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The Spiritual Dimension

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THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION

The spiritual is usually referred to ^{as} the 4th dimension. I suppose this is reasonable because the first three are more easily observable. So we usually think the spiritual is the part we can't see. I disagree with this.

Granted, there is an inner aspect of the spiritual life, and this is basic, prior to all overt acts of service to God and our fellowmen. I believe that even the quality of such acts is measured by the quality and nature of the inner motivation. But there is definitely a "visible side" to the spiritual life. A scripture that states and illustrates this is St. John 4:14 "For my gift will become a spring in the man himself, welling up into eternal life."

What are some of the "welling up into" aspects and evidences of the spiritual life of students and teachers in the Taylor academic community? Surely these cannot be "calibrated" or stated in formulae or judged by the same measuring devices in all individuals. But more or less, and with flexibility allowed for individual differences, the "welling up" will overflow in how we treat ourselves, recognizing even our bodies are God's temple, in how we present our appearance, in how we treat our fellowmen, in how we do our work, in how we socialize and play, in what are our attitudes toward our peers, neighbors, institutions.

A second common error which I would like to correct in our thinking is the separation that may be suggested by our emphasis on four dimensions, and our presentation of them in different sessions and discussions. It is simply to say that

they are not in any sense independent of each other, and they certainly immeasurably influence each other. Check this by noting for yourself to what extent what you know affects how you feel, or how your physical condition influences your spiritual experience--

and vice versa.

Note also what eternal life is. Not just unending, but qualities that cannot end.
Translating this into educational program and campus living, we will strive to

(The Idea of a University)

do the academic things that are expressive of our Christian commitment. Academic does not mean secular. We can express our liberal arts aims through Biblical phraseology —

1. To give you vision, for " — — —