

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On March 23, 2012, we received an unusual comment:

The author described what appears to be a personal spiritual experience and wanted to know if others have experienced the same or a similar thing. We elect not to describe the experience for the sake of privacy and to avoid undue influence upon others. But we do feel we can sufficiently respond to his or her inquiry and at the same time make a point that may be of benefit to the entire Body.

In our **Questions and Response for February 25, 2012**, we posted a response to an inquiry about whether anointed Christians have visions today. We explained that it is certainly possible. The spirit of truth does indeed seek to communicate with us, and in spite of the vast difference between the spiritual mind and the human mind, on occasions it meets with a measure of success – even if the communication is a bit jumbled in the translation.

We should also keep in mind that God is not partial. (*Acts 10:34*) He spoke with men and women of earlier times as reflected in the Hebrew scriptures, so why would he keep silent in our generation? If God is not partial to man, neither is he partial to a generation.

We should note, in terms of why there appears to be more communication in earlier times, that the people of those days who are said to have had those types of visitations were very personally conscious of God. We suspect that, on occasion, the messages were likewise somewhat jumbled, as evidenced by the sometimes misunderstanding about the loving nature of the Father. (See our article “**Revealing the Awe Inspiring Father of All**”). Nevertheless, the hearer or viewer managed to translate something of value out of the experience.

Today, we have a different atmosphere. People who do not understand the unity of true science and true religion, and persons with an overly sensitive fear of the spirit world (notwithstanding that the Father and the Christ are spirits) ridicule authentic spiritual experiences. So persons having such experiences dismiss them, ignore them, falsely define them and, in effect, shut the door to them. It is no surprise, therefore, that there would be fewer reported incidents of genuine spirit communications.

We are inclined to believe the author of this inquiry is somewhat wary of sharing his or her experience openly, but feels a measure of confidence here because it can be addressed in anonymity. And we are respecting that anonymity by refraining from expressing the nature of the experience. But we want the author to know that whether others have had your experience is not a determination of its value or validity. If the spirit is trying to communicate with you, it is likely for you and you alone. So, how are you to interpret it?

We learned some time ago that the spirit works by stimulating what is already present in your own mind. He is called the “helper” not the “originator.”

“But the helper, the holy spirit, which the Father will send in my name, that one will teach you all things and **bring back to your minds** all the things I told you.” – *John 14:26*

So if you have a limited mental storehouse of spiritual information, the communication will likewise be limited. For example, if one does not know all the alphabets, there would be many words that could not be spoken to you or understood by you. It is the same with the spirit. When a communication is attempted, the receiver may only get one or two of the ideas and not the complete message because the receiver has not developed a sufficient spiritual vocabulary. When trying to translate the message, it appears cryptic and makes little sense. Thus, any attempt to understand it will be flawed or, at the very least, thwarted. This is one reason why we advocate regular and persistent study and prayer.

“How I do love your law! All day long it is my concern. Wiser than my enemies your commandment makes me, Because to time indefinite it is mine. More insight than all my teachers I have come to have, because your reminders are a concern to me. With more understanding than older men I behave, because I have observed your own orders.” – *Psalms 119:97-100*

If you are privileged with a spirit communication, keep in mind that it is based on the information you have already taken in and is therefore likely to be for your **own** edification. As such, there is no need for outside verification, confirmation, or validation. It is of no consequence whether others have shared the experience.

It is your own sublime adventure to understand its meaning by combining the spiritual images you receive with your own pre-existing spiritual words. No one can translate it for. The Apostle Paul explains this process for us:

“For who among men knows the things of a man **except the spirit of man that is in him**? So, too, no one has come to know the things of God, except the spirit of God. Now we received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that have been kindly given us by God. These things we also speak, not with words taught by human wisdom, but with those taught by [the] spirit, **as we combine spiritual [matters] with spiritual [words]**.” – *1 Corinthians 2:11-13*

Paul also explains to us the problem with attempting an interpretation of a spirit revelation without understanding how it works:

“But a physical man does not receive the things of the spirit of God, **for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot get to know [them], because they are examined spiritually.** However, the spiritual man examines indeed all things, but he himself is not examined by any man. For “who has come to know the mind of Jehovah, that he may instruct him?” But we do have the mind of Christ.” – *1 Corinthians 2:14-16*

And, to bring the matter full circle, we gain the mind of Christ by means of the spirit of truth:

“However, when that one arrives, the spirit of the truth, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak of his own impulse, but what things he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things coming. **That one will glorify me, because he will receive from what is mine and will declare it to you.**” – *John 16:13-14*

Having explained how spirit revelation and communication works, we caution you to be aware that we can sometimes deceive ourselves into believing that ideas that originate in our own minds are actually spirit communications. In spite of our scientific advancements, there is so much about the human mind and its workings that remain a mystery. All the more reason to apply any such insights to our own lives rather than ‘shouting them from the rooftops.’ And if they are indeed spirit leadings, they will **ALWAYS** manifest itself in the glory of the Father and the Christ. **That is the ONLY work undertaken by the spirit of truth.**

To the author of the inquiry, we urge you to examine your experience for a personal message that would lead you to a closer and deeper fellowship with the Christ. Your description contains some imagery. Ask yourself what that imagery means to you and your pursuit of the Kingdom and spiritual things. If you cannot make that connection, you may wish to set the matter aside until your spiritual vocabulary is sufficient enough to comprehend the message. Otherwise, you may find yourself heading in a dark and unprofitable direction.

We hope we have provided you with enough information to help you resolve this matter between you, the Father and the Christ. And may the Father’s blessing peace remain with you always.

“Elaia Luchnia”