

Come Follow Me Podcast  
Elo Viz Production  
Week 2  
1 Nephi 1-5

There are so many examples of personal revelation in these first few chapters. Right at the very onset we see Lehi who is pricked by the Spirit as he hears many prophets come and testify on the destruction of Jerusalem if the people would not repent. But, look closely at verse 5 and 6 of chapter one. “Wherefore it came to pass that my father, Lehi, as he went forth prayed unto the Lord, yea, even with all his heart, in behalf of his people. And it came to pass as he prayed unto the Lord, there came a pillar of fire and dwelt upon a rock before him; and he saw and heard much; and because of the things which he saw and heard he did quake and tremble exceedingly.”

What an amazing answer to a prayer. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we received answers like this when we pray to our Heavenly Father? I think most of us would be happy just to hear a clear and understandable answer for the many prayers we offer up to heaven. But here is the problem: We are usually not willing to pray as Lehi did in order to get the answer that Lehi got.

Notice exactly how he prays: First it started with him hearing the word from those sent by God to preach to the people. And after he listened he then spent some time pondering the thing which he heard. And after much thought, he prayed with all his heart. This phrase is something that we use pretty lightly. We talk about loving someone with all our heart. Then when things get hard, we tend to turn away from that love and file for a divorce without much effort to resolve the situation. This is how most of the world views this type of “with all our heart love”. But I don't really think this is the same kind of effort that Nephi is speaking about when talking about the way his father prayed. I think because most of the time we are praying for something that WE need. But this is not the same in Lehi's case. Did you notice who he was praying for? It says that he was praying with all his heart on behalf of HIS people. This was not Lehi praying for himself, but for the people of Jerusalem. This is important because it tells us a lot about Lehi and who he was. In the past when we see righteous men praying for their people they are usually Prophets of God. At this point the scriptures don't tell us that Lehi is a Prophet. Though oftentimes we refer to him as the prophet Lehi. Most scholars believe that Lehi is not actually called to be the Prophet until after this miraculous vision that he is about to have. Starting in verse 7 it says:

“7 And it came to pass that he returned to his own house at Jerusalem; and he cast himself upon his bed, being overcome with the Spirit and the things which he had seen.

8 And being thus overcome with the Spirit, he was carried away in a vision, even that he saw the heavens open, and he thought he saw God sitting upon his throne,

surrounded with numberless concourses of angels in the attitude of singing and praising their God.

**9** And it came to pass that he saw One descending out of the midst of heaven, and he beheld that his **luster** was above that of the sun at noon-day.

**11** And the first came and **stood** before my father, and gave unto him a **book**, and bade him that he should read.

**12** And it came to pass that as he read, he was filled with the **Spirit** of the Lord.

**13** And he read, saying: Wo, wo, unto Jerusalem, for I have seen thine **abominations!**

**14** And it came to pass that when my father had read and seen many great and marvelous things, he did exclaim many things unto the Lord; such as: Great and marvelous are thy works, O Lord God Almighty! Thy throne is high in the heavens, and thy **power**, and goodness, and mercy are over all the inhabitants of the earth; and, because thou art merciful, thou wilt not suffer those who **come** unto thee that they shall perish!

**15** And after this manner was the language of my father in the praising of his God; for his soul did rejoice, and his whole heart was filled, because of the things which he had seen.” (1 Nephi 1:7-15)

Now, perhaps you would believe as Lehi did if you were to receive a vision like this. But here is the thing. This vision did not increase Lehi’s faith, if it did then Lehi would not have seen it. What I mean by that is: God in his mercy and goodness will never take away the agency of men. God’s laws will not allow Him to. So it is not until our faith is sufficient that receive any vision or dream or visitation, they will only confirm our faith, not increase it. We see this principle in the next couple of chapters. Look at chapter 3:

“**1** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, returned from **speaking** with the Lord, to the tent of my father.

**2** And it came to pass that he spake unto me, saying: Behold I have dreamed a **dream**, in the which the Lord hath commanded me that thou and thy brethren shall **return** to Jerusalem.

**3** For behold, Laban hath the record of the Jews and also a **genealogy** of my forefathers, and they are **engraven** upon plates of brass.

**4** Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me that thou and thy brothers should go unto the house of Laban, and seek the records, and bring them down hither into the wilderness.

5 And now, behold thy brothers murmur, saying it is a hard thing which I have required of them; but behold I have not required it of them, but it is a commandment of the Lord.

6 Therefore go, my son, and thou shalt be favored of the Lord, because thou hast **not murmured**.

7 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I **will** go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no **commandments** unto the children of men, save he shall **prepare** a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.” (1 Nephi 3:7)

We could literally spend weeks talking about these 7 verses. There is so much packed into them. Verse one says Nephi returned from speaking with the Lord. Where was he? And what was he speaking “with” the Lord about? In future verses we will see that Nephi spends much of his time in the mountains which is a symbol of the temple. Back then that was Nephi’s temple. A place of peace and worship where he would go to be alone, pray and commune with God. The question is: Do you have a place like this? Is there a special place in your world where you go to escape the hustle and bustle of life to talk with God, to pray and to ponder? In order for you to take the next steps in your personal journey to God this is one important principle. And I’m not talking about kneeling beside your bed before you crawl into your covers. I’m talking about a special place, like the temple, or a place in the woods, or for me it is in my car. I do a lot of driving and for me, my car is my sanctuary where I can talk with God. There is a song that came out this year that I fell in love with because it is similar to my story. It is by Cochren and company it’s called “parking lot”. Look it up, it’s a good one.

In order for you to receive revelation God needs to know that you are going to show up. That you are willing to make the effort to close off the world and open your heart to hearing the words of the Lord.

In the next few verses that we read, we have great insight into Nephi’s faith. When Lehi has a dream that his boys are to return and get the plates Lamien and Lemuel murmur and Nephi says That famous verse we all memorized in seminary.

“I **will** go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no **commandments** unto the children of men, save he shall **prepare** a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.” (1 Nephi 3:7)

Here is the big question of the day: Could you do this? What if God asked you to pick up your family and move across the country for no apparent reason. Or, what if God asked you to open your home to a family in need. Or, what if God asked you to go serve a mission, Or, a countless number of other things that people have been asked to do. Could you respond like Nephi did? Could you say what he said, and then go and do what he did?

If the answer is “yes”, then fantastic, you are among the few faithful and God can trust to bring forth His great work in these later days. If the answer for you right now is “no”. When what it is that is keeping you from that kind of faith?

This is one of the keys to receiving personal revelation. If God knows that you will not obey when He asks you to do something do you think that He will put you in that situation to lose those blessings and condemn yourself? This may be a reason that you are not receiving answers to your prayers and petitions to God. This needs to be reconciled in your heart that whatever God asks you to do you are willing to drop everything you're doing and obey no matter what. This is the same with promptings from the spirit.

I can remember times in my life when I felt like I was being tested. I would have a prompting that would make no sense at all. It was something so trivial and I knew that there would be no significant benefit to obeying the prompting, I really wasn't sure if it was a prompting or not. It felt like it was an internal battle whether I was going to obey or not and I finally got to the point that I had to decide that if I felt something that I thought was a prompting and it wasn't a bad thing I would obey immediately. In the beginning stages that is how I resolved to obey. Then as time went on those trivial things turned into significant things and the message became clearer. I'm sure that as we strive to obey more often and quicker that our understanding will deepen and the voices will become more prevalent in your life. Those are the things that bring us great joy, peace and eternal blessings. Of this I testify, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.