

AWARENESS VERSUS MEANING (from everywhere in Scripture,) Part 1

DEFINITIONS:

#1. AWARENESS. We live in the world of things. The central nervous system takes sense impressions of things and converts them into the awareness of things in the brain. Awareness is very basic. It is information. By its considerable powers, we become aware of the external world. It tells us "it's time to mow the grass." We are now aware of "the quantum"—things that can be derived from the five senses and culture. This is experience if you will.

#2. MEANING. In contrast, meaning comes from only one source: God and revelation. The differential:

The central nervous system links THINGS --> CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM --> to THE BRAIN, producing awareness.

On the other hand, Scripture links THINGS --> SCRIPTURE --> to THE MIND, offering meaning.

Generalization: In other words, the Bible is not chiefly an historical record, a doctrinal treatise, a work of theology. Scripture is in fact an indexic (that which links) phenomenon! That is its purpose. Without it, we are stuck with awareness!

Regarding discontinuity: Scripture teaches that a sharp discontinuity is put between AWARENESS and MEANING. Examples:

Exodus 13,14: The Israelites "trapped" at the Red Sea in an impossible situation. They functioned purely on awareness. Meaning never occurred to them, and thus they were found to be faithless.

Numbers 13,14. After the spy mission to Canaan, the infamous 10 spies made a report wholly dependent upon awareness. It was Joshua and Caleb who admonished the people to overrule awareness with the power of revealed meaning!

Faith is involved with both of course. But do we exercise "faith" in the central nervous system, or "faith" in the Bible?

AWARENESS VERSUS MEANING (from everywhere in Scripture,) Part 2

It can be said that faith does not fail us, but that we fail the faith. If or when that happens, it is the result of the collapse of the discontinuity between awareness and meaning. A faithful person's insistence on the discontinuity should be reflected in one's language and behavior. Once the differential disappears, then faith disappears with it.

The net result of this collapse: Awareness and meaning are then considered to be identical. This is the error of science, and of replete trust in experience. It is the error of dependence upon awareness over revealed meaning.

Language and behavior will inevitably follow accordingly. The loss of faith is embodied in this development: Language and behavior become functions of awareness alone! That is the core of faithlessness.

- This particular development charts the apostasy of King Solomon (1 Kings 11, 12).
- It models the faithless behavior of King David (2 Kings 11, 24).
- It explains the degeneration of some churches (2 Timothy 4; Book of Jude).

There are two different planes of consciousness:

#1. The Plane of Revealed Meaning and

#2. The Plane of Awareness.

We need both and the discontinuity that separates them. Reasoning and behavior are tied to both. But *the plane of revealed meaning* must control the plane of awareness if faith is to emerge and if it is to survive.

Preachers of the Gospel must make the case for the reinstatement of the discontinuity and then they must defend it! idolatry is the brainchild of awareness. Do consider the reading of 1 Corinthians 10:1-14. This discontinuity is ground zero for believers.