

Personal Revelation in Mormonism: Promise vs. Reality

The Promise: A Direct Line to God



“The best way to obtain truth and wisdom is not to ask from books, but to go to God in prayer.”
– Joseph Smith, Founder

Members can receive direct instructions from God.

This concept is a unique and central selling point of the Mormon faith.



The Reality: A Controlled Narrative

Expectation is lowered from “a voice” to a vague feeling.



Modern leaders teach revelation is “a voice that one feels more than one hears.”

A revelation is considered “more authentic” if it’s something you *don’t* want.

This logic undermines confirmations of the church’s truthfulness, which members usually want to be true.



The Church’s Catch-22 for Validating Revelation

Does your revelation confirm current leaders’ teachings?

The Verdict

YES

It’s from God.

NO

It’s from “the wrong source.”

*Purpose: To visually illustrate the church’s “Catch-22” logic for validating personal revelation, as explained by leader Dallin H. Oaks. This creates a no-win scenario for independent thought.