15 - More on Revelation

Revelation isn’t just about spiritual stuff. On the TV Show, Shark Tank, an entrepreneur named Liz Charm shared that a dream led to her business.

A person and person holding cakes

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“The idea came to me in a dream the night before my oldest daughter’s 12th birthday. She would receive her first cell phone, so I knew the cell phone had to be part of the surprise. That night, I dreamed that after my daughter blew out the candles, the phone would ring from inside the cake! The next day, I got to work. I baked a cake, sealed the phone in a plastic bag, and hid it between layers of vanilla icing, hoping that my surprise would work. Finally, we gathered for everyone’s favorite part of the party: cake. We sang “Happy Birthday” and just as the cake was to be cut, the cake began to ring. No one could believe their eyes (or ears), the gift was revealed, and it was a huge hit! Everyone loved it and I knew I had to find a way to make this gift-in-cake concept accessible to everyone. But I soon learned that food safety requirements prevent placing non-edible products inside cakes. My son, Jordan, who studied engineering, and I came up with the solution: to safely encase the gift inside the cake stand. So together we designed the stand to create an illusion that the gift pops through the cake. Thus, the Popping Stand was created.”

Notice the initial “dream revelation”. She activated it by doing it and it became a blessing. Then she ran into a legal snag (she’s an attorney) and needed some wisdom on a modified design from her son, and soon she had a patent and a business.

Who knows how many advances in technology, culture, art, science, business, etc. are due to revelation? Most are due to a combination of inspiration and hard work, like the famous story of Edison’s light bulb. Many begin with an idea sparked by the Creator of all good things. And He’s not a “glory hog”. Do you see a sign across the heavens saying, “Brought to you by Yahweh!”? No, He’s so secure in who He in that He blesses without a concern about repayment now, because He knows the “end of the story”. He’ll get His.

Let’s summarize some of what we’ve learned. God gives us His spirit in the new birth. We activate it and God does (or does not - depending on the manifestation) energize it, resulting in the nine manifestations. Tongues, interpretation and prophecy are ‘auto-energizing”, in other words, we activate and God energizes every time. The other six are energized by God’s choice as we attempt to activate them. Any Christian can get revelation. God designed it to be an integral part of the Christian life. Most of the time we operate in this life by regular knowledge and wisdom but occasionally we get revelation, most of which is not earth-shaking but still a blessing to us and others as we carry it out.

Let’s discuss another aspect about revelation. Scripture is good for describing general conditions, such as “God wants us healed”.

PS 103:2,3

Bless Yahweh, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits;

the one who forgives your every iniquity, the one who heals all your sicknesses,

MoK and WoK are not tailored for the general, but for the specific – meaning specific revelation for a specific person at a specific place and time in a specific situation. All of us have the ability to heal because of the manifestation of gifts of healing, right? So, let’s march down to the hospital and empty it out, right? No? Why not? Because we need specific revelation about specific people at a specific place and time. God made us with free will. He won’t heal someone against their will. That may sound illogical, but I’ve met those who are tired of living and want to die, and also some who benefit from their infirmities and want to retain their status and benefits. And some folks don’t believe. God would have to change the laws of the universe to heal those who don’t want it or believe it. In these situations, it’s easy to understand why God’s energizing is silent. Jesus is like a gentleman. He opens the door for us but never shoves us through. There are things, though, we can do to encourage God’s energizing as we’ll discuss later.

How do we start to receive revelation? Let’s learn from Samuel’s example.

1 Sam. 1a-3, 9-11

Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham,

And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah and the name of the second was Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

Now this man would go up out of his city year after year to worship and to sacrifice to Yahweh of Armies at Shiloh. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, priests of Yahweh, were there.

And Hannah got up after eating in Shiloh and after drinking. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of Yahweh.

And she was in bitterness of soul and prayed to Yahweh as she wept, yes, wept.

And she vowed a vow and said, “O Yahweh of Armies, if you will see, yes, see the affliction of your servant and will remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will give him to Yahweh all the days of his life, and no razor will come upon his head.”

Hannah promised the Lord that if He gave her a son that she would raise him a Nazarite according to Numbers 6. Here, they committed Samuel to full time tabernacle service.

1 Sam. 1:12-16

And it came to pass as she continued a long time praying to Yahweh, that Eli was watching her mouth.

Now Hannah spoke in her heart. Only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

So Eli said to her, “How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you!”

But Hannah answered, “No, my lord. I am a woman oppressed in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor beer, but I have been pouring out my soul before Yahweh.

Do not think of your servant as a daughter of Belial, for I have been speaking out of the abundance of my concern and my being provoked.”

This is the opposite of genuine revelation. Eli gets senses info indicating that Hannah is troubled and assumes that she’s drunk! Instead of asking God to conform the info his eyes are providing him, or asking her what’s going on with her, Eli assumes the worst and accuses her of sin. Why is Eli so spiritually dull? We’ll see.

1 Sam. 1:17-18

Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant your request that you have requested of him.”

And she said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Why is Hannah no longer sad? Because she trusted Eli’s blessing pronounced on her.

1 Sam. 1:19,20, 25b-28

They rose up in the morning early and worshiped before Yahweh, and returned and came to their house to Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife and Yahweh remembered her.

So in the course of time Hannah conceived and bore a son. And she named him Samuel, saying, “Because I have asked him of Yahweh.”

and brought the child to Eli.

And she said, “Oh my lord, as your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to Yahweh.

I prayed for this child, and Yahweh has granted me my request that I requested from him.

So I also now lend him to Yahweh. As long as he lives he will be lent to Yahweh.” And he worshiped Yahweh there.

1 Sam. 2:11,12,18,22,26,27,29,30,33-35

And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house, and the child served Yahweh in the presence of Eli the priest.

Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they did not know Yahweh.

But Samuel served in the presence of Yahweh, being a child, clothed with a linen ephod.

Now Eli was very old and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel and how they were lying with the women who served at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.

Now the child Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor both with Yahweh and also with the people.

And a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “This is what Yahweh says: ‘Did I not reveal, yes, reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in slavery to Pharaoh’s house,

So why do you all kick at my sacrifices and at my offerings that I have commanded for my Dwelling, and you honor your sons above me making yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel my people?’

“Therefore Yahweh the God of Israel says, ‘I had said, yes, said, that your house and the house of your father would walk before me forever.’ But now Yahweh says, ‘Be it far from me, for those who honor me I will honor and those who treat me with contempt will be lightly esteemed.

The man of yours whom I do not cut off from my altar will be spared to weep out his eyes and grieve his soul, but all the greater part of your house will die.

And this will be the sign to you that will come on your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they will both die.

“‘And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest who will do according to whatever is in my heart and in my soul. I will build him a sure house, and he will walk in the presence of my anointed one all the days to come.

This was not a pat on the back but a punch in the gut - all the way to the spinal cord! Revelation cannot be categorized as positive or negative - just true. Sometimes we need a word of comfort or encouragement but sometimes we need a cup of cold water in the face to spiritually wake up. This man of God gave Eli a fire hose burst of ice water!

1 Sam. 3:1-5

The child Samuel was serving Yahweh in the presence of Eli. And the word of Yahweh was rare in those days; visions were not frequent.

And it happened at that time, when Eli was lying down in his place (his eyes had begun to grow dim, so that he was not able to see well)

and the lamp of God had not yet gone out and Samuel had laid down in the temple of Yahweh where the ark of God was,

that Yahweh called Samuel. And he said, “Here I am.”

Then he ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, lie down again.” So he went and lay down.

Notice that Yahweh (God) called Samuel, but Samuel thought it was Eli who called. Why did God choose to speak to Samuel similarly to how Eli would? Perhaps because Eli was the authority in his life and God needed the respect that commanded. In other words, God didn’t generate a “cartoon” voice or something arbitrary. He did an “authoritarian” voice.

1 Sam. 3:6,7

And Yahweh called yet again, “Samuel!” So Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he answered, “I did not call, my son, lie down again.”

Now Samuel did not yet know Yahweh, nor was the word of Yahweh yet revealed to him.

This is the first time Samual is getting revelation from God – and it confuses him! Does God say, “What an idiot!” and then forget him? No, He doesn’t. Why not?

Ps. 103:13,14

Like a father has compassion on his children, so Yahweh has compassion on those who fear him.

For he himself knows our makeup. He remembers that we are dust.

He knows us because He made us. We’re dusty, musty and rusty! We need help and thankfully He’s willing to give it. He didn’t quit on Samuel. Yahweh helped him.

1 Sam. 3:8,9

And Yahweh called, “Samuel!” the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that Yahweh was calling the child.

So Eli said to Samuel, “Go lie down, and if he calls you, you are to say, ‘Speak, O Yahweh, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

When learning to walk by the spirit, it helps to have an elder help us, like Paul did for the Corinthians and Jesus did for the disciples. Even an imperfect mentor like Eli is preferable to no one. We should all find someone who is more experienced in spiritual things and work together to begin or grow in our operation of the manifestations.

1 Sam. 3:10-14

And Yahweh came and stood there, and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

And Yahweh said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which every one who hears it—their two ears will tingle.

In that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

For I have told him that I am judging his house forever because of the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were cursing God and he did not restrain them.

Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house will not be atoned for with sacrifice or offering forever.”

Some of us are saying, “I don’t ever want to get revelation like that!” I’m sure Samuel felt the same way, but Samuel was called to be a prophet and that ministry gets all kinds of revelation – the good, the bad, and the ugly. That’s their job. They handle the big dirty cleanups. Not the “Clean up broken pickles on isle 3!” calls, but the toxic moon suit, nuclear clean ups. Like two priests of God “lying with the women who served at the Tent of Meeting who were also sons of Belial” clean up. What an evil mess!

1 Sam. 3:15-18

And Samuel lay until the morning and opened the doors of the house of Yahweh. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision.

Then Eli called Samuel, and said, “Samuel, my son!” And he said, “Here I am.”

And he said, “What is the word that he has spoken to you? Do not hide it from me! God do the same to you, and even more, if you hide from me any word of all the words that he spoke to you.”

So Samuel told him all the words and hid nothing from him. And he said, “He is Yahweh. He will do whatever is good in his eyes.”

Eli confirmed Samual’s revelation. Eli had also chosen not to correct his sons’ horrendous sins, even though they had become irredeemably evil and were poisoning the spiritual life of Israel. God wanted the cancer that they had become, to be cut off. Yet, instead of confronting the evil, Eli turned a blind eye to them. God didn’t.

This is how God works in a situation like this. I’m confident that God first confronted the sons directly and got no repentance from them. Then God told Eli directly, who confronted his sons but didn’t fire them, allowing the continued evil practices. Then God sends a “man of God” to torch Eli about the situation. Again, no repentance from Eli or his sons. Then God uses this situation to teach Samual about revelation and kick start his prophetic ministry. Eli’s lukewarm response to Samuel demonstrated that the scorching message that electrified Samuel was a repeat of what Eli had heard from God directly and next from the man of God. God usually doesn’t tell someone to tell you something. He usually tells you first. And if you’re listening and repent, that’s the end of the story. If you don’t listen or respond to the correction, you’ll be hearing from heaven in another way! Eli got it both barrels! Why? Because if Eli would have repented and did what God wanted (which was fire his sons as priests and “fire” them for their idolatry) then God could have turned things around for him. God wants all people blessed and protected as much as possible. The extent of that blessing and protection depends on them. Eli “stiff-armed” God. We will discuss the irredeemable nature of the son’s sins when we handle discerning of spirits.

1 Sam. 3:19-21

And Samuel grew, and Yahweh was with him and he let none of his words fall to the ground.

And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of Yahweh.

And Yahweh continued to appear in Shiloh, for Yahweh revealed himself to Samuel

in Shiloh by the word of Yahweh.

Let’s note a few more things learned from Samuel’s “revelation school”. “Samuel grew” physically and spiritually. No one “comes from the factory” spiritually ready to go. There are always “growing pains”. Always some ““Here I am, for you called me!” type confusion.

Acts 7:22-25

And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and works.

“But when he was fully 40 years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the sons of Israel.

And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him who was oppressed, smiting the Egyptian.

He assumed that his brothers understood that God was giving them deliverance by his hand, but they did not understand.

God told Moses that he would be delivering Israel from Egyptian slavery. He assumed his fellow Israelites knew that too. Bad assumption. He had gotten a message of knowledge regarding what God had called him to do. Instead of also getting a message of wisdom on how to accomplish the revelation, he decided to start a one-man revolution against Egypt! Without MoW, trust, and God’s help, that won’t work. So, he took a 40-year detour to the wilderness from the original revelation. The lesson is, once you have knowledge from God, ask Him for wisdom in carrying it out. Don’t assume it’s “up to you”.

Did you know that Jesus healed five different blind men five different ways?

Matt. 9:29 Jesus touched their eyes

12:22 Blind and dumb man with devil – cast it out.

Mark 8:22 Took him out of town. Spit on his eyes and laid hands on him, his sight was

partially restored. They converse. Then Jesus laid hands on his eyes again, then complete healing occurred.

Luke 18:35 Jesus heals with words.

John 9:6 Jesus spit, made mud and put in on his eyes and asked him to wash in the pool of Siloam.

If this was “the gospel of Steve”, once I healed the first blind guys after touching them, I’d want to repeat the procedure again because supposedly, “Nothing succeeds like success.” Some think that once you’re successful at something, repeat what you did to be successful and the results will be the same. Those statements are wrong when it comes to revelation. What succeeds is listening to God. Why did Jesus change his healing method each time the next four times? The only answer that makes sense is because the revelation changed. Why? Because each person is different, and each situation is different. If I ASSUME that because I was successful previously that I’ll be successful again if I repeat the formula, I’m missing the whole point of the manifestations. I’m trying to repeat a formula – not trust God. Those who look for a formula to walk by the spirit, RARELY walk by the spirit. They only walk by formulas, trying to repeat past success - theirs or someone else’s. God wants us to trust Him, not a formula or a checklist. Each day, each person, each situation is different. How can we know what to do? WE CAN’T! Only God does. And He can tell us … if we’re listening – not assuming. One person needs a touch. The next one needs spiritual cleaning. The next one needs to get away from the crowds and pressure and get healed in two steps. The next one just needs to hear God’s words to them right there. The next one needs a spit, a mud mask, and face wash. What’s the common thread? God’s guidance, Jesus’ openness to fresh wisdom from God every day, and the results – healing.

Learning to walk by the spirit takes time. Abraham’s original revelation about “the promised seed” was 25-30 years before the first part of its fulfillment - Isaac. Joseph’s revelation about his family bowing down to him came to pass about 20 years later – and to say the least there were also some detours – like kidnapping, slavery, and prison! It takes time to learn the “revelation” ropes. There are trials and errors. The keys are focus and not giving up. Just as the man learning to ride the bike with the straightened crooked handlebars ultimately was successful after a few falls, we will be too.

Staying close to God and spiritually aware, like Samuel was, is also important. This compresses the learning time. And remember, “Yahweh was with him”. He is with us also to help us and guide us. And “Yahweh revealed himself to Samuel”. If we only get one revelation in a lifetime, that’s one more than everybody else combined! It’s God’s option to give us information. The idea that we can force God’s hand is silly. All spiritual knowledge comes by grace. We are thankful for a loving Giver who gave us a gift so that He can talk with us and us with Him. What a wonderful adventure God has called us to!