

This is an exact copy of the handout given to me by Elder Gerald N. Lund, after the fireside he delivered to my stake on January, 26, 2017.

## **HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD: PRINCIPLES AND PATTERNS OF PERSONAL REVELATION.**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- One of Satan's prime objectives is to confuse and disrupt us on listening to the Spirit.
- **Boyd K. Packer.** "The first order issued by a commander mounting a military invasion is the jamming of the channels of communication of those he intends to conquer." (Things of My Soul, 1992)
- The three "R's" of revelation. **Receiving, Recognizing and Responding.**
- The Parable of the Ten Virgins. **Matthew 25:1-13; D&C 45:56-57**
- **Heber C. Kimball** "the time is coming when we will be mixed up in these now peaceful valleys to that extent that it will be difficult to tell the face of a Saint from the face of an enemy against the people of God. . . To meet the difficulties that are coming, it will be necessary for you to have a knowledge of the truth of this work for yourselves. The difficulties will be of such a character that the man or woman who does not possess this personal knowledge or witness will fall. If you have not got the testimony, live right and call upon the Lord and cease not till you obtain it. If you do not you will not stand. Remember these sayings. . . The time will come when no man nor woman will be able to endure on borrowed light. Each will have to be guided by the light within himself. (From the life of Heber C. Kimball, 449-50 as quoted by Harold B. Kee, teachings 144)

### **WHAT IS REVELATION AND HOW DOES IT COME?**

- Revelation is the communication of the mind of God to man through the medium of the Holy Ghost. All Revelation comes from God to man, never vice versa.
- The voice of the Lord is unique. **D&C 85:6; D&C 8:2-3.**
- **Boyd K. Packer** "The Holy Ghost communicates with the spirit through the mind more than through the physical senses. This guidance comes as thoughts, as feelings, through impressions and promptings. . . The scriptures teach us that we may 'feel' the words of spiritual communication more than hear them" (Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled, 210).
- **Boyd K. Packer** "The Spirit does not get our attention by shouting or shaking us with a heavy hand. Rather it whispers. It caresses so gently that if we are preoccupied we may not feel it at all." (The Candle of the Lord - Ensign, January, 1983, p. 52)

## WHAT PRINCIPLES GOVERN THE GIVING & RECEIVING OF REVELATION?

### Principle #1. God decides all aspects of revelation: Who, How, When, Where, What.

- **D&C 88:68; Jacob 4:10.**
- **Dallin H. Oaks** “In most cases, “his own way” is not the thunderous interruption or the blinding light, but what the scriptures call “the still small voice” Some have misunderstood this principle. As a result, some have looked exclusively for the great manifestations that are recorded in the scriptures and have failed to recognize the still, small voice that is given to them. . .We need to know that the Lord rarely speaks loudly. His messages almost always come in a whisper.” (“Teaching and Learning by the Spirit” Ensign, March 1997, p. 11-12)
- **Richard G. Scott** “one cannot “call down” the Spirit as some are prone to say. We can create an appropriate environment for the Holy Ghost to instruct us. Spiritual communication cannot be forced. . .No matter how urgent our personal timetable, the Lord responds according to His own will.” (“Helping Others to Be Spiritually Led” CES Symposium, 11 August, 1998, 11).
- **Boyd K. Packer** “It is not wise to wrestle with the revelations with such insistence as to demand immediate answers or blessings to your liking. You cannot force spiritual things. Such words as compel, coerce, constrain, pressure, demand, do not describe our privileges with the Spirit. . . [You can] nourish, and protect; but you cannot force or compel: you must await the growth. Do not be impatient to gain great spiritual knowledge. Let it grow, help it grow, but do not force it or you will open the way to be misled.” (The Candle of the Lord - Ensign, January, 1983, p. 53) Seek not to counsel the Lord but to take counsel from his hand.

### Principle #2. There is counterfeit revelation.

- **D&C 28:11; Revelations 12:9.**
- **Boyd K. Packer** “Be ever on guard lest you be deceived by inspiration from an unworthy source. You can be given false spiritual messages. There are counterfeit spirits just as there are counterfeit angels. . .The spiritual part of us and the emotional part of us are so closely linked that is possible to mistake an emotional impulse for something spiritual.” (The Candle of the Lord - Ensign, January, 1983, p. 55)

- **Boyd K. Packer** “All inspiration does not come from God. The evil one has the power to tap into those channels of revelation and send conflicting signals which can mislead and confuse us. There are promptings from evil sources which are so carefully counterfeited as to deceive even the very elect.” (“Revelation in a Changing World,” Ensign, November, 1989, p. 14).
- **Mark E. Peterson.** “Just as surely as the Lord, by His power, puts good ideas into our minds and entices us by them, so does Satan put evil ideas into our heads and entices us by them. . .Satan does give. . .evil revelation, to. . .lead us astray , and to ease us into sin. . .Satan is definitely a revelator.” (Address to Teachers of Religion, August, 24, 1954. 3-4).

**Principle #3. Receiving revelation is not a passive experience.**

- **D&C 9:7-8; 104:79-80, 82.**
- **Gordon B. Hinckley** “The trouble with most of our prayers is that we give them as if we were picking up the telephone and ordering groceries—we place our order and hang up. We need to meditate, contemplate, think of what we are praying about and for and then speak to the Lord as one man speaketh to another” (Teachings 469).
- **Howard W. Hunter** “If prayer is only a spasmodic cry at the time of crisis, then it is utterly selfish, and we come to think of God as a repairman or a service agency to help us only in our emergencies. We should remember the Most High day and night—always—not only at times when all other assistance has failed and we desperately need help” ( Teachings 39).

**Principle #4. The Lord often gives direction without explanation.**

- **1 Nephi 4:6-7; D&C 98:12; Ether 12:6.**

**Principle #5. The Lord expects us to develop spiritual self-reliance.**

- **D&C 58:26-27; 38:37; 41:8; 48:3; 58:38, 51; 60:5; 61:22, 35; 62:5; 63:40 and D&C 64:28.**
- **Neal A. Maxwell** “We believe in continuing revelation, not continuous revelation.” (MTC Devotional 2/27/2001).
- **Boyd K. Packer** “Things of the Spirit need not—indeed, should not—require our uninterrupted time and attention. Ordinary work-a-day things occupy most of our attention. And that is as it should be. We are mortal beings living in this physical world. Spiritual things are like leavening. By measure they may be very small, but by influence they affect all that we do.” (“Revelation in a Changing World,” Ensign, November, 1989, p. 14).

- Dallin H. Oaks “the Spirit of the Lord is not likely to give us revelations on matters that are trivial. I once heard a young woman in testimony meeting praise the spirituality of her husband, indicating that he submitted every question to the Lord. She told how he accompanied her shopping and would not even choose between different brands of canned vegetables without making his selection a matter of prayer. That strikes me as improper. I believe the Lord expects us to make most of our decisions by using the intelligence and experience He has given us.” (The Lord’s Way, 37).

**Principle #6. We do not receive revelation for others outside of our priesthood stewardship.**

- **D&C 28:6**
- **James E. Faust** “If worthy, we are entitled to receive revelations for ourselves, parents for their children, and members of the Church in their callings. But the right of revelation for others does not extend beyond our own stewardship.” (*Ensign*, March, 2002. p.4)
- **Dallin H. Oaks.** “First, we should understand what can be called the principle of “responsibility in revelation.” . . . Only the President of the Church receives revelation to guide the entire Church. Only the stake president receives revelation for the special guidance of the stake. . . For a family, it is the priesthood leadership of the family. . . Individuals can receive revelation to guide their own lives. But when one person purports to receive revelation for another person outside his or her own area of stewardship. . . you can be sure that such revelations are not from the Lord. . . I have heard of cases where a young man told a young woman she should marry him because he had received a revelation that she was to be his eternal companion. If this is a true revelation, it will be confirmed directly to the woman if she seeks to know. In the meantime, she is under no obligation to heed it. . . She is outside his jurisdiction.” (Dallin H. Oaks, “Revelation,” *BYU Speeches of the Year*, 1981, p. 25).

**Principle #7. God's house is a house of order**

- **D&C 132:8; 88:65.**
- **First Presidency** “directions for the guidance of the Church will come, by revelation, through the head. All faithful members are entitled to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for themselves, their families, and for those over whom they are appointed and ordained to preside. But anything at discord with that which comes from God through the head of the Church is not to be received as authoritative or reliable. In secular as well as spiritual affairs, Saints may receive Divine guidance and revelation affecting themselves, but this does not convey authority to direct others, and is not to be accepted when contrary to Church covenants, doctrine or discipline, or to known facts, demonstrated truths, or good common sense.” (Statement by the First Presidency, as cited by Harold B. Lee, CR, April, 1970, p. 55).

## HOW DO WE INCREASE OUR ABILITY TO RECEIVE , RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO PERSONAL REVELATION?

- **D&C 101:16.** “Be still, and know that I am God.” See also **2 Nephi 32:3, Alma 17:2-3; 31:5; D&C 11:12-14; 84:85**
- **Gordon B. Hinckley** “I ask you to think about all of the time you spend in front of your computer [and other devices], maybe surfing the Internet, or plugged in to video games, or watching some of the inane programs and sports contests on television. . .I have seen so many men and women become addicted to sports or the Internet or video games. I know far too many people who are controlled by the noise and opinions they have constantly coming into their lives and minds. I believe their lives would be richer and more rewarding if at least occasionally they would get up from watching a game that will be forgotten tomorrow, get up from surfing one more website, and spend a little more time reading and thinking and simply Being Still” (Gordon B. Hinckley, Way to Be, 105-6).
- **Boyd K. Packer** “Irreverent conduct in our chapels is worthy of a reminder, if not reproof. Leaders should teach that reverence invites revelation.” (Things of the Soul, 93).
- Meditation and reflection. **1 Nephi 11:11 JS-H 1:12; D&C 76:18-19; 138:1-2, 11.** Lessons from three prophets.