

## **Youth Fireside**

**2/9/03**

### **Revelation (voice of the Spirit)**

- words or thoughts communicated to the mind
- sudden enlightenment
- Positive or negative feelings

### **Purposes of Revelation (8 – Elder Oaks)**

1. Witness that Jesus is the Christ & Church is true
  - Holy Ghost has witnessed to my soul
    - a. Based on Book of Mormon
    - b. Today during the sacrament hymn
2. Prophecy
  - Knew I would be Bishop
  - Father's Blessings
  - Patriarchal Blessing
3. Comfort
  - Prophet in Liberty Jail
  - Loss of loved ones
4. Uplift
  - Hymns
    - a. We thank thee O God for a Prophet – President Hinckly at the Conference Center
    - b. Stake Conference when I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade with Hugh B Brown and "The Spirit of God"
5. Inform
  - Father's blessings
  - Counseling as Bishop
  - Selected my counselors
  - Johnny finding keys
6. Restrain from doing something
  - When I went to send a calling to the stake
  - "Don't do that"
  - "Don't go there"

7. Confirm course of action

- D&C 9:7-8
- Try it on in your mind
  - Relief Society President call of Marci Burnside
- Alma 32

8. Impel to action

- Revelation comes when it is not being sought
- Nephi & Laban
- Wilford Woodruff – moved his carriage from tree
- The Petersons
- 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” (J. F. Smith, ed., *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 151).

- Today at Sacrament meeting

- We need to be able to “hear” the Spirit, not have too much “noise” so we drown it out and be listening to recognize these promptings

## When Revelation doesn't come

### Responsibility in Revelation

- Prophet for Church
- Bishop for the Ward
- Parents for family
- You for you
- Claims outside the proper area
  - Bishop Tawzer for Cooper Mt Ward
  - For Brother Barnes family
  - Young Man to Young Women– “You are to be my wife”

### When we seek but it doesn't come

- Time
  - Answers come in the Lord's time and in the Lord's way.
    - Not at our time and our way
    - You cannot force the Spirit
- Sometimes we are left to our own judgment
  - Why do you think??
  - Purpose is to obtain experience & faith
  - God will not direct us in every act, even every important act
  - Example as Parent
  - Cannot force Spiritual things
- Sometimes no answer for things we think are important
  - Prayers *are* heard
    - Through the Spirit, which is everywhere
  - Then WHY if we are in tune etc??
  - One reason or other we should make without guidance of revelation
    1. Choosing between two alternatives that are equally bad
    2. Choosing between two alternatives that are equally good
    3. Not necessarily a right and a wrong for every question
      - some only have 2 wrong or 2 right
        - “Which is the best way to get revenge?”

4. Seeking guidance on a choice you will never have to make
  - A 3<sup>rd</sup> alternative may be made clear tomorrowTwo equal acceptable things
  - Elder Oaks:
 

"No answer is likely to come to a person who seeks guidance in choosing between two alternatives that are equally acceptable to the Lord. Thus, there are times when we can serve productively in two different fields of labor. Either answer is right."

(Dallin H. Oaks, "Revelation," *New Era*, Sept. 1982, 38)
- Sometimes we pray for that which we shouldn't
- Sometimes we pray when we really don't want the answer – we want our answer
- Trivial matters
  - Choosing between brands of vegetables
  - Elder Oaks:
 

That strikes me as improper. I believe the Lord expects us to use the intelligence and experience He has given us to make these kinds of choices." (Dallin H. Oaks, "Revelation," *New Era*, Sept. 1982, 38)
  - What is trivial
    - If it appears we should proceed on our judgment
    - If choice is important for reasons unknown to us, Lord will intervene
      - Poison in vegetables
      - Need to be in tune
5. If in Tune Lord will guide us (Testify)

## Questions

## Testimony