

Revelation – Recognizing and Receiving It

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What Is Revelation?

It is spirit to spirit communication from God to man. Joseph Smith said true revelation is as if the body is not there.

1) Can a person have a visitation and not receive revelation?

Answer: Yes. Think of Laman and Lemuel. They were visited by an angel and did not really receive revelation --- it had no effect on them

2) No matter how magnificent the revelation it will only effect a person to the point they are open to it and to changing. Laman and Lemuel vs. Paul or Alma the Younger.

How does it come?

Inspiration -----Epiphany

- This is a continuum of directness, not a continuum of importance.
- There are lots in between, angels, urim and thumim, Liahona, visions etc.

Is it always to our honor?

We may think it would be great to have a vision, but it can actually may be to our condemnation.

Note: The Savior rebukes Thomas saying a person would be better to have the faith. If we are down here to live by faith and have to see to believe we are not showing our faith.

Can there be false revelation?

1. Can there ever be feelings and thoughts that aren't from God?
2. Satan can influence us directly

4 When a messenger comes saying he has a message from God, offer him your hand and request him to shake hands with you.

5 If he be an angel he will do so, and you will feel his hand.

6 If he be the spirit of a just man made perfect he will come in his glory; for that is the only way he can appear—

7 Ask him to shake hands with you, but he will not move, because it is contrary to the order of heaven for a just man to deceive; but he will still deliver his message.

8 If it be the devil as an angel of light, when you ask him to shake hands he will offer you his hand, and you will not feel anything; you may therefore detect him.

9 These are three grand keys whereby you may know whether any administration is from God.

How does it come to most of us?

To most of us it comes in our mind and in our heart.

[Doctrine and Covenants 8:2](#)

Yea, behold, 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.

Still, small, whisper



How can we avoid and determine false revelation?

We can't always. So God has given us some guidelines

1. Don't tell the Lord how to tell you.
 - Don't tell him you need a revelation or an angel visit. God determines the when, how, what, where, and why.
2. Revelation never against gospel principles
3. Revelation is stewardship bound - parents can receive revelation for children, but not the children for them. A bishop can get revelation for his ward but not the stake.
4. D&C 60:5 Lord doesn't care on certain things. Just do something.

But, verily, I will speak unto you concerning your journey unto the land from whence you came. Let there be a craft made, or bought, as seemeth you good, it mattereth not unto me, and take your journey speedily for the place which is called St. Louis.
5. Don't talk too much of spiritual things. It is usually just for you and should only be shared under direction of spirit.

Personal Experience

1. Revelation often doesn't come as a yes, but an absence of no, or what I would call a maybe or your are on the right track. If we are living righteously, seeking his guidance, we move forward with decisions we make and it is only if we get on the wrong path that he steps in.
2. My greatest times of revelation have come when I have had to act in faith beyond my knowledge.
3. At times revelation has been a strong rebuke – but if you want it to continue, you must be willing to accept it.
4. I can tell it is revelation at times because:
 1. It is a righteous thought that is unexpected
 2. It is not something I want or expect to do
 3. It is a reprimand or correction
5. The simplest things can be the most powerful
6. God knows us individually.

How to enhance your chance for revelation?

Think of someone trying to talk to you and you can't hear them.

1. Get in a quiet place – remove distractors, headphones, etc.
2. Sin, contention, busyness are distractors - remove them
3. Draw closer - Scripture study, prayer, fasting, serving others, go to the temple, help poor, help those in need.
4. Concentrate (keep idea that you need inspiration on in your mind.)

D&C 9:7-9

7 Behold, you have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me.

8 But, behold, I say unto you, that 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.

9 But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong; therefore, you cannot write that which is sacred save it be given you from me.

How to enhance your chance for revelation?

5. Live obedient to God's commandments and obey revelation the received. How can you expect more when you haven't obeyed what you have been given?
6. Revelation will never take away agency. God can not bless you if you don't ask.
7. Take the time early in the morning.
8. Be Patient. Patience enhances revelation.
9. Honor it.
 - i. Thank God for it
 - ii. Write it down.

"Reverence invites
revelation."

President Boyd K.
Packer,



Thanks To:

Gerald Lund for some of his writings and talks on this subject that I used as one of my resources and have used in my life.

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