies in the brain [experience, underlying assumptions], can our other senses deceive us as well?
  - If so, can we rely on anything we know?
    - Philosophical: Dream / Brain in a Jar [Matrix]
- “...,if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ***ought to know.***”
- 1Corinthians 8:2
- What ought we know?

# True Knowledge

- What is knowledge?
  - Does knowing require believing?
  - Does knowing require confidence?
  - Does knowing require good judgment?
- How does Knowledge compare to truth?
  - How do you know that what you know is true?
- What is skepticism?
  - Is it good or bad to be a skeptic?
- **Daniel 12:4** describes an explosion of knowledge in the end time.
  - How do we navigate this explosion of knowledge?

# 2Peter 1:5,6

- Knowledge is added to virtue, not the reverse.
  - True knowledge is founded in moral integrity, revealed principle. How does this begin?
    - **Proverbs 1:7** Fear of God, not just sensory perception and cognitive activity.
    - True knowledge is deliberately gleaned through involved experience with underlying truth.
    - The heart must be engaged, not just the brain.
      - Biblical heart = Reason, Will, Conscience, Passion
  - Fear of God requires a relationship with Him
    - **Exodus 33:17-34:4** How do you know God?

# Observed or Revealed?

- **Romans 1:18-21** Evidence of God is easily seen, but if He is not glorified and esteemed as God, all subsequent knowledge is severed from reality/truth.
  - Compare Thomas in John 20:29 to Peter in Mat 16:13-17
- **Job 42:1-6** God is only known when He reveals Himself.
  - Who is more likely to engage Him [Matthew 11:25]. WHY?
- **Isaiah 66:2** The proud in spirit who disrespect God's word cannot receive His revelation.
  - Cannot be led into all truth (John 16:13).
  - Cannot emulate God in Spirit and Truth (John 4:24).
- **Isaiah 6:9-12** We must accept accountability for our own self-destruction before we will glorify & appreciate God.

# Love Requires True Knowledge

- **1Corinthians 8:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Now concerning things offered to idols: We *know (oida)* that we all have *knowledge (gnosis)*. *Knowledge (gnosis)* puffs up, but love edifies. <sup>2</sup>And if anyone thinks that he *knows (oida)* anything, he *knows (ginosko)* nothing yet as he ought to *know (ginosko)*. <sup>3</sup>But if anyone loves God, this one is *known (ginosko)* by Him.”
  - **Oida:** Full recognition, complete realization, perfect understanding of an absolute - no progression of learning.
  - **Gnosis, Ginosko:** A progressive relationship with what is known that depends on the value placed on it.

# Progressive Understanding

- **1Corinthians 13:11** When children first learn their ABC's and 1,2,3's they have no idea what they will eventually be able to do with them.
- **Verse 12** *“For now we see through a mirror, dimly; but then face to face: now I know (**ginosko**) in part; but then shall I know (**epiginosko**) even as I also am known (**epiginosko**).”*
  - **Epignosko**: Strengthened form of ginosko, but with a higher degree of discernment, more acute perception & active participation, uniting the subject and the object.

# Knowledge in Process & Result

- **2Peter 1:1-8** *“<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge (epignosis) of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge (epignosis) of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup>by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

# What We Know forms Who We Are

- **2Peter 2:5-8** *“<sup>5</sup>But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue **knowledge (gnosis)**, <sup>6</sup>**to knowledge (gnosis)** self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup>to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup>For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the **knowledge (epignosis)** of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- Increasing in the knowledge of God is not just about what we know – it is about who we become.

# John 17:1-3

- Knowing the true God IS eternal life.
  - This relationship requires more than learning Bible facts.
  - Our knowledge of God, His word, and His way must be participated in. It must change how we think, what we do.
  - Built on deliberately practiced principles of virtue that correct us and develop our nature and character.
- To increase in the knowledge of God the Father and Jesus Christ, what we learn from His word must become part of who we are.
- This is how His law is written in our hearts.
  - Then everyone will KNOW God (Jer 31:34, Heb 8:11)