

The World Cannot Accept the Spirit of Truth

Reflect on John 14:16-17

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The people of the world do not see the Spirit of Truth unless they know Jesus.

As a follower of Jesus, I must accept the fact that people who do not know Jesus will not regard my evaluation work of transformational development as trustworthy. The standards of evidence are different.

People of the world seek evidence for truth based on what they see, hear, feel. They accept as evidence those experiences that can be shared, agreed upon, that are not idiosyncratic. Truth in the world is objective.

For followers of Jesus truth is intensely personal, for it describes liberation from sin through an ever-growing relationship with Jesus. Evidence for truth is what we see, hear, and feel in the world as guided by the Holy Spirit. The significance of what we see, hear, feel is not determined by how many other people have the same experience as we have in a particular setting. The significance is in what we learn about God working in that setting, by praying together about what we see, hear, feel.

Professional evaluation knowledge and skills alone are insufficient for understanding the truth about transformational development work. The truth is gradually uncovered within a team of believers who support each other in seeking guidance from the Spirit of Truth.

Lord, truth about the Spirit of Truth is difficult to understand. Be patient with me. Amen.