

Inviting the Spirit into Your Home

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Why do we need the influence of the Spirit in our lives and our homes?

The Holy Ghost is a sure guide, a moral compass, and a revelator.

His influence is personal to each of us.

He prompts us to resist evil.

He gives us knowledge.

He brings things to our remembrance.

He brings comfort and peace.

What basic things can we do to prepare ourselves to receive His influence?

1. Search the scriptures regularly. D&C 18:34–36
2. Pray earnestly. 2 Nephi 32:8–9
3. Obey the commandments willingly. D&C 64:33–34
4. Serve cheerfully. Psalm 100:2

What atmosphere should we cultivate in our homes to invite His presence?

The Spirit comes as a “still, small voice.” 1 Kings 19:12

We frequently “feel” the Spirit rather than “hear” Him. 1 Nephi 17:45

“Reverence is essential to revelation.” (Elder Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign* November 1994, p. 61).

President Brigham Young:

There is no doubt, if a person lives according to the revelations given to God’s people, he may have the Spirit of the Lord to signify to him his will, and to guide and to direct him in the discharge of his duties, in his temporal as well as his spiritual exercises. I am satisfied, however, that in this respect, we live far beneath our privileges. If this is true, it is necessary that we become more fervent in the service of God—in living our religion—and more truthful and honest with one another, that we be not slack in the performance of any duty, but labor with a right good will for God and truth. If this people, called Latter-day Saints, live beneath their privileges in the holy Gospel of the Son of God, are they justified in every respect before him? They are not. If we do not live in the lively exercise of faith in the Lord Jesus, possessing his Spirit always, how can we know when he speaks to us through his servants whom he has placed to lead us?

(Discourses of Brigham Young, 2:104).

President Ezra Taft Benson

There is a real sifting going on in the Church and it is going to become more pronounced with the passing of time. It will sift the wheat from the tares, because we face some difficult days, the like of which we have never experienced in our lives. And those days are going to require faith and testimony and family unity, the like of which we have never had.

(The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 10).

President David O. McKay

I name as a second unwise condition those parents who pollute the home atmosphere with “vulgarity” and “profanity.” I use the term “vulgarity” in the sense used by David Starr Jordan. “To be vulgar,” he writes, “is to do that which is not the best of its kind. It is to do poor things in poor ways, and to be satisfied with that . . . It is vulgar to wear dirty linen when one is not engaged in dirty work. It is vulgar to like poor music . . . to find amusement in trashy novels, to enjoy vulgar theaters, to find pleasure in cheap jokes, to tolerate coarseness and looseness in any of its myriad forms.”

(Conference Report, April 1955, p. 26).

Elder Boyd K. Packer

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. (No wonder that the Word of Wisdom was revealed to us, for how could the drunkard or the addict feel such a voice?)

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)

(*Ensign*, January 1983, p. 53).

Church News Editorial, September 8, 2001:

The scriptures are filled with admonitions to keep the mind and the heart clean and free from evil influences and thoughts. Speaking to his errant son, Corianton, the prophet Alma said, “Now my son, I would that ye should repent and forsake your sins, and go no more after the lusts of your eyes, but cross yourself in all these things; for except ye do this ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God”(Alma 39:9).

What did Alma mean by “the lusts of your eyes”? A modern prophet, President Ezra Taft Benson, answered that specific question. Speaking to young Aaronic Priesthood holders, he defined it as, “Movies, television programs, and video recordings that are both suggestive and lewd, magazines and books that are obscene and pornographic.

“We counsel you, young men, not to pollute your minds with such degrading matter, for the mind through which this filth passes is never the same afterwards. Don't see R-rated movies or vulgar videos or participate in any entertainment that is immoral, suggestive, or pornographic. Don't listen to music that is degrading.”

(*Ensign*, May 1986 p.43).

As early as 1978, President Spencer W. Kimball told family fathers to “be worthy watchmen. Be concerned about the types of programs your family is watching on television or hearing on radio. There is so much today that is unsavory and degrading, so much that gives the impression that the old sins of Sodom and Gomorrah are the ‘in thing’ to do today.”

(*Ensign*, May 1978, p. 45).

Those words are so much more important today, given the increase in the amount of filth that can so easily find its way into every home.

In one sense, modern parents are blessed with opportunities, through videos and special channels, to access more uplifting and inspiring programs than ever before. But the free stuff—the programming that networks once employed content

reviewers to guard because of the vulnerability of the audience by which it could be accessed—is now among the most disgusting and harmful available.

No concerned parent would allow someone to utter multiple profanities and sexual jokes per hour in their home. Why, then, would they allow such things to enter in through an electronic box, complete with the laughter of an unseen, approving audience?