

July 25th, 2010

Dear Friends

"Expressing the Joy"

The 'Elements of Euclid' (Rules of Math) were written about 2300 years ago and put into print at about the same time as the Bible. Indeed, they rival Holy Writ for their ubiquity. Yet - few people have read them and few teachers quote them. They are truth - but a soulless truth! Indeed, were I to incant the 13 books in a one hour spiel, I would expect to be shot, save at the 59th convention of Mystic Mathematicians



Some years ago I was researching 'cognitive frameworks' in the teaching of science, and quite enthusiastic about my findings until the bushy eyed, imperious Professor mellifluously intoned "So-diddly-squat-what"! (and that's the publishable version)

Maxims and belief statements have their place. We can recite mantra to our hearts content. Yet if we cannot tell people how we have found application in our own lives, we must expect abuse at best.

During the last ten years I have been taunting my learned colleagues to produce a 'so what' of their faith. The results have been slow in coming, but now we have it thanks to the Life Development team: A 400 page colour tome - *Experiencing the Joy*. Will people want to know? I'm not sure? Maybe they prefer Euclid's elements after all. Maybe they would like to lynch me for not reciting the Elements the way they do, who knows?

So here's the holiday challenge - take the 28 - tell someone why you need them and how you apply them regularly.

A couple of experiential references from the good lady:

*The minister must reach a higher standard himself, a faith marked with greater firmness, an **experience** that is living and vivid, not dull and commonplace, like that of the nominal professors. The word of God sets a high mark before you.A close connection with God will bring to you, in your labour, that vital power which arouses the conscience, and convicts the sinner of sin, leading him to cry, "What shall I do to be saved?" {GW92 19.1}*

A true experience will be in perfect harmony with natural and divine law. False experience will array itself against science and the principles of Jehovah. The religious world is covered with a pall of moral darkness. Superstition and bigotry control the minds of men and women, and blind their judgment, so that they do not discern their duty to their fellow-men, and their duty to yield unquestioned obedience to the will of God. {RH, July 27, 1886 par. 5}

Change challenges us to revise our purpose, and reason for being. I confess to finding this painful, even threatening, no doubt others share this perspective. My prayer is that we exercise our discovery to renewed ends. Thank you for being on the journey.

Sincerely

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