

40 Trust in the Lord Mike Stroud Podcast (transcribed by Carol Crisp)

Okay, brothers and sisters, we've had an interesting thing. We've just completed our Sunday night podcast here and when we went to check it out, it recorded the opening prayer and the rest of the lesson was not recorded. So, what I'm doing is I'm just going to give you the material we talked about in the podcast. Only the people who were in the office here tonight heard that lesson, but I feel I want to give it all to you. So, it's just me tonight with you on the recording.

If I were to identify the 2 podcasts of the 40 that we have done on Sunday nights, the 2 that have had the most comments and have elicited the greatest response have been the 2 on "Devils and Unclean Spirits". There's not a week goes by that those who are listening to the podcasts don't in some way or another comment on the info that's in these 2 podcasts. I've identified that I have this problem either in myself or in my family or someone that I care about. Because of the info in the podcast, I believe that we're afflicted or they're afflicted and what do we do about it? That's the question. What do we do about that? How do we deliver ourselves from this? So, I'd like to, along with the info you already have, talk about "how do we deliver ourselves from this"? So, along with the info you already have in those 2 podcasts, just give a little more additional information, a little more insight on what's already been discussed. I'd like to have you go to Isaiah 5:13, and let me show you a scripture here. This is one of my favorite scriptures, and I'll apply it to what we're talking about. Circle the words "my people".

13 ¶Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

Mike: This is talking about people who have made a covenant with the Lord, who are being held captive for a lack of knowledge. First of all, let me just say, talking about these devils and unclean spirits, they thrive in staying in a state of anonymity. It's very important for them that they remain undisclosed, and that any time that anyone sheds light on them, on their strategies, on their designs, on their combinations, it causes a "stirring-up" to take place among their organizations and their societies. You WANT to do that. That stirring-up is good, and as the opposition increases and you experience affliction, I'd like you to take a little different look at it, a different view. If you feel that you are under the influence and are experiencing this opposing light of the Father and the Son, I want you to look at that differently. I want you to let that be an indicator of who you were before you came here, and who you are now, that they know, but you have been caused to forget as a result of being born into the telestial world and having your former memory erased, being within the veil now. The fact that you're experiencing, if you were not a threat to them, if the knowledge that you're receiving new knowledge concerning what their tactics are, if that didn't threaten them, then you wouldn't be experiencing the increase in opposition that you are. So, I want you to take that as a badge of honor, as it were. It should also tell you something about your destiny. They know something about you that you may not know about yourself right now. Again, "my people", they may know something about you that you may not know about yourself right now. Again, "my people are gone into captivity because they have no knowledge". Let's go back to that quote: "and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst."

Let's go to Moroni 6 for just a moment. We have honorable men that we're talking about here. These honorable men are priesthood. When it says they are famished, they are dying for a lack of nourishment. They're starving to death spiritually. We've talked about that, how the priesthood is starving and has been, basically, neutralized--another podcast. Go with me to Moroni 6:4: And after they (members of the Church) had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ; and their names were taken, that they might be (and here's what happens now. Once you've joined the Church, you now are numbered in that group of members--the names are taken, that they might be) remembered and nourished by the good word of God, (think what Isaiah said: my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. You're dying for a lack of spiritual water) to keep them in the right way, to keep them continually watchful unto prayer, relying alone upon the merits of Christ, who was the author and the finisher of their faith.

Spiritual knowledge is "to keep them in the right way". If you are nourished by the good word of God, you're going to be receiving revelation, and it's going to tell you, "you need to up your game". Satan has increased his opposition to the Father and the Son. The Father and the Son have allowed that. That's the day we live in. In order for you to survive, you are going to have to do something different. It's like the hymn we sung in church: "wake up and do something more than dream of your mansions above..." See, we've got to be doing something more. We've got to "come up", we've got to "up our game", we've got to be doing something that will elevate us and give us more power in the battle that's raging. One of things that I'm noticing is when I chat with good members of the church that email me or call me on the phone is that families are being stirred up to anger against that which is good. Now, if you have knowledge concerning what's going on there, it gives you an edge not only to look differently at it, but you can form a battle tactic to successfully engage in the conflict and come out victorious. Back to vs. 4: "to keep them in the right way, to keep them continually watchful unto prayer, (and by the way, upping your game means you will probably need to do like Alma 34 says, you need to be praying morning, mid-day and evening. You're going to need to do what Pres. Benson said, "we need to associate ourselves with good men like Daniel who pray 3 times a day. What we've done in the past...here's the bottom line, brothers and sisters, what we've

done in the past will not be sufficient for the day that's here and what's coming. It won't be sufficient.) The 3rd thing is: "relying alone upon the merits of Christ, who was the author and the finisher of their faith." That what comes if you are nourished, and if you are not nourished, according to Isaiah, you go into captivity because you have no knowledge.

Look at Isaiah 5:14 Therefore hell hath enlarged herself,"

Mike: I can tell you that unclean spirits, the men and women who are dying unredeemed, without a knowledge of the redemptive power of Christ, they go into the spirit world and they are classified with that group called "unclean spirits", it's enlarging itself exponentially by the millions that are dying and become part of that group. Now, who are we talking about? go back up to vs. 13: "my people". None of this is talking about non-members, their glory. Think about the lesson we had on "glory". You are a glorious being. You can either add to that glory or it can be diminished, based on what you do. If you're lacking knowledge, you go into captivity, your glory is diminished. Their glory and their multitudes, think about posterity in eternity. Think about your posterity being as endless as the stars in the heavens or the sands of the seashores. Think about the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that you were promised in your temple sealing. One of those blessings is innumerable posterity. You notice what it says: "and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it." All of that comes, we lose everything, everything, because we lack knowledge.

I want you to go over to Hosea 4:6 ¶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

In Isaiah it says you go into captivity because of no knowledge. Hosea says you are destroyed for lack of knowledge, "because thou hast rejected knowledge". "I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: (brethren, think about your initiatory blessings, where you have the promise of being a "priest and a king, and your wife being a priestess and a queen. Because of a lack of knowledge you will be no "priest" to Him) "seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

Sobering things. Last week we talked about the various penalties that used to be mentioned in the temple endowment. The one penalty that represented the head is a loss of identity in eternity. You go backwards in native intelligence and back into primal life. The one that represents the breast is the loss of your wife, she who is closest to your heart. The one that represented the bowels means a loss of posterity in eternity. No posterity. So, in those three things, No wife, no children, and no identity. Those are the penalties. Notice what the Lord says, "seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame.

All of this why? My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. So, when you go into this area of not only devils and unclean spirits but any area of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it's knowledge that saves a person. That's what Joseph Smith said. "A man 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,"

God is who he is, among other reasons, because he possesses more knowledge than any other. That's according to the Prophet Joseph Smith. So, knowledge is an amazing thing. When you are kept from it, then you're going into captivity, or are going to be destroyed. Well, these devils and unclean spirits want to keep you from gaining any knowledge of it. They don't want you to shine a light on them. So, what you are going to be required to do, and people are asking me is, "I feel that I have a problem here. What do I do about it?"

So, what I'd like to do is, we're going to shine a light on these and give some additional information. The challenge is, there is no handbook on this. You're now moving into an area where you are going to have to rely on your personal relationship with the Lord, and revelation from Him and the Holy Spirit to teach you what to do. So, I can give you a few things that we find from the early restoration information. I've read the handbooks and there is nothing in either the red one or the blue one to help. The blue one is for Priesthood Leadership, and it's not available to the general membership or the leadership of the church. It's for stake presidents, mission presidents, general authorities, etc. The last one I read is a 2010 edition has no information on this at all. I don't know if that's changed, but I don't think that it has, for whatever reason. I'm not finding fault. The point is, that your priesthood leaders are not receiving any information through the handbooks of the church on how to deal with devils and unclean spirits. So, we have masses of people in the church who feel like they are chemically imbalanced, have bi-polar disorders or schizophrenia or any one of a number of what appears to be mental health issues, when in reality, it's my feeling, that this is all connected to organized evil intelligence.

I heard a story today. The Bishop came into our H.P. Group and he wanted to teach the lesson. He read a story about a young man who grew up in the early sixties and made some bad choices that led into the hippie movement. He got involved in drugs and sex and everything that was going on in the 60's. He was just a horrible mess and something happened where he had an experience that he decided this was not the path that he wanted to travel. So, he went to see the bishop, and told him that he wanted to go on a mission. The bishop had to have special clearance from The First Presidency to allow him to go, because of some of the things that he'd done. Well, he was allowed to go on a mission and was sent to Argentina, and I guess when he went to Argentina he was so faithful that he became a leader in the mission and eventually an assistant to the president and did just marvelous things. He performed just all kinds of miraculous things in

that mission. He came home, met a gal at BYU, got married and within a year they had a little daughter. They weren't rich, but were happy. They were working on a career and doing things like this, and a bishop offended him. He said, "as long as that man is the Bishop, I'll never go back to church. And, he didn't. When that bishop was released, this man still didn't go back to church. One of the issues that he had, prior to going on the mission, was that they had diagnosed him with schizophrenia. He was hearing voices and had a multiple personality disorder, etc.... That was not addressed. So, after he left the Church, it wasn't very long until one thing after another, his schizophrenia issues continued to get worse and worse, until eventually he asked for his name to be removed from the records of the Church. This took about 20 minutes for the Bishop to tell, but long story short, (this is a true story) the rest of their children grew up inactive, they only had one girl out of four children that stayed with the Church. The wife received a blessing that if she would pray everyday and read her scriptures every day, the day would come when she and her husband would be married for eternity and everything would work out right. For the next 34 years he remained aloof and inactive, and not just inactive, but antagonistic, an enemy. Then he had an experience where the home teacher came and talked to him, gave him a blessing, and later on in life he came back to Church and he's going to be re-baptized this December, after 34 years. The Bishop went around the room and asked, "What did the Spirit teach you about this?" I wasn't asked, but here's the thought I had: It's good that he came back and I'm so happy for the prodigal son and the lost sheep, and that's a great principle. But I think about what his wife went through for 34 years, and of course she had experiences that helped her grow, and I know all of that stuff, but his family went out...and apparently he had quite a remarkable patriarchal blessing, that had all kinds of blessings. The Bishop said today, "It appears like the blessings that were mentioned in that P.B. had been voided because he had been rebelling against God."

Anyway, I couldn't help thinking about a scripture in 2 Nephi 9 that says: 27 But wo unto him that has the law given, yea, that has all the commandments of God, like unto us, and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth the days of his probation, for awful is his state!

It's good that he came back, but lost opportunities, and here's the point that I had: If somebody had looked at this schizophrenia early on, and had asked the question and had addressed that situation as unclean spirits and/or devils that were afflicting him, perhaps at an early time, if we had had knowledge, then that whole thing could have been turned around and who knows what the outcome might have been. That was the thought I had.

When we were in the Philippines I came across this information and I began a search for it, and I just could not put it down. I was just obsessed with it. I was so obsessed with it that Margie said, "You need to leave this alone. It's now cutting into what we are supposed to be doing on our mission." I agreed. So, I left it, but I couldn't leave it alone. Towards the end of our mission, and we never used this information in the Philippines, for whatever reason, to any degree, and so towards the end, I told Margie, "there must be something at home that we need to know this information for some reason. So, now I'm hearing from lots and lots of people that have listened to those 2 podcasts. The podcasts are a result of my search, what I've found in the early writings in the Church, and my own personal experience and revelation. Let me just say this: if you have decided that you are afflicted with this, here are some things that you may want to consider to help you start to find deliverance from this.

First of all, take a different view. This is a positive view. You would not find this going on in your life if you didn't threaten those powers on the other side of the veil. Remember also this in 1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

I want you to remember that. If you are experiencing these things it's because God knows that you can handle it, and will provide the way to escape. That's what we're talking about now. For whatever, you need to have this experience. You probably agreed to this before you came here. I doubt that there is much that happens to us in this life that ultimately turns for our good, that we didn't plan for and agree to before we were born. That's my feeling. So, rejoice in this, and find out a way, what's the way that God has provided for you to escape. Very few of the people I'm talking to are what I feel are possessed. Possession is where evil spirit or unclean spirit goes into your body and takes over your body. I have worked with people who have had possession, and it becomes very clear that the person that is inside is not the person that used to be there. Out of my experience, that is rare. More often we are dealing with unclean spirits that attach themselves to us. If you look at velcro, you're one half of the velcro, and they're the other half. Just whatever reason they attach themselves to us and they're more or less with us all the time. You feel their emotions, they whisper to you, and they talk to you and your spirit mind picks up on those messages and you act them out. Those spirits are found in as many strategies and strata that there are in this life. So, the first thing you want to do is to find a Melchizedek Priesthood bearer that you can trust, and who is open to learning something new. Again, there are no handbooks written on this. So you are now going into an area of personal revelation. You need to be guided by the Lord on what to do here. Just some suggestions, and you can fill in the blanks with the Spirit, or you can take a different approach all together. This is my experience and I just give it to you. Find a Melchizedek Priesthood bearer that you can approach and talk to about these specific things that we're going to talk about right now, who is open to it and is willing to learn and put into practice in his ministration, this information. First of all, most Melchizedek p. bearers, the only experience they may have with devils and unclean spirits may have been something

that took place in their missionary days as 19-21 year olds, in Brazil, Argentina, the Navajo Indian Reservation, or somewhere and it usually scares the heck out of them, and their traumatized because of it, and don't want to go there. So, when you start talking to them about devils and unclean spirits, don't be surprised if you see a little resistance in them, a little unbelief, a little doubt, a little unsureness. That's normal. Because, they've not received any instruction on that. So, just go forward with faith and be calm. They may have some feeling of, "gosh, I wonder if she's off her medicines, or he's been smoking something, or something going on..."

Just be patient. Don't worry about it. Again, you're going into an area that's uncharted as far as handbooks of instruction. If you can find a quorum to administer to you...ordinarily we call for 2 elders. The smallest priesthood quorum is 3. There is power in priesthood quorums. So, if you can find 3 men that are unified and can come and exercise their faith in you, that's better than 1 or 2. That's just something to think about. The next thing is, you need to use consecrated oil. Normally, we think to use consecrated oil only when someone has a physical illness. My personal experience is that anointing the person with oil that you're going to administer to with this area of spiritual enemies is an important part of it. So, anoint just like you normally do in the priesthood. The next thing is, the more specific you can be in the words you use in the administration, the more specific the results are going to be. This is where you may have to do a little talking with the people who are going to administer to you. We in the priesthood, all too often, pray over a person rather than pronounce a blessing. We're more comfortable praying over a person asks for a blessing than actually pronouncing a blessing. This is what Pres. Nelson is talking about, that we need to "come up", we need to do things differently. We need to exercise power, and not be timid. We need to be more bold and more open to revelation and have a revelatory flow. So, the more specific you can be, the better. Some of the things you may want to remember is that unclean spirits can repent. Repentance is still afforded to them. My personal opinion is that for all, or if not all, for most devils, the gift of repentance is not offered. Repentance is a gift. But for unclean spirits, these are men and women who have had a mortal life and who have died without knowledge or the redeeming power of the atonement of Christ, so they are called unclean spirits because they have not been cleansed from the spots and filthiness that all of us acquire by living in this world. These unclean spirits are the same group of people that the missionaries in the spirit world are visiting and are declaring repentance, vicarious baptism through remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. It's the same thing. That's the group that you are more likely to be dealing with, although I have had experience with devils. It's obvious when you're dealing with a devil vs. an unclean spirit. Pray for the gift of discerning of spirits. But you'll see very quickly that those are 2 distinct groups. You are going to invite them to leave. You're going to teach them what you've determined and discerned what you're dealing with. If it's the devil, then the temple tells you how to deal with them. "We command you to depart. By what authority. In the name of Jesus Christ, our master." That's how you deal with devils. With others, with varying degrees, as directed by the Spirit, you invite them to leave. You just talk to them and say, "You're causing problems here. You are bothersome. You're causing problems in the marriage, you're causing problems in the home, you're not wanted here, you need to leave. In the name of Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the Priesthood, we command you to depart, to stand back and off and come not back."

I'd like you to go with me for just a minute to Matthew 12. I'd like to show you what takes us into the next phase of what I want to talk about here. I hope these things are helpful to you. There is this interesting little parable starting in vs. 43. The previous 42 verses are talking about something completely unrelated. And from 46-50 is talking about something unrelated, so these 3 verses 43-45 are just stuck in here and it's interesting that they have nothing to do with what preceded or what followed. But it teaches a principle, and I think that is why the Lord included it here.

43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh (the spirit) through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Mike: If you were to describe the emotion of unclean spirits, the primary emotion, among others, would be anxiety. This is the most anxious group of people you have ever seen in your life. I find it interesting that the word we are hearing, I hear it all the time, and I never heard this prior to say 5-6 years ago. "I'm having an anxiety attack." That seems to be the buzzword everywhere. I hear it from my family, "I'm anxious, etc..." I ponder that, but I bet you are, because the spirits that are around you are anxious by nature.

44 Then he saith, (the unclean spirits) I will return into my house from whence I came out; (That is a mortal's physical body. That person's been possessed) and when he is come, he findeth it (the house--the body of the mortal) empty, swept, and garnished. Mike: There's your kicker now. Here's the key, vs 45.

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: (they go in and take possession of that man's body) and the last state of that man is worse than the first. (and this interesting statement, closing up the verse) Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Mike: Now, he's talking to the generation of the Jews at that time, but by extension, he's speaking to us. So here's the key. Once you have opened up and expelled these unclean spirits, you need to replace that vacancy with light. You need to, as it were, pull the weeds and plant the flowers. If you just leave it open, the chances are, they are just going to come back, and I can't tell you how many of you and others I've heard say, yea, I've received a blessing and I've felt relief, but it didn't last. The reason it didn't last is two-fold. Number 1, the person being blessed doesn't take an active role in this whole process. They just sit back and wait for someone to take care of their problem without being actively involved, not only in resolving

it in the first place, but keeping it resolved thereafter. You have to be actively involved. And the 2nd part is, we didn't invite light to come in where darkness was. Also, the next thing we need to do, and Joseph Smith said that you have to understand the laws that govern these spirits. One of the laws that governs these good spirits, the spirits of light, angels, the spirits of just men made perfect, the spirits of departed ancestors, especially those that are endowed, or the spirits of your progeny who are going to be born, through your children or your body, depending on your age, they are coming, and others have been and gone, and they're all spirits of light...you need to invite them. Here's the law. They need to have an invitation and permission to come in and have an effect in your life for good. It's almost like you can see them in the conflict that's raging. They can see that. They can see that you are afflicted. It's almost like they're standing off to the side with their arms folded and tapping their foot saying, "make any move, whatever you can, to invite me to come in, so that I can help you. I can help you." I'm not going to say that they can't help without being invited and without being permitted, but I will say that it's a correct principle to those who have ultimate respect and reverence for man's agency to give them permission and an invitation to come and help you.

So, in that blessing, have those that perform this blessing, after they've expelled the darkness, to invite the light in. It's also to go into this fasting. Fasting is a tremendous power source. Remember that the one time that a child was possessed by an evil spirit and the disciples tried to remove that spirit from this person and couldn't do it and they called on Jesus to do it. He immediately rebuked that spirit and it came out. The person was at peace and the disciples said to the father, "How long has he been like this?" And the father said, since he was a child. Then, the disciples came up afterwards and asked, "Why could we not cast him out?" The Savior taught this principle: "This kind" (See, you ought to ponder that, there are different levels of strata in this society. They are not all the same.) "This kind cometh not out save by fasting and by prayer."

So, hopefully brothers and sisters, those of you, and again, this is the most common question, the most common email and phone calls that I receive from people who listen to these podcasts and see that this is a problem in their life, and want to do something about it.

Now, in closing this particular session, I want you to go with me to Joseph Smith History, to vs. 20. This is just after the First Vision. Joseph comes in from the Sacred Grove and he's leaning on the fireplace and his mother asks if everything is all right. Joseph says, "Nevermind, Mother, all is wello, I'm well enough off." I then said to my mother, "I have learned for myself that Presbyterianism is not true." (That's one of the great understatements in the history of the Church. Now, this part right here. I want you to think about everything...if you are having this opposition, the greater the opposition, the greater the blessings that in store for you. We've talked about that. Joseph said this:) "It seems as though the adversary was aware, at a very early period of my life, that I was destined to prove a disturber and an annoyer to his kingdom;"

Mike: That's what YOU want to be! Especially priesthood brethren. That's what you want to be. When you start to shed light on this darkness and expose it for what it is, you can expect the bells of Hell to start ringing! You can expect that your name will move to the front of the agenda sheet, discussed by devils. You want to be a disturber and an annoyer to his kingdom. Then Joseph says, "else why should the powers of darkness combine against me?"

Some of you have asked me that question. I don't know why this is happening. From Joseph: "why should the powers of darkness combine against me? Why the opposition and persecution that arose against me, almost in my infancy?"

See, this is really a compliment. They know something about you that you have forgotten. When you start to expose them, then the Lord also reveals to you laws and principles that are used to govern all the spirits and gives you power over them. Enough said on that. I'd like to go to one last thing that I want to talk to you about tonight. I'd like to go to Proverbs in the O.T. and this is another area that in the discussions I have, a lot of people are asking me, "Can you recommend a book that I can read on this or that...?" Another question is, "In your library of study, what books do you have that you absolutely use for a foundation?" And, I have some of those. I have a vast library over the years and I've been a very good customer of Deseret Book and Seagull Book, and other places. That has it's place, but what I'm saying more and more to people who ask questions is something like this, "That's a great question. Why don't you take that question you just asked me, exactly the same way, to the Lord, and ask Him? He is so anxious for us to come to Him. " Remember, brothers and sisters, that the Lord Jesus Christ is the keeper of the gate. He employ no servant there. That means that there should be nobody, no one, between you and the Lord. It's okay, as part of the process of moving up, for us to rely upon the opinions and the wisdom and the knowledge of other mortals. It's okay to be there, but it's not okay to stay there. The problem is, we end up staying there. We want others to tell us what to do. Or, we want others to validate the decisions we make. We're consciously or subconsciously seeking for allies to tell us that the path we're on or the things we are doing are okay. That's not a good place to be. Let's go to Proverbs 3:5 and look at a few scriptures in closing this tonight. This is really the heart of tonight's discussion.

5 ¶Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (and I would add to that: lean not to your own or anybody else's understanding)

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, (and this part:) and he shall direct thy paths.

That's where we want to be. It is such a subtle trap for us to be continually relying on other mortals for what we do, where we go, and our progression spiritually on our journey back to the Father. It has its place, but if we don't rise above that, it ends up being damning instead of exalting. Why would we want to continue to drink water down in the pasture where the cows have walked to it, where it's diluted, where it's polluted, rather than go to the source of the spring? Let me read to a few quotes from some of the early brethren of the church. These are great quotes, and I hope that you understand what I'm saying here and I'll try to say this in a way that there's no misunderstanding. This was written by Joseph Fielding Smith. It's in his personal journal dated 28 Dec 1938. He's one of the younger members of the Quorum of the Twelve. Prior to that, and during his tenure he served as the Church Historian. He had access to all the records of the Church that were in existence at that point.

"It is a very apparent fact that we have traveled far and wide in the past 20 years. What the future will bring I do not know. But if we drift as far afield from fundamental things in the next 20 years, what will be left of the foundation laid by the Prophet Joseph Smith? It is easy for one who observes to see how the apostasy came about in the primitive church of Christ. Are we not traveling that same road?"

Here is another quote, by Brigham Young, from the JD Vol 10, Discourse 8:32. "There is nothing that would so soon weaken my hope and discourage me as to see this people in full fellowship with the world, and receive no more persecution from them because they are one with them."

That was Harold B. Lee's biggest concern, an indicator that we were on the wrong path. If the world loves us, and the majority accepts us, we've left the path. That's what the brethren are saying.

Pres. Young: "In such an event we might bid farewell to the Holy Priesthood with all of its blessings, privileges, and aids to exaltations, principalities and powers in the eternities of the gods."

Another quote by Brigham Young is in JD Vol 6 pg. 100, and he said, "The First Presidency have of right a great influence over this people, and if we should get out of the way and lead this people to destruction, what a pity it would be. How can you know whether we lead you correctly or not? Can you know by any other power than that of the Holy Ghost? I have uniformly exhorted the people to obtain this living witness each for themselves, then no man can lead them astray."

George Q. Cannon, who was in the First Presidency said this, "Do not, brethren, put your trust in man, though he be a bishop, an apostle, or a president. If you do, they will fail you at some time or place. They will do wrong, or seem to, and your support will be gone. But, if we lean on God, He will never fail us. When men and women rely on God alone and trust in Him alone, their faith will not be shaken if the highest in the Church should step aside."

Now, we're not saying that any of the leadership of the Church have gone astray, not saying that at all. What I am saying is, the only sure ground in our day, as things get worse, and they're not going to get better, because the bells of Hell are ringing. The only sure ground is to have that relationship with the Father and the Son, through the power of the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit, that you can know for yourself under any circumstances, that whatever you hear or experience, is either from God or is error, from the dark side. Let me give you another one. Let's go to 2 Nephi 4. What's the message here? Trust in the Lord and no one else. That doesn't mean that you don't follow your leaders. That is not what it means at all. It doesn't mean that we don't listen to prophets, or apostles, or stake presidents or our bishops. But what they're trying to do, brothers and sisters, is to get each man and each father to come up to a position of first, a prophet in his own home, being able to have all the revelatory power within his own home that the President of the Church has over the whole Church, or that a stake president has over his stake, or that a bishop has over his ward. All of that leadership is designed to help dads and men to come up to be first, prophets, then second, priests, and then next kings. We sing a verse, "I know that my Redeemer lives" and in the 3rd verse it calls Christ my "prophet, priest and king". That's a Priesthood progression. Joseph Smith moved through that. He was a prophet, then a priest, and then a king. The Church got so upset because they didn't understand the doctrine that they rejected it as a whole. And Joseph mourned again, because he couldn't bring the LDS up to something higher and more noble. Well, that's what's going on. Pray for our leaders. Sustain them. Also seek to know for yourselves by the power of the H.G. and H.Spirit that they are being led by God, they are being inspired by Him, and their words come from Him. Otherwise, we're on shaky ground. You ought to read the whole 2 Nephi 4. This is what scholars call the Song of Nephi. It's wonderful. We'll start in vs. 19: And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; nevertheless, (this part) I know in whom I have trusted.

Because of that trust, look what Nephi experiences in vs. 20-21: My God hath been my support; he hath led me through mine afflictions in the wilderness (preserved in the wilderness); and he hath preserved me upon the waters of the great deep (protected upon the waters). He hath filled me with his love, even unto the consuming of my flesh.

Mike: I've not experienced that, but I'd like to. Vs. 22--he's confounded mine enemies.

22 He hath confounded mine enemies, unto the causing of them to quake before me.

I think we're going to need to have that in a coming day. You're going to need to have that power to either make you or your loved ones or those you have stewardship over invisible to your enemies or be able to call down power from heaven over the elements and protect you, and if necessary, destroy them.

23 Behold, he hath heard my cry by day, and he hath given me knowledge by visions in the night-time.

All these things that Nephi is talking about, and he's an old man now--probably in his late 60's or early 70's, all these things in 2Nephi 4 is saying, "come because I know in whom I have trusted."

24 And by day have I waxed bold in mighty prayer before him; yea, my voice have I sent up on high; and angels came down and ministered unto me. (See that?)

25 And upon the wings of his Spirit hath my body been carried away upon exceedingly high mountains. (Take that literally, that's not figurative. That is a physical transportation by heavenly powers where this mortal man's physical body was lifted from point A to point B.) And mine eyes have beheld great things, yea, even too great for man; therefore I was bidden that I should not write them.

So, all of these things and more come because of vs. 19: "I know in whom I have trusted." Let's go to vs. 34.

34 O Lord, I have **trusted** in thee, and I will **trust** in thee forever. I will not put my **trust** in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his **trust** in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his **trust** in man or maketh flesh his arm.

Mike: Notice how many times the word "trust" was mentioned in vs. 34? Five times! When the same thing is mentioned twice in the same scripture, watch out! "Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man." I think there is no mistaking the message here. What's the balance? Again, I don't want this interpreted to mean I don't listen to, follow and sustain my leaders. The whole purpose of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, all of its' organizations, everything, is to bring us to a point where you can be so familiar within this telestial world within the veil, be so familiar with that voice of Christ, that you become experienced and perfected in hearing, recognizing, and heeding that voice. Let's go to D&C 29:7 and let me show you a little different twist to something there about missionary work.

7 And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine **elect**; for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts;

Mike: Who are the elect? The word elect ties in with the word election. So now we are talking about people who are advanced and have progressed in their spiritual journey. We're not talking about novices here. We are talking about people who have stepped up and find themselves in a higher plane and in a higher order of things than when they first joined the Church. This is the same group of people in Section 121 that says, "Many are called, but few are chosen". This group "chosen", and this group of "elect" have a relationship. Now look at the rest of vs. 7: "for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts;"

Do you want to know who these "elect" are? Do you want to find out if you are one of the elect? My elect "hear my voice and harden not their heart". Who is speaking here? It's Christ. If you have not read the book by Bro John Pontius, Following the Light of Christ into His Presence, it is so exceptional, so foundational, so enlightening. If you have not read that book, I urgently recommend that you purchase it and read it. Those of you that have read it before, read it again! The whole premise of that book is, is that every step that you need to be taught, every place that you need to go, every blessing, every design of God for your life, everything you need to do, is done by "**following the voice of Christ**". That's called the Holy Spirit. That's what we're talking about. He says, "my elect hear my voice". This is the voice of him that you covenant every Sunday to remember, to keep his commandments, to take his name upon you so that you can have "His Spirit" to be with you. That's Christ's spirit, his voice, that's what we're talking about in vs. 7, for the next 7 days. Hardening your heart means that you hear that voice enough and know from whence it comes, and know the doctrine, you've had experiences, and you "reject" that voice. You go backwards. That's hardening your heart. See, the definition of "hardening your heart is in the B of M. It's to rebel against the voice of Christ, the Holy Spirit as it communicates with you. That is the definition of "a hard heart."

Well, in closing, I want to take you to some statements by John Taylor. Bro. Taylor talks about the days that are coming up and you have this handout. It's on a previous podcast. It's called, "The Coming Crisis and how to meet it." It talks about God's power is going to be revealed like it never has been before. Because that happens, Satan's power is also going to increase like it never has before. God is going to work miracles that will eclipse anything in the scriptures. Satan is going to counterfeit those miracles! Bro. Taylor comes out and says that "Satan will use knowledge of truth and science and will be able to perform, in his last stages of desperation, he will use literature, politics, philosophy and religion in wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, thunderings and lightnings, setting cities on fire, etc. that mighty kings and powerful nations will be constrained to fall down and worship him (that's Satan). The great capabilities of the elements of fire, earth, air and water will be brought into requisition by cunning men under the superior cunning of the prince of God of this world." We've talked about that. With all that going on, how are you going to keep from being deceived? Here's another statement that Bro. Taylor said, "God, the true and living sovereign of heaven and earth will contribute to produce a delusion. God has said he will send them strong delusions (this is Thessalonians in the N.T.) that they might believe the lie. (and then this part from Bro. Taylor says) He gives his reason and an apology for acting after this strange manner because knowing the truth (and this part) they do not love it unadulterated."

Isn't that amazing that when you have revealed, restored truth, that we prefer truth adulterated, than pure truth? Isn't that amazing? And we prefer the philosophies of men, mingled with scripture? Rather than revelation to you personally through the power of the H.G. and the Holy Spirit? We prefer that? We seek the opinions of others on what they think to direct our

footsteps, and we seek their opinions to allie with us so we can feel that what we are doing is correct? And we're slow to approach God in prayer and fasting and seek for revelation? And have a revelatory flow and become prophets and prophetesses in our own rite?

"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."

Mike: Just a couple more statements. This one talks about the need for us to have revelation for ourselves. Without it, there is no way that you can come to it. Let me just finish up what he says here.

"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, even you do not know God. You may have heard many thousands of sermons with a sincere desire to both remember and practice it, 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 to him." (there is your key word)

Talking about the deceptions that are coming up, he says, "Mere flesh and blood cannot help you at this time. It requires an Almighty arm to affect your deliverance. Therefore put no more trust in man, for a curse rests upon him that will be guided by the precepts of men. 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 heavens 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."

Brothers and sisters, we live in the time when this is what needs to be done. Again, what you have done in the past will not suffice for todays challenges and what's coming tomorrow. It won't. If you think you're going to get through what's coming by just doing what you've been doing, you are either k.i.a. or m.i.a. You will not stand in the conflict. In a battle, if a soldier is down, he's out of the fight. K.I.A. -killed in action- or missing in action doesn't do anything to help the cause of Zion. I hope these things are helpful to you. God bless you all, and we'll see you next week.