

UNIT 1.C.: HEARING GOD'S VOICE

BELIEF IN GOD'S SUPERNATURAL POWER

What *solidifies* a belief in God, and what causes some to doubt? What *strengthens* faith, and what weakens it? First, God tells us in Exodus 3:14, "I am." He wants us to know he exists.

Naturally, our next question would be, "Who is God?" If I am speaking to God in prayer, who am I addressing? It's difficult to offer a simple explanation for a being of such magnitude and complexity. For now, let's say **we know who God is by his attributes.**

Today, we live in a society that rejects any God, much less the miraculous and supernatural. They don't believe in miracles. Even among Christians there are those who believe in what is called "cessationism," the idea that miracles and gifts of the Spirit ceased with the last of the apostles in the second century. We, the Restoration, stand in direct opposition to this belief.

Ephesians 4:14:

That we henceforth **be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine,** by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

II Nephi 13:28:

Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far, save it were by the word of Christ, with **unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save.**

Helaman 2:31:

Nevertheless, **they did fast and pray oft,** and did wax stronger and stronger in their **humility,** and firmer and firmer in **the faith of Christ,** unto the **filling their souls with joy and consolation,** yea, even to **the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts,** which sanctification cometh because of their **yielding their hearts unto God.**

Luke 7:22:

Then Jesus, answering, said unto them, Go your way, and **tell John what things ye have seen and heard;** how that the **blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and to the poor the gospel is preached.**

Luke 10:22:

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **thou hast hid these things from them who think they are wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes;** even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Alma 18:6:

Now my son, I would not that ye should think that I know these things of myself, but **it is the Spirit of God which is in me, which maketh these things known unto me: for if I had not been born of God, I should not have known these things.**

Moroni 7:28-31:

And because he hath done this, my beloved brethren, **hath miracles ceased? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men.** For behold, they are subject unto him, to

Becoming a Disciple of Christ

minister according to the word of his command, **shewing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind, in every form of godliness.**

As Christ's church, we must be unwavering in our belief that God still wants to reveal himself to humanity.

A FIRM BELIEF THAT GOD WANTS TO MOVE IN POWER

As a church, we affirm that we believe in:

- continuing modern revelation,
- modern miracles,
- the gifts of the Spirit in this day.

For too long, we have restricted the movement of the Holy Spirit. We sometimes just lack sufficient faith. Some have even been guilty of skepticism and doubted that God could move in power in this day.

Those who preside over worship services tend to err on the side of caution and often want to please people rather than being attuned to the Spirit. In doing this, we've frequently become skeptical. It's possible that we've become so good at identifying false spiritual gifts that perhaps we've throttled the movement of God's Spirit and even been slow to recognize gifts that are genuine.

Those who teach have sometimes been overly cautious about teaching modern revelation, miracles or the gifts because they're concerned it will make them appear to be enamored with the larger charismatic movement in Christianity. But the charismatic movement is simply a poor imitation of the real thing. Genuine revelation, miracles and gifts of the Spirit should be more evident in our worship, and we should not be influenced by what imitators there are in other Christian circles.

God longs to reveal himself to us, to move among believers in miraculous ways, to bring the confirming evidence of his power into our worship.

Psalm 24:8:

And he will roll away the heavens; and will come down to redeem his people . . .

Numbers 11:29:

. . . **would God that all the Lord's people were prophets**, and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them.

Alma 3:76-80 (How Alma 2 attained "knowledge"):

Behold, I testify unto you, that I **do know that these things whereof I have spoken, are true.** And how do ye suppose that I know of their surety? Behold, I say unto you, They are made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God. Behold, **I have fasted and prayed many days, that I might know these things of myself.** 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 spirit of revelation which is in me.**