

## The Character of God

### LECTURE THIRD- Part One

**1. Questions 1-2:** What was shown in the second lecture? What is the effect of the idea of his existence among men?

**Lecture:** 1 In the second lecture it was shown, how it was that the knowledge of the existence of God, came into the world, and by what means the first thoughts were suggested to the minds of men, that such a being did actually exist: and that it was by reason of the knowledge of his existence, that there was a foundation laid for the exercise of faith in him, as the only being in whom faith could center for life and salvation. For faith could not center in a being of whose existence we had no idea; because the idea of his existence in the first instance is essential to the exercise of faith in him. Romans 10:14: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (or one sent to tell them?) So then faith comes by hearing the word of God. [New Translation]

**Joseph's Answers:** It was shown how the knowledge of the existence of God came into the world. (3:1) It lays the foundation for the exercise of faith in him. (3:1)

**Lindey's Thoughts:** Our last fireside on the lectures of faith number 2 went into great detail illustrating how knowledge of God and subsequent faith in him was given to Adam and, like the priesthood, was passed down to man though his posterity by the scriptures and correlating priesthood keys or covenants.

In preparing for this week's fireside it came to my mind to study the book of Job. There is a consistent lesson God is trying to teach us. It is that when He gives you a thought of inspiration, your study of the scriptures will lead to both clarity and confirmation. I have heard this but it is always a little surprising when it actually happens for me. I wasn't sure what the book of Job would have to do with this topic but as I studied it and then opened the student manual I found this quote, a quote from someone else, who years ago found a direct correlation to this lectures of faith while studying the book of Job. He said

"I'm impressed that the book of Job vividly illustrates a teaching from the Lectures on Faith, that if anyone is to endure in faithfulness in his life, he must know three things: that God exists, that he is perfect in his character and in his attributes, and that the course of life which one pursues is pleasing to the Lord."-Sidney B. Sperry

God puts Job in his every so humble place when he reminds Job of man's insignificance starting in chapter 38

#### **Job 38:**

4"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?"

In the subsequent verses the Lord goes on to question not only Job's existence, but his lack of knowledge as well as his lack of ability, in 4 brutal chapters of "who do you think you are?"

God teaches Job that without Him, not only are we nothing, we know nothing and we are capable of doing nothing.

**Micah's Thoughts:** This is why missionary work is so essential; for one cannot exercise faith even "to experiment upon" (Alma 32) without first hearing by human testimony.

President George Albert Smith: "We will attain our exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom only on the condition that we share with our Father's other children the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and observe the commandments that will enrich our lives here and hereafter" (Sharing the Gospel with Others, 190 or PMG p.12)

### **Ezekiel 33:1-6**

1 Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.

6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

The references on the word "watchman" in Ezekiel 33:2 take you to D&C 101:45, 53-54:

### **Doctrine and Covenants 101:45, 53-54**

45 And set watchmen round about them, and build a tower, that one may overlook the land round about, to be a watchman upon the tower, that mine olive trees may not be broken down when the enemy shall come to spoil and take upon themselves the fruit of my vineyard.

53 Ought ye not to have done even as I commanded you, and—after ye had planted the vineyard, and built the hedge round about, and set watchmen upon the walls thereof—built the tower also, and set a watchman upon the tower, and watched for my vineyard, and not have fallen asleep, lest the enemy should come upon you?

54 And behold, the watchman upon the tower would have seen the enemy while he was yet afar off; and then ye could have made ready and kept the enemy from breaking down the hedge thereof, and saved my vineyard from the hands of the destroyer.

After those events in the Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees, Joseph Smith returns and gathers the strength of the Lord's house to "bring again Zion" which is the other reference the Church provides for the word watchman in verse 2 of Ezekiel 33,

### **3 Nephi 16:18**

18 Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing, for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall *bring again* Zion.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 88:81–85**

81 Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.

82 Therefore, they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads.

83 He that seeketh me early shall find me, and shall not be forsaken.

84 Therefore, tarry ye, and labor diligently, that you may be perfected in your ministry to go forth among the Gentiles for the last time, as many as the mouth of the Lord shall name, to bind up the law and seal up the testimony, and to prepare the saints for the hour of judgment which is to come;

85 That their souls may escape the wrath of God, the desolation of abomination which awaits the wicked, both in this world and in the world to come. Verily, I say unto you, let those who are not the first elders continue in the vineyard until the mouth of the Lord shall call them, for their time is not yet come; their garments are not clean from the blood of this generation.

**2. Question 3-4:** Is the idea of his existence, in the first instance, necessary in order for the exercise of faith in him? How do you prove it?

**Lecture:** 11 Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent." 1 John 4:8: "He that loves not, knows not God; for God is love." Acts 10:34: "Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that fears God and works righteousness is accepted with him."

**Joseph's Answers:** It is. (3:11) By the 10 chapter to Romans and verse 14. (3:1)

**Lindey's Thoughts:** with this question, I feel like I'm back in highschool doing calculus proofs. I got an A AP calc and I feel pretty smart most of the time but this makes me feel kind dumb. I didn't understand proofs then and I don't really get them now. So I'll add the scriptures that popped into my head and leave it at that for now.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was with God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

The creator of the universe who was and is and we'll always be cares about man who we've established is nothing and some how this then makes us something.

Moses 1:39"For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

Mark 10:27And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

I don't understand proofs but I am smart enough to know who's team I want to be on.

**Micah's Thoughts:** I find it amazing that there are members today who believe they don't have to open their mouths and they will yet find salvation. They believe the Lord will work in some other way, yet, Joseph here when asking the question "is the idea of God being planted in the mind by human testimony a requirement or prerequisite before anybody can exercise faith in God and will man be held accountable?" Joseph simply said "yes" and believed a single verse was enough to prove it convincingly:

### **Romans 10:14**

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

**3. Question 5-6:** How many things are necessary for us to understand, respecting the Deity and our relation to him, in order that we may exercise faith in him for life and salvation? What are they?

**Lecture:** 2 Let us here observe, that three things are necessary, in order that any rational and intelligent being may exercise faith in God unto life and salvation.

3 First, The idea that he actually exists.

4 Secondly, A correct idea of his character, perfections and attributes.

5 Thirdly, An actual knowledge that the course of life which he is pursuing, is according to his will. For without an acquaintance with these three important facts, the faith of every rational being must be imperfect and unproductive; but with this understanding, it can become perfect and fruitful, abounding in righteousness unto the praise and glory of God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Joseph's Answers:** Three. (3:2) First, that God does actually exist: Secondly, correct ideas of his character, his perfections and attributes; and Thirdly, that the course which we pursue is according to his mind and will. (3:3-5)

Back to Job.

Job knew Good existed.

1-"As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgments; and the Almighty who hath vexed my soul; All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils; my lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live"(Job 27:2–6, cf. ch. 31).

It is obvious to the reader that Job did indeed believe God existed.

2-Harder to determine for the reader is how we know Job knew he could trust God, especially when God had allowed everything he had to be taken away from him, when He allowed Satan to inflict him with incredible amounts of pain(when to when he wished he would never have been born) and even when God abandoned him leaving him completely alone and friendless to be persecuted and afflicted of men.

We will discuss further the "how" later on, but I'm certain Job knew and understood the character of God. In his own words Job said, "that God is greater than man." ... "I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee."

3- from the first verse of the first chapter of Job we learn that Job was a righteous man who's actions and thoughts were in line with God's will.

**Job 1:1** "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil."

Even after losing all that he had it was said of him in verse 22 of the same chapter "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

**Micah's Thoughts:** This is one of those doctrines that I would say the majority of Saints don't comprehend. I'm sure that will upset some people, but mark carefully what Joseph said- if one does not have these three things your faith is flawed and without such faith we learn in Lecture One we can't be saved. So understanding this is crucial as it is a prerequisite to the exercise of real faith unto life and salvation. We will learn later what these things are. If members are teaching incorrect understandings of the nature of God you can know with a surety that this man or woman in that state (repentance and learning is always open while in the flesh) will not have faith sufficient for salvation. But before we get into that, let's break these three things down:

1. That God exists: we went over this in Lecture Two and now a bit in Lecture Three- this is "human testimony" and is what directly impacts "desire."
2. His correct nature: This is "the source". There are sources that teach this in purity and sources that teach this mingled with the philosophies in men.
3. Our actions: This is the implementation of the source in our life.

I have gone over in a number of locations the "steps of learning", this is where it is derived in its most basic form. 1. Desire, 2. Source, 3. Implementation, 4. Assessment/Judging

**4. Questions 7-8:** Would the idea of any one or two of the above mentioned things, enable a person to exercise faith in God? Would an idea of these three things lay a sure foundation for the exercise of faith in God, so as to obtain life and salvation?

**Lecture:** 15 Thirdly, That he changes not, neither is there variableness with him; but that he is the same from everlasting to everlasting, being the same yesterday today and forever; and that his course is one eternal round, without variation.

**Joseph's Answer:** It would not, for without the idea of them all, faith would be imperfect and unproductive. (3:15) [Yes the idea of these three things] would [be enough as to obtain the faith necessary unto life and salvation]; for by the idea of these three things, faith could become perfect, and fruitful, abounding in righteousness unto the praise and glory of God. (3:5)

### **Lindey's Thoughts:**

To answer this question I turn to the results of Job's faith.

Job not only heard the voice of God but he saw the Lord and gained a personal witness of Him. He freed him from captivity, and doubled that which he had before, and he lived long enough to enjoy four generations of his children.

So we see "the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning" Job 42:12

For those of you familiar with the Abrahamic covenant and Hyrum Andrus' teachings you will recognize these blessings.

Promised Land

Prosperity

Posterity

The best way to know what is required is to test it. Just as Job's faith was tested and proved fruitful our own faith will be tested especially at this time and I'm in this place.

Heber C Kimball prophesied:

"After a while the gentiles will gather in Salt Lake City by the thousands, and this will be among the wicked cities of the world. A spirit of speculation and extravagance will take possession of the Saints, and the results will be financial bondage." All kinds of religions will be started, and miracles performed that will deceive the very elect, if such a thing were possible.

Persecution comes next, and all Latter-day Saints will be tested to the limit. "Many will apostatize, and others will stand still, not knowing what to do. ...

Before that day comes, however, the Saints will be put to the test that will try the very best of them...

The pressure will become so great that the righteous among us will cry unto the Lord day and night until deliverance comes."...

"Yes, we think we are secure here in the chambers of these everlasting hills, where we can close the doors of the canyons against mobs and persecutors, the wicked and the vile, who have always beset us with violence and robbery, but I want to say to you, my brethren, that the time is coming when we will be mixed up in these now peaceful valleys to that extent that it will be difficult to tell the face of a Saint from the face of an enemy against the people of God. Then is the time to look out for the great sieve, for there will be a great shifting time, and many will fall. For I say unto you there is a test, a Test, a TEST coming."

a test-all of the physical and temporal things we have been given will be taken from us. We will see famine and scarcities.

A Test-we will endure physical trials. We know of war and rumors of war as well as pestilence coupled with the trials found in 2 Nephi 13:

"24 And it shall come to pass, instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle, a rent; and instead of well set hair, baldness; and instead of a stomacher, a girding of sackcloth; burning instead of beauty.<sup>25</sup> Thy men shall fall by the sword and thy mighty in the war.<sup>26</sup> And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she shall be desolate, and shall sit upon the ground."

A TEST-we will be left alone and even God may forsake us, our friends may betray us, but all of these things will work for thy good and we have the promise that God will not leave us comfortless.

Will our faith lead us to kick against the pricks, curse God and die? or will our faith be fruitful? we be able to say as in Job "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty."

**Micah's Thoughts:** This is confirmation of the importance of learning these three- if you thought "oh, maybe Micah is exaggerating" Joseph takes the time to double back and say, "no, if you don't understand all three of these (and points 2 and 3 include many points in them) you will not have faith unto salvation." For those confused why Joseph used that section of the lecture to prove that having all of them is essential and not just some of it, think of it like making food like a burger or pizza- are burgers and pizza "the same from everlasting to everlasting"? Are burgers and pizza "the same yesterday, today and forever"? Are burgers and pizza "without variation"? The answer to that is no. There are a few common things that have to be there but the rest is adaptable. God is a very, very, very specific burger or pizza, that has no variation, meaning if you mess up the salt by a little bit, if you don't put lettuce on it, etc., it won't be right. This is exactly how most people in the world do view God, that "oh, I might have some things wrong here and there, but if I just generally get it right, or get enough things right, God will forgive me and I will still be able to exercise faith in Him!" The answer, according to Joseph Smith is, "no, you are wrong. You have to know these things or your faith is imperfect and thus insufficient for salvation." Are these three things enough once properly understood and implemented to generate the faith necessary unto life and salvation, or in other words, are these three things enough to create the God burger or the God pizza? And the answer yes, these are the three ingredients that the recipe MUST follow.

**5. Questions 9-11:** How are we to be made acquainted with the before mentioned things respecting the Deity, and respecting ourselves? Could these things be found out by any other means than by revelation? How do you prove it?

**Lecture:** 6 Having previously been made acquainted with the way the idea of his existence came into the world, as well as the fact of his existence, we shall proceed to examine his character, perfections and attributes, in order that this class may see, not only the just grounds which they have for the exercise of faith in him, for life and salvation, but the reasons that all the world,

also, as far as the idea of his existence extends, may have to exercise faith in him the Father of all living.

**Joseph's Answers:** By revelation. (3:6) They could not. By the scriptures: Job 11:7-9. 1 Corinthians 2:9-11. (3:17)

### **Job 11:7-9**

7 Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

8 *It is* as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?

9 The measure thereof *is* longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

### **1 Corinthians 2:9-11**

9 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.

10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for them Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 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, but the Spirit of God.

**Lindey's Thoughts:** Multiple times in the scriptures Christ says "upon this rock I would build my church." A deeper study into Peter and petros and the rock will lead you to know that the rock is revelation.

**3 Nephi 14:25**"And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock."

A few years ago my testimony was incredibly shaken, I had read the CES letter and like many before me questioned the validity of Joseph Smith and the church. As you can imagine this really scared me husband and he kept trying to quote scriptures and throwing anything and everything he could think of to push me back in the boat. But all of this resulted in more harm to my fragile testimony than good. Finally I explained to him that he couldn't use scripture because I didn't have a testimony of scripture, he couldn't use church cause I didn't have a testimony of church. Etc. At one point I was so frustrated with the patriarchal system of the church and this works and wondered where I fit in as a woman, as a daughter of God, I remember thinking I'll even use scriptures please just help me, so I opened up to a chapter in the book of Mormon and it started out and I quote "behold my beloved brethren...". I laughed then cried for a good hour at least. The only thing I knew for certain was that God exists and that He answers prayers. Because this is a sure rock, The sure rock, when the tempest raged in my life, I was still on solid ground. Over the next few years I rebuilt my testimony from this ground level. I know God Lives and God answers my prayers, brothers and sisters if He answers mine He will answer yours.

When I finally opened my scriptures written to "my beloved brethren" I found that that particular chapter (Alma7) referenced Christ and his love for us 25 times in 27 verses. No matter who they were written to, they are for all of us.

**D&C 6:34** "Therefore, fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail."

**Micah's Thoughts:** There are a couple things here that might confuse people so let's clear up a couple things. The first thing to clear up is that the question asks about "things respecting the Deity" and then references "having previously been made acquainted with the way the idea of his existence came into the world"- this is not asking about this, i.e. point #1 above "human testimony", this is talking about point #2 the characteristics of God or "the source", how do we know that? The second thing that we need to clear up is that the answer says that this could not be learned any other way than by revelation- this is not talking about personal revelation as the scriptures quoted said "God has revealed them unto us" meaning the apostles, meaning Paul. The next question which we will get into says "what things do we learn in the *revelations of God* respecting His character?" Meaning, to them, in their language, revelation was synonymous with scriptures, as scriptures are anything written while moved upon by the Holy Ghost (D&C 68:4). Based off of this, we have to have an understanding of keys so as to understand what the Holy Ghost is and isn't authorized to "move upon" us. So, simplifying this down to layman's terms: can anyone learn of the correct attributes and characteristics of God by any other means saved by the revelations of God? No. What are the revelations of God (the source, point #2 above) that we are to learn this from? The keys, or in other words, those authorized, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost. How do you prove this? With what has already been revealed.

**6. Question 12:** What things do we learn in the revelations of God respecting his character?

Lecture: 12 From the foregoing testimonies, we learn the following things respecting the character of God.

13 First, That he was God before the world was created, and the same God that he was, after it was created.

14 Secondly, That he is merciful, and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in goodness, and that he was so from everlasting, and will be to everlasting.

15 Thirdly, That he changes not, neither is there variableness with him; but that he is the same from everlasting to everlasting, being the same yesterday today and forever; and that his course is one eternal round, without variation.

16 Fourthly, That he is a God of truth and cannot lie.

17 Fifthly, That he is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that fears God and works righteousness is accepted of him.

18 Sixthly, That he is love.

**Joseph's Answer:** We learn the six following things. First, that he was God before the world was created, and the same God that he was after it was created. Secondly, that he is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in goodness, and that he was so from everlasting, and will be so to everlasting. Thirdly, that he changes not, neither is there variableness with him, and that his course is one eternal round. Fourthly, that he is a God of truth and cannot lie. Fifthly, that he is no respecter of persons; and Sixthly, that he is love. (3:12-18)

**Lindley's Thoughts:** the list of these characteristics are not just for God but for the Godly.

Christ commanded his disciples to "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." **Matthew 5:48**

Following the foot notes well take you to **D&C 67**

10 And again, verily I say unto you that it is your privilege, and a promise I give unto you that have been ordained unto this ministry, that inasmuch as you strip yourselves from jealousies and fears, and humble yourselves before me, for ye are not sufficiently humble, the veil shall be rent and you shall see me and know that I am—not with the carnal neither natural mind, but with the spiritual.

11 For no man has seen God at any time in the flesh, except quickened by the Spirit of God.

12 Neither can any natural man abide the presence of God, neither after the carnal mind.

13 Ye are not able to abide the presence of God now, neither the ministering of angels; wherefore, continue in patience until ye are perfected.

As I see it we have but 2 choices always. One is to choose to turn to God the other is to turn away from God. The scriptures will teach us about Him and how to be like Him until through the refining test of this life we know God because we have become like God.

**Micah's Thoughts:** Most of these things members have a relatively good grasp of; two of these members seem have an impossible time wrapping their heads around. This is what I was talking about during question #3 above. God cannot lie. Period. God cannot change. Period. When members say things like, "You're setting bounds and limitations on God, God can do what He wants, whenever He wants to..." what they are saying is, God can change and God can lie, that is my belief, and therefore in my current state I will not have enough faith to save myself. When God says He will do something, God has to do it exactly as He said He would do it. Period. Believing anything else will not allow one sufficient faith unto life and salvation. For example, in D&C 101 the Lord said regarding Jackson County Missouri, "Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered...there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed, [Jackson County Missouri]; neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed." If somebody is teaching that God lied here and the location did change, for example, to Salt Lake City Utah, those people are damned. Period. They do not have the faith sufficient to generate the works unto life and salvation. Obviously we all can repent, this is not final judgment, that being said, if somebody hears this and gets angry and digs in, their sin turns into (if it wasn't already) a sin of rebellion and their situation has just

become exponentially worse. Members should take the time to memorize these six characteristics and remind ourselves often that our Father in Heaven possesses them. This will enable us to exercise faith in Him unto life and salvation, and will set the goal for what we should be and become.

**7. Question 13:** Where do you find the revelations which give us this idea of the character of the Deity?

**Lecture:** 8 Having said so much, we proceed to examine the character which the revelations have given of God.

9 Moses gives us the following account in Exodus, 34:6: "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord God, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." Psalms 103:6-8: "The Lord executes righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy:" Psalms 103:17-18: "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children, to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them." Psalms 90:2: "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God." Hebrews 1:10-12: "And you, Lord, in the beginning have laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of your hands: they shall perish, but you shall remain; and they shall wax old as a garment; and as a vesture shall you fold them up, and they shall be changed: but you are the same, and your years shall not fail." James 1:17: "Every good gift, and every perfect gift, is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights; with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Malachi 3:6: "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

10 [Doctrine and Covenants, section 3], commencing in the [second verse]: "For God does not walk in crooked paths, neither does he turn to the right hand or the left, or vary from that which he has said, therefore his paths are strait, and his course is one eternal round:" [Doctrine and Covenants, section] 35:1: "Listen to the voice of the Lord your God, even Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, whose course is one eternal round, the same yesterday today and forever."

11 Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent." 1 John 4:8: "He that loves not, knows not God; for God is love." Acts 10:34: "Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that fears God and works righteousness is accepted with him."

**Joseph's Answers:** In the bible and book of commandments, and they are quoted in the third lecture. (3:9-11)

**Lindley's Thoughts:** I find the answer to this question in just about every passage on every page of God's revealed word

**Specially Mathew 7:**

"7 ¶ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

President Kimball said

Is there not wisdom in his giving us trials that we might rise above them, responsibilities that we might achieve, work to harden our muscles, sorrows to try our souls? Are we not exposed to temptations to test our strength, sickness that we might learn patience, death that we might be immortalized and glorified. If all the sick for whom we pray were healed, if all the righteous were protected and the wicked destroyed, the whole program of the Father would be annulled and the basic principle of the gospel, free agency, would be ended. No man would have to live by faith. If joy and peace and rewards were instantaneously given the doer of good, there could be no evil—all would do good but not because of the rightness of doing good. There would be no test of strength, no development of character, no growth of powers, no free agency, only satanic controls. Should all prayers be immediately answered according to our selfish desires and our limited understanding, then there would be little or no suffering, sorrow, disappointment, or even death, and if these were not, there would also be no joy, success, resurrection, nor eternal life and godhood.” (Faith Precedes the Miracle, p. 97.)

11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

**Micah’s Thoughts:** Joseph here once again confirms that “revelations” equals scriptures and this is where we are to go to understand who God is. Another way to say this is the scriptures, or revelations, is where we go to “Hear Him.” It was also nice of him to do all the scripture work for us so those who want to argue any of these points you’ll have the word of God, the “standard” upon which we are to measure everything, already sharpened for us.

Brothers and Sisters, I know that God lives, and I know this because first somebody told me (human testimony). Secondly, because I went to the proper sources to obtain a knowledge of His characteristics (the source, the revelations, etc). I know that it is only by these two things that I am then able to go forth in my life and produce fruit meet for my Father’s Kingdom, enabling me to walk with the assurance that the path that I am pursuing is pleasing unto God. God does not change, God does not lie, I can stand as a witness of these realities and all of God’s attributes and perfections. May we understand these principles so that we may learn to exercise perfect faith that will lead us to life and salvation. We will need such faith for the days ahead, we will need such faith for the redemption and building of New Jerusalem, for thus spoke all the prophets from Joseph to today. God bless, God speed, keep the faith, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.