

The Holy Ghost Is the Source of Testimony and Revelation

Outline and compilation by Mike Baird

I will focus on the Holy Ghost as the source of our testimony and Personal Revelation.

Testimony

- A testimony comes from the Holy Ghost.
- A testimony is to know by personal revelation from the Holy Spirit that Jesus is the Son of God. (Teachings & Sermons of Bruce R McConkie. Pg. 130)
- When Christ asked the Apostles “But whom say ye that I am” Peter answered “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus then said “Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [it] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.” (Matt 16:15-17)
- Why was he “blessed”? Because he knew by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Lord. He had received his knowledge by revelation.
- Joseph F. Smith:
“The office of the Holy Ghost is to bear record of Christ, or to testify of him, and confirm the believer in the truth” (Gospel Doctrine Pg. 101)
- Every person who knows or has ever known that Jesus is the Christ has received that witness from the Holy Ghost. “Wherefore I give you to understand,” wrote Paul to the Corinthians, “that no man speaking by the Spirit of God . . . can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” (1 Cor. 12:3.)
- We need to be “blessed” even as Peter. How do we get this testimony or knowledge of Christ? How do we get a testimony of Gospel Truths?

Witnesses to our Spirit

- We must remember there are two parts to our nature – physical and spiritual.
- We can learn things through many different ways. We learn through experiences, our senses and by reason. Some of you may be going to college using your senses and reason to learn. These ways are using our physical side. This is good and we should learn. The problem is when we learn this way there is the possibility we may be deceived or led astray.
- Brigham Young:
“I have proven to my satisfaction, according to the best knowledge I can gather, that man can be deceived by the sight of the natural eye, he can be deceived by the hearing of the ear, and by the touch of the hand; that he can be deceived in all of what is called the natural senses.” (Discourses of Brigham Young, pg. 31)
- Digital Camera
 - Show picture and discuss.

- Boyd K Packer
“If you learn by reason only you will never understand the Spirit and how it works, regardless of how much you learn about other thing.” “Your Spirit learns in a different way than does your intellect.” (Oct 94 conference. Ensign, Nov 94, pg 59)
- Brigham Young:
“... there is one thing in which he cannot be deceived. What is that? It is the operations of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit and power of God upon the creature.” (Discourses of Brigham Young, pg. 31)
- Joseph Fielding Smith:
“The Spirit of God speaking to the spirit of man has power to impart truth with greater effect and understanding than the truth can be imparted by personal contact even with heavenly beings. Through the Holy Ghost the truth is woven into the very fiber and sinews of the body so that it cannot be forgotten.” (Doctrines of Salvation Vol. 1, pg. 47-8)
- Through the process of **Spirit speaking to spirit** there is never any deception or uncertainty. “by the power of the Holy Ghost [we] may know the truth of all things” (Moroni 10:5).
- We need to learn this. Until we do we can be led astray and will not learn of the things of the Spirit.
- So if I want to figure out which photo has been doctored I have to do certain things....

How do we know it is Spirit to Spirit? How can I gain revelation. What do I do?

Prayer

- Boyd K Packer
“Inspiration does not – perhaps cannot- flow *unless* you ask for it, or someone asks for you.” “Prayer is so essential a part of revelation that without it the veil may remain closed to you.” (Oct 94 conference. Ensign, Nov 94, pg 59)
- Prayer is our personal key to heaven.
- ***---**Relate:** My testimony based on prayer about the Book of Mormon.

Study

- Prayer is not all. Remember the revelation the Lord gave through the Prophet Joseph Smith to Oliver Cowdery, who thought that revelation would flow without any effort. The Lord said:
 - 7) Behold, you have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me.
 - 8) But, behold, I say unto you, that you must *study it out in your mind*; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall *feel* that it is right. (D&C 9:7-8)
- We need to study the words of the prophets in scriptures, conference talks etc. as well as to study out our problems and such to receive revelation.
- ***---**Relate:** My testimony based on study about the Book of Mormon too

Still Small Voice – feeling The Spirit

- If we study and pray then, how is it we receive revelation?
 - The Holy Ghost speaks with a voice that we feel more than we hear.
 - It is described as a “still small voice” (D&C 85:6)
 - 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.” (Watchman on the tower, Pg 279)
 - Nephi speaking to his older brothers said:

Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have heard his voice from time to time; and he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were past *feeling*, that ye could not *feel* his words; (1 Nephi 17:45)
 - There are lots of verses in the scriptures that teach of revelation.
 - D&C 8:2-3

2 Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.
3 Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation..
 - 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, until you become perfect in Christ Jesus.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Pg 151)
 - We must beware however, that “there are many spirits which are false spirits” (D&C 50:2-3)
 - As long as we live, in one way or the other, Satan will try to lead us astray.
 - Joseph Smith

“nothing is a greater injury to the children of men than to be under the influence of a false spirit when they think they have the Spirit of God.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Pg 205)
 - How do we tell? How do we know we feel the Holy Ghost? You may have wondered – Is this revelation? Is this the Spirit? Or is it just me?
 - This is a difficult thing to express.
- ***---Relate having “felt” the voice:**
- *****---Relate:** Learned to hear by feeling as a Missionary

- Moroni chapter 7 tells us how to test spiritual promptings.
 - Recommend study if this is something you wonder about.
 - If we receive a prompting to do something that makes us feel uneasy, something we know in our mind to be wrong and contrary to the principles of righteousness we should not respond to it.
 - That which “entices to do good”, that gives us a harmony and peace, is in accordance to principles of righteousness, that prompting we should respond to.
- In this like many things we learn by trial and error.
 - Boyd K Packer
" As an Apostle I listen now to the same inspiration, coming from the same source, in the same way, I listened to as a boy. The signal is much clearer now." (Oct 94 conference. Ensign, Nov 94, pg 59)
- It was President Packer that changed not the signal. We too must change.
- Heard(felt) many times as an adult and parent
 - Scott and “knowing” more than once the only reason I could give him was because of feelings.
 - Things “feel” or don’t “feel” right.
 - Learned to “be still” and search my feelings.
 - Boyd K Packer
"This burning in the bosom is not purely a physical sensation. It is more like a warm light shining within your being" (Oct 94 conference. Ensign, Nov 94, pg 59)

Still Small Voice – Hearing The Spirit

In Enos we read:

And while I was thus struggling in the spirit, behold, the voice of the Lord came into my mind again (Enos 1:10)

- 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)
- ***---**Relate:** have “heard” words or thoughts which are accompanied by the feelings described.
- Revelations don’t need to be spectacular.
- 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)

Faith

- Going back to Boyd K Packer's quote about listening to the same voice.
- How is it that the signal is much clearer now?
- He gives several thoughts as to how to make the signal clearer.
- Faith being one of them.
- The flow of revelation depends on our faith.
- We exercise faith by causing , or by making, our mind accept or believe as truth that which we cannot, by reason alone, prove for certainty.
- As we test gospel principles by believing without knowing, the Spirit will begin to teach us.
- Gradually faith will be replaced with knowledge.
- We will be able to discern, or see, with spiritual eyes.

Worthiness

- We need to clear our receptors to receive revelation.
- Joseph Fielding Smith:
“We have a great many members of this Church who have never received a manifestation through the Holy Ghost. Why? Because they have not made their lives conform to the truth. And the Holy Ghost will not dwell in unclean tabernacles or disobedient tabernacles. The Holy Ghost will not dwell with that person who is unwilling to obey and keep the commandments of God or who violates those commandments willfully. In such a soul the spirit of the Holy Ghost cannot enter. That great gift comes to us only through humility and faith and obedience.” “When we are disobedient, when our minds are set upon the things of this world rather than on the things of the kingdom of God, we cannot have the manifestations of the Holy Ghost.” (We Are Here to be Tried, Tested, Proved, BYU Speeches of the Year [Provo, 25 Oct 1961], pg. 4)

My testimony comes not from seeing what my parents did, nor from what my Bishop has said or done but from the Holy Spirit speaking to my spirit. Confirming to my spirit truth, be that truth of what I hear or see or from testing and doing the gospel.

The signal to me, as I have gotten older has become clearer. I want it to get clearer still. My hope is you have a greater desire to “hear” the voice of the spirit. That you will clear the channels of revelation, pray and seek his spirit.