

Things of God understood by the Spirit

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God's ways are not our ways

- Isaiah 55:8-11

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

- Our perspective on things is limited where God's is not
- God is all knowing so he sees all, our vision is limited
- Riddle – Big Indian & Little Indian

Paul – must be "by His Spirit"

- 1 Cor 2:9-11, 14

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

- Paul is saying to the Saints in Corinth that there are blessings and plans for those of us who love God that you can't imagine
- But God has revealed them through his Spirit

- Some of the things Paul is referring to, I believe, are revealed in the Temple. Or another way to look at it is, in the Temple are things which "Eye hath not seen...."
- How are they are revealed unto us – "by his Spirit"

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- These blessings, plans and things of the Temple can only be understood or even imagined through his Spirit, not through our worldly understanding.
- So how is it, or what is it we *do* then to understand?

Nephi – How to receive "by His Spirit

- 1 Nephi 15:7-11

7 And they (*Laman & Lemuel*) said: Behold, we cannot understand the words which our father hath spoken concerning the natural branches of the olive-tree, and also concerning the Gentiles.

8 And I said unto them: Have ye inquired of the Lord?

9 And they said unto me: We have not; for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us.

- Too often we feel that way "Lord maketh no such thing known unto us", Only to the Stake President or the Bishop
- This is not true, all of us can know of things through the Spirit

10 Behold, I said unto them: How is it that ye do not keep the commandments of the Lord? How is it that ye will perish, because of the hardness of your hearts?

11 Do ye not remember the things which the Lord hath said?—If ye will (1) not harden your hearts, and (2) ask me in faith, (3)

believing that ye shall receive, (4) with diligence in keeping my commandments, **surely these things shall be made known unto you.**"

- Nephi gave us an outline of 4 things to do to prepare to understand spiritual things – How to prepare to come to the Temple – a place where we know are things to be received "by His Spirit"
- If we do these things – surely "these things shall be made known unto you"

Teacher and learner edified by the Spirit

- D&C 50:17-23

Therefore, why is it that ye cannot understand and know, that he that receiveth the word by the Spirit of truth receiveth it as it is preached by the Spirit of truth?

Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together