

#6: Recognizing Personal Revelation

Monte F. Shelley, 1 Mar. 2009

Quotes

- If you want to walk on water, you must get out of the boat.

1. I will tell you in your mind and in your heart

I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost ... This is the spirit of revelation.^{8:2}

2. Still small voice

Thus saith the *still small voice*, which whispereth through and pierceth all things, and often times it maketh my bones to quake while it maketh manifest^{85:6}

Dallin H. Oaks: "Visions do happen. Voices are heard from beyond the veil. I know this. But these experiences are exceptional. ... Most of the revelation that comes to leaders and members of the Church comes by the *still, small voice or by a feeling* rather than by a vision or a voice that speaks specific words we can hear. I testify to the reality of that kind of revelation, which I have come to know as a familiar, even *daily*, experience to guide me in the work of the Lord" ("Teaching and Learning by the Spirit," *Ensign*, Mar. 1997, 14).

Boyd K. Packer: "These delicate, refined spiritual communications are not seen with our eyes nor heard with our ears. And even though it is described as a voice, it is *a voice that one feels more than one hears*" (*That All May Be Edified*, 335).

3. Enlightens and speaks peace to our minds

As often as thou hast inquired thou hast received instruction of my Spirit. If it had not been so, thou wouldst not have come to the place where thou art at this time. Behold, thou knowest that thou hast inquired of me and I did *enlighten thy mind*; and now I tell thee these things that thou mayest know that thou hast been enlightened by the Spirit of truth; ... If you desire a further witness, cast your mind upon the night that you cried unto me in your heart, that you might know concerning the truth of these things. Did I not *speak peace to your mind* concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God? ... Look to me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.^{6:14-23, 36}

4. Burning in the bosom or stupor of thought

You have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me. But, behold, I say unto you, that you must *study it out in your mind*; then you must *ask me if it be right*, and if it is right I will cause that *your bosom shall burn within you*; therefore, you shall *feel that it is right*. But if it be not right you shall have *no such feelings*, but you shall have a *stupor of thought* that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong; therefore, you cannot write that which is sacred save it be given you from me.^{9:7-9}

5. Bring all things to your remembrance

The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, ... shall teach you all things, and *bring all things to your remembrance*, whatsoever I have said unto you. ... Peace I leave with you. ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.^{John 14:26-27}

6. Carry to the heart

When a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost the power of the Holy Ghost *carrieth it unto the hearts* of ... men.^{2 Ne. 33:1}

I was one day reading [James 1:5] which reads: *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, ... and it shall be given him.* Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at this time to mine. It seemed to enter with great force into *every feeling of my heart*. I *reflected on it again and again*, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from

God, I did; for *how to act I did not know*. ... At length I came to the conclusion that I must either remain in darkness and confusion, or else I must ... ask of God.^{JS-H 1:11-12}

7. Guide you into all truth

The Spirit of truth ... will *guide you into all truth*.^{John 16:13}

I now resume the subject of the baptism for the dead, as that subject seems to *occupy my mind*, and *press itself upon my feelings* the strongest.^{128:1}

I sat in my room *pondering over the scriptures*; And *reflecting upon the great atoning sacrifice* ... And the *great and wonderful love* made manifest by the Father and the Son. ... While I was thus engaged, *my mind reverted to the writings* of ... Peter, ... I opened the Bible and read ... and *as I read I was greatly impressed* ... *As I pondered* over these things which are written, *the eyes of my understanding were opened*, ... and I saw ... *I marveled* ... And *I wondered* at the words of Peter ... And *as I wondered*, my eyes were opened, and my understanding quickened, and I perceived ...^{138:1-29}

8. Liahona illustrates spiritual communication

What were the two functions of the Liahona?

- a. _____ b. _____

What did they have to do so it would work?^{Alma 37:41-42}

How were Israelites guided in the wilderness?^{Ex 40:36-38}

Spencer W. Kimball compared the Liahona to _____
Ensign, Nov 1976, 77

Alma compared the Liahona to _____^{Alma 37:45-46}

How could you guide a blind person without words?

How does the Holy Ghost guide us?

I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do.^{1 Ne. 4:6}

The Spirit of the Lord ... [will] guide you in wisdom's paths that ye may be blessed, prospered, and preserved.^{Mos. 2:36}

They that are wise and have received the truth, and have *taken the Holy Spirit for their guide*, and have not been deceived— ... they shall not be ... cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.^{45:57}

9. It shall be given you in the very moment

Speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts, and you shall not be confounded before men; For *it shall be given you in the very hour*, yea, in the very moment, *what ye shall say*.^{100:5-6}

Neither take ye thought beforehand what ye shall say; but treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be *given you in the very hour* that portion that shall be meted unto every man.^{84:85}

10. Show you all things you should do

How could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost? Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore ... *feast upon the words of Christ*; for behold, *the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do*. ... If ye will enter in by the way, and *receive the Holy Ghost*, it will show unto you all things what ye should do. Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ.^{2 Ne. 32:2-6}

Go your way whithersoever I will, and it shall be given you by the Comforter what you shall do and whither you shall go.^{31:11}

My servant Lyman: Your sins are forgiven you, because you have *obeyed my voice* in coming up hither this morning to *receive counsel* of him whom I have appointed.^{108:1}

11. Counsel with the Lord in all they doings

Pray always ... Ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father. ^{2 Ne. 32:9}

Counsel with the Lord in all they doings, and he will direct thee for good. ^{Alma 37:37}

12. It is not meet that I should command in all things

For behold, *it is not meet that I should command in all things*; for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward. ... Men should be *anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will*, and bring to pass much righteousness; For *the power is in them*, wherein they are agents unto themselves. ^{58:26-28}

As I spake concerning my servant Edward Partridge, this land is the land of his residence, and those whom he has appointed for his counselors; ... Wherefore, let them bring their families to this land, *as they shall counsel between themselves and me*. ^{58:24-25}

13. As seemeth you good, it mattereth not unto me

Let there be a craft made, or bought, *as seemeth you good, it mattereth not unto me*, and take your journey speedily for the place which is called St. Louis. ^{60:5}

It mattereth not unto me ... if it so be that they fill their mission, whether they go by water or by land; let this be as it is made known unto them *according to their judgments* hereafter. ^{61:22}

Then you may return to bear record ... altogether, or two by two, *as seemeth you good, it mattereth not unto me*; only be faithful, and declare glad tidings unto the inhabitants. ... If any among you desire to ride upon horses, or upon mules, or in chariots, he shall receive this blessing. ... These things remain with you *to do according to judgment and the directions of the Spirit*. ^{62:5}

Go ye and preach my gospel, whether to the north ... south ... east or ... west, *it mattereth not*, for ye cannot go amiss. ^{80:3}

14. What if no answer?

Brigham Young: "If I do not know the will of my Father, and ... if I ask Him to give me wisdom ... and get no answer from Him, and then do the very best that my judgment will teach me, He is bound to own and honor that transaction, and He will do so to all intents and purposes." (*JD* 3:205; *Discourses of Brigham Young*, 43)

Boyd K. Packer: "Sometimes you may struggle with a problem and not get an answer. ... It may be that you have not done the right things long enough. Remember, you cannot force spiritual things. Sometimes we are confused simply because we won't take no for an answer. ... Put difficult questions in the back of your minds and go about your lives. Ponder and pray quietly and persistently about them. The answer may not come as a lightning bolt. It may come as a little inspiration here and a little there, 'line upon line, precept upon precept' (D&C 98:12). Some answers will come from reading the scriptures, some from hearing speakers. And, occasionally, when it is important, some will come by very direct and powerful inspiration. The promptings will be clear and unmistakable" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1979, 21).

Revelations come in the Lord's own time and way:

Dallin H. Oaks: "The Lord will speak to us through the Spirit in his own time and in his own way. Many people ... believe that when they are ready and when it suits their convenience, they can call upon the Lord and he will immediately respond, even in the precise way they have prescribed. Revelation does not come that way. ... The principle stated in [D&C 88:68] applies to every communication from our Heavenly Father: 'It shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will.' We cannot force spiritual things" (*Ensign*, Mar. 1997, 10-11).

Help thy servants to say, with thy grace assisting them: Thy will be done, O Lord, and not ours. ^{109:44}

Richard G. Scott: "When we seek inspiration to help make decisions, the Lord gives gentle promptings. These require us to think, to exercise faith, to work, to struggle at times, and to act. Seldom does the whole answer to a decisively important matter or complex problem come all at once. More often, it comes a piece at a time, without the end in sight" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1989, 32).

15. How can one tell the Holy Ghost from other spirits?

I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do. ^{1 Ne. 4:6}

If ye would hearken unto *the Spirit which teacheth a man to pray* ye would know that ye must pray; for the *evil spirit ... teacheth him that he must not pray*. ^{2 Ne. 32:8}

Put your trust in that Spirit which *leadeth to do good ... to do justly, to walk humbly, to judge righteously; and this is my Spirit*. ... I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall *enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy*; ... By this shall you know, all things whatsoever you desire of me, which are pertaining unto things of righteousness, in faith believing in me that you shall receive. ^{11:12-14}

Every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ. ... But whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil. ^{Moro. 7:16-17}

That which *doth not edify* is not of God, and is darkness. ^{50:23}

"When the Prophet Joseph appeared to him in a dream or vision, Brigham pleaded to be reunited with the Prophet. [He] asked the Prophet if he had a message for the Brethren. The Prophet said: 'Tell the people to be humble and faithful, and to be sure to keep the spirit of the Lord and it will lead them right. Be careful and not turn away the still small voice; it will teach them what to do and where to go; it will yield the fruits of the kingdom. Tell the Brethren to keep their hearts open to conviction, so that when the Holy Ghost comes to them, their hearts will be ready to receive it. ... They can tell the Spirit of the Lord from all other spirits; it will whisper peace and joy to their souls; it will take malice, hatred, strife and all evil from their hearts; and their whole desire will be to do good, bring forth righteousness and build up the kingdom of God.' " (James E. Faust, "The Gift of the Holy Ghost—A Sure Compass," *Ensign*, May 1989, 31)

Two wolves: Once an old Cherokee Indian said to his grandson: "A fight is going on inside me. It is a terrible fight between two wolves. One is evil— he is contention, anger, hate, envy, regret, greed, pride, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, discouragement, despair, misery. The other wolf is good— he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside every person." The grandson thought for a moment and then asked, "Grandfather, which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed." (Anon)

Questions about my personal revelations:

- Does it apply to my own stewardship? ^{28:2, 6-7}
Joseph Smith taught, "It is contrary to the economy of God for any member of the Church, or any one, to receive instruction for those in authority, higher than themselves" (*TPJS*, 21).
- Is it in harmony with scriptures, apostles, and prophets?
- Does it invite and entice me to love God, and do good?

At speeches.byu.edu, see "The Voice of the Lord" by Gerald N. Lund, (12/2/97) and "Revelation" by Dallin H. Oaks (9/29/81).