

LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR MIND: A STUDY IN LOGICAL THINKING



PART FOUR COGNITIVE BIASES



**TRUTH ON THE
WEB MINISTRIES**

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EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS





**"Those who cannot change their minds
cannot change anything."**

George Bernard Shaw





Review of Terms

Argument: a coherent series of reasons, statements, or facts intended to support or establish a conclusion.

Propositions: true / false statements that, when taken together, constitute an argument. There are two basic types of propositions.

Premises: true propositions that support the conclusion.

Conclusion: the truth that logically follows the premise(s).



Review of Terms

Strong or Valid argument:

- A deductive argument where all the premises are true, thus the conclusion must be true.
- An inductive argument in which all the premises are true, and the conclusion is very likely to be true.

Weak argument:

- An argument (deductive or inductive) in which the conclusion is not certainly or highly likely to be true (but it might be true).



Review of Terms

Invalid argument:

An argument in which one or more of the propositions are false.

- Premise(s) might be false
- Conclusion is false based on premise(s)

Logical fallacy:

- Reasoning that is logically invalid, or that undermines the logical validity of an argument.



[illegible]

Logical Fallcies

Red Herring	Appeal to Authority	Composition/Division
Ad Hominem (Abusive)	The Fallacy Fallacy	No True Scotsman
Ad Hominem (Circumstantial)	Slippery Slope	Bifurcation
Ad Hominem (Tu quoque)	Special Pleading	Black-or-White
Ad Hominem (Guilt by Association)	Loaded Question	False Dilemma
Strawman	Burden of Proof	Anecdotal
Personal Incredulity	Ambiguity	Middle Ground
False Cause	Bandwagon	Begging the Question
Appeal to Emotion		



Logical, rational thinking is to pursue truth. It puts our knowledge, decisions and actions on a firm foundation - Truth.

Thinking logically is thinking as God thinks.

Romans 8:28-29

And **we know** that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.



False Premise

- Therefore, sins cannot be forgiven through Jesus.**





Invalid Argument

False Premise

- All have sinned.
- Only God can forgive sins (for eternal life).
- **Jesus never said He was God.**

~~Therefore, sins cannot be forgiven through Jesus.~~



Invalid Argument

Unsupported Conclusion

- Jesus was born into the tribe of Judah.
- Jesus was born about 2,000 years ago.

Therefore, Jesus was born in Bethlehem.



Invalid Argument

Unsupported Conclusion

- Jesus was born into the tribe of Judah.
- Jesus was born about 2,000 years ago.

~~Therefore, Jesus was born in Bethlehem.~~

While both premises are true, neither relates to the conclusion.

- There were many cities in Judah that Jesus could have been born in.
- There were many cities 2,000 years ago that Jesus could have been born in.





Invalid Argument

Logical Fallacy

- Each religion has its own 'way' to salvation.
- There are many religions.

Therefore, Jesus cannot be the only Way to salvation.





Invalid Argument

Logical Fallacy

- Each religion has its own 'way' to salvation.
- There are many religions.
- **It is possible Christianity is the only correct religion.**

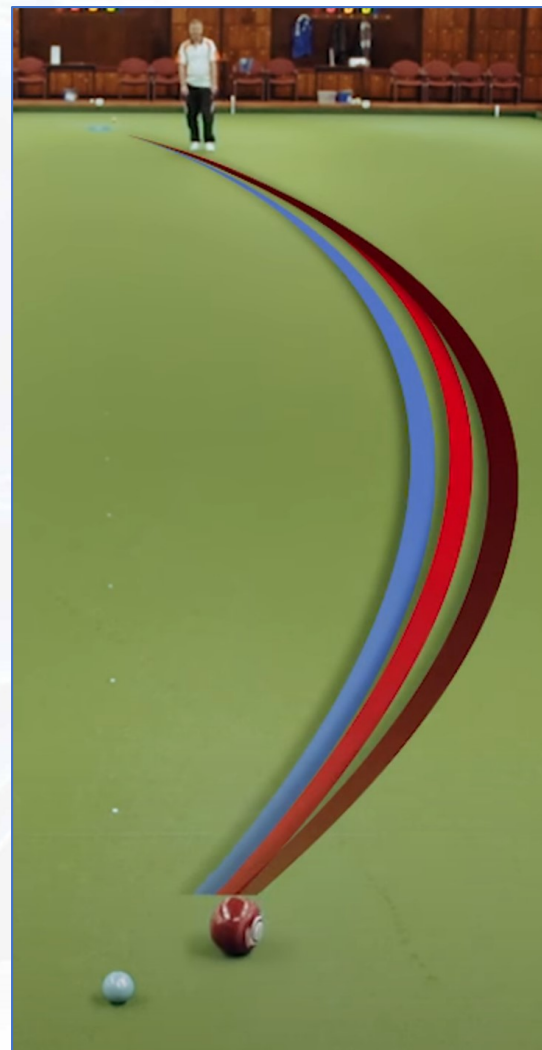
~~Therefore, Jesus cannot be the only Way to salvation.~~

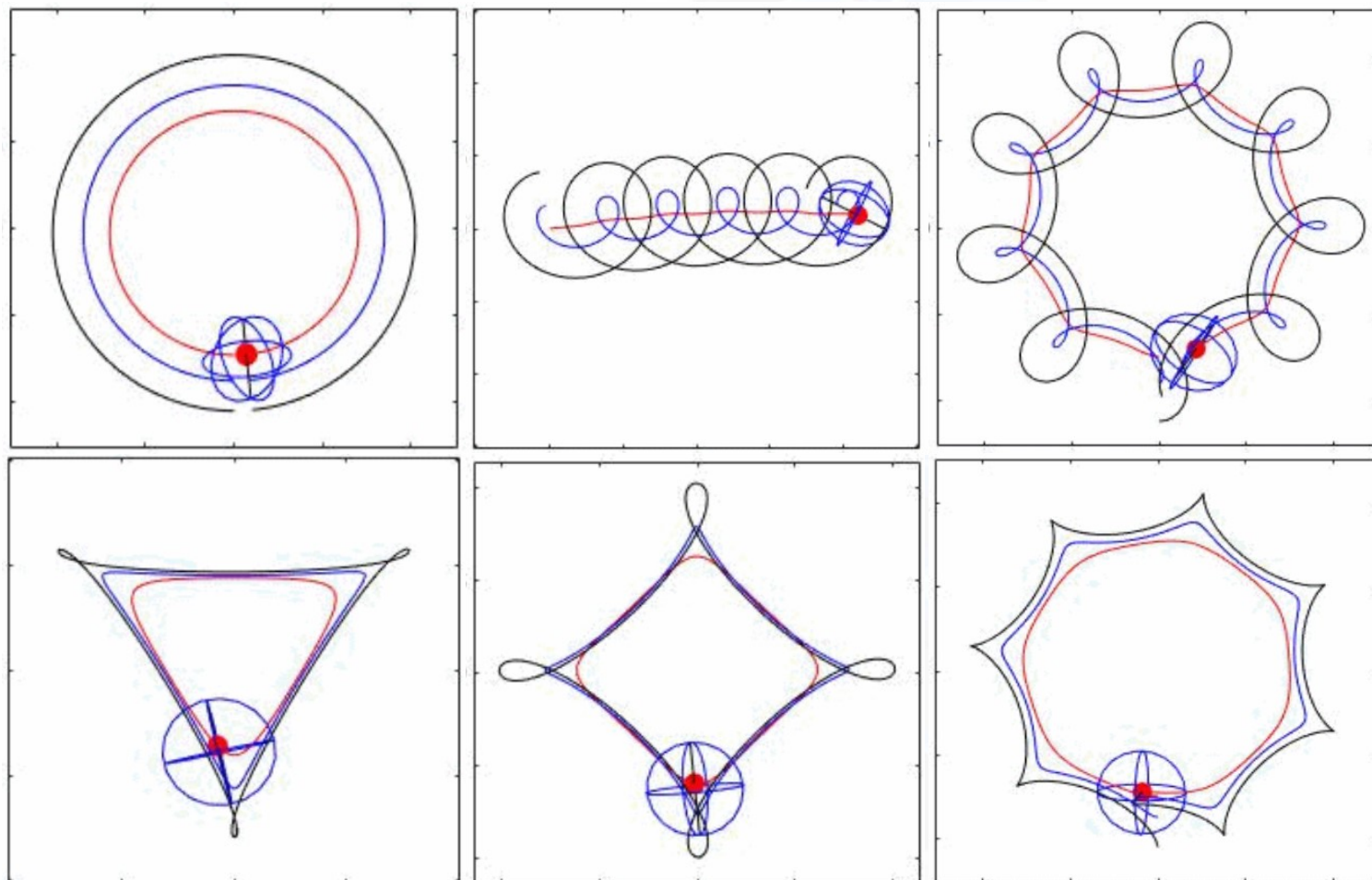
Fallacy: False dilemma



Bowls / Lawn Bowling









BIAS

[Bahy-uhs], noun

1. A weight on the side of a bowl which turns it from a straight line.
2. A leaning of the mind; inclination; prepossession; propensity towards an object, not leaving the mind indifferent;

Websters 1828 online dictionary





COGNITIVE

[Kog-ni-tiv], adjective

Knowing, or apprehending by the understanding,
manner of thinking

dictionary.com



Bias Blind Spot

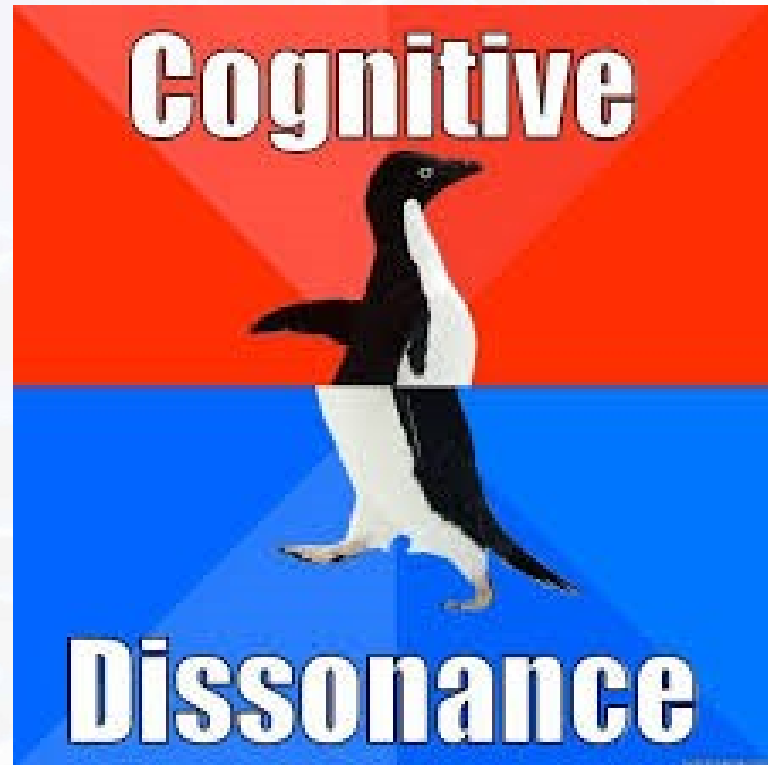
Seeing biases in others but failing to see your own biases.





Cognitive Dissonance

Holding two contradictory ideas at the same time.



Congruence Bias

Designing an experiment to confirm your hypothesis instead of an experiment that challenges it.



LOGIC

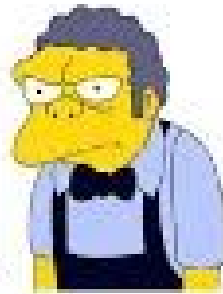
Creeping Normality

A significant problem that doesn't cause alarm because it happens slowly.



Expectation Bias

Allowing expectations to unconsciously influence perception or methods.



Moe:

"This thing can flash fry a
Water Buffalo in 40 seconds."



Homer:

"Ohhhhh, 40 seconds!
But I want mine Now."

Group Attribution Error

Viewing groups of people as more uniform than they are in reality.

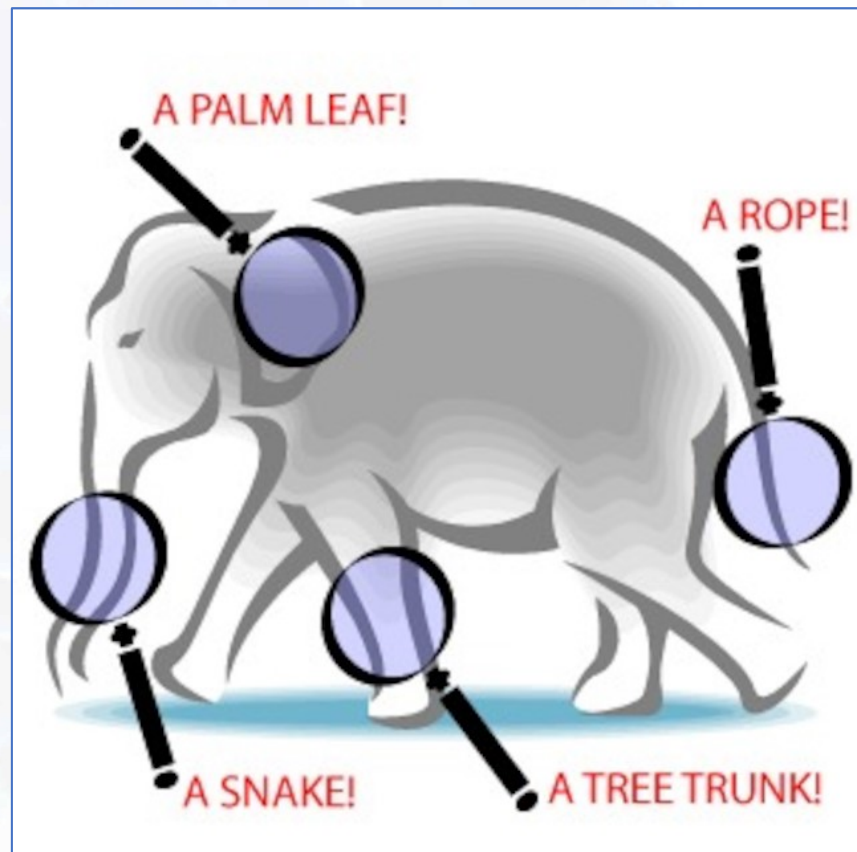
For example, falsely assuming that people from a particular denomination or religion all think alike.





Hasty Generalization

A generalization based on insufficient evidence.



Ostrich Effect

Ignoring an obvious fact because it is unpleasant. For example, many people, even some that claim to be Christians, don't like to think of their unsaved family members as sinners headed for destruction.



Outcome Bias

Judging a past decision by its outcome as opposed to the quality or soundness of the decision.



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Projection Bias

Projecting your thoughts and emotions on to others.

For example, assuming that other people are happy when you are in a good mood.



Rosy Retrospection

Recalling past experiences as more pleasant than they actually were.





Sour Grapes

A tendency to criticize something you want but can't obtain.

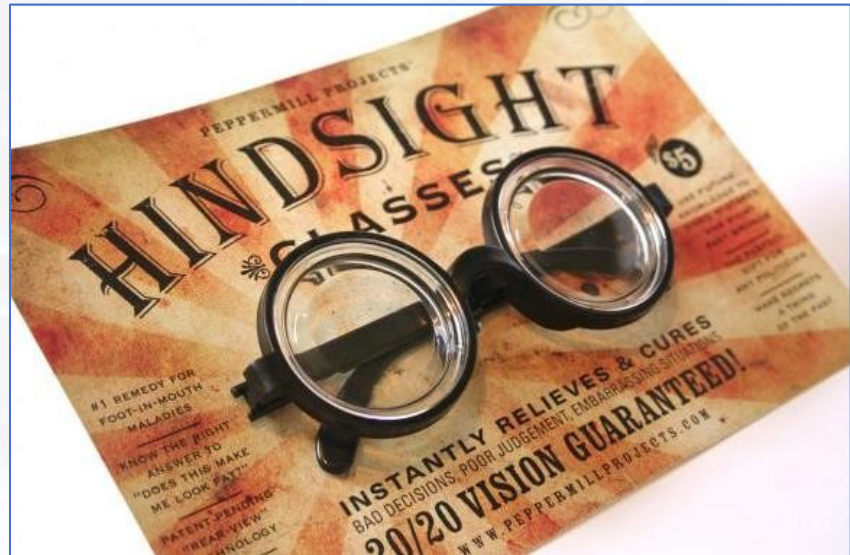


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Hindsight bias

The common tendency for people to perceive past events as having been more predictable than they actually were.

Also known as 'The knew-it-all-along phenomenon'





Anchoring

Relying too heavily on the first information you receive.

For example, car dealerships tend to put the most expensive cars up-front, thus setting the price anchor high.



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Sunk Cost

Clinging to things that have already cost you something.

For example, when you've invested time, money, or emotion into something, it hurts to let it go.



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Availability Heuristic

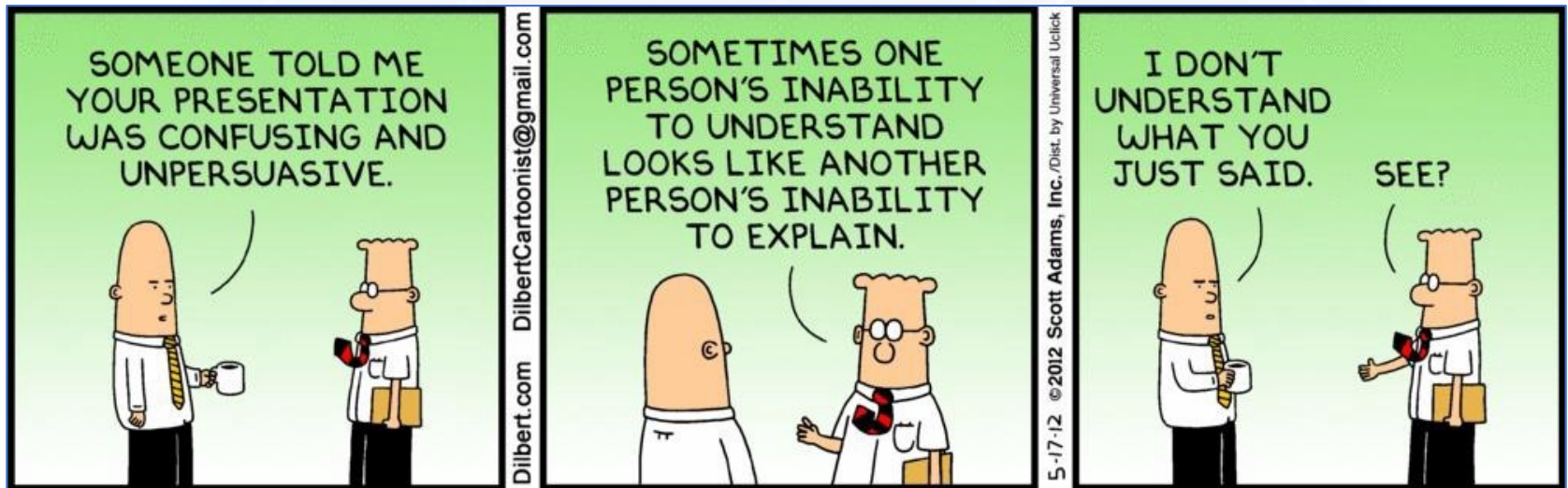
Judging things based on what's available in your memory.

For example, people tend to overestimate the likelihood of "newsworthy" events such as an aircraft safety incident because such events are easy to recall in memory.



The Curse of Knowledge

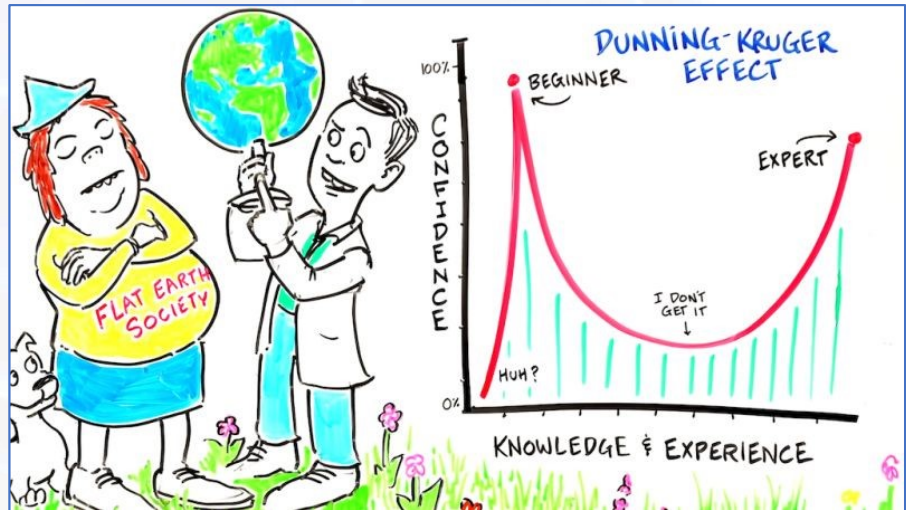
Once you understand something you presume it to be obvious to everyone.



The Dunning-Kruger Effect

The more you know, the less confident you're likely to be.

The tendency for beginners and unskilled individuals to overrate themselves and experts and highly capable individuals to underrate themselves.



Fundamental Attribution Error

Judging others on their actions / character, but yourself on the situation.

For example, if you haven't had a good night's sleep, you know why you're being a bit slow; but if you see someone else being slow you might presume them to just be slow.





Reactance

Urge to do the opposite of what someone is trying to make you do.



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The Backfire Effect

A tendency to harden a belief or opinion after being challenged.

Also known as 'Attitude Polarization'



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Barnum Effect

Viewing general information as an accurate and insightful depiction of your personality.

For example, the ability of 'fortune tellers' and 'personality tests' to impress with statements such as "you value friendship but also find your friends challenging from time to time."



Cherry Picking

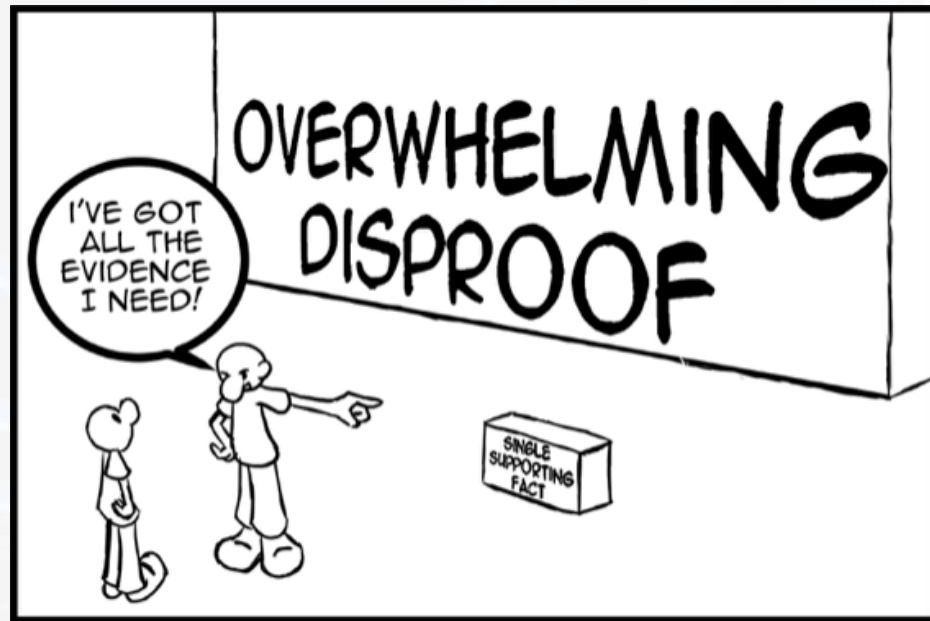
Favoring things that confirm your existing beliefs.

Also known as 'Confirmation Bias'



Cognitive Inertia

A general tendency for beliefs to endure even in the face of mounting evidence that suggests they are wrong.





Belief Bias

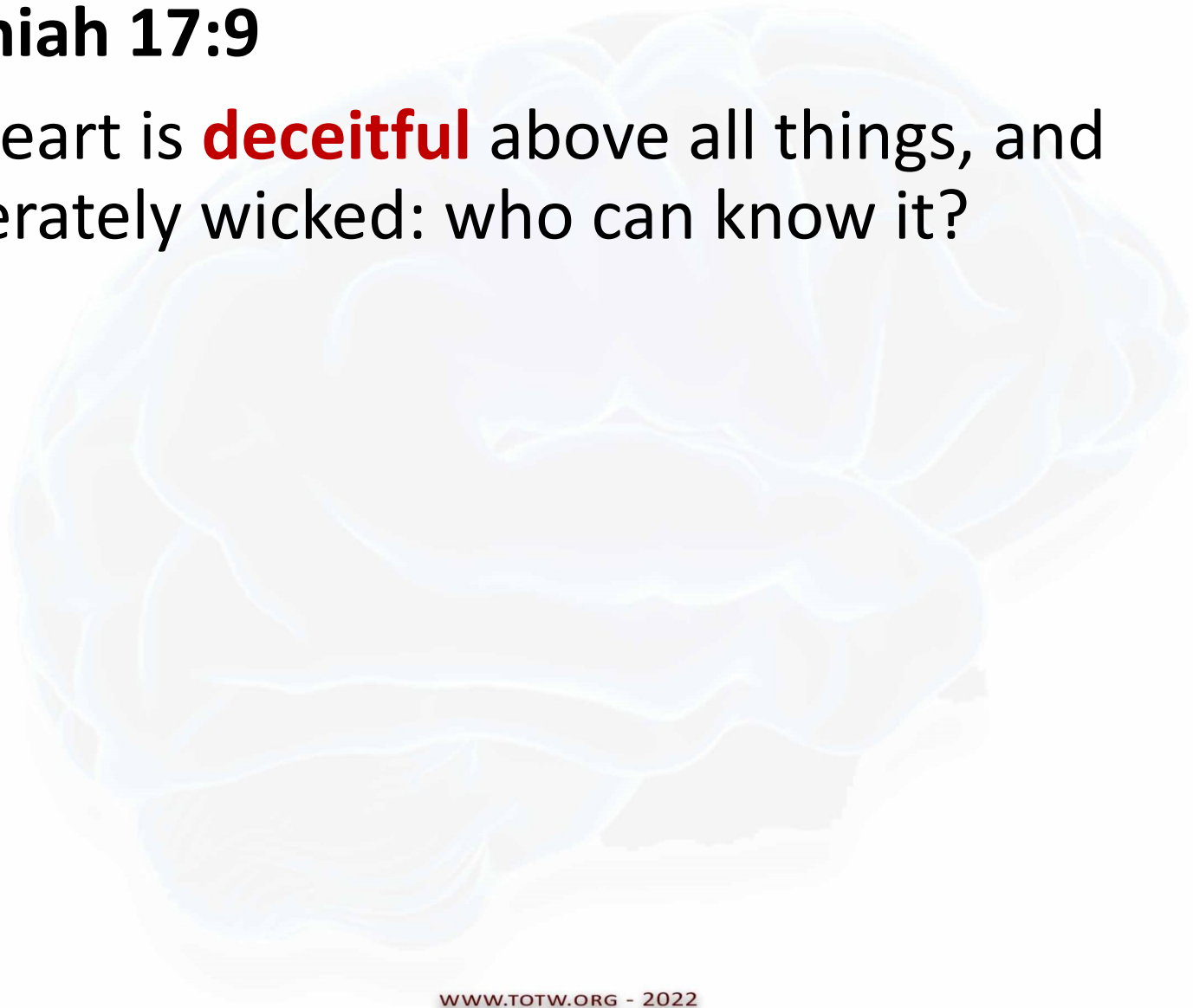
If a conclusion supports your existing beliefs, you'll rationalize anything that supports it.





Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is **deceitful** above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?





Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is **deceitful** above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

John 3:19

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men **loved darkness** rather than light, because their **deeds were evil**.



Romans 8:9–11

But ye are **not in the flesh**, but **in the Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And **if Christ be in you**, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But **if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you**, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit** that dwelleth in you.





Romans 12:1–2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.



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ENJOY THE
REST OF THE
SABBATH

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