

D&C Lesson # 6
I Will Tell You in Your Mind and in Your Heart
D&C 6, 8, 9, 11, 98
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is inspirational background and evidences supporting the Restoration)

I. Once the Lord opened the Heavens and fully restored Revelation, He began to teach mankind how to make it more potent in their lives.

A. Joseph's own history **shows he grew in his ability to receive revelation**. This is shown in particular in his translating the Book of Mormon. First he relied strictly on the Urim and Thummim. Then he used a seer stone.

B. Those who described the process indicate that finally Joseph was able to translate directly through the Spirit. So **his powers to receive revelation grew with experience**.

C. One of this writer's favorite scriptures, found in a footnote, is Oliver's incredible amazement as he saw this work of revelation in process.

1. **"These days were never to be forgotten --- to sit under the sound of a voice dictated by the inspiration of heaven, awakened the utmost gratitude of this bosom! Day after day I continued, uninterrupted, to write from his mouth, as he translated with the Urim and Thummim,"** (Footnote to Joseph Smith --- History, p. 58-9).

II. Then through Joseph the Lord taught how **others could, through seeking and experience, learn to grow in the process of receiving personal revelation**.

A. "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, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon; i.e., **those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God, will come to pass**, and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow unto the principle of revelation, and you become perfect in Christ Jesus." (Teachings, p. 151).

B. Joseph was known to teach specific individuals as well, such as John Taylor who later wrote, "Joseph Smith, upwards of forty years ago, said to me: 'Brother Taylor, you have received the Holy Ghost. Now follow the influence of that Spirit, and it will lead you into all truth, until by and by, it will become in you a principle of revelation.'"

C. Of course, among those whom the Lord directly taught regarding revelation was Oliver Cowdrey. **"I will tell you in your mind in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart. Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation"** (D&C 8:2).

D. When Oliver failed, he was given loving, corrective counsel, "Behold, ... you must study [some things] 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. But if be not right you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong;" (D&C 9:8-9).

E. The Lord also gave Hyrum Smith this council on revelation. "I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy" (D&C 11:13).

III. The Lord continues to instruct us! Some of the best additional guidance about receiving revelation has been given by Elder Richard G. Scott.

A. Elder Scott gave a special method whereby we may follow Joseph Smith's counsel. He did this in General Conference in October 2009 as well as on other occasions.

B. He counseled church members not only to "note," but to carry a small notepad with them, even at night to keep it beside one's bed. Then as the Spirit gives one certain impressions of truth, as explained by Joseph Smith, we could and should write them down.

1. He promised that responding and recording these promptings of the Spirit will develop our ability to understand the workings of the spirit **and to receive more**, just as Joseph Smith taught.

2. He shared an experience of his own where his understanding of revelation grew as he wrote down one and then more revelatory impressions which followed as a result.

C. I testify this process is true. For I have used it and have been blessed.

D. And like many others, I also find being in the temple and walking out in nature helps facilitate spiritual impressions. While I cannot have access to a notebook in those settings, I make a strong mental note.

IV. We are especially blessed with revelation through our Patriarchal Blessings.

A. Perhaps to get us started on the road of receiving Personal Revelation, [As well as to provide specific important guidance for our lives], the Lord has provided the way for us all to receive a direct, written revelation --- our Patriarchal blessings.

B. These patriarchal blessings do come directly from the Lord.

1. President Thomas S. Monson said that one of the most revelatory experiences he has had in his life was in the calling of patriarchs. His biographer noted that his journal is full of accounts of the inspiration that came as he sought to call a patriarch. In fact he wrote in his journal, "In no other area does one feel greater inspiration than in the naming of patriarch." (Heidi Swinton, *To the Rescue*, p. 353). He often would feel the impressions of whom to call at surprisingly unusual times. But always who should be called as patriarch was received by revelation.

C. Because of the growth of the church, the procedure for choosing patriarchs has been changed. Stake Presidents recommend those to be called, but the Twelve Apostles confirm, by revelation. But there is no doubt **the principle of revelation behind the process has not changed.**

D. My own patriarchal blessing confirms to me that the Lord knew me, for the patriarch really did not know me, and yet he spoke of things that were clear evidences that the spirit was speaking to my unique character, personality, and needs. Furthermore, I had been praying about certain things, and the Lord clearly answered my prayers through my blessing. In fact, the patriarch himself confirmed that he had felt the spirit very strongly. Lastly, as I have lived my life, the things spoken have proved to be sure guides. Promises have been fulfilled. I know that anything which has not yet been fulfilled, still will be fulfilled. I have a firm testimony that my patriarchal blessing was given to me through personal revelation from the Spirit

V. Some may question if prophets are continuing to receive revelation, as the Doctrine and Covenants has expanded little.

A. But the records of General Conference are one form of its expansion.

B. **It is simply that not all revelations are recorded now in a bound book, for it would be a very unwieldy to record them all.**

C. And one of the greatest evidences of continuing revelation comes from Patriarchal Blessings.

1. Consider the thousands of members each year who go to their patriarch and receive direct revelation from the Lord concerning their personal lives. Since so many of the beginning sections of the Doctrine and Covenants consist of personal revelation from the Lord to specific

individuals, **we should consider that all these patriarchal blessings are really pages that could be added to the Doctrine and Covenants.**

D. It is marvelous to me that the Lord has established a way by which we are blessed with personal revelation --- through our Patriarchal Blessings.

E. And especially that he **continually guides the prophets to teach us how to grow in the power of receiving additional personal revelation.**

VI. Sometimes, like Enos, we must be persistent in seeking revelation.

A. The counsel given that revelation cannot be forced is correct. However, sometimes we do give up too easily when seeking revelation. I think of Enos and how he struggled all night with the Lord [as did Jacob of the Old Testament] to receive the witness he desired.

B. One of my own experiences verified this truth.

1. At a particular time, I needed to be guided and needed it right away. I sought the Lord on my knees. While usually, after asking for help and then arising, expecting the Lord to answer in some way later on, the urgency of this issue kept me upon my knees with continued pleading. I felt I needed an answer and that I should stay upon my knees until I received it. My faith in this regard was rewarded. And while still on my knees a strong confirmation of what I should do came to me. I later saw why I had received this guidance and that it was indeed correct.

C. This incident has reminded me of a clever saying: That to ask the Lord for guidance and then get off our knees before we receive that guidance, is like calling 911 to ask for help and then hanging up before we receive it.

D. While it is true that often we must wait for the Lord's time, often with persistence, particularly if our needs are immediate, we will be rewarded.

VII. The Lord bestows revelation upon all His saints, particularly that they might be guided when they are doing the work of the Lord.

A. I enjoy reading the vignettes in church books and magazines which show miraculous guidance and miracles in the lives of the common members. One of the things I have noted is that **personal revelation most often comes as individuals are engaged in the work of the Lord. And it comes to assist them in that work.**

B. Personal revelation comes to the missionaries seeking whom to teach and how to testify. It comes to the Family History workers in finding names of ancestors. It comes to priesthood and auxiliary leaders who need to select or call someone to a church position. It comes to a parent in knowing how to guide and bring back children.

While revelation is indeed there for us in all things, we are most likely to feel its stirrings when we are earnestly seeking to serve the Lord.

VIII. The Lord's marvelous purpose is to help all eventually become "prophets." [I.e., To speak by His spirit].

A. **The Lord wants to lift all his children, never meaning for there to be a hierarchy.**

1. Today Church leadership roles exist mostly in this life and mainly for the purpose that those who lead lift the members up eventually to the highest plateaus.

2. Moses, upon hearing that some of Israel's camp were prophesying said: "Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them" (Numbers 11:29).

B. **The Lord has begun actively working toward that end in these the Latter-days.**