

Preparing for Personal Revelation

Taught by Lynne Wilson

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Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm

Relief Society Room, Palo Alto Institute Building

865 Stanford Avenue, Palo Alto

There is potential for each of us to draw on the powers of heaven regularly. However, there are times when we may feel that we receive a smaller portion of revelation than that which is available to us. We will explore common questions about inspiration and specific ways we can prepare to receive more consistent and powerful personal revelation. The scripture and the words of prophets and apostles, past and present, will aid us in exploring the questions and topics.

JUNE 8: **How often can I feel direction from the Spirit?**

1. [Ask, Seek, Knock](#) by Russell M. Nelson

"Every Latter-day Saint may merit personal revelation. The invitation to ask, seek, and knock for divine direction exists because God lives and Jesus is the living Christ."

2. [D&C 46:7](#) and [James 1:5](#)

"...ye are commanded in all things to ask of God"

3. [D&C 58:26](#)

"...it is not meet that I should command in all things; for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward."

4. [D&C 75:10, 27](#)

"Calling on the name of the Lord for the Comforter, which shall teach them all things that are expedient for them . . . ask and they shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto them, and be made known from on high, even by the Comforter."

5. [D&C 6:14](#)

"As often as thou hast inquired thou hast received instruction of my Spirit."

JUNE 15: **How can I prepare to receive revelation?**

1. [D&C 63:16,32,55,64,65](#)

Repent: "If any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not have the Spirit... I, the Lord, am angry with the wicked; I am holding my Spirit from the inhabitants of the earth. . . . he exalted himself in his heart, and received not counsel, but grieved the Spirit that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit; and in this there is no condemnation, and ye receive the Spirit through prayer . . . as they are taught through prayer by the Spirit."

2. [D&C 64:16](#)

Seek righteousness: They sought evil in their hearts, and I, the Lord, withheld my Spirit

3. [Communion with the Holy Spirit](#) by James E. Faust

"There are some guidelines and rules necessary for one to be the recipient of revelation and inspiration; they include (1) to try honestly and sincerely to keep God's commandments, (2) to be spiritually

attuned as a receiver of a divine message, (3) to ask in humble, fervent prayer, and (4) to seek with unwavering faith.”

JUNE 22: How can I distinguish the Spirit’s revelation from my own thoughts?

1. [Moroni 7:15-16](#)

“...for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ.”

2. [D&C 44:2](#)

“...inasmuch as they are faithful, and exercise faith in me, I will pour out my Spirit upon them.”

3. Joseph Smith on Discerning of Spirits

a. “ I have often felt a whispering since I received your letter . . . sister this seems to be the whisperings of a **Spirit** and Judge ye what **Spirit** it is” (Jessee, *Personal Writings of Smith*, 294; also subsequently printed in HC, 1:407).

b. April 18, 1834, Journal entry of trip from Kirtland to New Portage to attend a conference. “We were checked by the **Spirit**, and refused. He professed to be sick, but in a few minutes was joined by two others, who followed us hard, cursing and swearing; but we were successful in escaping their hands (HC, 2:50; Jessee, *Personal Writings of Smith*, 33 - 34).

c. “We are sure if the Saints are very humble, very watchful, and very prayerful, that few will be deceived by those who have not authority to teach, or who have not the **Spirit** to teach according to the power of the **Holy Ghost**” (HC, 2:138-9).

d. I felt, by the **Spirit**, that something was wrong in the quorum of Elders in the west room . . . This caused the **Spirit of the Lord** to withdraw . . . (HC, 2:392; Jessee, *Personal Writings of Smith*, 156).

e. . . until such time as the work was fully established, and it should be clearly made manifest by the **Spirit** to do otherwise (HC, 2:492).

f. He then declared that he knew by the **Spirit of God** that the movements that were making by the quorum of the Seventies for their removal and the plan of their journeying was according to the will of the Lord. . . . Elder Redfield spoke . . . and the **Spirit** testified to him that the movements were in righteousness and according to the will of God (HC, 3:94, 96-97).

g. The devil may appear as an angel of light. Ask God to reveal it; if it be of the devil, he will flee from you: if of God, He will manifest Himself, or make it manifest. We may come to Jesus and ask Him; He will know all about it; if He comes to a little child, He will adapt himself to the language and capacity of a little child. Every **Spirit**, or vision, or singing, is not of God (HC, 3:392).

h. It is evident from the Apostles' writings, that many false **Spirit** s existed in their day, and had gone forth into the world, and that it needed intelligence which God alone could impart to detect false **Spirit** s, and to prove what **Spirit** s were of God. The world in general have been grossly ignorant in regard to this one thing, and why should they be otherwise—for no man knows the things of God, but by the **Spirit of God**. . . . there is nothing unnatural in the **Spirit of God** (HC, 3:571-581).

JUNE 29: How scripture study can help me receive revelation?

“Search the Scriptures—search the revelations which we publish, and ask your Heavenly Father, in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, to manifest the truth unto you, and if you do it with an eye single to His glory, nothing doubting, He will answer you by the power of His Holy Spirit. You will then know for yourselves and not for another. . . . but he can never see the celestial kingdom of God without being

born of the water and the Spirit. . . . unless he becomes as a little child, and is taught by the Spirit of God (Joseph Smith, HC, 1:283)

JULY 6: What if I don't feel direction from God?

1. [Good, Better, Best](#) by Dallin H. Oaks

Ask the right question

- a. Ask permission to pray for a certain question
- b. Ask for experiences to prepare your heart to ask the right question and receive right answers

2. [Alma 5:12, 26](#) and [Helaman 15:7](#)

How to change your heart

3. [Faith of Our Father](#) by Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Should everyone receive revelation? "Revelation is a constant compass that keeps us always true to the will and the faith of our Heavenly Father. . . . Our Heavenly Father loves His children. He hears the prayers of the humble and sincere of every nation, tongue, and people. He grants light to those who seek and honor Him and are willing to obey His commandments. We joyously proclaim that the faith of our Father is on the earth today."

4. [Lessons from Liberty Jail](#) by Jeffrey R. Holland

"But tonight's message is that when you have to, you can have sacred, revelatory, profoundly instructive experience with the Lord in any situation you are in. Indeed, let me say that even a little stronger: you can have sacred, revelatory, profoundly instructive experience with the Lord in the most miserable experiences of your life—in the worst settings, while enduring the most painful injustices, when facing the most insurmountable odds and opposition you have ever faced."

JULY 13: The timing of inspiration

1. [Finding Strength in Challenging Times!](#) by Allan F. Packer

When God's timing is not your timing

"We risk missing the answers which come as quiet, reassuring feelings and thoughts that most often come after our prayers, while we are doing something else. These answers can be equally convincing and powerful. . . . Over time we will receive answers and learn how inspiration comes. This is something each person learns for himself."

2. [D&C 132:3-4, 7](#)

Preparing for God's timing: July 12, 1843

"Therefore prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you; for all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same."

3. [1 Nephi 1:5](#) and [Mosiah 27:14](#)

Pray for loved one to receive personal revelation

JULY 20: How can I receive more inspiration from the Spirit of the Lord?

1. "I will proceed to tell you what the Lord requires of all people, high and low, rich and poor, male and female, ministers and people, professors of religion and non-professors, in order that they may enjoy the Holy Spirit of God to a fulness. . . . Repent of all your sins, and be baptized in water for the remission of them, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and receive the ordinance of the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power, that ye may receive the Holy Spirit of God. . . . Then "Add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity [or love]; for if these things be in you, and abound, they

make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful, in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Joseph Smith, HC, 1:312-16).

2. [D&C 76:118](#)

"[The mysteries are] seen and understood by the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him, and purify themselves before him...through the power and manifestation of the Spirit."

3. [D&C 19:38](#)

"Pray always, and I will pour out my Spirit upon you, and great shall be your blessing—yea, even more than if you should obtain treasures of earth."

Additional readings for this course include [References to the Spirit found in Joseph Smiths' History of the Church](#)