

## LESSON 7 OF 11

Will you do everything to avoid those things that will slow down or totally block revelation?



L

A

B

**Last week's challenge:**

Will you LAB when it comes to getting revelation?



L



**LEARN**

Study

**A**



**APPLY**



**B**



**BELIEVE**



This week we  
will talk about

**BLOCKS**

Things that stop or  
slow the flow of  
revelation



**Worldly things that stop  
or slow the flow**

## Slow Traffic



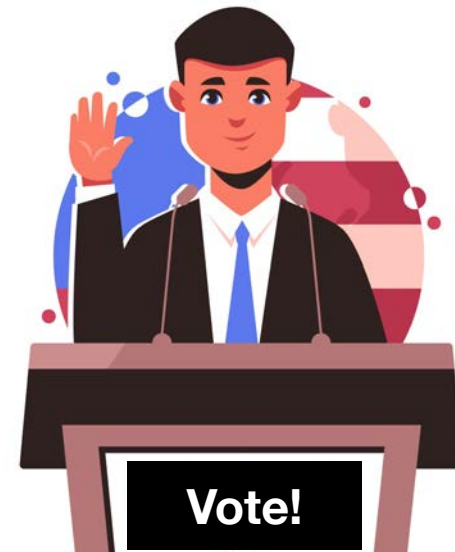
## River Dams



## Unproductive Assembly Lines



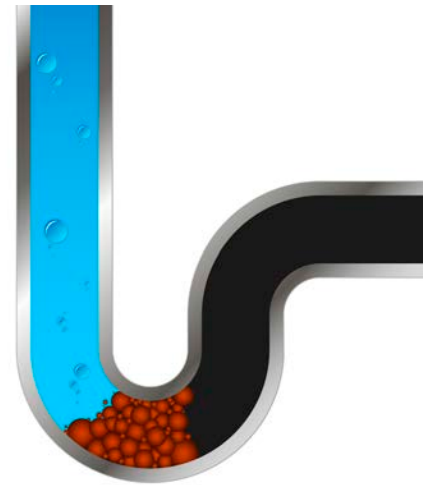
## Dishonest Politicians



## Kinked Garden Hoses



## Clogged Pipes



## Unethical Judges



## Huge Dams



## Stop Lights



**Question  
of the day:**

**What  
things  
BLOCK  
revelation?**



Let's liken the  
**Tree of Life**  
TO REVELATION



**Tree of Life**



**Revelation**



And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with **exceedingly great joy**; wherefore, I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was **desirable above all other fruit**.  
— 1 Nephi 8:12

Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw? And I answered him, saying: Yea, it is the **love of God**, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, it is the **most desirable** above all things. And he spake unto me, saying: Yea, and the **most joyous** to the soul. — 1 Nephi 11:21–23

**What  
things  
BLOCK  
receiving  
this fruit?**



## 1. River of Water (Hell)



## 2. Spacious Building (Pride)



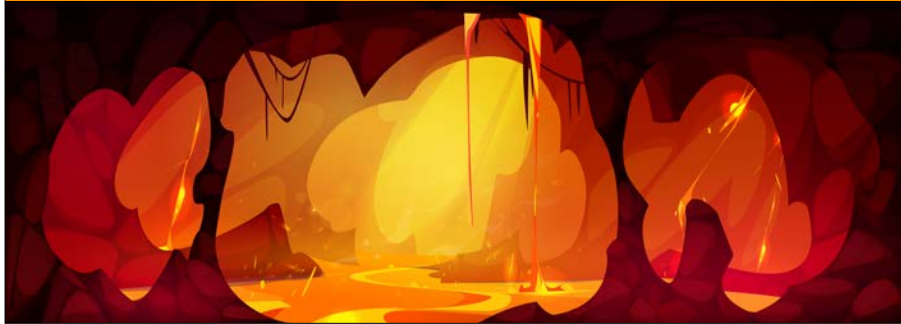
## 3. Mists of Darkness (temptations)



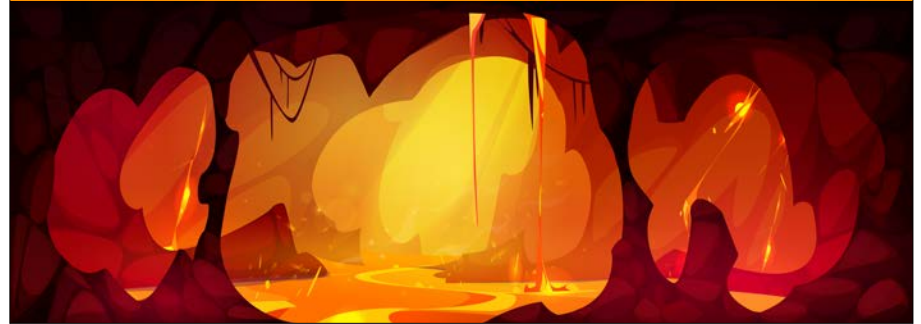
## 1. River of Water (Hell)



And the angel spake unto me, saying:  
Behold the fountain of filthy water which thy  
father saw; yea, even the river of which he  
spake; and the depths thereof are the  
**depths of hell.** — 1 Nephi 12:16



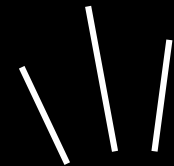
And they said unto me: What meaneth the  
river of water which our father saw? And I  
said unto them that the water which my  
father saw was **filthiness**; and so much was  
his mind swallowed up in other things that he  
beheld not the filthiness of the water. —15:26



## 2. Spacious Building (Pride)



And it was filled with  
people, both old and  
young, both male and  
female; and their manner  
of **dress was exceedingly  
fine**; and they were in the  
attitude of **mocking** and  
**pointing their fingers**  
towards those who had  
come at and were  
partaking of the fruit.  
— 1 Nephi 8:26-28





And it came to pass that I saw and bear record, that the great and spacious building was the **pride of the world**; and it fell, and the fall thereof was exceedingly great.  
– 1 Nephi 11:36



And the large and spacious building, which thy father saw, is **vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men**.  
–1 Nephi 12:18



### 3. Mist of Darkness (Temptation)

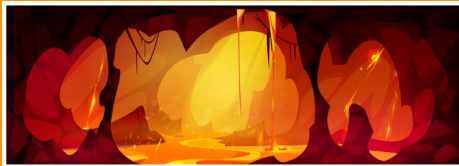
And it came to pass that there arose a **mist of darkness**; yea, even an exceedingly great mist of darkness, insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.  
– 1 Nephi 8:23

And the mists of darkness are the **temptations** of the devil, which **blindeth** the eyes, and **hardeneth** the hearts of the children of men, and **leadeth** them away into broad roads, that they perish and are lost.  
—1 Nephi 12:17



## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Why were the mist of darkness, river of water, and spacious building needed in the tree of life story?



# 1

**River of Water**

**Mental  
Blocks**



We must ask in faith and with an honest heart. But that is not all. We must also believe that we will receive the revelation. We must trust the Lord and have hope in His promises. (Marcos A. Aidukaitis, April 2014)

# Doubt and Unbelief



If we believe we cannot receive revelation, often we won't seek it.  
Antidote: "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." – Mark 9:24

# Fear of the Answer



We may hesitate to ask God because we fear the direction He might give. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." – 2 Timothy 1:7

# Slothfulness



Contentment or complacency with spiritual mediocrity prevents deeper understanding. "Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." – Revelation 3:16

# Self-centered



We are too intent on wanting what we want. We focus on the "dictates of his own ... carnal desires" – D&C 3:4.

# Being Too Rational



Overanalyzing spiritual impressions instead of following them with faith. “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him.” — 1 Corinthians 2:14

# Guilt and Shame



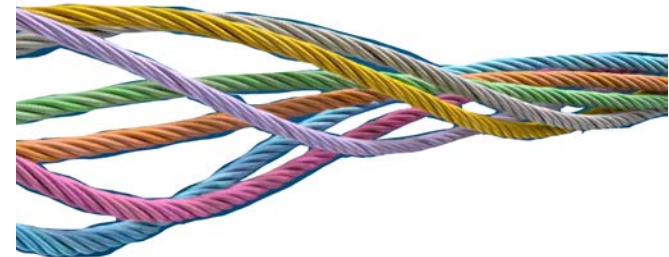
Feeling too unworthy to approach God (which can differ from true repentance that leads to hope). “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.” – Isaiah 1:18

# Impatience



Expecting immediate answers rather than trusting God’s timing. “Be patient in afflictions, for thou shalt have many.” — D&C 98:2

# Anxiety



Worrying excessively about receiving an answer instead of trusting in the Lord. “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” – Philippians 4:6–7

# Pride



Aspiring to the honors of men. Setting our hearts on the things of the world. Feeling superior to others. “and the wise, and the learned, and they that are rich, who are puffed up because of their learning, and their wisdom, and their riches.” – 2 Nephi 9:42

# Overly Self-Reliant



Insisting on controlling every detail of our lives instead of leaving space for God to guide us. “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” – Proverbs 3:5-6

# Emotional Chaos



Unresolved anger, resentment, or emotional distress can drown out the Spirit’s whisperings. “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you.” – Ephesians 4:31-32

# High Expectations



Having unrealistic expectations. Ignoring small, everyday promptings while waiting for dramatic answers. “And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.” – 1 Kings 19:12

# Prejudice



You have pre-judged the situation and feel the Lord will not give you any guidance. “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment” — Leviticus 19:15

# Indecision



You have not made a decision yourself. “you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right,” —D&C 9:7–9



## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

How can you avoid these mental blocks and improve your personal revelation in these areas?

## MENTAL BLOCKS

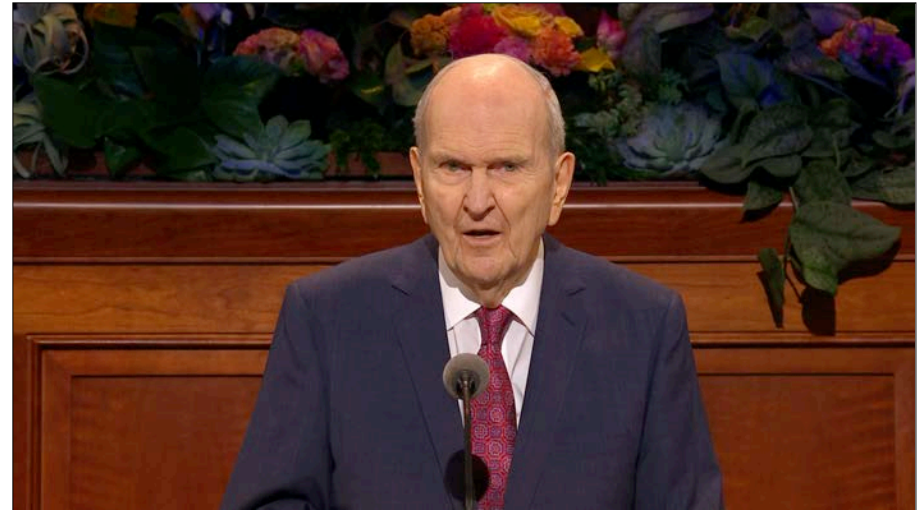
Doubt and Unbelief	Anxiety
Fear of the Answer	Pride
Slothfulness	Overly Self-reliant
Self-Centered	Emotional Chaos
Too Rational	Expectations
Guilt and Shame	Prejudice
Impatience	Indecision



# 2

## Spacious Building

# Worldly Blocks



Overcoming the world is not an event that happens in a day or two. It happens over a lifetime as we repeatedly embrace the doctrine of Christ. We cultivate faith in Jesus Christ by repenting daily and keeping covenants that endow us with power. We stay on the covenant path and are blessed with **spiritual strength, personal revelation, increasing faith, and the ministering of angels**. Living the doctrine of Christ can produce the most powerful virtuous cycle, creating **spiritual momentum** in our lives. (Russell M. Nelson, Oct. 2022)

## Cares of the World



“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the **care of this world**, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.” —Matthew 13:22

## Social Media



Spending excessive time on entertainment, news, and opinions drowns out divine impressions. “If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.” — Matthew 6:22–23

# Addictions



Addictions to technology, food, drugs, TV, work, or anything that takes precedence over spiritual things. “Remember, to be carnally-minded is death, and to be spiritually-minded is life eternal.” — 2 Nephi 9:39

# Materialism



Overemphasizing financial success or possessions over spiritual growth. “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” – Matthew 6:19–20

# Negative Influences



Surrounding ourselves with people who diminish faith rather than build it. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”—James 4:7

# Busyness



Always moving, always doing something. “For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are **busybodies**.” — 2 Thessalonians 3:11



The Spirit does not get our attention by shouting or shaking us with a heavy hand. Rather it whispers. It caresses so gently that if we are preoccupied we may not feel it at all.



Boyd K. Packer, "The Quest for Spiritual Knowledge,"  
From a talk given at a seminar for new mission  
presidents on June 25, 1982.

Occasionally, it will press just firmly enough for us to pay heed. But most of the time, if we do not heed the gentle feeling, the Spirit will withdraw and wait until we come seeking and listening and say in our manner and expression, like Samuel of ancient times, "Speak [Lord], for thy servant heareth" (1 Samuel 3:10).



Boyd K. Packer, "The Quest for Spiritual Knowledge,"  
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## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

How can you avoid these worldly blocks and improve your personal revelation in these areas?

## WORLDLY BLOCKS

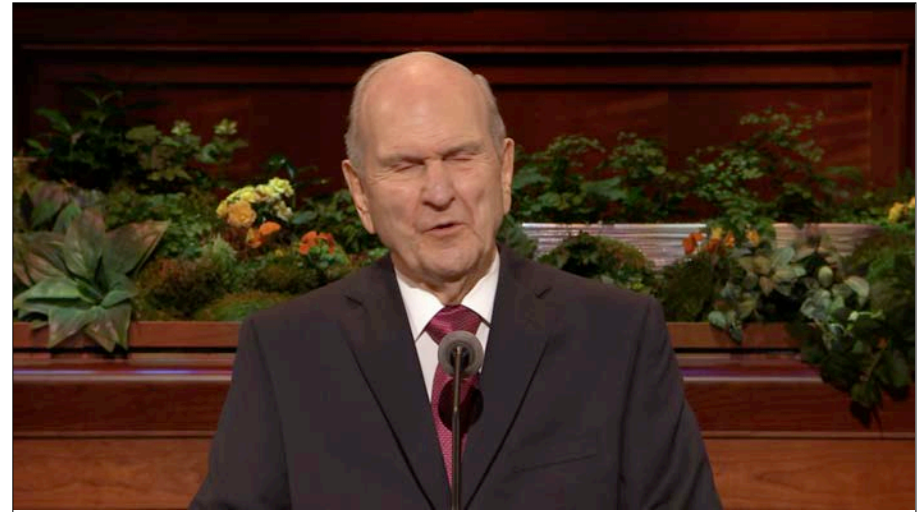
Cares of the Word  
Social Media  
Addiction  
Materialism  
Negative Influences  
Busyness



# 3

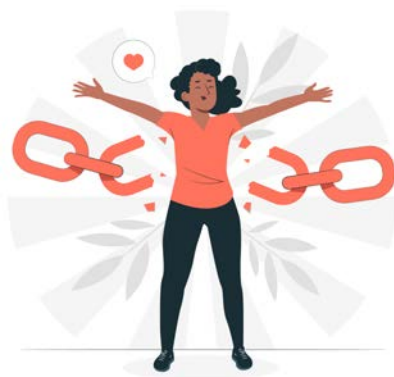
## Mists of Darkness

# Spiritual Blocks



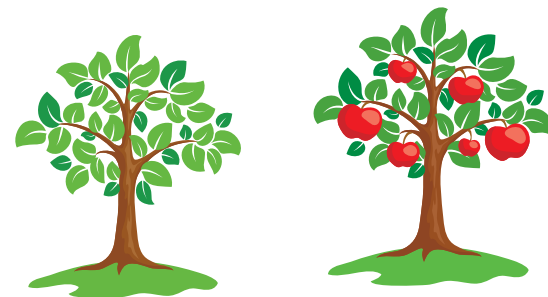
Nothing opens the heavens quite like the combination of increased **purity**, exact **obedience**, earnest **seeking**, daily **feasting** on the words of Christ in the Book of Mormon, and regular time committed to **temple** and **family history** work. (Russell M. Nelson, April 2018)

## Unworthiness



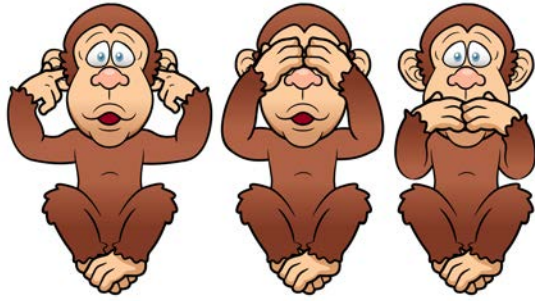
If we knowingly live in sin, we may feel unworthy to receive revelation and thus stop seeking it. "If ye turn away from that which is good... the Spirit of the Lord doth withdraw from you." — Mosiah 2:36

## No Nourishment



"But if ye will **nourish** the word, yea, **nourish** the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life."  
— Alma 32:41

# Not listening



The Spirit is talking to you. So is the Prophet. So is your bishop. But you are not listening. “seeing ye are dull of hearing” — Heb. 5:11.

# Not Prepared



Our hearts are not prepared to receive His answers. “Lord will surely prepare a way for his people” — 1 Nephi 22:20

# Unrecognized Help



We don't recognize answers when they come. Or we confuse God's prompting with the Devil. “God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace” — Gen. 41:16.

# Lack of Faith



We lack faith or confidence in Heavenly Father. “According to your faith be it unto you” — Matthew 9:29

# Ignoring Scriptures



Neglecting the word of God weakens our ability to hear Him. “Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.” – 2 Nephi 32:3

# Sporadic Prayer



Inconsistent, rushed, or insincere prayers limit revelation. “Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you.” – D&C 88:63

# Neglecting the Spirit



If we don't practice recognizing the Holy Ghost in small things, we miss greater guidance. “By the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.” – Moroni 10:5

# Failure to Act



If we ignore spiritual promptings or past revelation, we may not receive more until we follow through. “He that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word.” – Alma 12:9–11

# No Temple Time



The temple provides an environment for revelation, and neglecting it can lessen our sensitivity to the Spirit. “And we ask thee, Holy Father, that thy servants may go forth from this house armed with thy power.” – D&C 109:22

# Lack of Humility



Thinking we already know the answer and not being open to God’s direction. “If men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness.” – Ether 12:27

# Rejecting Counsel



Dismissing inspired prophetic teachings or church leaders’ counsel. “Whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.” – D&C 1:38

# Lack of Gratitude



A spirit of ingratitude can block further light and truth. “He who receiveth all things with thankfulness shall be made glorious.” – D&C 78:19

# Closed Eyes



You fail to open your eyes to the truth. That's because your "heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their **eyes they have closed**" – Matthew 13:15

# Hard Heart



Your heart is not in the right place. "men reject the Spirit because of hardness of hearts" – Alma 13:4.

# Past Feeling



Unwilling to do what it takes to hear and feel the word of the Lord. "...and he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were **past feeling**, that ye could not feel his words" – 1 Nephi 17:45

# Lack of Reverence



Reverence is feeling or showing deep and solemn respect. "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." – Psalm 89:7

# Contention



“...he that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another.” —3 Nephi 11:29–30



David Whitmer recounted: “One morning when [Joseph Smith] was getting ready to continue the translation, something went wrong about the house and he was put out about it. Something that Emma, his wife, had done. Oliver and I went up stairs, and Joseph came up soon after to continue the translation, but he could not do anything. He could not translate a single syllable.”

David Whitmer, interview by William H. Kelley and George A. Blakeslee, Sept. 15, 1881, *Saints' Herald*, Mar. 1, 1882, p. 68.

“He went down stairs, out into the orchard and made supplication to the Lord; was gone about an hour—came back to the house, asked Emma’s forgiveness and then came up stairs where we were and the translation went on all right. He could do nothing save he was humble and faithful.”

David Whitmer, interview by William H. Kelley and George A. Blakeslee, Sept. 15, 1881, *Saints' Herald*, Mar. 1, 1882, p. 68.



## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

How can you avoid these spiritual blocks and improve your personal revelation in these areas?

## SPIRITUAL BLOCKS

Unworthiness  
No Nourishment  
Not Listening  
Not Prepared  
Unrecognized help  
Lack of Faith  
Ignoring Scriptures  
Sporadic Prayer  
Neglecting the Spirit

Failure to Act  
No Temple Time  
Lack of Humility  
Rejecting Counsel  
Closed Eyes  
Hard Heart  
Past Feeling  
Lack of Reverence  
Contention



# TO DO

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

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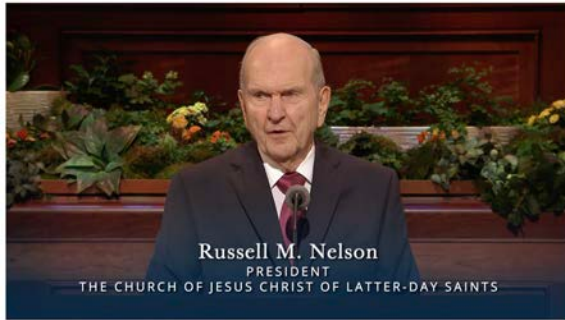


These slides will be posted  
on the website after class.



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### **STUDY THIS TALK**

“Revelation for the Church,  
Revelation for Our Lives”

By President Russell M. Nelson

APRIL 2018



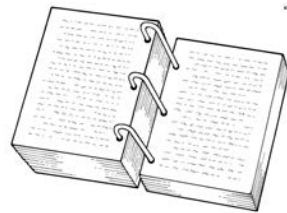
### **TREE OF LIFE**

Immersive Experience is for mobile devices only Scan or visit <https://go.churchofjesuschrist.org/x/723f> with your mobile device to view the immersive experience

powered by **8thWall**



## **NEXT CLASS** **March 6**



CLASS 8 OF 11:

Have you searched the scriptures seeking for answers to your questions? Did the Lord already answer your concerns centuries ago?