

D&C Lesson 5

“THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF REVELATION”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, February 2001

1. Three glorious blessings we receive through personal revelation

A. “Personal revelation is the way we receive our testimonies of Jesus Christ, His gospel, and the divine calling of Joseph Smith.

B. “Personal revelation is the way we learn divine truths.

C. “Personal revelation is the way we receive guidance beyond our own limited understanding in answering life’s questions, meeting challenges, and making decisions.”

[Doctrine and Covenants and Church History: Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual, 1999, p. 25.]

2. Every Latter-day Saint is entitled to receive personal revelation, and it is essential for our personal protection, growth and well-being

A. **Joseph Smith:** “God hath not revealed anything to Joseph, but what He will make it known unto the Twelve, and *even the least Saint may know all things as fast as he is able to bear them.*”

[Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, selected by Joseph Fielding Smith (1976), p. 149.]

B. **Bible Dictionary:** “Divine revelation is one of the grandest concepts and principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for without it, man could not know of the things of God. . . . Continuous revelation from God to his saints . . . makes possible daily guidance along true paths and leads the faithful soul to complete and eternal salvation in the celestial kingdom. . . . Without revelation, all would be guesswork, darkness, and confusion.” *[Bible Dictionary: “Revelation,” p. 762.]*

C. **Boyd K. Packer:** “No one of us can survive in the world of today, much less in what it soon will become, without personal inspiration.” *[Ensign, Nov. 1991, p. 23.]*

Five Keys to Successfully Preparing Ourselves to Receive Personal Revelation

Key # 1: Serve God and be obedient to His commandments.

A. *D&C 63:23:* “Unto him that keepeth my commandments, I will give the mysteries of my kingdom.”

D&C 76:5-10: “I, the Lord, . . . delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness . . . to them will I reveal all mysteries, . . . even the wonders of eternity . . . and things to come.” *D&C 93:28:* “He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things.”

Warnings: *D&C 101:7-8:* They were slow to hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; therefore, the Lord their God is slow to hearken unto their prayers, to answer them in the day of their trouble.” [See also *Mos. 11:20-25, 21:13-16; 1 Sam. 8:18; Is. 1:15, 59:2; Jer. 11:11*]

B. **Dallin H. Oaks:** “We cannot have the companionship of the Holy Ghost—the medium of individual revelation—if we are in transgression or if we are angry or if we are in rebellion against God’s chosen authorities.” *[Ensign, “Teaching and Learning by the Spirit,” Mar. 1997, p. 9]*

Key # 2: Ponder and meditate on the scriptures and teachings of latter-day prophets.

A. **Pondering the scriptures often is the catalyst for receiving revelations.** *Examples:* Joseph Smith’s *First Vision* [*JS-H 1:11-20*]; Joseph F. Smith’s *Vision of the Redemption of the Dead* [*D&C 138:1-11*].

B. **Dallin H. Oaks:** “Scripture reading may . . . lead to current revelation on whatever [subject] the Lord wishes to communicate to the reader at that time. We do not overstate the point when we say that the

scriptures can be a Urim and Thummim to assist each of us to receive personal revelation.”

[*Ensign*, “Scripture Reading and Revelation,” Jan. 1995, p. 8.]

Key # 3: Focus on the things of God rather than on the things of the world.

A. *D&C 25:10*: “Thou shalt lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better.” *D&C 30:2*: “Your mind has been on the things of the earth more than on the things of me, your Maker, and the ministry whereunto you have been called; and you have not given heed unto my Spirit, and to those who were set over you.” *D&C 6:7*: “Seek not for riches but for wisdom, and behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you.” *D&C 11:23*: “Seek the kingdom of God, and all things shall be added according to that which is just.” *Mt. 6:33*: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

B. **Boyd K. Packer**: “Inspiration comes more easily in peaceful settings. Such words as quiet, still, peaceable, Comforter abound in the scriptures . . . Irreverence suites the purposes of the adversary by obstructing the delicate channels of revelation in both mind and spirit.” [*Ensign*, Nov. 1991, pp. 21-22.]

Key # 4: Prepare your heart, and humble yourself.

A. **Heart**: *1 Ne. 15:3*: “They being hard in their hearts, therefore they did not look unto the Lord as they ought.” *1 Ne. 15:11*: “If ye will not harden your hearts, and ask me in faith, believing that ye shall receive, . . . these things shall be made known.”

B. **Humble**: *D&C 5:24*: “If he will bow down before me, and humble himself in mighty prayer and faith, in the sincerity of his heart, then will I grant unto him a view of the things which he desires to see.” *D&C 19:23*: “Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me.” *D&C 112:10*: “Be thou humble, and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers.” *D&C 133:32-33*: “Let him that is ignorant learn wisdom by humbling himself and calling upon the Lord his God, that his eyes may be opened that he may see.”

Key # 5: Ask of God for what is right, righteous, and expedient for you; in faith believing that you will receive, with a sincere heart and real intent.

A. *Praying to God often is a catalyst for receiving personal revelation.*

B. **Ask of God**: *D&C 6:5*: “If you will ask of me you shall receive; if you will knock it shall be opened unto you.” *D&C 6:14*: “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.” *D&C 8:1*: “Surely shall you receive a knowledge of whatsoever things you shall ask in faith, with an honest heart, believing that you shall receive. . . .” *D&C 42:61*: “If thou shalt ask, thou shalt receive revelation upon revelation, knowledge upon knowledge, that thou mayest know the mysteries and peaceable things—that which bringeth joy, that which bringeth life eternal.” *D&C 88:62-65*: “Ye shall call upon me while I am near—draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; . . . whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you, **that is expedient for you**; and if ye ask anything that is not expedient for you, it shall turn unto your condemnation.”

C. **Believe that you will receive**: *Enos 1:15*: I cried unto him continually, for he had said unto me: Whatsoever thing ye shall ask in faith, believing that ye shall receive in the name of Christ, ye shall receive it.” *Mos. 4:21*: “God . . . doth grant unto you **whatsoever ye ask that is right**, in faith, believing that ye shall receive, . . .” *Al. 22:16*: “If thou wilt repent of all thy sins, and will bow down before God, and call on his name in faith, believing that ye shall receive, then shalt thou receive . . .” *Moro. 7:26*: “Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, **which is good**, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold, it shall be done unto you.” [See also *D&C 8:1; 11:10, 14; 14:8; 67:3*]

D. **Sincere heart and real intent**: *Al. 33:11*: “Thou didst hear me because of mine afflictions and my sincerity.” *Hel. 3:27-30*: “The Lord is merciful unto all who will, in the sincerity of their hearts, call upon his holy name.” *Moro. 7:9*: “Likewise is it counted evil unto a man, if he shall pray and not with real intent of

heart; yea, and it profiteth him nothing, for God receiveth none such.” *Moro. 10:4*: “If ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you.”

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