



"That Which Is of God Is Light"

Show Notes & Transcripts

Podcast General Description:

Follow Him: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Wednesday.

Podcast Episode Descriptions

Part 1:

Why does the Lord speak about light? Dr. Aaron Franklin explores how the early Saints learn to navigate new spiritual experiences through an analysis of the nature of light, truth, and revelation.

Part 2:

Dr. Aaron Franklin explains how observation, reason and faith facilitate revelation and enables the Holy Ghost as a constant companion.

Timecodes:

Part 1 -

- 00:00 - Part 1 - Dr. Aaron Franklin
- 03:58 Aaron Franklin bio
- 07:54 *Come, Follow Me Manual*
- 09:54 God is light
- 15:26 Elder Bednar on light
- 21:04 President Hinckley's favorite verse
- 25:28 Background to D&C 49
- 27:10 A Shaker apologist
- 30:09 Mocking is a tool of the Adversary
- 32:02 The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
- 34:56 The discovery of x-rays
- 37:47 First principles
- 41:46 Sidney, Parley, Leman, and the Shakers
- 45:49 Dr. Franklin attends a church with rattlesnakes
- 52:19 Background to D&C 50
- 55:00 Too many spiritual manifestations vs. too few
- 59:16 Being led by the Holy Ghost isn't a rare thing
- 1:03:25 - End of Part I - Dr. Aaron Franklin

Part 2 -

- 00:00 - Part 2 - Dr. Aaron Franklin
- 00:56 D&C 50:2-8, 40-46 - reason and love
- 04:28 Where does our job begin and end?
- 08:34 Elder Renlund: Observation, reason, and faith
- 13:20 A constant buffet of information
- 15:55 Recognizing what the game is about
- 21:03 An edifying tone
- 26:16 The responsibility of the listener
- 29:47 The Rashomon Effect
- 32:40 Elder Uchtdorf's "Continue in Patience"
- 36:44 Spiritual connectivity
- 39:35 The revelations of eternity are constantly before us
- 43:47 Tasting light
- 47:17 *How Do I Know That I Know*
- 50:22 A demonstration of light
- 51:59 Dr. Franklin shares his testimony of the spiritual nature of light
- 57:46 Share with us where you are watching
- 59:59 End of Part 2 - Dr. Aaron Franklin

References:

Carnegie, Dale. “Amazon.Com: How to Win Friends & Influence People .” Amazon: How to Win Friends & Influence People - Dale Carnegie. Accessed May 12, 2025.
<https://www.amazon.com/How-Win-Friends-Influence-People/dp/0671027034>.

Covey, Stephen R. “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change.” Amazon: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change. Accessed May 13, 2025. <https://www.amazon.com/Habits-Highly-Effective-People-Powerful/dp/0743269519>.

“Discovery of the X-Ray: A New Kind of Invisible Light.” National Museum of Health and Medicine. Accessed May 12, 2025.
<https://medicalmuseum.health.mil/index.cfm?p=visit.exhibits.virtual.xraydiscovery.index#:~:text=Röntgen%20discovered%20X%20Drays%20accidentally,for%20thoughtful%20planning%20before%20treatment.&text=Röntgen’s%20discovery%20saw%20immediate%20and,military%20surgeon%20in%20active%20service.%22>.

“Doctrine and Covenants 49–50.” Come, Follow Me Manual May 19–25: “That Which Is of God Is Light,” January 1, 2025. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/come-follow-me-for-home-and-church-doctrine-and-covenants-2025/21-doctrine-and-covenants-49-50?lang=eng>.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Quorum of the Twelve. “Agency or Inspiration-Which?” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, May 28, 2024. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/bruce-r-mcconkie/agency-inspiration/>.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Quorum of the Twelve. “The Foolishness of Teaching.” Religious Studies Center of Brigham Young University. Accessed May 13, 2025.
https://rsc.byu.edu/sites/default/files/pub_content/pdf/The_Foolishness_of_Teaching.pdf.

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “Observation, Reason, Faith, and Revelation.” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, July 29, 2024.
<https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/dale-g-renlund/observation-reason-faith-and-revelation/>.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve. “Living in Revelation.” Elder David A. Bednar | Ensign College Devotional. Accessed May 12, 2025.
<https://www.ensign.edu/devotional/elder-david-a-bednar-and-jeff-simpson-01-2023>.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “The Spirit of Revelation.” General Conference April 2011 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 2011.
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2011/04/the-spirit-of-revelation?lang=eng>.

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. ““In Him All Things Hold Together.”” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, April 11, 2025.
<https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/neal-a-maxwell/in-him-all-things-hold-together/>.

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “The Power of Scripture.” General Conference October 2011 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, October 2, 2011. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2011/10/the-power-of-scripture?lang=eng>.

Federer, Roger. “2024 Commencement Address by Roger Federer.” Dartmouth, June 9, 2024. <https://home.dartmouth.edu/news/2024/06/2024-commencement-address-roger-federer>.

Franklin, Aaron D. “The Spiritual Physics of Light: How We See, Feel, and Know Truth.” Amazon: The Spiritual Physics of Light: How we See, Feel, and Know Truth, Aaron Franklin. Accessed May 12, 2025. <https://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Physics-Light-Feel-Truth/dp/1950304078>.

Franklin, Aaron D. “What Is Truth? Navigating a World of Faith, Science, and Noise.” Amazon: What is Truth? Navigating a World of Faith, Science, and Noise - Aaron Franklin. Accessed May 12, 2025. <https://www.amazon.com/Road-Wisdom-Truth-Science-Faith/dp/0316576301>.

“Gospel Library.” Homepage - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Accessed May 12, 2025. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/mobile-applications/gospel-library?lang=eng>.

Groberg of the Seventy, John H. “What Is Your Mission?” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, June 30, 2021. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/john-h-groberg/your-mission/>.

Henry B. Eyring of the Presiding Bishopric. “Listen Together.” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, March 15, 2021. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/henry-b-eyring/listen-together/>.

Pearson, Morgan, and Aaron Franklin. “Aaron Franklin: The Literal Light of the World.” LDS Living. Accessed May 12, 2025. <https://www.ldsliving.com/all-in/aaron-franklin-the-literal-light-of-the-world>.

President Bruce R. McConkie of the First Council of the Seventy. “The Lord’s People Receive Revelation.” General Conference April 1971 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 1971. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1971/04/the-lords-people-receive-revelation?lang=eng>.

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf Second Counselor in the First Presidency. “Continue in Patience.” General Conference April 2010 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 2010. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2010/04/continue-in-patience?lang=eng>.

President Gordon B. Hinckley President of the Church. “We Walk by Faith.” General Conference April 2002 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, April 2, 2002. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2002/04/we-walk-by-faith?lang=eng>.

President Sheri L. Dew of Deseret Book Company. “You Were Born to Lead, You Were Born for Glory.” BYU Speeches of Brigham Young University, December 3, 2024. <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/sheri-l-dew/born-lead-born-glory/>.

“Revelations in Context.” The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Accessed May 12, 2025. <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/revelations-in-context?lang=eng>.

Wainer, Howard, and Shaun Lysen. “That’s Funny... | American Scientist.” American Scientist. Accessed May 12, 2025. <https://www.americanscientist.org/article/thats-funny>.

Biographical Information:



Website: www.aarondfranklin.com

Instagram: [@aarondfranklin](https://www.instagram.com/aarondfranklin)

Dr. Aaron Franklin is the Addy Distinguished Professor in the Departments of Electrical & Computer Engineering and Chemistry at Duke, where he is also the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the Pratt School of Engineering. Dr. Franklin received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University in 2008 and then spent six years on the research staff at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, NY. In 2014, he joined the faculty at Duke where his group explores the use of 1D and 2D nanomaterials for high-performance nanoscale devices, low-cost printed and recyclable electronics, and biomedical sensing systems. He is most widely known for his work on low-dimensional

nanoelectronics with specific emphasis on carbon nanotube (CNT) transistors, including device scaling, transport studies, and advanced integration approaches. In addition to leading a scientific research group, Dr. Franklin has been actively involved in the translation of inventions out of the lab, holding more than 50 issued patents and being engaged in two funded start-ups, one of which was acquired by a Fortune 500 company. He is fellow of the IEEE and NAI and has published more than 100 scientific papers in the field of nanomaterial-based electronics.

Research in the Franklin group is focused on improving the performance and functionality of nanomaterial-enabled electronic devices. The primary drive is to improve performance of - and expand applications for - electronic devices, including those with more custom form factors and/or functionality (e.g., flexibility, transparency, biocompatibility, recyclability). There is an increasing variety of new electronics applications that nanomaterials are uniquely capable of enabling -- the Franklin group works to make such applications possible.

PUBLICATIONS

Chen J, Sarkar A, Rahman MS, Ravel V, Franklin AD, Roy T. [Robust Memcapacitive Synapse Array for Energy-Efficient Motion Detection](#). ACS nano. 2025 Apr;19(16):15974u201382.

Wu Y, Wang J, Yuan G, Chen Y, Liang K, Yang D, et al. [Symmetry Engineering in a 2D Transition Metal Enables Reconfigurable P- and N-Type FETs](#). Nano letters. 2025 Feb;25(5):1994u20132001.

Franklin AD. [Creating high-performance transistors by coating carbon nanotube arrays: Low-dimensional electronics](#). Nature Electronics. 2024 Dec 1;7(12):1068u20139.

Smith BN, Ballentine P, Doherty JL, Wence R, Hobbie HA, Williams NX, et al. [Aerosol Jet Printing Conductive 3D Microstructures from Graphene Without Post-Processing](#). Small (Weinheim an der Bergstrasse, Germany). 2024 Mar;20(12):e2305170.

Mastrocinque F, Bullard G, Alatis JA, Albro JA, Nayak A, Williams NX, et al. [Band gap opening of metallic single-walled carbon nanotubes via noncovalent symmetry breaking](#). Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. 2024 Mar;121(12):e2317078121.

Albarghouthi FM, Semeniak D, Khanani I, Doherty JL, Smith BN, Salfity M, et al. [Addressing Signal Drift and Screening for Detection of Biomarkers with Carbon Nanotube Transistors](#). ACS nano. 2024 Feb;

Huegen BL, Doherty JL, Smith BN, Franklin AD. [Role of Electrode Configuration and Morphology in Printed Prothrombin Time Sensors](#). Sensors and actuators B, Chemical. 2024 Jan;399:134785.

Rich J, Cole B, Li T, Lu B, Fu H, Smith BN, et al. [Aerosol jet printing of surface acoustic wave microfluidic devices](#). *Microsystems & nanoengineering*. 2024 Jan;10:2.

Doherty JL, Zhang Y, Smith BN, Hobbie HA, Kymissis I, Franklin AD. [Liquid Crystal Displays with Printed Carbon-Based Recyclable Transistor Backplanes](#). *IEEE Electron Device Letters*. 2024 Jan 1;45(12):2427u201330.

Hobbie HA, Doherty JL, Smith BN, Maccarini P, Franklin AD. [Conformal printed electronics on flexible substrates and inflatable catheters using lathe-based aerosol jet printing](#). *Npj flexible electronics*. 2024 Jan;8(1):54.

Cheng Z, Backman J, Zhang H, Abuzaid H, Li G, Yu Y, et al. [Distinct Contact Scaling Effects in MoS₂ Transistors Revealed with Asymmetrical Contact Measurements](#). *Advanced materials* (Deerfield Beach, Fla). 2023 May;35(21):e2210916.

Lu S, Smith BN, Meikle H, Therien MJ, Franklin AD. [All-Carbon Thin-Film Transistors Using Water-Only Printing](#). *Nano letters*. 2023 Mar;23(6):2100u20136.

McDonnell C, Albarghouthi FM, Selhorst R, Kelley-Loughnane N, Franklin AD, Rao R. [Aerosol Jet Printed Surface-Enhanced Raman Substrates: Application for High-Sensitivity Detection of Perfluoroalkyl Substances](#). *ACS omega*. 2023 Jan;8(1):1597u2013605.

Lu S, Franklin AD. [Nanomaterials in transistors](#). In: *Encyclopedia of Nanomaterials*. 2023. p. V1-649-V1-665.

Franklin AD, Hersam MC, Wong H-SP. [Carbon nanotube transistors: Making electronics from molecules](#). *Science* (New York, NY). 2022 Nov;378(6621):726u201332.

Smith BN, Meikle H, Doherty JL, Lu S, Tutoni G, Becker ML, et al. [Ionic dielectrics for fully printed carbon nanotube transistors: impact of composition and induced stresses](#). *Nanoscale*. 2022 Nov;14(45):16845u201356.

Albarghouthi FM, Williams NX, Doherty JL, Lu S, Franklin AD. [Passivation Strategies for Enhancing Solution-Gated Carbon Nanotube Field-Effect Transistor Biosensing Performance and Stability in Ionic Solutions](#). *ACS applied nano materials*. 2022 Oct;5(10):15865u201374.

Cheng Z, Pang CS, Wang P, Le ST, Wu Y, Shahrjerdi D, et al. [Author Correction: How to report and benchmark emerging field-effect transistors \(Nature Electronics, \(2022\), 5, 7, \(416-423\), 10.1038/s41928-022-00798-8\)](#). *Nature Electronics*. 2022 Sep 1;5(9):620.

Cheng Z, Pang CS, Wang P, Le ST, Wu Y, Shahrjerdi D, et al. [How to report and benchmark emerging field-effect transistors](#). *Nature Electronics*. 2022 Jul 1;5(7):416u201323.

Ye S, Williams NX, Franklin A. [Aerosol Jet Printing of SU-8 as a Passivation Layer Against Ionic Solutions](#). *Journal of electronic materials*. 2022 Apr;51(4):1583u201390.

Cheng Z, Zhang H, Le ST, Abuzaid H, Li G, Cao L, et al. [Are 2D Interfaces Really Flat?](#) ACS nano. 2022 Apr;16(4):5316u201324.

Das S, Sebastian A, Pop E, McClellan CJ, Franklin AD, Grasser T, et al. [Transistors based on two-dimensional materials for future integrated circuits.](#) Nature Electronics. 2021 Nov 1;4(11):786u201399.

Abuzaid H, Cheng Z, Li G, Cao L, Franklin AD. [Unanticipated polarity shift in edge-contacted tungsten-based 2D transition metal dichalcogenide transistors.](#) IEEE Electron Device Letters. 2021 Oct 1;42(10):1563u201336.

Shen C, Lu S, Tian Z, Yang S, Cardenas JA, Li J, et al. [Electrically Tunable Surface Acoustic Wave Propagation at MHz Frequencies Based on Carbon Nanotube Thin-Film Transistors.](#) Advanced Functional Materials. 2021 May 1;31(18).

Williams NX, Bullard G, Brooke N, Therien MJ, Franklin AD. [Printable and recyclable carbon electronics using crystalline nanocellulose dielectrics.](#) Nature electronics. 2021 Apr;4(4):261u201338.

Lin YC, Rayner GB, Cardenas J, Franklin AD. [Short-channel robustness from negative capacitance in 2D NC-FETs.](#) Applied Physics Letters. 2021 Mar 8;118(10).

Cardenas JA, Lu S, Williams NX, Doherty JL, Franklin AD. [In-Place Printing of Flexible Electrolyte-Gated Carbon Nanotube Transistors with Enhanced Stability.](#) IEEE electron device lettersu202f: a publication of the IEEE Electron Devices Society. 2021 Mar;42(3):367u201370.

Abuzaid H, Williams NX, Franklin AD. [How good are 2D transistors? An application-specific benchmarking study.](#) Applied Physics Letters. 2021 Jan 18;118(3).

Williams NX, Carroll B, Noyce SG, Hobbie HA, Joh DY, Rogers JG, et al. [Fully printed prothrombin time sensor for point-of-care testing.](#) Biosens Bioelectron. 2021 Jan 15;172:112770.

Karpurapu A, Krekorian A, Tian Y, Collins LM, Karra R, Franklin AD, et al. [Evaluating the effect of longitudinal dose and INR data on maintenance warfarin dose predictions.](#) In: BHI 2021 - 2021 IEEE EMBS International Conference on Biomedical and Health Informatics, Proceedings. 2021.

Cardenas JA, Tsang H, Tong H, Abuzaid H, Price K, Cruz MA, et al. [Flash ablation metallization of conductive thermoplastics.](#) Additive Manufacturing. 2020 Dec 1;36.

Lu S, Franklin AD. [Printed carbon nanotube thin-film transistors: progress on printable materials and the path to applications.](#) Nanoscale. 2020 Dec;12(46):23371u201390.

Noyce SG, Doherty JL, Zauscher S, Franklin AD. [Understanding and Mapping Sensitivity in MoS2 Field-Effect-Transistor-Based Sensors.](#) ACS nano. 2020 Sep;14(9):11637u201347.

Lu S, Zheng J, Cardenas JA, Williams NX, Lin Y-C, Franklin AD. [Uniform and Stable Aerosol Jet Printing of Carbon Nanotube Thin-Film Transistors by Ink Temperature Control](#). ACS applied materials & interfaces. 2020 Sep;12(38):43083u20139.

Doherty JL, Noyce SG, Cheng Z, Abuzaid H, Franklin AD. [Capping Layers to Improve the Electrical Stress Stability of MoS2 Transistors](#). ACS applied materials & interfaces. 2020 Aug;12(31):35698u2013706.

Coonley KD, Culbert AG, Franklin A. [BYOE: Microelectronic non-idealities laboratory explorations](#). In: ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition, Conference Proceedings. 2020.

Williams NX, Watson N, Joh DY, Chilkoti A, Franklin AD. [Aerosol jet printing of biological inks by ultrasonic delivery](#). Biofabrication. 2020 Feb;12(2):025004.

Cardenas JA, Andrews JB, Noyce SG, Franklin AD. [Carbon nanotube electronics for IoT sensors](#). Nano Futures. 2020 Jan 1;4(1).

Andrews JB, Ballentine P, Cardenas JA, Lim CJ, Williams NX, Summers JB, et al. [Printed electronic sensor array for mapping tire tread thickness profiles](#). IEEE Sensors Journal. 2019 Oct 1;19(19):8913u20139.

Lu S, Cardenas JA, Worsley R, Williams NX, Andrews JB, Casiraghi C, et al. [Flexible, Print-in-Place 1D-2D Thin-Film Transistors Using Aerosol Jet Printing](#). ACS nano. 2019 Oct;13(10):11263u201372.

Cheng Z, Yu Y, Singh S, Price K, Noyce SG, Lin Y-C, et al. [Immunity to Contact Scaling in MoS2 Transistors Using in Situ Edge Contacts](#). Nano letters. 2019 Aug;19(8):5077u201385.

Williams NX, Noyce S, Cardenas JA, Catenacci M, Wiley BJ, Franklin AD. [Silver nanowire inks for direct-write electronic tattoo applications](#). Nanoscale. 2019 Aug;11(30):14294u2013302.

Price KM, Najmaei S, Ekuma CE, Burke RA, Dubey M, Franklin AD. [Plasma-Enhanced Atomic Layer Deposition of HfO2 on Monolayer, Bilayer, and Trilayer MoS2 for the Integration of High-u03ba Dielectrics in Two-Dimensional Devices](#). ACS Applied Nano Materials. 2019 Jul 26;2(7):4085u201394.

Cheng Z, Abuzaid H, Yu Y, Zhang F, Li Y, Noyce SG, et al. [Convergent ion beam alteration of 2D materials and metal-2D interfaces](#). 2D Materials. 2019 Jun 6;6(3).

Cheng Z, Abuzaid H, Yu Y, Singh S, Cao L, Franklin AD. [New Observations in Contact Scaling for 2D FETs](#). In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2019. p. 227u20138.

Cardenas JA, Lu S, Williams NX, Franklin AD. [Full In-Place Printing of Flexible Electrolyte-Gated CNT-TFTs](#). In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2019. p. 137u20138.

Lu S, Cardenas JA, Worsley R, Williams NX, Andrews JB, Casiraghi C, et al. [Printing h-BN Gate Dielectric for Flexible, Low-hysteresis Carbon Nanotube Thin-Film Transistors at Low Temperature](#). In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2019. p. 61u20132.

Noyce SG, Doherty JL, Cheng Z, Han H, Bowen S, Franklin AD. [Electronic Stability of Carbon Nanotube Transistors Under Long-Term Bias Stress](#). Nano letters. 2019 Mar;19(3):1460u20136.

Cardenas JA, Upshaw S, Williams NX, Catenacci MJ, Wiley BJ, Franklin AD. [Impact of Morphology on Printed Contact Performance in Carbon Nanotube Thin-Film Transistors](#). Advanced Functional Materials. 2019 Jan 4;29(1).

Lin YC, McGuire F, Noyce S, Williams N, Cheng Z, Andrews J, et al. [Effects of Gate Stack Composition and Thickness in 2-D Negative Capacitance FETs](#). IEEE Journal of the Electron Devices Society. 2019 Jan 1;7:645u20139.

Andrews JB, Cardenas JA, Lim CJ, Noyce SG, Mullett J, Franklin AD. [Fully Printed and Flexible Carbon Nanotube Transistors for Pressure Sensing in Automobile Tires](#). IEEE Sensors Journal. 2018 Oct 1;18(19):7875u201380.

Cheng Z, Price K, Franklin AD. [Contacting and Gating 2-D Nanomaterials](#). IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices. 2018 Oct 1;65(10):4073u201383.

Cardenas JA, Upshaw S, Catenacci MJ, Wiley BJ, Franklin AD. [Exploring silver contact morphologies in printed carbon nanotube thin-film transistors](#). In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2018.

Noyce SG, Doherty JL, Franklin AD. [Bias stress stability of carbon nanotube transistors with implications for sensors](#). In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2018.

Andrews JB, Mondal K, Neumann TV, Cardenas JA, Wang J, Parekh DP, et al. [Patterned Liquid Metal Contacts for Printed Carbon Nanotube Transistors](#). ACS nano. 2018 Jun;12(6):5482u20138.

Najmaei S, Neupane MR, Nichols BM, Burke RA, Mazzoni AL, Chin ML, et al. [Cross-Plane Carrier Transport in Van der Waals Layered Materials](#). Small (Weinheim an der Bergstrasse, Germany). 2018 May;14(20):e1703808.

Cardenas JA, Catenacci MJ, Andrews JB, Williams NX, Wiley BJ, Franklin AD. [In-Place Printing of Carbon Nanotube Transistors at Low Temperature](#). ACS Applied Nano Materials. 2018 Apr 27;1(4):1863u20139.

Lin YC, McGuire F, Franklin AD. [Realizing ferroelectric Hf0.5Zr0.5O2 with elemental capping layers](#). Journal of Vacuum Science and Technology B: Nanotechnology and Microelectronics. 2018 Jan 1;36(1).

Andrews JB, Cardenas JA, Mullett J, Franklin AD. [Fully printed and flexible carbon nanotube transistors designed for environmental pressure sensing and aimed at smart tire applications.](#) In: Proceedings of IEEE Sensors. 2017. p. 1u20133.

Franklin AD, Jena D, Akinwande D. [75 years of the Device Research Conference - A history worth repeating.](#) IEEE Journal of the Electron Devices Society. 2017 Dec 5;6(1):116u201320.

Liu J, Han Q, Bai Y, Du KZ, Li T, Ji D, et al. [Additive engineering for high-performance room-temperature-processed perovskite absorbers with micron-size grains and microsecond-range carrier lifetimes.](#) Energy and Environmental Science. 2017 Nov 1;10(11):2365u201371.

Price KM, Franklin AD. [Integration of 3.4 nm HfO₂ into the gate stack of MOS₂ and WSe₂ top-gate field-effect transistors.](#) In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2017.

McGuire FA, Lin Y-C, Price K, Rayner GB, Khandelwal S, Salahuddin S, et al. [Sustained Sub-60 mV/decade Switching via the Negative Capacitance Effect in MoS₂ Transistors.](#) Nano letters. 2017 Aug;17(8):4801u20136.

Cheng Z, Price K, Franklin AD. [Edge contacts to multilayer MoS₂ using in situ Ar ion beam.](#) In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2017.

McGuire FA, Lin YC, Rayner B, Franklin AD. [MoS₂ negative capacitance FETs with CMOS-compatible hafnium zirconium oxide.](#) In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2017.

Catenacci MJ, Flowers PF, Cao C, Andrews JB, Franklin AD, Wiley BJ. [Fully printed memristors from Cu-SiO₂ core-shell nanowire composites.](#) In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2017.

Franklin AD. [Scaling, stacking, and printing: How 1D and 2D nanomaterials still hold promise for a new era of electronics.](#) In: Digest of Technical Papers - Symposium on VLSI Technology. 2017. p. T44u20135.

Andrews JB, Cao C, Brooke MA, Franklin AD. [Noninvasive material thickness detection by aerosol jet printed sensors enhanced through metallic carbon nanotube ink.](#) IEEE Sensors Journal. 2017 Jul 15;17(14):4612u20138.

Catenacci MJ, Flowers PF, Cao C, Andrews JB, Franklin AD, Wiley BJ. [Fully Printed Memristors from Cu₂₀₁₃SiO₂ Core₂₀₁₃Shell Nanowire Composites.](#) Journal of Electronic Materials. 2017 Jul 1;46(7):4596u2013603.

Price KM, Schauble KE, McGuire FA, Farmer DB, Franklin AD. [Uniform Growth of Sub-5-Nanometer High- \$\kappa\$ Dielectrics on MoS₂ Using Plasma-Enhanced Atomic Layer Deposition.](#) ACS applied materials & interfaces. 2017 Jul;9(27):23072u201380.

Cao C, Andrews JB, Franklin AD. [Completely Printed, Flexible, Stable, and Hysteresis-Free Carbon Nanotube Thin-Film Transistors via Aerosol Jet Printing](#). *Advanced Electronic Materials*. 2017 May 1;3(5).

Cox ND, Cress CD, Rossi JE, Puchades I, Merrill A, Franklin AD, et al. [Modification of Silver/Single-Wall Carbon Nanotube Electrical Contact Interfaces via Ion Irradiation](#). *ACS applied materials & interfaces*. 2017 Mar;9(8):7406u201311.

Joh DY, McGuire F, Abedini-Nassab R, Andrews JB, Achar RK, Zimmers Z, et al. [Poly\(oligo\(ethylene glycol\) methyl ether methacrylate\) Brushes on High-u03ba Metal Oxide Dielectric Surfaces for Bioelectrical Environments](#). *ACS applied materials & interfaces*. 2017 Feb;9(6):5522u20139.

Najmaei S, Lei S, Burke RA, Nichols BM, George A, Ajayan PM, et al. [Enabling Ultrasensitive Photo-detection Through Control of Interface Properties in Molybdenum Disulfide Atomic Layers](#). *Scientific reports*. 2016 Dec;6:39465.

Cheng Z, Cardenas JA, McGuire F, Najmaei S, Franklin AD. [Modifying the Ni-MoS₂ Contact Interface Using a Broad-Beam Ion Source](#). *IEEE Electron Device Letters*. 2016 Sep 1;37(9):1234u20137.

McGuire FA, Cheng Z, Price K, Franklin AD. [Sub-60 mV/decade switching in 2D negative capacitance field-effect transistors with integrated ferroelectric polymer](#). *Applied Physics Letters*. 2016 Aug 29;109(9).

Cheng Z, Cardenas JA, McGuire F, Franklin AD. [Using Ar Ion beam exposure to improve contact resistance in MoS₂ FETs](#). In: *Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC*. 2016.

Cao C, Andrews JB, Kumar A, Franklin AD. [Improving Contact Interfaces in Fully Printed Carbon Nanotube Thin-Film Transistors](#). *ACS nano*. 2016 May;10(5):5221u20139.

Cao Q, Han SJ, Tersoff J, Franklin AD, Zhu Y, Zhang Z, et al. [End-bonded contacts for carbon nanotube transistors with low, size-independent resistance](#). *Science*. 2015 Oct 2;350(6256):68u201372.

Lee CS, Pop E, Franklin AD, Haensch W, Wong HSP. [A Compact Virtual-Source Model for Carbon Nanotube FETs in the Sub-10-nm Regime-Part I: Intrinsic Elements](#). *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*. 2015 Sep 1;62(9):3061u20139.

Lee CS, Pop E, Franklin AD, Haensch W, Wong HSP. [A compact virtual-source model for carbon nanotube FETs in the sub-10-nm regime - Part II: Extrinsic elements, performance assessment, and design optimization](#). *IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices*. 2015 Sep 1;62(9):3070u20138.

Li J, Franklin AD, Liu J. [Gate-Free Electrical Breakdown of Metallic Pathways in Single-Walled Carbon Nanotube Crossbar Networks](#). Nano letters. 2015 Sep;15(9):6058u201365.

Franklin AD. [DEVICE TECHNOLOGY. Nanomaterials in transistors: From high-performance to thin-film applications](#). Science (New York, NY). 2015 Aug;349(6249):aab2750.

Franklin AD. [Carbon Nanotube Electronics](#). In: Emerging Nanoelectronic Devices. 2015. p. 315u201335.

Tulevski GS, Franklin AD, Frank D, Lobez JM, Cao Q, Park H, et al. [Toward high-performance digital logic technology with carbon nanotubes](#). ACS Nano. 2014 Sep 23;8(9):8730u201345.

Kim B, Franklin A, Nuckolls C, Haensch W, Tulevski GS. [Achieving low-voltage thin-film transistors using carbon nanotubes](#). Applied Physics Letters. 2014 Aug 11;105(6).

Franklin AD, Farmer DB, Haensch W. [Defining and overcoming the contact resistance challenge in scaled carbon nanotube transistors](#). ACS nano. 2014 Jul;8(7):7333u20139.

Franklin AD, Haensch W. [Defining and overcoming the contact resistance challenge in scaled carbon nanotube transistors](#). In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2014. p. 191u20132.

Shahrjerdi D, Franklin AD, Oida S, Ott JA, Tulevski GS, Haensch W. [High-performance air-stable n-type carbon nanotube transistors with erbium contacts](#). ACS Nano. 2013 Sep 24;7(9):8303u20138.

Franklin AD. [Electronics: The road to carbon nanotube transistors](#). Nature. 2013 Jul 8;498(7455):443u20134.

Franklin AD, Koswatta SO, Farmer DB, Smith JT, Gignac L, Breslin CM, et al. [Carbon nanotube complementary wrap-gate transistors](#). Nano Letters. 2013 Jun 12;13(6):2490u20135.

Luo J, Wei L, Lee CS, Franklin AD, Guan X, Pop E, et al. [Compact model for carbon nanotube field-effect transistors including nonidealities and calibrated with experimental data down to 9-nm gate length](#). IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices. 2013 May 15;60(6):1834u201343.

Tulevski GS, Franklin AD, Afzali A. [High purity isolation and quantification of semiconducting carbon nanotubes via column chromatography](#). ACS nano. 2013 Apr;7(4):2971u20136.

Smith JT, Franklin AD, Farmer DB, Dimitrakopoulos CD. [Reducing contact resistance in graphene devices through contact area patterning](#). ACS nano. 2013 Apr;7(4):3661u20137.

Franklin AD, Oida S, Farmer DB, Smith JT, Han SJ, Breslin CM, et al. [Stacking graphene channels in parallel for enhanced performance with the same footprint](#). IEEE Electron Device Letters. 2013 Feb 22;34(4):556u20138.

Franklin AD, Bojarczuk NA, Copel M. [Consistently low subthreshold swing in carbon nanotube transistors using lanthanum oxide](#). Applied Physics Letters. 2013 Jan 7;102(1).

Franklin AD, Koswatta SO, Farmer D, Tulevski GS, Smith JT, Miyazoe H, et al. [Scalable and fully self-aligned n-type carbon nanotube transistors with gate-all-around](#). In: Technical Digest - International Electron Devices Meeting, IEDM. 2012.

Cao Q, Han SJ, Tulevski GS, Franklin AD, Haensch W. [Evaluation of field-effect mobility and contact resistance of transistors that use solution-processed single-walled carbon nanotubes](#). ACS Nano. 2012 Jul 24;6(7):6471u20137.

Han S-J, Reddy D, Carpenter GD, Franklin AD, Jenkins KA. [Current saturation in submicrometer graphene transistors with thin gate dielectric: experiment, simulation, and theory](#). ACS nano. 2012 Jun;6(6):5220u20136.

Franklin AD, Tulevski GS, Han SJ, Shahrjerdi D, Cao Q, Chen HY, et al. [Variability in carbon nanotube transistors: Improving device-to-device consistency](#). ACS Nano. 2012 Feb 28;6(2):1109u201315.

Franklin AD, Luisier M, Han S-J, Tulevski G, Breslin CM, Gignac L, et al. [Sub-10 nm carbon nanotube transistor](#). Nano letters. 2012 Feb;12(2):758u201362.

Franklin AD, Han SJ, Bol AA, Perebeinos V. [Double contacts for improved performance of graphene transistors](#). IEEE Electron Device Letters. 2012 Jan 1;33(1):17u20139.

Park H, Afzali A, Han SJ, Tulevski GS, Franklin AD, Tersoff J, et al. [High-density integration of carbon nanotubes via chemical self-assembly](#). Nature Nanotechnology. 2012 Jan 1;7(12):787u201391.

Shahrjerdi D, Franklin AD, Oida S, Tulevski GS, Han SJ, Hannon JB, et al. [High device yield carbon nanotube NFETs for high-performance logic applications](#). In: Technical Digest - International Electron Devices Meeting, IEDM. 2011.

Han SJ, Valdes-Garcia A, Bol AA, Franklin AD, Farmer D, Kratschmer E, et al. [Graphene technology with inverted-T gate and RF passives on 200 mm platform](#). In: Technical Digest - International Electron Devices Meeting, IEDM. 2011.

Franklin AD, Han SJ, Tulevski GS, Luisier M, Breslin CM, Gignac L, et al. [Sub-10 nm carbon nanotube transistor](#). In: Technical Digest - International Electron Devices Meeting, IEDM. 2011.

Han SJ, Jenkins KA, Valdes Garcia A, Franklin AD, Bol AA, Haensch W. [High-frequency graphene voltage amplifier](#). Nano Letters. 2011 Sep 14;11(9):3690u20133.

Franklin AD, Han SJ, Bol AA, Haensch W. [Effects of nanoscale contacts to graphene](#). IEEE Electron Device Letters. 2011 Aug 1;32(8):1035u20137.

Han SJ, Chang J, Franklin AD, Bol AA, Loesing R, Guo D, et al. [Wafer scale fabrication of carbon nanotube FETs with embedded poly-gates](#). In: Technical Digest - International Electron Devices Meeting, IEDM. 2010.

Franklin AD, Bol AA, Chen Z. [Channel and contact length scaling in carbon nanotube transistors](#). In: Device Research Conference - Conference Digest, DRC. 2010. p. 275u20136.

Franklin AD, Lin A, Wong HSP, Chen Z. [Current scaling in aligned carbon nanotube array transistors with local bottom gating](#). IEEE Electron Device Letters. 2010 Jul 1;31(7):644u20136.

Sayer RA, Kim S, Franklin AD, Mohammadi S, Fisher TS. [Shot noise thermometry for thermal characterization of templated carbon nanotubes](#). IEEE Transactions on Components and Packaging Technologies. 2010 Mar 1;33(1):178u201383.

Westover TL, Franklin AD, Cola BA, Fisher TS, Reifenberger RG. [Photo- and thermionic emission from potassium-intercalated carbon nanotube arrays](#). Journal of Vacuum Science and Technology B: Nanotechnology and Microelectronics. 2010 Jan 1;28(2):423u201334.

Franklin AD, Chen Z. [Length scaling of carbon nanotube transistors](#). Nature Nanotechnology. 2010 Jan 1;5(12):858u201362.

Franklin AD, Tulevski G, Hannon JB, Chen Z. [Can carbon nanotube transistors be scaled without performance degradation?](#) In: Technical Digest - International Electron Devices Meeting, IEDM. 2009.

Westover TL, Fisher TS, Franklin AD, Reifenberger RG. [Photo-and thermionic emission from potassium-intercalated single-walled carbon nanotube arrays](#). In: 2008 Proceedings of 3rd Energy Nanotechnology International Conference, ENIC 2008. 2009. p. 1u201310.

Franklin AD, Sayer RA, Sands TD, Janes DB, Fisher TS. [Vertical carbon nanotube devices with nanoscale lengths controlled without lithography](#). IEEE Transactions on Nanotechnology. 2009 Jul 1;8(4):469u201376.

Franklin AD, Sayer RA, Sands TD, Fisher TS, Janes DB. [Toward surround gates on vertical single-walled carbon nanotube devices](#). Journal of Vacuum Science and Technology B: Microelectronics and Nanometer Structures. 2009 Apr 20;27(2):821u20136.

Claussen JC, Franklin AD, Ul Haque A, Porterfield DM, Fisher TS. [Electrochemical biosensor of nanocube-augmented carbon nanotube networks](#). ACS nano. 2009 Jan;3(1):37u201344.

Voggu R, Rout CS, Franklin AD, Fisher TS, Rao CNR. [Extraordinary sensitivity of the electronic structure and properties of single-walled carbon nanotubes to molecular charge-transfer](#). Journal of Physical Chemistry C. 2008 Aug 28;112(34):13053u20136.

Smith JT, Hang Q, Franklin AD, Janes DB, Sands TD. [Highly ordered diamond and hybrid triangle-diamond patterns in porous anodic alumina thin films](#). Applied Physics Letters. 2008 Aug 15;93(4).

Franklin AD, Janes DB, Claussen JC, Fisher TS, Sands TD. [Independently addressable fields of porous anodic alumina embedded in SiO₂ on Si](#). Applied Physics Letters. 2008 Jan 16;92(1).

Maschmann MR, Franklin AD, Sands TD, Fisher TS. [Optimization of carbon nanotube synthesis from porous anodic Al-Fe-Al templates](#). Carbon. 2007 Oct 1;45(11):2290u20136.

Franklin AD, Smith JT, Sands T, Fisher TS, Choi KS, Janes DB. [Controlled decoration of single-walled carbon nanotubes with Pd nanocubes](#). Journal of Physical Chemistry C. 2007 Sep 20;111(37):13756u201362.

Franklin AD, Maschmann MR, DaSilva M, Janes DB, Fisher TS, Sands TD. [In-place fabrication of nanowire electrode arrays for vertical nanoelectronics on Si substrates](#). Journal of Vacuum Science and Technology B: Microelectronics and Nanometer Structures. 2007 Apr 8;25(2):343u20137.

Maschmann MR, Franklin AD, Scott A, Janes DB, Sands TD, Fisher TS. [Lithography-free in situ Pd contacts to templated single-walled carbon nanotubes](#). Nano Letters. 2006 Dec 1;6(12):2712u20137.

Maschmann MR, Franklin AD, Amama PB, Zakharov DN, Stach EA, Sands TD, et al. [Vertical single- and double-walled carbon nanotubes grown from modified porous anodic alumina templates](#). Nanotechnology. 2006 Aug 14;17(15):3925u20139.

IN THE NEWS

[Two Pratt Faculty Receive Top Honor for Inventors](#) (Jan 8, 2025 | Pratt School of Engineering)

[A How-To on Navigating the Tenure Process](#) (Nov 18, 2024 | Faculty Advancement)

[Duke Spinoff Tyrata Acquired by Bridgestone](#) (Nov 27, 2023 | Pratt School of Engineering)

[Engineering a More Environmentally Friendly Future for the Electronics Industry](#) (Apr 11, 2023 | Pratt School of Engineering)

[Energy Initiative Awards Seven New Seed Grants](#) (Apr 28, 2017 |)

Fair Use Notice:

The *Follow Him Podcast with Hank Smith and John Bytheway* may make use of copyrighted material, the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright holder. This constitutes a “fair use” and any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material on this podcast is offered publicly and without profit, to the public uses or the internet for comment and nonprofit educational and informational purposes. Copyright Disclaimer under Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976, allowance is made for fair use” for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research. In such cases, fair use is permitted.

No copyright(s) is/are claimed.

The content is broadcast for study, research, and educational purposes.

The broadcaster gains no profit from broadcast content. This falls under “Fair Use” guidelines:

www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html.

Note:

The *Follow Him Podcast with Hank Smith and John Bytheway* is not affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints nor Brigham Young University. The opinions expressed on episodes represent the views of the guest and podcasters alone. While the ideas presented may vary from traditional understandings or teachings, they in no way reflect criticism of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day leaders, policies, or practices.



Hank Smith:	00:00:00	Coming up in this episode on followHIM.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:00:03	Of course. When I was serving in a far north part of Georgia and heard about a church where they hold rattlesnakes, I thought, that's for me. I have to attend this church. I have to be there. It was a small congregation that they followed a movement that's called The Church of God with Signs Following. It was a tiny, really quaint but beautiful little chapel that is buried in the woods. I went along with three other missionaries on a Saturday night.
Hank Smith:	00:00:33	Hello everyone. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name is Hank Smith. I'm your host. I'm here with my co-host John Bytheway, who is very edifying. Now, John, I say that you're edifying because in section 50 of the Doctrine & Covenants, it says that which doth not edify is not of God. I flipped it, John, that which edifies is of God. That is you.
John Bytheway:	00:00:54	I will try to live up to that. Thank you.
Hank Smith:	00:00:58	We try to be edifying here at followHIM.
John Bytheway:	00:01:00	Mm-hmm. That's right.
Hank Smith:	00:01:01	John we're joined today by Dr. Aaron Franklin . Aaron, welcome to followHIM.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:01:06	I'm thrilled to be here. Honored really to be with you two.
Hank Smith:	00:01:09	We are lucky to have you. I think you're gonna bless a lot of lives today, including John and I. John, we've moved the saints to Ohio. We've had some wonderful revelations so far, and then we hit 49 and 50 talking about Leman Copley. All of a sudden we get these beautiful verses on light and truth. Does anything come to mind? I know you've read these before.

John Bytheway:	00:01:35	Four years ago I took a note that someone said, we're not living in a tare free zone. There's wheat and there's tares. I love the way the Lord uses light to explain truth, light and truth to enlighten us. So there's some beautiful teachings about light, about the Shakers, inventors of the salt and pepper shakers. No, the Shakers were a religious group. He uses that kind of backdrop to teach us about how to discern light. It's really good, so I'm looking forward to that.
Hank Smith:	00:02:08	I'm pretty impressed how in every section of the Doctrine & Covenants it seems the Lord can take any situation and make it about repentance. He says this is a good situation. Let's talk for a second. By the way, have we mentioned repentance lately? Aaron, as you've looked at 49 and 50, what are you looking forward to? This is gonna be interesting because this is a specialty of yours.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:02:29	It is. I appreciate you pointing that out. I love light. I love talking about it. This is definitely a part of the hallmark doctrine set that we get about light in the Doctrine & Covenants. It comes in the midst of a lot of growth and turmoil and newness. It's so impactful to see the prophet Joseph bring out through these revelations such powerful, intricate truths. The Lord is always taking the opportunity to teach. I love these two sections. When you reached out and told me that we were gonna talk about Section 49 and 50, I was thrilled. There's so much both contextually and doctrinally stripping some of that context to apply more modern thinking. The overarching message that I get is truth and light, not just because I love light and we get a little insight into some of this powerful doctrine, but because I really think both sections talk about how we find truth, what we do with the truth that we have and how we grow that truth in the way that we live our lives and the way that we address any potential misconceptions or newness of information that might come up our way.
	00:03:49	Everything is part of that journey. How we discovered initially truth and light and how we use that to grow that truth and light as we progress
Hank Smith:	00:03:58	And imagine this. This is coming from a 25-year-old farmer in a rural town of Ohio and here we have Aaron who studies this basically as an entire career and he's looking at something that this farmer wrote and goes, this is amazing. Now John, Aaron has not been with us before. In fact, he's a little bit new to you and I. He comes highly recommended by a couple of our guests, so I'm excited to get to know him. Do you have some

information on him? Did we do a background check? Did we call his friends and enemies?

Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:04:31	If you didn't, you should have clearly.
John Bytheway:	00:04:32	We did and yeah, it's one of those really fun bios to read. Hank, he's a professor of electrical engineering and computer engineering and chemistry. Wow. I was in the wrong line in the Premortal existence.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:04:49	Just enough to scare anyone away John.
Hank Smith:	00:04:52	Yeah.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:04:52	Scare anyone away.
John Bytheway:	00:04:55	He's not a professor of electrical and computer engineering and chemistry at Mayberry Community College. He is at Duke. This is amazing. Aaron's from Phoenix, he earned bachelor's degree from Arizona State University and a Doctorate from Purdue, both in electrical engineering. Electrical engineering. Sounds perfect for somebody that's going to talk to us about light. Worked at IBM as a research scientist studying nanotechnology. He and his wife Leanne Walters Franklin, are parents of three children, reside in North Carolina. It's fun to be able to say there are some really bright people who are solid committed believers. Here's another one. So welcome.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:05:41	Really kind of you. I appreciate that, John.
Hank Smith:	00:05:44	This is gonna be a lot of fun. I just have a couple of questions. We were talking before, how did you come in contact with the church? I know that you weren't born into the church, right?
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:05:55	Yeah. I joined the church as a young teenager. I was attending a mostly Catholic mass at the time with friends at school, not a religious family. In fact, no memory of ever talking about religion in any respect in my home until I was that 12, 13 years old. My grandmother who and my stepfather's mom, she was a member of the church and she was such a light to our family. Had learned from my mom, my mom was exasperated, I don't know what to do with this kid. He keeps wanting to go to church. He keeps bugging me to go to a church and my grandma, we called her Grandma Honey, this totally appropriate name for her that sparked something in her and she took us to the Mesa Temple Visitor Center. The rest of my siblings and my mom were like, oh, okay. I mean we'll do this I

guess, but I was the kid that snuck over to the corner and filled out the contact card for the missionaries to come to our house and they came in and anyway, the rest is history as they say. A whole lot of other ins and outs and movements in between my life has been richly blessed by the gospel and by, as you noted, a farm boy from 200 plus years ago who came up with things that if you look at them in in the spirit of truth, per our discussion today are perfectly aligned with all of the other truth that we obtain scientifically and otherwise.

Hank Smith:	00:07:14	I love starting out this way. Just grasp the reality of, well, just the wow of where this comes from and I'm sure as we walk through it, we're gonna have more moments like that and I hope we get to learn more about you Aaron, as we go. Three kids, right? Three kids, and I know one's on a mission in...
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:07:30	Riverside, California. She is Spanish speaking. She's been out just over nine months, but who's counting that? She's coming home the day before Thanksgiving.
Hank Smith:	00:07:39	Yep.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:07:40	And a senior and a sophomore in high school. My two boys.
Hank Smith:	00:07:43	Oh, that's wonderful. We do have a lot of listeners out there in Riverside, so watch out for Hermana Franklin.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:07:49	Indeed.
Hank Smith:	00:07:50	Tell her her dad loves her.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:07:53	Please.
Hank Smith:	00:07:54	I'm gonna read from the Come Follow Me, Manual . I love this opening paragraph. The Savior is our Good Shepherd. He knows that sometimes sheep wander and the wilderness has many perils, so he lovingly leads us to the safety of his doctrine. He leads us away from dangers such as false spirits which have gone forth in the earth deceiving the world. That's from section 50 verse two, following him often means letting go of incorrect ideas or traditions. This was true for Leman Copley and others in Ohio. They had accepted the restored gospel but still held onto some beliefs that just weren't correct. In section 49, the Lord declares truths that corrected Leman's previous beliefs about topics such as marriage and the Savior's Second Coming and when the Ohio converts receive spirits which they could not understand, the Lord taught them how to discern true

manifestations of the Spirit. The Good Shepherd is patient with us, his little children who must grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth that which is of God is light. I am excited. Aaron, how do you wanna start?

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:09:01

I'd like to do something a little different perhaps than some of your traditional styles. We will go into each section individually, but I'm hoping to go into the light and truth side first. If we can dig a little bit into that, then we can use it to identify other aspects that we learn about light and truth. So if you're good with that, we'll jump into 50, 23 through 25. I'll go ahead and start by just reading those three verses. Usually the most famous if a verse can be famous right? in the church. So 50:24 is on the top 10 list I think of fame particularly for the Doctrine & Covenants, but I do think the verse before and after are just as important to wrap it in, in order to understand it completely. Starting with 23 and that which doth not edify is not of God or is not John Bytheway according to Hank's introduction and is darkness.

00:09:58

That which is of God is light and he that receiveth light and continue within God receiveth more light and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day. And again verily I say unto you and I say it, that you may know the truth that you may chase darkness from among you. A few principles about light that I'd like to just set the stage with, these are scientific principles of light that have such powerful corollary to what we learn about light in the gospel and spiritual sense. So first light cannot be stored, it has to be generated. There's no medium by which you can actually hold light. One of the basic principles of light is that it is all moving and moving as one of the fastest known sources of energy in the universe. Secondly, light must be generated from some other form of energy.

00:10:57

Usually for instance, in the classic of a flashlight, we have a battery that stores electrical energy that is converted into light as another form of energy and then third darkness is nothing but the absence of light. Darkness actually does not have a definitive substance of its own. You don't have a dark switch when you go into a room. It's just a light switch. It's just whether or not the light is there and how much of the light is there and where the light is pointed because that is the fourth point light has directionality. This one, you could get a quantum physicist here and start talking about how well, but it kind of goes everywhere and it's kind of everywhere and nowhere at the same time until you read it. We're not gonna get into that level of detail, but the reality of light in the way we interact with it is that it is directional.

	00:11:47	It's why with our shadows for instance that exist, that directionality can also be really important with regards to light and truth and the way that we obtain it. A verse before we break out a couple pieces of these 23 to 25, there's a verse that shows up in John 1 of the intro to John's gospel that is repeated almost word for word in Doctrine & Covenants 88:49. In John 1:5 it says, and the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not. When I first started doing a deeper study on light, this was one of the verses that stood out that I did not feel like I understood what it was talking about. Given it more thought over time. I come up with a little analogy that makes sense to me, so maybe to some others it will. I think of it like this.
	00:12:35	If I am in a dark room and someone comes into that room and shines a flashlight right at me, I will know there is a light there, but it will do nothing to improve my comprehension of what else is in the room. The light is shown, but comprehension has not been increased because of its presence. Whereas if I then grab that flashlight, take hold of it myself from the person who's shown it on me and use it to illuminate my surroundings, I now am gaining greater comprehension of both what is around me and how to navigate what is around me going forward. This is the way I think about light being truth as well. We're gonna have in section 49, 50 some truth bombs as it were for people of this 1831 time when the church was in its infancy still and growing through some struggles. There's going to be a bright light shining in the face of those who receive some of this. The question becomes the invitation from the Lord and the question is, will they lay hold upon that light? Will they allow it to edify them and illuminate their surroundings going forward, so will they receive the light?
John Bytheway:	00:13:57	I love the word receive here. I think about sometimes when we read a scripture they received not the gospel, it doesn't sound fair. Received scripturally sounds more like accept. I think of it as a wedding reception where you receive guests, so receiving light is letting it in as you're saying in verse 24 there when you receive light. It reminds me also of the parable of the sower. He who received seed into good ground. They received it more than just hearing about it. They received it and let it in. Kind of like you did at the visitor center. You were open and received it and you wanted to receive more
Hank Smith:	00:14:37	And then use it, to look at life.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:14:39	Yeah, maybe a brief comment on that, John, because I love that thought. I often think about what it takes to receive light. At

least two major things come to my mind that one is choosing to believe that light, that truth has been offered and then living it, believing and then faith, which is actually taking action in your life based upon what that light has brought to you. Like that flashlight, it's nothing if we don't grab it and use it to eliminate the surroundings.

John Bytheway: 00:15:10 I love that explanation that you gave because a a light shine in your face you can't see, but if you have the light and you called it directional, it can illuminate and you can comprehend more. I thank you for that.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:15:26 Yeah, I appreciate that. On that front of comprehending more, what 24 offers is this formula for how that light can become brighter. The one piece to it is to continue in God, so the question of course, what is met by continuing in God? My perspective on this is this is subtle, this is not, oh, and if you do something else that is major, that is extreme, that is an extraordinary sacrifice, then you may amplify that light. It's a continuation and I think oftentimes in our lives we have major pivot points or spiritual moments that define our core truth and testimony. We can start to feel a little lost if it's been some distance from those, but continuing in God is a matter of holding on to the things he has given us whenever they've come. I love this quote from [Elder Bednar](#) and he, he talks about this a lot and does so beautifully in his books about receiving truth and and light. This is from General Conference 2011. He said, the gradual increase of light radiating from the rising sun is like receiving a message from God, line upon line, precept upon precept. Most frequently revelation comes in small increments over time and is granted according to our desire, worthiness and preparation, desire, worthiness, preparation. None of that sounds like our extreme, magnificent, outrageous sacrifice that ends up bringing about this greater light. It's continuing.

Hank Smith: 00:16:56 I like that. In my experience that's how it's been. A little bit at a time, but what does the Lord say in Section 121? Like dew. You couldn't just stare at the grass and say, okay, where's the moment where the dew forms? It just slowly forms.

John Bytheway: 00:17:12 We even have a hymn about the dew don't we? As the dew gently distilleth or something.

Hank Smith: 00:17:19 The Lord says, the doctrine of the priesthood shall distill upon thy soul as the dews from heaven. Beautiful.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:17:27 It's beautiful. I love that tie in. Last comment on this framing around light and truth before we dive into section 49 is the

question of the perfect day. What is the perfect day? To me, there's two answers here and one of them as a bit of a nail biter we'll hold till the very end of our discussion today because I think it caps everything we'll talk about really well. The other is I think of the perfect day being what's described in 1 John 3:2 in the New Testament that talks about the Savior's return and when he appears we shall be like him, so we'll see him as he is because we have become like him. Think about the ability to see the Savior back to our flashlight analogy, the Savior comes, he is the light of the world. There is nothing that could be brighter, both in terms of what we think about visually and what we think about in terms of all the other implications of light. The only way you would see something that is bright is if you have prepared yourself, like not sitting in a dark room and then suddenly walking out into the sunshine, but being so familiar with being in the presence of that light and truth that you will see it when it arrives. That is the Savior himself returns.

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| John Bytheway: | 00:18:39 | As recently as last night, I, speaking to a group of young women, I told them, if you don't remember anything else from my talk tonight, I want you to remember three words: continue in God. I like to apply that phrase to those in a faith crisis. Oddly enough, some folks, when they are struggling with something, they discontinue God instead of continuing in God. They want more light, more knowledge, but they unplug from the source of all light. If you're having something you're struggling with or wrestling with, continue in God because the promise is, you'll receive more light if you continue in God. My simplistic mind says, what does that mean? You continue to pray and ask for help. You continue to read the scriptures where the Spirit is and it will enlighten you even if there's something that you're struggling with. Don't discontinue God. You're shutting off the source of all light. Continue in God. Those three words mean a lot to me. |
| Hank Smith: | 00:19:48 | Joseph Smith History. Aaron, you could tell me how I could tie this in probably thick darkness gathered around me and it seemed to me for a time I was doomed to sudden destruction. But John exerting all my powers to call upon God, continuing in God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me and then skipping down a little bit just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light. |
| Dr. Aaron Franklin: | 00:20:15 | I love that relating back to this operation of light, that darkness not being something in and of itself. You think there's usually a missed effect to the presence of darkness as in Lehi's dream, something that captures or blocks light because of its presence and so there's no chasing light away. There's only chasing |

darkness away or somehow impeding light by the presence of a bushel or something to the effect, right?

Hank Smith: 00:20:41

Yeah. I love it. Chase darkness from among you. John, you've heard me say this before [S. Michael Wilcox](#), one of our guests, he says that there's the pen of heaven. Not only is just great principles, it's just well said, continue within God receiveth more light and that light grow brighter and brighter until the perfect day. There's a beautiful cadence about it.

John Bytheway: 00:21:04

Yeah. Do you guys remember these? Oh love 'em. These teachings of the presidents of the church. Let me read what [President Gordon B. Hinckley](#) said. We of this church have been given a marvelous promise by the Lord said he that which is of God is light and he that receiveth light and continue with God receiveth more light and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day. Gordon B. Hinckley, what a remarkable statement that is. It is one of my favorite verses of scripture. It speaks of growth, of development of the march that leads toward godhood. I just love that. That was one of his favorite verses and that he would say that that farm boy had the pen of heaven, right Hank?

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:21:50

Commenting on that from the [context](#) of this, one of the things that I found so powerful in the specifics of how section 50 was received, that it's talked about as being several brethren present, including Parley P. Pratt, who discusses that, and this happened with many of Joseph's revelations, that this was dictated in the presence of these witnesses at a pace that allowed for longhand transcription with no request for things to be read back. Sometimes we lose sight of how miraculous that is. I love the Joseph Smith Papers project and things like this. Like I, I'm not a historian. I'm in the kind of the sideline appreciator of this amazing type of work that's been come to light. A favorite thing for me through this year's study of the Doctrine & Covenants is to go onto that Joseph Smith Papers website and look at whatever the original transcripts are if they have them for some of these revelations because of course there's been small changes grammatically to correct and put things into a more digestible verse like cadence and whatnot. But you find virtually any of these most powerful doctrines that have beauty as you were talking about, Hank and they are almost always word for word. That is how they were scrawled to the page audibly dictated by a 25-year-old prophet in the middle of the western frontier of 1831. I mean it's truly amazing.

Hank Smith:	00:23:14	Oh, I'm excited about this. Now John, Aaron did not ask us to do this. I honestly didn't even know about it when we asked him, but two books. One, 2021, the Spiritual Physics of Light , How We See, Feel, and Know Truth. Dr. Aaron Franklin and then Aaron. There's a new book coming out.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:23:37	There is. So kind of you to bring up Hank. Yeah. There is a book that will just have been released here. It's called What Is Truth? Navigating a World of Faith, Science and Noise . Again, one of these no such thing as just coincidence that you invited me to come and discuss 49 and 50 with you about folks in the early church who are navigating their own ways to truth sorting through some of the noise of their time. It's something that's been very fresh on my mind. It's kind of you to bring up. My greatest hope is only that those who are feeling the pressure of a world filled with information and misinformation will find something that may be helpful in some of the perspective I offer about how we could navigate that world. Holding on to gospel truths and finding more to be brighter and brighter.
Hank Smith:	00:24:32	I love the title, What is Truth? Navigating a World of Faith, Science and Noise. John, that sounds like our guests. They bring faith in science and you and I bring noise.
John Bytheway:	00:24:45	A beautiful noise. A beautiful noise. I like sideline appreciators. I'm like, yep, that's me. Yeah. I just sit on the sideline and go, wow. This reminds me of a dad joke guys I learned when I took physical science class that light is not only a wave but it's a particle. Am I getting that right? And that photons have mass and the dad joke is, did you know that photons have mass? They do. I didn't even know they were Catholic. So that's the dad joke.
Hank Smith:	00:25:20	And Aaron was attending Catholic mass as a kid. So we've come full circle.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:25:23	It has indeed. That's so perfect.
Hank Smith:	00:25:26	Alright, what do you wanna do next Aaron?
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:25:28	How about we jump into 49 if you like. I know oftentimes you like starting with a section heading read that. That wouldn't hurt and we can break apart some of the historical context.
John Bytheway:	00:25:39	49's heading is particularly important I think.

Hank Smith:	00:25:44	This is one of those you better know the background or else you're gonna say what are we talking about? Aaron, do you want us to take that on? Do you wanna take that on?
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:25:53	If you would like to read it, that'd be terrific.
Hank Smith:	00:25:55	Sure. Alright. This is a revelation to Sidney, Parley, Leman Copley. Copley. We've talked about before March of 31. Leman had embraced the gospel but still held to some of the teachings of the Shakers, which the longer name is United Society Believers in Christ's Second Appearing to which he had formally belonged. Some of the beliefs of the Shakers were that Christ's Second Coming had already occurred and he had appeared in the form of a woman, Ann Lee. John, I've made it halfway. Do you wanna read the rest?
John Bytheway:	00:26:29	Yes. They did not consider baptism by water essential. They rejected marriage and believed in a life of total celibacy. Some Shakers also forbade the eating of meat. In prefacing this revelation, Joseph Smith History states, in order to have a more perfect understanding on the subject, I inquired of the Lord and received the following. The revelation refutes some of the basic concepts of the Shaker group. The aforementioned brethren took a copy of the revelation to the Shaker community near Cleveland, Ohio and read it to them in its entirety. But it was rejected.
Hank Smith:	00:27:08	Didn't go well.
John Bytheway:	00:27:10	Yes, yeah.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:27:10	Yeah. It did not go well. And some reasons behind that are worth exploring. First of all, I love that Joseph is seeking a more perfect knowledge even when we feel really convinced of things. There's more to validate or to be open to learning, particularly from the Lord when it comes to a topic. So I really love that. I'm gonna do something a little odd here guys. It shouldn't be odd, but I am going to be a Shaker apologist because just sitting here on the page, this description of beliefs that truly sound odd to us based on what we know of our own doctrines and some of the behaviors of their worship may have seemed a little odd. That's why they got this name, which in some respects could be considered a sort of a negative connotation of calling them Shakers by virtue of how they worship.

00:27:55 Similar to Mormons and Mormonism that had been used with some negative connotation at the time. But here's why I wanna be a Shaker apologist. Think about these people. Imagine the sacrifice that they made in their search for truth and light. Celibacy, which had its obvious challenges with respect to the overall growth and retention of the religion itself. But what a sacrifice that you don't find across most any religion. Many of them were vegetarians, which is a big sacrifice for some of us. They had a belief that Jesus had come back. This is not a popular belief that he had. His Second Coming had occurred in the form of a woman she had lived in the 17 hundreds. She was no longer alive. That couldn't have been popular. That couldn't have been something that that brought them a lot of friends when they had brought up their own beliefs.

00:28:46 Heaven knows we understand what that's like when you might bring up something that is within our religion that is a standout without being able to provide a lot of explanation. And when you actually look into the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, you find that they had some sound explanations for why that doctrine was there. It wasn't just that a woman named Ann Lee showed up and said, no, you will believe me. They had reasons around what brought them to that place. I'm impressed with them. And in fact, one of the comments that is in the history, deeper history you can find on the Church's [Gospel Library](#) at four different sections. It has a quote or a paraphrase from the leader of the Shakers who basically was rebuking Leman Copley because he was trying to go to a lightweight religion. He was trying to go to something that was so easy. Oh, you're gonna go join those Mormons because you can't handle what's required here.

Hank Smith: 00:29:42 That is so different. Yeah.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:29:43 Right? How different is that? I mean we're used to the opposite. People look at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and say, oh that looks heavy. That's a big lift. And here we have the exact opposite. So these folks are so committed. They're so invested in their path to truth that they are doing things that make the Mormons of the day look like they're not really fully in.

Hank Smith: 00:30:08 Wow.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:30:08 On this whole religion thing.

Hank Smith: 00:30:10 Do you remember two weeks ago, [Dr. Baughman](#) was here, Shima, she talked about mocking and how mocking is a tool of

the adversary. I love what Aaron just did. He said, okay, you could easily, if you don't wanna look into it, you could mock some of these beliefs of these people. But if you actually look, these are people who are searching for light and truth. I like that practice. I wanna practice that more.

- John Bytheway: 00:30:37 The longer I live, the more I think people are just doing the best they can. I love that they were trying to connect with God with what they knew. I love that the Lord comes out and says, here's how you can discern things I want you to understand we're gonna see that again and again in section 50. I want you to understand. You're right Hank. I know I need to repent of that. A lot of times our critics will take a few things and hit those.
- Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:31:07 Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 00:31:08 We don't wanna be guilty of the same thing.
- Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:31:10 Mm-hmm. Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 00:31:11 With other faith traditions. Yeah.
- Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:31:14 So well said. In the specifics of the context of this section, you have Sidney and Leman and eventually Parley. I think we can kind of cover what actually happened there in just a few moments after we go through some of the doctrines because it's important what happened. But from a high level they went and they read the revelation and it was not received. But going into a few pieces of the revelation, if we can, to me the verse that stood out the most of what is a collection of some really pointed teaching and some really powerful invitation is verse two. It's both related to the context but also to our day. So if I can read that, behold I say unto you that they desire to know the truth in part but not all for they are not right before me and must need repent.
- 00:32:02 This is a banner level headline to me of our day. How many of the folks living in our day, both within and without the and outside the church want to know the truth in part but not all. I mean look back to Joseph seeking a more perfect understanding even as the prophet of the church and having a pretty good sense of what needed to be said to this community. He recognized that he may not have the full picture. We think about this a lot in the scientific world. I often tell my PhD students working in my lab to be open-eyed and open-minded because it's rare that the most important things you discover are the things that you set out to discover. There's so many

examples throughout history of this. You've got people like Alexander Fleming who was not searching for some new medicine or antibiotic to treat the certain conditions, but he noticed mold killing bacteria in a Petri dish.

00:33:00 And thank goodness because it led to the discovery of penicillin, which has been one of the most lifesaving medications that we have. There's a great quote I love on this front. This is from Isaac Asimov. He's a roboticist. He was an old author of sci-fi. He said the most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries is not eureka, but [that's funny](#). It's so telling. The greatest discoveries are these ones that are like, wait, that's funny. I didn't expect that to happen. Here's an introspective thought. When's the last time that happened to you with respect to gospel truth where it was something that you were so open to and maybe if in not just restricting to gospel truth, broader truth, where you were so open to something that you did not predict or anticipate a priori that you thought that's funny and not that's funny because oh that's funny.

00:33:57 You know that that's so different than me. But that's funny because wow, I hadn't really considered that. We need so much more of that. So much more openness to what the Lord and the Lord's children who are all who are around us, including the Shakers of the day there and including anyone else, both within and without our own faith that is in this world. That there are things to learn and ways to grow our truth that are available if we can approach them with a more openness, not just part but all truth that we want.

Hank Smith: 00:34:33 That's great. I remember hearing that the microwave was invented because a man, he was near a, something that was emitting these waves and a candy bar melted in his pocket and he went probably that's funny. I got close to this and the candy bar melted and now I use a microwave frequently. I don't know about either of you but.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:34:56 Yeah. Oh absolutely. One of my favorites, this might be a sidelong that doesn't necessarily capture the context for our scripture discussion, but is the discovery of x-rays by [Wilhelm Röntgen](#) in Germany. He was messing with this little experimentation set up in his lab and he saw this phosphorus screen in the corner of his lab start glowing. He's like, I don't know why that's glowing. And he started to channel what was, he didn't know what these things were. He called them x-rays because X is like unknown. I don't know what this is, it's an x. X-ray. Started to put things in front of it and see what happened. And he's like, I wonder, I wonder if someone put like their hand

in front of this. He couldn't put his own hand there because he had to like run the equipment. So he called his wife into the lab. His had her hold her hand in front of the path of these x-rays that he was, he had no idea what these things were. Put a photographic type plate behind it and captured the first x-ray. It showed the skeletal structure of her hand. Yeah. And she exclaimed. I have seen my death because she saw, you know, this skeleton of wow, it's things like this that you just don't, the openness that goes beyond science.

Hank Smith: 00:36:04 Just keep reading your scriptures. Keep listening. Because you never know when something, oh, it clicks. I really like that. Don't stop reading because you think, well I can't find anything. You might go have a oh that's funny moment. I've never noticed that.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:36:19 Yeah. So let's skip down to verse 11 here. This is where the message really begins in verse 12 that they were instructed in this revelation to bring to the Shakers. In fact, some commentary out there suggest maybe they shouldn't have read it in its entirety, because the first few verses were more pointed to Parley and Leman and Sidney. Neither here nor there, right. The real message comes out in verse 11 and 12. I'll go ahead and read this little set here to point something out if you think, what am I hearing in these intro verses from the Lord as a message to the Shakers, wherefore, I give unto you a commandment that you go among this people and say unto them, like unto my apostle of old whose name was Peter, believe on the name of the Lord Jesus who was on the earth and is to come. The beginning and the end, repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ according to the holy commandment for the remission of sins. And whoso doeth this shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands of the elders of the church. What does that sound like? First principles and ordinances of the gospel, the doctrine of Christ. Where do you lead when it comes to that light? We may shine at others as an invitation for them to lay hold upon it. We lead with the doctrine of Christ. There is nothing more fundamental or important to get others to lay hold upon other than that doctrine.

Hank Smith: 00:37:47 Yeah. When we start talking about first principles, John is like that thing in the corner that just starts glowing and you go, why? Why is that glowing? This is his favorite subject. So John, I'm not gonna let the moment pass. What do you wanna say?

John Bytheway: 00:38:03 Well, Hank, you've heard me say this before, I maybe can put a story behind it. I had someone ask me, Hey, you've taught the

Book of Mormon now for this many years. What's the one thing that stood out to you? And what I said was first principles. I'm amazed at how often I see faith in Christ and repentance, sometimes followed by ordinances as well. First ordinances, baptism and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. I think a beautiful message in here is you don't have to know everything, but you have to know these first things. As we've jokingly said, Hank, there's so many different principles and doctrines to learn. If only somebody would just tell me what are the first principles and ordinances.

Hank Smith:	00:38:45	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	00:38:46	Here they are. So I like that you pointed that out. He says, this is what Peter said and you see the footnote there to Acts 2:38. Yeah. This is day of Pentecost. When the listeners say Men and brethren, what shall we do? And Peter's like, oh, thank you for that segue. This is what you do.
Hank Smith:	00:39:02	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	00:39:03	And it teaches them first principles.
Hank Smith:	00:39:06	Aaron, I can see why don't read those first 11 verses right? That's not where we want to start. That's right.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:39:14	That's right. But the Lord had an approach in mind and it just may not have carried forward.
Hank Smith:	00:39:19	Okay.
John Bytheway:	00:39:22	Aaron, you said something I think that is important in verse 12, at least the timing believe on the name of the Lord Jesus who was on the earth. Okay. He came once and is to come. Okay. He hasn't come the second time, which was something they thought had happened. Maybe that's in there for a reason.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:39:40	I'm glad you brought that up John. In fact, maybe that's a good chance to jump ahead through. So what we won't read in detail, the ensuing verses about eight or eight to 10 verses, they are the verses where the Lord is teaching them with respect to true doctrines. Note never condemning them. There is no indication in this revelation where the Lord ever condemns the people. He only sets straight what the doctrines are and makes an invitation to them to lay hold upon that light and use it to grow bright and brighter. He does talk through things like marriage. There's a little confusing wording around the abstaining from

meats. But you, if you read through enough of the verses you realize he's saying don't be dogmatic about this. No one's pushing you to either not eat meats or, and certainly don't be wasteful and kill without a need.

00:40:26 He goes through all of those. But let's go to the one that John was mentioning that was alluded to, back in the phrasing in verse 12, going down to verse 22 and 23. And again, verily I say unto you that the Son of man cometh not in the form of a woman, neither of a man traveling on the earth. Wherefore be not deceived, but continue steadfastness looking forth for the heavens to be shaken. Am I the only one that laughs that the Lord uses the word shaken when this was going to the Shakers and it had nothing to do with why they were called the Shakers. And it gets me. He says, and the earth to tremble and to reel to and fro as a drunken man and for the valleys to be exalted and for the mountains to be made low and for the rough places to be made smooth and all this, when the angels shall sound his trumpet. When I read this, I think this is not a road to Emmaus moment. This is a road to Damascus moment when it comes to how the Lord appears. And two of those examples in the New Testament, this is not going to be subtle. This is not going to be something that one would have a need to debate of whether or not has occurred. It's going to be notable to all. That was a powerful way of sharing that with the Shakers with respect to what they had believed.

Hank Smith: 00:41:41 I like that you pointed out the Lord doesn't attack them, he just teaches truth.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:41:46 Yep. So maybe to wrap our discussion of 49, I'd like to do two things. I want to first wrap up the context of what actually had occurred there and share a brief story and that might help us with launching to 50 context wise. What really occurred is in terms of the sequence of events. So that revelation was given to Sidney and Parley and Leman was added in which we can save some space to be impressed with him as well. He wasn't fully in with the Shakers, they were a community as well as the saints were striving to be. And he wasn't fully in there. He still had his land, which was on the table for potential use in the communal development among the saints. He was kind of lukewarm on either side, but they were his friends. He clearly was a part of this community and he's given in verse four of section 49, this instruction.

00:42:39 Alright, Leman, you're a new convert. He's gonna go back with Sidney and Parley and you're gonna go read this very directed revelation to the community you just left. I'm a convert to the

church. I was not super active in a religion before, but I can only imagine that one of the first instructions I am given as a convert is go take this pointed revelation back to that community that you just came from and read it. Kudos to Leman who was balancing a lot of emotions. Even if we do know where his story ends, he was here for this, he showed up for it. So Sidney and Leman show up among the Shaker community and Sidney strives to reason with them. Important given what we're gonna learn. Two days after this revelation was received in section 50. So Sidney strives for that. He just sits down, talks to the minister, tries to work through, how can we share this revelation?

00:43:29 It's decided, you know what, maybe it's not the best time right now. Maybe today's Sunday service isn't the right time. Here comes Parley. Parley P. Pratt, who I love and his, his boldness and his zealousness. He comes riding in like a literal cowboy on his horse, gets in there and finds out about this more reasoned approach to whether or not the revelation would be read then. And he'd had nothing for it. He said, it is getting read today. They agreed and Sidney ended up reading it in its entirety. Mind you, it gets done being read and Parley presses, are you going to accept this? To the leader of the Shakers. on the spot in front of his whole congregation. He perhaps predictably responds, no, that I'm not going to accept this. And the rest of the congregation is asked and they perhaps sheepishly say no as well in the presence of their minister.

00:44:19 And on the spot, Parley's reaction is a dramatic shaking of his coattails, akin to the shaking of dust from one sandal with, you know, a walking out rebuke also, not surprisingly, does not go well with respect to how the minister receives that.

Hank Smith: 00:44:38 Shocking.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:44:39 Shocking. Yeah, it's shocking that that went so poorly. Back to my analogy, we started with Parley, showed up with a spotlight, he came in there and shown it directly in the face at a burning intensity upon all who were there, left them with virtually no good option for how to reasonably be edified by the truth that was brought. I mean that's very judgmental of me, of someone who I admire greatly and Parley P. Pratt. He's amazing. But he was learning too. He was new to this. A lot of energy, a lot of excitement. I love that in section 50, two days later that the instruction Parley is given in section 50 is go serve among the saints. Go serve the church. Minister among them for a little while. Like, let's cool out a little bit and a whole lot of really

powerful instruction in Section 50 about how to approach these sort of things.

Hank Smith: 00:45:34 Oh. He didn't have a copy of How to Win Friends and Influence People I don't think .

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:45:39 That's it. That's it. Or power of everyday missionaries.

Hank Smith: 00:45:41 I think everyone who served a mission is going, I had that companion for a time. It's easy, easy, easy.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:45:48 Exactly. Who saw it as their calling to be, to be at that level. If you'll indulge me to share just a brief story from my mission relevant to this that I think will carry us into section 50 as well. I served in Georgia in Atlanta, coming from Arizona. That's a foreign land, especially if you're serving in northern Georgia in the sticks as they call it. I loved it. I love those people. My mission president allowed us to attend other congregations if it didn't overlap with our own Sunday worship service. Of course, when I was serving in a far north part of Georgia and heard about a church where they hold rattlesnakes, I thought, that's for me. I have to attend this church. I have to be there. It was a small congregation that they followed a movement that's called the Church of God With Signs Following.

00:46:39 It is a tiny, really quaint but beautiful little chapel that is buried in the woods. I went along with three other missionaries on a Saturday night. They worshiped on a Saturday night. We showed up. They were so kind to us, they brought us to the front row.

Hank Smith: 00:46:52 Oh no.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:46:54 So four sheepish Elders set up in the front. One of the pastors of the congregation came and started talking to us about what we believe. What do you believe? Do you believe the New Testament? Yes, we believe the New Testament. And he said, turn open to Mark 16. He invited us to read the following two verses 17 and 18. And these signs shall follow them that believe in my name. They shall cast out devils. They shall speak with new tongues and they shall take up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. And he said, do you all believe that? We kind of looked at each other side to side. I think I said something like, which part?

	00:47:35	<p>He ignored this, he ignored this. And he said, today you will see this fulfilled. And then he got up and left and handed us each a tambourine. The service got started and it was lively, wonderful music. A congregation of maybe 20 or 30 who gathered in total in the middle of the service when one of the songs was really lively. And our, you know, a few tambourine jingles were happening in the front row. One of the members sprinted forward from the back and in the front beneath where the pulpit was, they reached down and pulled out a rattlesnake and it was a large rattlesnake rattling and its head looking around. And a few moments later, the pastor himself who had been singing and preaching the sermon, he pulled a rattlesnake out also and they were dancing together and the snakes were dancing and it was incredible.</p>
	00:48:27	<p>The tambourines eventually stopped and we were just watching wide-eyed. Then the service ended and everyone very pleasantly said, thank you for coming and went our way. Here's the reason I tell this story. I went to that church for the spectacle. What I did not anticipate is leaving with respect and a desire to testify to these good people that while they went and performed these extreme measures to feel of God's presence in their life, I wanted to testify He is always present, that his love and his watchful care requires no such display and that he is ready to bring them in. It wasn't because I saw what they did anymore as being wow, how foolish, how unbelievable. It's kind of the apologist sense. I left feeling different about the spectacle I had come to see. I think there's much to learn from that with the Shakers as well.</p>
Hank Smith:	00:49:34	<p>John has had a lot of snakes in his house. I don't know if anybody even knows that, John. So you did not look one bit scared. I was dying. Rattlesnakes to me that is up there with terrifying. You. You're like, oh yeah,</p>
John Bytheway:	00:49:49	<p>I have a daughter who just, she didn't get it from her mother, she didn't get it from me. She just loves reptiles and has like 30 or something. She found something on classifieds and Dad, will you take me to, she's not even old enough to drive. Comes walking out of the house with a ball python wrapped around her neck.</p>
Hank Smith:	00:50:12	<p>It's my new pet.</p>
John Bytheway:	00:50:13	<p>I'm like, whoa. I'm more Indiana Jones. I hate snakes. I hate 'em. What I wanna ask is, were the snakes aggressive?</p>

Hank Smith:	00:50:22	Yeah. So as you're sitting there on the front row, I would've, I would've bailed. I honestly, I think I'm like, I'm out. I'm gonna go sit in the back.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:50:30	We were scared and we had come in and sat in the back until he invited us to come and sit closer. So we were noticeably timid and when they brought the snakes in, by the way before the service started, someone came in from a room on the side carrying these thin boxes and you could hear the rattles, you know, inside these boxes and then placed them underneath where the pulpit was. As I understood it from one of our members in the congregation. There was an article in the paper a couple months after we had gone about one of the members being bit by one of the rattlesnakes. They did have that happen on occasion actually. And it comes back to that point of being so truly impressed by the extent to which folks would go to feel God's presence in their life to feel that light and connectivity. If I can, because I need to do better justice to 49. Think about this verse with respect to my story about that congregation as it relates to them and the Shakers and us. Verse 27, behold, I will go before you and be your rearward and I will be in your midst and you shall not be confounded. The Lord's everywhere. He's not just found in the spectacle or the spectacular. He is found all around us.
Hank Smith:	00:51:42	I love your story. I admired them and I wanted to give them the truth. I'm not mocking them. I admire their faith. They desire to know the truth in part, but they don't know it all. Wow. Aaron, I'm gonna have to slow my heart rate here for a minute. I was too into that story. I don't know if you saw me, but I'm, my wife will tell you that snakes are not my, yeah, especially rattlesnakes. Rattlesnakes. It just, oh man. Aaron, this has been so fun so far and I love Parley P. Pratt and rattlesnakes. We have talked about things I did not see coming. I'm excited for section 50. What do you wanna do here?
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:52:26	You know, it worked well having the section heading tee us off a little bit and then I can maybe expound a little bit from there. So if someone would like to read that, I think that'd be perfect.
John Bytheway:	00:52:36	Revelation given through Joseph Smith, the prophet at Kirtland, Ohio, May 9th, 1831. Joseph Smith History states that some of the elders did not understand the manifestations of different spirits abroad in the earth and that this revelation was given in response to his special inquiry on the matter, so-called spiritual phenomena were not uncommon among the members, some of whom claim to be receiving visions and revelations.

Dr. Aaron Franklin:	00:53:03	<p>I have such a compassion for Joseph Smith in dealing with this. You think about being part of this building, this community of brand new saints, they're all bringing with them all of their culture and traditions and backgrounds. There's gonna be stuff you're gonna have to sort through. This revelation brings out some of those because they were noticing, I love how it generalizes to these so-called spiritual phenomenon and these different spirits abroad in the earth. There was a lot more specificity to that that drove the background to this revelation because there were evidences in local congregations of the church where certain things were happening, whether it is speaking in tongues or demonstrating something that was akin to speaking in tongues in a way that was not understood or did not involve more than you know, an individual. There was, what we would see nowadays is a broader Pentecostal style of worship, which is certainly related to what I shared with respect to the story of the church that had rattlesnakes and held rattlesnakes.</p>
	00:54:11	<p>It is very lively. The phrase that you often hear is falling out in the spirit. So there would be physical manifestations such as falling on the ground. This is described in great detail as cropping up in some of the worship services there, understandably, to our point about appreciating with respect, the passion and level of energy and commitment that some may manifest through their attempts to worship. And I say attempts not to belittle. I say attempts because what the Lord is pointing out here is the need for ratification and whether edification was present there or not. So you have all of this and the need to provide some instruction on how to navigate it going forward. That's really at the heart of this revelation coming out. And then you can't ignore the fact that it was two days earlier that the revelation was received 49 about the Shakers that we just talked about.</p>
	00:55:00	<p>So there's relevant context coming from both within and outside the church. Here's what I think is wild guys. Think about this for a second. This revelation is because members of the church were having too many or claiming too many spiritual manifestations. Could there be a more opposite problem to the church today? I can't speak globally, right? But how often are we struggling today with exactly the opposite with members who struggle by not having sufficient spiritual manifestations? That dichotomy really struck me when I saw this. I was like, oh my goodness, this is the opposite problem. And I think the counsel actually works, whether you're on one extreme or the other. It's a marked difference between their time and ours that then there was a constant energy towards seeking a</p>

manifestation spiritually. And now there is a constant struggle with questioning whether manifestations have ever been received.

00:56:04 There's a quote I'd like to share to kick this off with how we can frame the way we are navigating spiritual manifestations in our day. And it comes from Elder Bednar who has spoken on this topic so frequently and so eloquently with regards to how to identify spiritual manifestations, how to know we are living in revelation. He said this, this is actually not in one of the books that he has that are really terrific or one of his conference talks. This comes from an interview he did in January, 2023. It's like a Q&A at Ensign College. So this is [Elder Bednar](#). In the culture of the church or language of the church, we seem to put a primary focus on gearing up and preparing to receive revelation when it comes and that is accurate, but you are living in it. Instead of thinking about, oh every once in a while I have to get spiritually supercharged so that I am sure to recognize it that we may always have His Spirit to be with us.

00:57:02 If you are a good girl, if you are a good boy, you don't have to be perfect. But if you are honoring your covenants and pressing forward with faith in the Savior, then you are living in revelation. It doesn't just come once in a while and the vast majority of the time you are being influenced by the Holy Ghost and you have no idea that it is happening. We have the expectation that we have to be consciously aware in the moment that we are receiving revelation and that is not true. In fact, I would suggest much revelation is occurring as we are simply pressing forward being good and trying to get better with God's help.

Hank Smith: 00:57:39 I really like that. I think sometimes our verbiage is off. I went to FSY and the Spirit was so strong as if somehow the Spirit said, yeah, that's where I'm. So I just take my vitamins that day when what we should probably say is, oh, I became more in tune with the Spirit that's always available to me.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:58:00 Yeah, that's well said. I agree with you. Some of our semantics, some of our word choices and examples in the church can often lead astray even though the intention is absolutely not there. because folks are looking for something that is not aligned with the way the Lord is actually speaking to them. I was talking to a young woman in our ward just the other day, who's in this impossible mode of decision making about where to go to college. That's a huge life decision. You don't wanna like pile it onto the teenagers, to be like, do you realize how the implications of who you might meet and the decisions you

might make and who you'll marry and, and yet you also want them to take it serious. This young woman expressed how she has been praying and fasting diligently seeking for instruction from the Lord about what to choose between two really great school options. My comment back to her was, you have done enough that God is with you. The Lord is not sitting back waiting for you to have filled the glass to the right level. Yeah. I just commended her like you have done it. Have confidence that God is there. Make your choice and be confident He is there with you because he doesn't ask for more than that.

Hank Smith: 00:59:15 Right.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:59:15 You've brought it. I really like that.

Hank Smith: 00:59:19 I remember [Elder McConkie](#) saying he prayed every day. Right. Did you pray over this decision or this decision or this decision? He said, I prayed every day to be led by the Spirit. I worked every day to be led by the Spirit. I considered myself worthy. We often talk about the Holy Ghost as if it's a rare thing. When what's the promise that they may always have his Spirit to be with them.

John Bytheway: 00:59:45 I feel like wow. I was being guided back then and I didn't realize it at the time, I suppose because like you said, Aaron, I was in the Spirit. I was there way, way back before Hank was born in 76, [Elder John H. Groberg](#) gave a talk at BYU, which was so helpful to me. I wasn't there in 76 either, but I read it later. He said that rather than saying, I will not move unless I get this burning, let us say I will move unless I feel it is wrong. I was led by the Spirit not knowing beforehand has blessed me because I just, heavenly Father, I'm gonna move. Stop me if I'm wrong, the way you've put it, living in the Spirit, there may be many good things, many different options, all of which will help you arrive where the Lord wants you to arrive. What is it that Stephen Covey said about people I'm not sure I've ever felt the Spirit. He said, you're a fish. When does a fish know he's surrounded by water? When he isn't. Yeah. Other than that, he's not even aware that he's been surrounded by that all the time. It's interesting idea.

Hank Smith: 01:00:51 Aaron, what a great story about this young woman. You have done it. Move forward with confidence.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 01:00:57 Yeah. Not just because, oh, I guess I'm not getting an answer. I'm gonna have to step forward. No, you have confidence. God is with you. It's sort of turning on its head. What we often use as a conditional. Well, I'm waiting for that revelation to come. I'm

waiting to find out what the Lord would have me do. No, no, no. What the Lord has done is answered you and said, move forward. I'm with you. You are doing everything I have asked. Move forward.

Hank Smith: 01:01:19 We're expected to create. This isn't a I'm gonna command you in all things. This is okay, you've done what I've asked. You're living the gospel. You're doing what you can. Move forward and create.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 01:01:32 Yeah. I love that. Particularly coming back to some of the direct instruction in Section 50, is that the Lord, if we reason with him with regards to how we approach obtaining instruction, if it's if we want the truth in all, not in part, if our openness is truly there, he will reason with us. And if we have sought that in the spirit of truth, we deserve that confidence.



- John Bytheway: 00:00 Continue listening for part two with Dr. Aaron Franklin Doctrine and Covenants sections 49 through 50.
- Dr. Aaron Franklin: 00:07 Back to the specifics of Section 50 here. One other thing I really love about the Lord's instruction is it has some correlation to what we hear in the church a lot these days, which is love, share, invite. When you approach someone love, share, invite with regards to bringing them to the gospel, I see some pattern of that in the way the Lord approaches these teachings in section 50 that you could maybe change some of the wording even though you can map them to each other. I would change it to teach reason and love with love being the most important of these. So with regards to teach and love, I think it'd be great if we start on the bookends of this revelation. First verse is sort of intro. It sets the stage there and there's power to that.
- 00:56 But we're gonna go ahead to verse two. We're gonna compare the first seven verses after verse one. So two through eight to the last seven verses of this revelation. I'm not suggesting the entire revelation is compartmentalized in this teach, reason and love sort of sense, but I do see some teaching with respect to the first seven and some love with respect to the last seven. So given the conditions that we talked about of addressing some of these various manifestations that were purported throughout the church, the Lord says starting in verse two, behold verily I say unto you that there are many spirits which are false spirits which have gone forth in the earth, deceiving the world and also Satan has sought, also Satan has sought to deceive you that he might overthrow you. Behold I the Lord have looked upon you and have seen abominations in the church that profess my name, but blessed are they who are faithful and endure whether in life or in death for they shall inherit eternal life but wo unto them that are deceivers and hypocrites for thus saith the Lord.
- 02:03 I will bring them to judgment, verses seven and eight. Carry that out further talking about hypocrisy that is present with some of these manifestations. Now that that's weighing heavily on us

with respect to calling out some of these, we skip all the way down to those last seven verses and again just so that you can feel the contrast between these within this one revelation starting in verse 40. Behold ye are little children and ye cannot bear all things now. Ye must grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth, the light that is to be growing brighter and brighter as instructed in 24 fear not little children for you are mine and I have overcome the world and you are of them that my father have given me and none of them that my father have given me shall be lost. And the Father and I are one.

03:00 I am in the Father and the Father in me and inasmuch as you have received me, ye are in me and I in you. Wherefore I am in your midst. This calls back that end of section 49 reminder that he is always around us. I am the good shepherd and the stone of Israel. He that buildeth upon this rock shall never fall. There's no perfect evidence of a correct approach to addressing something that may be off that may need some additional light and truth to it than what the Lord has provided here, which is clear instruction and loving invitation, no condemnation to the individual. It's an invitation to repent, an invitation to acknowledge where there may be something wrong and how to correct for it. There's beauty in that that we could use a lot more of. And these little children by the way are the leaders of the church of the day. This is Joseph Smith and the other leaders. These are not the brand new converts that he's talking to.

John Bytheway: 04:02 Yeah. Going back to verse eight, I had a note the hypocrite shall be detected and shall be cut off either in life or in death even as I will and I have in my margin, the hypocrites are not your problem. I will deal with them. That's what seems to be what the Lord is saying. Even as I will, I'll handle that. You repent.

Hank Smith: 04:27 I like that John.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 04:28 Where does our job begin and end, right? Yeah. He comes back to Parley's approach. Is it to bring in the spotlight and make this huge bright showing of what is off in a way that certainly reeks of some judgmentalness and things that are less inviting? Or is it to really show, demonstrate by love that this is a truth that could aid and could brighten and provide more insight? A funny story came to mind when you were saying that John. My family, we have a one of our most oft quoted, you know how you quote things that your kids did when they were smaller and it becomes family lore. we've got one and we caught it on video actually. So this was a really, really great one. So my kids were eight, six, and four at the time. They loved Lucky Charms cereal.

Okay. Not exactly unlike other kids, two of them couldn't say Lucky Charms very well.

05:18 They were having a laugh about how my 6-year-old was teasing my 4-year-old about how he said Lucky charms. And my 4-year-old says, well it's yucky charms And my 6-year-old says, no, no it's not yucky charms, it's wucky charms And then my 8-year-old chimes in and says, you're both wrong. It's lucky charms. This active dialogue was happening when we caught this on video. They are little children. You think about that and as silly as the topic it is, can you not see that lucky charms argument happening every single day in this world, every single post of political or other commentary that it's, you're wrong. It's not yucky charms, it's wucky charms, and even the one who might chime in and maybe just maybe they actually know what it is but their intent is not often with love or with reason as we're about to get to It's it's lucky charms. You're both wrong. It gets them nowhere. It's to your point John, it's like you know our job is not to call out the hypocrites. God's got this. He'll take care of that.

Hank Smith: 06:33 Yeah, sometimes my wife will say, come to bed and I'm like, why? I can't. There's someone on the internet that's wrong. I have to correct every single person online before I go to bed. The Lord says, why don't you focus on you?

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 06:48 Yeah, I love that. As we dig deeper in, so now we've got these bookends in place. We've already caught the beautiful doctrine on light that's in the middle. Let's build up to that in covering through what else we have in this beautiful revelation. I'd say before going into the direct verses 10 through 12 is where I'd like to land next, but we're gonna start talking about reasoning starting in 10 and now come saith the Lord by the spirit unto the elders of his church and let us reason together. I read that a little wrong and maybe I should reread it the way that I think the language suggests what the how the Lord is saying. It says, and now come saith the Lord by the spirit unto the elders of this church and let us reason together saith the Lord by the spirit unto the elders is sort of a parenthetical.

07:38 It's like that's how I'm communicating. The message here is come let us reason together that ye may understand. Let us reason even as a man reasoneth one with another face to face. Now when a man reasoneth he is understood of man because he reasoneth as a man. Even so will I the Lord reason with you that you may understand. This word, reason, it can go on a lot of branches. For me, the one that stands out is that it means we should be reasonable when we approach the Lord when we

approach discovering the truth of something. Because that's what's at stake here. You have some worshiping in one way and some worshiping in another. What's at stake specifically in this time is how to determine what is right, what is the true form of worship, what is the true manifestation of the Spirit?

08:34 But it can be applied to anything with regards to how we would be reasonable in how we approach and consider things. And reason in general is being open-minded, being considerate of all factors that might be present. There's a great talk from [Elder Renlund](#) in BYU Education week. He spoke about faith, observation and reason with regards to how we come to truth and light. It's a brief quote that I'll share here. He says, observation, reason and faith facilitate revelation and enable the Holy Ghost to be a reliable, trustworthy, and beloved companion. These elements will be key factors in producing spiritual momentum in our lives and helping us move forward amid fear and uncertainty. When we start with an inclination to believe, observation leads to faith. As faith grows, reason facilitates the transformation of faith into revelatory knowledge and revelatory knowledge produces added faith. There is so much beauty and succinctness to what he worded there. You could probably rewind as a listener and listen to that over and over and dig further into Elder Renlund's comments because he really lays the groundwork for how to access truth and how to grow that truth by applying these principles of faith, observation and reason.

Hank Smith: 10:01 I really like that. I like the Lord's end goal there in verse 12 that you may understand. Not be forced. I really want you to understand and that sounds like what Elder Renlund was saying there. This is how you can get to that point.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 10:14 I have a question for you too, and I've alluded to my feelings on this. Maybe this is almost rhetorical. When you consider this counsel, do you read it and think, yeah, that's broadly relevant, that it's not just when we're talking about gospel related things, but broadly this counsel about how we reason with one another should be applied in all of our interactions.

John Bytheway: 10:39 I like the idea of all our interactions. If contention is of the devil, then reasoning together is how do you see it? This is how I see it. What do you think more of that approach.

Hank Smith: 10:54 In parenting. Oh, it's such a hard lesson to learn that reasoning, moral authority and building a relationship is much more effective than I'm gonna tell you what to do. I'm going to create new rules. It's almost the best part of being a parent. You make

up new rules on the spot but it always backfires. It rarely, rarely works. John I don't know if I've told you this, but I was doing the dishes one day and my daughter was over on the couch on her phone and I said, Hey, you wanna help me with the dishes? And she said, no I should have said, why don't we have the relationship? Right? If it was her mom, she'd say yes. If it was her best friend she'd say yes. What is it about our relationship that it doesn't work? That's what I should have been thinking and thought, okay, how can I reason with her and become closer, build the relationship. Instead I went straight to the easy new rule. She who does not help with the dishes, doesn't keep her phone. Do you wanna help me with the dishes? Yes, she didn't do it with as much gusto as I had hoped. We didn't even connect all areas of life. Let us calmly reason. Man, I wish I could learn this. I bet neither of you struggle with this

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 12:13

No, my goodness just ask my kids. No struggle at all. Yeah, the old carrot versus the stick. Yeah. Options of how to approach this. Somehow the Lord finds the balance of course and perfection that we can strive to follow. If I could pull us to a connection between this being reasonable and broad applicability, thinking back to 49:2 about only wanting to know the truth in part I would suggest that to be reasonable and to be reasoned with would require approaching whatever the topic is with an openness of consideration that cannot be offered if we are dogmatically determined to hold only to what we have. To decry anything else. I'm not suggesting anyone should ever compromise their core gospel truths, the hold of what we have with respect to that central essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ. But that is a relatively small portion of the broad nature of fact or fiction or information and misinformation.

13:20

It's the most important and powerful by an overwhelming majority of the saving principles of the gospel in truth. But there's so much more out there to it. So silly analogy on this front. You think about how we approach topics in the world. We live in a time that it's like a constant buffet of information. If you have a golden corral or Chuck-a-Rama fan, if they're in Utah, because I think that's a more Utah specific establishment. But either way you show up to those, no one goes there with their family so that they can go find a place to sit and then say, okay, let's reason together. I know there's mac and cheese and biscuits and unlimited dessert buffet but let's go for some balance, some broccoli and salad and such. Little Johnny is not going to reason with that. He came for his moments.

Hank Smith: 14:17

I could see that. Yeah.

- Dr. Aaron Franklin: 14:17 And it's going to be just those things that are of most interest that are going to be sought for. It's kinda a silly analogy but the same is sort of true with how we navigate this world. Like we are living in a buffet of available information. Some of it's bad, more of it is good than we might often allow for. What we often see occur though is that we fill our plate with our specific go-tos and then we look over at other people's plates and we're like, what are you doing? Do you know where you are? They've got honey butter biscuits over there. Like why would you have that on your plate? Why would you go there. We immediately go to this form, the yucky charms and wucky charms and all these things and to come and reason together I think requires openness. It necessitates looking beyond our own passions and interests to see and seek to understand others. That's hard. It's hard to do. But so necessary.
- Hank Smith: 15:18 In a world where we interact with each other online so much and can become so full of vitriol and anonymity doesn't help. I can be anonymous and say these things and it just is a terrible spiral. John, you know this story in Luke where James and John say, Lord, let's blow up that Samaritan village. He says, you know not what manner spirit you are of.
- John Bytheway: 15:49 The goal then becomes winning an argument instead of being edified and learning.
- Dr. Aaron Franklin: 15:55 Yeah, this may seem like a bit of an odd tie in, but it came to mind when you said that John is, I love the quote from [Roger Federer](#), the famous Swiss tennis player, one of the greatest of all time. He gave, I think it was like a speech at a graduation commencement. He talks about how he says, do you know how many points I won over the course of my career? And you think one of the winningest tennis players of all time, he says barely over half. He indicates that you have to be in it for the purpose of the game. It's not, you know, every point matters and you can, you can dissect a whole lot of things in there. But the main takeaway as I think about it relevant to this is move forward the best you can. It's not about having this mentality of victory has to happen at every point or we lose all. Having openness with regards to considering what others' perspectives may be that differ from yours it's not gonna cost you the game. If anything, having vitriol and having anything other than love towards our fellow man is going to cost you the game even if you have done all of these other things that we know are good and are important. There is a greatest of all commandments. There are two of them and all others hang upon them. I think this is a matter of recognizing what is the game really about. It's those.

John Bytheway:	17:19	Stephen Covey's seven habits is seek first to understand and then to be understood. One of the things he talks about that's a great tool to make that happen is the talking stick. Have you heard that Hank? Only the person who is holding this talking stick can talk and they won't give it to you until they feel they are completely understood.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	17:40	It was truly my intent and I felt like it was not gonna be a hard ask to ask that question that was mostly rhetorical of like, Hey, does this apply to our day? And then you both have shared fantastic insights and perspectives on that and the intent of that was we did all of that without actually reading these beautiful verses with regards to the spirit of truth. Now that we have had this conversation and considered it broadly, it's worth reading these and letting it sink in. For anyone who's listening to this, is thinking through this, hold onto something, grab whatever a recent encounter was. Maybe it's something you observed in interaction. Maybe it was on social media, maybe it is something with respect to the gospel or beliefs. Maybe you have a friend or a loved one who has stepped away from things that they had previously held in common with you with respect to their beliefs.
	18:28	Whatever it is, wherever they stand and the situation you have, hold onto that when you think about approaching with reason and consider these verses. So if you don't mind, I'll read us through starting in verse 17. Verily I say unto you, he that is ordained of me and sent forth to preach the word of truth by the Comforter in the spirit of truth doth he preach it by the spirit of truth or some other way? and if it be by some other way it is not of God. And again, he that receiveth the word of truth. Does he receive it by the spirit of truth or some other way? If it be some other way, it is not of God. Therefore why is it that you cannot understand and know that he that receiveth the word by the spirit of truth, receiveth it as it is preached or shared or commented by the spirit of truth. Wherefore he that preacheth and he that receiveth understand one another and both are edified and rejoice together and that which doth not edify is not of God and is darkness.
Hank Smith:	19:37	Why is it that this is so difficult to grasp?
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	19:41	Yeah, well and do you think because it's so much about approach, the lord's not talking about a doctrine, that they're not grasping of a specific belief or practice it's approach. It's my wife and I watching our kids have the wucky charms, yucky charms debate and we're sitting there looking probably similar to how the Lord looks upon us in terms of like, wow, I really love

them. They're little children. I don't understand. It doesn't matter. He can't say it because his speech isn't there. He's saying it wrong because he doesn't understand what the word is. You see these things from that level. You realize the content doesn't matter. It's the approach, the approach that really is making the impact here that's really transforming the ability to embrace the light, to allow it to grow.

Hank Smith: 20:28 This applies to every relationship, especially our most intimate relationships. It's often your tone. It's not an edifying tone or the way that I view you is coming across in the way I say something and then texting doesn't help because now I've lost my tone. Now I can read it whatever tone I think it was said.

John Bytheway: 20:52 I have to add emojis to give tone to my voice. Yeah, I say that with a smile.

Hank Smith: 21:03 Aaron, how do we learn this skill? There's many parents listening who think, Ugh, why do I always fall back into the same, I'm a tyrant almost trap. When I was younger I didn't think, oh I can't wait to be a parent so I can make people cry when they go to bed. That was not on my list of things yet there I was. In your mind, I know you're not the perfect parent, maybe you are but how do you learn this skill? It's almost like section 121, isn't it? Show forth an increase of love, persuasion, gentleness, meekness, love unfeigned. That's where influences.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 21:42 Thankfully, while I am most definitely not a perfect parent, I have been given the gift of 21 plus years of observation of one who I think is that has allowed me to get a sense of approach here. So I see my wife, I carry the stick and she has not the carrot but a balance, a carrot on a stick that is multifunctional. So I look at things and say why aren't they understanding? Try to bring out my frustration. It's funny that I used a bit of a finger point on Parley P. Pratt for his approach to the Shakers because that's Aaron Franklin who rode in on that horse. Really if I think about the way I've approached a lot of those things in my life. But one of the things that my wife has done a remarkable job of is reasoning with our kid. Some of it I could blame on how I grew up or other mentalities, other culture which is that like no, there's no reasoning here.

22:38 I'm in charge. You know this is the way it is and that's the way it's supposed to be. And she sought to reason it was a reason without necessarily a compromise. That's what's interesting is that it doesn't require you to compromise what your core truths are for you to listen, for you to make sure that that talking stick is able to be held and that they are able to really feel

understood and that takes time and patience. Those are things I haven't offered enough of. I think in those scenarios. My wife does a remarkable job of it, especially with our teenage kids. You know, I'll hear them say something, I'll say, no, no, that's not the direction we're going. And she'll say, wait, let's hear them out. So let's get through this. Because oftentimes what you find, especially if someone who is learning and if they are open and not just going to the buffet for their specific go-to items, if they're open and you use the opportunity to have them talk through it, they can guide themselves onto that path. They can bring themselves there as you allow space for them to get there.

Hank Smith: 23:45

Yeah, amazingly they use their agency, right? It's almost as if that's important to the Lord that they get there.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 23:54

Yeah, it's sort of the herding effect. Like I've never done any cattle ranching but I've seen movies and I never see them go with the lasso unless it is a dire last moment need where there is a targeted rescue that is at hand, in most cases it's by corralling them. It lets them freedom to move. They move and they run and they gather and the general prodding within that allowance gets them in the direction that they need to go. I don't want to suggest that that should be taken too far in terms of parenting styles and whatnot. I mean there's different paths to the sea there, but it does bring to mind how we approach something. When you see a cattle start wandering off a little bit, it's get the lasso. That's me lasso on that one. I can see them. They're veering over there and not trusting in them and in the environment and approaching them in a way that shows that.

Hank Smith: 24:50

Oh John, I know that I've, I know all of your children and they would say our father and mother are perfect in every way. But how did you learn? How did you learn to to be calm and to work with someone gently? You laugh but I've seen.

John Bytheway: 25:10

I can laugh. I laugh because I, because I know something you don't know. So we like everybody else, are learning by doing. I said this before, I don't want to create the impression this is every night of family prayer, but there's times when mom and dad repent in family prayer of how I handled something today and that creates an openness. The kids see hey, they're trying too.

Hank Smith: 25:40

I think we get tired as well as parents and we're living day to day and that can affect the way we reason together. Husband and wife, we could talk about that, how things can spiral and then become, I just have the wrong spirit about it. Do you remember

John two weeks ago, I think it was when [Dr. Baughman](#) was here and she said she and her husband would have some contention between them but they decided to go to the temple once a week. Do you remember what she said? She said we would go in fighting and come out holding hands. The Lord seems to know the recipe for this.

John Bytheway: 26:16

Aaron I like how you said if they're open to that. When I read some of these verses, I see that the listener has a responsibility. I've heard Hank give some excellent talks about listening. Listen to verse 19. He that receiveth the word of truth. So here's a responsibility for the listener, doth he receive it by the spirit of truth or some other way? If it be some other way, it's not of God. Verse 21. Therefore why is it that you cannot understand and know that he that receiveth the word, here's a responsibility on the listener again, by the spirit of truth, receiveth it as it is preached by the spirit of truth. I understand the temptation even at church to be on your phone. I was looking up the hymn. But I love that the Lord says it's not just about, well if this brother, if this sister gives a good talk then I'll listen. It's what kind of receiver are you if you listen by the spirit of truth. In fact, Hank one of my favorite analogies of this is a tuning fork. I think it was [Elder McConkie](#) back in the day who said, you've seen a tuning fork at one end of the room and now we're talking about sound instead of light. But you're an engineer, you probably work with it too. It's a wave.

Hank Smith: 27:31

You follow this.

John Bytheway: 27:32

You smack a tuning fork and a tuning fork clear on the other side of the room will begin to vibrate and resonate because they are, what's the phrase we use in tune? It's possible that two people could be sitting next to each other and leave a meeting and somebody say that was a good meeting and somebody else sitting next to them could say, I didn't get anything out of that. Somebody showed up with a B flat instead of an A. But there sounds like there's a responsibility for the receiver to receive by the spirit of truth. [President Henry B. Eyring](#) told a story about leaving a meeting thinking these are President Eyring's words. He said, I was sitting in sacrament meeting listening to what I thought was a terrible talk and he said I kept looking over at my father and my father was beaming at the speaker and he said, we're walking home.

28:24

I was kicking a rock in front of me trying to figure out how to bring this up. And I said, so dad, what did you think of sacrament meaning? And he said, my dad said, I thought it was a wonderful meeting and Elder Eyring's like it was not. He said,

my dad put his arm around me and said Hal. Now I don't call him Hal but he's telling the story. Hal, let me tell you something I taught myself to do when I was a young man. When I go to a meeting and the speaker begins, if they're having trouble, I ask myself, what is this person trying to say? And if they're struggling then I give myself a sermon on the same subject he said and then he laughed and he said, since then I've never been to a bad meeting.

Hank Smith: 29:05

I'm a pretty good speaker, right?

John Bytheway: 29:09

Third Nephi 5:17. Jesus quotes some Isaiah at the end of third Nephi 16. And then it says, I perceive that you can understand. Go home, ponder upon the things which I've said, prepare your minds for tomorrow. We see that the listener has a responsibility. Then he that preacheth and he that receiveth understand one another and both are edified and rejoice together. I love that verse 22 of saying it's not just, well I hope this guy's good or I'll be in the foyer on the couch. I'm gonna do the work necessary to receive from the Spirit something.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 29:47

I love the example and the story from President Eyring. That's fantastic. In [my book](#) all about what is truth, I talk about something called the Rashomon effect. Rashomon effect is a cinematic effect that is used to display the differing perspectives on a singular event. It comes from an old Japanese movie called Rashomon which was about a murder that occurred and four different witnesses saw it and they each shared their perspective and these four different versions of the story and it all changes little pieces of it. We've seen this carried out in popular culture. I was a fan of Family Matters back in the nineties. So the Steve Urkel show, right they loved the rashomon effect. There would always be Steve Urkel sharing his version of something that happened and then the Winslow family sharing their version of something that happened this totally different view and it was the same exact thing that occurs.

30:44

Truth isn't relative, it didn't change what happened, it just changes the way that it was perceived. Sometimes not even intentionally. You know, someone might have tried to say something and it was misheard and we thought they said something else. Both experienced the Rashomon effect, the one that said it thinks they communicated one thing but the reaction is so different than what they thought and the one who heard it thinks they heard one thing and it was totally different than what was intended. This Rashomon effect is something that occurs in our experience with the gospel in learning

environments and the various levels of which we are prepared to receive and doing our part for that connection to occur also occurs with, it comes to somewhat questioning things that we have experienced when we hear from someone else. Because it kind of goes the other direction too.

31:30 You know, if someone comes out of a meeting or other experience and and they're thinking that was so powerful and someone comes to them and says, wow, that was worthless. Sort of the reverse of what that scenario, it was terrible and it suddenly it's like maybe it was terrible. Maybe my perspective wasn't right. There's a lot that you can kind of unpack out of that. But I think it's worth noting that when we reason with others and we seek for the spirit of truth, it takes both openness and awareness that we are all individuals. That the light we are gaining and growing the roots, we are growing. So you think of the light brought into the analogy of Alma 32. We planted the seed. The seed has begun growing. It didn't have to turn into a whole tree to know it was good, it just started growing. When you think of a seed growing, it's gonna grow custom to wherever it was planted. The roots will wrap by, they'll go around. There are no two root systems the same in this world. So as that seed plants and grows and develops, it is going to be uniquely its own. So when it comes to that spirit of truth and finding that light, it's individualistic. We're given this gospel truth to embrace and what we can use it to shine on for us.

Hank Smith: 32:40 [President Uchtdorf](#) gave a talk called Continue in Patience. I thought I am gonna figure this out. So I listened to that talk every day for a month on my way to work. Just trying. Make it me.

John Bytheway: 32:56 By osmosis.

Hank Smith: 32:57 Yeah maybe something, I'll just absorb it and it's taken me a while.

John Bytheway: 33:02 My grandchildren are still just toddlers. It is just pure joy all the time. You know they come over. There's a word in here that I remember my dad using the word referring to a building as an edifice. Edify, something that builds. I was at BYU one time in the old JSB and [Elder Neal A. Maxwell](#) was there. He said the coolest thing. He said, if you could compress the missionary handbook into one verse, it might be Alma 38:12. Use boldness, but not overbearance and also see that you bridle all your passions that you may be filled with love. See that you refrain from idleness. And I thought, whoa, what a cool idea. Read it as

a missionary we might say, if you could compress the for the strength of youth guide into one verse, it might be verse 23, think about it as a media standard for all of us. I mean this is a pack your bags we're going on a guilt trip type version.

34:01 That which does not edify is not of God and is darkness. If you look in the current for the strength of youth and there's a subtitle this time, A Guide for Making Choices. It's not a book that makes choices for you, it's a guide for you making choices. This is the longer paragraph. Seek that which uplifts inspires and invites the Spirit as you make choices about what to watch, read, listen to or participate in. Think about how it makes you feel. Does it invite good thoughts? Stay away from anything that mocks sacred things or that is immoral. Don't participate in anything that dulls your judgment or sensitivity to the Spirit such as violence, alcohol and harmful drugs. Have the courage to turn off a video game, walk out of a movie or a dance, change your music or turn away from anything that is not consistent with the Spirit. We could take that and shorten it and say verse 23, does it edify? Which I just love that word. Does it build me up spiritually?

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 35:07 I love that. It reminds me, my bishop growing up when I was a teenager, he would tell us, Hey there's a story. There's you're at a party and suddenly things take a turn for the worse. And maybe it's alcohol being passed around, maybe it's, maybe it's marijuana. You're in a circle and it's being passed around that circle and you're sitting there thinking what am I gonna do? You know what? I don't know what I'm gonna do. And suddenly it gets to the person next to you and the person next to you says, no, no, I'm not gonna do that. That boosts your courage too. Strength in numbers. Yeah. So you're like okay, I'm not gonna do it. And then he would ask us, are you the first person or are you the second one? The way he told the story was very much like this concern, how am I going to do this? And then it took the bolstering from another to bring it about. But we really need to recognize this simple truth. I love how you talked about condensing down all of these other things.

Hank Smith: 36:01 [Elder Scott](#) said, a memorized scripture can be like a close friend. That's something could come to mind if I'm somewhere I ought not to be and it that which stuff not edify is not of God and is darkness. Maybe we could all be a little more scared of the dark.

John Bytheway: 36:19 Nicely put.

Hank Smith:	36:23	So Aaron, we're back to where we started, which I love that we've come full circle. I'd love to ask you some more questions in just your experiences studying light. What spiritual connections have you made as you studied? Is there any moments where you went, oh that's funny, where something you studied became well that lines up with gospel principles.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	36:44	I love that we brought it back to the, that's funny. Yeah, that's great. You write a whole book about light and the physical and spiritual connectivity and then it doesn't take more than a few months after it comes out to realize, oh wow, I never even realized this new insight that someone shares or how this ties in. And I've missed many, many, many since then, but one in particular. So I do talk about the fact that light is the medium with which we communicate virtually all information in the modern age. So it doesn't matter if it's your wifi signal or your cell phone connected or a radio wave. It is all via light including transmission through optical cables that are buried under the ocean floor. All of this transmission is by packing information into light and re-extracting it. One thing I do point out is when you think about the magnitude of that takes light basically less than a 10th of a second to circle the entire equator of the earth.
	37:39	Speed of light is incredibly rapid. The amount of information that can be crammed at it is so vast it's hard to really wrap your mind around if we can do that with light, mankind can do that, what can God do? And whether he uses light or not to make this communication happen, his capabilities are beyond our imagination. The part to answer your more specific question of what occurred to me even more recently that I've learned about this is the way I think about how God communicates. That I like thinking about it as light. I still had I'd say traditional maybe for lack of a better word, understanding of when I want to hear God more, when the hear him campaign happened. When I wanna hear him more, I need to right myself more to him. I need to pray more. I need to align better with His gospel and be more receptive.
	38:28	None of those things will hurt in preparation to receive. I've come to convince myself that that was wrong way of thinking about it. God is always speaking. Nothing we can do can change his love for us. There is no variance there. There is only our reception, to John's point. That is all that's within our control is how we will manage our reception to his truth. They will always come. It's less about me trying to do what I can to get him to call or to speak in any way and entirely about how I can listen. There's an old talk that I ran into from Elder Bruce R. McConkie where he talks about serving as a mission president in Australia

going up to visit this TV broadcasting station, being fascinated by it because he's like, oh wow, these are transmitting it via light through these satellites down to the village below and they're picking it up and watching and he's like, that night I went back home and with my boys was watching the TV station that was from the tower and he says it brought to his memory that this is how God works.

39:35 The revelations of eternity are constantly before us. They are always available and it is simply a matter of whether we tune into them. Just like the fact that each one of us right now is surrounded by information we're not picking up. It's people's cell phone conversations, it's wifi data transmitted. It's all going around and through us right now. Just because we aren't picking it up doesn't mean it's not there. Same is with the truths of eternity. The opportunity bringing us back to section 50, the brighter and brighter till the perfect day. What else could that perfect day be besides preparing ourselves to be so familiar with Christ and his light that we will see him as he is when he returns because of our likeness. But also it's the perfect day of comprehending all things. D&C 88:67 has that language. If your eye is single to God, the whole bodies will be filled with light and you will comprehend all things.

40:36 I asked earlier in this section to what were you ordained. It answers a few different things but one of them included in that is down in verse 29. And if you are purified and cleansed from all sin, you shall ask whatsoever ye will in the name of Jesus and it shall be done. This calls to mind Nephi the son of Helaman. It's a promise that comes with understanding comprehension. You come to comprehend and see so much. Your room from getting the light shined in your eyes to now having it coming from within you is so bright that your awareness of the things in front of you are enough for you to have earned that level of trust that you will not ask amiss because your awareness is grown to that level. I think that's where God intends all of us to get. And it helped me with reframing the way I think about communication with God. It comes to those other conversations we talked about like I had with the teenager recently about whether God was speaking to, it's like so easy for me now because I'm like, no, no he is, he is. Because that's the God that we have.

Hank Smith: 41:39 I'm fascinated by this. I wish you could stay for hours with us here where we can talk about being, I just quipped earlier, being scared of the dark. The light can be so calming, right? Like oh good, I'm, I'm okay. When my boys were younger, they didn't like to go in if the basement was dark. And I would say it's

the same place you went to two hours ago when the lights were on. Well it's dark now. Fear and darkness seem to go together.

- John Bytheway: 42:13 It limits your perception. It's illuminating. That is exactly the right word. All of a sudden you have more information about the world that you're in when you can see and when you can't see, you're limited to maybe one of your senses, a couple of them I guess. But we even used the phrase and then the lights went on or the cartoon has a light bulb over our head to say Bing, I just got an idea. Lehi is in a dark and dreary wilderness for many hours and then he prays and when he opened his eyes he beheld. It sounds to me like the Lord turned the lights on.
- Hank Smith: 42:51 Yeah. He saw. Yeah.
- Dr. Aaron Franklin: 42:55 I think that's right. I think we fear what we don't understand. When light isn't there to illuminate and provide comprehension, that's one of the most beautiful points of connectivity between light and truth. The connectivity is through comprehension is that you can now see. And so now you understand and more than that it's, it's a comprehension that's akin to the people of King Benjamin. What is it? That was the sign of their conversion. Why did they know the seed was good? It wasn't because they saw an angel. It wasn't some other major manifestation is because their outlook, the way they saw the world was transformed. The disposition. They had no more disposition to evils. When we change the way we see things because we've embraced truth that is light illuminating the world, the path in front of us. And that's a sign that it's good that that has happened.
- John Bytheway: 43:47 There's a phrase in there I'm sure you saw, which is so strange when you have tasted this light, you can taste light because his whole metaphor is fruit and tasting, but it's more than that. It's light. You're tasting light reminds me of Elder Uchtdorf commenting on being 30,000 feet above the earth and he saw the terminator, which is from that vantage point where part of the earth is dark and part of it's light. And he said this comment that sounds so obvious, but it was so good when you think about it. He said, I realized night is nothing more than a shadow. The light has always been there. It's just you aren't in a place to receive it. To your point, Aaron light's always there, but we might put ourselves in a shadow. I thought, oh what a great way to put it.
- Dr. Aaron Franklin: 44:39 Yeah, I like that. So much else that has to do with the physical attributes of light and the way it interacts with things can bring a lot of appreciation for our capabilities to receive things from

the Lord's light. Like we talked earlier about the directionality of light, that it has a direction to it and yet Christ is the light that fills the immensity of space. He is in all places D&C 88. So that just tells you how intentional his direction is. It's everywhere. It's not just that. Oh okay, um, here's this source and it's gonna go everywhere. So you're all good. There's direction. It's the section 49 in your rearward and all around you and Section 50 reiterated that he is coming from all directions. There is no hiding that you know there's no way that you can put yourself in a position that he cannot access with his love and offer you the chance to embrace it and illuminate things to enhance your own understanding.

- Hank Smith: 45:39 I sometimes use this sequence, I hope I'm right here and I would love to hear what both of you think. I'll speak to young people and say God gives you a portion of light so you can see some truth. If you live that truth, you get more light. With that light, you see more truth. And if you live that truth you get more light. And with that light you see more truth and it keeps going and keeps going until you have all light and all truth. And the opposite seems to be also true, that if I have light and I see truth and I don't live according to that truth, I lose that light. And I actually no longer can see the truth. Like I've lost what I once knew. Section 93 is a wonderful little sister chapter to 50, this is verse 28, continuing.
- 46:28 He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things. Then skip down to 36, the glory of God is intelligence or in other words, light and truth. Light and truth. Verse 37, forsake the evil one 39. The wicked one comes and takes away light and truth through disobedience. And then he talks about verse 40, bring up your children in light and truth. Do you see that play out at all? It seems like I do that those who I've seen once who have been bathed in the light of the restoration and then turn away from it. They have good hearts. That's not what this is about. But they seem to not remember things that they were that they once knew.
- Dr. Aaron Franklin: 47:17 Yeah, I most definitely have seen that played out and think it is a reality of what happens when we stop believing the things we know. A scale of knowing something. John, you have a book on how do we know if we know? I think that is the title of it and I have a chapter in this new book. How do I know if I know I make point to your excellent work on that.
- John Bytheway: 47:39 Oh thanks!

Dr. Aaron Franklin:	47:39	There's almost like a scale to it. There's things you don't know that you don't know and then you know you don't know. And then you might know that you know because you learned it and then you might not know that you know or not believe that you know. And everything can be kind of slid around between these with these quadrants when it comes to this light and truth.
	48:04	Because light is a knowledge of things, is an understanding of truth. Things that they really are as they really were as they are to come. This calls to mind a similar phrasing that exists in the Book of Alma that talks about this except it makes that connection to the fact that light or having light is to have knowledge, is to know something, to know things, the mysteries of God. All things in Alma 12 verses 10 and 11 it says, and therefore he that will harden his heart. The same receiveth again to John's comments about receiving. So here's a hard heart. So receiveth the lesser portion of the word and he that will not harden his heart to him is given the greater portion of the word until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full, the perfect day brighter and brighter, perfect day. And then verse 11. And they that will harden their hearts to them is given the lesser portion of the word until they know nothing concerning his mysteries. And then they are taken captive by the devil and led by his will down to destruction. Now this is what is meant by the chains of hell. So the chains of hell being the representation of us losing that light of no longer knowing things concerning the mysteries of God, understanding his ways, his love, his will for us.
John Bytheway:	49:28	We know we can increase in knowledge, but it sounds like we can also somehow decrease in knowledge when we lose light. Maybe this doesn't apply, but Sister Sheri Dew wrote a chapter in a book called Sin Makes You Stupid and it Costs a Lot Too. And I think what she was trying to say was, when you lose the influence of the Holy Ghost, you're not as smart. I mean you have access to infinite intelligence. Imagine that when we don't, I guess we can make not as good decisions because we're losing light.
Hank Smith:	49:59	Yeah. It's an interesting interaction with light and dark, which we see around us all the time, but also apparently is happening in our spirits, in our mind.
John Bytheway:	50:09	I can't wait to see your book because this has always been a topic that has fascinated me too.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	50:15	You'll have to endure some very engineering diagrams and ways of thinking.

John Bytheway:	50:20	I love it.
Hank Smith:	50:22	I had a friend do an interesting lesson in his seminary classroom. I don't know exactly how he did it, but he started the class with a single lamp on and as they kept studying he would turn on more light and he would ask the students, is it light in here? Yeah. Then he could turn on another light. Is it light in here? Yeah. What was interesting is that it could always get brighter. You would think, oh, I've got the light. And then it would get brighter and no, no, I've got the light. And it would get brighter. And it was fascinating to me to think sometimes we think, oh I've got it. I've got the light like I can see around me and then another light comes on, you think, I guess I didn't have it all. I didn't have all that light.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	51:08	It reminds me of Joseph saying he was seeking a more perfect understanding when he was going after this revelation. Right, section 49 where it said that, I mean that yeah, he had a lot of light. So much light and revelation and yet awareness that there's always more that he could understand and seek for.
Hank Smith:	51:24	Wow, that's great. Aaron, this has been really fun. John and I both love to talk about light and truth. We rarely get to do it with someone who actually understands it. So this has been when two ignorant people get together, not much happens.
John Bytheway:	51:41	It's called followHIM. Yeah.
Hank Smith:	51:45	Aaron there may be a narrative out there for some Latter-day Saints that educated people are not faithful religious people. If you get to the point where you know enough, you then
John Bytheway:	51:58	Really know stuff.
Hank Smith:	51:59	Yeah. Then you don't need religion. Yet here is someone who has had some serious education. We don't worship at the feet of academia, but it is something that you go, wow, there's a lot that goes into that one. How are you received out there in North Carolina? Have you ever received a, you know so much, how can you still believe this? Or has it been the opposite where people admire you for this? And what would you say to those listeners at home who are getting that message from somewhere that, oh, if you only knew what I knew. And then finally, I'm just giving you a bunch to talk about here, what are your feelings for the restoration, for the prophet Joseph Smith and of course the Lord that leads him.

Dr. Aaron Franklin: 52:44

Wow, so much there. Hank, I appreciate the multi-layered question. I will say that I have had such a marvelous reception overall with respect to the broad community that I have the blessing of being a part of at Duke University. I think there's so much that is not understood about the environment of some of these higher education institutions. Lots of assumptions about what might be there or not. I've had such great conversations come out of doing things like publishing my first book on the spiritual physics of light. This isn't my day job. I don't work on those things directly there, but it's something I'm passionate about. It's been wonderful to have colleagues and students who have approached me to discuss these things. I obviously don't teach a class at Duke about this. There's more respect than I think folks often give room for in the broader academic world and also in the scientific community that I've had many of my close colleagues across different universities across the world who find out about this book.

53:52

You know, like, wait a minute, you wrote this, this book. We're publishing research articles. What are you writing this book about? They've shown great respect with respect to that and interest and so it's sparked a lot of really great conversations. So I'd say maybe an answer that I'd have to, that is of course you're gonna have some outliers, but the assumptions that people have are a little more pegged to the outlier than they are to the reality or the norm. We live in a world of really passionate and incredible people that exist both in the, you know, academic enterprise and at any other vocational or cultural living place or environment that you can find. And there's certainly nothing special about one who may have spent more of their time doing one thing versus another. They just happen to know more about the one thing than maybe they do of the other.

54:42

In all fields, in all areas. Whether they receive accolades and recognitions of the world or not, we unto the learned who think they are wise, that's a dark place that is accessible to anyone regardless of the level of learning. Sometimes those who point the fingers the most adamantly at the academically learned as being in that camp are pointing the finger from the camp because it's a place that all of us have the potential to fall to. If we don't use reason, if we don't have openness to all truth, not just part of it. I think I've been blessed to be in an environment of people that have really demonstrated that regardless of what their backgrounds are, to your question about my feelings, about the Restoration, about the magnificent truths that we have been blessed with through it. There's a verse that I'll read that came from this very Restoration to me.

	55:39	I told you I like looking back at some of the oldest versions of documents. A little fun fact for you and for when you both come and visit me at Duke University. I'll take you to the Duke University rare books and manuscript library, which houses not one but two original 1830 editions of the Book of Mormon. They had them through various means that they came into their collection. We can reserve a reading room and they bring them out and allow you to handle them and, and look through these original versions. Just being able to turn to verses like the one I'm about to read. This is where the power of the Restoration is. To me it's of course it lives in the sacred grove and the magnificent manifestations that came from that. Of course, it's through the gift and power of God, the translation of the Book of Mormon and all the revelations that came through like we talked about today.
	56:28	It's most acutely in the small and simple truths that were brought back through all of that, through simple means. So this is my closing thought of my testimony here is Mosiah 4:9 believe in God, believe that he is and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth. Believe that he has all wisdom and all power, both in heaven and in earth. Believe that man does not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend. If we can hold on to that one truth about recognition of where we stand and where God stands in this relationship, his love, his constancy, that will get us through things so much better than the bickering and the finger pointing, all of the light shining in others' eyes instead of inviting and loving. I'm grateful for the restoration that it has brought me to the Savior. It literally did as a convert to this church and finding the power of these truths that have brought me the kind of realization of life and our purpose, light and truth that I just don't know I would've accessed any other way.
Hank Smith:	57:46	Aaron, that just fantastic. Isaiah 55, the Lord says, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways than your ways. He knoweth all things. John, how many times have I said this to you? I don't know how in the world the two of us get the opportunity to sit with people like Dr. Franklin and just learn.
John Bytheway:	58:11	What a blessing. Thank you.
Hank Smith:	58:12	Yeah.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	58:13	Thank you both for the work you do. It's so great.
Hank Smith:	58:16	Thank you. Hey, wherever you're listening from, we would love to show Dr. Franklin so you can come onto YouTube or you can

come to our website, follow him.co. We have our show notes there and you can just shoot us a message and let us know where you're listening from. It's a joy to share that with our guests, to show them where their voice was. I think we've received emails from Japan to India to Ukraine. It's a joy to hear from you. We want to thank Dr. Aaron Franklin for being with us today. What a day. Full of light.

John Bytheway:	58:48	Enlightening.
Hank Smith:	58:49	Yeah, it was very enlightening. Thanks John. And illuminating.
Dr. Aaron Franklin:	58:54	Light puns are always welcome.
Hank Smith:	58:55	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	58:55	Lots of lumens.
Hank Smith:	58:57	Always. Yeah. If you know a light pun, please come share it with us. We'll send it to Dr. Franklin. We want to thank our executive producer Shannon Sorensen, our sponsors David and Verla Sorensen, and every episode we remember our founder Steve Sorensen. We hope you'll join us next week. We're gonna continue on through the Doctrine and Covenants on followHIM. Thank you for joining us on today's episode. Do you or someone you know speak Spanish, Portuguese, or French? You can now watch and listen to our podcast in those languages. Links are in the description below. Today's show notes and transcript are on our website. FollowHIM.co. That's followHIM.co. Of course, none of this could happen without our incredible production crew. David Perry, Lisa Spice, Jamie Neilson, Will Stoughton, Krystal Roberts, Ariel Cuadra, Heather Barlow, Amelia Kabwika, and Annabelle Sorensen.

FOLLOW THE LIGHT ON I-15



Hank Smith:	00:03	Hello everyone. Welcome to another followHIM Favorites. John and I are sharing a single story to go with this week's lesson. John, we're in sections 49 and 50 of the Doctrine & Covenants. You've told me that you have a story.
John Bytheway:	00:14	I love all the stories about light. I just think light is kind of a fascinating subject.
Hank Smith:	00:19	Me too.
John Bytheway:	00:19	And Section 50 talks about light, so many everyday applications of light, which this one might have been in the last century. Do you remember Sister Margaret Nadauld?
Hank Smith:	00:29	Oh, I do. Incredible.
John Bytheway:	00:31	Yeah, incredible. Incredible. And she told this story. She said it was just a few days before Christmas. We were newlyweds traveling home for the holidays. It was a 42 hour drive by car, but that didn't discourage us because we were so excited to be home with our families again. I mean, how many gallons of gas go along with that?
Hank Smith:	00:49	42 hours.
John Bytheway:	00:50	She said we'd been on the road all day and most of the night when we came upon a terrible snowstorm, we found ourselves in a blinding blizzard. The snow is growing deeper on the highway with each passing moment. The night was pure black. We couldn't see where we were going, and because of the deep snow, we couldn't see the lines on the road. This was a frightening situation. Suddenly in front of us, sister Nadauld said, we begin to see a huge semi-truck going slowly and steadily ahead.
	01:19	We could barely make out his taillights, but seeing them gave us hope. My husband, who was driving, fixed his eyes on the light

from the truck. As we drove along in the tracks it made through the deepening snow. Okay, follow an example. Follow the light. Our panic subsided somewhat with that guide up ahead because he knew the route. You can hear the applications there. He sat up higher than we and could have a better view. Semi-trucks are up there right? And surely he had communication equipment if it was needed. With prayers on our lips and white knuckled hands holding on. We followed that light through the storm. We passed many cars off both sides of the road before we sensed the truck was slowing down and pulling off the highway. In an act of faith we followed him. Followed the truck off the highway and found ourselves to our great relief and a place of safety, a place of refuge. It was probably Maverick or Flying J or something.

Hank Smith:	02:28	Those are places of safety.
John Bytheway:	02:30	Yeah.
Hank Smith:	02:30	If they have good drinks.
John Bytheway:	02:32	Right, right. We were so very thankful we could hardly wait to tell the driver of the truck how grateful we were for his help for leading the way. I loved the story because he knew the route, he sat higher than we did. It's kind of like the watchman on a tower has a better view than we do, and he had communication equipment and they followed the light to a place of safety. Back in section 50 verse 24 That which is of God is light and he that receiveth light or we could say, follows the light and continues within God receiveth more light and the light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day or until you get to Maverick or Flying J in this example. I love that verse so much. In fact, president Hinckley said it was one of his favorites. Section 50 verse 24.
Hank Smith:	03:24	Follow the light. I love it. Just right close, nice and slow and steady. Keep your eyes right on the prophet. Right on the Lord, right on the church, right on the scriptures.
John Bytheway:	03:33	Trust that they have a better view. Trust that they have a better perspective.
Hank Smith:	03:37	Yeah, and you'll see others slide off the road, but you, you just stay on. I wonder if the truck driver got out. Why are you following me?
John Bytheway:	03:46	We came to buy you an A&W. You know? Yeah.

Hank Smith:

03:51

We hope you'll join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM. You can get it wherever you get your podcast. We are with Dr. Aaron Franklin this week and he's the closest thing we could interview to a doctor of light. He is really fun and walks us through these verses. Then come back here next week. We'll do another followHIM Favorites.