

Revelation – Responsibility in Outline – Mike Baird

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In what ways does revelation come?

- visions or dreams
- words or thoughts communicated to the mind
- sudden enlightenment (aha!)
- Positive or negative feelings
- Prophet Joseph Smith:
 “A person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation; for instance, when you feel pure intelligence flowing into you, it may give you sudden strokes of ideas ... and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 151)

Responsibility in Revelation

- Prophet receives it for the church
- Bishop receives it for the ward
- Primary President for the Primary
- Parents for their family

Purposes of revelation as a leader

Inform

- Selected my counselors – Just knew
 - Didn't know Brother Barker before hand
- Counseling as Bishop
 - Thoughts come to my mind

Confirm course of action

- D&C 9:8-9
- Ever gone shopping for shoes?
 - Try it on in your mind
 - Bruce R McConkie:
“You go to work, and you use the agency and power and ability that God has given you. You use every faculty, you get all the judgment that you can centered on the problem, you make up your own mind, and then, to be sure that you don’t err, you counsel with the Lord. You talk it over. You say, “This is what I think; what do you think?” And if you get the calm, sweet surety that comes only from the Holy Spirit, you know you’ve reached the right conclusion; but if there’s anxiety and uncertainty in your heart, then you’d better start over, because the Lord’s hand is not in it, and you’re not getting the ratifying seal that, as a member of the Church who has the gift of the Holy Ghost, you are entitled to receive.” (Bruce R. McConkie, “Agency or Inspiration?” *New Era*, Jan. 1975, 38)

Impel to action

- Nephi & Laban (1 Nephi 4)
- The Petersons
 - Felt to go to their house and invite them to be sealed in the Temple. They accepted. (Nov 2002)

Restrain from action

- When I went to send a calling to the stake
 - Could not send the email

Recognizing Revelation

- President Dalton
"Bishop Baird. It is not expected of you to have all the answers. Your responsibility is to recognize revelation when you hear it." (Personal conversation, 2004)
 - All answers will not come directly to you as a leader
 - The Spirit will confirm to you that a particular expression of something is revelation.
 - May come from a counselor or others
 - May come from your leader
- Need to be seeking for it