

017 Devils and Unclean Spirits

by Mike Stroud (Carol Crisp transcribed)

Tonight we're going to talk about something special that Marti and I were talking about recently which she said I need to talk about at this particular time: devils and unclean spirits. This subject isn't talked about much in our day and it's a very important subject. In the early days of the Church Joseph Smith and the brethren talked about it extensively. It started to diminish in our Church conversations and doctrinal discussions in the 1890's and by 1930 it's a topic that is almost never talked about in Church discussions. Let's go to I Nephi 11:31 for a take-off scripture. "**And he spake unto me again, saying: Look! And I looked, and I beheld the Lamb of God going forth among the children of men. And I beheld multitudes of people who were sick, and who were afflicted...**

I Nephi 11 is his commentary of his father's vision of the tree of life. He sees the ministry of the Savior in vision. Vs. 31: underline sick, and who were afflicted. That's 2 groups of people: those who were sick, and those who were afflicted. You can be afflicted and not be sick or you can be sick and not be afflicted or you can be both. Now look at the next part: And I beheld multitudes of people who were sick, and who were afflicted **with all manner of diseases**, (that ties into the sick part like we mentioned earlier) **and with devils and unclean spirits** (and this ties in with the afflicted part. You have 2 groups of people now: those who were sick, and those who were afflicted with devils and unclean spirits). If you're like me, over the years you've heard in prayers: "Bless the sick and the afflicted", quite a common usage of words in our prayers. In this scripture it seems to specify groups of people who are challenged with certain things.

"and the angel spake and showed all these things unto me. And they were healed by the power of the Lamb of God (that's your sick with diseases); and the devils and the unclean spirits were cast out." and that's your afflicted part. Isn't that interesting? So we read those things quickly and go over them and we don't pay a lot of attention, but if we start to look at words and see how they're formed and separated by semi-colons, commas, etc. and it gives a whole new meaning.

Now, what I want to chat with you about tonight is something that Marti and I discovered when we were on a mission to the Philippines. This will maybe challenge some of the ideas that you've held, it did for me and it took a little bit of time for me to wrap my mind around what I want to discuss with you tonight. **The power of devils and unclean spirits lies in their anonymity**. It's like a secret combination. A secret combination is at its most deadly and most effective when the people think there no secret combination. At that point when people think it's nonsense and it's hysteria, then know that the secret combination is working very well, and it's at its most dangerous when people think it doesn't exist. It's the same with this thing when we're dealing with spirits from the dark side. They want to remain as anonymous as possible. When we start to talk about them and to expose their signs and tokens and their plans and strategies, then at that point they begin to lose power over us. So, as long as they can remain in the background, and do what they do, with us thinking that there is no such thing as organized dark intelligences that can make war against us, as long as we remain at that point, then they exercise huge power over us. And, what we experience from them we blame on all kinds of other things instead of recognizing the source from which these afflictions come. We may blame it on chemical imbalances, or we may blame it on emotional disorders, or we may blame it on mental illness, schizophrenia, bi-polarism, and a host of other things that we use to describe disorders in human beings.

So, let me read to you a quote from the Prophet Joseph Smith here. This was given in April of 1842 and Joseph was shot to death in June of 1844, so this quote represents now the Prophet's experience in thinking throughout most of his ministry, we're now coming to the end, and the name of this is:

"Discerning of Spirits by the Power of the Priesthood.

Every one of these professes to be competent to try his neighbor's spirit, but no one can try his own, and what is the reason? Because they have not a key to unlock, no rule wherewith to measure, and no criterion whereby they can test it. Could any one tell the length, breadth or height of a building without a rule? Test the quality of metals without a criterion, or point out the movements of the planetary systems, without a knowledge of astronomy? Certainly not; and if such ignorance as this is manifested about a spirit of this kind, who can describe an angel of light? If Satan should appear as one in glory, who can tell his color, his signs, his appearance, his glory?--or what is the manner of his manifestation? Who can detect the spirit of the French prophets with their revelations and their visions, and power of manifestations? Or who can point out the spirit of the Irvingites, with their apostles and prophets, and visions and tongues, and interpretations, &c., &c. Or who can drag into daylight and develop the hidden mysteries of the false spirits that so frequently are made manifest among the Latter-day Saints? We answer that no man can do this without the Priesthood, and having a knowledge of the laws by which spirits are governed; for as "no man knows the things of God, but by the Spirit of God," so no man knows the spirit of the devil, and his power and influence, but by possessing intelligence which is more than human, and having unfolded through the medium of the Priesthood the mysterious operations of his devices; without knowing the angelic form, he sanctified look and gesture, and the zeal that is frequently by him for the glory of God, together with the prophetic spirit, the gracious influence, the godly appearance, and the holy garb, which are so characteristic of his proceedings and his mysterious windings.

A man must have the discerning of spirits before he can drag into daylight this hellish influence and unfold it unto the world in all its soul-destroying, diabolical, and horrid colors; for nothing is a greater injury to the children of men than to be under the influence of a false spirit when they think they have the Spirit of God. Thousands have felt the influence of its terrible power and baneful effects. Long pilgrimages have been undertaken, penances endured, and pain, misery and ruin have followed in their train; nations have been convulsed, kingdoms overthrown, provinces laid waste, and blood, carnage and desolation are

habiliments in which it has been clothed. **Joseph Smith Jr. Doct. Hist. of the Church 4:587 Apr 9, 1842"**

Now, they were having big problems with evil spirits in the early history of the Church. Section 50 and other sections in the D&C were given to address the situation that was going on. There was a lot of dark spiritualism taking place among the members of the Church. They were without the keys to understand what was going on, so many people were assuming that these supernatural phenonimums that were taking place on a regular basis among the members of the Church was coming from God. Not only among the membership, but they were seeing a lot of this at camp meetings and revival meetings and in that great spiritual awakening that was taking place on the frontier in those early days. So, let me just read this to you and I will emphasize a couple of points that we want to talk about tonight. "...professes to be competent to try his neighbor's spirit but no one can try his own and what is the reason?" See, when it says "try the spirits"; ever thought about that? That's a phrase that Joseph used: "we need to try the spirits". Now, if you'll think of the temple for a moment there's an example of where spirits are tried. In essence, a human being would ask the question: "How do I know you are who you say you are?" See, what you're doing now is you're "trying the spirit". Rather than take it on face value, and just because a person is standing 3 ft. above the floor and doesn't seem to be bound by the physical laws of this world, we assume automatically that it is from God. Here's the problem that was there. They were having these manifestations and they were assuming that it was coming from Heavenly Father just because it appeared to be supernatural or other-worldly. So Joseph says: "You need to try the spirits". Now the first covenant that you enter in to in the temple with it's accompanying name and sign and token is a detection sign. It was given to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden before they were cast out. It was given to them so when they come into a telesstial world in a fallen condition and start to interact with fallen dark spirits they would have a key whereby they could try the spirits and detect false from true messengers. The Prophet Joseph Smith goes on to say, "Because they have not a key to unlock, or no rule whereas to measure, no criterion whereby they can test it", meaning this appearance or experience. Notice the 3 words he uses: key, rule, criterion to use to test these spirits. "Can anyone tell the length, breath or height of a building without a rule?" Joseph said. "Test the quality of metals w/o a criterion, or point out the movement of the planetary systems w/o a knowledge of astronomy? Certainly not, and if such ignorance as this is manifested about a spirit of this kind, who can describe an angel of light? These dark spirits from the dark side that we'll be talking about tonight have the ability to muster even a portion of light so that when they appear, because of the light that they possess, mortals will think that they come from God. Corihor in Alma 30 was deceived and he said that the devil appeared to me as an angel of light. Joseph says that w/o a criterion, who could tell whether you are describing an angel of light? He goes on to say, "If Satan should appear as one in glory, who could tell his color, his signs, his appearance, his glory, or what is the manner of his manifestations?" Notice the key words again: glory, color, signs, appearance, manifestations. This is really tricky. Go ahead Marcus:

? "What was the scripture you mentioned in Alma about Corihor?" Mike: Alma chap. 30, there is a whole story there.

Joseph goes on and he says this: "Or who can drag into daylight and develop the hidden mysteries of the false spirits that so frequently are made manifest among the Latter-day Saints?"

Mike: See, this was a big problem. And I would ask you this, brothers and sisters: If it was a big problem in 1842, do you think that problem has diminished in 2016? Do you think that Satan has backed off, or conceded ground, or has become less dangerous and less deceptive in 2016 than he was in 1842 when the Prophet wrote these words? Are we in as much need today of the key, measure/rule and criterion to test what is going on around us as they were then or in the history of the world? That's my question. My feeling is there has never been a time where this knowledge and laws are needed more than now.

Joseph goes on to say "no man can do this without the Priesthood, and having a knowledge of the laws by which spirits are governed." See, all of these... if you go to the temple you get a little clue when the Lord is speaking about using Lucifer as opposition to provide experience for his children. "we will allow Lucifer to tempt them". I want you to notice that word, you remember that at the temple? "We will allow". That indicates that all of these dark spirits no matter what they do could not do anything that they do if not for being allowed by the Father and the Son and by the Gods that sit enthroned in the Heavens. They only do what they are allowed to do, and there are laws that govern them, according to Joseph's statement. Joseph goes on and says, "for as"no man knows the things of God, but by the Spirit of God," so no man knows the spirit of the devil, and his power and influence, (Mike: now this is our take-off for tonight) but by possessing intelligence which is more than human, and having unfolded through the medium of the Priesthood the mysterious operations of his devices;"

Mike: now it's interesting that the Prophet Joseph Smith lists 8 things/characteristics that define organized evil. Here they are: (1)without knowing the **angelic form**, (2)the **sanctified look** (3)and sanctified **gesture**, and (4)the **zeal** that is frequently manifested by him for the glory of God, together with the (5)**prophetic spirit**, the (6) **gracious influence**, the (7)**godly appearance**, and (8)the **holy garb**, which are so characteristic of his proceedings and his mysterious windings. Now, I would submit that everyone of those 8 things could easily refer to Godly things.

Mike: This whole statement is available on podcast (printed earlier here). You'll want to look at this again and again. Now, these are all talking about dark satanic things, but listen, they each could be describing something godly. So, with those 8 things, you and I don't stand a chance at detecting this evil that surrounds us day in and day out unless we have a **key, a rule and a criterion**, that we can test the spirits and try them.

Ending up this comment: "A man must have the discerning of spirits before he can drag into daylight this hellish influence and unfold it unto the world (I want you to remember this) in all its soul-destroying, diabolical, and horrid colors; for nothing is a greater injury to the children of men (this is the worst thing that can happen to men) than to be under the influence of a false spirit when they think they have the Spirit of God."

Mike: Let me show you how subtle Satan is on this. I'll go back to where he says "A man (& woman--it is not limited, as I'll point out to you tonight) must have the discerning of spirits". In the Church we use the term "the spirit of discernment" and the "gift of discernment", **but those are not scriptural terms**. Did you know that? We use them all the time in the Church, but they are not scriptural. The correct scriptural term is "discerning of spirits". Now I want you to note the subtle sophistry of the devil to divert attention away from him by simply changing word structure. Notice that "the spirit of discernment" doesn't point towards anything that is negative, whereas the "discerning of spirits" tells you that you have to have a gift to discern spirits good and bad. He has successfully buried that term "the discerning of spirits" in latter-day jargon among the members of the Church-- it's not there. In place of that we use "the gift of discernment" or "the spirit of discernment" which takes us away at a direction looking at intelligent beings and effectively keeps them in a state of anonymity. Very very subtle and a very powerful, suggestive thing. The "discerning of spirits" is one of the gifts of spirit listed in 1 Corinthians and D&C Section 46 & listed in Moroni 10. That is one of the gifts of the spirit, but we don't ever use that. So here's something as we seek for the gifts of the spirit, we should pay attention for that wording and in our prayers ask the Lord to bless us with "**the gift of discerning of spirits**". Be specific, don't ask for the gift of discernment, but call the gift by its scriptural term, and at that point we begin to shed light on this darkness that needs to be drug into the light. What did Joseph Smith say: "A man must have the discerning of spirits before he can drag into daylight this hellish influence and unfold it unto the world in all its soul-destroying, diabolical, and horrid colors".

Mike: So now we're dealing with laws. Now, a couple of things that we have in the Church that have developed over time that the B of M calls the "precepts of men"; and the D&C calls "the traditions of the fathers". We've talked about in the past what a challenge it is when God reveals himself from heaven, what a challenge it is to preserve that truth and keep it as unsullied and unadulterated as possible. It's the nature of God's truth being revealed in a telestial world, the minute that word comes into a telestial world and is found among the children of men, all the forces of Hell will do anything they can to alter it, adulterate it and change it so that loses it's original purity. That's not finding fault with anybody, that's just a fact. So, with that in mind, we go back to that scripture in 1 Nephi 11:31. When we were in the Philippines I came across an article, I was just perusing the internet, and I'll put this up. It was in an anonymous article written by a man who was a Bishop, and I'll put that up so you can see what it was that put Margi and I on this little adventure which turned out to be a great adventure. In that he talked about devils and unclean spirits and said this: "that these are 2 different, distinct groups of people. All my life as a teacher in the gospel, I had taught that these 2 words were basically referring to the same group of people. I had never thought about them as being different and distinct groups of people: a group that the Lord refers to as **devils**, and another totally separate group that the Lord refers to as **unclean**, and in some other places in the scripture: **foul** spirits--unclean and foul. So, as we started looking into this we come to find out, (then he refers to a 160 pg document--most extensive compilation--with quotes by the early Brethern on this topic) What we are trying to do is identify that there is a warfare going on and we're afflicted with it every day, and we need to learn some things and gather some information and intelligence so that we can effectively and successfully combat this evil and complete our journey back to the Father with the necessary experience and advantage for the world to come.

So, this is what we have on devils. The scriptures talk about a war in heaven and a third part--its not one-third, and that is another thing that gets changed up. No where in the scriptures does it say one-third. A third part indicates there are 3 groups, and that 3rd part could be any percentage of spirits that were cast out and they become devils. They are called sons of perdition, and this is MY OPINION: There are no women in this group. They are all men. It doesn't matter what the percentages are, it's a third part, and these men are not to have a birth, or have a body, or experience marriage, nor will they ever be the father of children. They are unembodied. Now there's a difference between unembodied and disembodied. They are unembodied. They are cast down and they are on the earth and they represent the organized supreme evil leadership that presides over all other evil that inflicts men and women in this world. The second group: unclean spirits are subject to the first group. The devils run the show. It's **my opinion** and as I have studied the gospel, one of the things that has helped me understand things and has opened up personal revelation to me, is the study and pondering on "patterns". Patterns has ended up being a powerful way for me to receive revelation from my Father in Heaven. One of the things we know about these devils, the unembodied, the third part, is that they are in a constant state of rebellion against the Father and The Son and the gift of repentance (and it is a gift, brothers and sisters) is not extended to them. This is another interesting thought that we ponder and if you read the scriptures closely, we just think that repentance is available to any body at any time and all they have to do is go out like a book on a shelf that says The Book of Repentance, reach up, grab it, open it up and access all the blessings. Repentance is a gift that is extended, because of the Atonement of Christ, is extended to mankind. THIS group do not have that gift extended to them, they cannot repent, because it's not available. Now, since they've never had a physical body, here's another thought, they don't relate to the feelings, passions, emotions and sensations associated with a physical mortal body. Now, it's important to remember that, because the second group do.

Question: about repentance, now repentance is a gift given to us because of Christ or by Christ?

Mike: In the B of M, Alma chapters 40-42 talks about the Atonement bringing about the condition of repentance. Because of the atonement there is a condition now available to men and women that w/o the atonement, doesn't exist. That condition is called the "condition of repentance". It brings about the bowels of mercy and answers the demands of justice, but it's a condition that exists because of Christ's perfect atoning sacrifice. Okay? You can read that in Alma 40-42, "the condition of repentance". And, if you will start looking along the terms "is repentance a gift that is extended to God's children?" you'll read

scriptures that all of a sudden will open up your mind, you'll be illuminated, you'll say "oh, my gosh, there it is right there!" Now lets go to this second group of people. So, the first group that have never had bodies can't relate to certain things. It's my feeling that the first group are more or less centered on power, control and captivity. The second group of people the scriptures refer to as "unclean spirits" are simply men and women who have lived in mortality, had a birth, and die in their sins, unredeemed and unchanged because of the Gospel laws and the power of the Holy Ghost and the other things that can change a man from their natural element into their sanctified element. They die in their sins. There are many degrees of that. These people who had a body understand very well and in their disembodied state still can remember their feelings, passions, desires, appetites, and the compulsions and addictions that they had in their flesh follow them into the spirit world. So Lucifer and the one-third part enlist and captivate these people and use them to torment men and women in the flesh. Truly afflictions. Now, here's some things, and you can do your own homework: when a person dies, Alma 34 says, that that same person they are here is the same person they are in the next world. You know that scripture (verse 34)

"Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world."

There is no such thing as personality changing, or huge changing just because they experience death. They remain the same person. Now, here's an interesting thing. The early Brethern taught this: that when you die, everything that describes who you are, whether good or evil, is intensified when you lay the body down. Everything is enhanced and intensified. So, if you are a man or woman of integrity and honesty, and that was an important trait for you while you were in the flesh, when you die and go into the grave, that trait/characteristic/attribute is intensified, and becomes even more so than what you were while in the flesh. Now the opposite is also true. If you were a liar, and loved and made a lie, compulsive liar, that lying spirit is intensified and you are more of a liar, and more captivated, and more prone to lie in the spirit than you did while here in the flesh. Everything is intensified, the good and the bad. It has something to do with laying the body down and finding yourself in the spirit realm. Brigham Young said, for example, "that is would be 10 times harder for a person to repent of a sin in the spirit world after death than they could have done while in the flesh. There is something about the body that act as a tool to help us in our journey, and when we lay that aside, it can either be to our betterment or to our advantage. So here's the thing I want you to remember. These unclean spirits, men and women, who have lived on the earth, now find themselves in various of captivity based on their compulsions, addictions and habits they had in life, seek to find some kind satisfaction or a release from these things by tormenting men and women still in the body in the telestial world. It appears from the things I've read that they can never completely get a full satisfaction in what they try to do, but it's enough to keep them coming back for more. I don't know how other to explain it.

From Alma 34:34 "Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world."

You have a man who has a serious pornography addiction in this life and dies with that addiction, he's going to have that same addictive behavior, desires, compulsions in an intensified state in the spirit. The only way he's going to find any relief from that is by tempting mortals still in the flesh to participate in that sin that he died in. There seems to be some kind of perverted satisfaction, almost a relief of somekind when they're successfull in that endeavor. One word that the Lord uses to describe his children in a telestial world is "warfare", used over and over again. Hence, we have all kinds of illusions about us needing to take upon ourselves protective armour.

Go with me to Section 10 in D&C. Let me show you just one example of this, and try to get a feel for what is involved here. If you want to have fun, go to the Hymnbook and just see how many hymns there are about warfare and battle. So Section 10, verse 5: Now think about what we are involved with. This verse talks about these 2 groups. Now you'll never see these 2 groups in vs. 5 of devils and unclean spirits until you have made that leap that we're talking about 2 groups; one group that is larger than the other, but subject to the first group--the third part (devils). The second group of unclean spirits is a continually growing multitude of people with the death of every man and woman who dies in their sins, that is unredeemed, w/o a knowledge of the gospel. So look at what the Lord says in vs. 5:

"Pray always, that you may come off conqueror; (think about the time we use the word conqueror--always used in a warfare situation) yea, that you may conquer (1) **Satan**, and that you may escape the hands of the (2) **servants of Satan that do uphold his work.**" (There is your 2 groups).

While I was serving in the Philippines I had an experience I want to tell you about. I don't know if it was before I found the anonymous article about devils and unclean spirits. It was early in the morning and the Lord allowed me to have a vision of these devils. I saw them. They were all men. I watched them and heard their voices. I saw what they were doing to human beings or what they wanted to do to them. The worst Hollywood movie that you could think of didn't hold a candle to what I saw in that vision. It made me so upset, it tramitized me. I was a witness of what these brutal men either were doing or would like to be doing to Father's children who are in the telestial world in a mortal probation. I woke up, watched this, then went back to sleep or went in to a vision and saw it a second time. I happened to me 3 times, and it was so tramatic that I didn't get over it for weeks. I was able to see who these people are and what they want to do for us. This was either before or after we found the internet article. The point was it set our feet on something I've never forgot and I have no illusions about what the warfare is and what the enemy is doing out there. I think this vision was seen by many people in the early history of the

Church and it just points out the warfare we're involved in. Now, they do not want to be exposed. We're almost out of time tonight, so here's the point of tonight's lesson and what we'll do is continue this a little bit further because I have all kinds of different things to share with you. These beings are subject to certain law. For example, if you are to come into contact with of these and command them, they may want to know by what authority you make that command. And that authority is simply this: that authority is embodied in the name of Jesus Christ. that is the authority necessary. It's interesting in the scriptures when the Savior called The Twelve in America and the New Testament era and sent them out, He said, and "these signs shall follow them that believe". And the first thing he mentioned was "in My name they shall cast out devils". (Mark 16:17) That was the very first thing mentioned. Then he goes on to say "heal the sick, take up serpents, etc. But it's interesting that the first thing mentioned that those who have bodies, in the name of Christ, and through their belief, would have power to cast out devils. (A student said she had experience with that)

Mike: there's also a sign you can use by raising your right arm to the square, it's a power sign, and you can do your homework on that sign, there's plenty of information on it. There's great symbolism that connects you with heaven when the right arm is raised to the square. Men and women can use that sign and command these devils and unclean spirits and they have to obey. That is one of the Priesthood laws that the Prophet Joseph Smith was talking about when he said: "we have knowledge of these things, and we can not only bless our lives, but also be the instrument in blessing the lives of many other people."

Question: Why do they have to obey, seeing that they are ???... Mike: good question Marco. There are certain laws and signs and tokens set up in heaven that were foreordained before the foundation of the world so that there can be a certain order in chaos. Now, in the telestial world there is a world of entripy and chaos. The only order in this world comes because of ordinances. The root word of ordinances is "order". Elder Packer taught this. So in order for there to be any kind of order in a world that thrives on disarray and disorder, there has to be laws in place. Once you discover these laws you can help God's children bring order to an otherwise disorganized, chaotic life. That's the purpose of what we're talking about.

Go to Section 123:7 in D&C and let me show you a little scripture that relates to this in a way.

"7 It is an imperative duty that we owe to God, to angels, with whom we shall be brought to stand, and also to ourselves, to our wives and children, who have been made to bow down with grief, sorrow, and care, under the most damning hand of murder, tyranny, and oppression, supported and urged on and upheld by the influence of that spirit which hath so strongly riveted the creeds of the fathers, who have inherited lies, upon the hearts of the children, and filled the world with confusion, and has been growing stronger and stronger, and is now the very **mainspring of all corruption**, and the whole earth groans under the weight of its iniquity."

Think about is term: "mainspring of all corruption". Think about all the corruption in a telestial world. The mainspring of all corruption are the false traditions of the fathers who passed those traditions on to their children. In vs. 7 it talks about the children who "have inherited lies" from their fathers. "Fills the world with confusion...and the whole earth groans under the weight of its iniquity." Verse 8 It (meaning the false traditions of the fathers) is an iron yoke, it is a strong band; they are the very handcuffs, and chains, and shackles, and fetters of hell.

Now skip up to vs. 11: "And also it is an imperative duty that we owe to all the rising generation, and to all the pure in heart—" (and I would submit that what we are doing here tonight is we're exercising the beginnings of something the Lord calls our imperative duty; look at vs 12) "For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it—" (now, this right here--vs. 13) "Therefore, that **we should waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness, wherein we know them**; and they are truly manifest from heaven—" Now, if you go down to your footnote 13b where it talks about "hidden things of darkness" you can see where it says "secret combinations".

I want to tell you that what we are talking about here tonight is the ultimate secret combination. It's a group of people who have combined to destroy the souls of men and to keep it as secret and anonymous as they possibly can so that in the midst of the destruction when souls are perishing, they point in a completely different direction at the cost of their very destruction. What a huge success this is, so in vs. 13 the Lord says that we should waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness. These should be attended to with great earnestness, and that's what we are trying to do here brothers and sisters, is to begin a dialog that we will begin to drag into the daylight all of this hellish combination that surrounds us that is afflicting people continually, and they do not know what's going on. They are completely in the dark.

Marti and I have had the opportunity many many times now since the Philippines to have this discussion with people on a one on one basis. We've started to talk about these things. As we've talked about these groups of organized intelligent beings, and people start to feel the spirit of that, it starts to resinate with them, and to distill upon them, for them to know that it's true. We teach the concepts and principles, and then the Holy Ghost starts to distill upon people. We have people who will start to say things like this: "You mean I'm not crazy?" I can't tell you how many times this happens brothers and sisters. Some of the common things that are going on with an afflicted person don't want to talk about it because they literally think there's an imbalance. They think there is something wrong with them...they're bi-polar or schizophrenic or something like that, and they think that people will think badly of them, and they don't want people to think badly of them. So, when we start to say this isn't you, there is nothing you are doing here that's wrong. You're being afflicted by organized dark intelligence. It's almost like you can see a huge burden that's being lifted off their shoulder, when they start now to have exposed to the daylight this combination that's been afflicting them. It's been such an interesting to watch that in people. "I thought that I was crazy!" they

say. And some of the things they have in common that they hear, is they hear noise, they hear voices. The word that they use to describe is chatter. This is the word that we hear over and over. Most of the time it's unintelligible. It's just human background human voices, male and female, but they can't really decipher what is being said. In some cases they'll see shadow beings. They'll see dark shadows and different things like that.

So, when we start to talk about this, it's a great liberating doctrine for so many people. And, once you start to be informed on this, tonight this is an introduction to this subject, to introduce you to a concept that hopefully the spirit will persuade you to want to continue to look into. Now, don't do this, there's an old falsehood in the Church, and I can tell you where it's origin comes from, and the paper I'm going to put forward for you to look at, has that origin. The origin says we shouldn't talk about them, because if we talk about them then we'll invite them into our presence. You don't have to invite them, they're already here. You're surrounded day in and day out. This isn't a question of something being away from you that if you start to talk about it, it's going to bring it into your proximity. You are surrounded day in and day out by these personages. They're here, they're not on another planet. They are here in a different dimension. There are people listening to this talk tonight. There are people who are listening to and observing this. Question or comment?

Student: Mike, I think what happens a lot of times is they create fear in your mind, in fact that very thing you talked about: "not to talk about it" and that is, in my experience is the very thing that keeps us from this truth, and they torment you by making you fear talking about it or looking into it in your own life and seeing how you have been tormented by these types of things, so I think the big thing is fear. I know when I feel fear, I know exactly what's going on in my life.

Mike: Well said. Can I end tonight's class with 3 quotes from the Prophet Joseph Smith that point to the concept of "knowledge"? If you like these quotes, I can put them up for you also.

The Prophet J. S. said, "Knowledge is necessary to life and godliness. Woe unto you priests and divines who preach that knowledge is not necessary unto life and salvation. Take away the apostles, etc., take away knowledge, and you will find yourselves worthy of the damnation of hell. Knowledge is revelation. Hear all ye brethren, this grand key: knowledge is the power of God unto salvation."

One other quote: "As far as we degenerate from God, we descend to the devil and lose knowledge, and without knowledge we cannot be saved. While our hearts are filled with evil, and we are studying evil, there is no room in our hearts for good, or studying good. Is not God good? Then you be good. If He be faithful, then you be faithful. Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, and seek for every good thing."

And then this one here, this last quote pertains exactly to what we have been talking about tonight. And the devil knows this truth that I am going to read to you right now, and he wants to keep this from you. The Prophet said, "A man/(woman) is saved no faster than he gets knowledge, for if he does not get knowledge, he will be brought into captivity by some evil power in the other world (why?) as evil spirits will have more knowledge and consequently more power than many men who are on the earth."

Mike: How are you going to overcome evil in the world to come if you haven't learned the laws, the keys, the tests, the measurements, and the laws of the holy Priesthood that govern all spirits, good and evil? How are you going to have an ascendancy over these people and not be brought into captivity if you don't learn everything you can in this life? We should have an advantage in the world to come. These evil spirits, the last thing, let me testify to you, from what I've seen, and what I know, the last thing they want you to do is to learn about them and the laws that govern them. That's the last thing they want. Well, that's the beginning, I've got lots more to share with you, I'll put some papers up and some things for you to look at next week. Some of the things we believe and teach are not quite the way it is. We teach that the devil can have no power over children, and that's not true. He cannot tempt them, but he can afflict them. One of the classic stories is the father who brought the little boy tormented by evil spirits and the apostles tried to cast out the evil spirits and they couldn't do it, so the father brings the little boy to the Savior. The Savior asks "how long has he been like this?" and the father said "from childhood". The Greek on the word "child"(the Hebrew and Aramaic takes it back) means baby/infant. So interesting things, even though children are not tempted and not accountable before age 8, they certainly can be afflicted. So we've got some things to learn, and I would say do your study and homework on this and this is what will happen to you: the more you learn about this, the Lord will slowly begin to open up a ministry for you so that He can use you and the knowledge you have to bless the lives of men and women who are afflicted with devils and unclean spirits. You will be a blessing in their lives. In closing, I'll just say that when we were in the Philippines and came across that article I was just confounded. I had taught in the Church for so many years in classrooms and had not seen the difference between devils and unclean spirits. I just thought it was one group being described.

(to look at the 160 pg document, go to this link, and look under lesson 017 Devils and Unclean Spirits:
<http://mstroud.podomatic.com/>)