Introduction: There is great power in our emotions.
A. Often great football coaches are known as motivators, enabling their team to play with great strength at a crucial moment.
   1. Great coaches also know that emotion alone will not help. One must know the fundamentals.
   2. One of the great challenges to knowing God’s word is the ability to distinguish between our feelings and what God says. (Jer 10:23)
B. When a religion ceases to appeal to a reasoned approach upon the word of God, they will use “fleshly” appeals to gain their man-made goals.
   1. Sometimes flattery, large buildings and large crowds are appealed to. (Rom 16:18; 1 Thess 2:5; Jude 16)
   2. Others will appeal to emotionalism and claim the Holy Spirit is responsible.
   3. The current trend in religion is performance worship. You can use music and drama to powerfully influence the will of men.
   4. Cults will use these things plus other systems to provoke and manage emotions that will bring one to be a willing slave of men.
C. Our emotions are God given and there for have an important place in our service to Him.
   1. Emotion should be a by-product of things deeply believed.
   2. It is possible to by-pass the mind and appeal directly to the emotions.
   3. Many claim these emotions as a sign that god is working directly.
I. How Does God Speak to Man?
A. God has chosen the gospel. (1 Cor 1:18, 21-13)
   1. Many today will fall into one of these categories. They will not let God be God!
   2. When you “seek a sign” you may find one. But is it of God? (1 Thess 2:9)
   3. Most men stumble over the gospel because of preconceived ideas.
B. Man cannot change the will of God.
   1. Has God chosen an objective standard or a subjective one? (1 Cor 1:18, 27; Rom 1:16)
   2. When we know God we submit to His ways and not try to force God into our ways. (Isa 55:8)
   3. Men who do not know God will try to find short cuts, both in this life and the life to come. (Luke 16:27-31)
II. The Fruits of Subjective Religion
A. Subjective religion is dependent upon how you feel and what you want to believe.
   1. Consider the person who saw “Jesus” on a hospital door.
   2. Consider the young lady who saw the “virgin Mary” in a cow pasture.
B. Mormonism and Subjective Religion.
   1. How does one become a Mormon?
2. What do Mormons believe?
3. How do they appeal to people?
   a. They claim a direct operation of the Holy Spirit. (Moroni 10:4-5)

[4] And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. [5] And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

b. They appeal to feelings and experiences as evidence. (D.+C. 9:8)

8 But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.

c. They give personal testimony of their private experience.

d. Plain statements in the word of God are denied. (2 Nephi 29:10)

[10] Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.

C. This appeal is commonly used by men.
   1. If there is no foundation, what will be the results? (2 Peter 2:18-19)
   2. Note the appeal for money. (Ex. Oral Roberts, Radio DJ)
   3. Sadly, I have seen Christians run to this as a reactionary religion.

III. Does the Bible Tell Us to Follow our Feelings?
   A. I do not deny that people have experiences.
      1. The question is, should we follow them?
      2. If a man claims an experience should I believe him?
   B. The Prophet of 1 Kings 13
      1. God gave him plain instructions. (1 Kings 13:9)
      2. The other man appealed to his “experience” (1 Kings 13:8)
      3. Which way was right? What did God do?
   C. Should we follow an angel? (Gal 1:8)
   D. If feelings are our guide, who then is right? (1 Cor 14:33)

IV. How we can be certain?
   A. The Bible claims we can know the truth through the written word.
      (1 John 5:13; John 20:31; Luke 1:3-4)
   B. The Bible claims we must test others through this written standard.
      (1 Cor 14:37; 1 John 4:1-3)
   C. The Bible teaches that spiritual gifts were temporary and would cease when the written word was completed. (1 Cor 13:8-10; Jas 1:25)

Conclusion: Will you trust in God or Man?
   A. Are you a Christian? How do you know? (Rom 8:16)
   B. Are you basing your assurance upon feelings, or the word of God? (Rom 10:1-3; Acts 8:3; 9:1; 26:9)