

If there is a spiritual realm in human affairs, and if there is a spiritual ingredient implicit in the learning of the things of the human soul (and the whole premise behind religious education is that there is a spiritual dimension where such things as love, values, ethics, instinct, compassion, charity, etc. exist) then there must be some observable way of identifying cause and effect within the realm of the spiritual.

To admit this much is to be compelled to visit, at least, the realm where the things of the spirit dwell, grow and flourish. This opens the door to an examination of such intangible-but very real-areas as REVELATION-the promptings, the sudden ideas of the heart and the mind which have to do with God and eternity and the human condition as viewed from within: it is to embrace the eschatological (any system of doctrines concerning last, or final, matters, as death, the Judgment, the future state, etc.). The Holy Scriptures offer a tangible, concrete method of dealing with such intangibles. They are the written record of the promptings received when holy men and women were in tune with the spiritual and thus they provide us with a real and identifiable means of both measuring modern human response and receptiveness to the spiritual and of receiving further light and knowledge in the spiritual realm, as the individual student engages in a serious study of their messages and intent.

The scriptures themselves speak of this unique way of dealing with the spiritual. In the temporal sphere of this world, the things of the spirit are not easily compatible. It takes a special effort based on the laws which govern the spiritual to access the spiritual (John 3:8). But such laws do exist and they center in the wise and skillful use of the scriptures (2 Peter 1:20) and "Unless and until a scripture means to a man what it means to God, man has not caught the vision of the truth taught, or comprehended the doctrine being revealed. Two persons, two groups of theologians, or two churches cannot reach divergent conclusions as to the meaning of any scripture and both of them be right. And be it known, on earth and in heaven, now and forever, that truth only will prevail!" (Bruce R. McConkie, *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, p. 356).

SWB