

BYU Family History Library
Christmas Devotional 2022



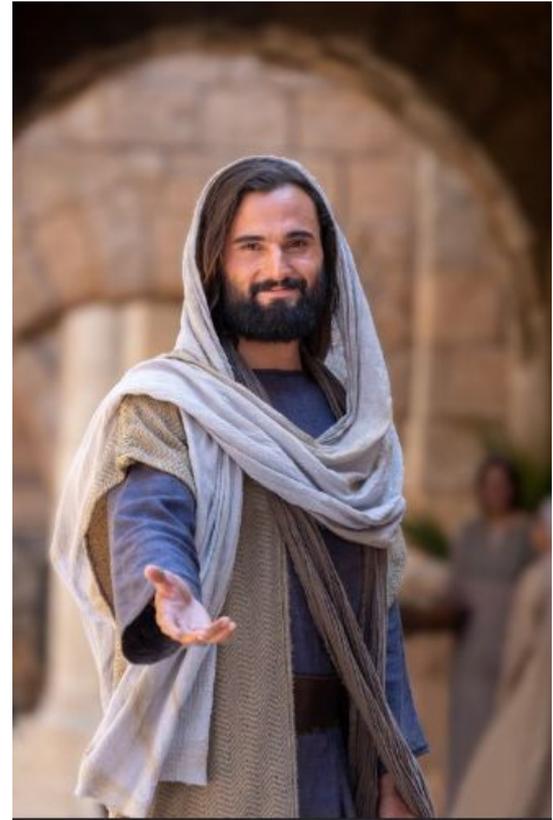
How Family History Helps Us Hear and Follow the Spirit



Kathryn Grant

Temple ordinances make the full blessings of Christ's atonement available to all God's children.

Those on the other side are yearning for these blessings.



<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/inspiration/imagine-you-could-have-a-conversation-with-jesus-christ>

“Those who wait beyond the veil for the ordinances of the gospel are in desperate circumstances analogous to the handcart pioneers. They need our help.”



“Those who labor in the temples of the Lord are their rescuers.... We need to wake up the whole Church to their plight.”

Gordon B. Hinckley, quoted by D. Todd Christofferson in "[How Beautiful Thy Temples, Lord](#)", BYU Family History Fireside





It follows that:

- We need the guidance of the Spirit
- AND-
- God is willing to give it to us!



wkumedia on Unsplash <https://unsplash.com/photos/y4kMCLR7LBo>

Family history promptings do not have to be large and dramatic.





They can be as soft as
rain on a rose petal, but
just as meaningful.

Family history provides many opportunities to learn more about how the Spirit speaks to us.



<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/family-history-tablet-3060f29>

A person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation....



<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/nauvoo-temple-joseph-art-lds-671e85a>

It may give you sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon . . . and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation.”

Joseph Smith, *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 132.

Examples

[Read a text version](#) of examples used in
the devotional





Thoughts on Inviting the Spirit

Pray specifically for the Spirit.

“And the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith.”
(Doctrine and Covenants 42:14)



Patrick Fore https://unsplash.com/photos/b_SHPU5M3nk

Promptings often come line upon line



https://unsplash.com/photos/KuCGIBXjH_o

Example of Line Upon Line

3 Nephi 11:3-5

- Heard a voice which they “understood not” but it caused their “hearts to burn.”
- Heard the voice a second time but “understood it not.”
- Heard the voice a third time:
 - “[opened] their ears to hear”
 - looked “toward the sound thereof”
 - **understood the voice they heard**



It's okay if it takes effort!

"I plead with you to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation. Choose to do the **spiritual work** required to enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and hear the voice of the Spirit more frequently and more clearly."

President Russell M. Nelson, "Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives," April 2018 General Conference (emphasis added)

"The **Lord loves effort**, because effort brings rewards that can't come without it."

President Russell M. Nelson in talk by Joy D. Jones, "An Especially Noble Calling," April 2020 General Conference (emphasis added)



<https://www.thechurchnews.com/leaders-and-ministry/2019-04-07/general-conference-april-2019-president-nelson-mormon-lds-salvation-death-jesus-christ-eternal-life-49476>

Practice Stillness

“Be still before the Lord” (Psalm 37:7)



<https://unsplash.com/photos/iBiEF4j1I0w>

When we're still, it's easier to hear the Spirit.

The Lord can prompt us what to do and what *not* to do.

Record the promptings you receive, and act on them.



<https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/orig/Scott.jpg>

“Inspiration carefully recorded shows God that His communications are sacred to us. Recording will also enhance our ability to recall revelation.”

Richard G. Scott, “How to Obtain Revelation and Inspiration for your Personal Life,” April 2012 General Conference

Invitation

Think about one way you can invite the Spirit more in your family history service.



<https://unsplash.com/photos/qYanN54glrl>



**Wishing you a blessed and
joyous Christmas!**



THANKS!



Questions?

Email: kathryngz@gmail.com

This presentation and others available at



<https://GoldenrodGenealogy.com>

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