

How Can I Recognize the Difference Between Truth and Error?

Match Each Scripture Reference to Its Meaning

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| John 8:31-32 • | •The Holy Ghost testifies of truth |
| Joseph Smith-Matt. 1-37 • | •Ask God if it is true |
| Isaiah 5:20 • | •Continue studying the word |
| Moses 4:3-4 • | •Treasure the gospel and you won't be deceived |
| Moroni 7:12-19 • | •Satan tries to deceive |
| Moroni 10:5 • | •Beware of those who call evil good |
| D & C 46:7-8 • | •Pray to know the truth |
| J. Smith History 1: 8-20 • | •All good things come from God |

Beware of the Evil Behind Smiling Eyes

Working as a special agent for the FBI, my friend investigated organized crime groups transporting illegal drugs into the United States. On one occasion, he and another agent approached an apartment where they believed a known drug dealer was distributing cocaine. My friend describes what happened: "We knocked on the door of the drug dealer. The suspect opened the door, and upon seeing us, tried to block our view. But it was too late; we could see the cocaine on his table. A man and a woman who were at the table immediately began removing the cocaine. We had to prevent them from destroying the evidence, so I quickly pushed the drug suspect who was blocking the door to the side. As I pushed him, my eyes met his. Strangely, he did not appear angry or afraid. He was smiling at me. "His eyes and disarming smile gave me the impression that he was harmless, so I quickly left him and started to move toward the table. The suspect was now behind me.

At that instant, I had the distinct, powerful impression come into my mind: "Beware of the evil behind the smiling eyes." I immediately turned back toward the suspect. His hand was in his large front pocket. Instinctively I grabbed his hand and pulled it from his pocket. Only then did I see, clutched in his hand, the semiautomatic pistol ready to fire. A flurry of activity followed, and I disarmed the man." Later, in another case, the drug dealer was convicted of murder and boasted that he would have also killed my friend had he not turned around at that very moment. I have often thought of the communication that came into his mind: "Beware of the evil behind the smiling eyes." This is what I want to talk to you about tonight. Let's begin with what we know. Good comes from God; evil comes from the devil.

They are not, however, equal forces that are fighting each other in the universe. At the head of all that is good is the Christ—He who is the Only Begotten of the Father, who created our world and numerous others. Our Redeemer is a resurrected and perfect being. I know He lives. The devil, on the other hand, "persuadeth men to do evil." "He [has] fallen from heaven, ... [has] become miserable forever," and now works "that all men might be miserable like unto himself.. He is a liar and a loser. *Elder Neil L. Anderson*

How can we recognize the difference between truth and error?

What warning sign did Elder Anderson's friend receive?

Have you ever been in a situation where you were warned of error?

Discerning Between True and False Doctrine

Sometimes, when we discover or learn new information or gain insights, we can determine its truthfulness by answering questions like the following:

1. Is this idea taught more than once in the scriptures?
2. Do the living prophets and apostles teach it?
3. Is it in harmony with the current practices and approved policies of the Church?
4. Does the Spirit testify to me of its truthfulness?

What are some ways you have learned today to distinguish between truth and error?

What feelings or impressions have you had during this lesson?
