

Devils and Unclean Spirits Part 2 Mike Stroud (transcribed by Carol Crisp)

Tonight we are going to continue our discussion of Devils & Unclean Spirits. That's distasteful for some people. We have this image we put with last week's lesson and Margie said that's spooky, but I think it is appropriate for what we are trying to do here. I've had several comments on our discussion from last week and one of the main questions that comes up, I've heard it 3 times this week, is "why don't we talk about it more?" "Why isn't this subject discussed?" Although I don't have an answer for that, I did mention last week that in the early days of the Church, up to the 1890's, it was a topic of general discussion in conferences, priesthood quorums and different places. From 1890 it started to wane and by 1930, it's almost non-existent. I think one of the reasons for that is, and again, I'm not finding fault with anybody, I don't want to do that, but as I ponder why we don't discuss something which Joseph Smith and the founding brethren of the Church talked about so expressly, and so much, is that we have allowed this to kind of slip away. Some false traditions have taken the place of what was once considered very important doctrine.

Over in Section 123 of D&C the Lord says that the mainspring of all corruption (now, think about that for just a minute), the mainspring, the fountain, the origin of all corruption in the world, is what He calls "the traditions of the fathers" and how the children inherit lies from the fathers. So, these traditions that are passed on to the children go from generation to generation until they take on the appearance of truth. What was originally truth is supplanted by these false traditions. The Book of Mormon calls these the precepts of men. The temple refers to them as the "philosophies of men mingled with scripture". Satan has been very subtle in this process of hiding his tactics and strategies and the way he promotes this warfare. So, last week a comment was made that one of the things that stuck out in your mind most about what we said last week was "the desire and ability of these unclean spirits to remain anonymous is their great power source. Their anonymity gives them power".

The Book of Mormon talks about it in 2 Nephi when Nephi is talking about the tactics of the devil in the last days. He said the day would come when people would say, "there is no devil and I am not a devil. There is no devil, and they would actually deny that."

In that article I gave you last week (160 pgs long on devils and unclean spirits), the statistic that came out was somewhere around 59% of the membership of the Church do not believe there is an active conspiracy involved in captivating the souls of men by organized evil. 59% of the members of the Church! They believe in a devil, but don't believe that there is active warfare where he is conspiring to captivate and control them.

Student: That's odd. Why would he be there if he doesn't do anything, right? Mike: Right.

So, you know he's been very successful and the very definition of a secret combination, you can tell when a secret combination is at its most effective, is when people believe there is no secret combination, while that very combination is destroying them spiritually and physically, the people say it doesn't exist. That's an example of where it's at its most deadly and where it is working well. It's the same thing with this doctrine of devils and unclean spirits. One of the false traditions that we talk about is, "we should not discuss these things, because in discussing these things, it provides an invitation for them to come into your life and cause you problems". That's a false doctrine because you're in hell right now! All celestial worlds are hell places. Now, I don't mean that in the term of Christian world hell--places that are forever burning and never consumed--all that garbage! Hell is a place where evil spirits dwell. They are here. They are in the celestial world and these groups of evil spirits and unclean spirits provide a very critical, crucial opposition for the sons and daughters of God, necessary for them to progress and become like Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ, to become "saved" men and women. You can't do it without devils. Did you know that? There is no way you can become a god without active opposition from a devil. It just can't happen. So here we are in this place, and we're surrounded by them, and they are trying their best to remain anonymous, hidden; and as we talk about these kinds of things and we bring them to light, that's one thing that they really would rather not happen. They would rather remain in this anonymous condition to do their work behind the scenes, and even as it were, blame it on something else. They blame their work on man's physical body. They may say, "well, your body is inherently evil, or that man is inherently evil". That's a very subtle doctrine since man's body was created by God, and if you believe that principle, then it's God's

fault that you're evil. It removes all personal responsibility from you and puts it on God, for you doing what you do, because your body was made by Him. You see that subtle doctrine that slips in there? In reality, Pres. Boyd K Packer said that "the physical body is the instrument of the spirit". Now, it is true that our physical body in the telestial world has weaknesses in it. These weaknesses have to do with mortality. But, by and large, the body responds to the spirit. For years and years I taught it differently. I taught that the spirit was imprinted with what the body did, and I have since changed my feelings on that. But, the body is pretty much obedient to whatever the spirit wants it to do. That ties with President Packer's comment when he said that the body is the instrument of the spirit. Now, it's true that the body can have an effect on the spirit, both for good and for evil. But, by and large, we know that the body w/o the spirit in it does nothing. Take that spirit out, and it's inanimate. So as the spirit overcomes and becomes godlike, and the power of the Holy Ghost is sanctified, the body will reflect that sanctification. Likewise, the opposite is also true, that if the spirit makes choices which lead it away toward captivity and towards misery, then the body will reflect that captivity and that misery. So, what we're striving to do here is to, in this world, to have the body become supreme and rule in righteousness and subject the body to the spirit. Then the spirit becomes supreme, not the body. And have the body become subject to the spirit.

I want to look at some scriptures tonight. Let's go over to 2 Nephi 2:27. "Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, **according to the captivity and power of the devil**; (remember that phrase right there) for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself."

28: "And now, my sons, I would that ye should look to the great Mediator, and hearken unto his great commandments; and be faithful unto his words, and choose eternal life, according to the will of his Holy Spirit;" Mike: and this part right here:

29 "**And not choose eternal death**, according to the will of the flesh and the evil which is therein, which giveth the spirit of the devil power to captivate, to bring you down to hell, that he may reign over you in his own kingdom." Now, it's not the body making a choice here. These choices are not physical. These choices are being made by the spirit. Remember that the body, in and of itself, is an instrument of the spirit. The body either acts according to what the spirit does, or is acted upon, according to what the spirit does. The spirit is the controlling center of activity and agency in all of God's children. Now look, it says in vs. 29: "And not choose eternal death, according to the will of the flesh and the evil which is therein," see, there's some weaknesses there that the devil uses; "which giveth the spirit of the devil **power to captivate**, to bring you down to hell, that he may reign over you in his own kingdom."

Whatever choices we make, is either going to be a choice towards light, or a choice towards darkness, and your spirit and body will descend to and reflect those choices. So, when a person has become addicted, lets say, to pornography, that is the major sin of our day that is captivating the Melchizedek Priesthood in the Church. A huge, major problem. When you make a choice to view that, it's your spirit that chooses. And then with the weaknesses of the flesh that are inherent in our body because it's made up of the same elements of the telestial world; that choice to go against light, and the weaknesses in the body lead towards captivity and death, and that's what Nephi is talking about.

On the other side, when you make a choice towards light, then your body also responds to that, and the physical weaknesses inherent in the telestial world are changed and burned out. The result of that is called sanctification. That's the process that that goes through. It's called "the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost". So either you can descend to a devil or you can ascend to a state of righteousness that qualifies you for all the gifts and blessings of the gospel in this life, and it's your spirit that makes that choice. Now, when you die and you lay your body down, the body in and of itself, does nothing but deteriorate back into earthly element. Again, the body is the instrument of the spirit. It can either help sanctify the spirit, or it can help lead the spirit into a captive, destructive state, either/or. Brother Packer: "the body is the instrument of the spirit." He was told that in his patriarchial blessing and taught that doctrine all his life. That's where that comes from. If you google that quote of his, you can find it by B.K. Packer. Now, here's another thing that Bro. Packer taught at least the last 10 years of his life: "All persons with bodies have power over those

without bodies. The devil has no power over us only as we permit him. The moment we revolt at anything which comes from God, the devil takes power". Even sons of perdition who resurrect with physical bodies will have power over devils who have never received a body nor a resurrection.

So, physical bodies in all statuses from devils to gods how power over beings who do not have physical bodies. That's important to remember too, as we discuss this tonight. So, as we talked about last week, the interesting that happens is that when you lay the body down, the good characteristics and attributes that you've developed through your mortal life, when the body goes down, those characteristics and attributes follow you into the next world, and, this is the important part: they are intensified and enhanced. That's an important thing to remember. You're the same person you were here, as you are there, but an enhanced and intensified state of both good and bad. This is one reason why Brigham Young taught that it is 10 times harder for a person who dies in their sins to repent in the spirit world than it is when you have a mortal body in the telestial world. Because when you lay that body down, and have died in your sins, your sins are intensified and enhanced: your addictions, your compulsions, everything is intensified, hence, it is harder for that person to obtain a state of grace in the spirit than it would have in the physical body if they had repented. So, that's good things to remember there. Everything is intensified, everything is enhanced, both the good and the evil. So, if you're an honorable, charitable person, who's filled with love and good will; if you have the gifts of the spirit with you when you died, those go with you into the next world, and are intensified and enhanced, and give you an advantage in the next world. Remember that we're always progressing from one estate, one existence, into another. And, what you want to do when you leave one place and go to another, is you want to go there with an advantage. You don't want to go into the next world disadvantaged. This is why the Lord says whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. "If a man/woman gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through their diligence and obedience than another, they will have so much the advantage in the world to come." That's a great scripture, that's Section 130 in D&C.

So, as we talked about last week, we have 2 groups. We have a static group that's not increasing in number, and that's the "third part" that were cast out, not to have bodies and have no relative experience with what it's like to have a physical body in the telestial world. Everything that they can relate to has to be an abstract, has to be something they view in others that they cannot relate to in themselves because they've never had a body and they never will--they're denied a birth; that's the third part. However, there's a growing group of people called unclean or foul spirits. Those are men and women who died in their sins and are taken captive as they pass into the spirit world by that same spirit that had an influence while they were alive when they find themselves now in that spirit world. To one degree or another, and it's not all the same, but they are in a state of captivity, needing some deliverance.

Let's look at a couple of scriptures. Let's go on over to Ephesians 2:1-2 in the N.T. for just a minute. It gives us an interesting little statement about Lucifer. This verse refers to the devil as the prince of the power of the air. Paul says this: 1. "And you hath he quickened," (Now, quickening is an interesting word. Quickening is one of the ways that persons that are dead are brought back to life. Quickening is not the same as resurrection.)

"who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2. Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." Ephesians 2:2 refers to one of the titles of Satan as the prince of the power of the air. Now, without going into any details we could expect to see miraculous things take place in what we call the air, the atmosphere, the area above the earth.

I'm going to read to you some things here, just kind of tuck that aside. Remember that when Christ prepares to come at His second coming, some of His signs that will appear prior to the 2nd coming take place in the heavens and in the atmosphere above the earth. One of them is called "the sign of the coming of the Son of Man". Joseph said it will be a universal sign that everybody on the earth sees at once. Many people will think that it's a comet or some planet moving

into our planetary space. You'll be able to see it. Now remember that for everything that God does, everything he does, Satan has his counterfeits and there's an opposition in everything that God does. So, if God is going to show signs in the air and in the heavens that point toward the second coming of His Son, you will see signs in the heavens and in the air, counterfeit signs that come from the dark side that will try and deceive you into thinking that they are coming from Christ. You will see that.

This last week, interestingly enough, starting on the 27th of May, and going for the last 3 days, a sign was in the heaven that the Hopi Indians the Kachina Blue Star. Now, whether you believe this or not the point here. The point is, there is a sign that the Hopi Indian Tribe has seen. You can google this and look up the "Kachina Blue Star", and it was seen in various places around the earth: US, Asia, South Seas, and in Europe. They photographed it, and it is a blue planet. Now, according to Hopi tradition, this is the 9th sign in a series of signs, according to the Hopi religion, which indicates the cleansing of the earth by cataclysmic events. Now, I'm not saying it's true, and I'm not saying it's false. I'm saying: here's signs in the air. You and I need to develop this gift of discerning of spirits, so that when these happen, we can discern the true signs that come for our Heavenly Father and his Christ, and the false signs that come from the prince over the power of the air that will be so closely aligned to Father and Christ's signs that you will knowledge and Priesthood power and revelation to discern the difference. That's how close it's going to be.

Let's go to Luke 4:6 and look at another one. ("And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.") God has given Satan power over the riches of the earth. I remember when I was a missionary in Germany, the most famous play was about a man named Faust. He was a man who sold his soul to the devil for the wealth and riches of the earth. I'd never heard of that before and I thought, "is that possible to do that; is it possible for you to enter into a covenant with the devil, and does he have the power to bestow the wealth and riches of the earth"? So, are there actual people out there who have become fantastically wealthy by selling their souls to the devil? The answer is yes.

Now let's go to Luke 4:5-7 ("5.And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6.And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.7.If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.") Now, this is Luke's account of the temptation of the devil where Jesus fasted 40 days, and look at vs. 5. Here's a Joseph Smith thing here: "And the spirit taketh Him up onto a high mountain and he beheld all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time."

"6.And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, (Mike: all the kingdoms of the world) and the glory of them: for that (the ability to give it) is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it."

So there seems to be an indicator in there that he has power to bestow the wealth, treasures, prestige and honors of men. He seems to be doing a pretty good job of that because out of Sec 121: D&C the Lord says this: "34:Behold, many are called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen? (then he gives 2 reasons) "35:Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world (#1), and (#2) aspire to the honors of men, (because of those 2 things, they do not learn this) that they do not learn this one lesson". (That the rights of the Priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven.)

I'm going to give you another thing later on tonight to show you that Lucifer in our day has been given certain powers, quite unlike what he's had in the past. He's always had his witches, soothsayers, sorcerers, magicians, etc. The greatest example was in Egypt where the Pharaoh had his magicians: Jannes and Jambres, and how they duplicated fantastic miracles. They were able to turn water into blood. They had power over elements. They were able to turn staves into snakes. And it was only because a prophet of God was there with the power of discerning of spirits and God backing him up that the miracles of these dark magicians exposing them for what they were--coming from the dark side of things. You're going to see more of that. I am going to prophecy and say that we will see a lot more of that to come,

than what was ever shown before. If we have not prepared ourselves by seeking for and obtaining these marvelous gifts of the spirit, I don't how we'll be able to come through the deception that's facing us.

Let's go to Luke 13:16. If you read in that document I sent you, the brethren taught a lot that Satan has power to cause people to be sick. One of the things that I have learned through my studies and personal experiences: one of the signs of having sicknesses induced by dark spirits is vomiting. The Prophet Joseph Smith was attacked by an evil spirit and he vomited so violently that he dislocated his jaw. He had to put his jaw back in place with his own hands before he could administer to another priesthood leader who was ill and afflicted. Once you start learning these doctrines, then you'll start to see this. Look at this little pearl in Luke 13:16: (This was a woman who was brought to Him to be healed.) "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?"

What was her infirmity? You look back to vs. 11: "And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. 12.: "And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity." He put his hands on her and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And back to vs. 16: Satan hath bound her these 18 years!

If you read that document I put there, you will read that the early brethren like Brigham Young, Heber C Kimball, George Q Cannon, Jedediah M Grant--they specifically pointed towards certain infirmities. They said that rheumatoid arthritis and pains and being bound in the back and in the spine and across the shoulders and up the neck; they didn't say all the time, but many times these are "bindings" like this woman from Luke that Christ healed are caused by unclean spirits and devils. If we have that "discerning of spirits" we can see this the way the Lord wants us to, discern what it is, and take appropriate action.

Lets go to Mark 9:17. This is probably my favorite story. This is referred to in all the Gospels, but this is the one giving most detail. Starting in vs. 17: "And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; (How are we to interpret that? In our day, dumb means you can't speak) 18.And wheresoever he (the spirit) taketh him (my son), he teareth him (look at the footnote: Greek=dashes on the ground, convulses, lacerates) and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. (This is a pretty sorry looking situation, isn't it?) 19.He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. 20.And they brought him unto him: and when he (the child-the spirit in him) saw him (Christ), straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming."

What's the lesson we can learn here? These spirits knew Christ. You'll find out, and I had an experience this week in casting out some unclean spirits. The person who came to me had to be brought here with a friend, because the spirits that were in her were trying to everything they could to keep her from coming here. They know when a person is blessed by the Lord with a gift to help deliver them.

"21. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he (the father) said, Of a child." Now the Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew on that translates child as an infant/baby. Now this also changes us and the way we think about things because in the Church we say that Satan has no power over children. Actually, the scriptures say he cannot temp children and they are not accountable until age 8, as revealed in D&C 68. But, it doesn't say they can't be afflicted, and here's an example of a child being afflicted for many, many years.

"22.And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. 23.Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. 24.And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Interesting, I wish we had the rest of the story there, what took place between "I believe" and "help thou

mine unbelief". Was there a conversation there? A look? Did the Savior look at him a certain way? But something happened where the father said I don't know if I have what it takes here to be part of this. "25. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, (that's an identifier that the spirit has had a birth and has lived on the earth and died in their unsaved, unclean condition. It is not a devil) saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him." This is the only place in all the scriptures where an unclean spirit or devil has been cast out and the Lord said "don't come back". "26. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, he is dead." 27. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. 28. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? 29. And he said unto them, This kind (there are all kinds of degrees of these spirits) can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."

I want to share with you an experience that Margie had shortly after coming back from the Philippines. We had been learning these things, I was teaching there, but as of yet, it had no practical application. It was just intense gathering of knowledge. When we came home, we were here a few weeks, and my wife said, "we need to go Sister XXX". I'd been her home teacher in years past, and since we had been home from the Philippines, we hadn't been over there. We went to see her. The first thing she did, after embracing, she got very emotional and teary eyed and said, "I have been praying for months and months that the Lord would send you here to help me. You're the only one I know of that can help me." Come to find out, she had been troubled for months and months by some spirits. She could hear them talk and carry on conversations, and she could hear them. It wasn't all intelligible, but she could hear them enough to tell that they were talking about her in her presence. There was a conversation going on that she could hear. She was a feisty lady. She'd get angry and tell them to quit talking about her in her presence, as though I wasn't here. I said, "If you can understand them, will do me a favor? Will you start to keep a log and write down everything they're saying?" Now, I've since found out that people who are afflicted by spirits, all of them hear something. Most of the time it's not intelligible. Most of the time it's what they refer to as "chatter". Sometimes they see things, almost all the time they hear noises, sometimes they see shadows, sometimes they catch things moving from one place to another. The point is, there's nothing "Hollywood spooky" about all of this. You're dealing with people, very real people, alive people who just live in another dimension, and sometimes that dimension, that veil, can become very thin if the Lord allows it for His purposes, which are always wise.

So, back to this lady. We performed an ordinance, using the Priesthood, in the name of Christ, and cleansed her house. We told any unclean, dark, foul spirits or devils to leave those premises, that they weren't welcome there. They were intruders and trespassers and they needed to leave. Then I laid hands on her head and gave her a blessing, and said the same thing, rebuking these spirits, and in the name of Christ, commanded them to leave. This had some short term success. When I'd go back, she'd say, "yes, I noticed some difference, but it seemed like they would come back." Some of these spirits were threatening her to have me stay away, saying things like, "You call him over to help you again, you think you've been miserable before, well, you haven't seen anything yet. Unless you tell him to stay away, we will double and triple our efforts on you and you will be more miserable than you have ever been before." And, they would threaten her, but like I said, she's feisty, and it didn't matter. We went back maybe 3-4 times doing the same things, with only limited success, until one time I said to my wife as we left, "Gosh, maybe this isn't spirits after all, maybe she's suffering a mental breakdown". People had told her she was in the beginning of Alzheimers. They wanted to commit her and nobody believed what she said. At this one point, after about 4 episodes, I started to doubt myself. That same afternoon, or the next day, I was tilling in my garden. This story in Mark came to my mind. The Lord brought that story in Mark that we were just discussing. "This kind goeth not out except by fasting and by prayer." I went in and talked to Margie and said, "we need to go on a fast". I know this was on a Saturday, and we started fasting and made an appointment to go see this lady the next day before we broke our fast. We told her we were doing this fast. The next day we went over there in the spirit of fasting and prayer, and did the same thing we'd done 4 or 5 times before. I laid my hands on her head, commanded these spirits to leave, in the name of Jesus Christ. They left and never came back. She died a couple years later delivered from this awful thing

that had been tormenting her so much.

They have to obey certain laws, and in the temple they ask the question, "By what authority?" and the authority is In the name of Jesus Christ. A right arm to the square and invoking the name of Jesus Christ is a powerful sign and a name that causes spirits to obey by law, unless there are other circumstances involved that require Priesthood power, fasting and prayer. Priesthood power and fasting and prayer are additional sources to break loose particularly stubborn people who, for whatever reason, have the power to resist an ordinary command and it takes additional signs and authority to break them loose.

It's over in Matthew 11, I think, but you can look at it. In the middle of the Savior giving parables, he talks about an unclean spirit being cast out of a person. This is just in the middle of nowhere. It has nothing to do with the verses that precede it or that follow it. I think it's the 11th chap. of Matthew. Then, it says that the spirit, after it is cast out of its house (which is the body it illegally has stolen and possessed) it goeth to and fro about the earth, it returns to its house and finds the house swept clean and garnished, and taketh with it 7 other unclean spirits. They enter into this house & the latter fate is worse than the first. It makes you wonder why the Lord, in the middle of these parables, sticks this interesting little thing in there. The thing to be learned is this, this is what I've learned from this, and I've since found out it's true because I've done this now, multiple times: if you excuse, cast out, expel, invite to leave; and those are all words you use, depending on the spirits you are dealing with; remember that devils cannot repent. We talked about that last week. The third part do not have the gift of repenteth offered to them. They need to just be expelled and cast out. The other group of unclean spirits may also be expelled and cast out, but remember this: they had a physical body in a telestial world and are still subject to the ability to repent, access the power of the atonement, and find deliverance and peace. They can escape the employ of the third part. If you have the discerning of spirits, and the Lord tells you, in the midst of blessing a person who is afflicted, if the spirit whispers to do so, you can invite those spirits that you're addressing to repent and turn to the Savior. You can talk to them through the blessing you're giving this person, and remind them that "you have been deceived. Satan has deceived you again in the spirit world like he did when you were in life. You do not need to remain here." You can look around, and usually when you are directed to add this to your blessing, there will be a messenger from the Lord, who is prepared to receive that spirit, if they will turn to him and repent. So, it's an interesting way of doing missionary work like we do in this life. We try to find people who will turn from their deceived course, listen to the missionaries, pray about the Book of Mormon and the message of the restoration, enter into a covenant, and, begin newness of life. Sometimes you can do that same thing with those who are on the other side of the veil. I testify from personal experience that it's possible for you to turn a key in their behalf through the blessing. Keep in mind, you're blessing a mortal here who's afflicted. You can speak to that spirit who's intruding, who's causing the affliction, and if the spirit's right, you can get them to go to the Lord, repent, and be delivered from Satan's captivity. Isn't that fascinating? It's a possibility. I had that opportunity where the Lord prompted me, but not every time, to talk to the person (spirit). Do I see them? No. Do I hear their conversations? No, even though some do. I've not developed that gift to that extent. So, I'm simply following the promptings that come, ever so subtly in the thoughts in my mind and feelings in my heart, and trying to be obedient to those things. They come as you have your hands on the head of the person who is seeking for a blessing.

Now we can expect, brothers and sisters, as we kind of wind down the class tonight, this last week I had an opportunity to give a blessing to a lady who was sorely possessed; and her friend brought her to our house. It was probably one of the most dramatic times I've had of doing this. I anointed her head with oil, and then she became very physically active, to the point that as I laid my hands upon her head, I didn't think she was going to remain in the chair. The spirit that was in her, I had the feeling was an unclean spirit, and not a devil, and a very active one. It was one who did not want her to be there participating in this. All through this blessing I gave her, she was highly physically agitated to the point that I didn't know if she was going to be able to remain on that chair or not. As we closed the blessing, the activity didn't seem to settle down, and I was a little bit concerned that I was through with the blessing, the ordinance, and yet, she remained still agitated to a form that I started to doubt that we were going to be able to have the results we wanted. Then the Spirit speaks and says "Do this...." And I did that, and then the Spirit said "Do this..." and I did that. Then the Spirit said, "say this word..." and I did that, and you could see that the Spirit of the Lord replaced this unclean

spirit, and this peace washed through her. You could feel her whole body relax. All the tension left. All the agitation left until there was just total peace and serenity. I was so grateful that the Lord had blessed her. In that blessing we also invited angels to come in, and the spirits of just men made perfect. You see, that little thing back there in Matthew, when one spirit is cast out and he comes back with 7 others with him, and the fate of the latter was worse than the former. You cannot leave an open place here. That's why the Savior said in this one instance, "and come not again unto him."

One of the things I've learned through this is that you need to invite light and power from God to fill the place where darkness and confusion was. Here's something else to remember. These devils and unclean spirits have no respect, no reverence at all, for the agency of man. They are truly intruders, interlopers, trespassers. They are loud and fast. Are always in a hurry. There is nothing slow or peaceful about them. Everything is in a hurry. Everything is loud. The opposite spirit comes from the Lord. So, the spirits of good people, angels, spirits of just men made perfect, deceased departed ancestors, especially those who are endowed, family members, need to be invited and given permission to come in and help you. They have absolute respect and absolute reverence for the agency of man. To access their light, power and peace and serenity and strength, they need to be invited and given permission to do that. These are things that I have learned, whereas the others come uninvited and intrude. The spirits of the just, the spirits of the righteous, there's a serenity and peace that accompanies them, where as the others are confusion, chaos, everything's in a hurry, everything's loud. You can discern the difference. What a marvelous blessing it was to see this sister's faith answered for asking for a blessing, and to see deliverance given to her because of her faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ. What a privilege it was to participate in that.

Now, let me share with you one last thing. It was written by John Taylor.

Student: can I ask you a question? Mike: yes Student: did you have another priesthood holder with you when administered the oil? Mike: I gave her 2 blessings, one earlier in the week, and that helped. And, then, 3 days later she came back. I had a person to help me in the first blessing. Where possible, when we do this, it's good to have a quorum. This is another thing I've learned. The smallest priesthood quorum is 3 men. then quorums go in odd numbers: 3,5,7,9 and 12. The smallest quorum is 3. If I can, and have the time, I like to be able to fast and invite 2 other men who've been instructed in this, and have some knowledge in it, so they can add their faith. That becomes a very powerful thing. She called that morning and needed that blessing. Her friend called for her and says, "she needs a blessing, can you come? and I said "sure", so, I didn't have anybody on the second time around. I've also learned that you need to anoint with oil. In this blessing that I gave this lady, the Lord revealed to me the following term, through the spirit, these terms: "the oil of gladness" and one other term that talked about that oil, and I have since found out that they are scriptural terms that I had not known. This oil is a powerful symbol of deliverance. Oil always represents the Holy Ghost. In reality, if we do anything, it's not us, as men; it simply that as we try to be clean, we access the power of the Lord. He can work through us. In answer to your question: it was just me the 2nd time, but I did have 2 women in the room who have tremendous faith, and both of them understand these principles, so that was a great boon.

This is an article that was written in the Church newspaper April 30, 1853, in the Millennial Star. Keep in mind, the Church was in Utah, and I believe this is the newspaper that was printed in England. This article was attributed to John Taylor, who was the Editor In Chief of the Church newspaper. I just want to read certain parts of it. Now, this article is called "The Coming Crisis and How to Meet It". It will be with this weeks lesson so you can read it. It is well worth reading. I just want to read a few short little parts.

"A great and awful crisis is at hand. Such a crisis as was never known before since the foundation of the world." (Now, that should get our attention--written in 1853)"Perhaps you will not be disappointed if I tell you the time is coming and now is, when not only God, the highest of all, shall be revealed in spirit and mighty power, but the devil or Satan also will be revealed in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. This, reader, is the great key to all the marvelous events that are to transpire shortly upon the earth." (Mike: So what Bro Taylor is giving us now is a great key to understanding

what's happening in our day.) Now, just stop right there and pause and mark emphatically this "key". Then you and I will proceed to unlock the mysteries and prepare ourselves to the battle, for there will be no "neutrals" in the approaching controversy. I say again, that God, the highest of all, will make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations, and the heavens even will be rent, and lightening down and liking down of His power will be felt by all nations. But this is not all. Satan will be revealed. (Mike: I want to testify to you that I'm seeing that Satan is being more revealed, being more obvious and less anonymous than ever before, and it's just the beginning.) "He has made some manifestations of his power in different periods of the world, but never before has there been such an array of numbers on his side. Never before such a consolidation of armies and rulers. Never before has there been such an imposing and overwhelming exhibition of miracles as Satan will shortly make manifest. Don't suppose for a moment that I'm uttering dark sayings or speaking unadvisedly upon speculation or the strength of mere human opinion. Don't tell me about popes and prelates sitting in the temple of God, as God. (That's in I Thessalonians) One far greater than any pope or prelate is soon to be revealed, and he will claim to be worshipped as God. Now, remember that this is no modern wicked man that is going to claim divine honors. No, it is the old serpent, the devil. He it is will head the opposition against God and His Christ, and he, the son of perdition it is, will be allowed (Mike: now, listen to this) a much longer chain than heretofore. And great will be the greatness of his power that it will seem to many that he is entirely loose. He will be so far unshackled and unchained that his power will deceive all nations, even the world, and the elect will barely escape the power of his sorceries, his enchantments and miracles. (and this last statement) And even God, himself, the true God, will contribute to put means and instruments in his way and at hand for his use, so that he can have a full trial of his strength and cunning with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish."

That the prelude to this article that is about 10 pgs long, that I think you should read and look at. So, I'll put it up as a handout on the link to this class.

Let me just close by saying, "We should not fear this." We have available at our means the where withall to obtain knowledge concerning this arch enemy and his tactics. It is possible for God's children to come to a point where Satan has no power over them. That's a part of the temple endowment ceremony. There's a point where Satan is cast out of their midst. There is still a mortal world, but he can't tempt them anymore. He's lost power. I submit to you, the loss of power of Satan over God's children primarily comes in the accumulation of knowledge. The Prophet Joseph Smith said: "A man or woman is saved no faster than they can get knowledge. And if they do not obtain this knowledge, they will come into captivity in the other world by some evil spirit who has more knowledge than they do, and hence, more power." So, we should be learning all that we can, from all these sources. We have a 160 pg document, that the appendix is the most comprehensive compilation of statements by latter day restoration prophets and apostles that I've ever seen assembled anywhere. May the Lord bless us to obtain this knowledge so that we can have power over those who are unembodied and disembodied, to have their works of darkness brought to light, and we can be instruments in the hands of our Father and His Christ in delivering his children while in this telestial world, I pray in the name...

I will put up several articles with this one and between what we've said in class and what you can read in the handouts, that will give you a great start in to being in a position to help people.

Just a little addendum quickly; the brethren that are listening to this and sisters, if you don't have a Melchizedek Priesthood brother in your home, sit down with your spouse and write out a dedicatory prayer. Take the knowledge you have, pray for the spirit of revelation, take the information that you're in possession of, that the spirit has testified to you that is true. You should take none of this information from me--I'm just teaching you some things. You should pray to know if anything you hear in any of these classes is true. If it distills upon you by the spirit, then that's wonderful. Sit down and write out a dedicatory prayer as dictated to by the spirit of revelation. If you're a husband and wife, participate in that process. Then, choose a day when you want to dedicate your home. You want to clean out your home. You want to put a shield over your home. You want to have angels block the doors and protect your property. You want to be able to walk into your home and have the same spirit as you come into your home as you have when you enter into the temples, the Houses of the Lord. You want to have that spirit, that atmosphere. Your home should be second only, to the Temple of the Lord. I think your home is a temple place, but it needs to have a dedication process.

It needs to be an ordinance. And, write that down, and then dedicate your home. I think that now more than ever before, you're going to need to have a holy place that you can reside in, that you can go in to, that you can study in, that you can receive revelation in: A Holy Place, and that's your home. So, I would invite you to do that, and you'll have a marvelous experience, if you'll just sit down, pray, and ask the Lord to reveal to you what words you should put down in this dedicatory ordinance. Especially use the information we've talked about on angels, spirits of just men made perfect, devils and unclean spirits. They are the opposite of light. They are the counterfeit of angels and spirits of just men. Then, you'll notice a difference. If you struggle with anything that causes you to be concerned, you just don't seem to shake it, addictions, compulsions... I have a daughter that calls on the phone every once in a while and says, "I am having such an anxiety attack, I need some help." So, we'll go and place some hands on her head and we'll give her a blessing, specifically address unclean spirits. If there was ever an anxious group of people, it was those who were unredeemed in the spirit world. If you want to use a word that would describe them, it would be "anxiety". So, you know, these are not us, but people who are afflicted, these devils and unclean spirits, want you to think that there is something wrong with you. In reality, what you are is being "afflicted". They are intruders. They are not welcome. So, if you have those kinds of things, seek for a Priesthood blessing, and in that blessing, specifically address these things. Remember, and here's a rule, "general blessings" bring about general responses. "Specific blessings" bring about specific blessings. So, the more specific you can be, with anything that troubles you, or afflicts you, or causes you to keep from moving forward, the more specific you can be, the better. Anyway, I would admonish you to dedicate your homes and provide a safe, holy place where the spirit of the Lord will come, and angels will not feel a need to hide their faces or cover their eyes. Something to think about.

(Here is the handout by John Taylor) John Taylor, the Millennial Star April 30, 1853: The Coming Crisis & How to Meet It (The exact quote--mine is inaccurate)

A great and awful crisis is at hand--such a crisis was never known before since the foundation of the world. All nations are looking through the misty future in order to descry, if possible, what is about to happen. Many sermons have been preached, many speeches have been made, and some pamphlets have been published, with the hope of lifting up the veil of the future. Yet none but the servants of God who have the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy, can unfold the mysteries of the future. They can give the trump a certain sound, and their counsel will not be guess work. God will do nothing except He reveal His secrets to His servants and Prophets. God, the Lord God of Israel, will take the control of these great events which are shortly to come to pass. Not a sparrow will fall to the ground without His notice. But His servants will be fully advised to every important event that is to transpire. They will be the heralds of blessings and also of vengeance. For the Lord hath a controversy with all nations, and the hour of is at hand.

But, says the reader, I would like to know of what this crisis is to consist! Who are the contesting parties? Well, reader, if you will be patient and honest-hearted, praying withal, with unceasing diligence and thanksgiving to God, you shall have the keys of such knowledge as all the sectarian priests of Christendom are by no means able to reveal, because they are only revealed to God's servants, the Prophets.

Perhaps you will be disappointed, if I tell you that the time is coming, and now is, when, not only God, the Highest of all, shall be revealed in spirit and in mighty power, but the Devil or Satan also, will be revealed in signs and wonders and in mighty deeds! This, reader, is the great key to all the marvelous events that are to transpire shortly upon the earth.

Now just stop right here, and pause, and mark emphatically this key. Then you and I will proceed to unlock the mysteries and to prepare ourselves to the battle. For there will be no neutrals in the approaching controversy. I say again, that God the Highest of all will make bare His arm in the eyes of all nations. And the heavens even will be rent, and the lighting down of His power will be felt by all nations.

But this is not all. Satan also will be revealed. He has made some manifestations of his power in different periods of the world, but never before has there been such an array of numbers on his side, never before such a consolidation of armies and rulers, never before has there been such an imposing and overwhelming exhibition of miracles as Satan will shortly make manifest. Don't suppose for a moment, that I am uttering dark sayings or speaking unadvisedly upon speculation or the strength of mere human opinion. Don't tell me about Popes and Prelates sitting in the Temple of God as God. One far

greater than any Pope or Prelate is soon to be revealed and he will claim to be worshipped as God . Now, remember, that it is no modern wicked man that is going to claim divine honors. No, it is that old Serpent, the Devil. He it is that will head the opposition against

God and His Christ. And he, the son of perdition it is, that will be allowed a much longer chain than heretofore. And such will be the greatness of his power, that it will seem to many that he is entirely loose. He will be so far unshackled and unchained that his power will deceive all nations, even the world. And the elect will barely escape the power of his sorceries, enchantments, and

miracles!

And even God, Himself, the true God, will contribute to put means and instruments in his way and at hand, for his use, so that he can have a full trial of his strength and cunning, with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish.

It is not to be expected that Satan will carry on his great warfare against Christ and his Saints by means of any one religion exclusively . It is not the Papal or Protestant religion alone that you have need to fear. But the great and abominable Church which you should expect to encounter is Anti-Christ. Whatever exalts and opposes itself to God, that is Anti-Christ, whether it is

a civil or religious power. But the most formidable power that will be arrayed against Christ and his Saints in the last days, will consist of the revelations of Satan.

These revelations of Satan will come through every medium and channel by which the cunning and power of Satan can be brought to bear against the Saints and their Lord. It is a great mistake to suppose that Satan is altogether a religious personage. No, far from this. He is a politician, a philosopher, an erudite scholar, a linguist, a metaphysician, a military commander, a prince, a god, a necromancer, an enchanter, a diviner, a magician, a sorcerer, a prophet, and (if it were not railing) a clergyman and a liar from the beginning. With these universal endowments, he has never hitherto made a full and grand exhibition of himself, as it remains for him to do. But the Lord, who gave him an opportunity to try is battery upon good old Job, is fully designing to give him sufficient apparatus to deceive all the nations that love not the truth, and have pleasure in unrighteousness. His signs and tokens are as ancient as the apostasy of Cain, and as varied as will suit the secret designs of all ages. Through

him men learn how to become “ observers of time and seasons,” with great skill and astonishing accuracy. He presides over the arts of astrology, clairvoyance, mesmerism, electro-biology, and all auguries and divinations. Being Prince of the power of the air he understands aeronautic and steam navigation, and he can compose and combine the various elements, through the cooperation of them that believe in him, with far more than human skill.

Now don't doubt what I say concerning this matter, but rather read the history of his skillful exploits and his mighty power, as they are recorded in the Old and New Testaments. Take a Bible and Concordance, (if you have any Faith in the Bible left, in an age when the Bible is perverted beyond all other books), and read attentively for yourselves, and you will there learn that I am telling you the truth.

Now there is a greater destruction coming upon the wicked nations of the earth, than was even experienced by Pharaoh at the Red Sea . But before that destruction can be made manifest, men's hearts will be hardened, and wickedness will rise to a more over-towering height than many bygone generations have been allowed to witness. God, through his Prophet, will roar out of Zion. His voice will be heard in spite of all the confusion and indignant opposition from many nations. After the testimony of His servants has been proclaimed to all nations, as a witness, then shall the scene of the end come. And great shall be that scene.

The Devil in the last stage of desperation, will take such a pre-eminent lead in literature, politics, philosophy, and religion; in wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, thunderings and lightnings, setting cities in conflagration, etc., that mighty kings and powerful nations will be constrained to fall down and worship him . And they will marvel at his great power, and wonder after him with great astonishment. For his signs and wonders will be among all nations. Men will be raised for the express purpose of furthering the designs and marvelous works of the devil. Every description of curious and

mysterious arts that penetrate beyond

the common pale of human sagacity and wisdom, will be studied and practiced beyond what has been known by mere mortals. The great capabilities of the elements of fire, air, earth, and water, will be brought into requisition by cunning men under the superior cunning of the prince and the God of this world. And, inflated with the knowledge of these wonderful arts and powers, men will become boasters, heady, high-minded, proud, and despisers of that which is good. But the God who is above all, and over all, and who ruleth in the armies of heaven, and amongst the inhabitants of the earth, will not be a silent observer of such spiritual wickedness in high places, and among the rulers of the darkness of this world. For the master spirits of wickedness of all ages, and of worlds visible and invisible, will be arrayed in the rebellious ranks before the closing scenes shall transpire. Now

just at this time, God will come out of His hiding place and vex the nations in His hot displeasure. By the mouth of His Prophet He will rebuke strong nations afar off, notwithstanding their strong armies and great miracles, and cunning arts.

His servant, the Prophet, in Zion will have a marvelous boldness to rebuke them, and to lay down before them in plainness and inflexible firmness the law of the Lord. As Moses laid down the law to Pharaoh, and then continued to multiply evils and judgments until he made an utter end of Pharaoh and the Egyptians, even so will the living God prescribe the line of conduct to be pursued, and the penalties of violation, to great and mighty nations, until they rally around the ensign established upon the mountains, and go up to the house of the God of Jacob to learn His ways, or are utterly overwhelmed in keen anguish and ruin.

The ways of the God of Jacob are easily recognized in these days of general wickedness. It is true, that they are clearly revealed in the Scriptures of truth, and by a living Priesthood of inspired men, yet they have been so long and so grossly

perverted by the precepts and opinions of a hireling ministry, that doubts and contentions have sprung up in every land, and the plainest and simplest truths are denied, abrogated, or accounted obsolete. God is not allowed to speak from the heavens by the mouths of Prophets as in former days. Notwithstanding there is much preaching and praying, still there is a virtual acknowledge-ment among all nations that God, as He was known unto the Patriarchs and Prophets of old, has forsaken the earth. And men are therefore left to discover the way to heaven by the light of nature, or the misty nebulae of a hireling Priesthood. And it is a fact,

undeniable, that infidels in the school of nature have more true piety towards the living God than the hireling ministry of Christendom have.

Hence priests are doing so much, often unwittingly, to blind the eyes of the people, so that they shall not see the approaching crisis in its true character until the catastrophe is completed, and Great Babylon and all her lofty cities, great wealth, princely merchants, chief captains, and mighty sovereigns, are laid low in one general ruin. Oh ye great and strong nations! ye philosophers and religionists! ye spiritual mediums and ye revelators, sitting upon thrones over great nations! how can you fulfill the prophecies that are so clearly revealed, concerning the destructions of the last days! Ye perhaps marvel that the great men and governors over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces in ancient Babylon, with a brave monarch at their head, should have been such firm believers in the astrologers, magicians, and interpreters of dreams, in their days! But marvel not, for when the

greater power of the like class of persons, under the direction of Satan, shall be brought to bear in your own day, the delusion will be so much stronger that Princes, Presidents, Governors, and chief Captains, will be constrained to bow to it. Their credulity will be taxed beyond the power of resistance. The workers of these mysterious and supernatural arts will bring to their aid both natural and supernatural causes that will challenge and defy disputation.

The senses and judgment of men cannot withstand such imperative facts as will arrest their observations. For it cannot be denied that facts and truths will constitute such a measure of the ingredients of these mysterious and wonderful arts as to give them an irresistible strength of conviction to those who are unenlightened by the Spirit of God. And so far as facts and truth are mingled, it must also be acknowledged that God, the true and living Sovereign of Heaven and Earth, will contribute to produce the delusion. He has said that "He will send them strong delusions that they might believe a lie." He

gives his reason and apology for acting after this stranger manner because, knowing the truth, they do not love it unadulterated. And knowing God, they do not choose to glorify Him as God. Therefore their foolish hearts become darkened, and God suffers Satan to compound and mix up truth and error in such proportions as to be captivating and strongly delusive. As a snare, this composition will be in

geniously mixed and administered to all nations, by skillful and practiced hands.

And who shall be able to withstand? Do you think that your great sagacity and the compass of your profound, philosophical turn of mind will enable you to detect the error and delusion of these arts? Oh, man, this is a vain hope. You will not be competent to detect the delusion. God Himself will allow Satan to ply your scrutinizing eye with powers and sophistications far beyond your capacity to detect. Do you say then, I will stand aloof from investigation, I will shun all acquaintance with these mysterious workings, in order that I may not be carried away with their delusive influence. Vain hope. Oh, man, you cannot be neutral. You must choose your side and put on your armor. Those that come not up to the help of the Lord in the day of battle, will be sorely cursed. The captive Hebrew Daniel stood up boldly against all the governors and whole realm of Babylon with their monarch at their head. Daniel readily acknowledged that it was not from any wisdom in him, above other men, that he could surpass the astrologers and magicians.

But holding intercourse with the God of heaven, he became endowed with supernatural comprehension that effectually shielded him against supernatural delusion. Thereby he escaped the snare that entwined around the great statesmen and governors of that immense empire of Babylon. Thereby, those who take refuge in the name of the Lord and in immediate revelation from heaven, will be safe, and no others. He that is not for God and the principle of immediate revelation, will inevitably be ensnared, overcome, and destroyed. Because he that is not for Him must be against Him. No man in any age was ever for God, that did not hold intercourse with Him personally, and receive for himself the revelations of his will. The rock of revelation, by which Peter knew Jesus Christ, is the only basis upon which any man can escape the strong delusion which God will send among the nations through Satan and his mediums and coadjutors. Reader, if you live long, you will be compelled to take a side for God or for Satan. Satan was allowed to try a compulsory process upon as good a man as Job. The whirlwind and tempestuous elements, with disease and death, were put into Satan's hand that he might compel Job to abandon his integrity. Had not Job possessed the key to revelation from God, he would have been compelled to have made peace with Satan, and forsaken the Lord. His wife urged him to do so says she, "Curse God and die"; or in other words, take the side of Satan against God.

Now, reader, if you have ships of precious merchandise, floating at sea, the time is fast coming when Satan will destroy those ships, unless you bow down to his power and become a co-operator with him. And if you do bow down to him, to work wickedness and say, no eye seeth me then God will destroy those ships and you too, and peradventure He will destroy your family also, and make a clean end of you, and blot out your name under heaven. Your beautiful mansion and flourishing family still have to be consecrated to God or to Satan, whichever you may choose. The controversy is begun and the war will never end till the victory is complete and universal, and there shall not be found so much as a dog to move his tongue against the Lord, and the immediate revelations of His will. Your being a minister of some Church, will not serve as the last screen for you against the hot

indignation of God, unless you have the law and the testimony of the true and living God made known to you personally.

For the time has come that God will write His law upon every man's heart, that will receive it, not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. And against him that hath this law, the gates of hell never have prevailed and never will prevail. Heaven

and earth shall pass away before a jot of this law shall be made to succumb to wicked men or devils. The heavens have been shaken once when angels rebelled, and they are destined to another shaking even with the earth. Do you say you don't need any more revelation from God. Then the Devil will be allowed to give you some which you don't need. And by the time that he has revealed himself to you, and buffeted you, and trained you under his rigorous discipline to fight in this awful crisis against the heavens, peradventure you will not then feel so rich and increased in goods, but that you can take a little counsel from the Lord, and feel a little of your extreme poverty and destitution.

You cannot know God without present revelation. Did you ever think of this most solemn and essential truth, before? You may have been accustomed to pray, all your lifetime, and as yet you, even you, do not know God. You may have heard many thousand sermons, with a sincere desire both to remember and practice them, and yet you do not know God. But it has been decided in the court of heaven, that no man can know the Father but the Son, and he to whom the Son REVEALETH him.

Now, has Jesus Christ ever revealed God the Father to you, dear reader? Be honest with yourself, and do not err in your answer to this most important question. However much the Son may have revealed the Father to Prophets, Patriarchs, and Apostles of old, the question still remains in full force has he revealed Him to you? A revelation to another man is by no means a revelation to you. For instance, God revealed himself to Samuel, and called him by name to be a Prophet. But the call to Samuel is by no means a call to you to be a Prophet. God called Abraham to kill Isaac, but that is no revelation to you to kill your son.

God revealed the baptism of repentance to John the Baptist, before Christ's death, but that is not a revelation to you.

He revealed authority to Paul to preach to the Gentiles, but what was told to Paul is not told to you, nor is it required of you. Again, you need the righteousness of God to go where God is, and be happy and how will you get it except it is revealed to you personally? You cannot get it any other way. Hence the Lord says, "The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith."

Don't say now, as some do, that revelation was anciently given in order to establish the truth, and being once established is it no longer necessary to be revealed to subsequent generations of people. Don't say this for your life, for revelation is just as necessary to establish truth now as it was then. You need the ministry of angels now, just as much as people did then. They in past ages could not know God, nor say for a certainty, from personal knowledge, that Jesus Christ was the Christ, only by the Holy Ghost and you are just as weak and dependent as they were. You most assuredly cannot call Jesus, Lord, only by the Holy Ghost. If the Holy Ghost is confirmed upon you, by the imposition of the hands of the true Priesthood, then you can know God for yourself.

Why? Because the Holy Ghost teaches all things, even the deep things of God. This generation needs present revelations from heaven, as much as any other generation ever did, because they are quite as wicked as Sodom ever was. They practice as gross sensuality and beastliness, as glaring robbery and murder, as much treachery and lying, and are as ardent for war and blood—guiltiness, as ever the ancient Canaanites were. And among the many religions that have sprung up, calculated to confuse people's minds, there is, now, as must jargon and schism, contention and strife, and persecuting zeal, as there ever was before. Now, reader, you need present revelation from God to your own dear self, in order to help you out of this nasty, confused labyrinth, and to set your feet firmly upon the solid rock of revelation. Mere flesh and blood cannot help you now. It requires an Almighty arm to effect your deliverance. Therefore, put no more trust in man, for a curse rests upon him that will be guided by the precepts of man. I do not ask you to be guided by what I say to you, unless the Lord from heaven shall reveal to you that I speak the truth, even as it is in Christ. Although I know that I am declaring heaven's truth to you, in all sobriety, yet, my knowing it, does not suffice for you. You also must know it for yourself, and not for another.

This is your right and your privilege. For God has made this promise to you, and not to you, reader, only, but to all others whom He calls to repentance. Now, go and get revelation for yourself. If you are penitently desirous with all your heart to get revelation from God to your own self, go to some one whom God has called and ordained to confer the Gift of Reader, be resolute! This is a critical and trying moment with you. And this is God's call unto you. Don't refuse when He calls you! And if you are honestly, without prejudice, meditating upon what you now read, then God's Spirit is sweetly persuading you to believe what I say. The faint dawn of the Spirit is even now upon your mind. Now, reader, cherish this little dawn of light until the daylight of more truth shines more clearly upon your mind.

Pray mightily for the Spirit of Revelation to rest upon you, that you may know the things that are freely given to you of God. And follow the Spirit of revelation, as fast as you receive its whisperings, down into the water where Jesus went, for the remission of your sins, and you will very soon become a witness to the one truth, and put your own seal upon it even as I have done. And you will not barely believe, and hope, and fear, but you will know, from present and personal revelation,

that the Lord is a God at hand, revealing Himself as freely as He ever did in Patriarchal days. Will you not, then be a happy man, O reader! and you a happy woman, O reader, to come into possession of the same gift of present revelation from heaven, that holy men and holy women enjoyed in ancient times? Yes, I know you will. You will then feel deep pity and sorrow for any one that says he doesn't need present revelation! You will then discover the pride of such an one's heart, and mourn over him as one that is blinded by the God of this world. But your peace will be great and your joy unspeakable. Although you can hardly believe me now, yet through your faithfulness, the Spirit of prophecy will in due time rest even upon you, O man! and also upon you, O woman! The spirit of prophecy has rested upon many sons and daughters in as humble walks of life as you are, and they, according to "promise", have prophesied and dreamed dreams. Now when this promise is fulfilled in your experience, you will feel very glad and very happy. And you will feel thankful that you ever read this article with a humble, prayerful heart. And when you see the promised signs following your faith, as thousands have done in this day, then you will exclaim, Surely this is not merely the form, but also the power of godliness this kind of gospel is in very deed the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth! And then if you have money, which so many worship, you will not be afraid to give a tenth to rear up a Temple like Solomon's, in which God will place the ark of His covenant, and reveal His will, through His servants the Prophets, for the benefit of all the ends of the earth. When you yourself have the promised gift of discerning of spirits, then you will not have to ask your neighbor who is an imposter and who is not—you will know from the Fountain Head all about it just as well as the next person.

He that is spiritual judgeth all things. Many things are hard to be understood and reconciled, which the unstable and unlearned stumble at, even as formerly he that is spiritual can easily judge all things, but he that is not spiritual can judge nothing correctly, for he is blind, and he cannot see afar off .

And further, when you see also the gross and beastly sexual abominations that are practiced and are increasing among all nations, without shame or fear, you will not marvel that God is determined to raise up a righteous seed and glorious branch, by re-establishing the Patriarchal Order, as in the days of Abraham, Jacob, David, Solomon, and Elkanah . Neither will you marvel, while the Spirit of God is upon you, that man and even women should sneer at the sacred institution of marriage being an institution wholly under the control of God, as it was in the days of Abraham. Why should you not marvel at their sneers? Because, we have been distinctly and emphatically forewarned that in the last days there shall arise scoffers, walking after their own hearts lusts, who shall speak evil of dignities and things that they know not, have men's persons in admiration because of gain. You would have more cause to marvel and disbelieve the scriptures of truth, if sensual men and women did not speak evil of the Patriarchal Order of marriage, and of men that conform to the pure sanction and penal restrictions of that most holy Order.

Now there are several ways in which the pure and obedient get revelations. It will be your privilege in due time to become acquainted with these various ways. One way is, through the inspiration of the Spirit. The Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. All men have such a measure of the Holy Spirit as to enable them to make a profitable use of the light and opportunities that they have and to obey the law under which they are placed. All the different methods of revelation are not probably given to all men now. God dispenseth His gifts severally as He will. The inspiration of the Almighty giveth understanding. Every various method of immediate revelation, however, always accords with the inspiration of the Spirit. If an holy angel talks with a man, what the angel speaks accords with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. If the Urim and Thummim is consulted, it accords with the

teachings of the Holy Spirit. An open vision or dream, each accords with the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. Now one mark of a dream from God is, that it is distinguished for the clearness and simplicity of the impress that it makes upon the mind of him that dreams. A dream from the Lord being always true in all its legitimate bearings, will be so disembarassed from error and to him

that has the Spirit of truth in lively exercise, that he will know it perfectly in distinction from all false hallucinations or deceptions of the mind.

Reader, take your Bible and read the Bible account of dreams. There you will see that dreams from the Lord, for any important end, are plainly distinguishable from all deceptive influences . When Jacob went toward Haran and lay upon his

stone

pillow, and dreamed of seeing a ladder reaching up to heaven, etc., after he awoke he knew, beyond a doubt, that the dream was from God. Hence he says, "How terrible is this place," etc. When Laban wanted to cheat Jacob out of his just wages, the Lord appeared to Jacob in a night dream, and told him how to increase the number of his cattle, so that he could get the advantage of the cheating employer. Jacob understood the dream perfectly, and so managed as to have the best of the increase fall to his share. When Joseph told the simple dream of the sheaves, his brothers all understood it well. And when he told the dream of the

sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing down to him, his father Jacob felt the force of the meaning, although he rebuked Joseph.

When God gives a dream to a wicked man, He makes him fully to understand it, unless He wishes to hide the meaning from him. Abimelech understood his two dreams from the Lord, concerning Sarah, Abraham's wife. The Lord gave Solomon

wisdom, and riches, and dominion, in a dream, and yet Solomon knew the import of the dream, and that the Lord had appeared to him, in that dream. The Lord does not suffer wicked spirits to foul and blot and mar a dream, when he wants to communicate His mind and will in a dream. Foul spirits are rebuked and commanded to depart when God wants to indict the truth upon any one's mind. The Angel of God guards the dreamer till a clear and distinct impression is made. And that impression is of an unmistakable character, it cannot be misunderstood, any more than the light of the sun can be mistaken for the darkness of midnight. An open vision is another method of revelation. David saw an Angel of the Lord with a drawn sword, even the pestilence, standing between the heavens and the earth. The Prophet having prayed that the eyes of his servant might be opened,

showed him that the armies of heaven were more numerous than the host of his enemies.

Another method of revelation is through the ministry of angels. An angel forewarned Lot to leave Sodom. Angels gave the Law to Moses, upon Mount Sinai. An angel opened a great iron gate that liberated the Apostle Peter. Again, God reveals things by Urim and Thummim, and by burnt offerings, and by diverse tongues, etc. Now, reader, I entreat you to seek the aid of present revelations from God. You need them just as much as any poor creature ever did, that has been born into the world. Without them you never can know God, worlds without end. Don't flatter yourself that because others know God or have formerly known Him, you are any better off on that account, unless you know Him for yourself.

Are you poor and oppressed? Then you have the greatest need to receive revelations from God. There are very many poor people in these days, and in these lands. Even in England, rich men oppress you, and many cheat you and defraud you, and keep back your merited wages and you, who do the greatest part of the work that is done in the land, can hardly get an honest living, while your masters roll in pomp, and fare sumptuously every day. I have seen you and your little sons and tender daughters, hurrying off early in the morning to work for them, and returning late at night, poorly fed and poorly clothed often. And all the

time that you are making others rich, they are keeping you in poverty and ignorance. And your daughters are often insulted and sometimes seduced by masters, and you are threatened with workhouse if you don't grind for the oppressor, and you have but little time to see your own families, and bless them with comforts, and educate and train them up for usefulness and salvation. Now, if you knew how to take counsel from the God of heaven, as Jacob did, you would not have to submit always to such fraud and oppression.

But God would help you out of your many difficulties, and your enemies could not help themselves. God has seen your afflictions, and has sent forth his servants to all nations to preach deliverance, for the acceptable year of the Lord has now come.

And ye rich men, the voice is to you. Gather up the poor and bless them, and your riches shall not waste, but increase fourfold and great shall be your reward in heaven. But blessed are the poor who shall obtain the gifts of revelation for themselves, for they shall rejoice greatly in the Holy One of Israel. For not many rich, not many noble, will be humble enough to seek revelations from God. But beware of the counsel of any priests or ministers who are hired and paid for preaching. God never hired any man to preach, nor did He ever authorize any man to hire himself out to preach for wages. Therefore beware of all such lest they

deceive you. Go not after them, neither listen to them for a moment, for they are confederate with rich men and oppressors, and they are despisers of present revelation, and consequently they neither know God themselves, nor are they willing that others should know Him. And vengeance will shortly overtake all that know not God, and obey not the Gospel.

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