



# The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 5

This Is the Spirit of Revelation

*"Surely shall you receive a knowledge of whatsoever things you shall ask in faith, with an honest heart, believing that you shall receive."* (D&C 8:1)

D&C 6, 8, 9; Joseph Smith—History 1:8–17

*A study of this lesson will help us understand how to prepare to receive personal revelation and encourage us to do so.*

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "Accordingly, those who are saints indeed, those who have been born again, those who are so living as to be in tune with the Spirit—they are they who receive revelation, personal revelation, revelation which is the mind and will of God to them as individuals. They know there are apostles and prophets directing the kingdom who receive revelation for the Church and the world. But they as individuals receive personal revelation in their own affairs.

"And there are no restrictions placed upon them; there are no limitations as to what they may see and know and comprehend. No eternal truths will be withheld, if they obey the laws entitling them to receive such truths." (Improvement Era, Dec 1969, p85)

Elder Boyd K. Packer: "No one of us can survive in the world of today, much less in what it soon will become, without personal inspiration." (Ensign, Nov 1991, p23)

President Ezra Taft Benson said that we need to prepare for the great day of the Lord: "This preparation must consist of more than just casual membership in the Church. We must be guided by personal revelation and the counsel of the living prophet so we will not be deceived." (Come Unto Christ, p115)

Elder Dallin H. Oaks: "Scripture reading may ... lead to current revelation on whatever [subject] the Lord wishes to communicate to the reader at that time. We do not overstate the point when we say that the scriptures can be a Urim and Thummim to assist each of us to receive personal revelation.

"Because we believe that scripture reading can help us receive revelation, we are encouraged to read the scriptures again and again. By this means, we obtain access to what our Heavenly Father would have us know and do in our personal lives today. That is one reason Latter-day Saints believe in daily scripture study." (Ensign, Jan 1995, p8)

Elder Boyd K. Packer: "No message appears in scripture more times, in more ways than 'Ask, and ye shall receive'." (Ensign, Nov 1991, p21).

Joseph Smith: "And now, brethren, after your tribulations, if you do these things, and exercise fervent prayer and faith in the sight of God always, He shall give unto you knowledge by His Holy Spirit, yea by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost..." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p138)

Elder Dallin H. Oaks: "We cannot have the companionship of the Holy Ghost—the medium of individual revelation—if we are in transgression or if we are angry or if we are in rebellion against God's chosen authorities." (Ensign, Mar 1997, p9)

President Spencer W. Kimball asks questions that can help us understand what it means to pray with faith:

- Do you offer a few trite words and worn-out phrases, or do you talk intimately to the Lord?
  - Do you pray occasionally when you should be praying regularly, often, constantly?
  - When you pray, do you just speak, or do you also listen?
  - Do you give thanks or merely ask for favors?
- (New Era, Mar 1978, p17)

Elder Boyd K. Packer: "Inspiration comes more easily in peaceful settings. Such words as quiet, still, peaceable, Comforter abound in the scriptures. ...

"The world grows increasingly noisy. Clothing and grooming and conduct are looser and sloppier and more disheveled. Raucous music, with obscene lyrics blasted through amplifiers while lights flash psychedelic colors, characterizes the drug culture. Variations of these things are gaining wide acceptance and influence over our youth. ...

"This trend to more noise, more excitement, more contention, less restraint, less dignity, less formality is not coincidental nor innocent nor harmless.

"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.

"Irreverence suits the purposes of the adversary by obstructing the delicate channels of revelation in both mind and spirit." (Ensign, Nov 1991, p21-22)

**Next Week's Reading Assignment**  
Doctrine and Covenants 6, 8, 9, 11

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