

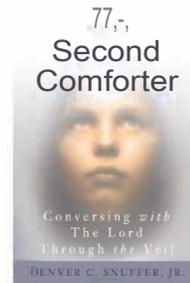


John Dehlin

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## 321-322: Denver Snuffer -A Progressive, Fundamentalist, Non-Polygamist Mormon Lawyer Who Claims to Have Seen Christ

In this episode John Dehlin interviews Denver Snuffer: a progressive, fundamentalist, non-polygamist Mormon lawyer who claims to have seen Christ. Denver is the author of several books including *The Second Comforter: Conversing With the Lord Through the Veil* and *Passing the Heavenly Gift*.



### 240 Comments to "321-322: Denver Snuffer -A Progressive, Fundamentalist, Non-Polygamist Mormon Lawyer Who Claims to Have Seen Christ"



McKay Platt says :

February 12, 2012 at 9:42 pm

Denver's claim to have seen the Lord provides for all who hear his claim an opportunity to follow John's injunction to discern between false prophets and true prophets or as he says, to "try the spirits".

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

This directive was for his time and his followers. Christ also pointed to false prophets in the latter-day.

3 Nephi 14:15 and Matthew 7:15 - Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Would this be a rare phenomenon? Hardly. Christ prophecies that these false prophets would be numerous.

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Who would be deceived by such a false prophet, inwardly a ravening wolf. Or who could miss a true prophet among us.

Surely not you nor I. We surely can easily discern between true and false, or can we?

The best and brightest of the Jews, the scribes and Pharisees at the time of Christ, thought He was a false prophet and

that they were righteous. It was not the best and brightest who judged Him rightly a prophet, but the meek and lowly among them, who said, simply, "I think I'll see what He has to say before I judge Him."

Laman and Lemuel were certain of the righteousness of the denizens of Jerusalem who the Lord destroyed because of their wickedness. (see 1 Nephi 17:22). The citizens of Zarahemla knew whom their prophet was, namely, Nephi son of Helaman and were unable to discern the truth in the message of Samuel, seeking to silence Him instead. Only one on Noah's court recognized Abinadi as a true prophet. So, just how certain are we that we discern better than they?

So there are two challenges :

1-Judging a false prophet to be false and

2-Judging a true prophet to be true.

This will be a challenge for the best and the brightest as Christ said: "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:24

For me I think I will see back and see what this Snuffer fellow has to say before I judge Him, for I am not as bright as those who (mis-judged Jesus.

McKay Platt ( macplatt @hot mail.com )



Jonahsays:

February 14, 2012 at 4:11pm

What you've said is patently incorrect McKay Platt. There is another option: Refuse to subordinate yourself to any external authority. Stop following another voice in the desert. Be your own voice. Stop looking for a prophet or any other kind of authority over yourself.

To learn wisdom from other people is obviously good, but only if you can reject their very next thought in a new york minute if you disagree. That's not the relationship that a prophet seeks to have with you.

Why are you people looking for prophets? I don't understand you.



Dylocksays :

February 14, 2012 at 7:15 pm

What will being my own voice acquire for me?

Where can I look to salvation , except God?

Why does God send messengers, if not to point us to him?



Gunnerratsays:

February 14, 2012 at 9:43 pm

You are partly right and partly wrong.

We should seek to discover these things for ourselves. If we rely on another person for too long, we lose our way, even if it is a true messenger. Messengers are sent to point the way, not be a destination in and of themselves. It takes work to make the journey yourself- it's always easier to rely upon affiliation with a person or group. This will not get us to heaven.

For me, the mark of a true messenger is that they invite and encourage us to get that connection with deity ourselves, not to forever rely on them for every word to live by.



Jonahsays:

February 15, 2012 at 12:19 pm

This is for you Gunnerat and Dylock ,

As we have learned by sad experience, a prophet will send you on a mission overseas and then he will have sex with your wife while you're away. Or, a prophet will abuse the authority you give him and will seek to marry and have sex with your 14 year-old daughter. When she rebuffs him, he will use the threat of spiritual punishments to manipulate her into betraying her conscience. Or, he will remain the crux of power in an organization that asks you to concede your mind, concede your will and your conscience, and never disagree with him or the organization , once he has spoken.

A prophet relies on the fact that you remain continually looking upward into the sky, to heaven- an ethereal, unknowable concept about which you-AND HE-know absolutely nothing. As long as your gaze is fixed heavenward into the abstract and unknowable, he can ask all manner of illicit favors of you in exchange for his grandiose promises of afterlife rewards. And of course, he knows-and decides- whether you're worthy to enjoy those afterlife rewards.

Consequently, you must fix your gaze earthward and focus on this life and on being a better person in the here and now. For that, you need no prophet. In fact, seeking external authority-especially to authority rooted in the abstract and unknowable-over yourself is an impediment that will keep you from becoming the person you need to become and will possibly lead you into all manner of grotesque errors of judgment.

I mean no disrespect, but I seek for you to claim the self respect and dignity you were made for. God bless. Good luck.



MacPlatt says :  
March 20, 2012 at 9:28 am

Jonah:I cring at the rudeness, unkindness and angry attitude shown by you and so many others on the internet. You seem to feel free to lash out in a virtual world that few would do face to face. Christ's command to "love one another:" applies just as surely on the internet as it does face to face. Are you familiar with the concept of a "straw man". A straw man is created in order to punch at and knock him down. It refers to a person, in this case you, manufacturing phony arguements so you can counter them, even though they are arguements that I have not made, including all the following:-judging between true prophets and false prophets is subordinating oneself to external authority - not something I believe-judging one to be a true prophet means accepting everything they say rather than rejecting their very next thought - not something I believe-A prophet seeks to have me follow him and his every word - not something I believe. You did make one and only one correct observation about me. I am looking for prophets. I look for them because I am trying to do as John and Christ commanded, namely to try the spirits. I am looking for truth and often find it in the words of others. 1 John 4:11 certainly agree with your main point, namely, true prophets do not want a following. A true prophet points to God. I patently disagree with the idea that we should "be our own voices". That is a humanistic idea. Even angels speak the words of Christ, not their own words. Let's try to follow the golden rule. No one wants to be mis-judged. No one wants to be misunderstood and condemned especially unrighteously. I encourage you and all to treat others on the internet using the same persuasion, long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, kindness and love unfeigned that we should use and are far more inclined to use in our face to face encounters. No hard feeling here. I hope this helps. Perhaps you understand me now, Jonah.

Jonah says :  
March 30, 2012 at 10:06 am



Mac,  
Many people on these forums complain about confrontational or polemical dialogue. I don't apologize for what I said above. I never attack other commenters personally.

The Japanese culture has a way of dealing with this in martial arts. It's known as "Bushido" or the warrior's way. They fight with all their force and strength in combat and then embrace afterwards.

There is a saying that you cannot know the strength of the wind until you stand against it. If you let it blow you over easily, you have no idea how truly strong it is. Similarly, you can disagree, combat, oppose, and even fight as long as you embrace afterwards. This idea of remaining softly neutral about everything is untenable.

Similarly, the policy I adopt is to stand against, to oppose, and to adamantly disagree with ideas, propositions, and even people, but I am always ready to embrace and hug afterward-no spooning.



Robert Scott says :  
September 26, 2012 at 6:44 am

Thank you Jonah. I agree we should not base our concept of good and evil or what we are and what we do in this life based upon external sources of information. And I saw no rudeness in you comment. You mention some events which happened. And there is no doubt about what happens when one man or group of men set themselves up as the light to follow. Thanks again. Hey do I have to disagree with you in order to get the hugs afterward?



Anonymoussays :  
April 6, 2012 at 1:13 pm

Or, why does Denver Snuffer need to be a prophet? You might as well say that John Dehlin is a prophet. He has stated that he is not inventing a religion over and over even with the Mormon Stories groups and conferences and story sharing and all that. Denver Snuffer is some guy. That is it. A guy with an opinion. Some good opinions, and others not so good. If he saw Jesus, so what? Why does that take away or add to the validity or lack thereof from his opinion? Seeing Jesus makes someone have their second comforter experience. It doesn't make him a prophet. He's a dude with a soap box and a bunch of people that listen to him and treat his words as scripture. Shouldn't those people be thinking for themselves and treating his words with as much deference as they truly deserve? Why are told so much about how people at odds with the Church Authorities don't want to be told what to think. And what is the deference that Snuffer's words deserve? Wherever he has good points, then we can concede that they are good points. When his points are not so good or flat wrong, then we can speak our minds about that. We owe this man nothing. We owe him no more than we owe anyone else. And we especially owe him no title of "Prophet." He is no more a Samuel the Lamanite than anybody else that has a bone to pick with establishment Mormonism. The Lord has not raised him up to be the intellectual salvation of the Church. He has taken this upon himself. And it is his own responsibility. It is not the Lord's words that speak through him. He is just another guy.



A Ladysays:

April 15, 2012 at 2:47 pm

I agree with Anonymous. I have not felt comfortable with the way that Denver S. tries to manipulate my logic with his rhetoric. A classic, to paraphrase, is "Let's assume the Church lost it's authority...." etc. Well, that's a huge assumption, no documentation to speak of, if any it is weak. One whole chapter of his latest book seemed to footnote D. Michael Quinn exclusively. I exaggerate, because there were a few more, but lots of "ibids." The lack of scholarship (whose well he has already poisoned in earlier books) makes me stop reading and consider as fluff.



Mitchsays:

June 4, 2012 at 12:21 pm

Verifying whether a prophet is a "true prophet" or a "false prophet", is good. However, from my understanding, the ultimate goal of a "prophet" is not to bring people to him, but to help them gain their own connection with diety.

Even Moses took 70 men with him up the mountain so that they could be a witness of God and help them make their own progression to eventually talk with God personally. The D&C also mentions the steps so that EVERYONE can speak face to face with Jesus. Further LOS teachings show us that the ultimate goal is to become an individual King and Priest, Queen and Priestess. These positions communicate directly with God, and do not require a "prophet" or "profit" to translate your needs to God.



Blahsays:

February 12, 2012 at 10:51pm

Blah blah blah  
yada yada yada yada  
Ya gotta read the book  
Blah blah blah  
Yada yada yada



Knickletssays:

February 13, 2012 at 12:36 am

I listened to the complete interview. I appreciate both John D. and Denver. I love your name Denver. I like your view best of the 4 phases of Mormonism. You were very interesting and I liked your sense of humor and your calmness with the questions about the history of the church. I liked your compassion for those raised in the church who are blindsided by the historical information. May all things continue to work for you in your life.



Dinkerbell11 says:

February 13, 2012 at 12:41am

Seeing Jesus is a privilege open to all believers. Seeing Jesus does not make someone a prophet. If we believe Jesus' promise then we should seek for this experience.



Gunnerratsays:

February 14, 2012 at 9:46 pm

Seeing Jesus DOES make one a prophet. JS said no one can have a testimony of Jesus save by the spirit of prophecy.

Scar y, huh?

People often confuse the spiritual designation of prophet with the administrative office of church president. I suppose it's because they haven't experienced prophecy for themselves...



Lennoxsays :

March 14, 2012 at 1:59 pm

bogus argument. and indeed argumentative. so, the whore, mary, the priests, the soldiers. they are all prophets now? or records of how many people saw jesus are inaccurate? you spew and disent over words like "prophet" as if you were using some small sect inbred linguistic gymnastics usually referred to as Mormonism. how sad the word Jesusian has never ever ever been coined.



Mitchsays:

June 4, 2012 at 1:25 pm

Correct. Each of us is intitled to receive prophecy within our stewardship. And the definition of a prophet is to receive prophecy.



Robert Scottsays:

September 26, 2012 at 6:56 am

Yes Mitch right out of the Gospel Doctrine manual. And yet if God tells me something which is in opposition to the leaders of the LOS church then by their definition it was not God speaking. By making such axioms they set themselves up as infallible. Are we blind? Do we not know the history of Jesus Christ? If we applied the logic that anyone who speaks in opposition to the current 15 apostles is of Satan then we would have to apply it to Jesus who opposed the leaders of God's church in His day. And the leader of God's church in Jesus' day did apply that logic and refused to believe the truth. What will be the result in our day?



John Leesays:

February 13, 2012 at 2:29 am

Three cheers for getting Denver on your program. Fantastic, and incredible that you got him to come on your program. I've read Denver's books and follow his blog. He is a refreshing and amazing voice in Mormonism. He claims that his first book "The Second Comforter, Conversing with the Lord through the veil" was written as an assignment from the Lord, which he called a burden because he hates the public exposure. He speaks little of the experiences he has had, but from what he has revealed, it not only includes being taught by angels and by the Savior, but also witnessing in vision the atoning sacrifice of the Savior in the Garden of Gethsemane (an incredible in-depth description found in his book "Come Let us Adore Him) and a short sentence of being summoned to the Heavenly Council, where he heard unspeakable things; circles within circles were assembled, the Father being in the center of it all.

It may be that Denver becomes a polarizing figure in some circles of Mormonism. As your interview with him amply illustrated, he sees problems within the church, questions its method of dispensing its history, and laments that it has lost much of the church that Joseph established. This will ranker some Mormons who want to hold dear to the traditional view of the church and its fourth phase teachings and mantras as being from Joseph (I'm sure there are those who want to see him excommunicated for what he has said). But at the same time he prays for the leaders, acknowledges that they have a tuff job, testifies of the reality of God and the Book of Mormon, and is a defender of the restoration through Joseph Smith. His books have restored the faith of many once believing Mormons. I concur with the previous commenter McKay, Denver has put himself in the position of either being judged as a true messenger, or a false messenger. There isn't much middle ground with him. Interesting thing, most of his critics are those who haven't read his books.

Joesays:



February 13, 2012 at 1:17 pm

Every self-proclaimed messenger puts himself up to be judged as true or false. Just putting one's self out there with a grandiose claim doesn't automatically guarantee authenticity. The desire for a following always outweighs the emotional turmoil of criticism for these types. The difference between Denver and the usual type of claimant to his type of claim is that he is quite a good theologian. If he was merely putting forth a good theology, it would be one thing, The fact that he claims a "burden" from the Lord is no different than Alpheus Cutler, who admitted to his grandson that he was a fraud , which is well documented, and that he only had a desire to lead rather than be led.



CliffBsays:

February 13, 2012 at 10:21 am

Really enjoyed the interview! Thanks John & Denver! I read "The Second Comforter" in 2008 and it not only felt good to me, it helped confirm many identical or similar points I had already arrived at in my personal progression.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 10:59 am

Whatever Denver is, I wonder at the appropriateness of his sharing of his "Second Comforter" type experiences. In all I have read before, these people are under a strict command NOT to reveal such things. I don't doubt the "doctrine" that he puts forward that the Second Comforter is available to all, just by following the principles upon which it is based. My real question is, would the Savior seriously "call" somebody like this to preach that message and "assign" him to reveal his second comforter experience? If the Savior can't get his message through some other way, perhaps, I suppose. But this is another instance of "trickle-up revelation" if so. Is it because this is Denver's specific call, and the call of the Brethren is different? I have seen various people setting themselves up as a "light on a hill" before. One could conclude that this is what Denver is doing, and that it is convenient. My hesitency is not so much in accepting the doctrine put forth, but accepting Denver as the chosen "messenger" of the Lord in this thing.



Mikesays:

February 13, 2012 at 11:42 am

"In all I have read before, these people are under a strict command NOT to reveal such things:-  
Joe, that would mean we disregard Joe Smith and the N.T. apostles and O.T. prophets. Those that spread ideas like the one you heard, are typically ignorant of the scriptures and are covering for the lack of spiritual experience among the brethren.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 1:01 pm

Actually, it is a generally accepted principle in the Church going all the way back that messages originating from the Lord of this magnitude come through proper priesthood channels. Denver has no keys, so I question it on this basis. I have no reason to assume that Denver is anything more than another person seeking a following that has a grandiose claim. That doesn't mean that most of his doctrines that he preaches are implausible . He is certainly very intelligent and articulate . I think that my criticism of the propriety of what he is claiming is well based.



Anonymoussays :

February 13, 2012 at 1:07 pm

Joe - You need keys to see God or Christ? Really? Are we reading the same scriptures?



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 1:29 pm

John, are you actually reading the context of my messages? It is you that aren't paying attention to what i'm saying. I said that Denver's general theology is not in question. His claim of a burden from the Lord of being the chosen messenger to deliver this message is in question. Of course his theology on the second comforter being available to all is solid. Which makes it sound all the more plausible. It doesn't matter if Denver or anyone else actually has had these types of experiences from the standpoint that the Lord would never give someone a call like Denver is claiming , It goes against every good principle of priesthood authority. Second Comforter experiences are not to give someone a call to give some message independent of priesthood keys.

Stevesays:



February 14, 2012 at 12:03 pm

Denver says that he was commanded to do so and he did so reluctantly. I don't see a problem with sharing an experience, particularly if you were commanded to do so. Is there a scripture which would prohibit a plain member from doing so? I can't recall one offhand.



Gunnerratsays :

February 14, 2012 at 10:04 pm

"It doesn't matter if Denver or anyone else actually has had these types of experiences from the standpoint that the Lord would never give someone a call like Denver is claiming."

Huh? The scriptures show us different. Samuel the Lamanite held no keys over the people he was commanded to preach to, except he had authority because the Lord specifically gave it. Samuel sought no following amongst the Nephites - only to deliver the message he was given. The Nephites were reluctant to acknowledge Samuel's calling, but that changed nothing. The Lord made it clear Samuel was legit.

Once you understand that, people like Bro. Snuffer are more easily understood. You can argue whether or not you believe he was given this calling, but to say that the Lord would never do something like that is rather... unfounded



Mitchsays:

June 4, 2012 at 12:53 pm

KEYS? There are many keys, and many missions. Keys are just the authority to do your mission. I do not know what Keys Denver does or doesn't have. The best question is, "What is this 'burden' or 'mission' that he has? Then, was he given anything to assist him to do it? Then how or in what manner was this authority (keys) given to him?"



anonsays:

July 4, 2012 at 8:54 am

Personally, I am on the fence about this guy, HOWEVER, in reference to the comments about having KEYS to perform what God has commanded, I would imagine if God himself were directing you to do something it would be a small thing to have the Keys given to you by Him.

Who are we to say that we know this person does not have the commandment and keys given him? Just because something is unorthodox does not make it false. In fact the most directive help we have received has all come from yet unexperienced places- Joseph Smith, Moses and Jesus Himself to name a few. Think of their stories! REALLY REALLY out there concepts meant to change an entire people to return to God!

I do not know if Denver Snuffer is called of God or not. I read his books with a prayer to see truth from error and most of the things he talks about have really truly helped me progress my relationship with God further. Just like any other man speaking about any other subject, you take some and you leave some according to what the spirit directs.



KCsays :

February 13, 2012 at 2:12 pm

I love it that he has the chutzpa to actually say he has seen Jesus and angels. How often we hear our prophets and apostles give the impression they talk with Jesus but don't actually say it by using the standby "these experiences are so sacred to share". Why? If you have seen him tell us. Liked the four phases of the church stuff, interesting. However, Denver never seemed to answer questions directly but waxed on and on about this and that. Funny, John kept asking for 30 second answer to a question and Denver would go on for 5 minutes. Guess it's the lawyer in him. I hear people of other religious traditions openly speak of seeing or having experiences with their Gods or religious icons, so it's refreshing to see a Mormon openly speak of similar experiences and not hiding behind "it's so sacred to share". Church is so boring now. The days of visions and speaking in tongues would have been so much more interesting. We're a long way removed from the days of Joseph. Never heard of Denver before this podcast, he's an interesting guy. But I've noticed a pattern with apologists. When asked about thorny church history, why can't they give short straightforward answers. They seem to labor and wax on and on to try to explain the problems away. If it takes a book to explain why these problems are not really problems, maybe they really are a problem. Wished John would

have pressed a little more such as when Denver talked about Mother Teresa as an example of someone deserving of heaven , but does Denver think she needs to be baptized and receive Mormon temple ordinances first?



Denver Snuffer says:

February 13, 2012 at 2:31pm

In Come, Let Us Adore Him I discuss the event involving ten lepers. Once they were cleansed, Christ told them to go show themselves to the priest. This was a perfectly conforming and strictly orthodox instruction. It shows the Lord's respect to the established ordinances. The priest had an offering to provide under the law to the Lord on behalf of the cleaned leper.

But one of the ten deviated. One of them saw in Christ the "true priest." Instead of going to the established Temple, and there offering a sacrifice to the institutional established faith through the authorized priestly authorities , this leper instead returned to the Lord. He fell at His feet. He thanked the "true priest" who was able to pronounce him clean indeed.

Christ then told the man to go his way and that he was clean. Instead of dealing through the intermediaries , he went to the Lord. The Lord acknowledged his recognition and his gratitude and delivered to him what the institutional organization then in place could only offer through symbolism and ritual.

I've written repeatedly that the ordinances are "not the real thing" they are "merely symbols of the real thing." I've illustrated the difference in that encounter between the Lord and the ten lepers. The point is that when the Lord Himself undertakes to pronounce a person to be clean before Him, then such a person is clean indeed. It does not take anything apart from His word. If He does it, it is done. This is the message of D&C 1: 38 and this is the message of consistent scriptural statements affirming that Christ is the Judge of all mankind. Christ's judgment is what is sovereign.



AFriendsays:

February 14, 2012 at 2:15 pm

So if Christ says you are clean do you still need the ordinances?



Gunnerratsays:

February 14, 2012 at 10:12 pm

LOL! He just explained it to you and you didn't get it!

Oh well, something for contemplation during sacrament.



CliffBsays :

February 14, 2012 at 3:17 pm

I have said this exact thing myself about the ordinances. There is the exoteric action, and the esoteric fulfillment. Rarely do the two ever occur simultaneously.

...and I love the irony that is the Second Anointing!



stevesays:

November 16, 2012 at 8:33 am

For one to claim that they had an experience is absolutely different than to share the experience itself.

I've read Denver's books (which is more than many of his critics can honestly claim) and I have learned no more of the sacred details of his experiences beyond the claim that he has had them.

Does saying one has been to the temple, having witnessed the sacred rites within mean that person has also divulged the sacred details of those rites?

No. It does not.



GodismyCompassays:

February 14, 2012 at 1:13 pm

When I saw Jesus and the father they never told me not to tell anyone. But some of the things they told me I was commanded not to share...



Mitchsays:

June 4, 2012 at 12:39 pm

This is the correct understanding . Sharing spiritual experiences is not a "sin". However, it is sacred and should not be shared with everybody. Joseph Smith shared his story with many people and was not under condemnation. I have studied many After Life experiences. Many of these talked with Christ and shared their conversations with him- even published them. (See Embraced by the Light, Return from tomorrow, and many other books.) Many of my best friends have had this experience. They will share, in private , many of the things that were said with Christ, and I will share with others my experiences, **IF THE SPIRIT IS** correct and **ONLY** in private. However, like yourself, many of the things that we receive in these meetings we are commanded NOT to share.



Gunnerratsays:

February 14, 2012 at 9:55 pm

To answer your question, the answer is YES.

I had an experience where a Stake Pres. revealed to a group of us youngsters his experience. It was very spiritual . The idea that God keeps everything secret is misunderstood . He does n't tell us to keep certain things to ourselves because it's inherently secret, but because others aren't ready to hear it. He desires to tell ALL of us everything, but we're just not ready and it would do us more harm than good to tell us. So only the ones that are ready get the cool stuff.

The Lord works in mysterious ways - His ways are not our ways. We need to remember that. Too often we box the Lord in just because it's easier to keep a simpler worldview than to open up and try to understand.



Lennoxsays :

March 14, 2012 at 1:47 pm

Your answer is YES. Clinically, you are prepared to hear that you should pursue medication as a precursor to steadying your mind and obtaining psychosocial stability in preparation to re-address your "need" to believe others rather than growing humanly. You are not prepared to hear more. Sorry.



Lennoxsays :

March 14, 2012 at 1:54 pm

How is it Joe, that if anyone has ever had a "second comforter" experience, and "all...are under a strict command NOT to reveal such things", that you have ever read any thing at ALL about it? ha ha ha. a bunch of people in here need meds.



Anonymoussays:

February 13, 2012 at 12:40 pm

It would be interesting to compare visions of Christ that are experienced by Mormons with the visions of Christ that are experienced by members of other faiths. There is a large literature about such visions, especially in Catholicism.



CliffBsays:

February 13, 2012 at 1:29 pm

I find it interesting that whatever entity the religious tradition prepares it's adherents to expect, seems to be the most common received. So in Mormonism , it's first the Holy Ghost and then the Savior. I think it must be the Virgin Mother in Catholicism, since those appearances seem to be far and away the most common.



Erinsays:

February 13, 2012 at 1:24 pm

I was hoping this interview would get more into Denver's experiences and how we too could have those similar experiences. I did read his book and as I recall the premise was the old fashioned , read your scriptures, pray, sustain the leaders of the church (that was very specific) , be humble. He also talks about going through darkness and a heart breaking experience. I have done all of the above, and still have not come close to visits of any sort. I don't know

whether it is important to be a member of the church or not, I don't know. This past year my husband came out that he doesn't believe the church is true, everything that followed was hell. Still Denver sounds convinced that he's had these spiritual experiences. I don't really know what to believe anymore.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 1:35 pm

Erin ,

The key is that you specifically 'ask' the Lord for a Second Comforter experience, and continue doing what you are asked to do in the Church. Then you wait. Then it comes in the Lord 's own due time. You don't create an artificial expectation that it will happen immediately. It is a test of patience and endurance usually. And just a pointer that I would like to add. The more you attend the temple, the greater the chance that it will happen , because you are putting yourself in the place where it is likely to happen, where the Savior usually is.



Erinsays:

February 13, 2012 at 1:46 pm

also...Denver says 'do your best to follow the instruction God has given you'. When one is relying on what he thinks the Lord has told him it can be grossly misconstrued, radical extremist groups are a fine example



Denver Snuffer says:

February 13, 2012 at 1:32 pm

John asked me to check in from time to time and respond to comments. I'll take a stab at addressing some of what has been put up so far:

First , it should be clear I from the interview that I was approached to do this and did not ask to be on the show. I really do dislike the process and realize there is almost always controversy rather than dispassionate and reasonable discourse when it comes to religion generally and the LOS faith specifically. Therefore I expect to endure some criticism , but would appreciate the courtesy of recognizing that I'm reluctant to be front and center in this arena .

Second, I did nothing to promote myself in this process. I consented to the interview, and when John asked me about how to promote my books I told him I wasn't interested in doing so. I told him that I'm not doing this to make money, and therefore didn't care if anything I'd written got mentioned, apart from the course of conversation.

Third, you can read everything I've written and you'll find I am almost entirely absent from them. The vignettes in The Second Comforter which refer to personal conduct almost invariably discuss mistakes I made, errors I fell into, and problems I had in my life. Then the chapter which follows explains to the reader how they can get it right.

Fourth , my personal experiences have never been disclosed, apart of to my wife. In The Second Comforter there are nine words merely affirming the Lord did minister to me. But that is not betraying a confidence, it is bearing testimony.

With those clarifications, the reference to the strict command to not impart is taken from Alma, and is in the context of certain "mysteries of God" and not the portion of Gospel of Jesus Christ involving testifying of Him, as I have done. So far as I know there are no "mysteries" ever discussed in anything I've written apart from the same kind of mention you would hear/do hear in General Conferences or in the writings of Elder Talmadge or Pres. Packer.

I'll try and respond, as John requested, but since I work for a living , I can only check back on this intermittently.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 1:50 pm

Denver, my criticism of you is not that I question the solidness of your theology. If you had merely published a theological book on the subject without making your claims, then it would be one thing. It is common knowledge among people who are in the know about second comforter experiences is that it is precisely as you say, that it is available to all. The point I am making is, I seriously doubt that you actually have had a call from the Lord to deliver a message, because that is out of order. If you actually have had experiences, where you were given a call, I question the nature of that experience as to its source. As I said previously, if you were merely putting forth the theology that you promote, it would be one thing, because the theology is generally solid. But your styling this whole thing as your reluctance to do what you are doing is convenient, as are all of your claims. The part of your theology that I specifically disagree with is that you seem to have no regard for keys of the priesthood being necessary to be this kind of a messenger as you claim you are. To me that is very telling.

Denver Snuff ersays:

February 13, 2012 at 2:01 pm



When you use the word "calling" you are interjecting a term I would not accept. If you change that nomenclature to "testify" or "bear testimony" then I would ask: Why is it inappropriate for someone to bear their testimony?

I do not pretend to have any authority in the church, over anyone else, or to want a following. I've consistently suggested it would be wrong to follow me. I have no church, no organization existing or planned, and have no interest in ever starting one. I am LOS. That is where I pay tithing, receive ordinances, and practice my faith. The fact my testimony is in writing is perhaps offensive to some, but I am not the only one who has put their testimony in writing. That is something which began with the first generation of the church and continues to the present.

I do not believe anyone has an obligation to receive a "calling" to be able to bear testimony of the Lord.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 3:19 pm

now you are a lawyer splitting hairs over semantics. Did you or did you not have a "burden" given to you by Jesus Christ that you must bear testimony of a certain thing?



Denver Snuffer says:

February 13, 2012 at 3:27 pm

Much as the LOS Church sponsored blog inviting testimonies from faithful Mormons, I too was moved to testify of the Lord.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 3:29 pm

So, you felt it appropriate to share publically your second comforter experience to "bear testimony" ?



Denver Snuffer says:

February 13, 2012 at 3:43 pm

I've stated only that He ministered to me. That is my testimony. That belongs to the public as an affirmation of my faith in Him. If you think you can read my "Second Comforter experience" you will be disappointed. I teach the doctrine, expound the scriptures, quote from Joseph Smith, and affirm it to be true doctrine.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 3:54 pm

Well, say about it what you wish. I think that the appropriateness to regular LOS people of bearing testimony of something of that nature is pretty self-evident. I don't know why you needed to do that to make your point, other than to set yourself up as an icon that people would follow. I think that is self-evident. I question the necessity, and I think that it automatically creates an air of pseudo-authoritative-ness to your claims, that ends up giving you rock-star status. Nobody is bound by anything to accept your testimony but you about your claims. I have no other particular disagreements with the general points of your theology. Its pretty clear that I have made my point, and you have made your defense. I don't know what else can be said.



JulesGPSays :

February 13, 2012 at 4:15 pm

Funny, that's not how they felt in the early days of the church.... you can read all kinds of public history about those receiving their Second Comforter. Seems it's become taboo because people don't WANT to hear it anymore, not due to any charge from the Lord.



Vaughnsays:

February 13, 2012 at 7:55 pm

Denver also says that. just like Moroni states in the Book of Mormon, why not ask God? If you have any doubts about whether or not Denver's book/testimony is of God (or appropriate to share), why not ask Him? I believe Denver, not because of his "rock star" status, but because the Spirit has witnessed to me consistently as I

have read his work...including his testimony. I believe Denver states that if you don't get a witness of the Spirit, then you should leave what he has written aside. Did you happen to hear Elder Uchtdorf's talk in the Worldwide Leadership broadcast on Saturday? Even he stated that sometimes our preconceived "knowledge" of doctrine can keep us from obtaining important truths (i.e. maybe sometimes our understanding on a particular topic isn't as solid as we think it is). Just maybe it'd help to take a step back and ask if it is OK to testify of such things today.



Anonymoussays :

February 13, 2012 at 4:14 pm

I think the answer to this question is pretty obvious...Joe. With all due respect.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 4:24 pm

Really? With all due respect to all of you, I think the answer is pretty obvious too.



Cathode Ray Missionsays:

February 13, 2012 at 5:52 pm

If you can denounce the messenger out of hand, as Joe seems to be attempting here, the case against miracles and their possibility takes on its own dogmatic cachet.

Which myth do you choose? The one where Mr. Snuffer is an authority to be followed? Or the myth that he has actually subverted some line of authority by putting his views in print?

The core point of the books in question stands above all of this useless beating around the bush: We CAN commune with God, and He is courting us to make the attempt.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 5:58 pm

Denounce the messenger? Excuse me? I have been denouncing the abuse of trust placed on someone that has no right to reveal sacred information.



Cathode Ray Missionsays:

February 13, 2012 at 6:07 pm

You haven't even specified what that information is. Nor has Mr. Snuffer.



AFriendsays:

February 14, 2012 at 3:33 pm

An additional thought Joe.

As I read Denver's book I was impressed throughout that although the doctrine sounded good, it was useless unless someone could say that they really have walked the walk.

When I read Denver's testimony I did not feel or perceive it to be someone setting themselves up as an icon, but rather as a necessary testimony to confirm the veracity of what had been written.

That seems to be the nature of a testimony .

Additionally I think the splitting hairs is done by those who choose to make the debate about his testimony.

The testimony is just confirming the doctrine. Therefore if you agree with the doctrine as you say you do then the confirming testimony should be nothing more than just that.

If you feel the need to debate I believe it can not be about a testimony because you can't debate that. You can however argue with the doctrine being taught.

If you accept that the doctrine that Denver is submitting forth in his book is true, then his testimony is just a confirmation of that.



Anonymoussays :

February 14, 2012 at 8:39 am

You are quite full of yourself, aren't you? I don't get why you feel threatened by what Denver has to say and feel you must rush to the defense of priesthood line of authority. Odd.



Jonahsays:

February 13, 2012 at 5:40 pm

Denver,

Can't figure out why I'm the only one asking this, but it needs to be asked:

There are a whole slew of people out there who do not believe you literally saw Jesus Christ, Buddha, a weeping Mother Mary, a UFO, or whatever. Imagine you're talking to a major news anchor. They most likely doubt your claims and think that if you saw anything, it was in a dream while you were sleeping (or that you're schizophrenic), and further, that you intentionally use vague and obscure language to hide the fact that your mind produced your experiences, nothing more. Do you disagree? If so, please define the meaning of your term, "caught up." How is "caught up" different than a dream or an imaginative production of your own mind?



chebsays:

February 15, 2012 at 12:02 am

As I've read the last few posts I felt the spirit of the discussion digressing into the realm of contention. Let's keep our comments respectful. Also I thought it might be helpful to include this scripture as part of the conversation (Luke 20). In this chapter men tried to get Christ to make a succinct, once-and-for-all statement about His authority, something He was unwilling to do because it would undermine both their faith and their determination to go to God for the answer they sought. Why do we always want someone to spell out everything for us in easy to understand, well-defined, statements of fact? Because it is much easier than the alternative, which is going to God for answers. That is how our history seems to have become so hard to follow. We asked for a seamless narrative and it was given to us. The verses from Luke 20 follow:

"2 And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?

3 And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me: 4 The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? 5 And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him no? 6 But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us: for they be persuaded that John was a prophet. 7 And they answered, that they could not tell whence it was. 8 And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things: Denver's claims have to be taken with a healthy dose of prayer and study. No one is being asked to believe anything he writes unless the Spirit affirms it. He has said that all along. I think that someone who will prayerfully consider what he is saying and what the scriptures and Joseph have to say about it will find that it is very clear what he is talking about. Good luck in your searching everyone!



Bradsays:

February 13, 2012 at 1:32 pm

[disclaimer: I haven't listened to both hours of this interview yet]

I am generally sympathetic with Snuffer's overall project here, but he completely lost me when he started talking about the need to get back to the ancient church (animal sacrifice? really?).

John, it seemed like you were wanting to push him toward a place where I would be much more comfortable. The idea that Joseph Smith (and the Buddha and Mohamed and Jesus and insert your own favorite philosopher/religious leader here) had a genuine experience with something larger than himself and subsequently got into trouble by elaborating on that experience in creative ways.

I ran into a poem recently that says this better than I can:

we have shaved our books down

swallowed them

so that the word of God

might flow through us

but the pages just sit in our bellies

speaking to us in dull murmurs as we sleep

we wonder what to do

make me understand

we wish to become one with our Lord

we hear the voices and think we know what they say

this

is the word of God

i hear this i heard this correctly

so we rise and try to translate this word

with the work

with the heart

...

but our ears are too small

for our hearts to understand the humming of these sentences inside of us

...

it does not sing what you wish it did

it is too big for us to see a letter of it  
so do not even try

[I've clipped only portions of the poem – you should go and listen to the whole thing read by the author, Anis Mojgani, here: <http://rattle.com/blog/2009/04/the-branches-are-full-and-these-orchards-heavy-by-anis-mojgani/>]

Sometimes I feel like Joseph was trying too hard



Bradsays :

February 13, 2012 at 1:42 pm

The link doesn't seem like it is working:

<http://rattle.com/blog/2009/04/the-branches-are-full-and-these-orchards-heavy-by-anis-mojgani/>

I should also mention that the original poem has a very small amount of pretty strong language



Denver Snuffer says :

February 13, 2012 at 1:47 pm

I read Erin's comment above and thought I'd put something into perspective. There is a little book I wrote titled Ten Parables. They are ten, original parables which could be read in about an hour-and-a-half. They focus on the principles of enlightenment, and are deliberately cross-fertilized by ideas from other non-Christian faiths. Those familiar with other faiths will recognize more than those who are not. In any event, in the Tenth Parable there is a gap between the moment when the angels bring the couple to the attention of the Lord and He directs the steps to be taken to preserve the couple. That begins an eighteen year process. The Lord and His ministers were busy throughout, but the life experiences of the main character were necessary to unfold in perfectly natural ways. That takes time. The Lord is not in the same kind of hurry we tend to be in; far from it. All the parables deal with the kind of gradual movement, incremental development and natural progression which we all experience.

The closest thing I've written to an encounter with God can be found in Ten Parables. My testimony of the Lord can be read in Come, Let Us Adore Him. So far as I know none of these books are advertised, and none of them are carried by Deseret Book. If anyone is interested in them they will have to go to the trouble of finding and reading them without the convenience of easy availability. Amazon purchased the book printer the month the first book came into print, and therefore Amazon has always carried them. But I had no idea we would have them on Amazon when they first came out.

I've also discovered there are sufficient words found in existing scripture to allow me to explain anything I need to explain, without needing to resort to developing something new. It's all there. Perhaps not as clear as we would like it, but the scriptures are able to teach us or equip us with the vocabulary to discuss whatever we need to discuss.



Anonymoussays:

February 13, 2012 at 2:39 pm

Denver seems to want to advocate a Christocentric hermeneutic (good), yet while willfully abandoning other discipline of grappling with the historio-cultural worldview of Jesus as the culmination of the Law, the tabernacle, the sacrificial system, the priesthood, the new adam, the ikon of the invisible God, etc., while IN THE SAME BREATH saying that the LOS "Restored Church" is the most New Testament church in existence. He doesn't deal in any persuasive way to me that he has a command and esteem of the content of the historio-cultural apostolic and evangelistic witness of the New Testament. It seems to me he is denying the manuscript narrative witness of the role of Jesus while advocating a reinterpreted role of Jesus resting more primarily on his esteem of the creative work of a non-Rigdon Joseph and his (Denver's) supposed own personal spiritual revelations. Sounds suspiciously too much to me like a Galatians kind of problem warned about for we who desire to be followers of Jesus.

Denver is fascinating to listen to, but I'm very suspicious of his trustworthiness as truth-teller.



Denver Snuffer says:

February 13, 2012 at 2:54 pm

Those kind of sweeping conclusions based upon the limited range of the discussion are a bit enthusiastic. The interview was not an attempt to restate the approximate million words I've written about my views or my faith in Christ, nor to attempt to clarify the centrality of the Lord in all of history.

The faith established in the beginning, with Adam, is the faith which will return. We are walking back to that point of origin. Christ fulfilled the entirety of it, including the sacrifices offered by Adam in the similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten.

Christ was the fulfillment, not merely the culmination, of the law of Moses. But beyond that He is the cosmic actor whose original faith began long before Moses, and is echoed in all faiths, no matter how distant they may have grown from their origin in Him.

But, then again, He has given to every people a portion of His word which in His wisdom He has concluded would be adequate for them.

Christ is not confined by the historio-cultural apostolic and evangelistic witness of the New Testament alone. His ministry transcends that, though it also is testified of through it.



Anonymoussays :

February 13, 2012 at 3:48 pm

I mean you no ill-will, Denver. I disagree there is an "ancient faith" to which we yet must return other than what Hebrews, for example, says well: by faith Abel and Abraham were friends of God, and by which their sacrifices were made meaningful. It is by faith that we walk now, by Christ we are reconciled, made new creations, can approach the throne of grace with boldness, and brought into the family of God with the hope of joint-heirship and an ultimate redemption of creation.

I don't see anything flow from a Christocentric hermeneutic on the Tanakh and New Testament, including even the context it sheds on apocryphal and pseudepigraphal writing for raising strong need for recontextualizing a "more ancient" view of Jesus than the New Testament by drawing more on "transcendent" or "deliberately cross-fertilized...ideas from other non-Christian faiths" without having the most powerful witness come across that you have a greater respect and command of the New Testament apostolic witness to the role of the Lord. Perhaps you deal with a greater sensitivity to hermeneutics and dealing with historic evidences within the arguments of your "million words" worth of books than seemed to come through to me in John's interview. I know it may seem sweeping for to be dismissive, yet I don't see where it is meaningful to invest that time unless I am persuaded you are a potential trustworthy witness by virtue of you appearing to have a deep respect and command of the primary witness of Jesus we have been entrusted via the immense manuscript and historical evidence of the New Testament rather than primarily works of Joseph. What seems to me is you are more primarily advocating your own self-cooked fusion of Mormonism and a gnostic-like Christology.



Denver Snuffer says:

February 13, 2012 at 4:22 pm

With all due respect, Peter would not even have understood your question. The simple men who wrote the New Testament were who they were because they met with and were redeemed by Jesus Christ.

The people who met with the risen Lord both in Palestine and in the Land of Bountiful were not capable of parsing the theological arguments advanced by post-cannonical scholars, from whom you borrow your approach and which you find so convincing.

The witnesses of Christ were, almost without exception, simple men and women. Even in the case of Paul, he preferred tent-making in his post-encounter life as his livelihood, returning to simplicity and clarity. Their message contains profound meaning, to be sure, but they convey it in the language of everyman, not in the vocabulary of the scholar.

Jesus means many things. Most of all He means that the death which came from Adam has ended through His triumph. He intends to share that triumph. For the most part, He has made His witnesses from among the simple and the faithful, whose testimonies are informed by meeting Him. He defined life eternal as knowing both Him and His Father who sent Him.

Scholarship has its limits. As I've pointed out in Eighteen Verses, the world of the scholar rarely produces an audience with the Lord. He appears in Temples upper rooms, on the Road to Emmaus, and in a grove of trees; but so far as we have any record, He has not appeared in a library. Nor has His message been difficult to expound.

I have a great appreciation for historic evidences pointing to His fulfillment of all that was foretold. But whether Mary fully understood the theological context of His resurrection or not, the one thing we are assured is that He appeared to her, and His presence comforted her in the profound sense of loss she suffered while standing at the foot of the cross the Friday before. (Or Wednesday, depending upon which chronology you think best reconstructs the events.) He is a deeply personal, very intimate Lord.

I've never impressed Him with anything I've said or done. I have, however, been sufficiently broken hearted that He was willing to condescend and comfort me. For that I am grateful; and I am not in the least bit of the view that makes me anything other than the object of Divine pity.

I apprehend the gulf between me and Him. He is indeed worthy of study. I acknowledge that I am certainly not. But I do add my affirmation of His reality, of His existence and of His great love. That matters. I do not.



Anonymoussays :

Februar y 13, 2012 at 5:08 pm

Thanks for your reply. I wish I had seen more of this kind of content come out in the interview.

As personal as the Lord is, and as much as narrative is a driving element of the encounter we have of those who gave apostolic witness, I wouldn't go so far as to merely dismiss Peter and Paul of not being able to grapple with the theological significance of these issues, especially where the church was fragmented from its inception. Their non-pseudepigraphal epistles are still very substantial in the clarity of the good news they declare of the King ascended and anointed on his throne. In the case of Paul his self-authored epistles predate all of the written gospels (though certainly oral communication predates the Gospels) and they (esp. Romans) are very theologically dense as they argue for salvation by declared faith.

By the late first century we see strong evidence for strongly contested structure in belief as well as an effort at unity in practice and organization. (The Didache is very informative in this regard as to their challenges; and the Gospels give us insight into the nuances of their cultural community division as well as those things upon which there was unity.)

If you look at the weight of Scripture placed upon driving Luther's spiritual experience and willingness to protest for reform you see a life where Jesus met him in the "library" as much as on the road to Emmaus. That's a red herring to dismiss the insight born of study and witness via the written Word and only to advocate for individual revelation - if that is what you are doing. Despite his

intense spiritual conversion, as he so described it, Luther made his arguments by appealing to Scripture, in the spirit of the Bereans, not on special and unique authority that came from personal revelation. Very different than Joseph Smith.

Yes there was a grapple with the mysterious in the early apostolic encounter with Jesus, and who Messiah really is and what it meant for their worldview and those cultures to whom they ministered. But there was also a contending for the faith so that, as Ephesians says, we may come to a unity.

Joseph Smith is very difficult to parse his authentic from deviant significance, especially, as you say, when you see influence from men like Rigdon. Regardless, lest we make the errors against which Paul, Peter, Jude and others strongly warned, we must strive for unity, gospel clarity- and evidence reveals a Joseph much more of doctrinal creative bent than a historical restorationist.

If Joseph represents a unique, authoritative revelatory and "restorative" force, as Mormonism asserts, then the burden of proof for deviations from the historical body of faith certainly rests with him, and must certainly be undertaken with far more gravity than to say in essence, "Well, Mary had a profound mystical experience around which she did not imbue it with the theological weight at the time the same we do today therefore Joseph's unique faith claims get to take a pass despite their evolution in form and content to become further and further theologically outside what historical evidence for the New Testament would support as "restoration".



Elizabeth says:

February 13, 2012 at 3:26 pm

Loved this podcast and was thrilled to discover it. I've read 4 or 5 of Denver Snuffer's books. They all point to Christ, they all lead me to greater obedience and faith. I appreciate so much his willingness to testify and to teach gospel truths. I have benefited greatly.



Pondering says:

February 13, 2012 at 3:59 pm

I've read everything that Brother Snuffer has written, and I am grateful for all of it. Although some of his ideas are things that I've had to pray about in order to understand further, everything he writes always points back to Christ. My life has certainly changed for the better since I've read his books. And by their fruits shall ye know them.... no?



Ashley says:

February 13, 2012 at 4:07 pm

I find all of the rampant presumptions made about Mr. Snuffer somewhat disheartening. I don't know why people are focusing so much on Denver when he is just a person of no consequence. He is not what is important. Don't worry about the messenger. He is not doing anything wrong here. He is proclaiming his witness of Christ and declaring his testimony with boldness. Furthermore I have found that about 99 percent of people who get so focused on him and convinced he is some heathen apostate trying to set himself up as a light are the very people who have put no effort forth to read his books and let those words sink in and stand for themselves. The same people who have not taken these things to the Lord. Don't be blinded by fear. Just trust in the Lord and you will not be deceived. If you want to know whether his message be true or if he is a liar go and ask the Lord in sincerity. That's not just the process we use for praying about the validity of the book of mormon or the of Joseph Smith or whether the LDS church is the Lords. It is the process by which we should test every message.

The Pharisees were blinded by pride and fear and their hearts were too hard to listen to Christ himself because he seemed to be no one of consequence in his day. They felt they already knew everything and had no need to be taught. So they got exactly the amount of light and truth they wanted.

I am certainly not using this comparison to place Mr. Snuffer in the same arena as Christ so please don't misunderstand. My point is that the process by discerning all truth and discerning whether any message comes from God is the SAME. Read and ponder on his words and let them sink in and pray with earnest hearts and you will find what you need to know. All this fuss over Denver is just taking your eyes off of what is most important. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Every message he has ever written has only ever caused me to search and pray and seek Christ with more fervor and diligence. He points us to the one who can save. So what if he has a different view of church history than you. Is that not allowed? You must not confuse his opinions on history with his testimony of Christ.

Sometimes I really thank God I started out as a convert because I don't buy into the idea that God can only communicate with sustained leaders and they he can't use his other children for His purposes. I had many experiences before I ever found the church. I know through experience for myself he is no respecter of persons and will give answers and manifestations to all who seek humbly with a broken heart and a contrite spirit with faith that He will do

so. I have confidence in my own ability to receive revelation because that is how my whole journey started out. I had no one to rely on but the Lord and how and where he led me. I thank God for it. It's been a blessing to me. I can tell you first hand that Priesthood Authority has a purpose but God will not deny someone access to Him without having it conferred upon them by men. I felt the Holy Ghost many times before ever being baptized. I experienced things before I ever stepped foot in the church that were of greater consequence than some things I have experienced since then.

I am amazed at how quickly people are willing to yell false prophet or apostate to those who are only trying to share their testimonies and teach what they have been taught. I have received an answer that Denver has experienced what he says he has and I have heard the Shepherds voice piercing my soul when I am reminded of these essential Gospel truths he has tried to remind us about. Christ is the message and that is what matters. I would advise all to do what Alma says and experiment upon the words of Christ. Everything he discusses in the second comforter comes from the scriptures. Lay your criticisms of his view on church history aside and try to focus on what is most important. Denver himself should not be the focus and each of you who are talking all about him are the ones making things about him when it shouldn't be. Don't attack the messenger. Experiment upon the message. I am surprised he agreed to do the interview because he never does these. I am so glad he did and I hope he won't be deterred from doing so in the future. I will accept truth from whatever source it may come. Whether its a leader sustained in the church or my next door non member neighbor if it so be that the message comes from Christ.



Anonymoussays :

February 13, 2012 at 5:20 pm

Paul praised the Bereans who didn't take his word for it, but searched for scriptural evidence for the good news preached of Christ raised to ascendancy. Before I take Denver's word about his personal revelation on Christ, particularly where it is used to argue for an authentic core to what Joseph Smith inaugurated, then I am going to weigh seriously the evidence within history and biblical scripture that I am persuaded testify against Joseph's trustworthiness. Lots of New Testament scripture argues for such sober skepticism where it raises any concern for teachings of false prophets or coming of false Christs. I'm not saying that Denver is necessarily preaching a false Christ or encountered false angels only that I think his motives are called into question by virtue of his championing of Joseph's works alongside his experiences.



Gatechrballsays:

February 13, 2012 at 4:25 pm

I've read all of Denver's books. My TB wife thinks he's kind of out there, but she has enjoyed the change it has brought out in me. After reading his Tenth Parable, our marriage is better than it has ever been.

I'm not really concerned about Denver's experiences other than it's reassuring to now it's possible for me.

The ideas presented in his books are worth considering. I've taken the challenge that whoever does what he has written about will know the truthfulness of the doctrine or whether Denver's speaks for himself.

So far, the fruits have been good.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 4:32 pm

I didn't say he is a false prophet. I said that the public exposition of one's second comforter experience in order to say that one "knows what one is talking about" is not kosher, and the effects are obvious. It doesn't mean that his second comforter experience is a lie. It is interesting that the author ends up saying that he is "just the messenger" in his presentation, putting on his display of humility. It's the exact kind of thing where people come back with near death experiences, and suddenly they have claims of what will happen in the future, and everybody has them on their radio shows. And those people saw Jesus, and feel compelled to tell everybody how he is pure love.



Cathode Ray Missionsays:

February 13, 2012 at 5:32 pm

Saying the experience happened and sharing mysteries are two different things. I don't see any of Mr. Snuffer's specifics or any of God's mysteries being commodified into chocolate bars. He's simply asserting that all can "knock" as Smith did. So I think your accusation of "public exposition of one's second comforter experience" is untenable.



John Leesays:

February 13, 2012 at 5:33 pm

Joe,

It would be helpful if you read Denver's books, then you can make an informed judgment. Many active

sincere LOS people have done so and they have mostly come away believing in his message. I'm not sure where you have read before that people are under a strict command NOT to reveal such things. Who said that? How would anybody be able to make that claim unless they had received the Second Comforter for themselves and He told them "ANYONE who receives the Second Comforter cannot talk about these things" However if someone was told this, they wouldn't even be allowed to tell anyone because the be breaking the commandment the Lord gave him not to declare these things. Those who say these things, whoever they are, haven't themselves received the Second Comforter. A bit ironic that they would have the audacity to speak in the name of the Lord about it. The scriptures are full of those who have received the Second Comforter. Think of Lehi, Nephi, Enos, Alma, the Brother of Jared and others. Who other than Christ gave them the go-ahead to write the record and testify of such? Certainly not an institutional church. Why do you hold so strongly that someone other than God must give permission. There is no precedent in what you are saying. The church needs greater faith among its members that spiritual manifestations are truly happening among the members. We can't hide behind "people can't talk about it" to rationalize why these things aren't happening among us.



Joesays :

February 13, 2012 at 5:51 pm

There are plenty of accounts where people were strictly told by church authorities not to reveal that they had received the second anointing.

In case it isn't already clear to you, my beef is about fact that Denver chose to reveal sacred information, and the effect it has on his audience. I'm already a "believer" in the "facts" he presents, as far as that goes. I never disagreed with the fundamentals of Denver's theology. You are yet another person that didn't read what I was saying close enough, and have chosen to react emotionally because you are a follower of Brother Snuffer.



Joesays :

February 13, 2012 at 5:55 pm

Oh also, Denver is no prophet, and he is not writing scripture. It is not the duty or the prerogative of regular members of the Church to set themselves up as an authority by relating these types of experiences. That is an abuse of a trust if the Lord has revealed himself to someone. It is the same principle as revealing one's new name, or revealing one's patriarchal blessing to the world.



John Leesays:

February 13, 2012 at 7:39 pm

Interesting you say you have read Snuffer's books. If so you would know he has had several communications with the Lord. Wouldn't you think the Lord would tell him to knock it off and stop writing books if He was displeased with what Denver was doing. You claim that "church authorities" have told people not to reveal when they receive the second anointing. This statement has nothing to do with Denver for a couple reasons. 1. Denver never has mentioned his Second Anointing experience. He has only testified about the Second Comforter. They are two completely different things. 2. If one receives the second anointing from a church authority, then the church has the right to tell that person not to speak about it. If you read "Passing the Heavenly Gift", you will understand that the Lord Himself can and does perform the Second Anointing Himself, without using a church authority. Those receiving it from a church authority are called by a church authority, not by the Second Comforter. In the personal journals of those who have freely written about receiving a church-called second anointing, there isn't one that mentions in their private journal of receiving the Second Comforter. Those who have an audience with the Second Comforter receive direction directly from the Lord as what they can and cannot say, and it appears they too are instructed not to talk about the second anointing since it is nowhere to be found. Denver's books exhort people to receive the Second Comforter, which is not unusual for anyone who has a perfect knowledge of the Lord. I'm amazed that you can actually essentially say "Hey Denver, I know you may have seen Christ, but He must have forgotten to tell you not to reveal this. Believe me, I know because it just can't be right because a church authority has said so." If Denver is lying, then take him on to the seagrounds. Don't say, "Hey he might be doctrinally right, but He just can't say it". That's the Lord's prerogative.



John Leesays:

February 13, 2012 at 7:52 pm

I really don't need to defend Snuffer, he's a lawyer and can do it a lot better for himself than I can. But it is hard to see the arrogance that is being displayed, and frankly it is why so many people are turned off by the church. There is so much idolatry for the "church authorities". Their is no power in this attitude, only pride. In your support, there are plenty of people who make sensational claims as you stated after having NOE experiences or other such things that are not supported by scripture or witnesses by the Holy Ghost (not that this is true for all NOE experiencers). It is the challenge of anyone seeking greater light and knowledge to identify a true messenger. I just happen to believe Denver. Since I do, I trust he is being properly instructed by the Lord concerning testifying of these things. And I'm not his follower as you misappropriately said. I'm also not a follower of President Monson. It is the Lord I choose to follow. Any prophet would tell me that.



Cathode Ray Missionsays:

February 13, 2012 at 6:02 pm

"There are plenty of accounts where people were strictly told by church authorities not to reveal that they had received the second anointing."

The second anointing and the second comforter are not the same thing. One is an ordinance, the other is actual interface with Christ.



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 6:50 pm

They are intimately connected, and both are sacred information that is not to be shared. Especially to put forth the notion that one is an authority on the subject because one has first hand experience when one writing a book on the subject.



Cathode Ray Missionsays:

February 13, 2012 at 7:35 pm

Mr. Snuffer is addressing the latter, not the former. Your insistence on conflating the two lends your argument no credibility.



Gunnerratsays:

February 15, 2012 at 8:11 pm

Not necessarily.

Many members assume when they're baptized that they have been washed of sin. This is not so, not until they have brought "fruit meet for repentance". For some it is true, but for some it can happen much later (if at all).

The 2nd anointing in and of itself means nothing unless it is approved by the Holy Spirit of Promise. Some receive Christ long before they ever get that anointing.

We take way too much comfort in our rituals. They are true, for certain, but they are not the source of salvation (or exaltation). The Lord is. Yet we assume that because we have our ordinances we are saved. Some will be very disappointed. They never got to know the Lord.



Mitchsays:

June 5, 2012 at 12:47 am

The second comforter and the second anointing CAN be related. However, many times they are not. Many people that have not received any ordinances at all have received the second comforter. Hence, they are qualified for at least the Terrestrial Kingdom.

The second anointing, however, is the 7th ordinance that one receives in the gospel. A portion of which is the second comforter. The full completion of this ordinance (with the completion of the prior six ordinances) grants one entrance into the highest level of the Celestial Kingdom. However, ordinances are only half of the equation. One must also abide by the twin laws of Charity and Virtue to enter into even the lowest level of the Celestial Kingdom. If one were to have all of the ordinances but not have complied with the laws of Charity and Virtue, they could not enter into even the lowest level of the Celestial Kingdom.



Antauljnsays:

February 13, 2012 at 7:07 pm

Joe, your comments clearly show that you have not read any of Denver's books. Had you read them, you would not continue spouting off that he has been sharing things too sacred to reveal. He has shared next to nothing of his own experiences. His books point toward Christ. He desires no following. In fact, he often says things like, "Don't trust any man, not even me." The whole focus is on Jesus Christ. Denver is extremely reluctant to be put into the limelight.

I find it extremely interesting that those who fight against Denver the most (accuse him of sharing things that shouldn't be shared, accuse him of trying to get a following or of starting his own church, and so forth) have never taken the time to read his books.



Joesays:

February 14, 2012 at 12:03 am

Spoken like a true lock-step lemming.



Jeffsays:

February 13, 2012 at 4:32 pm

Denver,

Thanks for taking the time to share your mormon experience with all of us. I am a Mormon, who still goes to church....I feel much like you, "to whom shall we go"....I like the social net of mormonism. I have lost my faith in the institution of mormonism....and frankly I have almost lost my faith in God altogether. I hang on to a few experiences that happened to me along the path of my 39 year life. Like the time I was riding in the passenger seat at 2AM in the morning on our way to a YM super activity,,,I was sleeping with my head against the window...something startled me, I woke up and I had the biggest impression that I was going to be called as the bishop of the ward (was serving as second Cat the time), the feeling was so strong that I could not deny it...I just looked up into the heavens and said "Okay".....later on that day, after arriving at our destination, my wife called and said that the Stake Pres called and wanted to meet with me, I met with him the following sunday and he called me to be the bishop. Well, I did the best I could for 3 years, we ended up moving to a new state and they called me to be the branch Pres....by this time I was having serious doubts about my faith and I had not even really started to study the history....! was more thrown by dichotomy of mormonism either all black or all white, all good or all wrong, devils church or christ church....all true or all a fraud doctrine that Hinckley had taught a number of times.

Anyway, about 2.5 years into being Branch Pres, I came across polygamy and polyandry and Joseph coercing young teenage girls to marry him through the threat of being cut off from God and abusing his responsibility he had to watch over them...that broke the last straw I had, I felt betrayed, lied to...etc...I then set out in earnest to understand church history, objectively seeking to understand this church that I had pounded the pulpit bearing witness of...for what? Well, I asked to be released....and I was....quietly. I did not make a big show, nor has my effort been ever to demean anyone else's faith.

My desire now is to live a good life...think critically about what people tell me and to treat the super natural with about 99% contempt.

However, what woke me up that morning in the car, the same day that my wife got the call from the stake pres? How does that happen? There is a God....but I have lost my understanding of how he operates in the world that was turned upside down on me, all my belief in Joseph, in prophets, in revelation, in priesthood power flew out the window over the course of a couple of months.

So, when you say, you have seen God....my first reaction is that I don't believe you. However what power gave me my impression?

So my question to you is, you talk of a unifying God, who wants to unify mankind and bring all back into his presence, yet the mere fact of him revealing himself to you and not to me after I gave him years of my life, thousands and thousands of dollars, all to have it unravel in a couple of months....why does he not appear to me in the agony of this whole event, how do I find that unifying? How do I see a god who is just to just let my faith fly out the window without intervening....because I asked him to let me know hundreds of times...I do not see the unification at all!! In fact I see further segregation when that happens....someone gets a great experience while others are left to flounder! That is part of the inconsistency that made me lose faith in man's quest for religion!

I believe that there is a power that creates...look at all the consistency in nature.....yet I do not believe he follows religion because look at all the inconsistency!!

Anyway interesting insights into mormonism.

Thanks,

Jeff



Denver Snuffer says:

February 13, 2012 at 4:58 pm

Your agony is exactly the kind of venue into which God is most invited. There is always a Gethsemane, a Mount Moriah, a valley of the shadow of death, a Golgotha, a Liberty Jail before there is the Resurrection, the ram caught in the thicket, the voice of inspiration which steals along and whispers "peace":

I have made no attempt to share the agonies through which I have passed, though there is a journal entry I copied into one of the vignettes in *The Second Comforter*. In it there is a description of my own painful loss, my defeat and my failure associated with the Temple marriage ending in divorce. There have been other, greater difficulties I've encountered as well.

Your story is the balance all mankind encounters. There is reason to doubt. There is reason to believe. There is pain, longing, and there is a choice to be made. Choose to believe, and then choose to seek for Him. It is that choice in the face of reason to doubt, and the decision to press forward to Him that develops within you the capacity to find Him.

If you choose to believe, and to leave the reasons for doubt aside, there will be more proof of both. More reason to believe, and yet more reason to not. This will lead you to the point in which you can choose at last to doubt doubt itself. Why trust doubt? Why is it the more compelling view? Therein lies deliverance.



Jeff says:

February 13, 2012 at 5:58 pm

Denver, thank you for your response. I appreciate your insight. However I do not see doubt for doubt's sake but logic that erases belief in religion....it is not that I am trusting doubt or belief as a binary, two distinct choices...but more like a logic statement like the following:

If the gospel is full of inconsistencies, inaccuracies, anachronisms, lies THEN it is not true....

Not because I doubt it, but because it is not true...if I am forced to say ALL TRUE, or ALL False (As I have been instructed by Church Authority) then based upon all the evidence, it is ALL FALSE....

How can I say anything different given so many examples of inconsistencies.

As a lawyer, how would Joseph's visions hold up in court? It has been almost 10 years since that experience in the car, yet I can still remember the whole experience, the feeling and the submission....why can't a prophet (seer and revelator) get his story right about the most magnificent experience in modern history?

So, I am not for or at reasons to doubt, but looking at why something is or is not true....

My friends tell me, Show me why the book of mormon is false? And then I point to all the anachronisms, but they discount every single anachronism....every single one....and I ask them, "how many inaccuracies do you need for something to be false?"

So I am not coming at this from a position of "doubt" but of how does one find truth? Can something be true and full of falsehoods at the same time?

No.

I come back to faith....in Romans it talks about having hope....in what we cannot see. That is where I am at...All I can do is hope!

Thanks!

Jeff



Anonsays:

February 14, 2012 at 1:10 am

My heart aches for you. I feel the dilemma you are facing. If I could give you and bit of hope I would say that the lord was merciful in giving you such a strong witness in the middle of the night on that car ride. You have something undeniable that keeps you in this discussion.

There is so much power in learning how the adversary works. He is the father of all lies. I think he wants you to believe its all or nothing. Isn't it ok if the church is flawed? It's run by flawed men. Anything we touch as humans loses its divinity to some degree. That's why nature can feel so spiritual. It's not ruined by man and it obeys God perfectly. When we have any level of spiritual experience Satan is given equal and opposite opportunity to tempt or lie to us. When we recognize that power we can see his involvement in the discussion in our head. The lord prompts, of gives truth and light and the adversary reacts with a plethora of lies. He tries to get us to forget the quiet truth weheard and follow him. He "wispereth in our ears" and if we don't recognize him, he wins. Once you see him for the liar he his, you can cause him to step aside and not claim ownership of the lies. I pray that you find your way back to God and not let the "the great destroyer" have power over you. Hold on to that undeniable experience until it beings you back to God.



Justin T. Smithsays:

Februar y 2 7, 2012 at 1:09 am

Hi Jeff, my name is Justin Smith. I was reading through the posts and saw the part about how would Joseph's visions hold up in court. There is a man named Hugh G. Brown who was also a lawyer and played out that very scenario of a court room and how Joseph Smith's vision and the Gospel hold up. It really is amazing. It's the dialogue between him and someone who isn't quite sure about that. Enjoy!-> <http://speeches.byu.edu/?act=viewitem&id=114&tid=2> It's free by the way



ALittleFrustratedsays :

Februar y 13, 201 2 at 6:08 pm

Denver,

Would you kindly elaborate on that last paragraph? I have a belief in the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith and the Church. I feel that I have felt the spirit witness to me that they are indeed true on many occasions. Lately, however, I am finding much which disturbs me. Polygamy after the manifesto and Joseph F. Smith doing things which seemed to bring chaos and disorder after being specifically told that polygamy was NOT to be practiced is one example.

I am starting to wonder how to really find truth. I am started to be unsure about it.

I have only read a little of your first book. I have read all your blog posts as I only discovered it last week. I don't feel that I have anyone in my life with whom I can discuss these things without sounding apostate or on my way to apostasy. Any thoughts?



Jrburgess104says:

Febru ary 13, 201 2 at 6:33 pm

I just want to thank you Brother Denver, for putting yourself out there in this way. I have appreciated your testimony. It came just in the nick of time in my life. I have read all but two of your books, and if I had not read them, I would have left the church, and might even have given up my search for the Divine . You have inspired me. Having said that. I really don't care about any details about your experiences, nor do I find that they have, or ever will do anything for me. What has done something for me is to hone down the purpose of the restoration , bring out J. Smith true intentions, and given me hope that God wants me to come unto him in like manner. I could care less if you are trying to get a following , and I could care less what other views of the world you may have. I don't even care if you're a complete fraud, because you have not inspired me to trust you, but to trust my inner self and God.



Mitchsays:

June s. 2012 at 1:07 am

I agree with Denver. This life is a test. It is a learning ground. There was a time in my life where I pleaded with God to take my life because I did not think I could stand the pain. Now, years later, I am grateful that He did not. Part of the many things that I have learned is a great compassion for my fellow man. Which knowledge came by the trials that I have crossed. It is interesting to me to note that Jesus was not known as "The Man of Joy:" Rather by the title , "The Man of Sorrows:-

It is only through grief and sorrow that the soul is truly stretched and growth occurs. Therefore, if you feel the grief and pain, then praise God for the growth that you will gain.

I have passed through similar trials as I have studied the gospel. To win to the other side requires humility, patience, prayer, and a lot more personal study. Many times, I find that those that have

become disheartened and wander from the gospel have lost the desire to continue to study. We are taught that all truth is circumscribed into one great whole.

The gospel is very much this way. We must study every aspect of it, to finally begin to see the gospel in its entirety.

MayGod Bless you my Friend in your continued studies

Mitch



Joesays:

February 13, 2012 at 6:48 pm

Cathode Ray Mission states:

"You haven't even specified what that information is. Nor has Mr. Snuffer:"

That's absurd. The sacred information is the fact that Brother Snuffer has allegedly had visits from the Savior and angels and has heard "unspeakable things." I've read his Second Comforter book thoroughly. I've heard these podcasts all the way through. Don't play games here. These are the claims that have been made.



Gatechrballsays :

February 13, 2012 at 7:22 pm

Joe, you keep asserting this rule (without any citation of any authority) that people are not to speak of their sacred experiences, yet how do we have any knowledge of God but from people sharing their spiritual experiences?

Even if your assertion were true, all Denver has said, is that he's had them. He has not shared the "sacred" CONTENT of his messages. And if even if he had WHO ARE YOU to be upset? He has not wronged YOU. If the Lord is not upset, who's confidence Denver would be violating, and he continues to visit with Denver, what is that to you?

Your argument is so silly. Suppose the Lord comes to you and says go bear testimony that I have visited you, are you going to say, "No, I have been commanded not to." What is it that you fear?



Cathode Ray Missionsays:

February 13, 2012 at 7:31 pm

No, Joe. The fact of the visit is not "too sacred to share" no matter how much you want to say it is.

If Christ commanded Mr. Snuffer not to share that the experience ever occurred, then you would be correct. He has remitted no such claim, so the only absurdity so far is your position.



Joesays:

February 14, 2012 at 12:15 am

Mr. Mission and gatcherball, it is interesting that your sole source of authority for whether Christ is pleased or not with what Mr. Snuffer is doing in making these claims of manifestations comes from what Mr. Snuffer himself, or what Christ has commanded in these things is what Snuffer has said about it. Again how convenient. You are all apologists for Snuffer as if his words are holier than the scriptures themselves. The improprieties of what he is doing as to these claims are obvious to those of us who see this without being a lock-step apologist for Snuffer's claims. The fact that you so rabidly attack me shows just how lacking you are in skepticism and critical thought.

"I will inform you that it is contrary to the economy of God for any member of the Church, or any one, to receive instruction for those in authority, higher than themselves; therefore you will see the impropriety of giving heed to them; but if any person have a vision or a visitation from a heavenly messenger, it must be for his own benefit and instruction; for the fundamental principles, government, and doctrine of the Church are vested in the keys of the kingdom." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 21.)

"Remember that that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit; and in this there is no condemnation" D&C 63:64.

"I found out that if I talked too lightly of sacred things, thereafter the Lord would not trust me." (Candle of the Lord, Boyd K. Packer)



Ashleysays :

February 14, 2012 at 11:17 pm

Where has Mr. Snuffer or anyone claimed to have received revelations for the whole of the church? Where has he claimed to receive revelation for any leaders of the church or anyone but himself? He has been taught. He has been on a personal journey and followed the required steps and instructions. He has found his way back into Christ Presence. Because of this conversion and witness he was told to bear testimony of Christ in the hopes of helping others to know this can happen for them. He doesn't agree with every procedure of every leader. That is allowed. Blind obedience is not what God expects of us. We are not meant to have mediators between Christ and ourselves forever. We are meant to learn what we can seek Him personally. And our leaders though great men HAVE made some mistakes. But the only reason that even matters is to be able to understand history in a realistic light and in the proper context. And it matters to have our own witness of things so we can be sure we are led correctly. Brigham spoke on the dangers of being too confident in leaders. The scriptures warn us of relying on the arm of flesh before God. But the fact that they HAVE made mistakes does not have to be faith shattering or cause us to dismiss everything they have to say. We are to do what we are taught to do. To receive the messages they give when those messages are brought through the Spirit.



Gunnerratsays:

February 15, 2012 at 8:22 pm

If you had bothered to read any of his books, you would realize that those things you posted aren't applicable, because Snuffer isn't doing those things. You keep seeing something that isn't there, despite the fact the Ashley and others have said it many times in the course of this discussion. You persist in kicking against the pricks.



Anonsays:

February 13, 2012 at 10:22 pm

This debate reminds me of the old story about the signs in heaven, placed at a fork in the road. On the sign, pointing to the right, it said, "To Heaven". On the sign, pointing to the left, it said, "Unitarian discussion about the possibility of there being such a place as Heaven".

What Denver is saying is that most people are expressing their religious or spiritual desires by attending the "discussion" mentioned in the old story above; rather than entering Heaven. I for one agree with that assessment; most Mormons that I know are spending their time in the Church, hiding from God. They'd rather "hang out" with the other mortals than face the dangers of "seeing the face of God".

As Joseph Smith was told in the first vision experience, "They teach for doctrine the commandments of men; they draw near to me with their lips but their hearts are far from me; they have a FORM of godliness, but they deny the POWER thereof." This is the reason why more mortals don't directly interact with Deity: they don't want to (despite all the "efforts" at being the "good person")!

As a witness, like unto Denver, I've had decades of interaction with beings from the "other side"; through the medium of dreams, visions, visitations, ect. In like manner I have been rejected as a valid voice, even when I've just indirectly hinted to a few people that I've had significant spiritual exposure. Contrary to Denver, I choose to remain anonymous, rather than "come out", because I've received no instructions to do so; only my immediate family members are privy to the details.

Jesus is this amazing person, who patiently awaits each for of us to reach out for Him with all our hearts. All He needs is just a thought from us and He cannot be restrained; He has to come, This is His greatest desire. He can be here, in an instant; and He will turn your world view completely around, to His Father's view. I witness that this is worth it, it isn't easy, but worth it.



Jrburgess104says:

February 13, 2012 at 10:50 pm

This is actually for Denver. I would hate to put words in your mouth Denver, but I think from reading your books that you would agree with the following statement which might serve to settle down some of the controversy here; Even if the Church's history was 100% perfect, and the Brethren had all the keys, and the only keys, and were infallible; even if the brethren had not changed one jot or tittle from Joseph's instruction, and did in fact see and speak with Jesus Every Thursday; even if I was the only Member not to have received the second comforter in the entire church; in the face of all that, it would not save me unless I had done as Denver has admonished us; done as the Brother of Jared did, and pierced the veil to see and speak with the Savior, and become personally redeemed from the fall.



carlie wendelsays:

February 14, 2012 at 12:08 am

I think there are very good reasons why the Lord would send such a message through a man like Denver Snuffer, and not through "the proper authority." First, coming from a self-proclaimed sinner we learn that this experience is for anyone who has the faith needed to see Him. It takes an element of faith to believe that a divorced convert who has a colorful past and still isn't perfect could be a witness of the Savior. The Lord wants you to question and wonder and have to rely on the spirit and prayer to know with certainty if his words are true. That's why so many commenters feel strongly about Denver's authenticity...because they asked the Lord and can't deny His answer.

Second, if we were told in General Conference that this was an experience we could have and should seek for, how many of the 14 million of us would be damned in the process? This is not a message for the church as a whole, at least not today. Not all members are ready to hear this message. That is why the Book of Mormon speaks of it throughout every story, yet you don't see it unless your eyes are open. That is why Christ taught using parables. He was merciful to not give us more than we are ready for. That is why the Lord chose Denver and others like him to share this message. Only seekers will find him. Samuel the Lamanite is a perfect example of a prophet with no authority. He was not leading the church during his time, yet he was the one commanded to call the Nephites to repentance. Christ is another perfect example.

Joe, I understand where you're coming from. I was once you. I heard about these deeper truths and I thought those sharing it with me were going astray. I feared this doctrine and the path it might lead me down. I feared anyone making such a claim. I picked up the Second Comforter and after reading the first chapter I felt prompted to put it down. I wasn't ready to hear its message until a year later. I believe Denver Snuffer, not merely because he makes grandiose claims, but because the Spirit bore witness to me that his message is true. I have heard claims by others and have felt no spirit. I think it's important that he shares with his readers that he's received the Second Comforter (without any details) because it makes it possible for sinners such as you and I.



Karensays:

February 14, 2012 at 1:18 am

This has been very interesting to read all of the comments. There isn't really anything to add that hasn't already been stated. But, I would like to share my experience and direct it to Joe.

I sense that you are one that studies and loves the restored gospel. You seem to be one who desires to defend the truth as you understand it. You believe in the highest blessing of the gospel. And you are committed to the belief that in no way shape or form should anyone ever share that they have experienced such. You also seem to believe that the only exception to that would be if the person sharing the experience fit within proper priesthood channels.

I just want to say....I know exactly where you are coming from. I have been exactly where you are. I understand your conviction and desire to follow what is "established protocol:"

I say that as one deeply rooted in the beginnings of church leadership and the early pioneers. I am a grand-daughter of Brigham Young, Edward Partridge and sealed to Joseph Smith on my mother's side. On my father's side I have sets of grand-parents that traveled in both the Martin and Willey handcart companies. I am from Mormon stock that "followed the prophet" and have served faithfully in the church all our lives. The 8th of ten children, all married in the temple and faithful and active. The first five years of my marriage my husband and I spent hours putting together a book of quotes from recent modern prophets regarding 72 topics that the Saints rationalized and often ignored through disregard or disobedience to the Lord's servants. I love the prophets and the Lord's restored "order" for speaking to His children.

I give that background only to give some type of reference point for you to believe that I DO understand where you are coming from.

BUT, unlike you....in 2006 I was given a copy of The Second Comforter by a neighbor. I was anxious to read it because I understood and believed the doctrine and desired to learn all I could regarding this truth....but I was hesitant. I hated the title. The cover bothered me. And, like you, I thought...if this guy is claiming he actually has had this....that's unbelievable...we aren't supposed to discuss it if we have had it! "Those that know ain't talking and those that are talking don't know"....was the saying I had heard many many times. Plus, what would the brethren say about this? This guy is gonna be in trouble! And on and on like you keep saying. I was skeptical....but nonetheless, very curious.

Well, I read it in four days. Couldn't put it down. I am not a fool. I know my scriptures and I know church doctrine. I know proper protocol, etc. But what I experienced was truly remarkable. I asked and asked the Lord as I read to protect me from deception, but to also let me know if this guy was telling the truth. If it was the truth...then his writing of the book was a commission of the Lord. If he wasn't telling the truth...then he is as you suggest...a fraud seeking for a following.

I received my answer. I received it by the voice of the same spirit that has spoken to me many many times throughout my life and revealed the truth of all things that I know and believe. Not only that, but as many have stated...the fruits of having read that first book and all the subsequent books authored by Snuffer, have continued to bear forth fruits which have brought me closer to the Savior. My love for Him and desire to follow Him have been greater than ever before. The time I spend in the scriptures has increased. My prayers are more significant. My desires to comply in all

things to the will of the Lord has been magnified. My ability to overcome the power of the adversary in my life has increased. In essence, I have always known it was possible to Know him, but now my life is bearing greater fruits that will hopefully lead me to that process. (By the way...I was already reading, studying, attending the temple, praying before Denver's books...it's an enhanced degree of all of these things. A new level with more of a repentant broken heart and deep resolve to follow the Lord. It 's difficult to explain, but real). Never has Denver conveyed any information of the knowledge and truths he has received from the Lord through his personal experiences with Him other than as they vague refer enceshe ahead mentioned in his comments above.

My hope for you...as a brother in the gospel...is that you will lay down your sword of defense for just long enough to pick up the books and actually read them and use the tools you have been given to discern true messengers and do not let your presumptions of how God does or does not deal with man prevent you from "hearingHis voice:"



Mckaysays:

February 14, 2012 at 9:08 am

Foremost amongst Christs teachings is the concept of unity. Everywhere he condemns contention. This discussion among the male commentators has gone well beyond rational argument and analysis, to name calling, unrighteous judgement and contention. The womens comments, in contrast, have shown less aggression, greater love and care. Score one for the sisters.

Mckay



Rmoore757says:

February 14, 2012 at 2:37 pm

Mr. Denver Snuffer,

I have every reason to have contempt for you; after all, you (and Spencer Snow) were legal counsel for a sophisticated (LOS) group that duped me and many others of our life savings. At the end of the trial, you approached me and said "I owe you my apology, I'm on the wrong side in this matter". I don't know why I chose to read "Passing the Heavenly Gift"; perhaps morbid curiosity; but it astounded me. I then read "Second Comforter" and continue reading your other writings. I share Karen's observations; I am convinced you have experienced what you claim. I am closer to my Savior because of your shared experiences. I have no contempt for you, only gratitude for your courage. Keep writing.

Roy Moore



Donald Dannersays:

February 14, 2012 at 9:51 am

I've noticed the same thing Mckay. Hopefully **it will** not drive the Spirit away.... or Denver.

fwiw, I believe his testimony. I am grateful that he has encouraged each of us to repent and turn our focus to Christ.



Steve Whitesays:

February 14, 2012 at 10:37 am

The direction of the Holy Ghost is the only proper channel. Those who speak by its power are true messengers. Those who do not are not.

The Spirit will not provide, convey and bind the words, deeds and testimonies of those who are not authorized to do so.

Obtaining and cultivating one's personal connection to heaven is far more important in receiving truth and avoiding deception than any of the fearful or scholarly contention provided here.

If you have doubts as to the veracity of Bro. Snuffer's message or authority, that is a good first step. The next step is to get a witness from God for yourself. However, the truth-confirming voice of the Holy Ghost does not come through the methods of a scholar, not through fearful hardening of the heart in restricting light and knowledge, and certainly not through contention and railing accusation.

The witness of the Holy Ghost comes through asking and searching in humility, even when we have to painfully let go of things we thought were true but find are not.

That connection to heaven will grow in quality and clarity as we humble ourselves in obedience to what it gives us, even until faith becomes a perfect knowledge.

I have learned for myself that the words of Bro. Snuffer were provided, conveyed to me, and bound upon me by the Lord. They are His words. In the things Denver has written, the Spirit has bound up the law and sealed up the testimony, and I will be accountable for how I handle them.

I say as Denver says: Get your connection to heaven and learn for yourself from the Lord.



Guestsays:

February 14, 2012 at 10:46 am

This is Joe. It seems that John has banned me, so I have to post under another name to even post my apology. I apologize for my tone in the previous messages, and I apologize specifically to Denver. I should have remained level-headed, but allowed myself to get frustrated. Nevertheless, my opinion remains the same, and I believe that it is not proper in the order of things. This now ends as far as I'm concerned. I have nothing more to say.



HLsays :

February 14, 2012 at 12:48 pm

Joe,

I think you've made your position clear. Congratulations on convincing yourself of the rectitude of your position. Now, please excuse yourself from further comments on this particular forum. You have done enough to stir up contention with your railing accusations.



Guestsays:

February 14, 2012 at 1:13 pm

Nice.

So,

(1) People who agree with Denver Snuffer stir up someone with provocations when he states an opinion, because they are so convinced of the rectitude of their opinion, and how they owe no loyalty to the keys of the priesthood.

(2) And this individual is told that he has "convinced" himself of the rectitude of his opinion, when followers of Denver Snuffer disagree with him.

(3) This individual is promptly invited to excuse himself, and accused of railing accusations after being frustrated into saying things by provocations of followers of Denver Snuffer. And that makes him guilty of railing accusations, after he apologized for his momentary frustrations.

Very nice.



Antauljnsays:

February 14, 2012 at 9:46 pm

Joe, that was very considerate of you to make the effort to come back and post an apology even though you had apparently been banned. I believe you have a right to your opinion. I also think apologizing for the tone of your messages is enough. You do not need to believe Denver Snuffer nor his words. You have every right to choose what you believe.

For myself, I apologize if my response to you earlier in the thread added to the contention here.



Refugeesays :

February 14, 2012 at 11:33 am

I've gotta say - I like the way Denver thinks. I find myself not being able to deny the central core of LOS belief and the restoration. Denver's view would allow me to hand onto that belief, while at the same time accepting what I see happening around us today. I've got some thinking to do, to be sure ...



Gunnerratsays:

February 15, 2012 at 8:36 pm

I agree. With "Passing the Heavenly Gift" Snuffer put into words the cognitive dissonance I'd been feeling in the church for years. It allowed me to get over my judgmentalism and to look forward to something better eventually coming our way after the tribulation.



Dinerbelllsays:

February 20, 2012 at 10:05 pm

So true... he frames things so well...I hope for Zion



Anonymoussays:

February 14, 2012 at 11:50 am

Hey, Denver. Thanks for taking the time to do the interview. I find it interesting that this podcast drew out such passionate replies. I found your interview fascinating. I have long ago gone down the road of disbelief, but I can only assume that you are sincere in what you think you saw and experienced.

Do these "carried-away" experiences happen to you while you are awake, while you are praying or while you are asleep? Is this a spiritual eyes experience, or is it a physical eyes experience?

Again - I appreciate the insights into your religious paradigm.



Jerryleewensays:

February 14, 2012 at 12:01 pm

Denver...I would very much appreciate your opinion. In the first chapter of Isaiah do you believe that Isaiah is talking about the present LOS church? If you do believe that Isaiah is talking about the present LOS church he says; "...the WHOLE HEAD is SICK...from the sole of the foot even unto the HEAD there is no soundness in it..." Is Isaiah talking about the present leadership of the LOS church? If NOT»>who is Isaiah talking about?

Thank-you for responding.

Jerry 0



Donaldsays:

February 14, 2012 at 12:33 pm

Outstanding!!! Thank you Denver and John!

It was mentioned that David O McKay said that if the church instituted correlation, it would result in the church's apostasy. Can you give us the source of this statement?



Anonymoussays :

February 15, 2012 at 11:03 am

Donald, actually David O. McKay advanced correlation.

"During President McKay's administration the correlation program made significant advances. President Joseph Fielding Smith later wrote:

"During the early 1960s a broad program of Church correlation began under President McKay's direction to help bearers of the priesthood better fulfill their obligations and responsibilities....

"The work of priesthood correlation and the new emphasis on family home evenings and home teaching brought a great surge of spiritual growth into the Church and marked a significant era in the Church in strengthening the homes and helping fathers and mothers take their rightful places as spiritual leaders of their children" (Essentials in Church History, 26th ed., 543).



Cathode Ray Missionsays:

February 16, 2012 at 6:24 pm

Mama Duck, the Church's narrative of how Correlation came about is not correct. There is an incredible chapter on it in David O. McKay and the Rise of Modern Mormonism (Prince) that you should read, and then check out Snuffer's analysis in Passing the Heavenly Gift. It was actually Harold B. Lee that advanced correlation under McKay's nose while he was aging and becoming invalid. Lee and Joseph Fielding Smith then pushed for McKay's approval at a time when he was barely coherent and then turned around and gave him credit for the whole thing.



Rude Dogsays :

February 14, 2012 at 12:38 pm

Thanks Denver,

I too love a fresh perspective . Whilst a member I always relished D&C 67:10 as a real possibility. "that inasmuch as you bstrip yourselves from cjealousies and dfears, and ehumble yourselves before me, for ye are not sufficiency humble, the fveilshall be rent and you shall gsee me and know that I am-not with the carnal neither natural mind, but with the spiritual:'

I am not a believer and find myself firmly anti-theist, and I see your experience as a function of the brain, but I can rectify "spiritual mind" within my context, and yours. I

have to admit the relish reading the orthodoxy and parameters quickly thrown up against powerful assertions of spiritual experience. It seems ego driven. But on the other hand I do know enough about the church of my childhood to know that Joe in a way represents an opinion that would be common in the church, which makes perfect sense to an Ockham's guy like myself, but puts the Joes of the world in an excited state.



Brrgilberts says:

February 14, 2012 at 4:17 pm

Having yet to listen to the interview, but being aware of the controversy surrounding issues that are drawing us in, last night I was reading "The Millennial Messiah" and came across a passage that I had previously underlined. This time it took on new meaning. It is found on page 45 and states: "According to the holy word, "the works of the flesh" are "adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, sedition, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like." These works cover the earth today. With reference to them, the scripture says: "They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God:" (Gal. 5:19-21)" (Close Quote) The word "emulations" stood out to me. I promptly looked up its meaning to verify what it is: "an ambition and effort to equal or surpass another; to compete or rival... especially through imitation." It was then that I had an epiphany that the only one whom we should emulate is not mortal; that He gave the directive... "what manner of men ought ye to be...". Inasmuch as the Savior is to be followed and sought, I asked myself, "What would Jesus do?" I concur that we should follow His directive.



Kevinsays:

February 14, 2012 at 6:00 pm

Loved your book Denver. I bought a copy for all of my kids..



Josh\_chaseSsays:

February 14, 2012 at 6:11 pm

I have enjoyed reading these comments. I have read two of Denver's books. The Second Comforter and Passing the Heavenly Gift. I have also followed Denver's blog for the past couple years. He has been a breathe of fresh air for me. I have been an active, faithful member all my life. I have found great power in his writings. I have seen people change because of reading his book. The book The Second Comforter inspired like nothing since reading the Book of Mormon. I have had great spiritual experiences that have rooted me in the gospel. But I have never seek'd Jesus like I have since reading his book. I love the church, I just think it could be so much more than it is. I wish it's people could move mountains. I wish it was common place at testimony meeting for people to testify of seeing the savior, angels and visions. We talk of having the faith to heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out devils, but it is rarely happening. I wish we as a church were building Zion, but I think we are far from it.

I think what inspired people to join the church in the beginning and be so faithful and committed was because the idea of a young boy seeing god and Jesus, of visions of Peter, James and John, John the Baptist, new scripture, revelations, new hymns, and an idea of being with a people that wanted to establish Zion. The idea that god was with a people and interacted in this groups lives. A people of one heart and one mind, having no poor among them. We now are too proud, and vain. We love the things of this world too much and have I feel lost these things that were so vibrant in the early church. One guy comes out and testifies of these things and many rebuke him as being anti. Thanks Denver for sharing your inspiration and testimony. Keep on sharing.

Thanks,

Josh



nooneinparticulars says:

February 14, 2012 at 8:33 pm

I have all of Denver's books and follow his blog. I have not encountered anything of his so far that has produced "bad fruit".

Guests says:



February 14, 2012 at 10:37 pm

Thank you John Dehlin for doing an interview with Denver Snuffer. I like the commitment you made at the beginning to continue seeking interviews with those who have faithful perspectives. I very much appreciate Denver's books and would highly recommend them to those who desire to believe.



Bizsays :

February 14, 2012 at 10:46 pm

Denver,

Thank you for this interview. It has been one of my favorite interviews thus far. You answered a lot of questions for me and enhanced a lot of concerns I have regarding Mormonism. I will admit about a year ago I accidentally bought your book, "The Second Comforter" thinking it was something else. I began reading it one day and put it down because I was not ready to accept or attempt to apply what you were offering. After listening to this podcast I have added it back into my reading line up. Some of your thoughts and ideas were very refreshing while some of your thoughts confirmed exactly what I have negatively concluded about the Church. Like I said one of my favorite interviews thus far I am glad I listened. Thanks for putting yourself out there.



Anonymoussays:

February 14, 2012 at 11:58 pm

Denver, I DO believe your books have so much wonderful and true information contained in all of them. Some of it would even be considered "Mystery's". I know you repeatedly say "you do not want a following" but I see more and more people being drawn to you. I believe you are a great compiler of information, even so much as to write these wonderful books which I do believe are helping people grow closer to our Savior. BUT, I feel I must comment on this blog because I'm concerned. I have also done a lot of personal study, personal experiences, and research on this subject, not only me but generations of my family before me. My father went through the veil and he ALSO met with the Savior and had many other wonderful things revealed to him, many of which cannot be uttered nor is there words to utter them. That being said let me share with everyone a few basic points.

1. You must first complete the ordinance of baptism which is in 2 parts: Water and then by the Spirit which is also known as Fire and the Holy Ghost. (TPJS p. 314 and 360) Which explains the process of Sanctification in Ether 12:27
2. When you get to a point where you have NO more desire to sin and you offer the Savior a broken heart and a contrite spirit you will be justified. At this point if the Savior accepts it you will become sanctified or baptized with fire. Now you are "Re-born" and "Called and Elected" (it is not made sure yet)
3. At this point you have received a fulness of the Holy Ghost, and are subject to the many wonderful blessing. Like receiving a celestial mortal body, awarded all the spiritual gifts, angels are subject to your command, and you may behold the face of the Savior. (you do not have to receive the 2nd comforter to behold the face of Christ). Also you become clean from the blood and sins of this generation. And many other wonderful things.

Now, at this part in your progression you are working one on one with the Savior. " And this is the point I'm getting at: When you are at this progression level there are not two people whose walk is the same. The Savior works with you individually until you receive a fulness of Christ. And WHEN you are ready you will receive the Second comforter which is Christ. That is when He presents you to the Father. That is when your Calling and election is made sure. In a nutshell this is the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ which is receiving the first and second comforter. When you receive the second comforter you inherit everything the Father has to offer.

Now this leads me to the point I want to make...I think most people following Denver's books and blogs are looking for something more than what you learn in Sunday school. You guys are the people that want the meat not the milk. People like Denver can only point you in the direction of the mysteries. It is up to YOU TO GAIN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAVIOR, THIS IS THE KEY. After sanctification it becomes a personal journey with the Savior. We all get caught up in the finish line when what we really need to focus on is completing our baptism. I have not read Denver's book "The Second Comforter" because I believe we need to focus on the First Comforter. I believe there should never be a book written by any man on the second comforter because the Lord will reveal that to you in your personal progression with Him individually.



Antauljnsays:

February 15, 2012 at 12:25 am

new\_user1 ,

I think you should read The Second Comforter, because it concurs with much of what you have said. Gaining a personal relationship with the Savior is the crux of the issue. That is the focus of the book. Since your father had this experience and shared it with you, I think you would really, really enjoy the book.

The people I know who listen to Denver Snuffer (myself included) are following Christ. We listen to Denver because of the insights he gives, but we look to God to verify his words. We are actively seeking to do all we can, including both baptisms, and so forth.

We are aware that it can take a whole lot more time than we might expect at the beginning. We do not take this task lightly. We have put our hand to the plow, so to speak. There is no turning back once a person has gained some of this tremendous insight.

We also understand that each person's journey is unique, and that Christ will tailor our experiences as He sees fit, even if it doesn't fit the exact order that you posted above. The vital thing is to keep our eyes on the Savior, and never give up. Never stop.

Thank you, by the way. Thank you for sharing the knowledge you have shared with us.



Leesays:

February 15, 2012 at 10:58 am

My wife and I never heard of Denver before this, but really enjoyed the interview, and look forward to reading at least two of his books.

1. It seems a little unreal to me the level of contempt and snarkiness directed at Denver in this forum, from both sides of the spectrum. Based on the interview, his intelligent and level approach, I find it troubling that anyone would attack or dismiss Denver in such a way, esp. without reading one of his books. Any comments that further the dialogue are welcome, but why would you perpetuate a back and forth argument b/c you disagree? Do you send nasty letters to political commentators, other authors, etc. also? Does this ever accomplish anything?

2. The four phases of the Church ring very true. There is goodness and truth in the church, but it is now somewhat like the bloated federal government, with very centralized power and authority. I'm interested in reading the book to expand my thoughts on this concept. I also think that more church members are feeling this sentiment, and I hope such a trend **will** help the church evolve.

3. I found myself feeling a little frustrated with John and his focus. Denver has a lot of interesting viewpoints and ideas that are not in the mainstream LOS system, but also not in the non-believing camp either.

Instead of really exploring his insights and unique viewpoint, it felt as if John was trying to pin down Denver, simplify his beliefs, and put him in a box. Like a sociologist trying to classify some new religion. I look forward to reading and exploring his views more fully.



Mitchsays:

June 4, 2012 at 2:08 pm

Lee Wrote: It seems a little unreal to me the level of contempt and snarkiness directed at Denver in this forum, from both sides of the spectrum.

Aesop wrote: The smaller the mind, the greater the conceit.

Keep in mind that 90% of the population of the United States (I can't judge the rest of the world) is telestial in nature. Therefore, we should expect this type of response when we discuss higher levels of knowledge. Lau Tsu once said, "if it were not the way, it would not be laughed at!" :::



Chris Brewersays:

February 15, 2012 at 11:29 am

Just finished the podcast and have so, so, SO many questions. I am going to direct these questions to Denver (and I want to add that I am hopeful he will consider answering)

Denver, it seems clear that you do not feel comfortable trying to gain credibility based solely off your personal experiences. I respect that. Honestly I read the synopsis of this podcast (especially the part about your visitations) and did not expect you to be as rational, down-to-earth, and relatable as you are. That says a lot about my jaded self at this phase. You have a wonderful way of bringing all of our modern-day conflicts and concerns regarding this faith into harmony. You seemed to be shying away at the end of the podcast and were perhaps a little uncomfortable with attention being placed on you in this way.

The group of Mormon-identified people who have embraced the Mormon Stories projects, for ums, and podcasts I feel are the ones who would be most ready to thoughtfully consider your perspectives and I personally hope that you do not retreat after presenting a form of Mormonism that could still transform people who struggle with the battle between faith and reason. I feel I am a quirky, thinky, person who has become too complex to be easily digested by the general LOS culture. That sounds like I am trying to compliment myself but to specify, I am not that intelligent but I prefer a kind of spirituality that is much more challenging and expansive than what the current church offers. But I personally feel rejected on a social level by this culture in the same way a kid at school could just get the hint that he is rejected by a group of friends who do not value him. Despite this feeling of not fitting in I have remained involved with Mormonism to some extent my whole life because of something within the framework that manages to inspire me.

Anyway, I really like you and your version/interpretation of Mormonism works with me. I think you have a healthy balance between reason and faith that I couldn't claim as potentially damaging to our culture, unlike many aspects of our majority culture. Your approach is humble, non-authoritarian, and open to new insight and change and so the worst thing someone could throw at you is that your beliefs about reality are just not accurate, but they are functional and inspiring. This is the best I think religion can do. It provides us a way to access the mystery.

I have to admit that after listening to you I feel a little teased. Not by anything intentional on your part but I have wrestled with this subject matter for years. I have pondered it, prayed about it, been deeply inspired by it, rejoiced over it, meditated on it, mourned over disappointments, cried, lashed out, resisted, challenged, been antagonistic towards, EVERYTHING claimed by this church and when I finally feel like I get the big picture and see clearly someone like you or Terry! Givens finds a way to throw me back into it again. I don't know if I can ever escape the claims and challenges of Mormonism. I will somehow always be accountable to make sense of it and to internalize the infinitely complex ramifications of its doctrine.

So part of me is mad at you because I like you. I don't want to be jerked around. After making peace with my "ex" I don't know if I am comfortable going back there. I don't know if it is a safe place.

Your claim is basically not that Mormonism can be inspiring or helpful but rather that it is somehow fundamentally true. The framework of understanding the true character of God and his relationship to man can be most clearly accessed through the Mormon narrative specifically. You say that it works and you have been rewarded by your faith with specific physical answers.

My (first) question is:

Knowing what we currently know about the brain and its ability to be tricked and misled based on preconceptions and conditioning and the subjective nature of experience do you ever feel that you could convince yourself that your visitations were in some way influenced through your own creativity? I guess I am saying do you feel that you make a choice to accept your experiences as aligning with the LDS objective truth model when you could easily choose to dismiss them as non-authoritative based on a secular reasoning? Do you sense that you have that freedom? Many people want to dissect claimed experiences of early church members and factor in things like drug use, coercion, expectations, and a shaping of experience. Do you feel like your experiences were as real as your day-to-day perceptions or could there be wiggle room as far as specific interpretation? I don't mean that disrespectfully. I just wonder if God's visions are more dreamlike or have an uncertain quality to them. Do you have any comments about that?



Denver Snuffer says:

February 15, 2012 at 12:26 pm

I was through with commenting here. In fact I'd passed this over to my wife to monitor and tell me if anything was worth mentioning to me again. But I got a "feeling" to see if the comments were continuing apace and then went to the end where I found this. Now I'm suspicious if the feeling was not motivated by a higher source. Because I do want to answer this, and am taken by the directness and importance of the question.

The answer is these events are not, were not, self-generated. They originate from without. I was not expecting, could not anticipate, and had no input on timing or content. I've puzzled on the sequence of information conveyed. I've not connected or understood some things for years afterwards. I've discovered hidden messages imbedded in the content of communications that were not knowable to me at the time.

There is no chronology to some information, because time is not relevant to God. Past, present and future blend together, and the information comes from that place, not from here. I've been shown things which made no sense to me, only later through research and study to discover that the thing which perplexed me was, in fact, something spoken of already in scripture; but the language was so unclear as to render it unknowable without first seeing what underlay the scripture. I've had to study Hebrew and resort to earlier texts and translations to parse some word constructs to verify what some discussions really involved—because our King James Version is not altogether accurate. In short, it is not possible for me to self-produce what I've learned or been shown.

I've been surprised at appearances. I've avoided making any effort to provide a description of the Lord's appearance. In the early church there are passing references to the Lord's "round face" from which I can affirm they saw Him. Most of the LDS artwork depicting "Jesus" are pretty good likenesses of Lucifer. I think there is wisdom in not making an image of the Lord because most of the images are quite misleading.

There is nothing "dream like" to a vision. It is harsh, concrete, jarring, even alarming and intimidating. The word "crushing" comes to mind. I am not comfortable with that sphere, and regard myself as intruding and not adequate. The term Second "Comforter" is a good one, because it captures the Lord's great kindness and ready willingness to help the vagabond, like myself, to endure what glaring weaknesses we behold in ourselves when beside Him. There is never a moment of greater clarity than when I behold what purity and holiness is, only to collapse into shame at how distant I am from that.

I would like everyone to come and see for themselves. Not because I am a good man, or have done some great deed, but because despite my own weaknesses and many failings He is powerful to forgive. He is able to make the distance between Him and us disappear. He loves us far more than we can comprehend. It is real. More real than this transitory mortality.



Chris Brewersay s:

February 15, 2012 at 3:24 pm

Is there anyway to contact Denver directly through e-mail? I cannot find any contact info on the blog and my previous comment thread is gone for some reason. I would like to ask a question that is not posted publicly, If that is possible my email address is chris@brewerarts.com



Antauljnsays:

February 16, 2012 at 12:37 am

You can go back a year ago, when people were commenting on the blog, and write something in the comments. It won't be posted, but they will eventually get it.



Antauljnsays:

February 16, 2012 at 12:39 am

To be specific, I meant Denver Snuffers blog at blogspot dot com.



Anonymoussays:

February 15, 2012 at 4:37 pm

Denver and to all the other blogger's on this site,

I have a difficult time putting my thoughts onto a computer. It is NOT my strong area of expertise, I feel much more comfortable with a verbal dialoge, also I am limited in what I can write because of the sacredness of this subject. Its not that the mysteries are a secret, they are free to everyone. But there is a time and a place. Also some things can only come to you by GOD and no man.

That being said, I have been around a lot of people and been to a lot of different LOS groups, none of which have apostatized, but all seem to claim Denver has recieved the Second Comforter. I'm not sure if Denver has ever proclaimed that he has recieved the Second Comforter , and I'm also not saying that he has or he has not .

There is a reason why there is NOT a lot of literature on recieving the second comforter, there is a reason why the prophets of old and new only lightly touch on the subject. And the reason is obvious, it is a sacred journey you walk with your savior, no man can explain it in any book or any lecture. Isaiah condemns reading line upon line precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. That is how you learn the milk of the gospel.

After you become sanctified you begin learning Spirit to Spirit and then from grace to grace. That was the process of the Savior and that is the same process we follow. Therefore no man can explain, teach, write a book, or show you how to receive the second comforter. They may be able to bear their testimony or give you certain insites or show you how to use certain tools. But ulimantly it is your own individual walk with the savior. The path is the same for all but the journey is tailored to you.

Just so everyone understands...If Denver has received the second comforter...that means he has received a Celestial Mortal Body. That means Christ has presented him to the Father. That means our Father has pronounced to Denver... Son thou shalt be exalted. That means Denver can minister to other planets at this very moment. That means he has been given the white raimont promise which is travel at the speed of thought. That means many other sacred things which I will not go into on this blog. Orson Pratt explains it in His book 'T he seer" and also "Temples of Antiquity ". I guess what I'm getting at is this....Denver have you REALLY received the Second Comforter? You don't have to answer that. But for the record, for all those people claiming he has...do you really understand what that means? Moses did not even reach that goal until He went upon the mount just before he was translated.

Now this is my personal feeling....! think Denver is on the right road. I think his intentions are good. I think he truly did meet with Christ. I think his books will help people that are searching for higher light and knowledge. I do NOT believe he has obtained the fulness of the Gospel which is receiving the second comforter. I believe he is an expert at gathering and compiling info. That being said...the claim people are making about him receiving the second comforter is out there. I would ask Denver or his wife if they would like to comment?



DDsays:

February 15, 2012 at 5:00 pm

The conditions in "TheSecond Comforter" include the obligation to keep what is sacred to yourself, and if someone is unable to do that they would need to wait until they are ready to part this life. Which then leads me to another complaint I have about those who think they know what I have written before ever reading it. There are nine words in "The Second Comforter" about my experience. Nothing other than confirming I have seen Him is there. I've never failed to keep a trust or confidence with the Lord. I've been constrained to teach, and have done so despite my deepest apprehensions about all the misunderstanding which will follow. It is a

burden, not a blessing, to be in this position . I do not blame anyone for disbelieving what I say. I doubt I would trust someone who is teaching as I do. But I do so because of a burden imposed upon me, and faith in the Lord whose I am.

I got this from a comment Denver left here: <http://denversnuffer.blogspot.com/2010/05/w-hy-wait.html>



Gatechrballsays :  
February 15, 2012 at 5:01 pm

You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means:'



Anonymoussays :  
February 15, 2012 at 5:50 pm

Gatechrball ,

I'm not sure what word your refering too?

DD,

Great then for the record, for all those people who keep telling me that you have received the second comforter , I can put to bed the notion that you have NOT received it. I only bug you with this question because of the rockstar status people have placed on you. Not something you did, but i think a lot of people assume that.



Antualjnsays:  
February 16, 2012 at 12:48 am

You REALLY need to read the Second Comforter, new\_user1. It is extremely obvious from your posts here (and the lectures you have given in them) that you have not read "The Second Comforter".

I reiterate what I said in response to your first post: I think you would enjoy the book. In fact, I think you would greatly enjoy it. By that , I mean you could probably identify with it and find great truths in it because of your father 's experience.

Also, the post by DD was a person quoting Denver's blog (just so you know - the words are still Denver's , though).

He doesnot seek "rock star status". He shies away from it. He had nothing to do with the words, "A Progressive, Fundamentalist, Non-Polygamist Mormon Lawyer Who Claims to Have Seen Christ" written at the top of the page.

He often says things like, "Don't trust any man, not even me;" and "I am nothing:" He points to Christ in all of his words. Those of us who read his books and believe his words follow Christ. As far as I know there is nothing of worship. There is no replacing the church with him.



Seekersays:  
February 15, 2012 at 5:53 pm

Forgive my ignorance; allow me to ask some questions so that I might understand. I have never heard of a "Celestial Mortal Body" and was wondering what that meant or where I might be able to find more information about it?

It is my understanding that , as you have said, we are given "line upon line and precept upon precept:" I believe that if we follow the light of Christ within is (in that fashion), it will lead us to the reception of the Holy Ghost. If we follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost (line upon line and precept upon precept), He will lead us to the Savior. If we follow the Savior (directing us line upon line and precept upon precept), He will lead us to the Father and all that the Father hath. If this is the case and it is line upon line and precept upon precept ... do the things which follow the reception of the Second Comforter (The Savior) have to occur immediately?

When someone is told, "Son, thou shalt be exalted;" doesn't that mean that they have received the more sure word of prophecy in which they are given the promise of eternal life preparatory to, after being proven in all things and found to be faithful and true , receiving the Second Comforter ?

When someone is given the ability to minister to other worlds, doesn't that mean that they have passed from mortality?

I am aware of the "white raiment;" I did not know that it referred to the ability to travel at the speed of thought. Where might I find more information about this? You mentioned "The Seer" and "Temples in Antiquity ;' are these things in there?



Mitchsays:

June 4, 2012 at 2:29 pm

The "Fullness of the Gospel" is NOT meeting Jesus. Jesus is in charge of the Gospel of the Son, which goes up to the second degree of the Celestial Kingdom. The "Fullness of the Gospel" is to enter into the highest level of the Celestial Kingdom, (The Kingdom of the Father - Priesthood of the Fathers - as described by Abraham) joining the Elohiem Council as a King and a Priest.



Anonymoussays:

February 15, 2012 at 6:15 pm

Seeker ,

The answer to your questions can be answered in the book "Temples of Antiquity" compiled by Truman Madison. Because of the sensitivity of the nature of your questions, this blog is hardly the place to discuss in detail such issues.

You are right about the more sure word of prophecy.



Janetsays:

February 15, 2012 at 6:29 pm

Just want to go down on record as a believer . Thanks Denver. I've read and reread most of your books.



Anonymoussays:

February 15, 2012 at 7:34 pm

Gatechrbal,

I just read Denver's blog on HIS definition of receiving the "Second Comforter". It is a little different from how Joseph Smith explains it. If I'm correct Denver is saying that **just** because he has seen the Savior, that he has "Received the Second Comforter" . Denver is on the right track but there is much more to it.

Many people have the privilege of meeting the Savior, or even seeing Him in the garden of gethsemane. Many, many people I know have had this experience of meeting the savior including myself. Just because we met Him does not mean our exaltation is sealed. But to receive a FULLNESS of the Savior is a whole other ballgame. That is when He shows you all things and presents you to the Father, a good example is The Brother of Jared. HE had received a fulness of Christ aka received the second comforter because it tells you that the Savior showed him all things and could not hold anything back.

What I'm referring to is gaining a complete fulness of the Savior, in which He presents you to the Father and you become exalted. Like Joseph Smith states in TPJS page 150. After you have been tried in ALL things and living by every word of God, and you are determined to serve him at ALL hazards. That's when the Savior presents you to the Father and the Father proclaims to you "Son or daughter thou shalt be exalted". That's when you receive Godlike powers. The power to command the elements. The power to command the Angels. The power to create life. That is what I'm talking about when I say "Receiving the Second Comforter" .



thr33says:

February 15, 2012 at 8:32 pm

new\_user1

Denver has written about when the Savior presents you to the Father. From what he has written you can find out if this has happened to him, I know the answer but I am not telling . Just read what he has written and I promise you will be filled with the Spirit and feel closer to the Father as you feast upon the scriptures and ponder their meaning for you personally. Denver's books and blog are not about him, the information is about you and your progression.



Antauljnsays :

February 16, 2012 at 12:57 am

new\_user1, you have many good things to say. I hope you are going back through your comments and picking up the posts I have written to you, though you do seem to show more understanding of where Denver is coming from than when you first began posting.



Steve Whitesays:

February 16, 2012 at 1:18 pm

From my small understanding, you are not wrong in yours about the doctrine. I do think a clarification on what Bro. Snuffer has taught would bring a measure of harmony in what you two are saying. He says it better than I can for sure : [http://denversnuffer.blogspot.com/search/1abe 1/ second%20anointing](http://denversnuffer.blogspot.com/search/1abe%201/second%20anointing)



Henrysays:

February 16, 2012 at 1:39 am

Thank you, Denver, for enduring the inevitable opposition for our sake! Thank you for sharing your perspectives and insights that are valuable in "knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent." I had so many unanswered concerns and questions. Without clarification we cannot find a way to a resolution and clear defined action that brings us closer to God. I am heartily repenting for I desire every blessing! Thank you.



Curiousays:

February 16, 2012 at 2:00 am

This from someone who has been tracking Br. Snuffer's blog and who is ordering the books:

I'm curious as to whether the author and/or any of the books opine as to why the called Prophets, Seers and Revelators do not already publicly teach these doctrines in this fashion. I do not dispute that every member of the Church has the right and may, indeed, have an obligation, to share doctrine and knowledge. However, we are repeatedly admonished to stick to the scriptures and avoid the sensational. Say what you will about intent, motive and the rest, but I find it intriguing enough to follow through and read the work and don't necessarily require Br. Snuffer or his works to prove anything. I've read enough to realize that he himself would be the first to say that it is your responsibility to conduct the test. The ticklish feeling I have in approaching his oeuvre, is that it does not purport to be scholarly advice-as did Nibley-rather, this is advice at a most personal and sacred level. If not overt-do this-kind of advice, at least it must be conceded that it is advice at some level. Now, I think, from the comments, that Br. Snuffer would state that he is not giving anyone "advice" per se in a fashion that would constitute any usurpation of Priesthood authority, he would reply that he is rather witnessing of his own journey and inviting others to come and share the fruit. Further, I can accept that the Lord would direct that such a journey be undertaken.

What book should I begin with?



Sfsays:

February 16, 2012 at 7:51 am

The Second Comforter:: Conversing with the Lord Through the Veil is the first book and best place to start. There are 8 books all together, Passing the Heavenly Gift is the last book, in my opinion it is best read last. The books build upon each other.



Antauljnsays:

February 16, 2012 at 9:35 pm

Begin with "The Second Comforter" then go to "Come, Let Us Adore Him:-



Sfsays:

February 16, 2012 at 8:11 am

Denver,

Please look at this painting. <http://dbflagship.blogspot.com/2011/07/harold-b-lees-favorite.html>

Is this a better than the typical painting hanging in so many homes and LOS churches like this one <http://whymormonism.org/11ies/2009/09/jesus-mormon.jpg>

What about this one [http://www.mormonwiki.com/File:Jesus\\_Christ.jpg](http://www.mormonwiki.com/File:Jesus_Christ.jpg)

I do not want a picture that looks more like Lucifer hanging in my home.

Antauljnsays:



February 16, 2012 at 9:38 pm

I second that, Brother Snuffer. I want one that looks as little like Lucifer as possible. (Unless it's better to have no picture?)



Seekersays:

February 17, 2012 at 7:22 am

The hair should be a light reddish color and the beard should be a little fuller.

<http://www.hopegallery.com/php/artwork.php?artwork=1276>



Sfsays:

February 17, 2012 at 7:44 am

Thank you Seeker



Antauljnsays:

February 19, 2012 at 9:14 pm

Seeker, have you seen Jesus? Or did you get your info in some other way?



Seekersays:

February 25, 2012 at 7:16 am

I am a marketing executive with hope gallery! All joking aside, I have been censored for providing the information that I did and hereby hesitate to articulate further in contemplation of the true course of rectitude. When He appears, you will know Him regardless and in spite of any preconceived notion, It will be a revelation of Him, which only He has the right to do.



Oz Poofsays :

February 16, 2012 at 2:14 pm

For an individual who is critical of contemporary LDS leadership, Denver Snuffer seems to be very forgiving of Joseph Smith, even to the point of explaining away some of his actions as TBM apologists do, by never mentioning the difficult-to-explain actions of Joseph Smith or acknowledging the less than faith promoting version of history.

If the church strayed after Smith, the FLDS religion is closer to what God would have us believing and living. I simply can't believe a being such as a God would be involved in any of this.

Hope I didn't stress out any active members with my comments.



Steve Whitesays:

February 16, 2012 at 2:50 pm

I heard him call Joseph a "bonehead", and the brethren today he said were "very good men". None of that really matters though.

I think it is a mistake to focus on men and their virtues/weaknesses. Rather, we should focus on the things they say that wholly and utterly resonate with the power of the Holy Ghost! Those are the words of Christ, and they are the sole reason the Lord is able to work through a church full of stubborn, idiotic boneheads like us! A marvelous work and a wonder indeed.

Driving past a school on the way to work, I once saw 3rd grader walking in a full-blown strut with his friends. I couldn't help but smile at how innocently ridiculous it was. I can't help but feel that the Lord sees me in the same way as I did that kid.



Cabinetryclassicsays:

February 16, 2012 at 4:34 pm

I am currently serving a full time mission for the Church in Italy. My wife and I have read Denver's books and have enjoyed much spiritual discovery from his insights. His straight-forward approach and tone resonates with us and we have personally gained power in faith, prayer, and priesthood through the new perspectives he has shared in his books and blog. There is a clarity there that is delivered without guile or agenda. Though never intentionally sought, he has impacted the lives and spiritual progress of many here on this peninsula; missionaries, members, and investigators included. All he has written points to Christ and sheds light on the "How" to come unto Him in a non-

platitudinal, clear, and soul-stretching manner. I know of no greater proponent for or champion of The Book of Mormon—a direct conduit to the pure succor of Christ. See Denver, some of us get it. A shout-out from the boot! Grazie!



Dougsays:

February 16, 2012 at 5:15 pm

Steve,

Right you are. We are ALL boneheads. Denver calls himself a fool often. Why must we continually judge the Lord's word by the character of the person delivering **it**? That is exactly what has created the cult of personality in the church as it exists today. We expect all GP.:s to parade in the white suits and ties and never permit them to be anything but stalwart examples of "perfection." We might allow them a humorous folly that they might use to make a point in a Conference talk, but heaven forbid any of them ever get up and say, "Oh wretched man that I am!"

Personally, I receive more hope and inspiration when I see hear from boneheads like Joseph and Denver, because no one knows my own "boneheadedness" like I do.



Oz Poofsays :

February 16, 2012 at 10:26 pm

I believe many people judge the Lord's words after a self-proclaimed prophet of God states "Thus sayeth the Lord"

If these prophets make an assertion and claim it is directly from the Lords mouth, why should we doubt this? If we do, everything they ever said is doubtful. Latter Day Saints are cherry-picking the so-called inspired words of the Lord; ignoring those that are simply ridiculous or embarrassing, and still claiming the prophets speak for God.

Maybe I have far too high an opinion of a God, but in my view a God doesn't need his eternal truths redacted. He also doesn't need several dry-runs before he gets his doctrine right.

To claim a omniscient deity chooses men to lead his church who are so flawed that they thwart the entire purpose of establishing it, seems almost blasphemous. If the LOS church is here to help us return to the father, why did Heavenly father design it so that only those can be saved who can believe in two mutually exclusive facts at once? If Mormonism is here to save mankind, and the belief in the church is a path to Godhood, why has God allowed a few individuals to sidetrack the mission? Are we all to be obstructed in our progression so a few men can learn their own life lesson?



Steve Whitesays:

February 16, 2012 at 11:38 pm

I can see your logic, though I would not go so far as to say that the flaws of men entirely thwart the work of God.

The imperfections of man seem to me to be necessary to the plan itself. Were we all inherently perfect, it seems as though there would be no need for a plan to begin with.

What you say about cherry picking indeed happens among many of us, and it is a serious problem today.

However, both the human frailties of our leadership and this selective-acceptance problem you speak of can be reconciled with one another, but it requires something extra:

That something is a personal connection to heaven. **It** involves doing as Joseph Smith did, receiving revelation for yourself as to what is true. Lacking wisdom as to which messages from the leaders are actually inspired? Ask God with real intent, having faith in Christ. If you are willing to do that, you will know for yourself. If not, then you will never know and remain cynical until faith is no longer possible.

The most widespread problem in the church is not pornography. It is instead the fact that that so many of us do not believe the whole point of the Restoration: that God will answer anyone who lacks wisdom and asks of Him in faith. The main

problem in the church is that many members do not cultivate their own personal connection to heaven.

If you work toward establishing and cultivating that link with God, you **will** not have to take any man's word for a thing, whether church leader, blogger, or even some bonehead like me. You will feel that undeniable resonance when truth is spoken, and there will be no doubt as to its origin.

I can see from your understandable cynicism that faith in man has failed you. I can't blame you for that. Why not ask God? You can believe in Him long enough to ask and wait for an answer can't you? You won't be disappointed.



Oz Poofs says :

February 17, 2012 at 7:57 pm

The flaws of the 15 are the flaws that are thwarting the plan. No one is talking about Pres Monson enjoying the occasional pepsi. What thwarts the plan are the doctrines that are supposed to be from God but which are clearly damaging to many people; doctrines that after decades of conflict with affected members seem to just vanish one day when everyone is expected to forget what they were taught as it morphs from the "word of the Lord's anointed" to simply "folklore" and pretend the church always taught the new version.

I am continually reminded that the church is perfect but the members aren't. I'm afraid I don't see that. Many members are made miserable by "the Church" while they do everything they can do to make it work. For most people who are disaffected, it is the doctrine that they have a problem with, especially historically, since we can look back and see how the church is a product of the culture of humans, not a divinely inspired eternal truth.

I hear apologists claim that people were a product of their time in an effort to explain Brigham Young's words on race and the perpetuation of such dogma into late last century. Where is the faith of the apologists? Why should human culture change revelation from God? Imagine establishing Mormonism in ancient Rome and after a century of sitting back and agreeing with slavery and feeding people to the lions for entertainment, the church changes its doctrine, coincidentally around the time the general public becomes disgusted with such practices, and comes out with revelation declaring such practices to be evil, then modifies its literature to show that the church always felt this way! This is the kind of thing that causes people to realize the men who claim to be God's representatives are nothing of the sort.

The problem with your advice to ask God with real intent is that any answer that contradicts what the leadership of the church declares to be doctrine is considered apostasy. Mormons don't have a personal connection with God because they are taught that the only way to connect is through the Church. Any personal revelation that contradicts the Church's current position on a subject is deemed to be an error, or even Satanic. There is no room for a personal connection with God in Mormonism. And what if everything you have tried in life leads you to the conclusion that God is either non-interventionist, or non-existent? That conclusion is simply not acceptable.

Mormon personal revelation is a flow chart - does your revelation agree with the brethren Y-stop, N-keep praying.



Antauljnsays:

February 18, 2012 at 6:25 pm

Oz Poof, unfortunately you are correct about the general mindset; however, there are those of us who ask of God and believe what God tells us even if it doesn't agree with the brethren. "Passing the Heavenly Gift" really opened my eyes. It was not comfortable to read, and I can see why many members of the church use it as an excuse to cry "apostasy" (in reference to Denver Snuffer, because he is not bowing down and worshipping the leaders appropriately).

But the fact of the matter is this: God is still in charge. He lets us go awfully far in our folly before He steps in, because of the respect for our freedom of choice. But there does come a time when He steps in. I believe He has stepped in via Denver Snuffer, who is stripping away the facade and exposing the church's white-

washing, and the pretense that the brethren/prophet can never lead us astray. Keep watching. It will become even more interesting as the days and years go by. God still has His eyes on us. Of that, I am convinced.



Oz Poofsays :

Februar y 18 , 2012 at 10:40 pm

If you go further than Denver Snuffer, and strip away more of the facade, you get nothing.

So you're telling me it's ok to strip away a little, but not go further and discover all the truth?

If personal revelation is the key, why Mormonism at all, or for that matter, why any organised religion?



Antauljnsays:

February 19, 2012 at 5:07 pm

I don't have the answers to all of your questions. I do believe, however, that if all of the facade is stripped away, we don't get "nothing" because there is real truth underneath it all. If you don't believe that, I won't tell you that you are wrong and that you MUST believe my way. Neither one of us has a monopoly on truth. Both of us are prone to believe falsehoods (even very strongly).

My personal opinion is that it is God's intention to direct us all toward a personal relationship with Him, but the people went toward organized religion, then corporate religion. When (if) we reach the point God intended, I really think it will be each of us connecting directly with God, with no "leader" to tell us what to do or how to act.



Oz Poofsays :

February 21 , 2012 at 1:29 am

I believe that idea was probably closer to Jesus' message, although if you dig enough into the Jesus story you find it rests on very shaky ground also.



Steve Whitesays:

February 21 , 2012 at 9:08 am

There will always be a reason to disbelieve. You seem to want absolute proof before taking a step of faith. That absolute proof exists, but you will never see it without faith despite doubt. The closer you get to that proof the greater the reasons to both believe and disbelieve. The problem with the scientific world is that they think skepticism is a source of truth, when in fact, it shuts out light.

You can choose faith or doubt, but the more often you choose the latter, the less you will be able to believe anything at all. One path leads to absolute knowledge, and the other leads to darkness. The choice is yours.



Steve Whitesays:

February 21, 2012 at 9:00 am

Continue to get your answers from God. If any man, regardless of office or position calls you apostate, then forget man and follow the Word of God. It is the iron rod in a world of darkness that man's philosophies permeate. Jesus himself in the Beatitudes called you blessed for being persecuted.

The trick is to learn to recognize the voice of the Holy Ghost and follow it, earth and hell be damned.



Antauljnsays:

February 27, 2012 at 11:39 pm

That is so true, Steve. That is so true!



Jimsays:

February 17, 2012 at 12:40 pm

One thing that I have noticed, almost every time Denver posts on this blog, he mentions one of the books he has published. Rather than just outlining the particular content in his own words referenced in the book, he simply plugs his books. This to me is disingenuous and indicates to me that he has ulterior motives. Marketing his books.



sfsays:

February 17, 2012 at 1:00 pm

Read what he has said about this:

<http://denversnuffer.blogspot.com/2010/05/books-for-sale-used.html>

"I am not trying to make money from book sales. I work as an attorney for a living and writing is not a commercial endeavor. Whatever royalties I earn are donated to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. So you buying a book I've written does nothing financial for me."



Gatechrballsays :

February 17, 2012 at 1:05 pm

Unfortunately, we have come to live in a world of sound bites. Questions are asked and we expect a quick snip-it telling us what we want to hear. Truly understanding principles requires a lot more work than that. Denver has already gone to a lot of trouble writing out the principles in a far more meaningful and deep manner in his books. I believe he is doing a service by referencing which books address the questions asked rather than give a shallow sound bite that won't really satisfy the inquiry.



Elizabethsays:

February 17, 2012 at 12:58 pm

**All** of Snuffer's book sales profits are donated to the Church.



Guest777says:

February 17, 2012 at 3:41 pm

I want to thank John for putting this interview together.

Denver comes off quite differently in a voice interview than he does in some of his authoritative blog posts.

I believe Denver is very sincere in what he says and what he believes. I don't doubt that he has had some type of supernatural experiences of some kind.

I also believe he is serving a purpose in God's divine plan as we all are.

Having gotten the niceties out of the way, I must say that after listening to the full two sessions of him dodge questions, give evasive answers and reclassify "immoral actions" as "stupid" or was it "dumb" actions, and watching him reinvent himself and try to cozy up to the more liberal faction of the MS listening audience and any type of listener that might be listening, I couldn't help but wonder what Alma or Peter or Isaiah or Joseph would have been thinking if they were listening to that absurd mishmash that Denver was uttering.

I was reminded of the following scripture

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

If John has an incredible talent in his interviewing technique and tone it is his ability to subtly allow people to embarrass themselves with illogical and unsupported assumptions while sounding like a nonjudgmental, unobtrusive, un-combative interviewer.

(by unsupported claims I would reference, as an example, his claim that section 132 was actually given as a revelation to JS in 1829. Please at least admit that your postulation is a speculative theory when you teach it Denver!)

I too was a little taken back by how many times he referred people to his books instead of the scriptures.

Yes yes I know, he doesn't do it for money.. he donates it to the church bla bla bla

What does he do it for?

To get the valuable information out to the masses at \$30 per book?

Hasn't he heard of the internet?

Oh , that's right, he does have TWO BLOGS.. he HAS heard of the internet.

Lets be honest, would it take more time and energy and money for him to provide his wonderful knowledge on a website or blog for the world to have free access to than it did to obtain the services of a publisher to charge people for it?

It doesn't matter to me personally that he charges for it as I have no interest in paying for the type of information he is selling but I do find his methods and motivation for dispersing his noise to be inconsistent and disingenuous with his claims.

At this point the only thing believable about God calling Denver, in my opinion is that he is a bankruptcy attorney LOL

I will admit that God does have a history of sending messengers that appear to be un-credible to the people they are sent to warn... to test if the people are willing to judge the message or the messenger and surely the picking of Denver would show some consistency in the pattern there, (and a God with a real sense of humor)



Antauljnsays:

February 19, 2012 at 9:05 pm

But if his books were on the internet, I'd go blind trying to read all of that on a screen (or go broke printing it out, since I don't have a printer). It's actually cheaper (and better) for me to buy his books. Plus, I don't have issues if the internet goes down or the electricity goes off.



Gilbert says :

February 18, 2012 at 6:41am

Denver Snuffer:

You must have extremely good balance in order to walk the razor's edge: pride ; membership; priestcraft ; discipleship. How do you do it? What lessons have been afforded you, allowing you to remain objective?



Vaughnsays:

February 20, 2012 at 7:04 pm

Looks like Denver answered your question on his own blog as part of an "interview" by his wife (who collected questions from various sources online): <http://denversnuffer.blogspot.com/2012/02/interview-by-my-wife.html>



Quest 23says:

February 18, 2012 at 10:07 am

We are commanded to judge others & even Prophets , to prove that they are really righteous, by if they have Christlike pure love or not & by if they teach anything contrary to what Christ & his scriptures teach.

I do not believe a righteous person, one who possess Charity , would ever believe in polygamy, in any instance. It is completely against the teachings in the holy scriptures that Joseph Smith brought forth . A righteous person would know polygamy is a devilish doctrine & completely against the teachings of Christ.

Joseph Smith warned us to not believe in or listen to any person or even any angel or personage, who preaches or practices polygamy, in any form .

I do not believe a righteous person would believe Joseph Smith was a true Prophet if he preached or practiced polygamy. I believe Joseph Smith & his constant public & published testimony that he never preached or practiced polygamy.

I do not believe a righteous person would believe in nor support divorce & remarriage. They would instead support , believe in & possess the 'unconditional true love of Christ', especially for their spouse, no matter what that spouse may do in this life. They would never break their sacred marriage covenants, even if their spouse did. Christ taught that even if one spouse divorced the other the divorce has no effect on the marriage (for only God has the power to dissolve marriages in the next life if need be) & that the couple are still 100% husband & wife, despite the divorce & that someday that errant spouse must return & repent, either in this life or the next, & thus a righteous spouse with the Spirit & Christ's true love, would faithfully wait for their spouse to return & repent, thus preserve their marriage & family for eternity.

We have been repeatedly warned that it is up to us to be able to discern & judge 'true' Prophets from 'false' prophets or persons today, even in & especially in, Christ's Church that Joseph Smith restored.

Any prophet, priest or person can easily fall & lead people astray. No one is infallible. To teach opposite just sets people up to be easily blinded & deceived. We **will** be accountable for falling for & being deceived by anyone who teaches & mingles false doctrines with true doctrines, as unrighteous people always do.

Most everyone usually thinks they are righteous & have the Spirit & are receiving true revelations & visitations, even when they are not. I believe it is actually very rare for a person to be truly righteous & really possess the Holy Spirit & really receive true revelation & really know Christ & understand his Gospel.

Most people who profess Christ with their lips, have hearts & actions that are far from him.

By their fruits (their 'love & teachings') ye shall know them.



Seekersays:

February 19, 2012 at 8:38 am

Falling is a necessary part of learning how to walk. Many people stumble when attempting to discern truth from error. A person's judgement is no better than their information. If the information is flawed or incomplete, so is their judgement. It is like walking, sometimes we have to place our trust in a parent's outstretched hand until we develop sufficient faith so to do. Fear of heights will likely not bring a babe to his feet without intercession. Fear of "incorrectly" judging will not bring a disciple to the measure of his stature without mediation. Let; therefore, the Spirit guide... line upon line and precept upon precept... (one can only perceive what one is.)



Gooch4usays :

February 19, 2012 at 11:42 am

'I believe that oftentimes we just plain have too much to say. We think we're educated and we know so much. We think we can dictate what God would or wouldn't do. In reality we are very small and we know very little. We are as babes in this eternal existence. Of course we have a right to our opinions but our opinions, as loud as they sometimes are, often deafen and blind us to pure truth being revealed. If we're 'still' we will hear the answers from God, rather than inventing, albeit inadvertently, our own 'truths'. 'Those who are speaking, are not learning;' Now I'll shut up & listen.



Brrgilbertsays :

February 19, 2012 at 4:55 pm

(2 Nephi 31:3.)

3 For my soul delighteth in plainness; for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men. For the Lord God giveth light unto the understanding; for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding.



Seekersays:

February 19, 2012 at 5:29 pm

Alma 37:11



Anonymoussays:

February 20, 2012 at 4:17 am

I am fairly new to the "Mormon Stories" phenomenon but I don't think I'm going to be a stranger. Just heard the Denver Snuffer interview. Very eloquent and impressive. I'm a 54 years old, a seventeen year dissatisfied convert to the LDS Church. It's so refreshing to actually hear something intellectually challenging coming from Mormons.

Here's what I loved most about the interview. Denver's answer as to why he continues to hang around and be an active member of the Church: "Where else am I going to go?" That's so profound, especially if you've spent much time exploring other churches like I have. They've all got humongous problems of various kinds (but most aren't as obnoxiously conceited as the

LDS'ers). He said the "real excitement" of future ecclesiastical events won't be far from the LOS Church. Because of people like John Dehlin and "Mormon Stories" , I agree with him!

I'm coming to love dissatisfied LDS'ers who don't want to throw the whole baby out with the bathwater. We recognize there are some unique , wonderful qualities about the Church that are not generally evident elsewhere. But we're very very very frustrated with the hierarchy of the Church telling us what we're supposed to read and believe, and that we can't dissent when we see truth being subverted.

I'm telling you right here, right now you Twelve Apostles; you've got a serious serious integrity problem with many converts and more and more "lifers". Yes you're good people but we're not buying your false all knowing, all seeing facade any longer! Not for a minute.

The "descenters" are my lifeline to the Church. I'd probably give up the whole thing without them. Thank you John Dehlin for your brilliance and effort. As of tonight I'm joining "Mormon Stories" , and pledge to be an active part of the "reform" movement, going back through the archives to see what I've missed.

Denver Snuffer talked about the "four phases" of Mormon history. Phase five , "the reform", is about to begin (or is already underway). Get ready all you traditional , orthodox, "lifer" Mormons.



Antauljnsays:

February 20, 2012 at 2:55 pm

I do believe you are correct, reformer 1. There is most definitely change afoot



Brrgilbertsays :

February 20, 2012 at 5:38 am

2 Nephi 28: 21-26



Seekersays:

February 20, 2012 at 6:01 am

Inappropriately ,

we esteem the messenger more than the message and the "gift" more than "the Giver" of the gift . Revelations 19:10



Brrgilbert says :

February 20, 2012 at 6:30 am

(Mosiah 23:7.)

7 But he said unto them: Behold, it is not expedient that we should have a king; for thus saith the Lord: Ye shall not esteem one flesh above another, or one man shall not think himself above another ; therefore I say unto you it is not expedient that ye should have a king.

Does this apply to just kings?



Seekersays:

February 20, 2012 at 5:38 pm

" just " kings or "only to kings?"



Jaredsays:

February 20, 2012 at 10:30 pm

I'm pleased to see John Dehlin include faithful, testimony bearing church members on Mormon Stories. I hope he interviews many more.

I enjoyed Denver Snuffer's insights and testimony. I wish Denver would have provided more detail about his experiences with the sacred. The Book of Mormon writers didn't hold back when they related their experiences with the sacred. For example, Alma the younger frequently related his conversion experience (Mosiah 27:35-36). Amulek wasn't timid to testify either (Alma 10:7, 10, 11:31). Ammon was anxious to show forth the power of God to his fellow servants (Alma 17:29). The Book of Mormon names 23 men who saw the Savior.

I hope John will find others to interview who are experiencing the gift and power of the Holy Ghost and will boldly testify of God's goodness and tender mercies to them.



Cactikasays:

February 21, 2012 at 6:08 am

Very interesting interview. I enjoyed Denver's reasoning for so many horrible practices and rhetoric that went on in the early years of the church that clearly show a disconnect from divine guidance. The saints wanted a New Testament Church so the Lord gave them what THEY wanted rather than what he would want them to have. I really like the idea that there is so much disconnect with the church today and the original restoration because God, in his mercy and compassion, gave us something we wanted even though it is not what he desired. It does raise a few questions as to the importance of the restoration etc. I don't buy that theory and I think it has quite a few problems when faced with what the Restoration was supposed to be and held up to scrutiny with what Joseph taught the restoration really was. A few things to note also are the many times Denver would explain his conclusion and then use a scenario or conceived conclusion as evidence. The problem I found with a lot of the evidence he used to support his reasoning was evidence based on partial truth lacking all the facts that when said facts are known nullify Denver's conclusions.

Denver's understanding of what celestial marriage signified in the early church is simply false. It is a perfect example of presentism. No one ever understood celestial marriage to be separate in any form from plural marriage until after Polygamy was completely abandoned. The idea that celestial marriage as it is understood by most members now is the same as what it meant back then is just false. Further that Denver had to use word games like DC 132 only says "a wife" up to a certain point is a red flag. It's also patently false to attempt to paint Joseph's practice of plural marriage to be fully in line with the revelation of DC 132. Joseph clearly violated the revelation. I should also mention while I am at it that Denver's idea of how plural marriage ended after the hearing with Woodruff and the manifesto was issued is also not fully correct. Plural marriage continued in secret long after the manifesto and certainly after Woodruff's death. There were a number of other mistakes made in presenting evidence towards his conclusions that when realized work against what Denver is trying to convey. In the end I found myself saying "interesting theory, but you have the facts wrong and that's not how it happened." I don't mention this to attempt to invalidate Denver's beliefs and ideas, but simply to point that Denver seems to base a lot of ideas off either bad apologetics or outdated scholarship. Truly a refreshing interview regardless of Denver's inaccuracies. As someone who is no longer active in the church Denver's ideas really appeal to me and if the church moved more in his direction would find a much greater appeal to it.



Anonymoussays:

February 22, 2012 at 12:27 pm

What can distinguish a "real" supernatural encounter - information received from an external divine source - from natural mental experience - the product of unconscious cognitions acting on amalgamated memories triggered by subliminal environmental cues?

The evidence pointing to the power, pervasiveness, and subtlety of unconscious cognition is compelling. The routes traversed by our thoughts prior to reaching our awareness is the source of all kinds of cognitive illusions. What is more, such introspectional inaccessible processing is the very source of our mundane perceptions.

For instance, we do not "see" objects directly - our brains create abstract representations from patterns of neural activity that are no closer to "copies" of a perceived object than 1's and 0's that code a digital photograph of the same..

So the answer is ... that there is no way to distinguish a spiritual experience from either a dream or a hallucination ... unless...

The person claiming the vision can relate information that could not be known by natural means, or, produce some sort of divine artifact. I am not sure what that might be - I'll leave it to others to come up with examples. I suspect there are no such things, which may be the whole point!

What is the point? God wants it that way. Perhaps this fundamental uncertainty is God's intent. He designed the world to suffer this inherent epistemological limitation. This assures the primacy of faith.

And that would make people who claim "breakthroughs" - who convince themselves they can beat the system (so to speak - and for who knows what conscious or unconscious motivations - are actually breaking faith.

Perhaps God doesn't want people seeking after - or expecting on some level or another - visitations from elderly angels with white beards in rooms with transparent walls. Maybe such desires are misplaced. Maybe THIS was one of Joseph Smith's "bone headed" ideas that got out of hand.

**Antauljnsays:**

February 22, 2012 at 7:57 pm

H urn, didn't DS say in his interview that it was very real, more real than life itself?

**Anonymoussays :**

February 22, 2012 at 9:27 pm

I'll take your word that he said these words ... but I don't have to. The truth of him saying this can be confirmed by listening again to the mp3 file stored on my computer -and I can further verify it by inviting hundreds or people to listen for themselves.

But the truth behind Mr. Snuffer's words - his experience - cannot be so verified as being more than a hallucination. It must be taken on faith.

**Gatechrballsays:**

February 23, 2012 at 8:47 am

You've missed Denver's point entirely . He is not trying to convince anyone that he had these experiences, he's trying to convince people that these experiences are possible.

How is this assertion tested? The only relevant experiment is to do what Denver has done to see if you can replicate his experience. If you don't do what he has done, I don't think you have standing to suggest that it's not possible.

**Antauljnsays:**

February 24, 2012 at 10:15 pm

Exactly, Gatechrball.

**Anonymoussays:**

February 22, 2012 at 7:22 pm

Hello again folks. Thanks for your response Antauljn (what does that mean?) Again, I'm pretty much a neophyte when it comes to this "social media" stuff , and that was my first foray into the Mormon aspect of it, but I feel powerfully called at this time to endeavor further.

While this isn't a direct response to Denver Snuffer I'm writing this here as a tag to my last comment. This is a response to John Dehlin, Mormon Stories, and the Mormon "reform" or "full disclosure" movement. Actually I saw the John and Brooke Mclay interview just before Snuffer (and I saw a few others a while ago) but I didn't comment at the time. But that interview is so significant for the Church it cannot possibly be overstated (as well as many others of course on "Mormon Stories").

The Mclay interview just crystalizes all the horrendous issues the Mormon hierarchy must face in this era of the internet. No more stonewalling or whitewashing! The Mclay's are (or were) as sincere and talented and worthy Christians as your going to find anywhere, yet the LOS Church has become (or has been exposed as) a place not worthy of their presence (in their view) at this time. If this Church is "the restoration", this can not stand! Every issue the Mclay's discuss is 100% legitimate! There must be reconciliation on all these issues.

But here's the miracle: We have the momentum of John Dehlin and "Mormon Stories", and the internet to take on the incredibly powerful and entrenched forces of those in the LOS hierarchy that want to keep us from the truth , that are afraid of the truth. Thanks to John Dehlin (and others in the movement of course, but as I see it Dehlin (and "Mormon Stories") is the most significant) truth has a very strong voice and has a great chance of prevailing, and in rather short order I believe.

Folks, through the structure of the LOS Church , and the disclosure/reform efforts of those involved in the "Mormon Stories" network , well, we're talking about recapturing the true spirit of the restoration! Nothing could be more exciting than this! So you'll be seeing "reformer!" all around these pages. Hope to chat with many of you!

P.S. I will attend any confereneec near the SF Bay Area, possibly even LA. See you all on this incredible journey! GodBless.



Antauljnsays:

February 22, 2012 at 7:56 pm

reformer1, antauljn is actually the name of a character I created (I like to write): Antau L:Jn (pronounced Ann'taw La Jin'), I have made it part of my email address and this site, by default, put it as my user name, and I left it that way,



reformer1says:

February 25, 2012 at 9:23 am

Thanks again for the explanation antauljin

Now for my third comment into the Mormon blog world. (this is exciting!):

The great great question is: Is the Mormon Church reconcilable with the truth of its history? There is obviously a whole lot of good and beauty and spirit in the Church. Does all the stonewalling and white-washing cancel it all out? Is the Mormon Church this amazing fraud perpetrated on a gullible people? Is it just another church vying for our allegiance?

My main thought is this; a complete fraud usually does not produce so much good fruit. The LOS Church seems to be a significant force for good in the world. But it needs to be tweaked significantly so as not to offend so many intellectually oriented "truthseekers", I think with enough input from the "dissenters", the leadership will get the inspiration to do so.

Here's what I am certain of, for all you agnostics out there (I used to be one); the Bible is true, Its description of the nature of God and Christ's mission here on earth is accurate. Whether the LOS Church is true or not (as in containing the priesthood keys) has no effect on the ultimate truth of the Bible,

And for all you people who think you don't need organized religion ; you're wrong. Everyone needs to be part of a spiritually oriented community. And especially the kids absolutely need a healthy Christian group of some kind for support in battling the dark groups and forces all around them. (for older people its a little less vital).

So the great key is finding the best spiritually oriented community or communities! The community of ex-Mormons and concerned dissenters is a great community itself for adults but probably not so for young people. The question for me, like Denver Snuffer, is, if not the Mormon Church (and no, I don't need to call it by its formal name) then what is #2? I've searched high and low for a adequate #2. (I don't think it's the "Community of Christ"). It's not the Catholics or a run of the mill, over simplified Protestant group. It may be the Seventh Day Adventists (That's a very fine group of people).

But I'd love to have input on this matter: If not the Mormons then who?



KDsays:

February 25, 2012 at 11:12 pm

While the Church does teach the most truth (BoM) than any other Church on the earth, even if it did lose the keys & Priesthood after Joseph died, because of apostasy & abominations, but it also teaches some of the most vile falsehoods then most any other Church on the earth.

Wolves usually wear the most beautiful & convincing sheep's skin.



Quest 23says:

February 25, 2012 at 11:27 pm

The true Church & authority has never lasted very long on the earth before falling into apostasy, in any dispensation of time. The longest maybe being after Christ appeared to the Nephites.

If the Church did go into apostasy, it won't be long til Christ returns & restores his true Church once again, with the few true disciples of Christ from every religion.

Priesthood power is never lost for the truly righteous, they can always use it to bless & heal & teach those around them. But the 'authority' to use the Priesthood in some ways, like to baptize, etc., can be lost. But Priesthood power has always & will always come from righteousness, no matter what religion, gender, creed or color you are.



Fluffy Mergatryodsays:  
February 26, 2012 at 12:46 pm

I have read this book, as a former Mormon and Gospel Doctrine teacher and I didn't see anything wrong with it. Sure, Mr. Snuffer can expect uneasiness and perhaps some rumble of disapproval from the Brethren - these are awkward times for Mormonism, to be sure. But Mr. Snuffer knows that. So long as he's not expecting people to turn over their money and/or their daughters to him, that puts him head and shoulders above many of the claimants of visions who've been running around in modern times.

At the time, skepticism on the part of the public is also justified. Others have had and shared special experiences that seemed true to them and to others. I've been reading some of Annalee Skarin's books, and I own one in which she claims that sickness and aging are signs of sin. Yet, she grew old and died like everyone else, even spending time towards the end in a wheelchair.

So, there is a place for everyone in this discussion, provided we keep our focus on the facts of the matter. It's the assumptions we bring that throw us off, in many cases.

I envy Mr. Snuffer's deep spiritual life, and that of many commenters. I'm more dry and scientific myself, but that's just me. To wake up without going over the edge is a hard thing. Mr. Snuffer, please keep writing.



Kevinsays:  
February 26, 2012 at 11:34 pm

I don't know if this link is still open or not... but I am curious about the Church of The Firstborn. Are there members of this church on the earth that also belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints? Are there members of the Church of the Firstborn currently attending meetings in addition to our regularly held meetings?



Antauljnsays:  
February 27, 2012 at 11:56 pm

Not me. From my understanding (gained through scripture study) is that the Church of the Firstborn was the church in Adam's time, and that it isn't necessarily the same as the Church of the Lamb - so I would suspect that any members of that first church are with the City of Enoch.



reformerlsays:  
February 27, 2012 at 3:37 am

I absolutely agree with you Quest 23. Priesthood power depends upon righteousness (and charity). As I concentrate my efforts to help reform the LDS church, this is one area they need to address, this notion that they have exclusive rights to the Holy Ghost.

Knock off this, "We are the only true church" crap. Knock it off now! If you want people to like and respect us quit calling the churches and organizations they belong to ineffectual, or in essence, frauds. Use your heads folks. And which organization actually has more controversy in its past that could be deemed fraudulent?

Let's give credit to other churches when we can, instead of trying to pretend we're so perfect that we don't need them.. We're strong enough and confident enough in our own testimonies of truth to do so. Let's stop pretending we know everything that is worthwhile knowing.. It's time to find common ground with the rest of the Christian world rather than trying to distance ourselves from them by being so much above them.

That being said, remember this folks before you discount the LDS Church: Joseph Smith called perfectly the gathering of the 12 Tribes of Israel to Zion, or the United States. He put the "center stake" for the gathering at Independence MO, the exact geographical center of the US. How come so few other churches even know about the 12 tribes? Look at your Bible maps.. Before the northern kingdom of Israel was scattered (2 Kings) there were two, that's right TWO kingdoms where the 12 (that's right, 12) Tribes of Israel resided. 10 tribes were in the northern kingdom of Israel and two (including the Jews) were in the southern kingdom of Judah.

Now read your Bibles (especially Isaiah and Ezekiel) and realize the reuniting of Judah and Israel would be the great sign that we are indeed in the "latter days" (Ezekiel 37). For the first time in history since 700BC all 12 Tribes are reunited under one roof, the United States (though many of the peoples that came from Europe and the "isles of the sea" don't realize their ancestors were scattered from the northern kingdom of Israel). But it doesn't matter that the people don't yet realize who they are or where they came from. It's a fact; they're (the 12 Tribes) all here (because all the prominent peoples of the world are here), under the one banner of the United States

government. It doesn't say "gentiles" won't also be included in their new land, at least initially.

Now if you don't think there's power and inspiration and majesty in the LOS Church, go walk around the Oakland Temple with its magnificent grounds and spectacular view like I did yesterday. And yes, the Temples are dedicated to the gathering of all 12 Tribes of Israel, not just one of the tribes (Judah). They are basically sanctuaries for the pure at heart, a place of tremendous peace amidst the chaos of the world (or of course go walk around Temple Square in Salt Lake City; awesome feeling of the love of family and beauty and tranquility).



Quest 23 says:

February 27, 2012 at 4:47 pm

reformer1,

Yes, I also believe Charity is the key to possessing the Priesthood & the Holy Spirit, in fact, they are all one & the same thing. God's power is the power of love. He does all his mighty works by the power of love. Priesthood is Charity. If we don't possess Charity it is impossible to possess any Priesthood power, no matter how much we may be ordained. Charity, (True Unconditional Love), especially for one's spouse (or you can't have it for anyone else) is the most powerful thing in the world, for it's God's power.

Also, about the Church & apostasy; I believe Joseph Smith told the truth throughout his life when he constantly taught the Saints that polygamy in any form or by any name, was a whoredom & an abomination, as the BoM says it is, & that he (Joseph) never preached or practiced it, despite all the rumors & hearsay that he did.

Joseph knew far too much & was too righteous to fall for something like polygamy, which he knew was one of the vilest of evils. Joseph knew & taught the saints that if a prophet or even an angel ever appeared & preached polygamy in any form that he would prove himself a false prophet or bad angel.

For Joseph taught that no one, not Prophets, Angels or even God can preach things that contradict the Holy Scriptures & what Christ taught, which polygamy does. For Christ very clearly taught against polygamy & that if a married person remarried another person, it was adultery, even if they divorced their spouse 1st, which people don't even do in polygamy.

The verse in the BoM that many think condones polygamy in certain circumstances has been interpreted the opposite way from what it's really saying; it really means that unless God commands a people, they will always hearken unto whoredoms like polygamy, as every society has done throughout history.

I believe it is impossible to have Charity (the Priesthood of God or true love for one's wife), while one lives or even believes in polygamy. Thus why the Church fell into apostasy & immediately lost the Priesthood & keys because of unrighteous dominion against wives & women. The early Saints rejected the teachings of Joseph Smith & the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ & desired whoredoms instead. Just as all LDS Saints do today also, except a few.

I don't know anyone today in the Church who truly believes in or practices, preaches or possesses Christ's unconditional true love.

Christ taught that a person or prophet proves himself to be his 'true' disciple or prophet, 1st & foremost by his preaching, practicing & possessing of Christ's unconditional true love, especially for his wife.

False prophets never possess, preach or practice true love. False prophets, like Satan, believe in & preach things like polygamy, divorce & remarriage, men presiding over women & women's 'inequality' of power, position & authority in the Church, home & society, etc.



Brrgilberts says:

February 28, 2012 at 12:49 am

Brother Denver Snuffer;

I believe that it would be wise to leave history, correlation and evil speaking of the Lord's anointed well enough alone and concentrate on the Savior, as you have this evening on your blog, as well as the doctrines - of which you have a remarkable understanding... (after all you have had some "gifted" instructors.) We tend to spend too much time "fixing the blame;" rather than "fixing the problem." Further, it would be more advantageous to do so with the "good;" rather than "ill" will of the brethren. In this manner I can envision the Restoration continuing rather than turning into a reformation. Is it really necessary to throw the baby out with the bath water? If the roots are good... ..



Antauljnsays:

March 3, 2012 at 8:11pm

Brrgilbert, you've got a point , but if DS saw Jesus and received a commission from Him to share certain things - or even to say much of what he says about our history and ecclesiastical leaders, would it not be appropriate to say DS is one of the Lord's anointed (though obviously NOT called to lead the church)?



Brrgilbertsays:

March 4, 2012 at 7:58 am

Technically speaking, anyone who has gone to the temple for their own endowment is considered one of the Lord's anointed via initiatory, though there is a higher anointing... with oil.

Furthermore, in the very talk that "DS" has referenced by Boyd K. Packer entitled "The Candle of the Lord" (Mission President's Seminar; 25 June 1982) it states: "Avoid like a plague those who claim that some great spiritual experience authorizes them to challenge the constituted priesthood authority in the Church:"

Because the jury is still out, it is imperative to discern if we have a wolf in sheep's clothing. Does anyone know what Denver Snuffer's intentions are; what are his plans? Where is he going with his information?

To state that "DS" is following the Savior's instructions is to claim that he is doing what the Savior would do. Right now I have serious doubts that the Savior would focus so much "negative energy" in questioning the Brethren. It is the equivalent of Jesus spending a great deal of time raising doubts about Caiaphas or Annas as the "High Priests" instead of focusing on the positive aspects of His mission. To put it simply, it is uncharacteristic of the Savior to spend a great deal of time "questioning" and "finding fault:" He had more important things to do and accomplish. One must ask, "What is the point of the questioning done by DS?" It appears to me that the intent is to raise doubt; to derive disciples; and undermine the Church. (It might be a different story if I did not feel the Spirit when I attend Church and listen to the General Authorities.) Denver, himself, has declared that the leadership of the Church is comprised of "good men." How can someone be good and bad at the same time? What makes them approved one moment by the testimony of the Spirit and then the next, they are not via the witness of a man who claims to speak with "angels" and the Lord? Does this really wash? If it does, then the Godhead is divided; the Spirit testifying of one thing and the Savior testifying of another. It can't be both ways. Either the Church is on the path or it is not. Either the General Authorities are inspired or they are not.

It is important , too, in consideration of the proposition that DS should be regarded as a "mouthpiece" for and being directed by the Lord, to consider what the Prophet, Joseph Smith said:

I will give you one of the Keys of the mysteries of the Kingdom. It is an eternal principle, that has existed with God from all eternity: That man who rises up to condemn others, finding fault with the Church, saying that they are out of the way, while he himself is righteous, then know assuredly , that that man is in the high road to apostasy; and if he does not repent, will apostatize, as God lives. The principle is as correct as the one that Jesus put forth in saying that he who seeketh a sign is an adulterous person; and that principle is eternal, undeviating, and firm as the pillars of heaven; for whenever you see a man seeking after a sign, you may set it down that he is an adulterous man.

Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet

Joseph Smith, selected and arranged by Joseph Fielding Smith [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1976], 156.)

It would be informative to know how many times and how often the Savior has appeared to Denver Snuffer . It is my suspicion that it is fewer than most of his supporters would venture. I suspect that the only instruction that Denver may have received was to write "The Second Comforter" and that everything that has proceeded from that point has been through his own volition. It is possible for a man to fall from grace and to loose his spiritual standing with the Lord . . . unless you are like J. Golden Kimball and "repent to damn fast."

As I have stated,, the jury is still deliberating and I am "waiting on the Lord." In His good time things shall be made manifest to me. Right now, I have my doubts that there is a "special" commission given ... we shall see. I am watching and waiting .

Antauljnsays:

March 4, 2012 at 6:15 pm



What I see is a stripping away of the facade, of the falsehoods we are taught to believe. We are taught to worship the brethren (I know that many take offense at that, yet it is true - we are to obey them as if they were God, instead of having a relationship with God ourselves), but we should not do so.

OS has not told anyone how many times he has seen Jesus, yet Come, Let Us Adore Him tells of another time or two. Of course the experiences will seem like foolishness to those who believe such a thing is impossible for us lower life to experience.

The sad thing is, Jesus said he who is greater should be the servant of all - yet our "greater than all of us" are people we are warned to obey without question at our eternal peril. They command us in many details, even down to telling us what to wear and how to decorate our bodies - even down to what we can say in our own homes to our own guests (don't talk about the gospel unless you're trying to get them to join the church) - and that not only should we not discuss religion with our guests, we will be disciplined if we meet with them on a regular basis to discuss the gospel.



Brrgilberts says :

March 4, 2012 at 11:52 pm

It is a sad travesty of truth when difficulty arises in discerning between opinion and fact; counsel and command; supposition and warning; emotion and spirit. God is NOT the author of confusion. A house divided against itself cannot stand . . . that stone which was cut out of a mountain without hands will roll forth and the pure in HEART shall see God.

It seems to me evident that people are fallible and that as mortals all of us make mistakes ... prophets, priests and kings alike. What is binding upon us, I believe (opinion; not fact) is when we are given direction via the Holy Ghost; when He ratifies that information that we receive, we are bound by it and found to be responsible for it to our Heavenly Father. Having been given witness that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is that stone which shall roll forth; knowing thereby that Thomas S. Monson is the only person vested with all the priesthood keys that have been given to mortality at this time to bring us into the presence of God, as a group . . . I realize that I am bound by covenant to do all within my power to defend, sustain and support them in said mission. I intend to do so. It matters not what history affords . . . more often than not it is the result of "interpretation and opinion" rather than fact. At this time, I can't prove to anyone the veracity of the existence of Jesus Christ or that someone has seen Him. When it boils down to it, all that we have by way of knowledge has come to us a result of belief in our own experience or that of someone else's by way of testimony. We have learned to trust and believe our own senses ... though they can be deceived. We trusted and believed our earliest teachers that what they said was the truth ... we, as children, accepted what we were told. The issue, really; therefore, becomes one of credibility. Who or what is more credible . . . the Prophets of this Dispensation or Denver Snuffer? Certainly "history" (beyond our cognizant existence) is not a reliable witness . . . these things can only be experienced vicariously through the eyes of the authors who inscribed them. We, fortunately, have been taught the principle of "witnesses:" Thank goodness that these are not limited to those physical ones that are derived through our bodily senses, but, also, the spiritual ones that are derived through our spiritual senses. What greater witness can we have than from God? It is; therefore, upon this foundation that I lend my credence to the doctrines and teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which originate from Jesus Christ. I caution, based upon my own experiences, anyone who attempts to undermine or disclaim the workings of God through His earthly kingdom. I say this by way of warning and not supposition; by counsel and not command. If it be by emotion and not spirit or by opinion and not fact... judge ye... not to condemn, but to identify.

There is relative truth and absolute truth... what a blessing to know the difference.



Antauljn says :  
March 5, 2012 at 2:49 pm

I commend you. Very powerful words, indeed. Thank you for sharing them.



steven bassettsays:  
March 1, 2012 at 3:47 pm

"Well knows he who uses to consider, that our faith and knowledge thrives by exercise, as well as our limbs and complexion. Truth is compared in Scripture to a streaming fountain; if her waters flow not in a perpetual progression, they sicken into a muddy pool of conformity and tradition. A man may be a heretic in the truth; and if he believe things only because his pastor says so, or the assembly so determines, without knowing other reason, though his belief be true, yet the very truth he holds becomes his heresy. There is not any burden, that some would gladly post off to another, than the charge and care of their religion. There be, who knows not that there be of Protestants and professors, who live and die in an errant and implicit faith, as any lay papist of Loretto: (John Milton, Areopagitica)

In the end, moroni's promise invites us all to speak with our father and learn to hear his voice and be our own prophets, not unto the church, for ourselves and our own salvation.



Ryansays:  
March 2, 2012 at 5:54 pm

I was hoping that Denver could recommend the order in which one should read his books. Thank you in advance!



Antauljnsays:  
March 3, 2012 at 8:05 pm

The Second Comforter, first.

I can't remember what other order he put them in, but I would say Come, Let Us Adore Him and/or Nephi's Isaiah next. Then Beloved Enos.

Passing the Heavenly Gift should probably be read last, and only if a person can deal with the fact that LDS history is far from perfect.

Between those two areas, I don't know if it matters much. The first three pretty much build on each other, I think. I just can't remember if Nephi's Isaiah comes before or after Come, Let Us Adore Him.



Antauljnsays:  
March 5, 2012 at 3:48 pm

Ryan, in wandering around the internet, I have found the answer to your question, here (in the comments): <http://denversnuffer.blogspot.com/2010/08/2-nephi-29-8.html>

The Second Comforter

Nephi's Isaiah.

Eighteen Verses.

Ten Parables.

Beloved Enos.

Come, Let Us Adore Him.



Neilansays:  
March 4, 2012 at 3:01 am

I've got a couple of questions...How does Denver get a temple recommend? Does he lie to the Bishop etc? There are many in the world who claim to have seen/met Christ - but was it the real Jesus Christ or someone/something impersonating him?

**Antauljnsays:**

March 4, 2012 at 6:07 pm

Why would he have to lie?

**Seekersays:**

March 5, 2012 at 10:23 am

Even in a court of law, as Denver surely acknowledges, you swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth with an oath. **It** is a matter of integrity and honor. To do otherwise would deprive oneself of the blessings of the Temple, . . . God's house; wherein we are most likely to encounter the Savior ... "conversing with the Lord through the veil." How else does one support and sustain the Prophet and General Authorities of the Church?

**Brrgilbertsays:**

March 5, 2012 at 10:42 am

Some compromises have to be made. You have to sit at someone's table in order to eat their food.

**Brrgilbertsays:**

March 5, 2012 at 11:45 am

In Denver Snuffer's latest blog post, he likens himself unto Samuel the Lamanite. In his concluding remarks he makes the following statement:

"It makes me wonder if our eternal salvation depends on sorting out the truth from error. Or, alternatively, if it matters in the more immediate unfolding history preliminary to the Second Coming and the whole earth being cursed if we get it wrong:'

I really don't understand how the second statement is the alternative to the first? To me, reason dictates that one must know what the truth is (versus error) in order to even recognize that the "whole earth" is going to be cursed because we got it "wrong:' How else do we know if we have it "wrong:' Truth is a necessary ingredient to gauge "wrongness." Have I got it wrong? I am not a proponent of "blind faith", nor "knee jerk" reaction when salvation, not only personal; but earthly, is concerned. Didn't the Prophet Joseph say something about the things of God being of deep import and that it would take time and deep pondering to bring them forth? **It** matters a great deal in who and what you place your faith. It should not be misdirected or done in haste.

**Antauljnsays:**

March 5, 2012 at 3:00 pm

You know, Brrgilbert , I wondered about that, too ("In Denver Snuffer's latest blog post, he likens himself unto Samuel the Lamanite"). But he when he talked about no one knowing where Samuel came from or where he went later, I wondered if he was perhaps thinking that someone else is going to come warn us - someone we don't know, someone who will leave after giving us a message

Or, you could be right.

Or, he could be "talking through his hat."

In the part you quoted, what I see is this: "I wonder if it's more important \*to our eternal salvation \* to sort truth from error - or - if it's more important for our \*immediate temporal salvation \* to sort truth from error.

**Brrgilbertsays:**

March 5, 2012 at 6:59 pm

Understanding the purpose of communication, I believe that the third conclusion of "talking through his hat" can be dismissed. Communication generally has a purpose... especially in a public forum where people's perceptions and opinions matter. In such a forum, "credibility" is at stake. If one desires to be heard, it is wise not to destroy their own credibility, Denver knows this; therefore, he is not "talking through his hat:' Too, Denver is astute in his communication style ... such is the case with the type of professional training that he has had. You have to be very wise in the use and interpretation of nuance and insinuation in order to be a competent attorney. A person's perception can be painted or "predisposed" by a little direction or misdirection (depending upon the intent of its author.) "Where's Waldo?" A simple question like that can illicit a completely different perspective and behavior from a person than say, "What do you see in this picture?" It all depends on what the purpose of the communication is. When no clear purpose is given, it behooves the

reader, witness, or listener to draw their own conclusions ... generally it is in the form of "does this shoe fit" or should it be cast aside. That is why, when no clear purpose is stated and we don't know the intent of the communication, we are left to grovel in the dark and arrive at our own "application" of the new information. It is like receiving a key and trying to find out what it opens ... do we not try it in every door or lock until it "works?" (I admit that for some, this is not a priority ... but when you are challenged and searching for answers ... it becomes a potential one.)

For my "lock-picking;" it fit in the door of "justification." That is why I believe that Denver was likening himself unto Samuel. Of course, I admit, that the only way that you can really "know" is by questioning the author, Denver, and finding out the "Why Samuel and Why now?" Unlike our current legal system, it is important to discern or know "intent." This is the "key" that Heavenly Father has, as He discerns the thoughts and intents of peoples hearts: That is why only the pure in HEART shall see God. The things which come from God are pure and simple; easy to be entreated; easy to be understood; in our language and according to our understanding ... provided that our heart is open (being unlocked.). It comes with "abundant" witnesses and is self-evident. "Is this a spirit that I can't understand?"



Antauljnsays:  
March 6, 2012 at 9:21pm

Your reply was very well thought out, made sense, and enlightened me. Thank you.



Brrgilbert and Seekersays:  
March 6, 2012 at 3:38 am

Denver;

I have read your blog post this evening and wanted to make a few comments; I hope that you don't mind. In my quest for truth, it has been necessary to "try the spirits" and this I have attempted to do. You have been "tried." You have undergone my "trial" because I needed to discern who you are. The thing that I regret is that it has had to occur in a public forum ... I had attempted to make it private, but this was not to be. I have stated in previous comments that "the pure in HEART shall see God." I believe that you concur with this. The person, according to my understanding, who is pure in heart is without guile and full of love and charity ... even to the white paint, plastic saints. It was disheartening and painful for me to read: "I doubt many men who know God ever do please men again. Instead they look with pity at the white paint and plastic saints. It would be good to reach them, but it is only necessary to let God reach you." I hope that this was written in a weak moment. I acknowledge that if I make allowances for myself, of necessity, I must make them for others ... for you. Isn't that what purity in heart means? Doesn't it mean to have charity and love for others? I read the scriptures that you cited in D&C 121 and wondered why you didn't include the following:

45 Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dew from heaven.

46 The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth; and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever.

It states that we are to be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith ... doesn't that mean fellow believers ... the Brethren and the General Authorities?

I recalled something that the Prophet Joseph Smith stated:

It is a time-honored adage that love begets love. Let us pour forth love-show forth our kindness unto all mankind and the Lord will reward us with everlasting increase; cast our bread upon the waters and we shall receive it after many days, increased to a hundredfold. Friendship is like Brother Turley in his blacksmith shop welding iron to iron; it unites the human family with its happy influence.

I do not dwell upon your faults, and you shall not upon mine. Charity, which is love, covereth a multitude of sins, and I have often covered up all the faults among you. (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith 315-16; hereafter TPJS) We all make mistakes ... its in our nature. History, as you have pointed out, is full of "mistakes"

made by "inspired" men. Do you really have to be perfect in order to gain God's approbation? Once you do gain it, does that mean you won't make any more mistakes? Does that disqualify you from His guidance, direction and correction? Whose "measuring stick" do we need to apply; our own or the Lord's?(1 Peter 4:8.)

8 And above all things

have fervent charity among yourselves:

for charity shall cover

the multitude of sins.(1John 3:14.)

14 We

know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth

not his brother

abideth in

death.

"To Moroni the Lord said: 'Faith, hope and charity bringeth unto me-the fountain of all righteousness; and Moroni replied to the Lord (being, of course, moved upon by the Holy Ghost): 'I remember that thou hast said that thou hast loved the world, even unto the laying down of thy life for the world, that thou mightest take it again to prepare a place for the children of men. And now I know that this love which thou hast had for the children of men is charity; wherefore, except men shall have charity they cannot inherit that place which thou hast prepared in the mansions of thy Father : (Ether 12:28, 33-34.)

(Bruce R. McConkie, Doctrinal

New Testament Commentary, 3 vols. [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1965-1973], 2:

379.)Denver, the verdict for me is in ... I love you and look forward to future doctrinal exposes from a brilliant and gifted man ... without, of course, any disparaging remarks to war ds the Brethren or anyone else, for that matter. With honor; from one imperfect man to another ...



Jenheadjensays :

March 11, 2012 at 1:16 am

Great interview. Thanks for taking the time to have him on. I'll be praying for round 2. -



1986says:

March 11, 2012 at 4:00 pm

Couple of points to confirm Denver's basic premise:

I also believe that I have seen beyond the veil. I'm just a human of course, I can't say the sun will come up tomorrow because it hasn't happened yet, but to the best of my knowledge right now, I can say that I know there is a 'Redemption' for humankind, and that there is a man who we have been naming 'Jesus' who has something to do with our redemption, i.e. who has overcome the world.

And in regards to the church, I currently believe in the gathering of Israel-that there is One fold and One Shepherd over all the earth (and the LDS church, the Community of Christ, and other Restoration churches are a 'peculiar' if not very important section of the fold).

If I could sum up what I "knew" or saw during the experience in one sentence, this is it: 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth:

My opinions:

Not everyone has to have the experience. It is just as good to believe and do one's best to DO GOOD in life. (i.e. hence the idea that: 'More blessed are they who believe on your words because you have said that you have seen me and know that I am').

I believe there are a lot of people who have had these experiences: i.e. "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord"; Martin Luther King, Jr. during his last sermon gives a strong indication of his 'religious experience'; Plotinus, the philosopher, talks about the 'flight of the Alone, to the Alone' (who I believe was a Christian before things went bad in like 300 AD); and a lot of people who have near-death experiences have resonated with my memory of the experience. Sometimes I have vivid dreams that remind me of the experience-various scenes of indescribable peace in civilization and nature. There are phrases in the scripture that remind me of the experience: From 'Blessed are the poor in spirit' to 'Let your light shine forth' reminds me of the experience.

'Mormon' tasted of the goodness of Jesus' or 'the light of everlasting light lit up their souls:1 may be wrong, but personal opinion is that I don't think it is necessary to define '1st' or '2nd comforter' and give names to this and that... For me the experience was hardly comparable to a system of commandments or jargon, it was purely spiritual.

To define it with words or to write a book about it seems very difficult to do and stay true to the experience itself.

Denver's experience may have been different though, so I can't judge his experience based on mine. I just feel cautious about defining the experience in literal terms; it seems like if someone has the experience and then they start making things up about it, there is a lot of potential for harm Uoseph smith???).

After it happened I started doubting that it may have just been a biological phenomenon. However, now that I actually have studied biology, my memory of the experience has only become brighter and stronger.



1986says:

March 11, 2012 at 4:09 pm

Joseph Smith's original version of his first vision resonates true to me, as well. I also agree with the basic premise of Denver's position. I may have a different opinion on the details about how to talk about it. His opinion may be more thought-out than mine; I am ignorant about what is the best way to go about talking about such things.



Lennoxsays:

March 14, 2012 at 1:13 pm

Take your meds.

Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet **will** receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward.



Simonsays:

April 3, 2012 at 10:25 am

This is exactly the way I hope the church will go one day. I think that in the end, this way to approach things will be more faith promoting than to keep any "harm" from all the members. Trees that grow up with strong winds will get stronger roots... it's my personal opinion that people would not get that easily shaken if they would get this kind of answers from the church itself..

Talking to Angels | Wheat and Taessays:

June 25, 2012 at 1:03am

[...] detailing the steps to go through to receive an angelic visit. John introduces Denver as a "A Progressive, Fundamentalist, Non-Polygamist Mormon Lawyer Who Claims to Have Seen Christ." Rather than recount the entire 2 hour interview, I've included the last 20 minutes[...]