

Have you ever read,

“The Canadian Copyright Episode”

recorded in, *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, by B.H. Roberts?

In this historical narrative, *“Hyrum Smith is represented by David Whitmer as saying that it had been suggested to him that some of the brethren might go to Toronto, Canada, and sell the copyright of the book [of Mormon] for considerable money, that is, sell the right to publish the book in the Canadian provinces, not dispose of the copyright absolutely.*

He persuaded Joseph Smith to inquire of the Lord, with the result... that he ‘received a revelation that some of the brethren should go to Toronto, Canada, and they would sell the copyright.’

Accordingly, Oliver Cowdery and Hiram Page, the latter being one of the eight witnesses, went to Canada to sell the copyright, but failed. David Whitmer represents that this failure threw the little group of believers into great trouble, and they went to the Prophet and asked him to account for the failure.

*The Prophet frankly acknowledged his inability to understand the cause of the failure, and inquired of the Lord. He received for answer... this: **“Some revelations are of God; some revelations are of man; and some revelations are of the devil.”***

(A Comprehensive History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, vol. 1, pp. 162-163)

“You must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.”

Is this how a Latter-day Saint receives their testimony?

1.

“But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong;”

(Doctrine & Covenants 9:8-9)

2.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. **Joseph thought he received a revelation from the Lord.**
2. **The revelation failed to come to pass and everyone, including Joseph, realized it was not from the Lord.**
3. **When Joseph prayed about the failed revelation the Lord's answer was, "Some revelations are of God; some revelations are of Man; and some revelations are of the devil."**

IF JOSEPH COULD NOT TRUST HIS FEELINGS, CAN YOU?

Since Joseph got the Toronto revelation wrong, how can we be certain that his other revelations are true? For instance, can we be certain the revelation about plural marriage in D&C 132 came from God and not from Joseph's mind or the devil—especially since D&C 132 seems to directly disagree with Jacob 2:22-28?

THINK ABOUT THIS... There are Mormon people today who believe in Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon. They have earnestly prayed and have received revelations based upon the feelings described in D&C 9:8-9. Yet, the prophet they follow and the Church they attend is not the LDS Church (such as the FLDS polygamists, in Colorado City, AZ, who's prophet is Warren Jeffs; or The United Apostolic Brethren who follow J. LaMoine Jensen). If feelings are the determining factor, why do their feelings lead them away from the LDS Church? And, how are we to determine whose feelings are right? It seem clear to me that the instructions found in D&C 9:8-9 do not work very well!

DOES THE DEVIL ALWAYS PRODUCE BAD FEELINGS?

If the Devil always produced bad feelings everyone would be wise to him, and no one would follow him. Do you really think that genuinely deceived people know they are being deceived?

In John 16:2-3 Jesus said, "The time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service."

SATAN IS A DECEIVER...

2 Cor. 11:14-15 states, "*Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...*"

Jesus warned, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:15).

FALSE PROPHETS CAN DECEIVE BY DOING MIRACLES.

One of Satan's greatest deceptions is that he gives false prophets the ability to perform miracles.

Again Jesus warns us in Matthew 24:24, "*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they will deceive the very elect.*"

CAN THE FEELINGS OF OUR HEART BE TRUSTED?

Jeremiah 17:9 says, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*"

Jesus said, "*Out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man*" (Mark 7:20-23).

WE ARE TOLD TO TEST THE SPIRIT OF REVELATION.

The Apostle John said, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets have gone out into the world... We [the Lord's Apostles] are of God: he that knows God hears us: he that is not of God does not hear us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error*" (1 John 4:1, 6). John is saying we must base truth upon the writings of the Lord's Apostles in the New Testament.

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA... We are not trying to destroy your faith; we want you to trust in Jesus alone as your final authority.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*" (John 14:6).

Jesus promised, "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away*" (Matthew 24:35).

Jesus prayed to the Father, "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*" (John 17:17).

Jesus proclaimed to the world, "*Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall"* (Matthew 7:24-27).

We must base our beliefs on the words of Jesus, not any other man!