

Receiving Revelation
(Priest Lesson May 2015 – Roald Peterson)

Introduction

Learning how to receive revelation.

Oliver Cowdery's Experience

(DC 6:14-16,23) 14 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, blessed art thou for what thou hast done; for thou hast inquired of me, and behold, as often as thou hast inquired thou hast received instruction of my Spirit. If it had not been so, thou wouldst not have come to the place where thou art at this time.

15 Behold, thou knowest that thou hast inquired of me and I did enlighten thy mind; and now I tell thee these things that thou mayest know that thou hast been enlightened by the Spirit of truth;

16 Yea, I tell thee, that thou mayest know that there is none else save God that knowest thy thoughts and the intents of thy heart.

23 Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?

1. Learn to enquire. Remember to enquire.
2. Mind is enlightened by the Spirit of Truth
3. You often need revelation to know you are receiving revelation.
4. You need revelation to understand revelation.
5. Only God knows thoughts and intents of the heart. However...
6. God speaks peace to the mind.

Nephi's Experience

(1 Nephi 11:1-5) 1 For it came to pass after I had desired to know the things that my father had seen, and believing that the Lord was able to make them known unto me, as I sat pondering in mine heart I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord, yea, into an exceedingly high mountain, which I never had before seen, and upon which I never had before set my foot.

2 And the Spirit said unto me: Behold, what desirest thou?

3 And I said: I desire to behold the things which my father saw.

4 And the Spirit said unto me: Believest thou that thy father saw the tree of which he hath spoken?

5 And I said: Yea, thou knowest that I believe all the words of my father.

Laman and Lemuel's Experience

(1 Ne 15:7-11) 7 And they said: Behold, we cannot understand the words which our father hath spoken concerning the natural branches of the olive tree, and also concerning the Gentiles.

8 And I said unto them: Have ye inquired of the Lord?

9 And they said unto me: We have not; for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us.

10 Behold, I said unto them: How is it that ye do not keep the commandments of the Lord? How is it that ye will perish, because of the hardness of your hearts?

11 Do ye not remember the things which the Lord

hath said?—If ye will not harden your hearts, and ask me in faith, believing that ye shall receive, with diligence in keeping my commandments, surely these things shall be made known unto you.

Brother of Jared's Experience

- Brother of Jared was a prophet who led the people of Jared from the tower of Babel to the Promise land. After traveling a long time they came to the seashore and BoJ thought it was far enough and stopped enquiring of the Lord (praying) for 4 years.

(Ether 2:14) And it came to pass at the end of four years that the Lord came again unto the brother of Jared, and stood in a cloud and talked with him. And for the space of three hours did the Lord talk with the brother of Jared, and chastened him because he remembered not to call upon the name of the Lord. (Ether 2:14)

- How would you like to be chastened (chewed out) by the Lord for 3 hours?

- The Lord told him to build barges to cross the ocean. ("This is your mission...") (Ether 2:16)

(Ether 2:16-17) 16 And the Lord said: Go to work and build, after the manner of barges which ye have hitherto built. And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did go to work, and also his brethren, and built barges after the manner which they had built, according to the instructions of the Lord. And they were small, and they were light upon the water, even like unto the lightness of a fowl upon the water.

17 And they were built after a manner that they were exceedingly tight, even that they would hold water like unto a dish; and the bottom thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the sides thereof were tight like unto a dish; and the ends thereof were peaked; and the top thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the length thereof was the length of a tree; and the door thereof, when it was shut, was tight like unto a dish.

(Ether 2:24-25) 24 For behold, ye shall be as a whale in the midst of the sea; for the mountain waves shall dash upon you. Nevertheless, I will bring you up again out of the depths of the sea; for the winds have gone forth out of my mouth, and also the rains and the floods have I sent forth.

25 And behold, I prepare you against these things; for ye cannot cross this great deep save I prepare you against the waves of the sea, and the winds which have gone forth, and the floods which shall come.

- Commandments have purpose. If we follow the revelations we receive from God our lives will be tight like unto a dish, and we will float upon the waters of trouble & turmoil and arrive safely in the celestial kingdom.
- As they built barges, BoJ prayed to receive instructions on how to do it (just like Nephi).

(DC 98:12) For he will give unto the faithful line upon line, precept upon precept; and I will try you and prove you herewith.

Receiving Revelation (Priest Lesson May 2015 – Roald Peterson)

- Eventually, he ended up with problems. First, there was a problem with no air inside.

(Ether 2:20) And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: Behold, thou shalt make a hole in the top, and also in the bottom; and when thou shalt suffer for air thou shalt unstop the hole and receive air. And if it be so that the water come in upon thee, behold, ye shall stop the hole, that ye may not perish in the flood.

- The next problem was that they had no light.

(Ether 2:23) And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels? For behold, ye cannot have windows, for they will be dashed in pieces; neither shall ye take fire with you, for ye shall not go by the light of fire.

- BoJ melted some rock to make pure white stones and took them back up to the mountain to the Lord.

(Ether 3:2-) 2 O Lord, thou hast said that we must be encompassed about by the floods. Now behold, O Lord, and do not be angry with thy servant because of his weakness before thee; for we know that thou art holy and dwellest in the heavens, and that we are unworthy before thee; because of the fall our natures have become evil continually; nevertheless, O Lord, thou hast given us a commandment that we must call upon thee, that from thee we may receive according to our desires.

3 Behold, O Lord, thou hast smitten us because of our iniquity, and hast driven us forth, and for these many years we have been in the wilderness; nevertheless, thou hast been merciful unto us. O Lord, look upon me in pity, and turn away thine anger from this thy people, and suffer not that they shall go forth across this raging deep in darkness; but behold these things which I have molten out of the rock.

4 And I know, O Lord, that thou hast all power, and can do whatsoever thou wilt for the benefit of man; therefore touch these stones, O Lord, with thy finger, and prepare them that they may shine forth in darkness; and they shall shine forth unto us in the vessels which we have prepared, that we may have light while we shall cross the sea.

5 Behold, O Lord, thou canst do this. We know that thou art able to show forth great power, which looks small unto the understanding of men.

6 And it came to pass that when the brother of Jared had said these words, behold, the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones one by one with his finger. And the veil was taken from off the eyes of the brother of Jared, and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood; and the brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear.

7 And the Lord saw that the brother of Jared had fallen to the earth; and the Lord said unto him: Arise, why hast thou fallen?

8 And he saith unto the Lord: I saw the finger of the Lord, and I feared lest he should smite me; for I knew

not that the Lord had flesh and blood.

9 And the Lord said unto him: Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; for were it not so ye could not have seen my finger. Sawest thou more than this?

10 And he answered: Nay; Lord, show thyself unto me.

11 And the Lord said unto him: Believest thou the words which I shall speak?

12 And he answered: Yea, Lord, I know that thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie.

13 And when he had said these words, behold, the Lord showed himself unto him, and said: Because thou knowest these things ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I show myself unto you.

...

25 And when the Lord had said these words, he showed unto the brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be; and he withheld them not from his sight, even unto the ends of the earth.

27 And the Lord said unto him: Write these things and seal them up; and I will show them in mine own due time unto the children of men.

Learning How to Receive Revelation

- Preparation – thoughts, words, actions, music, entertainment, people, scriptures, prayer
- Pray a lot receive a lot. Pray little, receive little.
 - Prayer of thankfulness & humility
- Time – Reduce interruptions.
 - Wait upon the Lord for answers.
 - Be patient (may take years of preparation)
- Place – spiritually quiet (temple, room, alone)
- Start by asking yes and no questions.
- Ask the right question – It takes practice and thought.
- Ask a question and its inverse – easier to tell yes from no.
- Calibration: ask questions you already know to see what yes and no feel like.
- Get your spouse or trusted friend/companion to also enquire.
- Obey or receive no more.
- Keep a record of your revelations.
- Practice makes perfect! Ask on the little things to practice for the big things.

My 2 hour teaching experience with HG.

- I had to be able to ask the question.
- Answer was always a scripture.