

THE FIVE WISE VIRGINS
Lesson #4 BE OF ONE HEART AND ONE MIND and
METHODS TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH OF PROPHECY/REVELATION
by Barbara Wilkinson

“And at that day when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins; for they that are...”

- 1. WISE** –don’t be wise in your own eyes. [Pro 3:7] Increase in scriptural learning. Harken to His voice and words. HEARKEN in Hebrew means to **hear and obey**. Seek counsel from God and ASK for the gift of wisdom.
- 2. AND HAVE RECEIVED THE TRUTH-** Study the Scriptures and do what they say. [Mos 1:77-82] BELIEVE what the Scriptures say, both the things you like and don’t like.
- 3. AND HAVE TAKEN THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THEIR GUIDE--** “... counsel the Lord in ALL THY DOINGS, and He will direct thee for good.” [Alma 17:69] If the Holy Spirit is NOT your guide then Satan is. Do what you have been taught. [Mos 1:77-82] ASK the Holy Spirit to be your guide, and you will be amazed at where God leads you.
- 4. “AND HAVE NOT BEEN DECEIVED, ...”** [This is our topic today]

DC 45: 10b

Until we as a people can **AGREE** as to what is **GOD’S TRUTH, WE WILL NEVER BE OF ONE HEART AND ONE MIND** and we will be **DECEIVED**. I continually hear our people say, “**Even though we can’t agree we can still be of one heart and one mind and love one another,**” or “**We agree to disagree so we are of one heart and one mind.**” In our group gathering last Monday, EVERY person in my circle had a different **DEFINITION** of what “**one heart and one mind,**” meant. **We don’t even AGREE what one heart and one mind means, so HOW CAN WE BRING IT ABOUT?** It is like asking mathematicians to define addition and subtraction and everyone gives you a different definition, yet we expect them to all come up with the same answer when they work out the problems. **BUT** the science of mathematics has an exact and precise definition for every mathematical term. Therefore, they have been able to work out unbelievable problems that were essential to going to the moon. We want to **GO TO THE MOON SPIRITUALLY**; therefore we **MUST** have ONE definition of what it means to be of one heart and one mind. So we must come to:

- The **same UNDERSTANDING** of what the Scriptures say.
- Have the **same DEFINITIONS** of essential terms that are part of God’s word and works.

I struggle to know how to show you this concept. Tuesday night I prayed mightily asking God to show me an example of one heart and one mind. It should have been obvious; I shouldn’t have had to ask. He brought to my mind the Father and Son relationship. Christ said:

“...I will declare unto you my doctrine. ... it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me;” [3 Ne 5:32]. They were of one heart and one mind!

“And behold I have given you the law and the commandments of my Father...” [3 Ne 5:66]

“Therefore blessed are ye if ye shall keep my commandments, which the Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you.” [3 Ne 8:46] That’s one heart and one mind!

NEVER in ALL the Scriptures did Christ say, “**Even though God and I can’t agree we can still be of one heart and one mind and love one another,**” or “**God and I agreed to disagree, so we are of one heart and one mind.**” Christ continually said I do and say what my Father in heaven tells me to do and to say. When Christ faced the cross He asked 3 times that ‘this cup would pass from me,’ but ended by saying, “... **O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.** [Mat 26:39] Even to death, Christ was of one heart and mind with God, even though He didn’t like it.

Christ was of one heart and mind with God even in small details:

16] ... the Father command me, that I should tell unto them [the apostles in Jerusalem], that other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; ... they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

17] And now because of stiff-neckedness and unbelief, they understood not my word; therefore I was commanded to say no more of the Father concerning this thing unto them

[3 Ne 7:16,17]

I would have argued **“But maybe if we told the apostles about the other sheep, their hearts would be softened etc.”** Nephi, Mormon and Moroni were told things to say and things not to say, therefore they were of one heart and mind with God and Christ, and the Book of Mormon contains exactly the words that God wanted us to have. Have there been words that we would love to have and Christ told our prophets not to give them to us because of our stiff-necks and unbelief? My guess is there have been.

Everything in the Scriptures indicates that God and Christ believed EXACTLY THE SAME ABOUT EVERYTHING, they truly were of one heart and one mind and insisted that we must become of one heart and mind in our day or we will be cut off:

Therefore it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, whom the Father shall cause him [Joseph Smith, Jr.] to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him [Joseph Smith, Jr.] power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, ... they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant;

[3 Ne 9:98]

So it is essential that we BELIEVE Christ's words... His understanding of each part or we will be cut off.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE: My husband Max and I were of one heart and one mind SPIRITUALLY. This happened because I made a list of the qualities I needed in a husband to be happy, and I prayed about it. My first request was for a **‘kindred soul spiritually who would be receptive to the Gospel,’** and Max was. **We need to pray that we, His people, would be kindred souls spiritually and receptive to the Gospel and God's TRUTHS.**

Also when I quit working outside the home, I decided to read through all 3 Scriptures each year. I read every morning after Max went to work. When he came home for lunch, I read to him the wonderful understandings I'd found that day and we discussed them, so we **GREW TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY.** Max was like a sponge, he was WILLING to receive all I found for us. He was not offended or jealous because I knew more than he did or because I had more time to study the Scriptures than he did. He absorbed my learning and used my scripture cards to preach his sermons and teach classes etc. People commented that we sure 'thought alike,' [were of one heart and mind?] because our classes and his sermons taught the same understandings and used the same Scriptures. **NEVER ONCE DID WE AGREE TO DISAGREE ABOUT WHAT THE SCRIPTURES MEANT.** We reasoned together until we came to the identical same understanding and were of one heart and one mind as to what it meant. When we found something that disagreed with what we had previously believed, we discussed it until we came to a oneness of understanding.

Unfortunately, we were NOT always of one heart and one mind in the rest of our lives. The contrast was STRIKING. We did not always reason together, sometimes we ARGUED ABOUT IT, often we **“agreed to disagree,”** but never thought we were of one heart and one mind on the subject. When we agreed to disagree it was a closed mouth, this isn't a subject we can agree on or be of one heart and one mind on.

FOR THE CHURCH GROUP TO BE OF ONE HEART AND ONE MIND—we must become like Max and I were with the Scriptures, NOT like we were in our marriage. We must become as Christ and God were, agreeing TOTALLY in our understanding of the Word of God. That will require MUCH prayer, fasting and studying, with a GREAT desire to come to a knowledge of God's truth about every small detail; then to come together with the brethren and reason together until we as a group are of one heart and one mind about each area of disagreement.

God says that TRUTH IS TRUTH and anything MORE OR LESS than that is a lie and from Satan. That is NOT OF ONE HEART AND ONE MIND.

... truth is knowledge of things as they are [present tense], and as they were [past tense], and as they are to come [future tense—prophecy]; and WHATSOEVER IS MORE OR LESS THAN THIS, is the spirit of that wicked one, who was a liar from the beginning.

DC 90:4b

It is **ESSENTIAL** that we pray, fast and study to know the TRUTH OF GOD. We can't be of one heart and mind when we all have a different understanding of what the Scriptures mean. We can't accomplish God's

purposes if we can't agree about what those purposes are or how we are to do them. **If we are not of one mind as to what the Scriptures mean, how can our hearts be united as to what we should be doing about the mixed up mess of Restoration groups?** We have to come to a common understanding of what GOD WANTS US TO DO and HOW HE WANTS US TO DO IT, or we will never reorganize.

We are at a cross road of decisions. Christ described the Gentiles [us] in the last days and says they will reject the fullness of His Gospel and lists 9 signs of it, all of which are prevalent among the Gentiles in general, and some among His people. Look up and read what they are. [3 Ne 7:34] He says:

35] And IF they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them;

36] And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my Gospel unto them;

37] And ... ye [Israel] shall come unto the knowledge of the fullness of my gospel.

38] BUT IF the Gentiles will repent, and return unto me, saith the Father, behold, they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel; [This is the blessing received if we obey]

40] BUT IF they [the Gentiles] will NOT TURN UNTO ME, AND HEARKEN UNTO MY VOICE, ... I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that [you]... shall tread them down, [This is the curse if the Gentiles do not obey]

41] And they [the Gentiles] shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel.

3 Ne 7:35-41

We are at this cross road. We must decide to HEARKEN to the voice of God/Christ and become the people He/They would have us be AND bring in the kingdom so Zion can/will return. We MUST AGREE as to what the Scriptures mean and what God would have us do as a group, or we are and will remain "... **salt that hath lost its savor, which is ... GOOD FOR NOTHING.**" [3 Ne 7:41]

Right now we are just 260 or so, individual branches that are treading water. We are INEFFECTIVE, we are as salt that lost it's savor. Are you embarrassed to tell people that you are "**just a separate branch, that there is not a church organization?**" I AM. Are you embarrassed by the **many splinter groups that have occurred since 1842, and since 1984?** I AM. The reason this has happened is because we are NOT of one heart and mind. We have squabbled and argued about what we should do and what the Scriptures say. We have been given God's PATTERN for reorganizing the church. It is found in church history and in scripture, **but we have not listened or believed or tried to do it.** Many are content to be an individual branch and have no desire to become reorganized, nor grow in their association with the other groups. We are content with our misconceptions and beliefs. EVERYONE HAS MISCONCEPTIONS. Only Christ was perfect and had NONE.

God says: "**... I will give unto you A PATTERN IN ALL THINGS, that ye may not be deceived;...**" [DC 52:4b] That is either the truth of God or a lie of Satan. Which is it? In 1831 when it was given, they couldn't agree and so 11 years later they killed the prophet and the church split into many, many pieces with some really abominable teaching; all had many different beliefs. This happened because they didn't study God's word and agree. The school of the prophets was destroyed, or dissolved because:

... my servants sinned a very grievous sin; and contentions arose in the school of the prophets, which was very grievous unto me, saith your Lord; therefore I sent them forth to be chastened.

DC 92:2b

Are we any different today? NO. We have not learned or been taught **HOW TO COME TO ONE HEART AND ONE MIND AS TO WHAT THE SCRIPTURES MEAN OR ARE TELLING US TO DO.** For example:

1. Is the Trinity, 3 distinct personalities or are they one in the same?
2. What is God's meaning of 'all things common'?
3. Is common consent important? How do we bring it about, or is 2/3 majority acceptable?

When these topics come up we either 1) agree to disagree and think we are of one heart and mind, 2) decide in our own minds what it means and do that, or 3) argue and fight about the meaning. We never seem to ASK GOD WHAT HE MEANS OR WHAT HE WANTS US TO DO. Then study it out with much prayer and fast and come together and reason to determine God's truth.

The Lord has given us the way to determine HIS TRUTH and UNDERSTANDING of the Scriptures. If we as a people would all use the methods given, CONTINUALLY praying and fasting to KNOW GOD'S TRUTH, we could become of one heart and mind in our understanding of what the Scriptures say, and know what God wanted us to do and to be.

FIRST BECOME A SANCTIFIED PEOPLE. These days we hear a lot about “...bringing about the **CAUSE of Zion.**” This statement really irritated and frustrated me because I THOUGHT it gave people a ‘cop out’ as no one was bothering to work to bring about Zion. With that attitude, Zion would never come. Also we have not been taught what we must do to bring it about.

When a scripture irritates me I realize the Lord is prodding me to **SEARCH TO KNOW WHAT HE MEANS BY THAT TERM OR SCRIPTURE.** So I looked up the definition of “**cause.**” It means in essence, “**to DO that which is required to bring about a given result.**” So the CAUSE of Zion is to **DO WHAT GOD SAYS WILL BRING ABOUT Zion.** That was like a 400-watt bulb going on because I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO TO BRING ABOUT ZION:

...Remember THE EVERLASTING COVENANT ... that, when men should keep ALL my commandments, Zion should again come on the earth, the city of Enoch which I have caught up unto myself.

Gen 9:21

This is the key to bringing about Zion. This is the CAUSE of Zion. Unfortunately, our people have not EMBRACED THIS TRUTH. [Gen 9:22] Zion will NOT return until there is a group of people willing to keep ALL GOD'S COMMANDMENTS. Then and only then will we be sufficiently righteous for Zion to return to this earth.

The above scripture is one of many of God's PRINCIPLES WITH A PROMISE found in the Scriptures. Each one says IF you will do a certain thing, God promises to give a specific blessing. Many of the principles with a promise ALSO require that you KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS; it seems to be a universal requirement for receiving many of God's promises.

SECOND AND AN ESSENTIAL FOR BECOMING OF ONE HEART AND MIND. The reason we are NOT of one heart and mind is that we all believe differently and are not working to come to a knowledge of GOD'S TRUTH. Remember- “... **truth is knowledge of things as they are , ...were, and ... are to come ; and [anything] more or less ...is the spirit of that wicked one, [DC 90:4b]** The Scriptures tell us exactly how the spiritual giants came to a **KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S TRUTH.** We need to do as they did so WE can come to a knowledge of GOD'S TRUTH. We need to ask for the **gift of the Spirit of prophecy and revelation.**

UNDERSTAND--- prophecy and revelation are NOT FUNCTIONS OF THE PRIESTHOOD. Joel says, in the last days, “... **your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...**” [Joel 2:28] For 170 years we have quoted this scripture, expecting the next generation to be the prophets and revelators. We need to be those sons and daughters that are prophets or revelators. WE CAN KNOW GOD'S TRUTH IF WE DESIRE IT AND ASK GOD TO REVEAL IT TO US. God says, “...**what I say unto one, I say unto all...**”[Luke 21:36; DC 61:3d, 6c; 81:1e] The early Restorationists were told:

“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.”

DC 42:17a

We desire to know these things. BUT NOTICE this scripture doesn't say this is only available to the 12 elders present when it was given, or just the priesthood. **The truth of God's word... revelation... is available to ANYONE who ASKS GOD.** DO NOT THINK that prophecy and revelation is only available to a select few of the priesthood. NOWHERE in the Scriptures does it say that. YOU can ASK GOD for understanding of His Truth about anything and He can and will reveal it to you if you ask with a sincere heart AND STUDY IT OUT. You do your work... study it... and God will give the increase!

Alma, a spiritual giant, defines revelation and prophecy and says exactly what he did to receive it:

77] And how do ye suppose that I KNOW OF THEIR SURETY? [The things he is teaching.]

78] Behold, I say unto you, They are made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God.

79] Behold, I have **FASTED AND PRAYED MANY DAYS**, that I might know these things of myself. [This is what Alma did to receive this understanding.]

80] And now I do KNOW of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit; and this is [the definition of] the SPIRIT OF REVELATION which is in me.

81] And moreover, I say unto you, that as it has thus been **REVEALED UNTO ME**, that the words which have been spoken by our fathers [the Scriptures he had at that time], **are true,**

82] Even so according to the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY, which is in me, which is also by the manifestation of the Spirit of God, I say unto you, that I know of myself that whatsoever I shall say unto you **CONCERNING THAT WHICH IS TO COME, IS TRUE,** [That's prophecy]

ALM 3:77-82

REVELATION is to know the **truth of understandings** which are received either now or previously. **PROPHECY** "... spake of those things to come." [Alma 14:77]

Alma 3:81 is **similar to Moroni 10:3-7**, which says that we are to ask God if the Book of Mormon is truly the word of God. Evidently Alma was asking the same thing about the Scriptures he had available.

- **The brass plates taken from Laban**, which is equal to our Bible down to Jeremiah;
- **The gold plates of Ether**, which is equivalent to our Book of Mormon.

He wanted to know if they were truly the Word of God, so he prayed and fasted **MANY DAYS** to know and God assured him of the truth and divinity of their Scriptures. We need to ask God the same thing:

- Does the Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants contain the word of God?
- What is God's understanding of those hard things found in the Scriptures.
- What is God's understanding of areas in the Scriptures that we argue about.

Alma said he did 2 things to gain a knowledge of the truth of the Scriptures. **#1) fasted and # 2) prayed many days to know the truth, and the Holy Spirit manifested it to him.** I am making a list of these at the end of this section. Alma tells us that the Nephite people also had the Spirit of Prophecy and Revelation:, that means the ordinary people of their country:

After having had all things made known unto them [their Scriptures made known to the Nephites], **according to their #3) desires, and #4) their faith, and #2) prayers,**

- **of that WHICH HAS BEEN** [Past tense- Things received in the past-- Scriptures and revelation.],
- **and WHICH IS** [Present tense- Revelation received here and now **by you or someone else.**]
- **and WHICH IS TO COME.** [Future tense- Prophecy received **by you or someone else**]

Alma 7:29

Nephi gives 2 more things we can do to receive the Spirit of Revelation and Prophecy. He **DESIRED** to see his father's vision, and to know the interpretation of the vision. Read verses 23-42 for the full account.

For it came to pass after I had

1. **#3 DESIRED to know the things that my father had seen, and**
2. **#5 BELIEVING THAT THE LORD WAS ABLE TO MAKE THEM KNOWN UNTO ME,**
3. **#6 As I sat PONDERING** [considered carefully; weighed mentally] **IN MINE HEART**

I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord...

1 Nephi 3: 37-38

FAITH IS DIFFERENT THAN BELIEF.

- **FAITH is just a stated fact.** I have faith in administration.
- **BELIEF is putting that faith into action,** asking for administration and believing you can be healed.

Alma explains **BELIEF** as, "... **EXPERIMENT UPON MY** [God's] **WORDS, and EXERCISE A PARTICLE OF #4) FAITH; yea, even if ye can no more than #3) DESIRE to # 5) BELIEVE, let this #1) DESIRE work in you even until ye #5) BELIEVE in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words** [to experiment on it.]" [Alma 16:151]

Nephi had faith [a noun] that God could make known to him his father's vision. He believed enough in that fact that he experimented on the idea, asking God to show it to him. He then **# 6) PONDERED** it in his heart--

he seriously thought about what his father had seen. The portions he didn't understand, he asked God what He meant by them etc.

This is what we need to do when we receive public prophecy or revelation. When it is given, PONDER it in your hearts. Ask yourself, do I feel right about it? Ask God to give you a burning of the bosom if it is of Him. Is it consistent with past revelation? To be able to answer these questions it is ESSENTIAL that we diligently study the Scriptures so we have a store of knowledge or a STANDARD to compare with what is received.

“And my words shall hiss forth unto the ends of the earth, for a STANDARD unto my people, which are of the house of Israel.” [2 Ne 12:44]

BUT, DON'T BE DECEIVED,

1. Just because that given contains or agrees with past revelation or prophecy, DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY MAKE IT prophecy or revelation from God.
FALSE PROPHETS quote Scriptures among their own ideas and/or Satan's ideas to give their sayings credibility. Their prophecies are more or less than the truth.
TRUE PROPHECY/REVELATION is words from God given through a man or woman or child.
2. Remember at the end of Christ's 40 day fast, Satan tried to tempt/deceive Him and **Satan quoted Scriptures**.
3. **BUT IF** what is given DOES NOT agree with what has been given in the past it is NOT OF GOD.

When prophecy or revelation is received PERSONALLY OR PUBLICLY, **BELIEVE God can and will tell YOU if it is of Him**. PONDER it in your heart, compare it with past revelation, then ask God if it is of Him.

NEPHI'S METHOD WORKED, he saw his father's vision, the interpretation, AND he was also given PROPHECY-- a chronological history from his day until ours. [1 Ne 3: 39-256]

Afterwards, Nephi returned to their tent. **#7) NOTICE HE WENT TO A SOLITARY PLACE TO PRAY AND RECEIVE HIS REVELATION/PROPHECY**. He didn't try to do it in the tent he and his brothers shared. He needed to be alone in a quiet private place where he wouldn't be disturbed.

IN CONTRAST-- Nephi found Laman and Lemuel arguing about their father's vision. This is how ordinary people handle revelation or prophecy. When they don't understand or agree on the meaning or content, they:

- **ARGUE ABOUT IT,**
- **DON'T ASK GOD** to tell them what He means.

Doesn't that sound like what happens among us? Nephi tells us what he said to his brothers:

2] [Laman and Lemuel were] ... **DISPUTING one with another, concerning the things which my father had spoken unto them;** [They didn't believe parts of it or couldn't agree what it meant.]

3] For he [Lehi] truly spake **MANY GREAT THINGS unto them, which were hard to be understood,** **#8) SAVE A MAN SHOULD INQUIRE OF THE LORD;**

4] **And they [his brothers] being #9) HARD IN THEIR HEARTS, therefore they DID NOT look unto the Lord as they ought.** ... [This is one of many DEFINITIONS of a hard heart]

7] ... I spake unto my brethren, desiring to know ... the cause of their disputations.

8] And they said, ... we can not understand the words which our father hath spoken ...

9] And I said unto them, **HAVE YE INQUIRED OF THE LORD?**

10] And they said unto me, **We have not; for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us.**

[Have you ever said that or heard someone else say that? It happens because you don't ask!]

11] Behold, I said unto them, **How is it that ye do NOT # 10) keep the commandments of the Lord?** [REMEMBER the universal requirement.]

12] How is it that **YE WILL PERISH because of the hardness of your hearts?**

13] ... **REMEMBER THE THINGS WHICH THE LORD HATH SAID, If ye will**

- **#9) NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, and**
- **#11) ASK me in faith,**
- **#5) BELIEVING that ye shall receive**
- **#10) WITH DILIGENCE IN KEEPING MY COMMANDMENTS,**

surely, THESE THINGS SHALL BE MADE KNOWN UNTO YOU

FOR 60 YEARS I WAS A LAMAN AND LEMUEL. I read the Scriptures daily for about 30 years, but I didn't ask God to explain the Scriptures I didn't understand. After all those years, I heard Ray Treat say **#12) ASK GOD LOTS OF QUESTIONS AND YOU WILL GET LOTS OF ANSWERS.** I was amazed at how much the Lord wanted to teach me and make known unto me in a very short period of time! **UNDERSTAND**—God does not or cannot force His understandings on you. You have agency. God will **GIVE YOU AS MUCH TRUTH AS YOU DESIRE TO KNOW OR ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT**, but you must **ASK**. Sometimes He gives you small bits of knowledge without asking, but in general you have to be pondering or thinking about it to even get that small bit of knowledge. If you want to know lots, ask Him lots of questions. We are told: **“... Jesus taketh Peter, and James, and John, WHO ASKED HIM MANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING HIS SAYINGS; and Jesus leadeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them.”** [Mark 9:1]

I would have been one of the 9 left behind until I was about 60 and learned to ask lots of questions. Once I taught a very bright, eager student in a class of antsy boys. He was like a sponge, desiring to know everything I could tell him. He was wonderful to teach and would have been 1 of the 3.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PROPHETS AND US IS THAT THE PROPHETS:

#8) INQUIRED of the Lord to understand things that are hard to understand [REVELATION].

#11) ASKED the Lord in faith believing to know about the future. [PROPHECY]

THE PROBLEM IS we have NOT been taught to ASK GOD FOR UNDERSTANDING. If I hadn't heard Ray say to **ASK GOD LOTS OF QUESTIONS AND YOU WILL GET LOTS OF ANSWERS**, I would still be without God's understandings of His Word. For example, a large part of the understandings of this lesson I've learned in the last year.

Nephi told his people, **“...I have spoken these words, if you can not understand them, it will be because YE ASK NOT, ... wherefore, ye are NOT brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.”** [2 Ne 14:5] **DECIDE TODAY** to ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS OF THE LORD, so you will be **brought into the light, and not perish in the dark.**

We are told that, **“... the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man ..., # 13) that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit;”** [DC 83:7c] So it is important that we ASK God about things we don't understand and **hearken to the voice of the Spirit.** **Hearken in Hebrew means HEAR and DO.** So this scripture is telling us to do the things we have learned.

IMPORTANT FACT: Nephi was talking about **ASKING FOR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORD.** People hear the Scriptures, **“ Ask, and it shall be given unto you...”** [3 Nephi 6:19], and think of materialistic things. They asked for a million dollars. When they didn't get it, they said, **“That scripture doesn't work; I asked God for a million dollars, and I didn't get it!”** The problem is that, in general, **“...ask and you shall receive,”** refers to **receiving understanding of God's word** and NOT materialistic things. **ALWAYS LOOK AT THE CONTEXT OF A SCRIPTURE**, especially principles with a promise to know the conditions surrounding it. **AN EXAMPLE:** Once I opened the Scriptures and began to read a prophecy, I thought it was true prophecy because I hadn't read the context – it was false prophecy. I now purple down the margin for ALL true prophecy, so I know immediately that it is of God.

To PROPHECY, you must have a **great curiosity about the future.** Read all that is written on the subject, asking God lots of questions about things that you don't understand, or about facts that are missing. Desire and ask God to give you the **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

TO BECOME OF ONE HEART AND ONE MIND

We need to learn to **thoroughly search the Scriptures** CONTINUALLY ASKING GOD FOR GUIDANCE AND HIS UNDERSTANDING. Look for

- **EVERYTHING** to be found on a subject. **Do not eliminate or skip any scripture on the subject!**
- **DESIRE** to know the truth and search for it with all your heart, asking God to show you HIS TRUTH.
- **DON'T LIMIT YOUR SEARCH TO** only that which supports what you believe or want to believe.
- **DIVIDE THE SCRIPTURES FOUND INTO SUBTOPICS**, determine what you think is HIS TRUTH.
- **THEN COME TOGETHER** with others and reason together until you come to a common understanding.

When we learn to do this, we will come to know **GOD'S TRUTH AND UNDERSTANDING.**

TODAY WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO COME TO A ONENESS OF UNDERSTANDING. We have:

1. Concordances that contain every word of the Scriptures, which makes the search easy;

2. Computerized scriptural search programs that can search in marvelous ways. There is a free RLDS search program on line for all 3 Scriptures plus lots of historical writings. To get it from the web : www.RestoredGospel.com If you have troubles email coreys@computercontrolsystems.com Corey Stark keeps adding new things. Yesterday he said the Church History is now available on it.

3. There are libraries full of historical and religious information, dictionaries of all sorts free for the asking. There is no excuse for us not to become of one heart and one mind on ANY SUBJECT. It only requires people who desire to KNOW GOD'S TRUTH, versus those who only look for WHAT THEY WANT TO BELIEVE IS TRUTH. Once you have found every scripture on the subject, sort according to subheadings and come to what you BELIEVE is the truth. Then ask God if your understanding of the truth is correct, to give you the burning of the bosom. If you don't get the burning, SEARCH SOME MORE you have missed some important fact. When you find the missing information God will give you the burning of the bosom. Then come together with others who are looking for God's truth and reason together until everyone comes to a knowledge of the truth and you are of ONE HEART AND ONE MIND. This is the Spirit of Revelation.

DO NOT BE A PEOPLE WHO SAY:

1. **"Well I don't believe that!"** and begin an argument.
2. **"I don't study the Scriptures because I can't remember what I read, or understand it when I read it."** As my aunt used to say, **"That's an excuse not a reason."** God says these people have hardened their hearts against the Word. Like Laman and Lemuel, they have not asked the Lord what it means. They have not asked God to help them remember what they read. Without God's help, and continual study, NO ONE is good at understanding or remembering the Scriptures.
3. **"God doesn't tell us such things."** If God doesn't tell you such things, it is because you don't ASK God in FAITH, BELIEVING YOU WILL RECEIVE.
4. **There are those who enjoy arguing about the Scriptures.** They will take the opposite understanding just to be able to argue about it. UNDERSTAND the spirit of contention is of Satan. [Mos 1:73; 3 Ne 5:30]
EACH TIME YOU STUDY THE SCRIPTURES, ASK God to enlighten your mind, to show you new understandings. That is, ask for the Spirit of Revelation.

HERE IS THE LIST OF THINGS TO DO TO RECEIVE PROPHECY AND REVELATION

1. **Fast**
2. **Pray**
3. **Desire to know**
4. **Faith in God and His word, His promises etc.**
5. **Believe God is able to make things known to you**
6. **Ponder—study it out in your mind**
7. **Find a solitary place to pray about things you want, need to know.**
8. **Inquire of the Lord when things are hard to understand, with faith in Christ that He will manifest the truth to you. [revelation.]**
9. **Hard hearted people don't look to God as they should.**
10. **Diligently keep His commandments**
11. **Ask God in faith believing to know the future [prophecy].**
12. **Ask God lots of questions and you will get lots of answers.**
13. **Hearken to the voice of the Spirit**

OTHER THINGS TO DO--- NOT TIME TO MENTION IN THIS LESSON:

14. **Search the Scriptures for the truth, not to prove what you believe**
15. **Ask God in faith believing He will answer**
16. **Expect to receive an answer, don't let Satan fool you into believing you aren't righteous enough to receive an answer [DC 9:3]**
17. **Fear God [DC 76:2a-d]**
18. **Serve Him in righteousness and truth until the day you die. [DC 76:2a-d]**
19. **Never become weary of telling the people the word of God [Hel 3:115-124]**
20. **Don't fear the people [Hel 3:115-124]**
21. **Don't seek your own life [Hel 3:115-124]**
22. **Seek God's will [Hel 3:115-124]**

23. Ponder and read then ASK with a) sincere heart and b) with real intent [Moroni 10:3-5]

SATAN'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO DECEIVE THE VERY ELECT

To do that he must come as an angel of light, [2 Cor 11:14, 2 Nephi 6: 23; DC 110: 20c.] NOT as a black forbidding spirit. **Those who DESIRE to receive revelation and prophecy open themselves to Satan's deceptions,** and the very elect have been deceived: **For example:**

Joseph Smith, Jr.—prophet of the church, said Michael the Archangel told him that Satan had come to them as an angel of light and deceived them. [DC 110:20].

Hiram Page—one of the 8 witnesses of the Book of Mormon, had a peep stone, which he used to receive revelations about Zion, church organization etc. God told him that, **"... Satan deceiveth him; for, behold, these things have NOT been appointed unto him;"** [DC 27:4b] **UNDERSTAND**—it is the responsibility of the prophet/seer of the church to receive all guidance and direction for running God's church.

DESIRE and ASK for prophecy and revelation and EXPECT Satan to try to deceive you.

ANYONE THAT RECEIVES PROPHECY OR REVELATION SHOULD TEST THE SPIRIT OF WHAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED TO BE SURE IT IS OF GOD BEFORE THEY TELL IT TO THE PEOPLE.

UNDERSTAND: Satan doesn't usually use a person who is NOT magnifying his or her calling. Who would listen? **Satan tries to deceive the most beloved and active people in the church,** in the Christian community, because they are the ones the people listen to. IF Satan can get an active, beloved person to prophesy and THAT PROPHECY DOESN'T COME TO PASS IN EVERY DETAIL, **that person has lost credibility** in the eyes of the people. Also if YOU PERSONALLY, receive prophecy and IT DOESN'T COME TO PASS, **you lose faith in God.** So Satan spreads false prophecy as much as he can, through anyone he can to

- **Destroy faith in God and**
- **Destroy the creditability of God's most elect people.**

METHODS TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH OF PROPHECY/REVELATION

God has given us several ways to determine if prophecy and revelation are of Him:

1.DILIGENTLY STUDY SECTION 50. The church was experiencing strange manifestations and the priesthood wanted to know how to discern the spirits. God reasoned with them on the subject. PONDER it and ASK GOD to understand it because it is part of the great things given that are hard to understand.

2.IS IT CONSISTENT WITH PAST REVELATION AND PROPHECY? God is unchangeable and so everything from Him is consistent with what He gave in the past. The Scriptures say that **to God, one day is as a thousand years.** [Psa 90:4; DC 122:6a] So the idea that old teachings aren't relevant to our day is not of God. So new prophecy/revelation must agree with previous prophecy/revelation or it isn't of God.

3.DOES IT FIT THE PATTERN GIVEN?

And again, I WILL GIVE UNTO YOU A PATTERN IN ALL THINGS, that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and he goeth forth deceiving the nations;

DC 52:4b

Patterns are another of God's safeguards to prevent us from being deceived. The word "patterns" is only used 32 times in all three Scriptures. That didn't sound like patterns in all things to me. I expected the term to be used more often than that. But as I read through all 3 Scriptures, I became aware of many, many patterns; they just aren't always called patterns. They are called **judgments, statutes, laws, ordinances, and commandments, etc.**, which have been given since the days of Adam.

So as you study any NEW prophecy, whether it comes though YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE, see if it agrees with the patterns previously given. If it does not, it is not of God.

4.GOD SAYS HE WILL ALWAYS PROPHECY BEFORE THINGS HAPPEN so we will know He causes things to happen. **"I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I showed it thee; lest thou shouldst say, Mine idol hath done them; and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them."** [Isa 48:5] Today people give the credit to Mother Nature, El Nino, global warming, destruction of the Ozone, or say, "It just happened!" Few seem to see that GOD CAUSES OR ALLOWS ALL THINGS TO HAPPEN. We are told, **"... in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in ALL THINGS [the good and the bad], and obey NOT his commandments. [DC 59:5b] UNDERSTAND** God's hand is in EVERY SINGLE THING THAT HAPPENS ON THIS EARTH. If He isn't causing it, He is allowing it to happen for some very good reason, even things like the events of September 11, 2001. He allows such thing to happen as a testimony against the people on judgment day.

5.DOES THE PROPHECY COME TO PASS IN EVERY DETAIL? This is one of the most important methods of determining true prophecy. God gives MINUTE DETAILS so we will KNOW it is from Him when each detail happens. Jeremiah gave minute details of the destruction of Jerusalem and it all came to pass. Ether gave minute details of the utter destruction of the Jaredite people [Eth 6:21-24] and it all came to pass. But many people refuse to accept that is what happened and write pages explaining it away. But everything in the Book of Mormon indicates the Nephites had no clue as to who they (the Jaredites) were, and they wanted to know so they hounded Mosiah to translate the gold plates of Ether. I assume Ether was killed, too, because God said every Jaredite would be killed. Ether didn't know if he would be translated or killed and said it didn't matter.

HOW TO TEST THE SPIRIT

Three primary Scriptures tell how to discern the truth, **1 John 4:1-3, Moroni 10:3-7 and DC 9:3.** I have used all 3 methods and was very confused about what I received, until I ASKED GOD to help me understand how they worked. I'm still ASKING questions to know more fully how to discern the spirits.

John says to,

1]... TRY THE SPIRITS WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2] Hereby know ye the Spirit of God; EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS OF GOD;

3] And every spirit that confesseth NOT that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh IS NOT OF GOD...

1 John 4:1-3

He gives no indication of what to expect, but the person who mentioned it to me said he received the burning of the bosom. Joseph Smith, Jr. tried this method and rejected it as unreliable because he did it wrong. Read Test the Spirit, TIMES AND SEASONS, Vol. 3, pgs 743-48. Joseph asked the PERSON giving the message if he believed that Christ came in the flesh. The man said, yes.

IMPORTANT UNDERSTANDING: DON'T ask the person, **ask the SPIRIT that gave it.** That is, pray in your mind, **“Do you believe that Jesus Christ came in the flesh?”** We are told: **“... know that there is none else save God, that knowest thy thoughts and the intents of thy heart. [DC 6:7b, also 32:1a; 1 Kings 8:39; 1 Chr 28:4]** So when you pray in your mind only the Lord should hear and know to answer.

- IF it is a FALSE SPIRIT, you will feel **NOTHING.**
- BUT IF it is of GOD, your **BOSOM WILL BURN and you will FEEL IT IS RIGHT.**

The second reason Joseph rejected this method was because when Christ cast out devils and evil spirits they acknowledged Him. [Mat 8:29,30; Mar 1:21,22, 30; 3:10,11; 5:5,6; Luk 4:41] But James made it clear: **“Thou believest there is one God; thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble...” [James 2:19]** But John indicates that evil spirits will NOT acknowledge that Christ came in the flesh, so it should work if we do it right.

The first time I tried this method was years ago before I understood what would happen. I was praying in my mind ASKING God what He wanted me to do. A still small voice said a certain elder needed a wife and I would be it. I had mixed feelings on the subject. He was a good man and I was thrilled that God thought I was righteous enough to be a an elder's wife. That's PRIDE, one of the 7 deadly sins. [Pro 6:13] BUT I wasn't attracted to him.

I asked the spirit if it believed that Christ came in the flesh. **Nothing happened.** That was a **NO** answer, but I didn't understand. So Satan whispered to me in the still small voice saying, **“You aren't righteous enough to receive an answer,”** and I believed him. **UNDERSTAND** Satan tells EVERYONE that gets no response that it is because they aren't righteous enough to receive an answer. **DON'T BELIEVE IT; God says ASK, therefore He will give you an ANSWER! You just have to learn what means NO and what means YES.**

Since I didn't understand a NO answer, I didn't know if it was of God or Satan. But I was optimistic and believed it was of God. So I waited to see what would happen.

Several months later, I learned he was engaged to another woman. **IT WAS NOT A PROPHECY FROM GOD... IT DIDN'T COME TO PASS.** True prophecy comes to pass. I wasn't heart broken, **I was confused and frustrated because Satan had come to me as an angel of light and deceived me and I hadn't recognized it.** So I prayed **FOR THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS.**

QUALIFIER: Notice, I had prayed in my mind, yet Satan must have perceived somehow because he deceived me. Notice, I prayed in my mind asking if the spirit believed that Christ came in the flesh. Satan **DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT. BUT he must have known I was asking because he told me I wasn't sufficiently righteous to receive an answer.** Others have said he has told them the same thing. **UNDERSTAND---** somehow Satan has a clue as to what we are thinking or praying. I don't know how this fits with **'only God knows your thoughts and the intent of your heart.'** **MAYBE Satan knows us so well that he can surmise what we might be thinking/praying about and gives us thoughts.** BUT in my experience, **he has never acknowledged that Christ came in the flesh.**

WHY DID IT HAPPEN TO ME? God **ALLOWED** this to happen to me so I would learn how to discern spirits and could teach His people so they wouldn't be deceived.

SECTION 9:3 GIVES THE MOST INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO DISCERN THE TRUTH-- It gives:

- **the steps you must do to determine the truth, as well as,**
- **the signs that indicate a YES answer and**
- **the signs that indicate a NO answer.**

Through this method you can discern the TRUTH of:

- 1) **A personal spiritual experience;**
- 2) **Revelation or prophecy given to you or someone else; or**
- 3) **Even discern the meaning of a scripture that can be taken 2 ways.**

Here is Section 9:3 in sort of outline form so it is easier to understand:

Behold, you have not understood; YOU HAVE SUPPOSED THAT I WOULD GIVE IT TO YOU [understanding, wisdom, discernment, a prophecy, etc.], WHEN YOU TOOK NO THOUGHT, SAVE IT WAS TO ASK ME;

- **You MUST STUDY IT OUT IN YOUR MIND;**
- **Then you MUST ASK ME if it [your conclusion] BE RIGHT, and**

IF it [your conclusion] is right, I WILL CAUSE THAT

- 1. YOUR BOSOM SHALL BURN WITHIN YOU,**
- 2. Therefore you shall FEEL THAT IT IS RIGHT,**

BUT IF it [your conclusion] be NOT RIGHT

- 1. YOU SHALL HAVE NO SUCH FEELINGS, [no burning of the bosom and you won't feel it's right.]**
- 2. But you shall have a STUPOR OF THOUGHT, that shall CAUSE YOU TO FORGET THE THING WHICH IS WRONG;**

Sec. 9:3a-d

UNDERSTAND: God doesn't give answers without effort or thought on your part. **So apply this method and the steps you learned to RECEIVE PROPHECY AND REVELATION** [pg 8]. When you personally or someone else receive prophecy or revelation, do the steps recommended in Section 9:3 and come to a conclusion as to what you believe is the truth and ask God if your understanding is correct. **UNDERSTAND:** God will NOT give you the burning of the bosom unless **your understanding is 100% correct.**

- 1. IF your understanding is 100% correct you will receive the BURNING OF THE BOSOM, and you will FEEL [your conclusion] IS RIGHT. That is a YES answer.**
- 2. BUT IF your understanding or conclusion is even PARTLY wrong, you will NOT receive a burning of the bosom and you then must search further to find the truth because you have received a NO answer, YOUR UNDERSTANDING IS NOT 100% CORRECT.**

It took me a long time to realize that my understanding MUST BE 100% correct or God can't give the burning of the bosom. If you are only 90% correct and God gives you the burning of the bosom, you would have 10% misconceptions and think it was the truth. God can't lie, so He can't say your understanding is correct if even a small part is NOT truth; even if a small portion is not of God. If a man prophesies from God, then adds some personal things, God couldn't give you the burning of the bosom about it because part is not of Him. **REMEMBER truth is, "...knowledge of things as they are ..., were, and ...are to come; and whatsoever is more or less than this, is the spirit of that wicked one, who was a liar from the beginning."** [Sec 90:4b]

UNDERSTAND: Satan leads from the truth in small increments. For example, in New Testament times it took about 100 years to go from baptism by immersion of those accountable, to baptism by sprinkling of everyone including infants. This is all documented in the Catholic Dictionary available in libraries.

BE ASSURED you will receive an answer, either YES or NO, if you ask to know the truth.

YES, your understanding is TOTALLY right --a burning of the bosom AND you will feel it is right.

NO, your understanding is not 100% right--- no such feeling OR a stupor of thought.

It took me years to understand that **"no such feeling"** or **"a stupor of thought,"** was a **NO** answer.

WHEN I GET A NO ANSWER, I continue to search for the MISSING information, and I **FAST AND PRAY** that He will give me the burning of the bosom the moment I **FIND THE MISSING LINK**-- that bit of information missing. It always works. When I find that illusive information, I get a **'white hot, bright burning of the bosom, which is the joy of discovery.'**

WHEN OR WHY IS THE STUPOR OF THOUGHT GIVEN?

Section 9:3 says, **"...but you shall have a stupor of thought, that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong."** [DC 9:3d] I have received the stupor of thought many times, for example:

1. I have thought a scripture meant one thing, and the Lord gave me a stupor of thought to wrong understanding and taught me the true understanding as I studied. Before going to Iowa State College to work towards a Masters in Nutrition, I thought **'... and it is pleasing unto me that they [meat and poultry] should not be used only in times of winter, or of cold and famine,'** [DC 86:2b] meant to eat meat and poultry only when it was winter, cold or there was a famine. Sometime while at ISU I was given a stupor of thought to this misunderstanding and received the true understanding, that we are to eat meat and poultry

sparingly year round. I have a long testimony of the divinity of this understanding. In the 1830's God was trying to teach His people to change their diet from eating meat and poultry only in the cold winter, to eating small amounts of meat and poultry year round, but they never understood the truth.

2. AT TIMES SOMEONE HAS GIVEN ME NEW UNDERSTANDING OF A SPECIFIC SCRIPTURE I thought it was profound and planned to search it out. Before I got home I received the stupor of thought and had forgotten the scripture, as well as, the different interpretation.

3. I HAVE RECEIVED THE STUPOR OF THOUGHT ABOUT A TOTAL MESSAGE --PROPHECIES OR REVELATION GIVEN. Once at a reunion, a man gave a message and I was given the “**heart sick, internal turmoil feeling**,” that I associate with false prophecy. **NOTICE:** I did not feel it was right, which is a sign of a false prophecy or revelation. As the man spoke, I understood every word he said, but was given a stupor of thought of each word as soon as it was out of his mouth. I have also had this happen when reading a supposed prophecy or revelation. As I read, I understand every word: 1) **BUT DO NOT** feel it is right, 2) **I DO NOT** receive a burning of the bosom, and 3) **I CANNOT** remember a word I have read, that is, I receive a stupor of thought.

4. I HAVE NEVER RECEIVED THE STUPOR OF THOUGHT when I was searching for the truth or was only partly right and needed to do more searching. The stupor of thought comes when you have a wrong interpretation of a scripture.

MORONI 10:3-7: HOW TO RECEIVE A TESTIMONY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

3] Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things [the Book of Mormon], if it be wisdom in God that YE SHOULD READ THEM, ... and PONDER IT IN YOUR HEARTS.

4] And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you THAT YE WOULD ASK GOD, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, IF THESE THINGS ARE NOT TRUE;

5] And IF YE SHALL ASK with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, HE WILL MANIFEST THE TRUTH OF IT UNTO YOU, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may KNOW THE TRUTH OF ALL THINGS.

Moroni 10:3-5

NOTICE you are to read and “**study it out,**” **PONDER** it. How many people have accepted or rejected the Book of Mormon without ever reading it? Moroni said **EXACTLY HOW TO ASK GOD IF IT IS TRUE:**

1. **# 22** Ask with a sincere heart, and with real intent.
2. [**Added to #10**] with faith in Christ that He will manifest the truth.

NOTICE as I continue to study, I find more things to do to receive prophecy and revelation. You also **need to be looking!** This lesson is 2 lessons combined. During the week between I saw the above 2 new understandings as things we can do to receive prophecy or revelation.

Moroni 10:5 says to use this method to discern the truth of **ALL THINGS**, not just religious things. All truth means truth in any area on God's green earth.... and heaven too, such as scientific research etc.

MORONI'S METHOD IS VERY SIMILAR TO SECTION 9:3 except it doesn't tell you what to expect as an assurance of the truth of the Book of Mormon. Testimonies of the divinity of the Book of Mormon vary greatly. Moroni would have realized this because they had found the gold plates of Ether. There would have been **NO** indication that it was a divine book until it was translated. The Nephites wanted King Mosiah to translate it so they would know who the people were and why they had been destroyed. They would have had no clue that it was a divine book, until they read it. We can assume God told Ether to tell them to ask for a testimony of its divinity, just as Moroni told us to do. Their testimonies of the divinity of the Book of Ether would have been just as varied as ours.

FALSE VERSUS TRUTH PROPHECY

1. PROPHECY FROM GOD is usually a ‘testimony against the people.’ “**And the words which I have spoken, shall stand as a testimony against you; for they are sufficient to teach any man the right way.”** [2 Ne 11:53 also see Mos 1:125; Alma 2:27; Eth 2:3; Mat 10:16] The prophecy says if you don't repent, you will receive this curse. Prophets from God are not well liked. What they say makes the people angry. True prophecy from God is the **TOTAL TRUTH.**

2.FALSE PROPHECY FROM SATAN. God warned the early church that, “ ... there are many spirits which are false spirits, which have gone forth in the earth, deceiving the world: and also Satan hath sought to deceive you, that he might overthrow you.”

DC 50:1b

Notice the purpose of the MANY FALSE SPIRITS is to deceive the WORLD. SATAN’S purpose is to deceive YOU. His purpose is to deceive individuals... the more elect.

Jeremiah defines false prophecy:

Then the Lord said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them; they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of naught, and the deceit of their heart.

Jer 14:14

False prophets often contradict TRUE prophets. Jeremiah warning the people to repent or they would be destroyed by pestilence, starvation, the sword or go into captivity. In contrast, false prophets prophesied peace and that no evil would come upon them. [Jer 23:17] Which prophet do you think the people would believe? **The FALSE PROPHECIES DID NOT COME TO PASS.**

Jeremiah gave 3 good signs to tell a true prophecy from false prophecy. The true prophets:

- a. ... stood in my[God’s] counsel, and
- b. had caused my people to hear my words, [and]
- c. ... turned them [the people] from their evil way, and from evil of their doings.

Jer 23:22

FALSE PROPHECY ISN’T ALWAYS GIVEN BY EVIL PEOPLE

Satan comes as an angel of light trying to deceive or use beloved members or priesthood to deceive God’s people.

Satan’s most common method is to **predict the future and give dates**. When the prophecy doesn’t come to pass when predicted, **it causes the people to lose confidence in the person giving it.**

TRUE PROPHECY ALWAYS comes to pass IN EVERY MINUTE DETAIL.

3.FALSE PROPHECY FROM THE MIND OF MAN: There are people who desire to have:

- Their understandings accepted
- Self-aggrandizement or self gratification
- For glory and acceptance of the world, OR
- To consume on their own lusts.

SO FALSE PROPHETS SPEAK PLEASING WORDS, that people want to hear. Jeremiah said of them, “**The prophets prophesy falsely, ... and my people love to have it so...**” [Jer 5:31]

They usually:

- Say ‘Thus saith the spirit,’ so it will be accepted by the people,
- Put in some scriptures to make it acceptable.
- May attach their false prophecy to some short true prophecy, so it will be accepted.

For example, there is a prophecy going around that is a short prophecy given by Arthur Oakman and a woman attached her teachings to it so that it would be accepted. Each time I read it, I can ‘feel God’s Spirit’ while reading Oakman’s true prophecy. When I come to the woman’s false prophecy I get the heart sick, depressing feeling I get with false prophecy. As section 9:3 says, I feel when it is of God and when it is not of God.

The Lord warns such people:

2b] But woe unto them that are deceivers, and hypocrites, for thus saith the Lord, I will bring them to judgment.

3a] Behold verily I say unto you, There are hypocrites among you, and have deceived some, which has given the adversary power, but, behold, such shall be RECLAIMED [those deceived];

3b] BUT THE HYPOCRITES SHALL BE DETECTED AND SHALL BE CUT OFF, either in life or in death, even as I will, and woe unto them who are cut off from my church, for the same are overcome of the world;

3c] wherefore, let every man beware lest he do that which is not in truth and righteousness before me.

DC 50:2b-3c

So those who give us false prophecy will be judged because of it and will be cut off in God's own due time. Those who have been deceived by their prophecies will be reclaimed, BUT we need to understand that if we accept false prophecy and are led astray, we will suffer the consequences associated with it.

For example Jeremiah told the people to repent and return to God or they would be destroyed or go into captivity. The false prophets said the Lord would not allow anything bad to happen to His chosen people. The people of Judah believed the false prophets, did not repent and return to God, so they were all killed or went into captivity as prophesied. They suffered the results of accepting the false prophecies because they did not repent and return to God as Jeremiah had called them to do.

But we are told not to fear those who give false presentations [false prophecies or revelations]:

Many spiritual manifestations have been had. Some of these have been false, and under the operation of the law which I gave many, many years ago, those who make these false presentations are not to be feared among my people.

[Sec 125:15d]

Basically they aren't out to harm the people, they are just seeking aggrandizement and glory of the world.

TWO ROADS LAY BEFORE US: We can desire and choose to seek revelation of GOD'S TRUTH and KEEP ALL THE COMMANDMENTS so Zion can return to earth, OR continue to bicker and argue. We can be like Laman and Lemuel and NEVER become of ONENESS OF HEART AND MIND; never come to a knowledge of GOD'S TRUTH; and be ONE like God and Christ. Only as we become of ONE HEART AND MIND will we be able to reorganize the church and bring about the CAUSE OF Zion.

The choice is yours, will you be a Nephi and Alma, OR remain like Laman and Lemuel. Nephi and Alma's ways will bring about GOD'S PURPOSES AND WILL ON EARTH. We must DESIRE to 1) come to a knowledge of HIS TRUTH, 2) to be of ONE HEART AND ONE MIND and 3) DO IT HIS WAY. We are deciding DAILY whether we will receive the blessings or curses of the Lord. God waits for an obedient people who are searching for understanding of His truths and willing to apply them in their lives. Joshua told the Israelites:

... choose you this day whom ye will serve... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

Your daily choices will determine if you are serving God or Satan.

Brother Levensgood also said, **"We need to allow God to have His will and His way in our lives."** He quoted:

Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. Lam 3:40 We have followed the traditions of man far too long.

If you desire a copy of his sermon write: Elder's Conference, Waldo Restoration Branch, 819 W. Waldo Ave, Independence, MO 64050. Send \$5.00, which includes postage and handling. It's worth the price.

God CAN'T ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM WITH MAN'S TRADITIONS, with a people who insist on doing it THEIR WAY. The kingdom will come only when we LEARN TO DO THINGS GOD'S WAY.

You gals can study with your husbands, just like I did with Max, so you can become kindred souls spiritually and of one heart and mind. Grow together in your knowledge of God's will. Teach them to find every scripture on a subject, determine what it means, and ask God if your understanding is correct and keep studying until your understanding is correct. Learn to REASON TOGETHER until you are of one heart and mind. Then they can teach the priesthood.

Pray continually, **"Thy will be done on earth and IN ALL AREAS OF MY LIFE, even as it is done in heaven."** SUBMIT YOUR WILL TO GOD, JUST AS CHRIST DID. He said DO AS I DO.

Brother Levensgood said to read Ether 3:92-102 which tells of the secret combinations in our day that will destroy us. Unless we learn to be of one heart and mind in our understanding of God's Word and WILL and DO THINGS HIS WAY we will be among those destroyed.

Last year while reading Ether 3:92-102, I WAS ASKING God to show me those secret combinations. I mentioned my interest to Jan Griffith and she said the Lord was showing it to her and Brother Levensgood. I was shocked at how extensive the secret combinations are within our government. I told Jan how depressing it was to read, she agreed. She is heart sick at how unbelieving and disinterested our people are of the information. I can't deny it, because I asked God to show it to me and instantly He did. If you are interested ask Jan to include

you in her list, jrgriffith@sc.rr.com . If you doubt, ask God if it is true. It is my testimony that He will assure you it is. Two roads lie before us, the way of God and the worldly unbelieving way, which will you choose?

For some reason someone always needs my address or email address, so here they are:

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