

ASIA AREA LOCAL PAGES

ASIA AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Personal Revelation

By Elder Jui-Chang Juan

Of the Seventy

What benefits me the most regarding personal revelation is from Elder David A. Bednar's teaching. I remember three years ago he came to the Taichung Stake to preside over our stake conference. He asked us, the stake presidency, why we needed to come to sacrament meeting early. I remember some of our responses were to set a good example, to bring reverence to the meeting, and to show our respect to the bishop. He said that these were all possible reasons, but from the doctrinal standpoint, the main purpose of arriving at a meeting early is to help us calm down and to get ready to receive our personal revelation. He said the success of a sacrament meeting often depends on how the five minutes before the meeting is used—Is the prelude music appropriate? (the volume, the selection, the familiarity, the smoothness, and most importantly, the reverent manner of the organist.) Are the ushers doing their job? Has the sacrament been prepared reverently? Have the bishopric members and others who should be seated on the stand in their seats, and they are not chitchatting with one another? Is the congregation sitting quietly, listening to the prelude music and preparing themselves to receive the voice of God (i.e., personal revelation)?

Prior to an endowment session, there's usually a waiting period. It can be a wonderful opportunity to receive personal revelation as well.

When Elder Bednar taught us, he also encouraged the participants to ask questions. He said there was no such thing as good or bad questions. All questions can help us edify one another. Oftentimes, we receive personal revelation through the answers to other people's questions.

As we kneel down in reverent prayers, the revelation we need may pop up in the scriptures we read. When I was young, President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) spoke at the National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall in Taipei. In his unique, husky voice, President Kimball emphasized, "Every young man should serve a mission! Every young man should serve a mission!" Those words moved me deeply as a young man. Serving a mission seemed like an unreachable dream to meet at that time because, as the eldest son, I had family responsibilities, and my mother had just passed away. But I knew that was something I must do in this life. After a day of fasting, I went into the woods to pray before sunrise. I don't know how long I prayed, I only remember that when the dawn broke, I opened the scriptures and saw section 15 of the Doctrine and Covenants:

"Hearken, my servant John, and listen to the words of Jesus Christ, your Lord and your Redeemer.

"For behold, I speak unto you with sharpness and with power, for mine arm is over all the earth.

"And I will tell you that which no man knoweth save me and thee alone—

"For many times you have desired of me to know that which would be of the most worth unto you.

"Behold, blessed are you for this thing, and for speaking my words which I have given you according to my commandments.

"And now, behold, I say unto you, that the thing which will be of the most worth unto you will be to declare repentance unto this people, that you may bring souls unto me, that you may rest with them in the kingdom of my Father. Amen."

I knew this was a personal revelation from my loving Father in Heaven, so I went home excitedly. I knelt down again in my room and said another prayer. This time, I received a clear revelation on



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exactly how to communicate with my father: First, testify that God lives. Second, testify that a prophet is God's spokesperson on earth. He speaks God's will. Third, the living prophet has asked all young men to serve a mission and I needed to obey his word. Fourth, when I spread the gospel in a foreign land, I would experience rejections and trials. As I loved these strangers, I would learn to love my family even more. Fifth, I would have foreign companions, and my English communication skills would be greatly enhanced.

In the past, every time I talked to my dad, it usually ended up in an argument within just a few words. This time, to my surprise, it went very peacefully and smoothly. There was no fight or bad feelings. After listening to my testimony, my father agreed to let me go on my mission. And my mission changed my whole life. It helped me truly know that I am a child of Heavenly Father, and that He is my Father, and that Christ is my elder brother, my Savior and Redeemer.

Other blessings I have received since my mission include temple marriage, an opportunity for better education at Brigham Young University, four wonderful children (they are the heritage from the

Lord. Two of them have returned from their missions with honor, one is currently serving, and the last one is preparing to serve), a precious grandson (his father named him Chong Chian, which means loyalty and humility), career satisfaction (I get to eat bread in the sweat of my face, being my own boss and being engaged in the kind of work that I love), and the opportunities to learn and grow through various Church callings (I credit it to Heavenly Father's trust in me and the patience and love I received from Church leaders).

All of these blessings came because of my baptism at 16 and my mission at 23. God answered one young man's sincere desire to know His will through personal revelation. Personal revelation is the direct word from the Father to His beloved sons and daughters. This powerful gift comes to us through the still, small voice, through the holy scriptures, and through other people's mouths.

May we do our part—study the scriptures, always have meaningful prayers, live a Christlike life, become an instrument in His hands, and labor with God in order to obtain personal revelation from Him to guide us into light, to endure to the end, and to live with Him some day. ■

LATTER-DAY VOICES

Salvation Cannot Come without Revelation

by Elder Kishore Kumar Kandukuri

The principle of gaining knowledge by revelation is the principle of salvation. It consists of individual guidance for every person who seeks for it and follows the prescribed course of faith, repentance and obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said, "No man can receive the Holy Ghost without receiving revelation" (*History of the Church*, 6:58). "Without revelation all would be guesswork, darkness and confusion" (Bible Dictionary, "Revelation").

Everyone has the Spirit of God to know good from evil, and the Spirit will testify of truth. If we recognize the truth it will help us to make covenants with God. If we do so we will be eligible to receive the Holy Ghost as our constant companion, and

it will help us to draw closer to our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of Christ is given to every man to walk in the light of Christ (see Moroni 7:16). The Holy Ghost will help us in every aspect of our lives.

Personal revelation is communication between God and His children, and He wants His children to enjoy His blessings in their own lives.

How can we recognize our personal revelations? God will help us as we try to recognize and understand through the Spirit if we do the following:

- Pray sincerely and humbly.
- Study the scriptures diligently.
- Follow all His commandments by living a righteous life.
- Live the gospel culture and be in tune with the Spirit.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said, “Salvation cannot come without revelation” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith*, 195). “Have faith that you will receive personal revelations to guide you from day to day” (*Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service*, 89). We will succeed in our lives as we learn to receive and follow personal revelations. We have been promised inspiration to know what to do and have been given the power to do it.

“Divine revelation is one of the grandest concepts and principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for without it, man could not know of the things of God and could not be saved with any degree of salvation in the eternities” (Bible Dictionary, “Revelation”).

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).

Faith, repentance, meekness and lowliness of heart, receiving the Holy Ghost and enduring to the end lead to salvation.

I strongly know that personal revelations will help us in the time of difficulties and lead us to a better life. These personal revelations will help us to overcome the fiery trials which are to try us. Personal revelations helped me in my life to escape from dangerous situations and comforted me a lot.

As a missionary I have received revelations to find new investigators who are really prepared to receive this true gospel in their lives and make covenants with God.

I am really grateful to my Heavenly Father. He blessed me with wonderful parents, who helped me to have this true gospel from my childhood and have always encouraged me to stay strong in the Church and in the gospel.

I am grateful to my brother, who completed his mission with

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Elder Kishore Kumar Kandukuri is serving in the India Bangalore Mission.

honor and showed his good example to me. He supported and encouraged me to do the Lord's work as a missionary.

I am really grateful for their personal revelation about The Church of Jesus Christ and their baptism in the year 1983.

I know that the Holy Ghost will help us and guide us all the way; if we listen carefully and follow the promptings of the Spirit of God we will be safe.

I know that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. It will give answers for each and every question of the soul. Jesus Christ is my personal Savior and He is the rock of my salvation. I leave my testimony with you all. ■

Messages from God

By Diana Catherine Anderson

Personal revelations may be received in various forms like visions, dreams, inspirations, scriptures, prophets, family, Church hymns, or even a simple phrase from the Church magazines; in order to receive revelations from our Heavenly Father, we must be worthy to constantly have the companionship of the Holy Ghost.

I recently celebrated my 20th birthday, but as my teenage years came to an end I was deeply troubled in repenting of my sins. I was unable to forgive myself and to accept that God has forgiven me.

While I was going through those painful days, God revealed His words for me through a song

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titled “Let It Begin” by Julie Yardley. The lyrics say, “You might think that no one’s been through what you’re going through. And you might think that nobody’s made the same mistakes as you. You are feeling the weight of the world on your shoulders, turn it over. Just have the courage to take one step, someone’s gonna be there to help with the rest. To start is the hardest but it’s something that only you can do, don’t carry the burden as the years go by, you don’t need that crushing weight in your life. Have faith to pray for the strength to finally see this through. There’s one who knows you perfectly, He can take the hurts away. The healing starts within, just let Him in and let it begin. You’ve tried hard to hide from the past and to bury it deep. You are overwhelmed by all of the things that you know you should be, just believe. MISTAKES OF THE PAST DON’T DEFINE YOU, THEY REFINE YOU”.

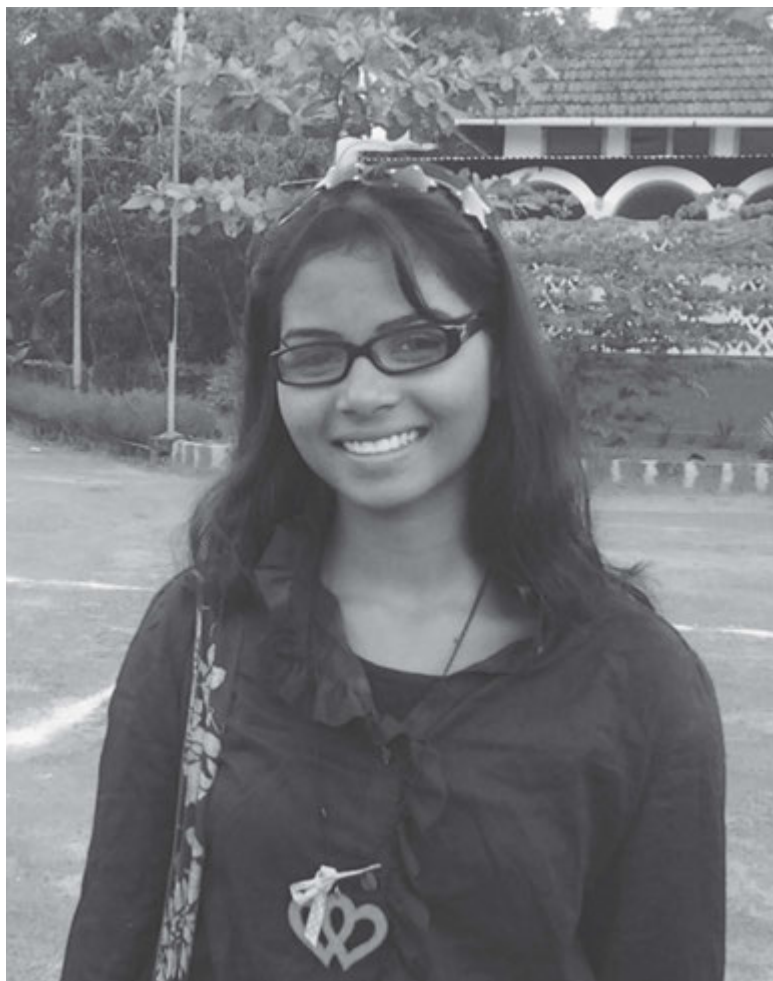
I wept in joy after listening to that song. I was comforted and relieved from the pains that I was going through for years.

I knew that God knew me perfectly and He did take the hurts away. Our Heavenly Father lives and He is mindful of us every minute. The last phrase of the song (“Mistakes of the past don’t define you, they refine you”) greatly helped me in perceiving myself as a better person.

I am grateful for the Holy Ghost, who helps me in receiving the messages from my Father above. I am indeed grateful for the Church and its resources that help me remain close to the Spirit of the Lord.

I testify that as we live the gospel, we will be able to receive personal revelations more easily, and by working accordingly we will be able to receive the many blessings which are in store for us.

I am truly grateful for the Savior and His selfless sacrifice to mankind. May we live according to the will of our divine Father is my humble prayer. ■



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Crowned . . . with Revelations

By Sangasudma Davidson

Believers often begin to ask, seek and knock; the Lord helps them to receive, makes them to find and opens them a door, even the door of His treasure house of knowledge, wisdom and understanding unto those who are ready, prepared and nourished by the living words of God through the Holy Spirit.

When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he instructed them to understand the ways the Lord through His Spirit imparts various gifts.

“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit”.

“. . . But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal” (1 Corinthians 12:4, 7).

One of the gifts of the Spirit is personal revelation.

Personal revelation is a divine pursuit of obtaining and revealing the instructions of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The gift of revelation is given to all believers to honour and glorify God the Eternal Father and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Revelation also directs us to live the gospel and draw benefits of obedience and blessings from above; to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; to strengthen our faith and to help others to draw near unto Jesus Christ.

Personal revelations are required to organize ourselves and our families in the loving kindness and tender mercies of God.

Sincere prayer, pondering of the words of God, listening to the words of our prophets, apostles and leaders help us to be ready to receive personal revelation and obey them in our daily lives with humility and love.

Elder David A. Bednar has taught us: “As you appropriately seek for and apply unto the spirit of revelation, I promise you will ‘walk in the light of the Lord’ (Isaiah 2:5; 2 Nephi 12:5). Sometimes the spirit of revelation will operate immediately and intensely, other times subtly and gradually, and often so delicately you may not even consciously recognize it. But regardless of the pattern whereby this blessing is received, the light it provides will illuminate and enlarge your soul, enlighten your understanding (see Alma 5:7; 32:28), and direct and protect you and your family.” (“The Spirit of Revelation”, *Ensign*, May 2011, 90).

The story of the Creation, the first family’s performance, and that of the generations of Adam, Noah and Abraham are proven witnesses of the power of the Spirit, priesthood and revelations. God sent Moses and

Aaron to deliver the Israelites from slavery and to lead them into the promised land of God through the same power.

Lehi likewise led his family into a destination of promise and blessings that God had in His plan. The Book of Mormon teaches us that Lehi had promptly obeyed the Spirit of God and the revelations and taught the words to his family.

Each of us is entitled to receive personal revelation, and when we receive, our hearts will be elated and the burning of the bosom will be realized. If the source of the revelation is good the results are good; if not, the one who receives the revelation needs to pray about it and change the heart’s feelings and stop any action until the Spirit of the Lord confirms.

Those who are suffering from this kind of confusion and deficiency of recognition of prompting of the Spirit need to get familiar with the form of revelation and the source of revelation. Never allow any deceptive spirit to operate through your heart and mind and become a victim of that.

The order of the world has many deceptive, deliberately designed evil activities that affect the physical, mental and spiritual faculties. We need to be conscious of the consequences



Sangasudma Davidson

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of such cunningness, evils and even the enticing.

This is another reason why we need the spirit of revelation to escape the worldly weapons of destruction and the adversary.

President Thomas S. Monson said that the “language of the Spirit . . . is not learned from textbooks written by men of letters, nor is it acquired through reading and memorization. The language of the Spirit comes to him who seeks with all his heart to know God and to keep His divine commandments. Proficiency in this language permits one to breach barriers, overcome obstacles, and touch the human heart. . .”

“We watch. We wait. We listen for that still, small voice. When it speaks, wise men and women obey. We do not postpone following promptings of the Spirit” (“The Spirit Giveth Life,” *Ensign*, May 1985, 68).

The truth about personal revelation is a testimony itself, of things that happen in a Spirit-filled person’s life. Remember, it is far beyond our ability to know and comprehend how it works lest in the absence of the Spirit of the Lord.

The teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ are yet a powerful tool to lead people to receive revelations about the Lord Himself, and to transform them into actions of everyday life, to rejoice and be happy.

The Church of Jesus Christ grows with the power of the priesthood and revelation. It meets the full mandate of testifying of the Lord everywhere in all continents, fulfils the commission that the Saviour Himself granted unto us, when He said that “all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:18–20).

God reminds us that no one should become unwise and fail to receive Jesus in his heart and lose precious salvation that comes out of a great price.

Personal revelation is something that all believers must persuade, perfect and use for personal growth in faith and to touch the heart and minds of others.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

“Yea, blessed are they whose feet stand upon the land of Zion, who have obeyed my gospel; for they shall receive for their reward the good things of the earth, and it shall bring forth in its strength.

“And they shall also be crowned with blessings from above, yea, and with commandments not a few, and with revelations in their time—they that are faithful and diligent before me” (D&C 59:3–4). ■

Guidance to Life Management

By S. V. Sunil

In December 2004 my wife, Rachna, and I were holidaying in Sri Lanka during Christmas time. We lived in the beach resorts and would spend most of our evenings on those beautiful beaches on the west coast of that spectacular island. One time we almost decided to extend our stay, but we were strongly prompted for unknown reasons not to do

so, but to stick to the original plan of leaving the country as scheduled on 24th December 2004. I gave heed to the promptings as we returned to Chennai on Christmas Day to spend the time with a missionary couple, Elder and Sister Caldwell. The next day on the 26th December, a tsunami struck the beaches of Sri Lanka and washed away hundreds of

people and even wiped away the very same beach resorts where we were staying. This experience can never be erased from my mind! It was indeed the blessing of personal revelation that helped us avert a huge disaster.

After we experienced our spiritual birth, Heavenly Father counseled and corrected us, and we were instructed, enlightened, and edified in His holy presence. Now that we have experienced our physical birth in mortality, He desires to continue to communicate with us and to give us counsel and direction. He does this through personal revelation.

Personal revelation is the way Heavenly Father through His Spirit helps us know Him and His Son, learn and live the gospel, endure to the end in righteousness, and qualify for eternal life—to return back into Their presence.

Receiving personal revelation is not a passive process. President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) told us that “God reveals himself to [people] who are prepared for such manifestations” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1964, 97). The Savior spoke of this principle of preparing to receive personal revelation. He shed light on the things that we must do to properly prepare: “It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins [repents] and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF S. SUNIL

[prays], and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments [obeys], shall see my face and know that I am” (D&C 93:1).

To properly prepare to receive personal revelation, we must repent, ask through prayer, be obedient, search the scriptures, fast, think pure thoughts, and develop a spirit of reverence.

Repent

Mormon explained the fruits of repentance in receiving revelation: “And the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost” (Moroni 8:26).

Ask through Prayer

The Savior promised, “And if ye are purified and cleansed from

all sin, ye shall ask whatsoever you will in the name of Jesus and it shall be done” (D&C 50:29). We must follow the counsel to “pray unto him continually by day, and give thanks unto his holy name by night” (2 Nephi 9:52). It is not the duration of our prayers but the depth of our desire that results in revelation.

It is a misconception to believe that we should consult Heavenly Father on every matter in life. He expects us to solve a portion of our problems without petitioning Him for potential solutions. It is through this process that we grow, develop, and become more perfect. He is not always concerned about mundane matters unless they are not in keeping with sacred principles. We should daily petition for the companionship of the

Brother Sunil with his wife, Sister Rachna, and his son Aryan.

Holy Ghost. With this presence of the Spirit, we will feel the promptings without petitioning Heavenly Father on every personal matter.

Be Obedient

Obedience is essential in preparing to receive personal revelation. The Savior gave this counsel: “When we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated” (D&C 130:21). He promised, “But unto him that keepeth my commandments I will give the mysteries of my kingdom” (D&C 63:23).

Search the Scriptures

We must make scripture study a part of our daily schedule. We must not just read but must search diligently as did the sons of Mosiah (see Alma 17:2). Nephi gave a marvelous promise to all who searched the scriptures: “Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do” (2 Nephi 32:3).

Fast

At times we need to fast so that we can receive personal revelation. Alma had a great desire to know the truthfulness of the doctrines. To know with a surety, he prepared himself through fasting and prayer:

“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” (Alma 5:46).

Think Pure Thoughts

If we are to have the channels of communication open, we must clear our minds of worldly and impure thoughts. We must follow this counsel of the Savior: “Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven” (D&C 121:45).

Develop a Spirit of Reverence

To receive revelation, we must develop a spirit of reverence. President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, counseled, “Inspiration comes more easily in peaceful settings.” He added, “Irreverence suits the purposes of the adversary by obstructing the delicate channels of revelation

in both mind and spirit,” and “reverence invites revelation” (“Reverence Invites Revelation,” *Ensign*, October 1991).

Irreverence not only shows disrespect to Deity but also makes it hard for the Spirit to teach us the things we need to know. The Savior said, “And your minds in times past have been darkened because . . . you have treated lightly the things you have received” (D&C 84:54). He counseled, “Trifle not with sacred things” (D&C 6:12). The process of receiving revelation is sacred. It is a divine discussion with Deity and must be revered if it is to work.

I bear my testimony that Jesus Christ lives and leads His Church through a living prophet, President Thomas S. Monson. I know that President Monson leads this Church by revelation. In the words of Alma, “Behold, I say unto you [these things] are made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God. Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days. . . . And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me . . . ; and this is the spirit of revelation which is in me.”

That each of us may receive that Spirit, obtain the blessings of personal revelation, and know for ourselves that these things are true is my heartfelt prayer. ■