

*How can I really know what to believe?*

The Bible tells us it is the truth that sets us free. Jesus is the fullness of God's revealed truth. It is faith in this divine truth that leads us to heaven but we cannot have true faith in what we do not properly understand. We cannot love what we do not really know.

How then does the fullness and right understanding of this holy truth come down to us from apostolic times? Yes, largely in the Bible, but the meaning of the Bible can be confusing. Yes, we are helped by grace and the Holy Spirit, but our individual hearing is obviously imperfect. Because truth is one, God instituted one universal Church to speak with His infallible authority.

There are hundreds of denominations each with differing opinions about what God's revelation tells us. How could I, a sin weakened individual, possibly sort all this out for myself? It would take the arrogance of Lucifer to think I could do that correctly. Does God have a communication problem?

It's not God's communication problem. It is our human rebellion problem. From Moses and Aaron and the temple high priests to the Apostles and God's Church, God has always chosen human instruments to minister His word and work. It is God's own idea, even if many of us do not like it.

The problem is prideful people who don't like authority. Fallen man likes to pretend to hear individually from God, or even to reason it out with his own, "God-given" intellect. He calls this, "private interpretation." This is not God's idea and it simply does not work. Several conflicting views obviously cannot all be right. There may indeed be several non-conflicting levels in God's Word, but only one basic meaning.

It is only in the infallible gift of the Holy Spirit given exclusively to the apostles and their successors in the one and only, holy, apostolic Catholic Church that we can confidently know both God's revealed Word and its proper interpretation. This we can know and accept with confidence.