

Revelation – MP Leaders Outline – Mike Baird

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Purposes of revelation for 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

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)

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
- However, you need to be seeking for it

Paralyzing the bishopric

- First meeting – looked around and realized that "the buck stopped here"
- Afraid to make a mistake – stakes seemed enormous
- Once I had made a decision was worried it was wrong
- Paralyzing the bishopric

"Trust your feelings"

- President Dalton (Nov 2002)
"Trust your feelings, almost all revelations as a bishop will come to you as feelings"
- 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"
- 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.... I have come to know that inspiration comes more as a feeling than as a sound." (A Watchman on the Tower , pg 279)
- See "Listening and Judging by the Spirit" by Mike Baird

Speak the thoughts I shall put in your hearts

- D&C 100:5-8
"5)Therefore, verily I say unto you, lift up your voices unto this people; speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts, and you shall not be confounded before men;
6)For it shall be given you in the very hour, yea, in the very moment, what ye shall say.
7)But a commandment I give unto you, that ye shall declare whatsoever thing ye declare in my name, in solemnity of heart, in the spirit of meekness, in all things.
8) And I give unto you this promise, that inasmuch as ye do this the Holy Ghost shall be shed forth in bearing record unto all things whatsoever ye shall say."
- "Learn to trust in the Lord that he will uphold us"

"Did I not speak peace to your mind?"

- We often feel like second guessing ourselves
- D&C 6:22-23

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, if you desire a further witness, cast your mind upon the night that you cried unto me in your heart, that you might know concerning the truth of these things.
Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?"
- Often we second guess because things did not turn out as we expect
- Sometimes events take an unexpected turn
 - "All things shall work together for your good (D&C 90:24)
 - "If it was right then – its still right then"

Your confidence shall wax strong

- D&C 6:36

"Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not"
- D&C 121:41-42, 45-46

"...then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.
The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion..."
- As we exercise these principles we will have confidence in making decisions by the Spirit