

Elder B. H. Roberts on the Holy Spirit and Scholarly Evidence

Key Scripture Moroni 10:3–5

Explanation This is one of the plainest statements ever made about the roles of the Spirit and scholarly evidence in knowing and stating the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. As Elder B. H. Roberts stated, secondary evidences can help make truth more clear and complete, thereby creating an atmosphere in which the Holy Ghost may more easily testify of it.

Source B. H. Roberts, *New Witnesses for God* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1909), 2:vi–vii, viii.



This [the Holy Ghost] must ever be the chief source of evidence for the truth of the Book of Mormon. All other evidence is secondary to this, the primary and infallible. No arrangement of evidence, however skillfully ordered; no argument, however adroitly made, can ever take its place. . . .

To be known, the truth must be stated and the clearer and more complete the statement is, the better opportunity will the Holy Spirit have for testifying to the souls of men that the work is true. . . .

Secondary evidences in support of truth, like secondary causes in natural phenomena, may be of first-rate importance, and mighty factors in the achievement of God's purposes.

— *Elder B. H. Roberts, 1909*