



'The Secret' is out



ILLUSTRATION BY BLAIN HEFNER/The Salt Lake Tribune

As the 'law of attraction' goes mainstream, millions of Americans are being drawn to the power of positive thinking — and millions of books and DVDs are flying off the shelves

By JESSICA RAVITZ
The Salt Lake Tribune

Gawk at a necklace long enough and, bam, it'll appear around your neck. Kick back in a recliner, pretend you're at the wheel of a BMW and, poof, it'll roll into your driveway. Picture yourself in that dream house and, voilà, someday it'll be yours.

Maybe it's not always this simple, but if the lessons taught in "The Secret" — a DVD, book and now even soundtrack sensation — are to be believed, all of this and more is possible.

The teachings "changed my life 45 years ago," says Bob Proctor, who's referred to as a philosopher while giving his testimony on the DVD. "The law of attraction is always working. . . Everything that comes into your life, you're attracting into your life."

This law of attraction, an age-old philosophy, is

the root of "The Secret" — something that reportedly has been revealed across millennia to the few but now, with this hit, is available to all. Proctor, quantum physicists, a visionary, authors — including

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What is 'The Secret'?

It's a DVD and book that expound on an old philosophy: the law of attraction. The law of attraction, in essence, states that thoughts and feelings form the vibrations a person sends out into the universe. What a person gives — positive or negative vibes and energy — is what the person receives in return. In other words, your thoughts determine your destiny. Although commonly viewed as a New Age philosophy, book and DVD sales indicate it is now going mainstream.

Robert Kirby

Interpreting Scripture with a personal spin

After last Saturday's column on Mitt Romney, Mormons and caffeine, feedback swarmed in regarding my knowledge of the Bible.

In the column, I wrote that Baptist seminary students had once demanded from me the biblical basis for the LDS view on caffeine. I sent them Deuteronomy 25:13.

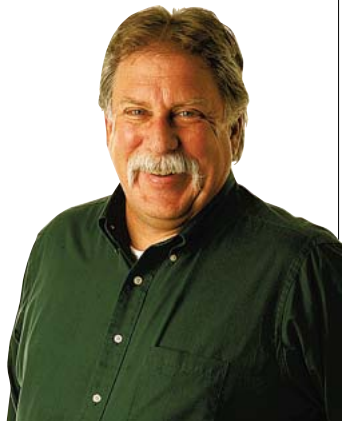
For the record (and the lazy, indifferent, etc.), the Scripture in King James reads: "Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small."

I had no idea that's what Deuteronomy 25:13 said when I sent it off to the seminary students. I didn't even know Deuteronomy had 25 chapters. The Scripture was a joke. I

just threw out a reference at random as a parody of the human fascination for interpreting the Bible to suit some personal agenda.

Now that I've actually read Deuteronomy 25:13, it's clear

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"We will not lay [our Baptismal Covenant] aside for the sake of an outward unity. We are not willing to bear this cost, nor to set the cost on the backs of lesbian and gay people."

STATEMENT FROM THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF UTAH

Utah diocese rejects anti-gay stance

By PEGGY FLETCHER STACK
The Salt Lake Tribune

At a meeting of bishops in Tanzania last month, Episcopal Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori faced a difficult choice: Suspend the American church's support of gays and lesbians or risk being cut off from the worldwide Anglican Communion.

For the sake of unity, Jefferts Schori agreed to the former, at least while the questions about human sexuality could be studied from a global perspective.

Utah's Episcopal diocese, however, feels the church shouldn't have to choose. It can maintain unity and still support its gay and lesbian members, according to a statement issued this week

by Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish and other diocesan leaders. Irish plans to share the statement, which lays out a description of how to bridge the two, at a meeting in Texas that started Friday.

The church's "Baptismal Covenant" asks people if they will "love their neighbors as themselves" and "strive for justice and peace among all people."

"Bigotry, discrimination, and hate-mongering have no place in the life of the baptized," the statement read. "We will not lay [our Baptismal Covenant] aside for the sake of an outward unity. We are not willing to bear this cost, nor to set the cost on the backs of lesbian and gay people."

The Utah diocese is one of 110 dioceses in the Episcopal Church, itself one

of 38 provinces in the worldwide Anglican Communion. It was the first diocese to oppose the positions taken by the bishops in Tanzania.

"We wanted to make a strong statement against primates [Anglican leaders] assuming they have the authority to push us around. We do feel a bit bullied," said the Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler, who wrote most of the statement. "We wanted to reiterate that our church government says our provinces are autonomous, held together by affection not bonds of law."

Although those in the U.S. Church have been studying these sexual issues for decades, they recognize that fellow

See **UTAH DIOCESE,** C2