

I frequently use the phrase, "If it's on the Internet, it must be true." Of course, I don't believe this. However, I am amazed at how many people read an article or news item and immediately embrace the information as fact. King Solomon wrote, "Only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps." (Proverbs 14:15, NLT)

For example, there is a tremendous amount of medical information available on the Internet covering a wide variety of ailments. Some of the medical information posted is from solid and reliable sources while others are written by charlatans. When one has a serious ailment and is seeing doctors, well-trained physicians may have different opinions and perspectives about how to treat you. In these instances, discerning the Lord's wisdom is critical. The Internet doctor confuses the situation. Information from traditional sources such as the Mayo Clinic are usually reliable. However, non-traditional sites may or may not be solid. If I'm looking up medical information through my search engine, I would look for sites with studies and documentation supporting their claims. My point is that we can't accept everything written on the Internet at face value as factual.

Likewise, even when you read material I've written and posted on this website; I'm not going to be 100% correct. As Paul wrote, "Test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:21, NLT)

When reviewing information from the Internet, consider these questions:

- Is the information consistent with God's word?
- Is there evidence to support the position?
- When you ask the Lord for confirmation, do you feel God's peace?

Ultimately each of us is responsible for the decisions we make. Make sure you follow an orderly process to verify Internet information. Always seek God's wisdom and peace. Remember, just because it's on the Internet doesn't mean the information is accurate.

Doctor Internet

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Thursday, 23 May 2019 13:38

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