

D&C Lesson 6

“I WILL TELL YOU IN YOUR MIND AND IN YOUR HEART, BY THE HOLY GHOST”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, February 2001

“Each of us has the privilege and responsibility to become fluent in the language of the Spirit.”
[*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History: Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 34.]

Four Ways in which God Typically Communicates with His Children

1. *God may enlighten our minds.*

A. [D&C 6:15] “Thou knowest that thou hast enquired of me and I did enlighten thy mind.” [D&C 11:13-14] “I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy; and then shall you know, . . . all things whatsoever you desire of me, . . .”

B. **Joseph Smith:** Revelation may come as “*sudden strokes of ideas*” that flow into our minds as “*pure intelligence*.” [Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, selected by Joseph Fielding Smith, 1976, p. 151.]

C. “The Spirit can enlighten our minds with (A) *new ideas* or (B) *insights*, (C.) *flashes of inspiration*, and (D) *strong feelings* or (E) *impressions*.” [Teacher’s Manual, *Ibid.*, p. 30] See D&C 128:1: “I now resume the subject of the baptism for the dead, as *that subject seems to occupy my mind*, and *press itself upon my feelings* the strongest.”

2. *God may bring peace to our minds.*

A. [D&C 6:22-23] “Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?” [Gen. 41:14-16] And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.” See also Num. 6:26; Ps. 85:8; Is. 26:3; Jn. 14:26-27; Rom. 5:1-2, 14:17; Phil. 4:7; Col. 3:15; Heb. 12:4; Mos. 15:18; Al. 7:27; 58:11; D&C 19:23; 111:8; 121:7.

3. *God may cause a burning in our bosom.*

A. [D&C 9:7-8] “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.” [Lk. 24:32] “Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” [3 Ne. 11:3] [The voice of God] “did pierce them to the very soul, and did cause their hearts to burn.” See also Jer. 20:9.

B. **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.” [Ensign, Nov. 1994, p. 60]

C. **Dallin H. Oaks:** “What does a ‘burning in the bosom’ mean? Does it need to be a feeling of caloric heat, like the burning produced by combustion? If that is the meaning, I have never had a burning in the bosom. Surely, the word ‘burning’ in this scripture signifies a feeling of comfort and serenity.” [Ensign, Mar. 1997, p. 13.]

4. *God may use a still, small voice to communicate to our minds and hearts.*

A. [D&C 8:2-3] 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.” [D&C 85:6] “Thus saith the still, small voice, which

whispereth through and pierceth all things, and often times it maketh my bones to quake while it maketh manifest. . .” [1 Ki. 19:12] The LORD talked to Elijah in “a still small voice.” [1 Ne. 17:45] “He hath spoken unto you in a still, small voice, but ye were past feeling and could not feel his words.” [Hel. 5:30] It was not a voice of thunder, neither was it a voice of a great tumultuous noise, but behold, it was a still voice of perfect mildness, as if it had been a whisper, and it did pierce even to the very soul.”

B. Dallin H. Oaks: “Most of the revelation that comes to leaders and members of the Church comes by the still, small voice or by a feeling rather than by a vision or a voice that speaks specific words we can hear. I testify to the reality of that kind of revelation, which I have come to know as a familiar, even daily, experience to guide me in the work of the Lord.” [“Teaching and Learning by the Spirit, *Ensign*, Mar. 1997, p. 14.]

C. Boyd K. Packer: “These delicate, refined spiritual communications are not seen with our eyes nor heard with our ears. And even though it is described as a voice, it is a voice that one feels more than one hears.” [That All May be Edified, 1982, p. 335.]

D. Dallin H. Oaks: “The Lord rarely speaks loudly. His messages almost always come in a whisper.” [Ensign, Mar. 1997, pp. 11-12.]

5. Observations on the timing of personal revelation

A. [D&C 98:12] “He will give unto the faithful line upon line, precept upon precept.”

B. Richard G. Scott: “When we seek inspiration to help make decisions, the Lord gives gentle promptings. These require us to think, to exercise faith, to work, to struggle at times, and to act. Seldom does the whole answer to a decisively important matter or complex problem come all at once. More often, it comes a piece at a time, without the end in sight.” [Ensign, Nov. 1989, p. 32.]

C. [D&C 88:68] “Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him; for he will unveil his face to you, and *it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will.*”

D. Dallin H. Oaks: “The Lord will speak to us through the Spirit in his own time and in his own way. Many people do not understand this principle. They believe that when they are ready and when it suits their convenience, they can call upon the Lord and he will immediately respond, even in the precise way they have prescribed. Revelation does not come that way. . . . The principle stated in [D&C 88:68] applies to every communication from our Heavenly Father; ‘It shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will. We cannot force spiritual things.’” [Ensign, Mar. 1997, pp. 10-11]

7. What to do when revelation is not received or recognized, or when the Lord says “no”

A. **Some suggestions** on what we should do when personal revelation does not come when we desire it: (1) Be patient and continue to wait patiently on the Lord [D&C 98:1-2, *Official Declaration 2*, D&C p. 294]. (2) Increase your efforts to be in tune spiritually. (3) Increase your efforts to study and pray. (4) Be more faithful in obeying the commandments [Is. 59:2]. (5) Set the matter aside for a while; flashes of inspiration often come when our minds are no longer consumed by the matter. (6) Recognize that you may be seeking counsel on matters you should determine for yourself, using your best judgment based on study and reason [D&C 58:25-28; 60:5; 61:22; 62:5]. (7) Evaluate whether you may have received an answer but have not accepted it because it was not what you hoped for or expected. (8) Trust that the Lord is treating the matter with His wisdom. Don’t murmur [D&C 25:4]. (9) Don’t expect a one-sided revelation that involves someone else’s free agency: **John H.**

Groberg: “I would . . . caution you that you cannot receive a one-sided revelation from God in regards to an eternal marriage. Only as both parties feel the same way can you have the assurance that it is from the Lord.” [”What Are You Doing Here?”, *New Era*, Jan. 1987, pp. 37-38] [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual, Ibid.*, pp. 33-34]

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