

EPISODE 19 • PART I

Dr. Ronald E. Bartholomew



D&C 46-48

Hank Smith:	<u>00:01</u>	Welcome to followHIM, a weekly podcast dedicated to helping individuals and families with their <i>Come, Follow Me</i> study. I'm Hank Smith
John Bytheway:	<u>00:09</u>	And I'm John Bytheway.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:10</u>	We love to learn.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:11</u>	We love to laugh.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:13</u>	We want to learn and laugh with you.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:15</u>	As together, we followHIM.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:19</u>	Hello my friends, my name is Hank Smith. I am here with my marvelous co-host, John Bytheway, welcome John.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:28</u>	I am so excited to hear the adjective each week, it reminds me of a Church History cookbook actually, called <i>The Marvelous Work In A Blender</i> . So, thank you Hank.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:40</u>	<i>The Marvelous Work In A Blender</i> . Oh, I've never heard of that. I've known you for a long time and I have not heard that joke before. We are hosts of followHIM, thank you for joining us. We are excited to be here today. Every week, we interview one of the Church's great minds, and this week we have with us a friend of mine, we've been friends since the 1900s, his name is Dr. Ron Bartholomew. John, tell us about Dr. Bartholomew.
John Bytheway:	<u>01:11</u>	Oh, I'm so glad to be here with Ron because this goes back into like you said, the 1900s in our EFY days and everything. Just so glad to have Ron here, and this bio, he's going to help us if anything in here is outdated. But he has been an Instructor at the Orem Institute of Religion for a long time, so that's the Institute, as part of the Utah Valley University, where he

teaches Christian History, LDS Church History, courses in the standard works. He's received a bachelor's and a master's degree from BYU and a doctorate in the Sociology of Education from the University of Buckingham in London, England.

He's published in scholarly journals, articles, academic journals in the United States and Europe, and has written several chapters in various published columns. His research interests include 19th century missionary work in Victorian, England, as well as the topics in ancient scripture in church history. He and his wife, Kristen have seven children and 11 grandchildren. And I just want to add, just get on Google and google Deseret News, October 16th 2020, or maybe just put Ron Bartholomew. There's a wonderful article in there about his personal experiences in the book of Job, and you will love that and you'll get to know Ron a little bit better if you look that up.

Hank Smith: 02:34

Ron, welcome to followHim.

Ron Bartholomew: 02:36

Thank you, it's good to be here.

Hank Smith: 02:38

Ron, you and I have had conversations over the last probably 25 years that have literally changed the way I teach, the way I think about the gospel. I'm sure that you have these types of conversations all the time. In fact, I think there are thousands of UVU students listening to this episode, precisely because they saw your name on the episode list. We are so excited to be here. Let's jump in and see what happens here, I'm excited to learn from you Ron. We're studying, this week, Sections 46 through 48 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

They're all received in March of 1831. The Church is almost a year old, it's now made its first major move to Ohio, they don't know that they have a lot of major moves in front of them as a result of four missionaries called to preach to the native Americans, Oliver Cowdery, Parley Pratt, Peter Whitmer Jr. and Ziba or Ziba Peterson, depending on who you ask. Joseph has lived in Ohio, now for two months, members are still coming from New York to join him. So Ron, now with that introduction, what have these first two months been like in Ohio and what leads up to these sections?

Ron Bartholomew: 03:54

Well, the first ones in Ohio have been cold. Joseph moved them up February 1st 1831, so they've been cold. And he's been trying to gather the Saints the best he can. Most of the Saints won't arrive until May. So it's just still March, so most of the Saints are still coming from New York, but he's moved into the home and store of the-

John Bytheway: 04:22 Whitney's.

Ron Bartholomew: 04:22 Yeah, the Whitney's. And he is doing the translation in the Bible, so he's been very busy in current Ohio, testing the Bible, people knew, and waiting for the Saints to come from New York. So a lot's going on.

Hank Smith: 04:35 Yeah. And he's meeting all these converts. They've got to be so excited. Well, how would you like that, John, you join the Church and then the prophet moves into your town. That would be interesting, he's moving here.

Ron Bartholomew: 04:50 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 04:51 So those of you missionaries out there, if you could just baptize full cities, maybe we'll move the Church there.

Ron Bartholomew: 04:59 In addition to that, he was only 25-years -ld. So a lot of people were surprised by that.

Hank Smith: 05:05 He's a kid. I remember thinking I was 25 and oh man, I had it. I knew what was happening, I look back going, "What was wrong with you?" John, what were you going to say?

John Bytheway: 05:16 I like this idea we've heard several times, is at three times so far? "Go to the Ohio." And now there's so many there, I'm just wondering, this maybe was all in the design of the Lord all along, but so many because of that mission to the Lamanites, that's what it was called, but the outcome was really all these converts in Ohio. Do you think the Lord moved them there because there were so many converts there? Or did he want them there all along? I guess that's a hard one to answer but are the bulk of members in Ohio now?

Ron Bartholomew: 05:50 The bulk of the members are in Ohio but more than that, Ohio is going to become the headquarters of the Church. So you got two headquarters now, you got Pennsylvania which is the capital of the United States at this time, before Washington D.C. You have Pennsylvania and you've got Ohio and you got two of these going on. At the same time you've got the United States of America being started and you got the Church being started. And the Church's capital moved to Salt Lake but not for five years, and the nation's capital moves to Washington DC. But for the meantime, this is a place for starting a new nation, not just a city, a nation.

Hank Smith: 06:28 John, that's not something we have talked about a lot on the podcast so far is, what's happening in the country at the time. It's Andrew Jackson, he's the President of the United States. So that's fascinating Ron, thank you for bringing that up. I think John, that's something we need to keep incorporating, is the idea of like, "What's happening in the country?" Because Ron's right. The United States does not look like the United States of 2021 by any means and if we don't keep that in mind, we might lose sight.

John Bytheway: 07:04 I remember Sister Susan Easton Black bringing up, at the beginning of one of these, now there's 26 States in the United States. It's like, "Oh yeah. Well, yeah, that's true." And sometimes I love to show, I used to have this big foldout book called *The Timeline of World History* or something, and I love to show the youth this long time of apostasy and then to show how quickly once the United States wants the Declaration of Independence happened, Constitution, Bill of Rights ratified 1791 and 14 years later, I mean, in this tiny space on my chart, Joseph Smith born Sharon, Vermont. And so I do think it's a good thing to talk about the United States coming to be guaranteed religious freedom. It didn't seem to go so well enough and stuff and how quickly those coincide.

Hank Smith: 07:59 The other thing we can't forget is Joseph Smith is also doing his work on the translation of the Bible.

Ron Bartholomew: 08:03 That's right. He began to work on a translation in the Bible about when he first got there, and they've been working on it for several years now.

Hank Smith: 08:12 Right. And they switched, I mean, at the end of Section 45 it jumped to the New Testament, because he had been doing the Old Testament.

Ron Bartholomew: 08:20 That's right.

John Bytheway: 08:21 Section 45 was all that Matthew 24 language.

Ron Bartholomew: 08:24 That's right.

Hank Smith: 08:25 Yeah. Let's jump right into these versus... Ron, what can you tell us about the Lord's message to the Saints in Section 46?

Ron Bartholomew: 08:35 Well, a lot, probably more than you want.

Hank Smith: 08:40 Okay. Give us all of it Ron.

Ron Bartholomew: 08:43 The third quarterly General Conference of the Church was held at the home of Peter Whitmer Sr. at Fayette on January 2nd, 1831. So just in January of that year, they had the third quarter of the General Conference. And at that conference, they said that they've got to move to Ohio. So late in January, they made the trip, Joseph and Emma do but with the sleigh to meet, guess who? - Joseph Knight Sr. Emma had moved seven times in the four years they were married and was six months pregnant and was not designed to move again. She didn't want to move but she does anyway. Between the end of January and the middle of May, most of the New York Saints saw the positions and migrated 300 miles to current Ohio and adjacent areas for that to begin. And this revelation was received on Tuesday, 8th of March, 1831.

In the beginning of the Church, well, in her infancy, the settlers used to exclude non-believers from their meetings, which caused them to marvel and converse with the matter because of where it was written in the Book of Mormon, including 24, verse 22 where it states, "And you shall not forbid any man coming in until when you shall meet together." And so they didn't know what to do so Joseph Smith inquires to the Lord and received Section 46 the day after he received Section 45. And they told the members of the Church that they should allow everyone into their meetings, if they want to, anyone who's sincere, but they should not provide the sacrament for them, that's still for the members of the Church, but they should at least allow them to attend the meetings.

Hank Smith: 10:15 That's interesting, because on our buildings right now is a big sign saying, "Visitors are welcome." And at the time, they were saying, "No, you've got to be a member if you want to come."

Ron Bartholomew: 10:25 But they changed it, this was really since revelation changed that.

Hank Smith: 10:28 I can see that's a legit question. We in an earlier podcast talked about them setting up, damming a little river to have baptisms and people come in mocking them during the baptism.

Ron Bartholomew: 10:40 Throwing rocks, the whole nine yards.

Hank Smith: 10:41 Just ruining the whole meeting and you're like, "Let's just have our members here because we want to have a lovely spiritual experience here." And you wouldn't want people coming in antagonizing you during the meeting. I can see why this would be a good question to ask.

Ron Bartholomew: 10:57 It was, but despite their feelings of wanting to keep people out and the Lord says, "No, bring them all in. We need to have everybody that wants to come be able to come." And so that's what they did.

John Bytheway: 11:08 It's very inclusionary where the Lord's like, "No, no, no, we're not an exclusive club here, we're opening up the doors and visitors are welcome." I wonder if today we do that a little bit, we kind of an exclusionary group and we don't say, "Hey, the doors are open to anyone."

Hank Smith: 11:33 "Hey, that's my pew. This has always been our family's pew."

Ron Bartholomew: 11:38 The problem today is we have the sign that says, "Visitors are welcome." But if someone walks in and is not dressed up or not well dressed or some other thing, we shun them a little bit and it's really a problem.

Hank Smith: 11:52 Yeah. I think the Lord might say the same thing, "Don't cast out anyone from your public meetings." And we can cast them out maybe not by picking up and tossing them out, but by the way we behave.

Ron Bartholomew: 12:02 -Treat them.

Hank Smith: 12:03 Yeah, by the way we treat them.

Ron Bartholomew: 12:04 The way we treat them and we talk or don't talk to them, sit or don't sit by them, don't welcome them, it's really a problem.

Hank Smith: 12:11 Yeah. The Church is not the temple. You don't need a temple recommend to come to Church.

Ron Bartholomew: 12:15 No, in fact you don't need anything to go to Church, you just need to come.

John Bytheway: 12:19 -just come.

Ron Bartholomew: 12:20 So after telling them to invite everyone to the meetings, the Lord says in verse seven and eight, He commands and that they should do all things with praise and thanksgiving, that we should just pray to the Spirit who judges the devils, cry as man and these two presents this idea of them being deceived by the devil. And that's where we really want to avoid. And so really the context for this revelation on the gifts of the Spirit is to teach them how to avoid being deceived.

Hank Smith: 12:51 Okay. So that's what leads to this next part, which is what Section 46 is pretty much known for, is not being deceived, seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men. And so there's that beware right there in verse eight.

Ron Bartholomew: 13:07 Yes. Beware that you're not deceived; and that ye may not be deceived, seek ye earnestly the best gifts. So the reason that they're given the gifts is to not be deceived

Hank Smith: 13:17 Very good. And they're a new Church. I would imagine that where we are today, we've got pretty solid footing in a lot of these things. But being brand new, I mean, yet there's still not a year old, they might not have the anchors we have to know what's from the Lord and what's not.

Ron Bartholomew: 13:38 That's right.

Hank Smith: 13:39 When we talk about the burned over district of where Joseph Smith grew up, I mean, would it be fair to say there's just still a great feeling of revival going on and people getting excited about things. And I've wondered if the gift of tongues isn't one of those that the Lord wanted to address right away.

Ron Bartholomew: 13:57 Probably the saints were interested in getting all these extra gifts and not so much the solid gifts. And so I think part of the reason for Section 46 is to teach the saints, "No, settle down. Let's seek after the things that will really make a difference in the end."

John Bytheway: 14:14 I liked that settled down.

Ron Bartholomew: 14:17 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 14:17 Yeah.

Ron Bartholomew: 14:18 I think that's really part of the problem.

Hank Smith: 14:21 Yeah. They're a little too much, a little too excited, which for a young church, you would think that's probably a good problem to have rather than trying to get you to light a fire under view. The idea is like, "Okay. Okay, this is good. This is good. Everyone let's set up some boundaries."

Ron Bartholomew: 14:37 So it's really nice as the Lord starts right off with the primary gift, which is knowing him, knowing that he lives. That's the first gift that he mentions.

John Bytheway:	<u>14:47</u>	That's a verse?
Ron Bartholomew:	<u>14:48</u>	13 and 14.
John Bytheway:	<u>14:50</u>	13 and 14. Okay.
Ron Bartholomew:	<u>14:51</u>	Yeah. To someone who's given by the Holy Ghost to know that Jesus Christ is the son of God, he was crucified for the sins where that's the first gift he mentions, and toward the gift given to believe in their words that they may also have eternal life and they could be faithful. And so I think the Lord wanted them to understand that the first gift, the most important gift is knowing that he is the son of God and that he is the Redeemer of the world. That's the best place to start.
Hank Smith:	<u>15:14</u>	Ron, as I've talked to people who go through difficulties with doubt and faith, you're going to have faith crises and things. Oftentimes, I first remind them, "Do you believe in Christ?" Right? Let's get centered here on something, because if we're not centered there with this first gift that you said, this is what he lists very first, we can build off of that. Right? We can build off of that. I think in this recent [General]Conference, President Nelson was kind of saying that same thing, right? "It was, "Focus your faith on Christ, build your faith on Christ." And I think more and more we're realizing the Book of Mormon's idea of a firm foundation of faith to build on is this very first gift.
Ron Bartholomew:	<u>16:00</u>	I agree.
Hank Smith:	<u>16:01</u>	Elder Lawrence Corbridge gave a terrific talk at BYU called "Stand Forever." I want to say 2019, he talked about distinguishing primary questions from secondary questions, and it's just a really great to talk. You can just go to speeches.byu.edu and find it. But I have my students read that for extra credit. I want them to notice there are millions of questions and they're good questions, but make sure you focus on the primary questions first. And that's definitely one of those verse 13.
Ron Bartholomew:	<u>16:34</u>	It reminds me of what Alma said. I think it was to the people of Gideon. If I remember right, he in Alma 7, is that who's he speaking to people of Gideon and he says this is Alma 7:7 "Behold, there is one thing which is of more importance than they all, right?" There is one thing that is more important than all the other questions. "And that is the time is not far distant that the Redeemer liveth and cometh among his people." So to tie in here, section 46, verse 13, the Lord is saying, "Okay, that's-

Hank Smith: 17:06 -That's the one thing, we're going to start with gifts right here is the gift to know that Jesus Christ is the son of God, and that he was crucified for the sins of the world. And then 14 is an interesting addition to that. Don't you think?

Ron Bartholomew: 17:21 I think it is. I think it's probably one of the least said verses in the scriptures. Verse 14 teaches, "Gifts given to believe in their words, they may have eternal life and if they continue faithful." I don't think everyone's supposed to have this magnificent witness of Christ, like the past seven. I think we're just supposed to believe their words. And I think that's the important thing that will lead us to eternal life.

Hank Smith: 17:45 John you've talked to me about this before. What do you think about this verse? Because you were saying, we've got to make sure we understand this because some people might end up in a little bit of a nervous wreck about their testimony.

John Bytheway: 17:57 Yeah. They may think they have to have the first gift. And I think we all want that, but to be able to believe on someone's words, I think a beautiful example of that is as we go through the Book of Mormon, Lehi has a testimony. I mean, look at this family as they start, Lehi has a vision, has a testimony. Nephi kneels down, "I need to know, is my father leading us?" Right. Nephi gets his answer, and then he just tells Sam, his older brother and Sam just believes him. And when I see those two, I think that's Nephi, that's Sam and Sam was strong, but he just believed Nephi, when Nephi told him.

Ron Bartholomew: 18:37 And he just believed him.

John Bytheway: 18:37 Yeah.

Ron Bartholomew: 18:37 That's wonderful.

John Bytheway: 18:40 And he had the gift to believe Nephi, you're right. And it's fun to watch the others. Sariah sees her sons come back, escaping the dangers of Laban and says, "Now I know that the Lord hath commanded my husband to flee into the wilderness," and it's fun to watch the family and then sadly, those that never really seemed to ask in the same way. The thing I was talking about with Hank was, we know that we were told not to rely on borrowed light but I've always wondered this is a spiritual gift. Is this borrowed light or is this a spiritual gift? Doesn't seem like borrowed light to me. So I'd love to know what you think about that because for many of us, we listen, we watch General

Conference and we believe what we're being taught, and that's a gift.

- Ron Bartholomew: 19:35 Not only is that a gift, that's the gift that the vast majority of the members of the Church have and to live on borrowed light, so to speak is, I think a misnomer in that as long as you're depending upon another person's testimony, that's legitimate, that's as good as it gets. And I haven't seen God. I don't know that He lives personally, but I should certainly believe the Apostles and Prophets, my whole life, I believe them. And I believe my testimony is as strong as theirs, even though I'd say it comes from a different source.
- Hank Smith: 20:06 Oh, thank you. I'm thinking of 2013 Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, the talk "Lord, I Believe."
- Ron Bartholomew: 20:14 Yes.
- Hank Smith: 20:14 And how you always start with what you know, "Lord, I believe help their mind unbelief," but remember the story of the boy that came up to him and said, "Well, I don't know if the Church is true, but I believe it is." And Elder Holland said, "I hugged that boy until his eyes bulged out." And I reminded him that our Articles of Faith all start with, "I believe," don't ever be embarrassed that you only believe he said, and I got a beautiful talk and I'm thankful that gift is listed in verse 14.
- Ron Bartholomew: 20:44 It's the gift most of the members of Church have, or at least they're entitled to. And I have it and I'm still a great force.
- Hank Smith: 20:53 I would say John, that the idea of borrowed light is like, "Well, I'm not going to do anything. My parents read the scriptures. Everyone reads the scriptures, everyone prays. I'll just rely on them. They can say their prayers, they can read them and I'll just do my thing. And then when it comes time, major spiritual problems, I'll be fine." And you can't do that. You got to do the work, right? You've got to pray. You've got to be reading. You've got to be trying to get close to the Spirit living on borrowed light might be the idea of, "I'm not going to do the work."
- John Bytheway: 21:29 Yeah. Kind of I want something for nothing maybe. I like where we're going here. Those aren't the same thing, believing on the words of others and borrowed light. That's not the same thing.
- Ron Bartholomew: 21:41 It's not the same thing.

John Bytheway: 21:43 I would say to, to anyone listening who says it's, I believe like Ron said, "I believe in the words of the Apostles and Prophets, I believe the scriptures." And if anybody challenges that like, "Oh, you just believe?" As if that's something like a step-down from a testimony, that's not a step down from a testimony. I think the Lord is clear here in Section 46, that is a gift of the spirit. So if you say, "You know what? I do believe." Then you're acknowledging that you have a gift of the spirit and it's a beautiful thing. It's not a weakness. And I'm reminded of the verse, "Doubt not but be believing." we're told to be believing.

Hank Smith: 22:26 Let's get going here. Ron can take us through the gifts of the spirit.

Ron Bartholomew: 22:29 Okay, let's do it. The next gift, so then the Lord starts to listen to gifts. He talks, he talks about to know the differences of administration as it was, we proceed to the same Lord, even as the Lord will show his mercy, "According to the conditions," this is a difficult language for many people. Let me see if I can help you with understanding just a little better.

Hank Smith: 22:48 Okay.

Ron Bartholomew: 22:49 Elder Orson Pratt said the following, I know he lived a long time ago, but this was really profound. He said, quote, "Whenever the Holy Ghost takes up its residence in a person, it not only cleanses, sanctifies, and purifies him, in proportion as he yields himself to its influence, but also imports to him some gift, intended for the benefit of himself and others. No one who has been born of the Spirit, and who remains sufficiently faithful, is left destitute of a spiritual gift."

So even if we don't understand what all the gifts are, we can still know that we have them. "A person who is without a spiritual gift has not the spirit of God dwelling in him, in a sufficient degree, to save him." And so I think the most important thing in these verses that we're reading is that all the power thereby, we're giving them so they can bless other people. They are given so that we can bless others not to bless ourselves. And that's the important thing to in all of this, is that we were given these gifts so that we can bless other people, not just for ourselves.

I think verse 15 means this, it's the ability to understand Church government and the different functions and roles of the emphasis of the Church. That's what it's really talked a lot about and understand where you fit in Church government. There's a

fraction of the roles in the offices of the Church. I think that's what verse 15 is about.

- Hank Smith: [24:14](#) I love that because I have noticed that in other people, not in me in any way, shape or form, but I have had Church leaders, both men and women who seem to just get the workings of how the Church is supposed to work. Right? And it just flows for them. They understand it and I'm going, "What?" I like to teach, just stick me in a room and let me teach versus ask me to run a program and I'm going to have to earn that spiritual gift, because John was a Bishop and it amazed me that he could run... A person can run a board, that amazes me because I don't have that gift. Did that come to you, John? Ron, I don't know if you've been Bishop as well or just a President. And that's got to be a daunting feeling, but yet maybe we can have confidence and the Lord can give you the gift of understanding how the Church is supposed to work.
- John Bytheway: [25:17](#) I'll tell you right now, I was inspired to call counselors that had gifts that were different than mine, that were detail. . . . administrative. And I was so blessed by that because I knew where I didn't have gifts and where I did. And I'm sure my Ward could tell you where I didn't, but it was so nice to have that. And I love what Ron said, and I think it's addressed there in verse 12, "That all may be profited thereby." All of the gifts come under this line, that they're for the profit of everybody.
- Ron Bartholomew: [25:17](#) Of others.
- John Bytheway: [25:56](#) It's for a blessing of the whole Church, not just for some individual to have this gift and all of it comes under that heading. I think that's important
- Ron Bartholomew: [26:08](#) When I was the Bishop, I literally received this gift, the gift verse 15. And when I was released, I lost it and I could feel it come and I could feel it go. And so I know that it's a real thing.
- John Bytheway: [26:19](#) I wanted to add, if you don't mind, Section 46 has a list of spiritual gifts but so does Moroni 10, when we think of Moroni 10, we think, "Oh, Moroni is promise but it starts with after Moroni's promise," but it has spiritual gifts. And one of the things that helped me understand the phrase, "The differences of administration," in verse 15, there is Moroni 10:8. "And again, I exhort you my brother and did you deny not the gifts of God for they are many and they come from the same God, and there are different ways that these gifts are administered."

Now those are the same words just turned around a little bit, the different ways that the gifts are administered. "Oh, okay. I think then I know what the differences of administration means when I look at those two verses together, it's footnoted there, you'll see that down there. Moroni 10:8 and that's helpful to put those two lists of gifts side-by-side and see what you can gain from looking at both of them.

Ron Bartholomew: 27:18

I think, another important thing to do is realize that not everyone has all the gifts. It's important for us to recognize that people have other gifts and we have different gifts than they do. And we can benefit by all being together in a ward or a stake so that we can have to agree with not all having all the gifts. Sometimes we see people in the Church try to stand up and say, "Oh, wait a minute. I've got all the gifts," but that's a very much a pride approach and it's a wrong approach. And the more humble approaches, the approach of, "Well, I think I may have this gift but I am sure you have these other gifts. And so I want to hang out with you just so I, again, can benefit from the other gifts, the way that the Lord has blessed me to do."

Hank Smith: 28:00

I love this because I think one thing this can do well, two things actually that I'm thinking that this can do is one, it can help us with our self-confidence, because we don't need to start comparing ourselves to everybody else. I can't teach so-and-so, I can't work with the kids like she can. And the other thing it can do is teach us to be more of a choir, right? Be more of a symphony together and realize that we're one of the major purposes, I guess, of us getting together so often is so we can all benefit from each other's gifts.

Ron Bartholomew: 28:37

I think in addition to those two things, which are absolutely critical, I think the third thing is to realize that when you receive certain callings, a gift comes with the calling, when you're released then you lose the gift. So it's important for us to realize that when we receive a calling, we're going to receive a gift we haven't had before. And that's only there so he can bless other people with it. And so I think as we realize that we're part of this mix that you're described to Hank, but also that each client comes with a separate set of gifts. We can bless the world that way. I think that's important too.

Hank Smith: 29:09

Ron, I really like this because people can then accept a calling with confidence.

Ron Bartholomew: 29:14

Yes.

Hank Smith: 29:15

Knowing that the Lord's going to give them a gift.

John Bytheway: 29:18 "Whom the Lord calls, the Lord qualifies." Is that right?

Ron Bartholomew: 29:21 It was President Monson.

John Bytheway: 29:22 President Monson. Yeah. And I was thinking as Hank was talking about a choir, Hank, you've heard me use this marriage seminars over and over but harmony is being different together. And it's so great to have some basis and some Tenors and some Baritones and some Sopranos and some Altos and all together, it makes it beautiful.

Hank Smith: 29:45 I would add too that sometimes there's not the jealousy of other people's gifts, but we don't like other people's gifts. Right? "They're not like me, therefore, they shouldn't be working with the youth. Therefore, they shouldn't be Bishop." I don't think like them, I've noticed that sometimes in the Church especially if we become super Orthodox, we want to make sure everybody fits a certain mold. Right? And maybe as we approached the Third Century of the Church, we could hopefully break out of that a little bit and let other people-

Ron Bartholomew: 30:22 You should. So I think it's also important to realize that the Lord is the one who decides who has what gift, people don't get gifts themselves, they receive gifts in the Lord. And so by recognizing the Lord is the founder of the source of all the gifts helps us have respect for the people and also appreciate working with them.

John Bytheway: 30:40 Yeah. That back in 2003, I think I was on a writing committee for Young Men/Young Women manuals. I was with Matt Richardson as matter of fact, that you both know. And one of the things they told us that just made me go, "Whoa!" Is that the majority of people who would be using these would be new converts, who would be teaching from these manuals would have been members for less than two years. And I thought, "Isn't that fascinating?" And there we go back to that idea of, we better make sure the primary doctrines are getting out there because somebody might get a manual and think like this is all the basic stuff, I want to go out somewhere else, out on the periphery or something. And it's another emphasis on primary doctors there. And these people who are teachers were just learning the gospel themselves which was sobering and kind of a humbling thing to think about.

Hank Smith: 31:41 I've had and I hate to admit this because I admit something I do wrong every episode, John. But there have been times in my life where I've had an Elders Quorum President or a Bishop or a Young Men's President when we used to have those and I

thought that's not the guy I would choose. Right? That's not the guy that I think could do the best job. And I think that's part of don't cast anyone out because you don't like them, because they have a spiritual gift according to Section 46.

John Bytheway: 32:18

Or the Lord has something in mind. One of the stories I love to tell Hank, you've heard me is at being at 17 year old [crosstalk 00:32:27] and being called to be, and this is a phrase that some of you won't even know, Junior Sunday School Chorister it would now be the equivalent of Primary Chorister

Hank Smith: 32:37

At 17?

John Bytheway: 32:38

At 17 and I looked right at the Bishop and said, "I'm a boy." And I had one younger sister, but I didn't know how to do little kids. I do now because I've had my own but I was terrible at this. And all of the other Junior Sunday School teachers were looking at each other like, "Who called him?" And I was really bad. My mom was face palming in the back on my first week. And we got home and she had been a Kindergarten teacher. She would have been a thousand times better than I was. And she pulled me aside, taught me all these things about how to deal with the kids and how to have them stand up and do an activity song when they got fidgety, whatever.

Well, long story short, I learned a lot from my mom. I did the best I could, but this is the point, years later, I'm on a mission in the Philippines. We opened an area and the first we're meeting in our house because we didn't have a church [building], we opened this area but other branches from around were a little bit closer to this one. Anyway, 35 people came to our first meeting. And as I'm sitting there, I noticed that most of them were children and I thought, "I know exactly what to do. I know exactly what to do." And I taught them songs. I led like this, instead of like this, everything my mom taught me.

I made a poster. I mean, all day I was like, "I can't believe this. I know exactly what to do." I don't remember how many weeks I was handling the kids in primary and teaching them songs, "Jesus came to John, the Baptist." I didn't have a Sing With Me-- the song book. they used to call it but they were all in my head. I mean, I still marvel. You can just tell me telling about it, I still marvel that, "Okay. Bishop Seager, you nailed it. Thank you, because we wouldn't have known what to do at that point."

Ron Bartholomew: 34:41

That's a beautiful story. I love that story.

John Bytheway: 34:44 And it's really fun to tell because I joke about all the funny things with little kids but I thought, "Okay, no one in the ward would have said that was the right guy for the job." A Priest? You don't have a 17 year old boy who worries about being cool in front of the other Priests, try to lead that children and songs. It was, "Ah!" And I didn't feel cool. I promise.

Hank Smith: 35:05 But the Lord, I like what you said there, that you don't second guess these callings.

John Bytheway: 35:11 Yeah, you may think, "'Who called him?" Well, maybe Bishop Seager knew what was going on and I believe he did. And I'm really grateful because I had a blast with those wonderful little Filipino kids over there on my mission.

Hank Smith: 35:27 That's wonderful.

John Bytheway: 35:28 You got a wonder, John, if Bishop Seager's going, "Really?" [crosstalk 00:35:34] Oh, I know. When I tell this story, I always say, "Bishop, I'm a boy." And I always say that the Bishop said, "Look, you aren't my first choice either buster, now get in there and do it."

Hank Smith: 35:28 That's fantastic.

Ron Bartholomew: 35:48 That's good. The next verse, the next gift is also a little bit difficult to understand. "And again, it is given by the Holy Ghost to some to know the diversities of operations, whether they be of God, that the manifestations of the Spirit may be given to every man to profit withal". I think the best way to explain this is the gift to discern between God and the Devil, and that's to avoid deception. And I think that's a gift that everybody can have to know what you got in the Devil and avoid deception that way.

Hank Smith: 36:15 How do you think that gift is manifest in someone or in just your opinion, how has it been manifest in you to know if something is good or evil?

Ron Bartholomew: 36:23 I think it has a lot to do with how you feel with feelings. I think if you're in tune with the Spirit, you know if something's not right or not. And I think that gift is one that I think I've been given because I've been able to help a lot of people know that they're seeing good or evil, but I think some people don't have that gift and they need help from people who do.

Hank Smith: 36:44 Yeah. I married someone with that gift and I'll be gung ho for something. And she'll say something like, "Well, I don't know. It just doesn't feel right to me." And I'm going, "Y'all know, you got to be excited. Here we go. We're going to move forward." And then lo and behold, I find out she was right all along. I can't tell you how many times that's happened. We've had, let's see, we've had 21 anniversaries. It's probably happened at least 21 times where I was all for something, ready to move forward and she's just going, "I don't feel it." And it took me a while to figure out she has a gift that I don't.

Ron Bartholomew: 36:44 She has a gift. Yes.

John Bytheway: 37:17 I just don't want to go past verse 15. I just think this phrase is so helpful. The last phrase, in verse 15, "Suiting his mercies according to the conditions of the children of men." A teenager growing up pre-internet is in a different place than a teenager growing up in 2021.

Ron Bartholomew: 37:38 That's for sure.

John Bytheway: 37:39 And the Lord adjusts his mercies according to our conditions. And I'm grateful for that verse. I've used that a lot in counseling and letting us know, "Hey, the Lord knows the kind of world he sent us into." And He knows exactly the kind of world he sent us into. And he knows that my Church, when I got my mission call from President Kimball with 3 million members is a little different than the one today with 16 million and the technology technological boom, and everything. And so I'm grateful that mercies are suited according to a different world that we've been sent into.

Ron Bartholomew: 38:18 Thank you for bringing that up, John. I really appreciate that a lot. That's very helpful.

Hank Smith: 38:22 Yeah, John, I was going to say that's a life-changing thing for parents to realize that your kids are growing up in a different time and the Lord adjusts his mercies towards them.

Ron Bartholomew: 38:36 That's beautiful.

Hank Smith: 38:38 Yeah, because there's some things that teenagers face today that they get involved in, that wasn't even on close to our radar.

John Bytheway: 38:48 You're right.

Hank Smith: 38:50 It wouldn't even have been an option. Right?

Ron Bartholomew: 38:53 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 38:54 And the idea that the Lord knows what he's doing, that to me, John, I think that's a life-changing-

John Bytheway: 39:03 Oh, I love that verse. And Ron, it's funny because when we were teaching EFY For the Strength of Youth was 19 pages long. The one published in 1990, and I like to show the youth that today's is 46 pages and it addresses things that hadn't even been invented.

Ron Bartholomew: 39:24 -didn't even exist.

John Bytheway: 39:25 Yeah. I have a 1965 For The Strength of Youth, I found at DI, where it's just amazing how different this world is now. So I'm grateful the Lord adjusts his mercies, suiting his mercy. I love that verse.

Ron Bartholomew: 39:44 According to the children of men, that's so good. Okay, verse 17 and 18, they kind of play against each other. Verse 17 says, "Is given to some, the spirit of God to know the word of wisdom," 18 says, "That others are given the word of knowledge that we tend to be wise and to have knowledge." I think there's a real key. The difference between wisdom and knowledge in the Church, and somebody will have a lot of knowledge and some people have wisdom. I think the key is in verse 17, where it says wisdom is given by the Spirit of God. And I think that that's just something that we have to recognize.

John Bytheway: 40:20 The difference between wisdom and knowledge, because most people are going to read this, Ron, and think Word of Wisdom, Section 89, but that's not-

Ron Bartholomew: 40:27 -no, that's not-

John Bytheway: 40:28 -that's not at all right. There's no Word of Wisdom at this point in the Church there.

Ron Bartholomew: 40:34 There is no Word of wisdom.

Hank Smith: 40:35 So the idea of the Word of wisdom is being wise, right?

Ron Bartholomew: 40:38 Being wise, Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

John Bytheway: 40:39 Yeah. Right there, the word of wisdom is just a phrase like, "Here's a word to the wise." And it became a proper name for a

Section and for a doctrine later on. I really liked this. There's a difference between wisdom and knowledge.

- Ron Bartholomew: [40:54](#) There's a huge difference, some members of the Church have knowledge and they have knowledge by the way they talk in church, nor the answer questions things. Other members of the Church by the spirit of God have the word of wisdom. And that is a different gift.
- John Bytheway: [41:07](#) I love to tell the youth, "Listen, if any of you lack information, sure, ask of Google. But if you lack wisdom, that is an entirely different question and maybe knowledge is true knowledge here. A Google will answer you something and there's a chance it might even be true, but knowledge, true knowledge and then wisdom, some people have never been to school, but are very wise. I love-
- Ron Bartholomew: [41:34](#) In verse 18 says, "to another is given the word of knowledge, that all may be taught to be wise and to have knowledge." So wisdom is mentioned in both verses.
- John Bytheway: [41:42](#) Oh, I love that. "Wise to have knowledge," reminds me a little bit of Sidney Rigdon versus Joseph Smith. Sidney had a lot of knowledge and he was a benefit to the Church.
- Hank Smith: [41:54](#) Yes.
- John Bytheway: [41:54](#) Joseph seems from the Spirit, to be getting a lot of wisdom.
- Ron Bartholomew: [42:00](#) Yes.
- Hank Smith: [42:01](#) I think I put wisdom with good judgment sometimes.
- John Bytheway: [42:05](#) Yeah.
- Ron Bartholomew: [42:06](#) We're going to see this play out in the next Section, which we haven't gotten to yet, but there's a lot of people in the Church this time who have a lot of knowledge, but so many have left the Church because they don't have wisdom. All of the cadre, the women, brothers, et cetera. And I think that having wisdom is really important if you try to be wise and to have knowledge is important if you're wise first.
- Hank Smith: [42:28](#) Man, Ron, that again, another life-changing idea here, I think is okay saying, "Which one do I have? And which one do others have?" And I need to be informed by them . . . in them, whatever, if they're more wise because I'm a big information

guy. I love to read. I love to gather information. I know, Ron, you are too. Ron, you can tell me dates and names of people in Church History that I'm going, "How do you even know that?" Right? But that's not wisdom.

- Ron Bartholomew: [43:01](#) That's not wisdom.
- John Bytheway: [43:02](#) I think wisdom is judgment. It's good judgment. And as you said, Ron, wisdom that is fed by and informed by the Holy Ghost, wow! That's the greatest kind.
- Ron Bartholomew: [43:15](#) That's the kind of wise wisdom we need to have. I look around in the weather we live in now and there's so many people that claim to have knowledge and they come to my house, they call me on the phone, they say, "I'm leaving the Church for this reason. I'm leaving the Church. I've got wisdom, I've got knowledge." But they have no wisdom, and we've got to figure out a way to help the members of the Church go back to wisdom and not just knowledge, so that they'll stay faithful from the Church and realize that God is the author of wisdom, not just knowledge.
- John Bytheway: [43:41](#) Man. Where is it in second Nephi, "When they are learned, they think they are wise." 2nd Nephi 9, is one of those, I call-
- Ron Bartholomew: [43:55](#) It's 28 and 29.
- John Bytheway: [43:55](#) I call it the "Oh's and Wo's Chapter "because there's a whole bunch of, "Oh the goodness of our God! Oh the greatness of our God! Oh the plan of God!" And then there's a bunch of wo's.
- Ron Bartholomew: [44:02](#) Oh, I'm going to write Section 46 next to this verse because there's a difference when they are learned, they think they are wise. They think that's the same thing and it is not the same thing.
- John Bytheway: [44:15](#) Man. I think I've learned too that having a worldly degree or something, "And to be learned is good, if they harken--"
- Ron Bartholomew: [44:24](#) It's good if, if, if.
- John Bytheway: [44:24](#) Big if.
- Ron Bartholomew: [44:26](#) Yeah. Big if.
- Hank Smith: [44:29](#) Man, Ron, that's beautiful.

Ron Bartholomew: 44:31

Thank you.

Hank Smith: 44:34

Please join us for Part II of this podcast.