



WOW: Word Of the Week

Facts

May 18, 2022

Roy Smith is credited with this quotation: “This world belongs to the man who is wise enough to change his mind in the presence of facts.” A. L. Mander describes facts like this: “Facts *are*—whether we know them or not. Our purpose is to discover them.” You may have read or heard the statement: “Don’t confuse me with the facts—my mind’s made up!”

The Bible is filled with facts, but the use the word “facts” in our recent translations is quite limited. “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact” (Acts 2:32). LEB translates Acts 24:22 like this: “But Felix, because he understood the facts concerning the Way more accurately, put them off....”

The Spanish word for the book of Acts is “*hechos*.” The Spanish word for facts is the same word – “*hechos*.” Context clarifies the best translation choice, but the connection is intriguing. The book of Acts is facts. The Book of Acts is the Book of Facts.

Our word “facts” derives from the Latin *factum*, from the verb *facere*, to do. Following the original meaning, a fact is “an act.” Today the word has come to mean a “thing known to be true,” that is, “something that has actually occurred.”

- “That’s the fact!” Facts establish the real state of things, in comparison to a statement of belief.
- “Here’s what I believe.” Statements of belief are interesting, helpful, humanly developed.
- Facts reflect reality; statements of belief may or may not reflect facts.
- I can almost hear Sgt. Joe Friday saying, “Just the facts, ma’am, nothing but the facts,” (although the fact is that he really never said those words on an episode of Dragnet!).

Application! Is what you believe based on facts? Do you know what really happened? Do you know the facts? Or are you depending on hearsay, personal experience, or your own emotions or feelings? Are your personal beliefs consistent with the facts, or contradicted by the facts?

If you are interested in the facts, spiritually speaking, the Bible is a great place to begin! The book of Facts! THE fact—God has raised Jesus, verified by witnesses of the fact! Facts concerning the Way of Christianity. Facts and truth. Fact: something that actually occurred, something that can be known to be true.

“You shall know the facts, and the facts will set you free!”