

It's Not So Hard To Believe

We would be awed if Michael were to tell us all about what happens in life at the cellular and molecular levels. We would be spellbound and amazed if we could see space through the lens of the Hubble Telescope. There is wonderment as we see a new blade of grass coming up from the ground. Our hearts are touched when we feel the grip of a small child's hand around one of our fingers. What grand evidence of a Supreme Being.

There seems to be miracles and majesty all around us. Oh, but what more there is to testify of the Divine. Think with me of how blest we are to have the gift of the Holy Ghost to testify to our hearts the truth of all things. For example:

Pure light flowing into our minds – One day I was driving by myself in the car and contemplating a verse from Section 121, "...and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven." Not being the sharpest pencil in the box, every time I had heard that scripture I had no real idea what it meant. As I was exiting Wadsworth Blvd. and swinging up on 6th Ave., it came to me crystal clear. All of a sudden I knew exactly what it meant. I felt like the Lord blest me with a burst of pure light and intelligence.

Peace unto your mind and heart – As a young man attending BYU I remember contemplating that big and all important question of should I marry Mavis McKay? I went through all the recommended exercises of "pros and cons" and assessing what were her strengths and weaknesses. Ultimately it came down to me making a decision and then taking that decision to the Lord for a confirmation. I can remember asking our Heavenly Father to bless me to know if it was right. There was a complete wave of peace and tranquility that came over me. It reminded me of the scripture D&C 6:22-23, where the Lord told Oliver Cowdery, "...cast your mind upon the night that you cried unto me in your heart, that you might know the truth of these things. Did I not speak peace unto your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can ye have than from God?"

Mini revelations - So many times I have felt the sweet witness of the Holy Ghost as I have heard church leaders speak, read the scriptures, observed a baptism, listened to a testimony or as singing a hymn of Zion. I can remember as a Deacon attending stake conference in the East Los Angeles Stake. Half way through the meeting we all stood and sang "Oh How Lovely Was the Morning". For the first time in my young life I felt the witness of the Holy Ghost so strongly. I was trying to hold back the tears! What a wonderful experience.

Comfort – It was just after high school. For the first time in my life I boarded a bus and left the apron strings of my tender and loving mother. I had been on campouts before or had stayed with relatives while my parents went on a trip or something. But, this was the first time I was leaving for an extended period of time – for basic training in the Army no less. It was a trial. My drill sergeant did not love me. He did not like me. He even said he hated us. He called me bad names and even hit my steel helmet with a metal paddle once because I did not have my rifle on safety. No one else in my platoon was LDS. They all seemed to come from very different backgrounds and experiences than me. It was July and North Carolina was hot and humid! One night I was on guard duty. I found myself alone in the middle of the night. I knelt down to pray and unloaded the burden to my Heavenly Father. I was weeping because the stress of basic training was weighing me down. I did not think I could do it. As I prayed I could almost feel as though Heavenly Father was putting his arm around me and saying, "It's okay. Don't worry. It

will be alright from now on.” I can honestly say that boot camp was never a problem from that moment on.

Revelation in our callings – As a young bishop with pimples still on my beautiful face, I have felt the Holy Ghost reveal things to me. Two good examples come to mind.

Back in the old days members had to come up with 30% of the cost for any new church buildings or additions. Our Kenosha Ward needed a \$300,000.00 additions. It was a poor ward and we did not know how we could afford it. I believe the Lord revealed to me to instruct the members to exercise their faith and unitedly make the commitment to generate the funds needed. None of us knew where the money was going to come from. Ways were opened up for members to contribute. One way was the “Miracle Cleaning Company”. I learned of a janitorial service that had several accounts and wanted to sell the business. We committed to purchasing it and many of the ward members that could not afford to contribute took on an account to clean. The money from their cleaning went to the ward building budget.

On another occasion I had a telephone call from a sister who’s husband was seeing another woman. He was the past Elder’s Quorum President, highly respected in the community and twice my age. As intimidating as it was, I felt like I needed to go visit with him and his wife. I prayed before I left our house. I prayed as I drove. I said a prayer just before getting out of the car at their house. I attempted to counsel with both of them. I had them each describe what they thought would be the ideal marriage. I had them talk about what use to really work in their marriage. I had them hold hands and tell of three things they admired about the other person. I did a lot of different things. We had a prayer before I left. As I was driving home I had a sense of complete failure. Who was I to be counseling them? I didn’t know what I was talking about. I felt as if my efforts were in vain.

A few days later I went to a stake bishop’s training meeting. Our stake president introduced a brother who was from LDS Social Services. He was there to talk to us bishops about marriage counseling. You can imagine how interested I was in the topic! My efforts and work with the troubled couple a few nights before were all confirmed by the Spirit as he described technique after technique that I had used. The Lord reveals to His servants what needs to be done.

Taught by the Spirit – How many times have we gone to the temple and we learned some thing new in the temple endowment. I know when I attend the temple with the right attitude and in the right spirit that things can be taught to me that I did not understand or see before.

So, with this beautiful world around us and the gift of the Holy Ghost to guide us, it is not hard for me to believe. God lives. His son died for us and opened the way for us to return to our heavenly home. Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God. He translated the gold plates by the power of God and we now have another glorious witness of Jesus Christ. The priesthood is real and has been restored to the earth for the blessing of mankind and so important saving ordinances can be performed. I know all this is true because it has been witnessed to me by the power of the Holy Ghost and by the power of the Holy Ghost we can know the truth of all things.