

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

CHURCH HISTORY DEPARTMENT
Church History Library
15 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-1600

April 26, 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Dear [REDACTED]:

You have been on my mind since our visit last Saturday. Thank you for inviting us into your home and thank you for sharing your research and candid assessments. I very much enjoyed seeing you again at the multi-stake adult devotional Sunday evening. Sorry for putting you on the spot about Lyman Wight, but thank you for your on-the-spot research.

During our discussion in your home, a couple of things were said that probably merit some follow-up. I hope you don't mind that I follow up with this short note. First, I want to reiterate my invitation to you to focus on faith. You entitled your research "In Defense of Doubt." I would love to read your ten-page work entitled, "In Defense of Faith." I am not asking you to defend the Church. You're likely not in a very good position to do that right now. But I would like you to defend faith—your faith. You said you believe in God and Christ. Write down all the reasons why, even in the face of arguments to the contrary. Defend your faith to a disbeliever. I would love to read that.

The second invitation I would like to extend is to patch up your relationship with the Holy Ghost. During our visit, you said that you don't trust the Holy Ghost because of a revelatory experience you had that turned out to not be from God at all. You did not share the revelation you had that, in hindsight, you know absolutely was not from God. But if you know it was not from God, which means it was not from the Holy Ghost, then I'm not sure what good can come from ceasing to trust the Holy Ghost, as though He gave you false information.

I have learned by experience and observation that we do two things that make ourselves easy prey for the adversary. First, we say that Satan cannot duplicate or create peace. Lucifer cannot duplicate anything God does or has but he can "come nigh unto" duplicating pretty much *everything* God does or has. He is a master mimic. I have worked with people who have had profound revelations that align with their understanding of revelation because of how they felt, but they have been deceived. Lucifer can prompt. He can reveal. The great safety net in this process is the word of God as revealed in the scriptures and by the living prophets. I recently listened to a sermon preached by a protestant minister about hearing God's voice. Among other things, He said, "The voice of God will never contradict the word of God." Sound advice.

The second thing Latter-day Saints do to make ourselves easy (or easier) prey for the adversary is to misread the account of Nephi slaying Laban. That experience does not stand for the proposition that the Spirit can or will prompt you to do something contrary to God's revealed word. Nephi shrank not because of some moral dilemma arising from conflicting commands. Rather, in his own words, he shrank because he was young and had never taken a man's life. He was bumping up against a part of God's law he had never been confronted

with. In D&C 98 the Lord says in essence, "If someone tries to kill you once, forgive them. If they try to kill you twice, forgive them. But at some point, if they keep coming at you, I will deliver them into your hands and you are justified in ending it."

The Lord identified this as a law he gave unto His servant Nephi. (D&C 98:32) Numerous people, including a close and prominent friend, have been duped because they receive a powerful spiritual manifestation that tells them to do something contrary to God's law and they think it's from God because, hey, Nephi. You have probably already thought through all of this. I simply share it here as part of an invitation to mend your relationship with the Holy Ghost. He is deserving of trust and you need His guidance. If you followed a prompting not from Him, it is you who needs to regain His trust, not visa versa. I hope that makes sense.

Above all and notwithstanding all, I hope you will not feel condemned by me or anyone else in the Church. I also hope you will appreciate that my conviction of truth is a result of a multitude of spiritual experiences, none of which has required me to abandon logic or reasoning or turn a blind eye to things that don't align perfectly with my beliefs. Thank you again for inviting us into your home. I wish you and your family all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle S. McKay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Elder Kyle S. McKay