

## LESSON 3 OF 11

Will you do your part to receive revelation, but realize that most revelation comes incrementally in God's own way on His conditions?



There are many things outside of your total control.

Storms



Earthquakes





## Floods



## Tsunamis



## Santa Ana winds



## Fires



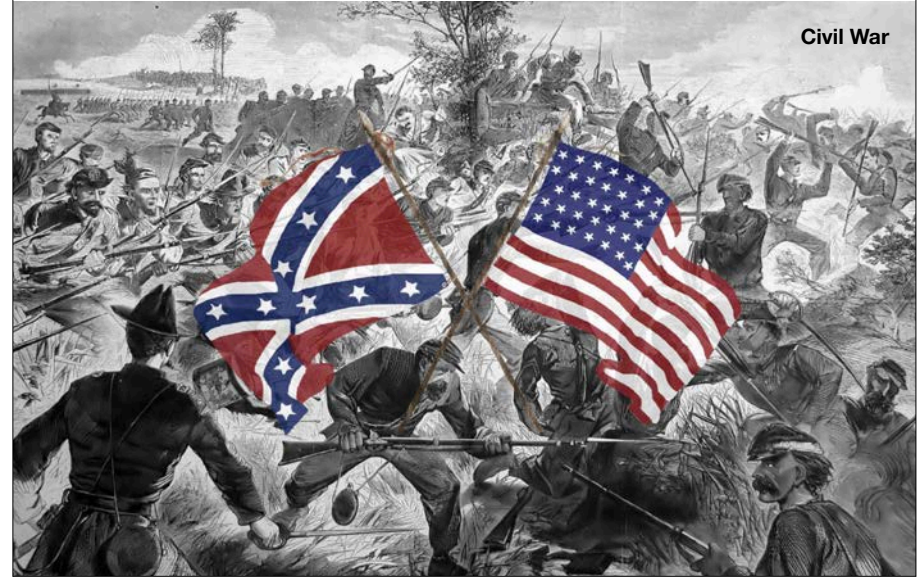


## Other people

Their thoughts, feelings, actions, decisions.  
How they perceive or judge you.



## The past



## The future



## Leaders





## Pandemics



## Wars



## Universe



## Gravity





## Time

Big Ben (England)



## Health



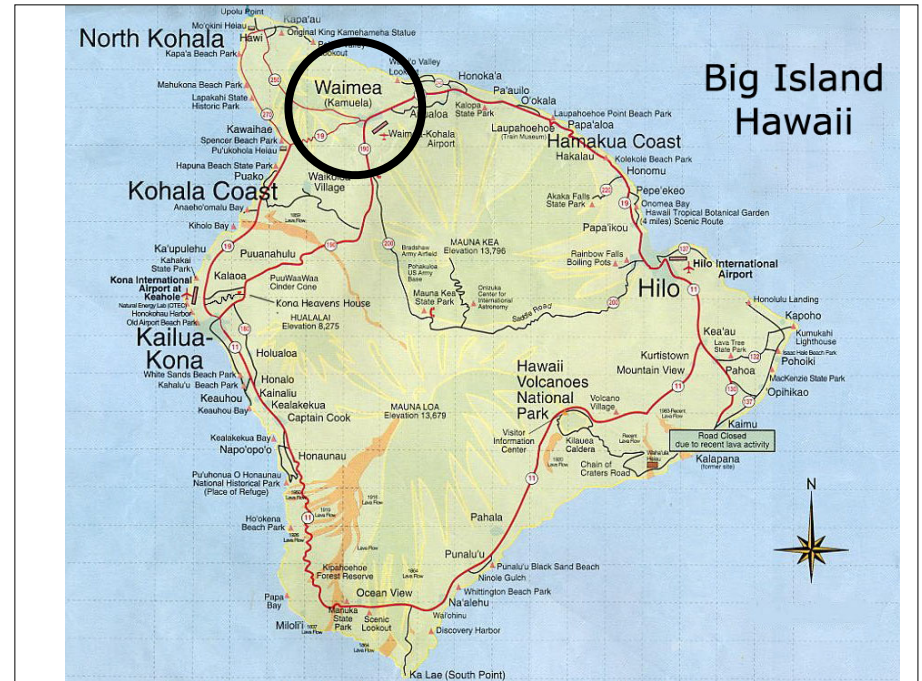
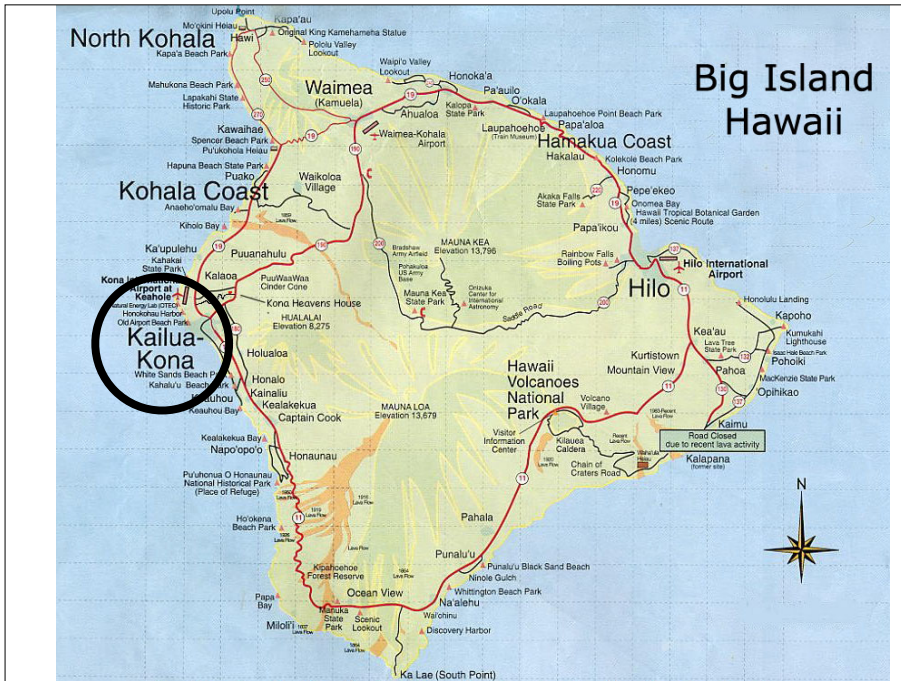
## Death



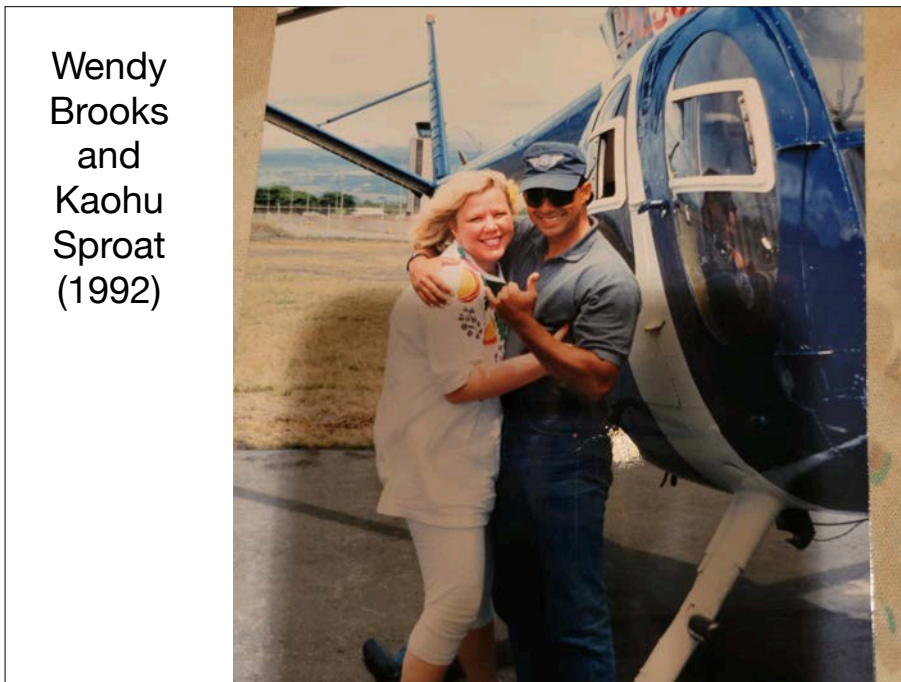
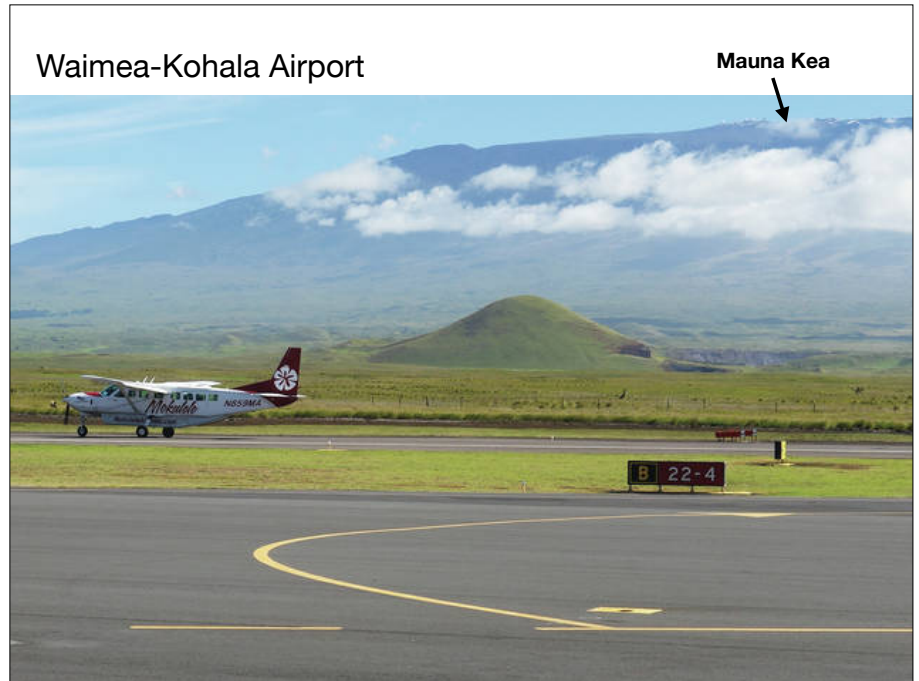
**What does lava and volcanoes have to do with receiving personal revelation?**

**How I discovered God's power and my reliance on Him on May 8, 1992**











Wild boar



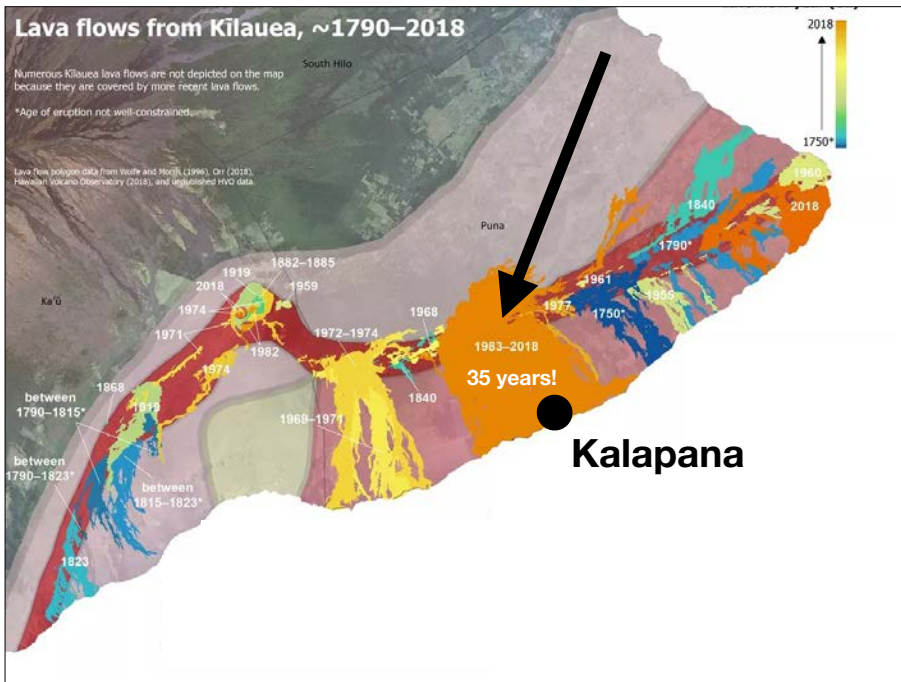
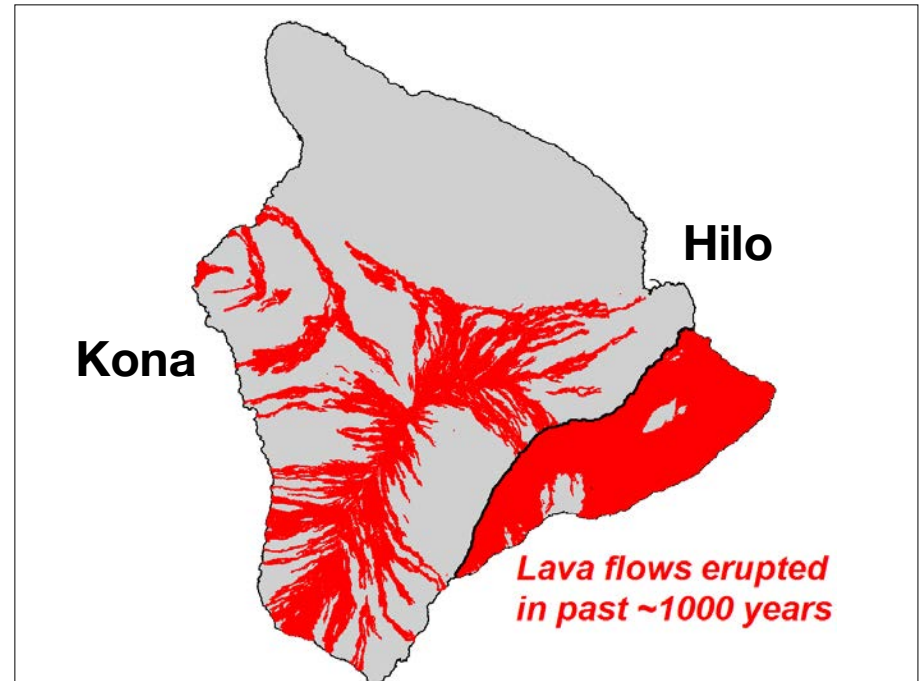
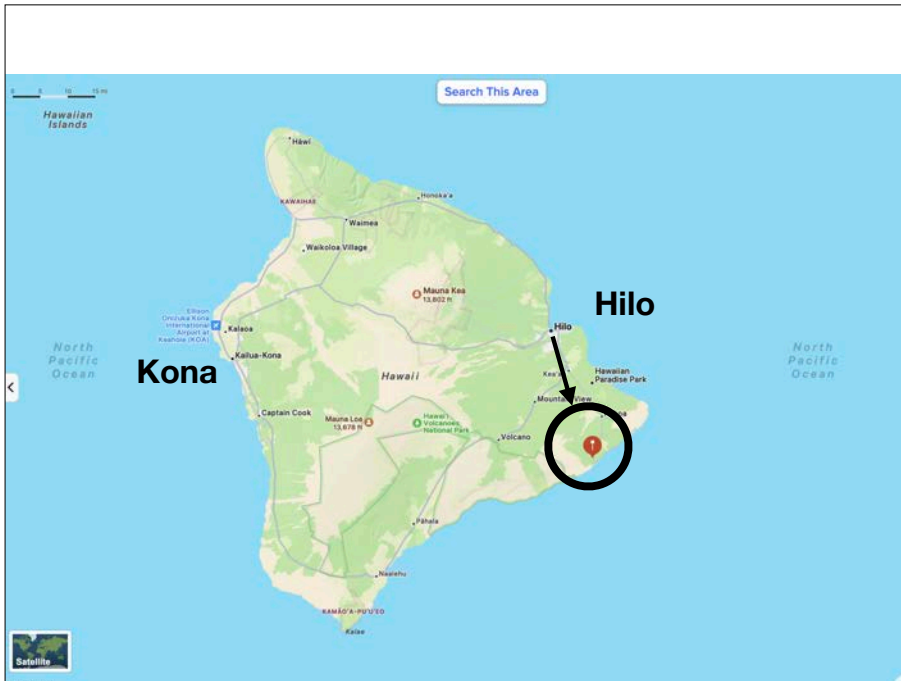
Sugar cane fields on Hāmākua coast



Hilo International Airport

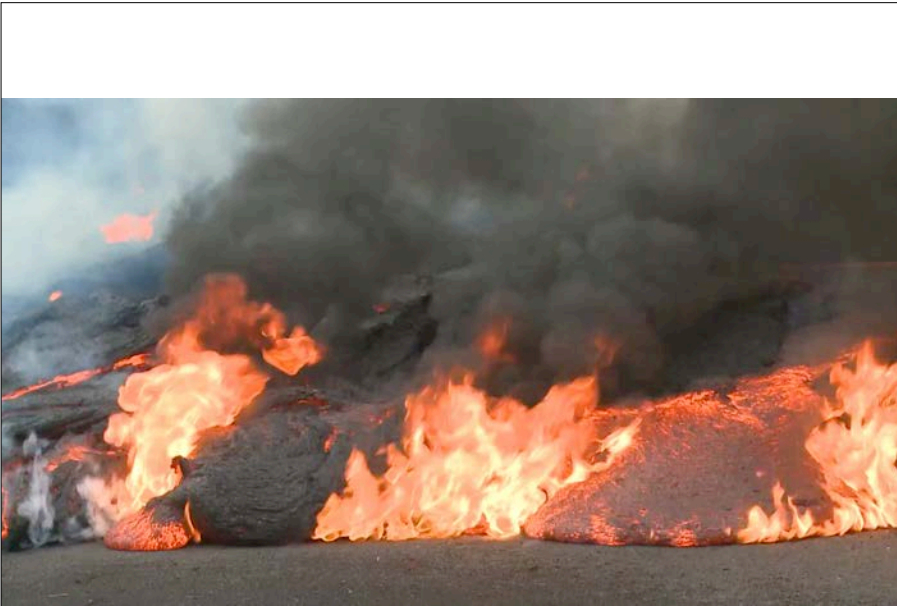








Star of the Sea Catholic Church (moved in 1990)



**What does lava and volcanoes have to do with receiving personal revelation?**



# 1

**God is in control of everything on the earth and in the heavens— including personal revelation. It is He who determines all aspects of receiving revelation.**



# 2

**Like the slow and predictable flow of lava, most revelation comes gradually and incrementally.**



# 3

**Even though we cannot control God and His will regarding revelation, we must do our part and actively prepare for and ask for revelation.**



# 4

**When you ask “that the Spirit to be with you,” you must pray for the Spirit to be in all areas of your life, not just revelation.**







## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

With personal revelation, what can we control? What can't we control?

# 1

God determines all aspects of revelation



## THINK ABOUT THIS:

If God determine all aspects of revelation—the who, what, where, when, why, and how —what can you do to be ready to receive revelation?

When it comes to revelation, God determines all aspects:





“Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him; **for he will unveil his face unto you**, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will” (D&C 88:68).



**God determines who gets the revelation**



Why did the angel appear to only Zacharias and not Elisabeth? Why didn't the angel appear to both of them? Or just Elisabeth?





Ammon, Aaron, Omner, and Himni went on missions. Why did the Ammon get to cut off all the arms of the bad Lamanites while Aaron had his “lot to have fallen into the hands of a more hardened people” (Alma 20:30)?

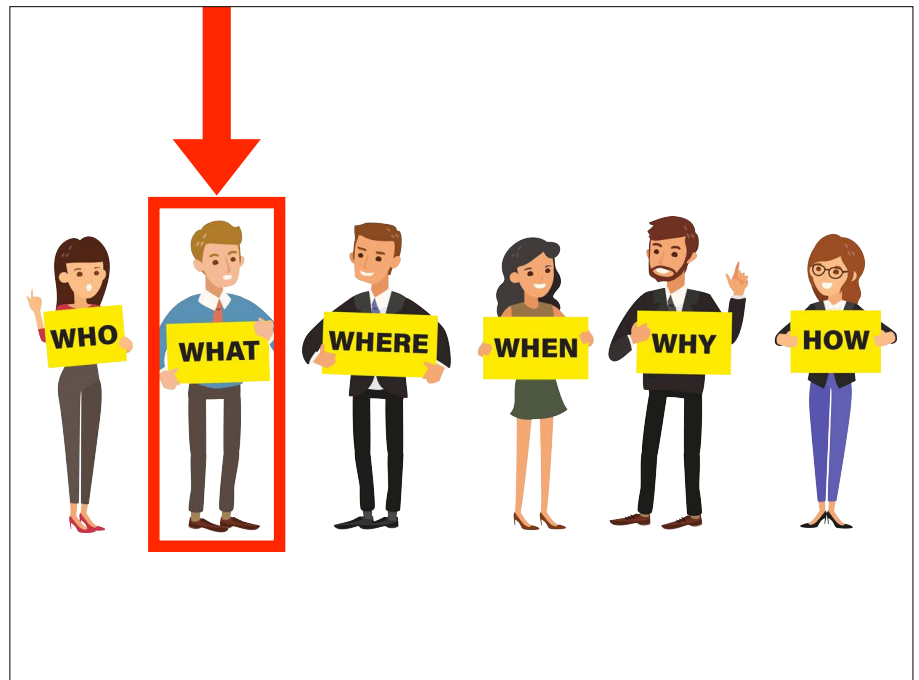


Why did Mary Whitmer get to see the Book of Mormon gold plates from Moroni dressed in modern-day clothes? Why didn't Emma get to see the plates in such a manner?



“...one cannot ‘call down’ the spirit as some are prone to say. We can create an appropriate environment for the Holy Ghost to instruct us. Spiritual communication cannot be forced. We must qualify ourselves and be ready to receive the Lord guidance and direction when He determines to provide it. No matter how urgent our personal timetable, the Lord responds according to His own will.”

Richard G. Scott, CES symposium, August 11, 1998







**God determines what is given in a revelation**

**It is his will. He knows more than we do. He sees the big picture.**

“O that cunning plan of the evil one! O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves, wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish. But to be learned is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God” (2 Nephi 9:28–29).



**What did the Lord reveal when constructing the Jaredite barges?**



**Sometimes he will give direct counsel.**

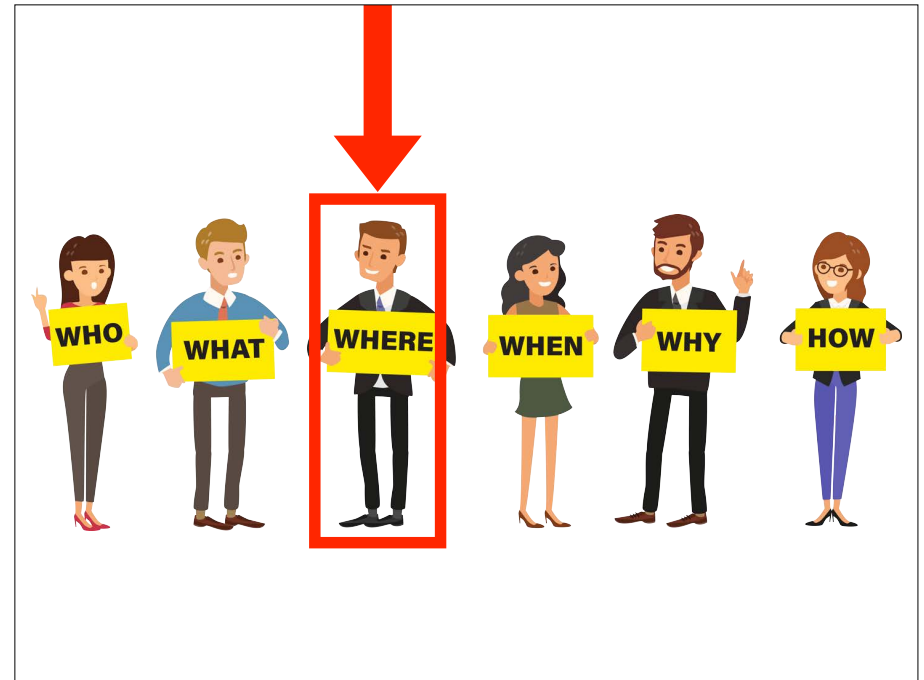
“And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: Behold, thou shalt make a hole in the top, and also in the bottom; and when thou shalt suffer for air thou shalt unstop the hole and receive air. And if it be so that the water come in upon thee, behold, ye shall stop the hole, that ye may not perish in the flood” (Ether 2:20).





**Other times He will ask you to figure it out.**

“And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels? For behold, ye cannot have windows, for they will be dashed in pieces; neither shall ye take fire with you, for ye shall not go by the light of fire” (Ether 2:22).



**God determines where revelations are given**



Revelation could come in a grove (JS)





Revelation could come in a cave (Elijah)



Revelation could come in a jail (Liberty)



Revelation could come in a classroom



Revelation could come in your room





Revelation could come in your car



Revelation could come in nature (Nephi)



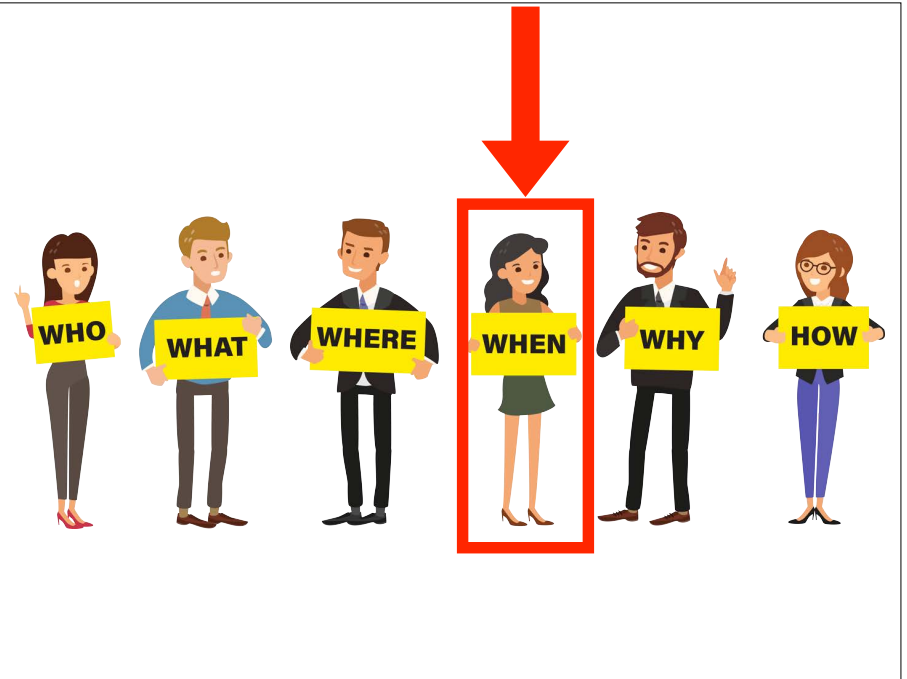
Revelation could come at work



Revelation could come on vacation



Revelation could come anywhere



**God determines  
when revelation  
is given**



“You cannot force spiritual things. Such words as compel, coerce, constrain, pressure, and demand do not describe our privileges with the Spirit. You can no more force the Spirit to respond than you can force a bean to sprout or an egg to hatch before its time. You can create a climate to foster growth, nourish, and protect; but you cannot force or compel: you must await the growth.”

The Quest for Spiritual Knowledge By President Boyd K. Packer  
• From a talk given at a seminar for new mission presidents on June 25, 1982.





Why did the Lord wait until 1978 “to extend to every worthy member of the Church all of the privileges and blessings which the gospel affords”? This is Darius Gray who was baptized in 1964.



Why did polygamy start and end? Will it come back?



When will we receive the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon?

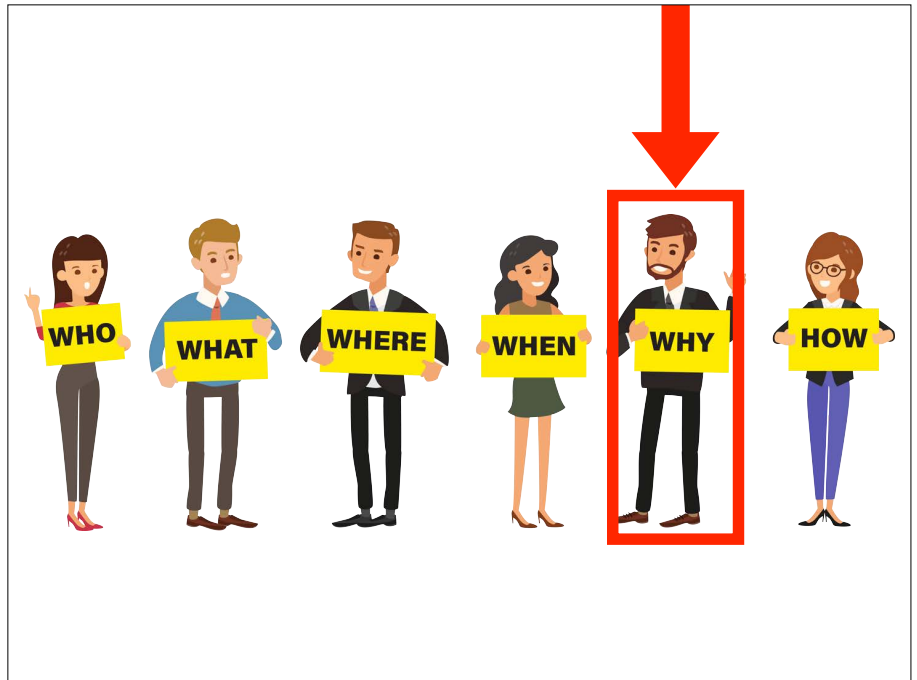


When will Jesus come again?



Perhaps our first mistake is to think that we own ourselves and also blocks time. Of course, we have our agency and an inner sovereignty, but disciples are to sacrifice themselves to do Jesus' bidding with enough faith in God's timing to say, in effect, "Thy timing be done."

Neal A. Maxwell, Promise of Discipleship, 87-88



**Sometimes God will ask you to do something without you knowing why.**



**Nephi and his brother were asked to get the plates without knowing all the details:**

“And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do. Nevertheless I went forth...” (1 Nephi 4:6-7).





**Lehi discovered why the plates were so important AFTER they obtained them:**

“...my father, Lehi, took the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, and he did search them from the beginning.

“And he beheld that they did contain the five books of Moses...

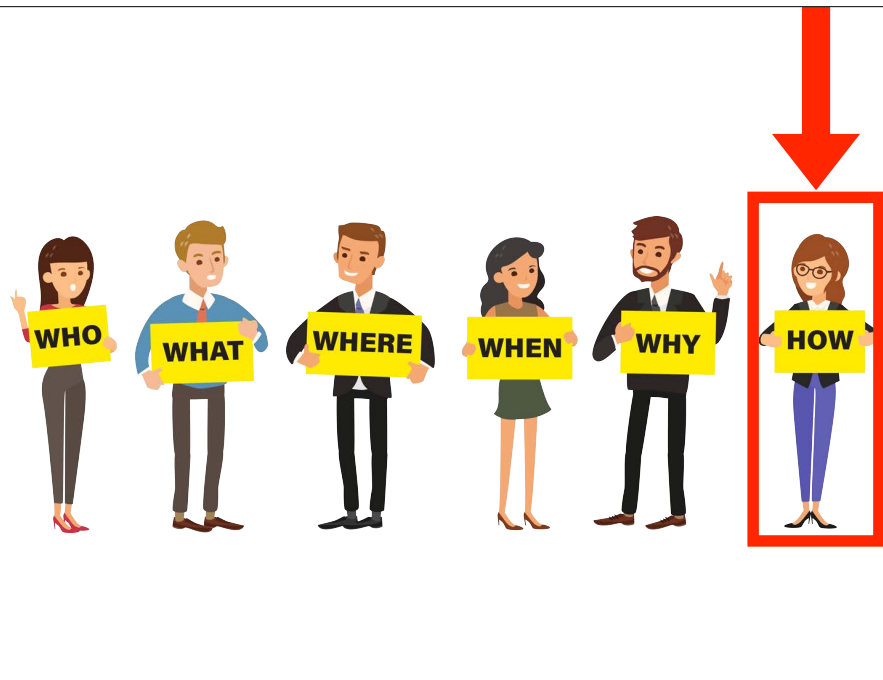
“And also a record of the Jews from the beginning...” (1 Nephi 5:10–12).



“And also the prophecies of the holy prophets...

“...a genealogy of his fathers...

“And we had obtained the records which the Lord had commanded us, and searched them and found that they were desirable; yea, even of great worth unto us, insomuch that we could preserve the commandments of the Lord unto our children” (1 Nephi 5:13–14, 21).



**God determines how revelations are given**

	Spiritual (Mind & Heart)	Earthly (5 senses)
PERSONAL REVELATION	Less direct and more frequent	More direct and less frequent
More Converting	Gift of the Holy Ghost	
Less Converting	Light of Christ	Interventions Dreams Audible Voices Visions Visitations

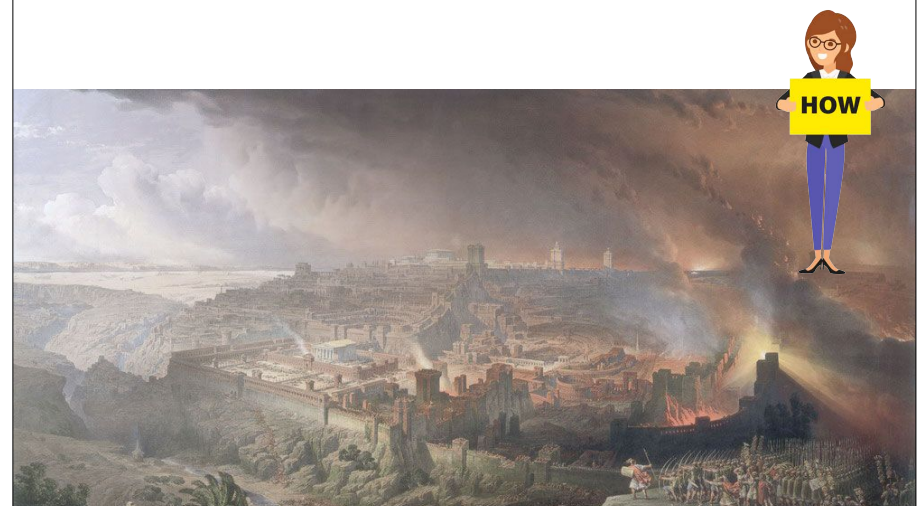
**Will God dramatically intervene like when Jesus visited Saul?**



**Will God talk to you in a dream like he talked to Joseph, Mary's husband?**



**Will you hear audible voices like the Nephites did when they heard Christ?**





**Will you have a vision like Lehi had when he was the vision of the tree of life?**



**Will a heavenly person visit you like God and Jesus visited Joseph Smith?**



**Has He already given you answers through the scriptures?**



**Has He already given you an answer through Church leaders?**



Will the Holy Ghost communicate to you through a still small voice filling your minds with thoughts and touching your hearts with feelings?



“In most cases, ‘his own way’ is not the thunderous interruption or the blinding light, but what the scriptures call ‘the still small voice.’ Some have misunderstood this principle. As a result, some have looked exclusively for the great manifestations that are recorded in the scriptures and have failed to recognize the still, small voice that is given to them.”

Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign, March 1997, 11–12



“This is like making up our minds that we will learn only from a teacher who shouts and that we will refuse to listen to even the wisest teaching when it comes in a whisper. We need to know that the Lord rarely speaks loudly. His messages almost always come in a whisper.”

Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign, March 1997, 11–12



## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

If God determine all aspects of revelation—the who, what, where, when, why, and how — what can you do to be ready to receive revelation?



# 2

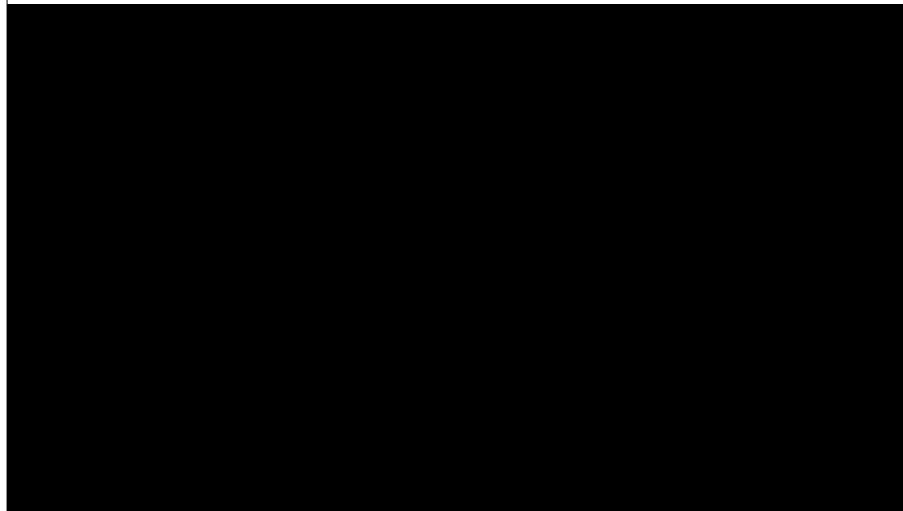
**Most  
revelation  
comes  
incrementally**



When the Lord give us “line upon line” and “precept upon precept” about Himself and His plans, many ignore those great gifts. Instead of lines, some demand paragraphs and even pages. When God provides “here a little, and there a little” . . . some want a lot—now!

Neal A. Maxwell Quote Book, 288

What does spirit of revelation look and feel like?



“The Spirit of Revelation,” By Elder David A. Bednar, General Conference, April 2011  
**Patterns of Light—Part 3 of 3: Spirit of Revelation (David A. Bednar)**  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/inspiration/patterns-of-light?lang=eng>

3:04

“For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have” (2 Nephi 28:30)



Not understanding these principles of revelation, some people postpone acknowledging their testimony until they have experienced a miraculous event. They fail to realize that with most people—especially those raised in the Church—**gaining a testimony is not an event but a process.**

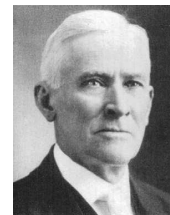
Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign, March 1997, 14



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT**  
Why does the Lord give us revelation gradually and incrementally?

**3**

**We must actively seek and ask for revelation**



“While the Holy Ghost may be conferred upon us, and is designed to be our guide and support, it is only restrained and manifested in its fulness in our guidance and defense in proportion to the degree to which we cultivate it and listen to its promptings. We may lose it entirely through indifference or transgression, and once deprived of its presence we are left in darkness more dense than before its reception. Cultivate it, my brethren and sisters, and it will become in reality the iron rod, which is the word of God, and will lead us back to him.”

Anthony Ivins, Conference Report, April 1934, 101–102





## Is finding the right person to marry based on inspiration or agency?



Elder Bruce R. McConkie  
of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles  
Ordained October 12, 1972

BYU Devotional, February 27, 1973  
“Agency or Inspiration—Which?”



“Well, do you want a wife? Do you want anything that’s right and proper? You go to work and you use the agency and power and ability that God has given you. You use every faculty, you get all the judgment that you can centered on the problem, you make up your own mind, and then, to be sure that you don’t err, you counsel with the Lord.”

Bruce R. McConkie, “Agency or Inspiration—Which?” • BYU Devotional, Feb. 27, 1973



“You talk it over. You say, ‘This is what I think; what do you think?’ And if you get the calm, sweet surety that comes only from the Holy Spirit, you know you’ve reached the right conclusion; but if there’s anxiety and uncertainty in your heart, then you’d better start over, because the Lord’s hand is not in it, and you’re not getting the ratifying seal that, as a member of the Church who has the gift of the Holy Ghost, you are entitled to receive.”

Bruce R. McConkie, “Agency or Inspiration—Which?” • BYU Devotional, Feb. 27, 1973



## LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

### How do we actively seek revelation?

# 4

**Pray for the Spirit in all areas of your life, not just for revelation**



The blessing on the sacramental **BREAD**:

“...that they may always have his Spirit to be with them.”

—Moroni 4:3







The blessing on the sacramental **WATER:**

“...that they may have his Spirit to be with them.”

— Moroni 5:4

## Compared side by side

### **BREAD:**

“...that they may **always** have his Spirit to be with them.”

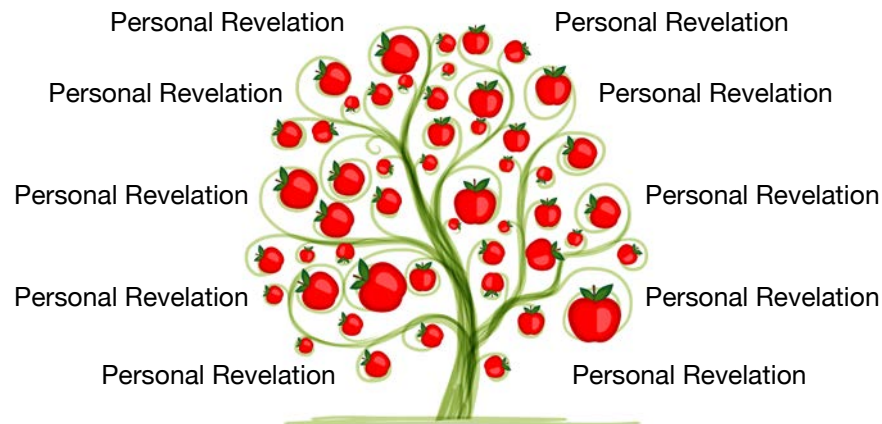
— Moroni 4:3

### **WATER:**

“...that they may have his Spirit to be with them.”

— Moroni 5:4

Having “his Spirit to be with them” does **NOT** mean that the only fruit of the Spirit is personal revelation.



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT**  
We often pray: “Please bless me with thy Spirit.” How do you know if you have his Spirit with you right now?

Having his “his Spirit to be with them” means all the fruits of the spirit— including personal revelation.



**FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

**Galatians 5:22–23:**

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Long-suffering
- Patience
- Gentleness
- Goodness
- Faith
- Meekness
- Temperance
- Self-control



**FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

**Moroni 7:45–48:**

- Kindness
- Patience
- Humility
- Seeking not one’s own
- Rejoicing in truth
- Enduring all things



**FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**



**D&C 11:12–13:**

- Doing good
- Walking humbly
- Judging righteously
- Enlightening the mind
- Filling the soul with joy



**FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**





**FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

**D&C 46 gifts of the Spirit:**

1. Testimony of Christ
2. Faith in Others' Testimony
3. Differences of Administration
4. Discernment of Operations
5. Word of Wisdom
6. Word of Knowledge
7. Faith to Be Healed
8. Faith to Heal
9. Working of Miracles
10. Prophecy
11. Discerning of Spirits
12. Speaking in Tongues
13. Interpretation of Tongues



**LET'S TALK ABOUT IT**

What other times do you know you have His Spirit with you?



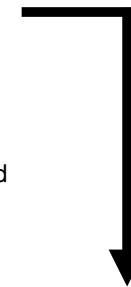
**TO DO**

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

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**[www.iloveinstitute.com](http://www.iloveinstitute.com)**

# Agency or Inspiration by Bruce R. McConkie

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SPEECHES > BRUCE R. MCCONKIE > AGENCY OR INSPIRATION—WHICH?

Devotional

**Agency or Inspiration—Which?**

BRUCE R. MCCONKIE

of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles • February 27, 1973

AUDIO 0:00 / 32:09 SPEED 1.0x

*It is our obligation to go to work on our problems and then counsel with the Lord and get the ratifying seal of the Holy Spirit on the conclusions that we've reached; and that ratifying seal is the spirit of revelation.*

## 1 Church website: [www.churchofjesuschrist.org](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org)

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## 2

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## 3

### Books and Lessons

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Library

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Magazines **Books and Lessons** Topics and Questions Church History Videos and Images Children



**4** **Teachings of Presidents**

The screenshot shows the 'Books and Lessons' section of the Church of Jesus Christ website. A red circle with the number '4' is in the top left. A red arrow points to a red-bordered box around the 'Teachings of Presidents' resource card. Other visible resource cards include Seminary, Institute, Missionary Preparation, Teaching in the Savior's Way, Church History, Temple Preparation, Self-Reliance Resources, Preach My Gospel, Relief Society and Elders Quorum, Jesus the Christ by Talmage, and Gospel Principles.

**5** **Russell M. Nelson**

The screenshot shows the 'Teachings of Presidents' page on the Church of Jesus Christ website. A red circle with the number '5' is in the top left. A red arrow points to a red-bordered box around the portrait of Russell M. Nelson. Other portraits of past presidents are visible, including Thomas S. Monson, Gordon B. Hinckley, Howard W. Hunter, Ezra Taft Benson, Spencer W. Kimball, Harold B. Lee, Joseph Fielding Smith, David O. McKay, George Albert Smith, Heber J. Grant, and Joseph F. Smith.

**6** **Chapter 14: Revelation for Our Lives**

The screenshot shows the 'Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Russell M. Nelson' page. A red circle with the number '6' is in the top left. A red arrow points to a red-bordered box around the 'Chapter 14: Revelation for Our Lives' link in the left sidebar. The main content area shows 'Chapter 2: The Atonement of Jesus Christ' and 'From the Life of Russell M. Nelson'.

**7** **Chapter 14: Revelation for Our Lives**

The screenshot shows the 'Chapter 14: Revelation for Our Lives' page. A red circle with the number '7' is in the top left. A red arrow points to a red-bordered box around the chapter title and introductory text in the left sidebar. The main content area features the title 'Chapter 14: Revelation for Our Lives' and the text: 'I urge you to stretch beyond your current spiritual ability to receive personal revelation.' Below this is a video thumbnail of Russell M. Nelson.



**NEXT CLASS**  
**February 6**



CLASS 4 OF 11:  
What are the principles for receiving  
revelation (Part B)? How do you  
become spiritually self-reliant?

