

character and personality and purposes, the data of that which lies beyond the grave is something which we cannot reach or touch or experimentally ascertain. We have to receive it by revelation just as we have to receive our information about the other side of the world from someone who has been there, unless we go ourselves, and even if we go ourselves it will take many, many years to learn everything about it, we have to take the great part about it by revelation, from another human being, and in this field that no human being can reach himself by revelation we have to take it from God who knows it and who, and so revelation is one of the commonest facts of human life, one of our commonest means of getting information. It is our very best means of getting information provided the one from whom we get it is one who knows the facts and who is reliable. If I want to learn about the atomic bomb I might go and spend the next ten years experimenting and studying in laboratories, but the probabilities are that I could learn it a great deal better by talking to somebody who himself is an expert in the field and getting the material by revelation from him, material which he secured partly by experimentation but the greater part of it also he got by revelation from others. And so the Bible is filled with the statements of these men to whom God gave revelation, to whose minds God imparted truths that they would not otherwise have known, to whom He gave specific words that they as prophets were to pass on, or to whom He gave visions and thus brought ideas into their heads which they, in turn, put into words and passed on. We have these different methods in which the prophets received their revelations but we have another factor in the Bible, the factor of inspiration, something which is entirely different from revelation, something which is very largely negative; that is to say, the, there is a blue print in the Spirit's mind leading the writers in general so that that which they put down will in general fit together and express that which the Lord wants us to have, yet a greater section of that which is included in inspiration is that the Spirit kept the men from including in the words which they wrote in those books which He intended to form a part of His divine Word, He kept them from putting into that any of the erroneous ideas which were in their minds, for