

ye have received, freely give." In proportion therefore to every talent which is committed to our trust as rational and responsible beings, there is a correspondent demand upon us for its right use, and beneficial application.

But of all the blessings that ever were bestowed upon frail and fallible creatures such as we are, there is none in which our present and eternal interests are so deeply, and so universally involved, as in those revealed communications of the will of God to man, which are contained in the Sacred Scriptures. These writings, delivered "at sundry times, and in divers manners," by "* Holy men of God, who spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," are expressly declared to be written for our learning. It is in these, and in these alone, that every serious and well regulated mind may discover all the essential truths concerning the manifestation of God's ways to man, and all the required obedience of man to God.

* 2 Peter, c. i. v. 21.

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