

## To Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness. By David Beagley

My dear Brothers and Sisters, I have spent a great deal of time pondering why it is that we as children of God and fellow members of Christ's Church seem to struggle so with reading the four standard works on a daily basis. I have fought the battle with it personally, and have also witnessed your individual scriptural trials. We both realize that it is a commandment to read the scriptures regularly, and feel guilty that we don't, but that guilt rarely results in a sustained change in our study time or an honest commitment to correcting the problem. Many of our patriarchal blessings even admonish us to stay close to our Heavenly Parents by reading the scriptures daily which adds to our sense of guilt.

It appears to me that the discipline of reading the scriptures on a regular basis is much like that of playing the piano. Most everyone would love to have the skill to play the piano, but few are willing to spend the time to develop that skill. Instead we grow comfortable in relying on the few that have paid the price to master the instrument to entertain us. After a beautiful concert one of Mozart's listeners stated, "I would give anything to be able to play the piano like that." His reply was, "Madam, that is exactly what I have given." I was forced to take piano lesson by my mother for over six years between the ages of eight to thirteen. Practicing was boring and difficult. If I missed a week or two, I would often have to re-learn the same skills that I had previously developed. Even though I hated practicing at first, eventually the music played over and over in my head, and I learned to love its melodies. . If our efforts were properly applied, most all of us could develop the ability to play the piano.

When it comes to the scriptures I believe that we do much the same. Like the piano, we find the scriptures hard to understand and very repetitious. We stumble through them a few times and realize that they are often boring and require regimented discipline to understand. Because the scriptures are written in parables with multiple meanings, soon we lose interest and prefer having someone who has paid the price to understand them, tell us what their meaning is. We choose to be entertained by "professional teachers" or "professional authors" instead of spending the time to master the "instrument" (the scriptures) ourselves. The problem then exists that when we give-up on reading the scriptures, we never learn the proper love for them, and their "melodies" fail to resound in our heads. It becomes much easier to just pick up an Ensign or Gerald Lund's books and read what someone else has said about the scriptures. Beautiful stories and handy sayings are woven together for us by "those who understand such things."

Being entertained by others instead of digging through the scriptures ourselves never fully reaps the harvest of the "toils of our labors". It's like the difference between the teacher and the student. The teacher **always** gleams more than an hundred fold because of his preparation. The student can "enjoy the moment" of instruction, but the teacher will treasure the knowledge of his diligent study and digging through the scriptures forever.

***"For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."*** (Moses 1:39) Certainly, eternal life is not only Heavenly Father's goal, but it is ours also. In order to return to our heavenly parents, one element that must receive regular nourishment is our quest for knowledge and a thirst for understanding derived from that accumulated wisdom. The Savior stated in the Sermon on the Mount: **"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled."****(Matt 5:6)**

Throughout our lives we respond in different ways to spiritual promptings. When very young, most often we don't even recognize what the spiritual urges are because we are too busy listening to, and gratifying our youthful human desires. It is only in a small number of LDS homes where young children grow up understanding the scriptures because they are read and discussed on a regular basis.

As parents, we fall into the trap of believing that Sunday school classes and seminary will provide the needed spiritual instruction that our children require. The problem is that few teenagers take advantage of such classroom teachings. Sometimes the instructions come from the home, but too often it is assumed by parents that the church institutions will tutor our children's spiritual awakenings. The LDS home then becomes a haven for disciplining children in social awareness and maintaining family skills. Matters of secular learning are left to the neighborhood school systems.

Our adult lives seem to follow a pattern of peaks and valleys in a quest for spiritual knowledge. If called on a mission, our study habits reach new heights that were unimaginable. Without a second thought, a missionary picks up his scriptures each morning and evening and basks in the tutoring that takes place by the Holy Ghost. Somehow, upon return the missionary learns to settle back into the rat-race of life and his spiritual learning curve tapers off. If there is no mission service then our desire to study the word of God remains slow and methodical. If university learning is coupled with regular attendance at institute, the chart seems to peak depending upon the degree of effort exercised by the teacher and the student.

The **real battle in spiritual development** through scripture study occurs when life takes on the important steps of marriage and child bearing. Now as parents, we venture out “on our own” deciding whether spiritual instruction within the walls of our very own homes will be conducted on a regular basis. Mom and dad’s demands no longer control our decisions, and the Lord’s admonition rings loud in our ears: ***“And again, in as much as parents have children in Zion, and in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents.” (D&C 68:25)***

We either conscientiously make the decision to conduct scripture study in our homes, or it was made for us because of neglect, either way, we choose. Most families start and restart a scripture program many times, but conflict of schedules and a lack of a good study plan create a lack of interest in just reading one chapter after another.

Analyzing our lackadaisical efforts to study the scriptures has led me to believe that we don’t really understand the true nature of Heavenly Father. It must be stated first that we are placed on this earth to exercise free agency. This ability to choose was designed in the pre-existence to echo two strong voices in mortal ears. The first echo comes through the Holy Ghost from the promptings of loving eternal parents who only desire our complete happiness. A conscience is placed in our reasoning powers that whispers right from wrong.

**Spiritual promptings are triggered by our actions.** Heavenly Father will not force his will upon us. The greatest promptings (evidence that we want his help and direction) comes through our actions of picking up his word and attempting to know Him better by reading it. The only pure text of instructions that will return us back to our heavenly home is the four standard works. It only takes a short remembrance of Lehi sending his four sons back to Jerusalem for the plates to realize how important their preservation is to the Lord. Wonderful church magazines and publications fill the local bookstores. Study guides have been written for each of the standard works that will gently walk us through sometimes difficult material. More than adequate material exists to keep our minds occupied for our entire lives. Each of these publications is only intended to “sublimate” our daily scripture study.

The second echo that rings in our ears comes from a self-centered child of God who has been allowed to whisper negative words to mortals that if heeded, will only bring about pain and eternal damnation. Local media, magazines, videos, music, the internet, movies, radio, advertising, and many other modes of communication scream Satan’s message.

By design, both of these voices use persuasive methods to entice either good or evil. Even though both identities are allowed to influence us equally, each side is required to “play-by-the-rules” that were established in the Councils in Heaven.

As church members we often speak about the rules that Satan must follow, but rarely do we discuss God’s rules for free agency. Through careful prayer and study, I believe that I have discovered some helpful ideas that can assist us in understanding what Heavenly Father’s limitations are. If we are to choose righteousness over wickedness, we must do so freely, without undue pressure.

To lovingly persuade us back into Heavenly Father’s presence, but in order to not encroach upon our free agency, I believe that the following rules come into play:

**Rule #1** *Heavenly Father will call us...but we must answer the call.*

**D&C 88:66** *“Behold, that which you hear is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness—in the wilderness, because you cannot see him—my voice, because my voice is Spirit; my spirit is truth; truth abideth and hath no end; and if it be in you it shall abound.”* The voice from Heavenly Father is constantly sounding, but we must “tune in” to the proper channel in order to hear the broadcast. That requires a decision to act on our part. Free agency requires that we must make the first step.

**Rule #2** *We must seek the Lord...even though he’s not very far away.*

**Acts 17:27** *“That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:”* The word “seek” requires that we make the move. Such action releases the warmth of His Holy Spirit to guide our actions and receive direction to our pleas for help. Even though the plan demands that God maintain his distance, it also allows additional spiritual help once we “seek” him out. Note the footnote on this scripture which quotes the JST: ***“If they are willing to find him”***

**Rule #3** *Religion is never “forced upon us” by our Heavenly Father.*

**Revelations 3:20** *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him,”* Once again the knock is sounding (our conscience) and it requires two decisions on our part: first a voluntary action to seek out who’s knocking, and second effort is a desire to open the door once we know who is standing outside. Heavenly Father can only knock. If he were to open the door and come in uninvited, our free agency would be in jeopardy.

**Rule #4** *Sometimes he is nearer than at other times.*

**D&C 88:62** *“And again, verily I say unto you, my friends, I leave these sayings with you to ponder in your hearts, with this commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall call upon me while I am near.”* Whenever I hear the word commandment, it forces me to sit up and pay attention. The action words are: **ponder, commandment** and **call**. The admonition (not the commandment) from the Lord is to “ponder his words”.

**Rule #5** *Before we can ponder Christ’s word we must first choose to pick them up and read them.*

This choice is based upon an inner personal commitment for growth through knowledge. Listen to what the First Presidency has said: “We call upon parents to devote their best efforts to the teaching and rearing of their children in gospel principles which will keep them close to the Church. The home is the basis of a righteous life, and no other instrumentality can take its place or fulfill its essential functions in carrying forward this God-given responsibility.” (Feb.11, 1999)

If we want to know the nature of someone, we will secure the best books that we can find that speak of his life and character and read them. The person that will greet us when we die will be Jesus Christ Himself. He will also conduct the affairs of the millennium and the Spirit world.

**“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”** (John 17:3) When asked the question: “Do you feel that you really know the Savior, Jesus Christ? Most members of the church would answer, “I hope so” with some uncertainty because they feel the guilt that comes from neglecting their systematic study of his words. The Prophet Joseph Smith said: “A man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge, for if he does not get knowledge, he will be brought into captivity by some evil power in the other world.” (Teachings pg 217)

If our “eternal life” rests on our “knowing Jesus Christ”, we must start today by correcting our laziness and organize our homes so that they are a sanctuary devoted to study of him. In the next world we will not be “entertained by others who know him”, we will have to make up for lost time while here on the earth. Satan is well pleased when we reach across the scriptures located on our night stand to pick up the remote control and click on the television. Each time we enter our homes and sink into the soft chair, we choose how to spend our leisure time. If that choice turns towards a determined quest to better our intelligence through spiritual study, the Lord promises remarkable rewards.

The rewards that the Lord promises from our own personal and family scripture study are overwhelming. Their benefits are very different than the “feelings” we receive when someone else performs the research and delivers the message. Classroom instruction and delivered speeches over the pulpit are motivating (at times) but can never match the depth that comes from a constant search for the truth through the scriptures.

**Reward #1** *He promises to respond when we “choose” to knock.*

**D&C 88:63** ***“(you) Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; (you) seek me diligently and ye shall find me; (you) ask, and ye shall receive; (you) knock, and it shall be opened unto you”***

Notice the elements of free agency in this verse. We are the one who must perform the actions. By demonstrating our interest in bettering our knowledge, the Lord in turn draws closer to us and “walks through the door” to “sup” with us. That “supper” is certainly food for the soul. This spiritual meal will be most filling and delicious.

**Reward #2** *The promise that we will “see” Christ.*

**D&C 88:68** ***“Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him; for he will unveil his face unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will.*** Just how do we sanctify our minds to God?

Sanctification is a process of purification. Purification involves the removal of impure particles from our minds. That process must include the limiting of external “non-godly” material that the world shoves at us. As we fill our minds with spiritual matters from the scriptures and other church publications, we demonstrate to the Lord that we are willing to shut out other “worldly” things. It’s like a song that keeps playing in your head over and over again. A commitment to regular daily scripture study will keep those “words of Christ” alive and active in our minds though out the day.

**Reward #3** *“We will be able to comprehend all things.”*

**D&C 88:67** ***“And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things.”*** Have you ever seen a person attempt to look at two objects at the same time. It actually hurts the brain to do so. The Lord is asking, “how can we focus one eye on worldly things and the other on spiritual matters? It hurts our spiritual brain also. Focusing both eyes on matters of the spirit creates “no darkness” in us and “fills our souls with light.” That light then begins to comprehend “all things”... wow!!!!

**Reward #4** *“If we seek Christ, we will not be forsaken.”*

**D&C 88:83** ***“He that seeketh me early shall find me, and shall not be forsaken.”*** How does one “seek the Lord early”? I believe that involves planning in our lives. We seek the Lord early when we plan out our days in advance and allow sufficient time for scripture study. We must also often arise early and take care of spiritual matters before the secular day takes over. I believe that this verse also means that we as priesthood leaders in the home must set the example. If our children see us studying the scriptures on a regularly basis, and conducting family scripture study, they will want to follow.

**Reward #5** *“If our study is diligent, we will have the ability to teach others.”*

**D&C 88:77** ***“And I give unto you a commandment that ye shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom”.*** As an educator in the Church Education System for over twenty years, I have developed strong feelings about this scripture. I have seen it from the inside looking out, and now the other way around. Almost universal among Latter-day Saint parents is the belief that, “I’m not a teacher, let Brother So-and-so do the teaching...he knows how. I don’t see that philosophy justified anywhere in the scriptures. Whether we like it or not, we are all called as teachers in our own homes. The vast majority of

all spiritual tutoring that goes on in the church should be done within the walls of our own homes. I fear that isn't the case.

By rationalizing that we aren't good teachers, we further rationalize that we will leave the teaching to those who are "better qualified". Brothers and sisters...that is wrong. The scriptures teach us just the opposite. I know that each one of us will be judged by our maker for the performance in teaching our children and grandchildren. **It is a commandment.**

**D&C 88:118** ***"And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith."*** If our study habits are "diligent" we will find wisdom and be able to sustain the less faithful members of our household.

**Reward # 6** ***"Our homes will be in order...A house of God."***

**D&C 88:119** ***"Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God."*** This house that the Lord is speaking of is our homes in Lindon, Utah. Do you consider your home a "home of learning"? No, not a "house of learning how to cook", or clean, or be polite to others, but a "house of learning" the word of God.

**Reward # 7** ***"The Holy Ghost will be our constant companion."***

**(D&C 121:45-46)** ***"Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts, unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distill upon thy soul as the dews from heaven. The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth; and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever."***

Let's break this scripture down. When our minds are filled with the virtuous thoughts that are placed there daily through scripture study then wonderful things happen:

1. **Our confidence will wax strong.** Do we realize what that means? It was never difficult to pick out the students in my seminary classes whose parents conducted scripture study in the home. They were never "cocky" confident, they were just assured of spiritual matters because they knew them first hand. In the average class of 35 students, there was usually three or four in that category. They didn't need discipline or rebuking, they merely needed direction. My fear was that my lessons needed so much "watering-down" that the student familiar with the scriptures would loose interest. It is not different with adults today in our church classes. The serious student of the scriptures comes prepared to discuss the meat of the lesson while the casual attendee wants to repeat old stories "about what life has taught them". There's nothing wrong with a good story once in a while, but when regular study takes place the participant prefers to discuss what the Master and his prophets have said on the subject.

2. **"The doctrine of priesthood shall distill upon our souls as the dews from heaven."** Could there be a more beautiful blessing and promise if we are willing to pay the price of scripture study? This means that all of our daily decisions will be influenced by the gentle influence of God himself "like dew from heaven". The question of "what would the Savior do" would be ever present in our minds.

3. **"The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion"** I have a companion whom I treasure and adore. How would it be to have the Holy Ghost as our **"constant companion"**? If we get and keep the Holy Ghost to be with us, life can never become overbearing.

4. *“Thy scepter shall be an unchanging scepter of righteousness*

*and truth.”* A scepter is an image held in the hand of a king or royalty. That would be equivalent to our countenance. That means that our faces would portray to the world “righteousness” and “truth”. What a wonderful blessing to desire. Once again, it shows in ones confidence and countenance if they are willing to take the time to study the scriptures. I firmly believe that the Lord’s criteria for determining general authorities in the church are that each one of them is life-long students of the scriptures, and it shows.

5. *“And thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion”* What does this

mean? I believe that it has to do with having a broken heart and a contrite spirit. We have given ourselves to God, and both this world and the next one will be a very similar dominion because our Heavenly Father knows that he can trust us whether at home or away from his presence. He knows that while absent from him we will “hunger and thirst” for any and all information that will lead us back to his presence.

6. *“Without compulsory means”* There is no force. We are free agents. There is no

compulsion. Individually, each one of us must make the decision of how deep we wish to indulge ourselves in the gospel. We can choose to attend church meetings and “feel the spirit” and survive quite well. We can also choose to claim the blessings that the Lord has for us if we “seek him out” through the scriptures.

**2 Nephi 32:3 “Feast upon the words of Christ: for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.”**

The only possible way that we can “hunger and thirst after righteousness” must involve a regular involvement in “feasting on the words of Christ.” That commitment requires planning. If we plan to read the scriptures each day, and then execute that plan, all of the blessings attached will be ours to possess. Our countenance will shine, and the Holy Ghost will be our constant companion.

Brothers and Sisters, we will all someday leave this earth and enter the next existence. The person who will greet us there will be the Savior Himself. We will have had a lifetime to study his words and learn his ways. Will we know how to carry on a conversation with him because we have cherished his words and allowed them to “play the sweet melodies of Christ” in our heads daily? How will we explain to the savior that we just found his words “too difficult to understand”?

**D&C 130:18-19 states: “Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come.”**

While we are here on earth we choose how we will spend our time. Christ is begging us to spend it with him. We should know and love the stories from the standard works because we have read them often and know them thoroughly. It’s not too late! We can still do it. We need not have anyone explain the truths of the scriptures but the Holy Ghost himself. Our confidence will grow and our very countenance’s will change. Our thoughts and decisions will be influenced as the “dew from heaven” descends on us daily. The fears of the calamities of the world will fade as we occupy our minds with the words of Christ. We will love and forgive our families and fellow man more readily. We will only desire what is best for those around us. We will forget our own needs and wants and immerse ourselves in the service of others.

May the Lord bless us all to “hunger and thirst” after the words of Christ. If we make that choice, he will truly “sup” with us daily. Those who “sup” with us are always invited guests. Let’s invite the “Prince of Peace” to our table in the year 2003 and feast upon his words.

## **SCRIPTURE STUDY SELF EVALUATION**

This chart is designed to help you identify needs pertaining to scripture study. It is intended to be a personal matter for only self evaluation.

To determine your level of gospel study involvement, consider the following questions:

- While listening to talks and lessons, I tune in and out at times.
- While listening to talks and lessons, I usually follow what is being said.
- When listening to talks and lessons, I prefer stories to scripture oriented talks.
- While listening to talks and lessons, I follow each word and attempt to relate with what is being said by opening my scriptures and allowing the spirit to teach me.
- I do not mark my scriptures.
- I mark my scriptures occasionally when I can find something to mark them with.
- I mark my scriptures most every time I read them.
- I have a system of scripture marking that allows me to find passages quickly.
- I have no system for marking my scriptures.
- My scriptures have a small ruler and different colored pins in them to mark with.
- I read my scriptures daily.
- I read my scriptures once a week. (Other than at church)
- I read my scriptures two or three times a week. (Other than church)
- I rarely read my scriptures on my own.
- I read other church material each week.
- I feel more comfortable reading church magazines than the scriptures.
- I study the scriptures with my spouse daily.
- I study the scriptures once or twice a week with my spouse.
- I rarely study the scriptures with my spouse.
- I rarely pray before reading my scriptures.
- I sometimes pray before reading my scriptures.
- I usually pray before reading my scriptures.
- I have read the entire Old Testament.
- I have read the entire New Testament.
- I have read the entire Book of Mormon.
- I have read the entire Doctrine and Covenants.
- I have read the entire Pearl of Great Price.
- I read the Book of Mormon each year as recommended by the prophet.
- When I read the scriptures I seek assistance in understanding what I am reading by using church study guides and other aids.
- If asked, I can find most common scriptures without using the topical guide.
- If asked, I could find and discuss several favorite scriptures from each of the standard works.
- I love to "feast on the word of God".
- I am prepared today to commit to organizing a regular scripture reading program in the year 2003. I will read the scriptures daily. I will develop a system to mark and find scriptures quickly. I will purchase the marking pencils and other aids necessary and carry them with my scriptures.

Perhaps the following diagram will help you discover your level of involvement in the scriptures.

**Level one:**

- A. Rarely if ever reads the scriptures on his own.
- B. Often can't find his scriptures.
- C. Doesn't carry scriptures with him to Church meetings.
- D. Has no organized method of marking and finding scriptures.
- E. The only time that he hears the scriptures is over the pulpit or in church magazines.
- F. Prefers to have someone else explain the scriptures to him because they are "too hard to understand".
- G. Doesn't feel guilty any more for not reading the scriptures.

**Level two:**

- A. Dabbles in the scriptures occasionally.
- B. Has no organized method of marking or finding scriptures.
- C. Carries scriptures to Church but has no ruler or pin to mark them with.
- D. May or may not open his scriptures while listening to a speaker quote them.
- E. Prefers reading the Ensign to reading the scriptures.
- G. Can only find a handful of favorite scriptures.

**Level Three:**

- A. Reads the scriptures off and on.
- B. Marks the scriptures occasionally, but has no organized method.
- C. Knows several scriptures when heard, but can't recall where they are found.
- D. Prays occasionally before reading the scriptures.
- E. Opens the scriptures when someone is reading them over the pulpit and tries to understand what is being said.
- F. Prefers hearing someone else explain the meaning of the scriptures instead of digging for the meaning himself through church study guides or aids.
- G. Starts and stops scripture study several times throughout his life.

**Level Four:**

- A. Reads the scriptures daily.
- B. Prays for understanding each time he reads.
- C. Marks his scriptures regularly when he reads them.
- D. Has an organized method of marking that allows him to find scriptures quickly.
- E. Knows where many scriptures are found in the standard works.
- G. Carries scriptures with him to church and marks them regularly.
- H. Hears the promptings of the Holy Ghost daily through his scripture study.

It is only at level four that we are promised these beautiful blessings. Elder Henry B. Eyring said: "A wise parent would never miss a chance to gather children together to learn of the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Such moments are so rare in comparison with the efforts of the enemy. For every hour the power of doctrine is introduced into a child's life, there may be hundreds of hours of messages and images denying or ignoring the saving truths.

The question should not be whether we are too tired to prepare to teach doctrine or whether it would be better to draw a child closer by just having fun or whether the child isn't beginning to think that we preach too much. The question must be, "with so little time and so few opportunities, what words of Doctrine from me will fortify them against the attacks on their faith which are sure to come? The words you speak today will soon be gone. (April 1999 Ensign)



Please identify these 14 scriptures by stating which Standard Work they are found, then which book, and lastly, identify who is speaking.

Scripture	(D&C) (B of M) (OT) (NT) (PofGP)	Book?	Who Is Speaking?
1. For behold, this is my <sup>a</sup> work and my <sup>b</sup> glory—to bring to pass the <sup>c</sup> immortality and <sup>d</sup> eternal <sup>e</sup> life of man.			
2. I <sup>a</sup> will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no <sup>b</sup> commandments unto the children of men, save he shall <sup>c</sup> prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.			
3. For I <sup>a</sup> know that my <sup>b</sup> redeemer liveth, and that <sup>c</sup> he shall <sup>d</sup> stand at the latter day upon the earth: And <i>though</i> after my skin <i>worms</i> destroy this <sup>a</sup> body, yet in my <sup>b</sup> flesh shall I <sup>c</sup> see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; <i>though</i> my reins be consumed within me.			
4. There hath no temptation <sup>a</sup> taken you but such as is common to man: but God <i>is</i> faithful, who will not suffer you to be <sup>b</sup> tempted above that ye are able; but will with the <sup>c</sup> temptation also make a way to <sup>d</sup> escape, that ye may be able to <sup>e</sup> bear it.			
5. But, behold, I say unto you, that you must <sup>a</sup> study it out in your <sup>b</sup> mind; then you must <sup>c</sup> ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your <sup>d</sup> bosom shall <sup>e</sup> burn within you; therefore, you shall <sup>f</sup> feel that it is right.			
6. It no sooner appeared than I found myself <sup>a</sup> delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I <sup>b</sup> saw two <sup>c</sup> Personages, whose brightness and <sup>d</sup> glory defy all description, <sup>e</sup> standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other— <i>This is My <sup>f</sup>Beloved <sup>g</sup>Son. Hear Him!</i>			
7. Wherefore, all things which are <sup>a</sup> good cometh of God; and that which is <sup>b</sup> evil cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to <sup>c</sup> sin, and to do that which is evil continually. But behold, that which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do <sup>a</sup> good continually; wherefore, every thing which inviteth and <sup>b</sup> enticeth to do <sup>c</sup> good, and to love God, and to serve him, is <sup>d</sup> inspired of God.			

Scripture	(D&C) (B of M) (OT) (NT) (PofGP)	Book?	Who Is Speaking?
8. Ye are the <sup>a</sup> light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a <sup>a</sup> candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your <sup>a</sup> light so shine before men, that they may see your good <sup>b</sup> works, and <sup>c</sup> glorify your Father which is in heaven			
9. <sup>a</sup> Will a man <sup>b</sup> rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In <sup>c</sup> tithes and offerings. Ye <i>are</i> <sup>a</sup> curse with a curse: for ye have robbed me, <i>even</i> this whole nation. Bring ye all the <sup>a</sup> tithes into the storehouse, that there may be <sup>b</sup> meat in mine house, and <sup>c</sup> prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not <sup>d</sup> open you the <sup>e</sup> windows of heaven, and pour you out a <sup>f</sup> blessing, that <i>there shall not be room enough to receive it.</i>			
10. <sup>a</sup> Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a <sup>b</sup> house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God;			
11. <sup>a</sup> If any of you lack <sup>b</sup> wisdom, let him ask of God, that <sup>c</sup> giveth to all <i>men</i> liberally, and <sup>d</sup> upbraideth not; and it shall be given him..			
12. What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my <sup>a</sup> word shall not pass away, but shall all be <sup>b</sup> fulfilled, whether by mine own <sup>c</sup> voice or by the <sup>d</sup> voice of my <sup>e</sup> servants, it is the <sup>f</sup> same.			
13. And he <sup>a</sup> gave some, <sup>b</sup> apostles; and some, <sup>c</sup> prophets; and some, <sup>d</sup> evangelists; and some, <sup>e</sup> pastors and <sup>f</sup> teachers; For the <sup>a</sup> perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the <sup>b</sup> edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the <sup>a</sup> unity of the faith, and of the <sup>b</sup> knowledge of the Son of God, unto a <sup>c</sup> perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:			
14. For the <sup>a</sup> natural <sup>b</sup> man is an <sup>c</sup> enemy to God, and has been from the <sup>d</sup> fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he <sup>e</sup> yields to the enticings of the Holy <sup>f</sup> Spirit, and <sup>g</sup> putteth off the <sup>h</sup> natural man and becometh a <sup>i</sup> saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a <sup>j</sup> child, <sup>k</sup> submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.			