

Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon

Two Kinds of Knowledge: Exploring the Dualities in E.W. Kenyon's Theology

E.W. Kenyon, a prominent figure in the early 20th-century charismatic movement, profoundly impacted the understanding of spiritual knowledge. His teachings, often characterized by a blend of biblical interpretation and experiential spirituality, emphasized the importance of both "revealed" and "received" knowledge in achieving a deeper relationship with God. This explores the nuances of these two kinds of knowledge, examining their interconnectedness, practical implications, and potential pitfalls, drawing on Kenyon's writings and subsequent theological reflections.

Revealed Knowledge: The Divine Mandate

Kenyon's concept of "revealed knowledge" hinges on the idea that truth is divinely imparted. It's not acquired through mere human reason or observation, but rather through a direct encounter with the divine. This understanding aligns with the concept of revelation in scripture, where God communicates His will and nature to humanity. Kenyon believed that understanding God's nature and plan required a specific, divinely granted insight.

The Prophetic Dimension

A significant aspect of revealed knowledge, according to Kenyon, is its prophetic component. He saw prophecy as a crucial conduit for receiving divine revelation, guiding individuals and communities into a deeper understanding of God's present will. Kenyon emphasized that prophecy is not merely foretelling the future, but a dynamic interaction with God's current purpose. This is demonstrated in his teachings on discerning God's voice and His leading in life.

Biblical Interpretation Through Revelation

Kenyon's approach to biblical interpretation was deeply rooted in his concept of revealed knowledge. He believed that the scriptures were not simply historical accounts or ethical guidelines, but rather a dynamic source of divine revelation continually unfolding. His interpretations often focused on the spiritual dimensions of the text, emphasizing the application of truth in contemporary life.

Received Knowledge: The Personal Encounter

"Received knowledge," in Kenyon's framework, emphasizes the importance of personal experience in understanding God's truth. This is not mere emotional response, but an active engagement with the spiritual realm. It builds upon and complements revealed knowledge, transforming it from abstract doctrine into a tangible reality in one's life.

Experiential Confirmation

Kenyon stressed the necessity of experiencing the truth rather than simply knowing it intellectually. He believed that true knowledge was validated through personal encounters with God, manifested through tangible experiences like miracles, healings, and spiritual gifts. This emphasis on experiencing divine power is a cornerstone of his theology.

Inner Witness and Guidance

Kenyon's writings detail the significance of inner witness and spiritual guidance in the process of receiving knowledge. This concept delves into the importance of discerning the Spirit's voice and allowing it to direct one's thoughts and actions. The focus on internal spiritual guidance highlights the individual's responsibility in actively seeking and confirming God's will through personal spiritual experiences.

Interconnectedness and Interdependence

Crucially, Kenyon didn't view revealed and received knowledge as mutually exclusive. He argued for their inherent interconnectedness. Revealed knowledge provides the foundational principles and direction, while received knowledge facilitates the practical application and understanding of those principles. The balance between both is vital for a comprehensive understanding and a life fully aligned with God's purpose.

The Role of Scripture

While emphasizing personal experience, Kenyon never abandoned the importance of scripture. Scripture, for him, was the ultimate source of revealed knowledge, providing the framework for understanding God's ways and receiving confirmation through personal experience. This isn't a dichotomy, but rather a complementary approach, as he saw scripture as the foundation and personal experience as the confirmation.

Key Benefits and Potential Pitfalls

- **Potential for Misinterpretation:** Kenyon's emphasis on personal experience could lead to subjective interpretations and potentially flawed doctrines, if not properly grounded in scripture and community discernment.
- Emphasis on Spiritual Gifts: The focus on receiving knowledge through spiritual experiences often strengthened the movement's emphasis on spiritual gifts.
- **Holistic Understanding:** The combination of revealed and received knowledge, when properly understood, offers a more comprehensive understanding of God and His ways.
- Personal Transformation: The practical application of revealed knowledge through received experience has the potential to transform individuals' lives, leading them to a deeper and more intimate relationship with God.

Conclusion

E.W. Kenyon's concept of two kinds of knowledge, revealed and received, presents a dynamic approach to understanding God and His will. He stressed the importance of both divine instruction and personal experience, believing that a true understanding required a harmonious interplay of these facets. While his teachings have sparked both praise and critique, they undeniably left a lasting impact on charismatic and prophetic movements, continuing to influence contemporary theological discourse on the nature of

spiritual knowledge. **Advanced FAQs** 1. **How does Kenyon's concept of revealed knowledge differ from traditional Protestant interpretations of scripture?** (Delve into historical contexts and compare approaches to biblical hermeneutics). 2. **What are some specific examples of how Kenyon's teachings on received knowledge manifest in practical application?** (Explore case studies from his writings and contemporary applications). 3. **How does Kenyon's emphasis on personal experience interact with the concept of community discernment in maintaining theological integrity?** (Discuss the importance of accountability and shared understanding within the church). 4. **What are the potential dangers of prioritizing received knowledge over revealed knowledge, or vice versa?** (Analyze potential pitfalls of subjective interpretation versus reliance on traditional doctrines). 5. **How has Kenyon's understanding of two kinds of knowledge influenced contemporary approaches to prophetic ministry?** (Explore comparative analyses of modern prophetic movements and their links to Kenyon's theology). **(Note: This is a framework. To make it a full , you would need to include specific citations from E.W. Kenyon's writings, scholarly s on his theology, relevant historical context, data, and visual aids. For example, a chart comparing Kenyon's views to other theologians, quotes from his books, and even examples of how his ideas were applied in different contexts would enhance the quality of the research)**

The Two Kinds of Knowledge: Unpacking E.W. Kenyon's Profound Insight

Have you ever felt like you *knew* something, but you just couldn't quite put it into practice? Or perhaps you've experienced moments of profound understanding that seemed to shift your entire perspective? These feelings often point to a deeper truth about the nature of knowledge itself, a truth that was eloquently articulated by the influential Christian author and educator E.W. Kenyon. Kenyon, a pioneer in the prosperity gospel movement and a profound thinker on spiritual matters, distinguished between two fundamental kinds of knowledge, and understanding this distinction can be absolutely transformative for how we approach learning, faith, and life itself. For many of us, our education has been primarily focused on one type of knowledge. We're taught to absorb facts, memorize dates, and master theories. This is incredibly valuable, of course, but Kenyon argued that there's another, perhaps even more potent, form of knowing that impacts our lives on a much deeper level. Let's dive into these two kinds of knowledge and explore what E.W. Kenyon meant when he spoke of them.

Understanding E.W. Kenyon's Core Teaching: The Two Kinds of Knowledge

E.W. Kenyon's teachings, particularly those found in his seminal works like "The Two Kinds of Knowledge" and "The Wonderful Name of Jesus," revolve around the idea that there's a critical difference between intellectual understanding and experiential knowing. He wasn't just talking about academic subjects; this distinction applies to our spiritual lives, our personal growth, and our ability to overcome challenges. Think of it this way: we can read countless books about swimming, understand the physics of buoyancy, and memorize stroke techniques. We can even diagram the perfect dive. However, until we actually get into

the water and *experience* swimming, we don't truly *know* how to swim. This simple analogy captures the essence of Kenyon's insight.

The First Kind of Knowledge: Intellectual or "Head" Knowledge

The first kind of knowledge Kenyon identified is what we might call intellectual, mental, or "head" knowledge. This is the knowledge we acquire through our senses, our intellect, and our reasoning abilities. It's the information we gain from books, lectures, observations, and logical deduction.

This type of knowledge is foundational. It's how we learn about the world around us, understand scientific principles, master historical facts, and develop technical skills. In a spiritual context, it's the knowledge of biblical doctrines, theological concepts, and the historical accounts of faith.

Characteristics of Intellectual Knowledge:

1. **Acquired through the mind:** It's processed, analyzed, and stored by our intellect.
2. **Often theoretical:** It can exist as abstract concepts and ideas.
3. **Can be memorized and recalled:** We can recite facts and explain theories without necessarily embodying them.
4. **Relies on external sources:** Information is typically received from outside ourselves.
5. **Can lead to understanding, but not necessarily to transformation:** We can *know* a truth without it deeply impacting our actions or beliefs.

For example, we can read the Bible and intellectually understand the concept of forgiveness. We can recite verses about loving our enemies and forgiving those who wrong us. This is valuable intellectual knowledge. However, it doesn't automatically equip us to genuinely forgive when we've been hurt deeply. That requires something more.

The challenge with relying solely on intellectual knowledge is that it often remains detached from our personal experience. We can be intellectually convinced of a truth, but if that truth hasn't become a part of our inner being, it won't significantly influence our behavior or our response to life's circumstances. Many people who identify as religious possess a significant amount of biblical knowledge but struggle to live out its principles consistently.

The Second Kind of Knowledge: Experiential or "Heart" Knowledge

The second, and for Kenyon, the more profound, kind of knowledge is experiential, vital, or "heart" knowledge. This is knowledge that is not merely understood but is deeply internalized, experienced, and lived. It's the knowledge that transforms us from the inside out.

This type of knowledge comes through direct experience, through application, and through a deep inner realization. It's the "aha!" moment, the moment of breakthrough, the shift in perspective that comes from living through something. In a spiritual context, it's the personal encounter with God, the manifestation of His power in our lives, and the inner certainty that comes from walking with Him.

Characteristics of Experiential Knowledge:

1. **Acquired through experience and application:** It's lived, felt, and applied.
2. **Inherently practical:** It's deeply rooted in our actions and responses.

3. **Internalized and embodied:** It becomes a part of who we are.
4. **Often comes through testing and perseverance:** Difficulties and challenges can be powerful catalysts for this kind of knowing.
5. **Leads to transformation and conviction:** It changes our outlook, our behavior, and our fundamental beliefs.

Returning to our forgiveness example, experiential knowledge of forgiveness isn't just knowing *about* it; it's the journey of choosing to forgive, even when it's painful. It's the release that comes from letting go of resentment. It's the profound peace that settles in your heart when you truly extend grace. This is heart knowledge.

Kenyon emphasized that this experiential knowledge is crucial for true spiritual growth and for accessing the power of God in our lives. He believed that many of the promises and truths found in the Bible remain largely ineffective for believers because they are only held as intellectual concepts, not as living realities. The keyword here is 'reality.' This is about making spiritual truths a tangible reality in your life.

The Interplay Between Head and Heart Knowledge

It's important to understand that E.W. Kenyon wasn't suggesting that intellectual knowledge is irrelevant. Far from it! He saw the two kinds of knowledge as complementary and essential. Intellectual knowledge often serves as the fertile ground upon which experiential knowledge can grow.

We need to *know* what God's Word says (head knowledge) before we can begin to *live* it out (heart knowledge). The Bible is filled with divine promises, instructions, and revelations. Understanding these intellectually is the first step. However, if we stop there, those truths will remain mere words on a page. The journey of faith involves taking that intellectual understanding and actively applying it, trusting God to manifest it in our lives.

From Theory to Practice: The Bridge of Faith

Kenyon's teaching on the two kinds of knowledge is deeply intertwined with his emphasis on faith. He understood faith not as blind belief, but as a confident reliance on God and His Word, a reliance that moves us to action. This action, fueled by our intellectual understanding, then becomes the pathway to experiential knowledge.

When we believe a biblical promise (head knowledge) and act upon it, trusting God to fulfill it, we are stepping into the realm of experiential knowledge. For instance, if you understand intellectually that God promises to provide for your needs, and then you step out in faith to start a business or pursue a new opportunity without a guaranteed income, you are engaging in the process of building experiential knowledge. The success (or even the lessons learned from failure) will solidify that promise as a living reality within you.

This process often involves overcoming doubt and fear. Our intellectual minds can sometimes be filled with logical objections and past experiences that tell us something is impossible. But when we choose to trust God and act on His Word, we begin to develop a deeper, more profound knowing that transcends our intellectual limitations. This is where spiritual transformation truly begins.

Applying E.W. Kenyon's Principles in Your Life

So, how can we actively cultivate both kinds of knowledge in our lives, particularly the vital experiential knowledge that Kenyon championed? It's a journey, and it requires intentionality.

1. Deepen Your Intellectual Understanding

* **Consistent Bible Study:** Don't just read the Bible; study it. Understand the context, the historical background, and the theological implications of what you're reading. E.W. Kenyon books are a great starting point for understanding his specific theological framework. * **Seek Reliable Teaching:** Listen to sermons, read books, and engage with teachers who have a solid grasp of biblical truth and can articulate it clearly. * **Ask Questions:** Don't be afraid to wrestle with difficult passages or concepts. Engaging your intellect is a crucial part of building a strong foundation.

2. Embrace the Journey of Application

* **Identify Specific Promises:** Choose a biblical promise that resonates with you and commit to acting upon it. For example, if you're struggling with anxiety, focus on scriptures about God's peace and seek to actively trust Him in those moments. * **Step Out in Faith:** This is often the hardest part. It means taking action, even when you don't have all the answers or feel completely confident. It means trusting God with the outcome. * **Expect and Embrace Challenges:** True growth often comes through trials. Don't be discouraged when things don't go perfectly. See challenges as opportunities to deepen your reliance on God and to learn through experience. * **Meditation and Reflection:** Take time to process your experiences. How did God show up? What did you learn? How did your perspective shift?

3. Cultivate Inner Certainty

* **Prayer and Communion with God:** Regular, heartfelt prayer is not just about asking for things; it's about building a relationship. This intimate connection is where much of our experiential knowledge of God's character is formed. * **Listen to Your Inner Witness:** As you grow in your faith, you'll develop an inner sense of what is true and aligned with God's will. This "still, small voice" is often the voice of the Holy Spirit confirming truth. * **Testimony and Community:** Hearing the testimonies of others and sharing your own can be powerful affirmations of God's work. It helps solidify experiential truths for everyone involved.

The Transformative Power of Kenyon's Insight

E.W. Kenyon's distinction between two kinds of knowledge offers a profound framework for understanding what it truly means to know God, to know His Word, and to experience His power in our lives. It's a call to move beyond superficial understanding and to embrace a faith that is lived, felt, and deeply ingrained in our being.

By intentionally cultivating both our intellectual grasp of God's truth and our willingness to live it out through faith and experience, we unlock a deeper, more transformative relationship with the divine. This journey from head knowledge to heart knowledge is where true spiritual maturity and the abundant life that Jesus promised are found. It's about making the truths of God not just concepts in our minds, but living realities that shape our every step.

Ultimately, E.W. Kenyon's message is one of empowerment. It assures us that the promises of God are not mere theological theories but are accessible, living realities waiting to be experienced. By understanding and applying the two kinds of knowledge, we can move from knowing *about* God to truly *knowing* Him, in a way that changes everything.

The Dual Foundations of Understanding: Exploring Two Kinds of Knowledge in Kenyon's Framework In the evolving landscape of knowledge acquisition, the concept of distinct cognitive foundations continues to shape how we learn, teach, and apply information across disciplines. One compelling lens through which to examine this duality is the framework inspired by Kenyon's exploration of knowledge types—particularly the distinction between explicit and tacit knowledge. Though not always formally labeled as “two kinds,” this division reveals profound insights into how humans process, retain, and transfer understanding in both personal and professional contexts.

Explicit Knowledge: The Art of Codification and Sharing

Explicit knowledge refers to information that is clearly articulated, easily documented, and readily transferable through language, symbols, or data. It includes facts, formulas, procedures, and structured data—elements that thrive in textbooks, manuals, databases, and digital repositories. This form of knowledge is the backbone of formal education, scientific research, and organizational knowledge management systems. Its strength lies in its accessibility and scalability; because it is formally expressed, it can be shared, replicated, and standardized across diverse settings. In practice, explicit knowledge enables institutions to build reliable processes, ensure consistency, and support decision-making through clear guidelines. For instance, a medical database stores explicit knowledge about disease symptoms, treatments, and clinical guidelines, allowing healthcare providers worldwide to access and apply standardized care. Similarly, software code, engineering schematics, and legal statutes all exemplify explicit

knowledge—tools that maintain clarity and continuity in complex systems. Yet, while explicit knowledge is essential, it represents only one dimension of human understanding. Without recognition of deeper, more personal forms of knowing, the full picture of cognition remains incomplete.

Tacit Knowledge: The Power of Experience and Intuition In contrast, tacit knowledge resides within the individual's lived experience, intuition, and context-specific insights—elements often difficult to articulate or formalize. Coined by philosopher Michael Polanyi and expanded upon in Kenyon's framework, tacit knowledge includes skills, judgment, emotional intelligence, and practical know-how developed through practice, mentorship, and reflection. It is the “know-how” that emerges not just from reading or instruction, but from doing, observing, and adapting in real-world situations. Tacit knowledge is deeply personal and shaped by culture, emotion, and unique life experiences. A seasoned engineer might instantly recognize subtle flaws in a design through years of hands-on work—knowledge that cannot be fully captured in a handbook but is vital to innovation. Likewise, a skilled teacher intuitively adjusts their approach based on students' reactions, drawing on an intuitive grasp of learning dynamics that transcends rigid lesson plans. This form of knowledge fosters creativity, adaptability, and deep connection, forming the foundation of leadership, mentorship, and nuanced professional judgment. While tacit knowledge is harder to document and transfer, its value lies in its

authenticity and responsiveness to context. It breathes life into explicit frameworks, transforming rigid systems into dynamic, human-centered processes.

Bridging the Divide: Integrating Explicit and Tacit Knowledge for Holistic Learning The true power emerges not from choosing one form over the other, but from integrating explicit and tacit knowledge to enrich learning, innovation, and decision-making. In modern education, for example, blended learning models combine structured curricula—explicit knowledge—with collaborative projects and reflective practice—spaces where tacit understanding develops. In organizations, knowledge management systems increasingly incorporate storytelling, mentorship programs, and communities of practice to capture and share the unspoken wisdom embedded in employee experience. This integration fosters deeper engagement, as learners not only absorb facts but also internalize how to apply them in complex, unpredictable environments. It nurtures adaptable thinkers who can navigate ambiguity, collaborate across cultures, and innovate with both logic and intuition. Moreover, recognizing tacit knowledge promotes inclusive environments where diverse perspectives are valued, enriching the collective intelligence of teams and institutions. Looking ahead, as artificial intelligence and automation reshape knowledge work, the distinction between explicit and tacit knowledge becomes even more critical. While machines excel at processing and retrieving explicit data, they remain

limited in understanding context, emotion, and nuanced human judgment—areas where tacit knowledge thrives. The future of knowledge will depend on nurturing both forms, cultivating systems that honor codified information while preserving the irreplaceable depth of human experience. By embracing this duality, individuals and organizations can unlock deeper insight, stronger collaboration, and sustainable growth—bridging the gap between what is known and what is felt. In a world increasingly driven by information, it is the synthesis of explicit and tacit knowledge that will define true wisdom.

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Questions & Answers About two kinds of knowledge ew kenyon

No	Question	Answer
1	What are the 'two kinds of knowledge' E.W. Kenyon talks about, and why is this distinction important?	E.W. Kenyon distinguishes between 'knowing about' (intellectual, factual knowledge) and 'knowing' (experiential, spiritual knowledge). He emphasizes that true spiritual power and transformation come from 'knowing' God and His Word through personal experience, not just accumulating information.
2	How does Kenyon's concept of 'knowing' relate to faith and prayer?	Kenyon argues that genuine 'knowing' of God's promises allows us to pray with assurance and confidence. When we've experienced God's faithfulness, our faith is rooted in reality, not just abstract belief, leading to more effective prayer.
3	Can you give an example of the difference between 'knowing about' and 'knowing' in a Christian context?	Certainly. 'Knowing about' the love of God might mean intellectually understanding that God is love. 'Knowing' His love would be experiencing His love in difficult times, receiving His forgiveness, and feeling His presence, which transforms your inner being.
4	Why did E.W. Kenyon emphasize 'knowing' so much over simply 'knowing about'?	Kenyon observed that many Christians possessed a great deal of biblical knowledge but lacked demonstrable spiritual power. He believed that true spiritual victory and abundant life come from a deep, personal, experiential relationship with God and His truth, not mere intellectual assent.
5	How can someone move from 'knowing about' the Bible to truly 'knowing' its truths according to Kenyon's teachings?	Kenyon suggests this involves active appropriation of God's Word. It means confessing its promises as your own, believing them as realities, and living by them. It's about internalizing and experiencing the truth, not just reading it.

6	What are the practical implications of Kenyon's 'two kinds of knowledge' for a believer's daily life?	The practical implication is to shift focus from accumulating more information to actively engaging with God's Word and promises. It encourages believers to live by faith, trusting in what they have experienced of God, leading to greater peace, victory, and purpose.
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Summary and Recommendations

Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon offers a comprehensive combination of knowledge depth, portability, flexibility, and ease of access that makes it highly valuable for learners, researchers, and professionals alike. Throughout its various formats and editions, Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon adapts to modern reading habits while preserving the reliability and structure required for serious study and long-term reference. As a digital resource, it bridges traditional reading with contemporary technology, enabling users to learn efficiently across multiple environments.

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Proper organization is essential to fully benefit from Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon. Maintaining structured folders, consistent file naming, and clear separation between editions ensures that content remains easy to locate and reliable over time. As collections grow, organized systems prevent confusion and reduce the risk of referencing outdated or incorrect materials. Thoughtful organization supports long-term usability and professional workflows.

Digital features such as highlighting, annotations, bookmarks, and searchable text significantly enhance comprehension and retention. These tools allow users to interact directly with Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon, making it easier to revisit key ideas, summarize complex sections, and build personalized study notes. When used consistently, these features transform digital documents into dynamic learning tools rather than static files.

Sharing Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon responsibly is another important recommendation. Legal and ethical sharing practices protect authors, publishers, and users alike. Public domain, open-access, or officially licensed versions can be shared freely, while copyrighted editions should be shared through official links or approved platforms. Respecting copyright ensures sustainable access to quality content for everyone.

Combining multiple formats—such as PDF, ePub, and audiobook—offers the most balanced learning experience. PDFs preserve layout and structure, ePub files provide adaptable text and accessibility features, and audiobooks support auditory learning and hands-free consumption. Using these formats together allows users to adapt their learning approach to different situations and preferences, maximizing overall effectiveness.

Strategic use for long-term success

For long-term success, users should view Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon as part of a broader learning ecosystem. Integrating it with note-taking apps, research tools, and cloud storage platforms enhances continuity and efficiency. Synchronizing notes and reading progress across devices ensures that learning remains seamless and uninterrupted.

Periodic review of stored materials helps maintain relevance and accuracy. Removing duplicates, archiving outdated editions, and updating files when newer versions become available keeps the library clean and dependable. This habit supports professional standards and prevents information overload.

Final Tips

- **Always check source credibility:** Obtain Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon from trusted publishers, official repositories, or reputable platforms. Verifying authenticity reduces the risk of incomplete or corrupted files and ensures content accuracy.
- **Backup copies regularly:** Store files on cloud services, external drives, or multiple locations. Redundant backups protect against data loss caused by hardware failure, accidental deletion, or software issues.
- **Utilize interactive features:** If available, take advantage of quizzes, multimedia, hyperlinks, and interactive diagrams. These elements deepen understanding, improve engagement, and support different learning styles.
- **Adjust reading settings for comfort:** Customize font size, brightness, contrast, and background color to reduce eye strain and improve focus. Comfort directly impacts comprehension and long-term reading endurance.

- **Manage editions carefully:** Clearly label files by edition or year, and archive older versions separately. This prevents confusion and ensures accurate referencing in academic or professional contexts.
- **Balance digital and offline use:** Use digital features for search and annotation, but consider printing key sections when physical reference or handwriting notes improve understanding.
- **Plan for future compatibility:** Use widely supported formats and keep software updated. This ensures that Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon remains accessible as devices and operating systems evolve.

Maximizing value from Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon

Ultimately, the value of Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon depends on how effectively it is used. By combining thoughtful organization, responsible sharing, interactive learning, and long-term maintenance, users can transform Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon into a powerful and enduring knowledge asset. These practices support continuous learning, reliable reference, and professional growth across changing technological landscapes.

Closing perspective

Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon is more than just a digital document—it is a flexible learning companion that evolves with the user. When approached strategically and ethically, it offers long-lasting benefits in education, research, and personal development. By applying the recommendations outlined above, users can ensure that Two Kinds Of Knowledge Ew Kenyon remains relevant, accessible, and impactful well into the future.

Exploring E.W. Kenyon's "Two Kinds of Knowledge" and Its Enduring Relevance

In the realm of spiritual and personal growth, the concept of knowledge is often multifaceted, extending far beyond mere intellectual accumulation. American evangelist and author E.W. Kenyon, a pivotal figure in the New Thought and Pentecostal movements, delved deeply into this distinction, particularly in his seminal teachings on "two kinds of knowledge." Understanding this dichotomy is not just an academic exercise; it offers profound implications for how we approach our faith, our challenges, and our transformation. This article will provide a detailed, analytical exploration of Kenyon's concept of two kinds of knowledge, examining its core tenets, its practical applications, and its enduring relevance in the 21st century, incorporating insights on spiritual wisdom, divine revelation, and the power of belief.

The Foundations of Kenyon's Twofold Understanding of Knowledge

E.W. Kenyon's ministry, which spanned the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was characterized by a strong emphasis on the power of the believer's mind and the transformative potential of aligning one's thinking with God's Word. He believed that true spiritual progress was not solely dependent on external religious practices but on an internal recalibration of one's belief system. Central to this recalibration was his teaching on the distinct natures of two types of knowledge.

1. The Knowledge of the Senses (Carnal Knowledge)

Kenyon often referred to the first kind of knowledge as "carnal knowledge," "sense knowledge," or "natural knowledge." This is the knowledge we acquire through our five physical senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. It is the empirical data that our brains process to understand the physical world around us. This knowledge is undeniably essential for navigating daily life. We learn that fire is hot, that water is wet, and that certain actions have predictable consequences. This is the bedrock of our physical existence and our interaction with the material realm.

However, Kenyon was quick to point out the inherent limitations of this type of knowledge when applied to the spiritual domain. He argued that sense knowledge is often clouded by fear, doubt, and limited perspective. What we see, hear, or feel can be deceptive. For instance, a person might feel sickness, and their sense knowledge confirms the presence of illness. They might see financial hardship, and their senses register scarcity. In such cases, relying solely on sense knowledge can lead to despair and a passive acceptance of negative circumstances. It is a knowledge rooted in the seen, the tangible, and the temporal.

Keywords: sense knowledge, carnal knowledge, natural knowledge, empirical data, limitations of senses, fear, doubt, physical world, material realm.

2. The Knowledge of the Spirit (Spiritual Knowledge/Word Knowledge)

The second and, in Kenyon's view, far more crucial kind of knowledge is what he termed "spiritual knowledge," "Word knowledge," or "revelation knowledge." This knowledge comes not from our senses but directly from God's Word and through the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit. It is a knowledge that transcends the physical and operates on a spiritual plane. This is the knowledge of God's promises, His character, His will, and His power as revealed in scripture and confirmed in the believer's heart.

Kenyon emphasized that this spiritual knowledge is not merely intellectual assent to biblical doctrines; it is a deep, intuitive understanding that becomes an unwavering conviction. It is the ability to see beyond the apparent reality of our circumstances and apprehend the truth of God's reality. For example, when facing sickness, spiritual knowledge understands that by Jesus' stripes, we are healed. When facing lack, spiritual knowledge knows that God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory. This knowledge is not dependent on our feelings or external circumstances; it is rooted in the immutable truth of God's Word.

The acquisition of this spiritual knowledge involves diligent study of the Bible, prayerful meditation, and active listening to the Holy Spirit. It requires faith—the ability to believe what God says even when our senses contradict it. Kenyon believed that this was the key to overcoming adversity, achieving victory in life, and experiencing the fullness of God's plan for believers. It's about aligning our inner world with divine truth, leading to a profound transformation of our character and circumstances. This understanding is central to concepts like divine revelation and spiritual wisdom.

Keywords: spiritual knowledge, Word knowledge, revelation knowledge, Holy Spirit, God's promises, divine truth, faith, inner conviction, spiritual transformation, divine revelation, spiritual wisdom.

The Crucial Distinction: Why It Matters

The fundamental difference between these two kinds of knowledge lies in their source and their impact. Sense knowledge is external, fleeting, and often unreliable when dealing with spiritual realities. It is reactive, responding to what is perceived. Spiritual knowledge, on the other hand, is internal, enduring, and the foundation of victory. It is proactive, shaping our response to circumstances based on divine truth.

Kenyon argued that many believers are trapped in a cycle of defeat because they allow sense knowledge to dictate their beliefs and actions. When faced with a challenge, they focus on the problem as seen by their senses rather than on God's solution as revealed by His Word. This leads to a lack of faith, doubt, and a feeling of powerlessness. They may pray, but their prayers are often mixed with doubt, hindering their effectiveness.

Conversely, those who cultivate spiritual knowledge learn to stand on God's promises, regardless of their feelings or circumstances. They understand that their victory is not dependent on what they see or feel but on what God has already accomplished and promised in His Word. This allows them to face trials with confidence, knowing that God is on their side and that His power is available to them. The power of belief is paramount here, as it is the conduit through which spiritual knowledge translates into tangible results.

Keywords: distinction, source of knowledge, impact of knowledge, cycle of defeat, spiritual victory, prayer and doubt, power of belief, faith over circumstances.

Practical Applications of Kenyon's Teaching

Kenyon's teaching on the two kinds of knowledge is not abstract theology; it is a practical roadmap for living a victorious Christian life. Its application can be seen in various aspects of a believer's journey:

Facing Adversity and Challenges

When confronted with financial difficulties, Kenyon would advocate for shifting focus from the visible lack (sense knowledge) to God's promise of provision (Word knowledge). Instead of succumbing to fear and worry, the believer is encouraged to meditate on scriptures about God's faithfulness and generosity. This doesn't negate the reality of the need but reorients the believer's perspective, empowering them to take faith-filled actions and trust in God's intervention.

Overcoming Sickness and Disease

In matters of health, sense knowledge might confirm symptoms of illness. However, spiritual knowledge, derived from Isaiah 53:5 ("by his stripes we are healed"), becomes the foundation of belief and action. This involves praying with the full assurance of healing, confessing God's Word over the body, and resisting the temptation to be ruled by physical sensations or medical prognoses that contradict God's promises. This aligns with the concept of divine healing through faith.

Developing Stronger Faith

Cultivating spiritual knowledge is inherently an act of faith. It requires choosing to believe God's Word over our own perceptions or the pronouncements of the world. The more we immerse ourselves in God's Word

and meditate on His promises, the more these truths become ingrained in our spirit, transforming our belief system and strengthening our faith muscle. This process leads to a deeper understanding of divine revelation.

Transforming the Mind

Romans 12:2 speaks of being transformed by the renewing of our mind. Kenyon's teaching is a practical guide to this renewal. By consciously choosing to let God's Word (spiritual knowledge) inform our thinking rather than our senses or worldly reasoning, we begin to transform our mental landscape. This leads to more positive outlooks, greater peace, and more effective decision-making rooted in divine wisdom.

Effective Prayer

Kenyon emphasized that effective prayer is rooted in knowing what God's will is, as revealed in His Word. When we pray according to His promises, we pray with confidence and assurance, knowing that we have what we ask of Him. This moves prayer from a plea of desperation based on sense knowledge to a declaration of faith based on spiritual knowledge.

Keywords: financial difficulties, health challenges, overcoming sickness, developing faith, renewing the mind, effective prayer, divine healing, faith-filled actions, spiritual wisdom.

E.W. Kenyon's Legacy and Modern Relevance

E.W. Kenyon's teachings, though originating in an earlier era, remain remarkably relevant in the complexities of the modern world. In an age saturated with information, sensory overload, and often conflicting narratives, the ability to discern between superficial data and divine truth is more critical than ever. The constant barrage of news, social media, and personal experiences can easily lead individuals to be swayed by fear, anxiety, and doubt—all hallmarks of an overreliance on sense knowledge.

Kenyon's framework provides a vital antidote. It empowers individuals to ground their lives in the unshakable truth of God's Word, offering a stable anchor amidst the storms of life. His emphasis on the power of belief and the transformative potential of a renewed mind resonates deeply with contemporary needs for resilience, peace, and purpose. The principles he articulated are foundational to many modern self-help and spiritual growth movements, though often stripped of their theological context. Understanding Kenyon's original intent highlights the deeply spiritual and faith-based nature of this transformative process.

Furthermore, his teachings underscore the importance of active engagement with spiritual truths, not passive consumption. Cultivating spiritual knowledge requires intentionality: regular scripture study, consistent prayer, and a conscious effort to interpret life through the lens of God's promises. This active pursuit is what distinguishes true spiritual growth from mere intellectual engagement with religious ideas. It's about internalizing divine revelation to the point where it shapes our very being.

For contemporary Christians and those on a spiritual quest, exploring E.W. Kenyon's "two kinds of knowledge" offers a powerful framework for navigating life's challenges with faith, hope, and divine wisdom. It's a call to move beyond the limitations of what we can see and feel, and to embrace the boundless power and unchanging truth found in God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit. This

understanding is not just about knowing more; it's about knowing God more intimately and allowing His truth to empower us to live the abundant life He intends.

Keywords: modern relevance, spiritual growth, faith-based principles, resilience, peace, purpose, divine truth, scripture study, prayer, Holy Spirit, abundant life, divine revelation.