

Friday: 01/25/2018

Steady Engagement with a Subject Matter

What we concretely have in real life are individuals with scientific credentials saying one thing or another. Scientists will tell you that they do have a method, but the method of one science doesn't work in another science. The method of validating a theory in biology doesn't work particularly well in astronomy. Method is always tied to subject matter, and in dealing with life in general there is no such thing as a single scientific method.

This has become the quandary of our culture, because everything that really matters in guiding life falls outside of science. Can any of the sciences or the scientific method tell you how to become a truly good person? Science can't deal with something like that, because some questions can't be quantified. Science turns out to be only a portion of the much broader field of knowledge.

Knowledge is a result of continuous engagement with a subject matter, and when knowledge comes, a certain authority comes with it. If you have knowledge, you are authorized to act, to supervise action, to formulate policy and supervise its implementation, and to teach. If all you have is belief or faith, you don't have this kind of authority. People acting on knowledge—something they have been able to test and put into practice—have a unique way of interacting with reality.

Reflect:

People acting from knowledge have eliminated the doubt and double-mindedness we read about in James 1:6–8, which can't be overestimated in anything that really matters.

(Q) Are there areas in your life in which you get swept away by doubt and double-mindedness?

(Q) Can you quantify the impact it makes in your life when you gain knowledge of those things that really matter to you?

Devotional by: Dallas Willard

Book: *The Allure of Gentleness: Defending the Faith in the Manner of Jesus*



*Dallas Willard Ministries is excited to partner with Jeff Whitebread, who, through his work with Capitol Commission, ministers to those serving in the Pennsylvania State legislature, their staff members, and those in the lobbying community. We believe the thoughts and ideas contained in Dallas' book, *The Allure of Gentleness*, are timely guidance for those who seek to stand for truth in a manner that reflects the character of Jesus himself. Dallas acknowledged he gave up trying to get people to do things, preferring instead to inspire them to think things through on their own and come to a different view of matters. We pray that in making this material available, we can continue in his footsteps, playing our part in helping others catch a vision of life with God, becoming his apprentice, and walking in the easy yoke of Jesus — even when engaging the rough and tumble world of the public arena.*