

His Still Small Voice

Table of Contents

Draw Nigh to the Lord with a Humble Heart 3

The Whisperings of His Still, Small Voice from Within..... 5

The Whisperings of His Still Small Voice through the Scriptures..... 7

 Unbelief: God is a God of Miracles 8

The Directing Voice 10

Conclusion..... 11

Hearken to His Still Small Voice

Before the hour of breaking the fast came, I was blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit resting upon me in quiet assurance and in power. In the still small voice which giveth light and understanding to the intelligence of man, exalting the soul and sanctifying the spirit, there came unto me the directing voice of Him whose work we are engaged in.

DC 131:1b-c

Perhaps one of the most marvelous aspects of God is His desire for mankind to know Him and to know His will. In Genesis, chapter seven, God told Enoch that He desired for mankind to choose Him, saying, “And in the garden of Eden gave I unto man his agency; and unto thy brethren have I said, and also gave commandment, that they should love one another; and that they should choose me their Father.¹” God’s desire is for each soul to choose Him, but how can we choose Him without knowledge of the truth? God answered that question in the preceding verse by saying, “they [mankind] are the workmanship of mine own hands, and I gave them *their intelligence* in the day that I created them.²”

Mankind was graced with intelligence in the day of their creation, which the Doctrine and Covenants defines by saying, “The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth.³” Moreover, we read in Proverbs, “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings to search out the matter.⁴” Thus, the glory of God is to conceal knowledge, or light and truth, within each soul, but it is the honor and duty of mankind to search it out and to know truth. Ammon said that through repentance, exercising our faith, and continual prayer, we can receive “the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed.⁵”

Each and every person can search out the light and truth of God by listening to the Spirit of Truth. In Moroni, chapter seven, we read that every soul that is born on this earth is given a portion of the Spirit of Christ, and that every soul is given to know good from evil. Mormon wrote, “For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a *perfect knowledge*, as the daylight is from the dark night. For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to *every man*, that they may know good from evil; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge: for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ.⁶”

¹ Genesis 7:40

² Genesis 7:39

³ DC 90:6a

⁴ Proverbs 25:2

⁵ Alma 14:103

⁶ Moroni 7:13-14

It is important for the reader to know that God yearns to direct and lead each person, and that He desires for us to understand His still, small voice that calls out to every soul. “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I beseech of you in words of soberness, that ye would repent, and come with full purpose of heart, and *cleave unto God as he cleaveth unto you*. And while his arm of mercy is extended towards you in the light of the day, harden not your hearts.⁷”

Draw Nigh to the Lord with a Humble Heart

The 1828 Webster’s Dictionary defines the word cleave as “to stick; to adhere; to hold to; to unite or be united closely in interest or affection; to adhere with strong attachment.” Therefore, we learn through Scripture that God desires for each and every soul to unite and abide with Him. However, this can only be accomplished if we repent and come with full purpose of heart, which Nephi defined as, “acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God.⁸”

The question then is how can we unite with God? We can find the answer in James, chapter four, which reads, “But he [God] giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace *to the humble*. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you.⁹” In order for us to cleave to God, our hearts must be soft, submissive, and humble, because only the penitent heart will be able to hear the Lord’s voice and draw nigh to Him. [Read more on humility in **Chapter Six**] Please read from Alma 14:102-103:

14:102 And now behold, my brethren, what natural man is there, that knoweth these things? I say unto you, there is none that knoweth these things, **save it be the penitent**; **14:103** Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing: unto such **it is given to know the mysteries of God**; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed;

It is imperative to understand that only a truly humble heart will be able to unite with God, and that true humility requires submission and obedience. For perhaps an unusual illustration, let us examine Laman and Lemuel, the two eldest sons of Lehi. If the reader will recall, these two brothers, despite their continual disobedience to God, were allowed to witness many great and marvelous works, including seeing an angel, hearing of the vision of the Tree of Life, and witnessing the prayer of Nephi cease a great and terrible storm. In first Nephi, chapter five, we read, “Even the voice of the Lord came and did speak *many words* unto them, and did chasten them exceedingly.¹⁰”

However, instead of cleaving or uniting with the Lord and hearkening to His voice, Laman and Lemuel hardened their hearts against God, and rather than find joy in God, they tried to measure their level of happiness with the amount of their material possessions. “Behold, these many years we have suffered

⁷ Jacob 4:8-9

⁸ 2 Nephi 13:16

⁹ James 4:6-8

¹⁰ 1 Nephi 5:53

in the wilderness, which time we might have *enjoyed our possessions*, and the land of our inheritance; yea, and we might have been happy.¹¹”

Unfortunately, we too occasionally look to our possessions and to the world for our happiness, but these things cannot give us fulfillment or true joy, and they will keep our souls separated from God instead of being fully united with Him. Paul described it this way, saying, “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.¹²” Please read what Nephi told his two brothers in 1 Nephi 5:144-150:

5:144 Ye are swift to do iniquity, but slow to remember the Lord your God. **5:145** Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have ***heard his voice*** from time to time; **5:146** And he hath spoken unto you ***in a still, small voice***, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not ***feel his words***; **5:147** Wherefore, he has spoken unto you like unto the voice of thunder, which did cause the earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder. **5:148** And ye also know that by the power of his almighty word he can cause the earth that it shall pass away; **5:149** Yea, and ye know that by his word he can cause the rough places to be made smooth, and smooth places shall be broken up. **5:150** O, then, why is it that ye can be **so hard in your hearts?**

Brothers and sisters, we would ask, are we like Laman and Lemuel? How soft and humble are our hearts? Do we listen to or hear the voice of the Lord? Do we hearken to God’s commandments? Are we spiritually minded? Do we seek for the joy of the Spirit, or for the pleasures of the world? It is most important for us to understand and to recognize God’s still small voice in our soul, and that Jesus Christ yearns to direct and lead each one of us. Please read the following from Psalms 23:1-3 and Doctrine and Covenants 77:4a-c

23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. **23:2** He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. **23:3** He **restoreth my soul**; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

77:4a Verily, verily I say unto you, Ye are little children, and ye have not as yet understood how great blessings the Father has in his own hands, and prepared for you; and ye can not bear all things now; **77:4b** nevertheless be of good cheer, for ***I will lead you along; the kingdom is yours*** and the blessings thereof are yours; and the riches of eternity are yours; **77:4c** and he who receiveth all things, with thankfulness, shall be made glorious...

Knowing that God cleaves toward us, let us now learn how we might cleave toward Him and listen to His still, small voice to our soul.

¹¹ 1 Nephi 5:97

¹² Romans 8:5-6

The Whisperings of His Still, Small Voice from Within

In order to listen to the Lord's still small voice, we must first understand what exactly it is. Nephi has given us an important glimpse of the Lord's voice through his previous admonition of his brothers in the fifth chapter of the first book of Nephi. Notice how Nephi said, "Yea, ye have heard his voice from time to time and he hath spoken unto you in a still, small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words." In other words, hearing the voice of God was a different experience than feeling His still small voice, meaning that not only had Laman and Lemuel literally heard the voice of the Lord, but they had also felt His still small voice in their heart. Nevertheless, though Laman and Lemuel had witnessed many mighty miracles, including hearing the voice of God, their hearts were hardened against the word of the Lord and they were past feeling His still small voice to their soul, which is that burning of the Holy Ghost within our heart.

Jesus further explained the Lord's still, small voice in Doctrine and Covenants, Section Eighty-Five, saying, "Verily I say unto you, my friends I leave these sayings with you, to ponder in your hearts with this commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall call upon me while I am near; *draw near unto me*, and *I will draw near unto you*; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you... Behold, that which you hear is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness; in the wilderness, because you can not see him: my voice, because my voice is Spirit; my Spirit is truth: truth abideth and hath no end; and if it be in you *it shall abound*.¹³" Wherefore, Jesus clearly explained that the Spirit of Truth who leads and guides us into all knowledge is the Lord's still small voice. Please read the following from John 14:16-17 and John 16:12-14:

14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; **14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it **seeth him not**, neither knoweth him; but **ye know him**; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. **16:13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come.

16:14 He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

For an example of how the Holy Ghost speaks to the souls of men, let us examine the Words of Mormon. [To read more on the Holy Ghost, turn to **Chapter Three**]. In this book, Mormon wrote directly to us today as if he spoke from out of the dust, and he explained that the Book of Mormon is his abridgement of the records that were given to him, saying, "And they were handed down from King Benjamin, from generation to generation, until they have fallen into my hands." Now can the reader imagine the difficulty of abridging a record that contained thousands of years of history, and not with a pencil and paper, but upon plates of brass? Of course, we know that Mormon was not alone, but he had the power of the Holy Ghost within him. Please read the following verses from the Words of Mormon 8-13:

¹³ DC 85:16a-17

1:8 Wherefore, I chose these things, to finish my record upon them, which remainder of my record I shall take from the plates of Nephi; and I cannot write the hundredth part of the things of my people. **1:9** But behold, I shall take these plates, which contain these prophesyings and revelations, and put them with the remainder of my record, for they are choice unto me; and I know they will be choice unto my brethren. **1:10** And I do this for a wise purpose; for ***thus it whispereth me***, according to the **workings of the Spirit of the Lord *which is in me***. **1:11** And now, I do not know all things; but the Lord knoweth all things which are to come; wherefore, **he worketh in me to do according to his will**. ...**1:13** And now I, Mormon, proceed to finish out my record, which I take from the plates of Nephi; and I make it according to the knowledge and the understanding ***which God has given me***.

Every soul that has been baptized by the water and the Spirit, and has received the gift of the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands, has the same power within them that Mormon had. That same Spirit of the Lord can work within every son and daughter of God if we desire to draw nearer to God with a humble heart, seeking for light and truth, which is that still small voice, or Spirit of Truth who both guides us and opens our understanding.

If we hearken to the voice of the Lord and continue to keep His commandments, we are told that the same will receive light and truth “until he is glorified in truth, and knoweth all things.¹⁴” The testimony of Oliver Cowdery provides us with an example of how we too can receive a perfect knowledge in a thing if we seek the Lord with full purpose of heart and listen to His still small voice.

Before the Church of Jesus Christ was restored to the earth in 1830, Joseph Smith, Jr. had a great need for someone to help in the work of translation, to write down the words that he spoke. As we know, Oliver Cowdery, a school teacher, was the man that God selected to assist Joseph in the work. Oliver had a fervent desire to know of the truth of Joseph’s testimony, and it was not long after the two met that Oliver began assisting Joseph in the translation of the Book of Mormon. Please read how the Lord blessed Oliver from Doctrine and Covenants, Section Six:

6:6a Verily, verily I say unto thee, Blessed art thou for what thou hast done, for thou hast inquired of me, and, behold, as often as thou hast inquired, thou hast received ***instruction of my Spirit***. **6:6b** If it had not been so, thou wouldst not have come to the place where thou art at this time. **6:7a** Behold, thou knowest that thou hast inquired of me, and I did ***enlighten thy mind***; and now I tell thee these things, that thou mayest know that thou hast been enlightened ***by the spirit of truth***; **6:7b** yea, I tell thee, that thou mayest know that there is none else save God, that knowest thy thoughts and the intents of thy heart.

Oliver Cowdery was truly blessed by the Lord, and because of his faith and his full purpose of heart, he was allowed to see the brass plates. Today, Oliver’s testimony can be read at the front of every copy of the Book of Mormon. “We also know that they [the Book of Mormon plates] have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety, that

¹⁴ DC 90:4e

the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shewn unto us by the power of God, and not of man.”

The Spirit of Truth is God’s still, small voice, and if we will cleave to Him, He will cleave to us. If we seek for God and for His light and truth, we will receive it through the instruction of the Holy Ghost. Jesus Christ said, “Therefore, why is it that ye can not understand and know that he that receiveth the word by the spirit of truth, receiveth it as it is preached by the spirit of truth?¹⁵” Brothers and sisters, while God is near, let us hearken to the still small voice of Lord. “Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts...For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.¹⁶”

The Whisperings of His Still Small Voice through the Scriptures

Jesus Christ told the Church in Section Eighty-Three of the Doctrine and Covenants that the whole Church was, and is still, under condemnation because it has treated lightly the things that it has received and because of unbelief. “And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do to that which I have written.”

A way for the Church to remove this condemnation is, as Christ said, to repent and remember the New Covenant and the Book of Mormon. In other words, if we want to follow the commandments that the Lord has written, we first have to study them through all of Scripture, which is also a way for us to begin to listen to God’s still, small voice. “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.¹⁷” For an example, let us examine the Book of Mormon. Both Nephi and Isaiah explained that the Book of Mormon, which is the word of God, would speak as whisper from the dust. “For those who shall be destroyed shall speak unto them out of the ground, and their speech shall be low out of the dust, and their voice shall be as one that hath a familiar spirit [meaning the book is written similar to how the children of Israel write]; For the Lord God will give unto him [the Holy Ghost] power, that he may whisper concerning them, even as it were out of the ground; and their speech shall whisper out of the dust.¹⁸” [read Isaiah 29:1-32]

Furthermore, we read in third Nephi, chapter thirteen, “For behold, out of the books which have been written, and which shall be written, shall this people be judged, for by them shall their works be known unto men. And behold, all things are written by the Father; therefore out of the books which shall be written, shall the world be judged.¹⁹” Thus, we learn that God has written all of the Holy Scriptures and through the power of the Holy Ghost, they whisper and speak truth to our soul. “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been *assured* of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

¹⁵ DC 50:5c

¹⁶ Hebrews 3:7-15

¹⁷ 2 Timothy 2:15

¹⁸ 2 Nephi 11:85

¹⁹ 3 Nephi 13:2-3

And that from a child thou hast *known* the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise *unto salvation* through faith which is in Christ Jesus. And *all scripture* given by inspiration of God, is *profitable* for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be *perfect*, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.²⁰

Nevertheless, if the sons and daughters of God desire to both hear understand the Scriptures, and thereby the voice of God, it is crucial that we learn spiritual discernment. In Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians, he wrote, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, *except* he has the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are *freely given* to us of God."²¹

Furthermore, God said in Genesis, "And thus the gospel began to be preached *from the beginning*, being declared by holy angels, sent forth from the presence of God; and by his own voice, and by the gift of the Holy Ghost."²² The word of God, which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that has been declared from the foundation of the world, is one way in which we can seek Him and hear His still small voice as the Scriptures increase our knowledge and edify our soul.

Unbelief: God is a God of Miracles

Besides treating lightly the word of God, the Church has also received condemnation because of our unbelief. For an illustration, as well as a voice of warning from the Lord, let us hearken to the still small voice of God as He speaks to us through the testimony of the Jaredites who were because of unbelief cut off from the presence of God.

Two thousand years before the Lord directed Lehi and his family to flee Jerusalem and sail to the Promised Land, God lead the Brother of Jared and his family away from the Tower of Babel, and toward that same land of promise. However, despite all the blessings of the Lord, and the faith of their forefathers, the Jaredites eventually grew to be a wicked and faithless people. Wherefore, God sent prophets to warn the people that if they did not repent, the Lord would bring another people to possess the land.

Thus, in the final days of the Jaredites, the prophet Ether preached to the people by the power of the Holy Ghost which was within him, and he prophesized to the people with all his soul. "For he did cry from morning, even until the going down of the sun, exhorting the people to believe in God unto repentance, lest they should be destroyed, saying unto them, that by faith things are fulfilled; Wherefore, whoso believeth in God, might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the

²⁰ 2 Timothy 3:14-17

²¹ 1 Corinthians 2:9-12

²² Genesis 5:44

right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God.²³

Sorrowfully, the Jaredites did not hearken to Ether's exhortations neither did they repent. Instead, as the Scriptures explain, they hardened their hearts and denied the Lord God who made them because they did not see signs and miracles. The Jaredites did not believe in God because they did not have faith, and sadly, this same lack of faith is occurring in our present day as well.

Mormon explained in great detail that God does not leave man, but it is man that leaves God. He asked, "Has the day of miracles ceased? Or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? Or has he withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? Behold I say to you, Nay, for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; Wherefore if these things have ceased, wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief...for no man can be saved according to the words of Christ, save they shall have faith in his name."²⁴ Please read the following verses from Mormon 4:66-69; 76-82:

4:66 And again I speak unto you, who deny the revelations of God, and say **that they are done away**, that there are no revelations, nor prophecies, nor gifts, nor healing, nor speaking with tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. **4:67** Behold I say unto you, He that denieth these things, ***knoweth not the gospel of Christ***; yea, he has not read the scriptures; if so, he does not understand them. **4:68** For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and for ever; and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing. **4:69** And now, if ye have imagined up unto yourselves a god who doth vary, and in him there is shadow of changing, then have ye imagined up unto yourselves a god who is not a god of miracles.

4:76 ...God has not ceased to be a God of miracles. **4:77** Behold, are not the things that God hath wrought marvelous in our eyes? Yea, and who can comprehend the marvelous works of God? **4:78** Who shall say that it was not a miracle, that by his word the heaven and the earth should be; and by the power of his word, man was created of the dust of the earth; and by the power of his word, hath miracles been wrought?

4:79 And who shall say that Jesus Christ did not do many mighty miracles? **4:80** And there were many mighty miracles wrought by the hands of the apostles. **4:81** And if there were miracles wrought, then why has God ceased to be a God of miracles, and ***yet be an unchangeable being***. **4:82** And behold I say unto you, He changeth not; if so, he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles.

If God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and changes not [see Isaiah 29:25 and Hebrews 13:8], then why are there are no more revelations, nor prophecies, nor gifts, nor healing, nor speaking with tongues, and the interpretation of tongues? Is it because God has ceased to be a God of miracles, or perhaps is there another answer? Mormon also wrote, "And the reason why he ceaseth to do miracles

²³ Ether 5:3-4

²⁴ Moroni 7:37-42

among the children of men, is because that they *dwindle in unbelief*, and depart from the right way, and know not the God in whom they should trust.²⁵”

Nonetheless, brothers and sisters, we know that God is a God of miracles, and we know that the Lord still speaks with mankind today through His still, small voice, whether it is by the power of the Holy Ghost or through the Scriptures, if we would only search for truth and follow His commandments. Joseph Smith, Jr. was given to know because of his humility that “God does inspire men and call them to his holy work *in this age and generation*, as well as in generations of old, thereby showing that he is the same God yesterday, today, and forever.²⁶” Therefore, let us make Jesus Christ, who yearns to guide our souls, the anchor of our faith and listen to His still small voice.

The Directing Voice

Through the Scriptures we read that the Lord’s still small voice is the whisperings of the Holy Ghost, which is the Spirit of Truth to our soul, and we read that the Spirit of Truth enlightens our minds and gives us light and understanding. However, as the reader has assuredly noticed, the phrase “still small” implies that the Lord’s voice has room to grow within our heart if we nourish it as Oliver Cowdery experienced, and as Alma explained in the sixteenth chapter of Alma.

16:153 Now if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed, **if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief**, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts; **16:154** And when you feel those swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves, It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word is good, for it beginneth to **enlarge my soul**; yea, it **beginneth to enlighten my understanding**; yea, and it beginneth to be delicious to me.

16:160 And now behold, is your knowledge perfect? Yea, your knowledge is perfect in that thing, and your faith is dormant; **16:161** And this because ***you know***; for ye know that the word hath swelled your souls, and ye also know that it hath sprouted up, that your understanding doth begin to be ***enlightened***, and your mind doth begin to ***expand***.

As our understanding grows and our faith increases, we can receive a perfect knowledge similar to Oliver Cowdery, who was allowed to see the engravings of the Book of Mormon. If we are willing to come before God in humility and with full purpose of heart, exercising our faith with not only words but with actions, then the Lord’s still, small voice will grow into the directing voice that speaks to our heart and mind.

In April 5, 1914, Joseph Smith III wrote, “I, Joseph Smith, President of the church, in common with the custom of the brotherhood, observed the rule requiring the fast, and spent that day in meditation and prayer upon the work of God and our present duty in the affairs intrusted to our care. Before the hour of breaking the fast came, I was blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit resting upon me in *quiet assurance and in power*. In the *still small voice* which giveth light and understanding to the intelligence

²⁵ Mormon 4:83

²⁶ DC 17:2f-g

of man, exalting the soul and sanctifying the spirit, there came unto me the *directing voice* of Him whose work we are engaged in.²⁷” Through Joseph Smith’s humble submission to the will of God as well as his faith in Christ, the still small voice grew and became a directing voice that spoke directly to Joseph’s heart and mind.

It is important to note that only through faith can we receive the directing voice of the Lord. Mormon wrote in Ether, chapter five, “Wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness *until after* the trial of your faith, for it was by faith that Christ shewed himself unto our fathers, after he had risen from the dead; And he shewed not himself unto them, until after they had faith in him; wherefore, it must needs be that some had faith in him, for he shewed himself not unto the world.²⁸” [Read more on faith in **Chapter Five**]

Conclusion

Throughout the Scriptures, there are numerous examples of how men of great faith were able to receive the directing voice of God such as Jacob, the brother of Nephi, and his son, Enos. Please read the two following scriptures from Jacob 5:7-8 and Enos 5-11:

5:7 And he [Sherem] had hope to shake me from the faith, notwithstanding the many revelations, and the many things which I had seen concerning these things; for I truly had seen angels, and they had ministered unto me. **5:8** And also, I had heard the voice of the Lord speaking unto me *in very word*, from time to time; wherefore, I could not be shaken.

1:5 And my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication, for mine own soul; **1:6** And all the day long did I cry unto him; yea, and when the night came, I did still raise my voice high, that it reached the heavens. **1:7** And there came a voice unto me saying, Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed. **1:8** And I, Enos, knew that God could not lie; wherefore, my guilt was swept away. **1:9** And I said, Lord, how is it done? **1:10** And he said unto me, *because of thy faith in Christ*, whom thou hast never before heard nor seen. **1:11** And many years pass away, before he shall manifest himself in the flesh; wherefore, go to, *thy faith hath made thee whole*.

Nonetheless, it is also important to understand that besides our humility, the intent of our heart, and our faith, there is one other important piece of the puzzle, and that is the will of God. “And if your eye be single to my glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you, and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things. 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.²⁹”

Brothers and sisters, let us take to heart the examples which have been laid out before us through the Scriptures and hearken to the still, small voice of God. We know that God loves each and every soul

²⁷ DC 131:1a-c

²⁸ Ether 5:7-8

²⁹ DC 85:18a-b

because He sent His Only Begotten Son to be the atonement for our sins, let us now cleave to Him as He cleaves to us. It is our prayer that each one of us will listen to the voice of the Lord and unite with Jesus Christ as individuals, so that we may all be united with one heart and one mind, as the Bride.