

## Instrument in the Lord's Hands Outline – Mike Baird

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### Instrument in the Lord's hands

- Alma 29:9  
I know that which the Lord hath commanded me, and I glory in it. I do not glory of myself, but I glory in that which the Lord hath commanded me; yea, and this is my glory, *that perhaps I may be an instrument in the hands of God* to bring some soul to repentance; and this is my joy.
- How do we become an instrument in the hands of God?

#### ***The Lord qualifies those whom He calls***

- Thomas S Monson  
"Now, some of you may be shy by nature or consider yourselves inadequate to respond affirmatively to a calling. Remember that this work is not yours and mine alone. It is the Lord's work, and when we are on the Lord's errand, we are entitled to the Lord's help. Remember that whom the Lord calls, the Lord qualifies" ("Duty Calls," Ensign, May 1996, 43)

#### ***Polished Instrument***

- We can be a polished or unpolished instrument
- Becoming a polished instrument requires more than just going through the experiences which we have
- We need to prepare to act in the office where we are called
- A part of the Lord qualifying us to serve in our callings requires us to do our part
  - If we don't do our part in preparing to act in my office then we won't be as effective

- We would be rough instruments and not polished instruments in the Lord's hands
  - We would perhaps stay that way
- Becoming a polished instrument requires that we see ourselves as instruments (Alma 29:9)
  - Steven D Dalton  
 "If we keep seeing ourselves as an instrument in His hands, with no agenda of our own, with no thought or desire for personal gain or gratification, without ANYTHING other than to bring glory to His Holy Name, then He CAN use us as instruments." (Personal Correspondence 11/21/2008)

### ***Preparing to Act***

- The preparation for acting in our office as the Lord's representative in whatever capacity requires three things
  1. Study and know the principles, doctrines and policies
  2. Developing faith and trust in the Lord
    - That He will through his Spirit give guidance and direction
  3. Being prepared to act with a "sincere heart and real intent" (Moroni 10:4)
    - Steven D Dalton  
 "I have often reflected on the meaning of "sincere heart and real intent". To me, it means that the Lord will "work the miracle" only once He knows that we *will do something about it.*" (Personal Correspondence 11/21/2008)

### ***Acting in the office to which we are called***

- The actual acting in our office consists of putting the trust and faith into action in receiving and recognizing the guidance of the Spirit and then following it

### ***Form of Guidance - Confirmation***

- The guidance of the Spirit in general takes two forms
- The first is it may be such that the guidance is really that of confirmation when we deal with matters we are experienced with
  - In these cases we move forward based on our experience, knowledge and understanding
  - We will feel settled in the Spirit in what we do

- The Spirit will let us know if it should be otherwise and if so we will feel uncomfortable and not settled
- Steven D Dalton  
 " Sometimes, a set of facts will be presented to you, and based upon your experience, as you mention, you feel a confirmation as you move forward with what your experiences have taught. It seems reasonable, it feels right, and it IS right.  
 AND THEN, a set of facts present themselves, and they are exactly the same as the first. However, doing what seemed so reasonable and right as in the first instance, now seems WRONG. Logically and reasonably, the same fact situation should result in the same course of action, but the spirit says differently, and the spirit is always right."  
 (Personal Correspondence 11/21/2008)

### ***Form of Guidance - Revelation***

- The second form of guidance is at the time we need it we will be guided as what to do and say
  - D&C 100:5-8
  - D&C 84:85  
 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
- One way this occurs is doctrines and principles and the words of Christ we have learned will be brought to remembrance
  - John 14:26
  - This requires that we first study the words of Christ
- Steven D Dalton  
 "The importance of preparing by knowing the doctrines and principles is significant, but I am certain that we can never know them all, or even hope to know the ones that we might need in the future. That is why I so love D&C 84:85, because I know that you treasure them, and that you treasure them enough that you love to study them. I think that is enough for the Lord to use you as an instrument" (Personal Correspondence 11/21/2008)