

That which is good is of God

Mike Baird

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How does revelation come?

Ways

Visitations (heavenly messengers)

- Angel Moroni's visitation to Joseph Smith

Dreams, visions

- Lehi's vision of the tree of life

Sudden enlightenment

- Oliver Cowdery
 - D&C 6:14-15
 - "Behold thou hast inquired of me and I did enlighten thy mind"

Voice in our mind

- Enos 1:10
 - "And while I was thus struggling in the spirit, behold, the voice of the Lord came into my mind again"
 - President Marion G Romney (speaking of Enos)
 - "This is a very common means of revelation. It comes into one's mind in words and sentences. With this medium of revelation I am personally well acquainted." (April 1964 Conference Report, pg 124)

Feelings

- Boyd K Packer
 - "We do not have the words (even the scriptures do not have words) which perfectly describe the Spirit. The scriptures usually use the word voice, which does not exactly fit. These delicate, refined spiritual communications are not seen with our eyes nor heard with our ears.... It is a voice that one feels more than one hears...." (A Watchman on the Tower , pg 279)
- 1 Nephi 17:45
 - "... he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were past *feeling*, that ye could not *feel* his words"

Most revelation comes in "common dress" and is constant

- Boyd K Packer
 - "I have come to know that inspiration comes more as a feeling than as a sound." (A Watchman on the Tower , pg 279)
- President Spencer W Kimball
 - "Some have no ear for spiritual messages...when they come in common dress...Expecting the spectacular, one may not be fully alerted to the *constant* flow of revealed communication "(Teachings of Spencer W Kimball, p. 457)
- My personal observation:
 - I have noticed that revelation is there if I but look
 - Feelings are the "common dress" method of revelation
 - President Dalton when I was made Bishop – "trust your feelings"

- We need to learn how to recognize revelation

How do you judge if a feeling is of the Spirit?

- 3 easy tests to eliminate if not from God
- "plain as dark and light" way to judge of from God or Satan
- Then there are harder situations
 - Choices between multiple "good"
 - Choices where there is no clear good or evil
 - Choices where we are expected to use our own judgment

Responsibility in Revelation

- If outside of my circle of responsibility then it is clearly not revelation from God
 - D&C 42:11
 - Bishop Baird will not receive revelation for the Murray Hill Ward

Not within the doctrine

- If at odds with established church doctrine then it is not from God
 - Bishop Baird will not receive revelation to change tithing for Cooper Mt Ward members to mean 10% of what's left in your bank account at the end of the month

At odds with the Prophet or outside of the commandments

- If it is at odds with the guidance of the Prophet is not from God
 - Bishop Baird is not going to receive revelation that it is OK to have tattoos or to take illegal drugs
 - There are no "exception clauses" for teenagers
- If it is against a commandment of God then not from God
 - Bishop Baird is not going to receive revelation that I don't need to pay tithing or that the law of chastity doesn't matter.
 - Rarely if ever will we be asked to step out of bounds
 - Nephi & Laban example

Moroni 7

- Moroni 7:12-18
 - v12
 - Alma 5:40 (Amulek) – Whatsoever is good...
 - Anything?
 - What does that mean about those things outside of our church
 - What about in places where they don't know of God & Christ?
 - How then do we know good from evil? (verse 16)
 - v13
 - 2 Nephi 33:10 (Nephi) – Words of Christ ...
 - We can know the words of Christ lead us to good
 - v14
 - Isaiah 5:20 (2 Nephi 15:20) Woe unto those....
 - What are ways that we call good evil and evil good?
 - Why?
 - v15
 - If the way is plain then how come we might error?
 - v16
 - Review section on Doctrines of the Spirit, Holy Ghost and Gift of the Holy Ghost
 - D&C 84:45-47 Spirit enlighteneth every man
 - D&D 88:7-13 Light of Christ
 - As members we have the gift of the Holy Ghost – a higher endowment of the Spirit
 -
 - v17
 - v18
 - Alma 41:12-15 restoration
- Examples
 - Henry B Eyring
"The warning not to judge what is of God to be evil nor what is from the devil to be good is a helpful caution to those of us who would help the young learn to choose the right. They will see some choices as good, or at least neutral, which we may see at first as evil. Before we begin to force a choice with what authority we may have, it will be wise to apply the test found in Moroni ourselves. More than once I have been restrained and

more than once I have been energized to action by those practical rules. What I at first thought was evil became clear to me as being neutral. And what I had thought was neutral was revealed to me as inviting to do evil. And when the teenager knew I would apply the test myself in humility, it was more likely that they would try the test for themselves.” (Henry B. Eyring, “A Life Founded in Light and Truth,” Ensign, July 2001, 6)

We are expected to use our own experience & Judgment

- Trivial matters – Use our own experience & judgment
 - Dallin H Oaks

" Similarly, the Spirit of the Lord is not likely to give us revelations on matters that are trivial. I once heard a young woman in testimony meeting praise the spirituality of her husband, indicating that he submitted every question to the Lord. She told how he accompanied her shopping and would not even choose between different brands of canned vegetables without making his selection a matter of prayer. 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." ("Revelation," New Era, Sept. 1982, 38)

 - Many choices we know what to choose
 - Our feelings will let us know
- If it is important the Spirit will guide us
 - We have the gift of the Holy Ghost
 - Our feelings will let us know
 - Boyd K Packer

"We should go about our life in an ordinary, workaday way, following the routines and rules and regulations that govern life.... [These] are valuable protection. Should we stand in need of revealed instruction to alter our course, it will be waiting along the way as we arrive at the point of need." (A Watchman on the Tower , pg 279)
 - Dallin H Oaks

"If the choice is important for reasons unknown to us, such as the ... choice between two cans of vegetables when one contains a hidden poison, the Lord will intervene and give us guidance. Where a choice will make a real difference in our lives—obvious or not—and where we are living in tune with the Spirit and seeking its guidance, we can be sure that we will receive the guidance we need to attain our goal. The Lord will not leave us unassisted when a choice is important to our eternal welfare." ("Revelation," New Era, Sept. 1982, 38)

- **Summary:** We should make choices using our judgment and experience but should be constantly be "listening" for the Spirit to give us guidance

How does the Spirit feel?

- Words to describe "right"
 - Centered
 - Settled (President Dalton)
 - Peace, calm
 - Harmony
 - Resonates with my spirit

How does the Spirit not feel?

- Words to describe "wrong"
 - stirred up (what was Satan always doing to the Lamanites)
 - unsettled
 - anger, strife
 - sensual
 - Off key
 - Dissonance with my spirit

Sometimes it seems hard to know

- How do I separate the natural feelings of anxiety from "stirred up"?
 - Example of buying a house
 - "Trying on shoes test"

Sometimes things don't turn out like we expect

- What about when I feel that I've followed the Spirit and things do not turn out the way I thought?
 - Sometimes we begin to doubt ourselves
 - D&C 6:22 – 23
 - "... Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter?.."

The doctrine with regards to the Holy Ghost, the Spirit, and the gift of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost

- 3rd Member of the Godhead
- Personage of Spirit (D&C 130:22)
- Referred to as "He" not "it" (John 14:26, John 15:26)
- One place at one time
 - Joseph Fielding Smith:
" President Joseph F. Smith has expressed it thus: "The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more be omnipresent in person than can the Father or the Son... " (Doctrines of Salvation, 1: 41.)
- Holy Ghost and Light of Christ different (Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers to Gospel Questions, 5:137)
- Holy Ghost and gift of Holy Ghost different (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg, 199)

The Spirit (Light of Christ, Spirit of Christ)

- Impersonal ("it" not "He")
- Emanates from God (D&C 88:12).
- This is the light "which is in all things, which giveth life to all things" (D&C 88:13).
- "giveth light to every man that cometh into the world" (D&C 84:46)
- The prophet Mormon taught that "the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil" (Moro. 7:16; see also Moro. 7:19; 2 Ne. 2:5; Hel. 14:31)
- The Light of Christ enlightens and gives understanding to all men (D&C 88:11).
- Law by which all things are governed (D&C 88:13).
- Bruce R McConkie:
"It is the agency of God's power; it is the means and way whereby "he comprehendeth all things," so that "all things are before him, and all things are round about him." It is the way whereby "he is above all things, and in all things, and is through all things, and is round about all things." Because of it, "all things are by him, and of him, even God, forever and ever." ("D&C 88:6-13, 41.)" (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 257-8.)

Manifestations of Holy Ghost

- In contrast to the Spirit, a manifestation of the Holy Ghost is more focused
- This manifestation is given to acquaint sincere seekers with the truth about the Lord and his gospel
 - Moroni 10:4
Moroni promises that when we study the Book of Mormon and seek to know whether it is true, sincerely and with real intent, God will “manifest” the truth of it unto us, “by the power of the Holy Ghost” (Moro. 10:4)
 - Ether 4:11
“He that believeth these things which I have spoken, him will I visit with the manifestations of my Spirit, and he shall know and bear record. For because of my Spirit he shall know that these things are true”
- These manifestations are available to everyone
 - 2 Ne. 26:13
The Savior “manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost; yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people” (2 Ne. 26:13)

Gift of Holy Ghost

- The gift of the Holy Ghost is more comprehensive
- The gift of the Holy Ghost includes the right to constant companionship, that we may “always have his Spirit to be with [us]” (D&C 20:77)
- McConkie – Lightning analogy
 - What does that mean?
 - One way to look at it is an extra portion of the Spirit
 - John Taylor:
" we have something more than that portion of the Spirit of God which is given to every man, and it is called the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is received through obedience to the first principles of the Gospel of Christ, by the laying on of hands of the servants of God." (Gospel Kingdom, pg 43)
 - Testimony
 - Sanctification (cleansing)
 - Revelation
 - Healing
 - Prophecy

- Be edified
- Be comforted
- Through the greater endowment of the Light of Christ the Holy Ghost conveys to the Saints the gifts of the Spirit

Holy Ghost uses the Light of Christ

- Joseph Fielding Smith:
"The person of the Holy Ghost can work through the Spirit of Christ that permeates everything, or he can work by personal contacts." (Doctrines of Salvation, 1: 54.)
- Joseph Fielding Smith:
" President Joseph F. Smith has expressed it thus: "The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more be omnipresent in person than can the Father or the Son, but by his intelligence, his knowledge, his power and influence, over and through the laws of nature, he is and can be omnipresent throughout all the works of God." Thus when it becomes necessary to speak to us, he is able to do so by acting through the other Spirit, that is, through the Light of Christ. " (Doctrines of Salvation, 1: 41.)
- Bruce R McConkie:
" The light of Christ is neither the Holy Ghost nor the gift of the Holy Ghost; but that member of the Godhead, because he along with the Father and the Son is God, uses the light of Christ for his purposes." (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 258.)

Our access to the Spirit

- Obedience
 - D&C 121:37
"powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness."
 - William Bradford:
"No one can have access to The Spirit unless he is obedient." (The Spirit)
- The Holy Ghost
 - Controls access to the Spirit
 - William Bradford:
"The Holy Ghost is that "Guard", to see that God's children, through obedience, can have access to the Spirit through the Holy Ghost. All access to The Spirit comes through the Holy Ghost - without him is nothing learned. If we are obedient to the laws which govern our access to

and use of [The] Spirit, we may have it, if it is expedient in God's plan." (The Spirit)

Gifts of the Spirit

- Spiritual gifts come through the Spirit of Christ
 - Moroni 10:17
"And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ"
- When the Holy Ghost works with us, he transmits his gifts by the agency of the light of Christ
 - Bruce R McConkie:
"The light of Christ is neither the Holy Ghost nor the gift of the Holy Ghost; but that member of the Godhead, because he along with the Father and the Son is God, uses the light of Christ for his purposes. Thus spiritual gifts, the gifts of God meaning faith, miracles, prophecy, and all the rest— come from God by the power of the Holy Ghost. Men prophesy, for instance, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost. And yet Moroni says: "All these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ" (Moroni 10:17), meaning that the Holy Ghost uses the light of Christ to transmit his gifts. " (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 258.)

References

- Marion G Romney "The Holy Ghost", Ensign, May 1974, pg 90
- Dallin H. Oaks, "Always Have His Spirit," Ensign, Nov. 1996, 59