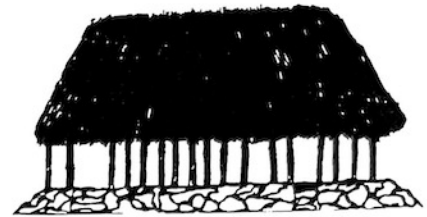


There are many voices calling to us in this life. Much of the action occurs in our own minds. Life's greatest battles are fought within the chambers of our minds. I have come across many vivid experiences which have opened up to me, a vision of understanding of how the mental battles occur (that wrestling within of good vs. bad, of Inspiration vs. Sinspiration). I have learned a way to recognize from which radio station I am receiving ideas.

First, let me share three experiences with you.

Experience #1 . . .

Elder Brigham Smoot



“Probably the most remarkable experience of Elder Wood’s first mission resulted from a missionary’s disobedience to his Mother’s council.

When Brigham Smoot left for his mission to Samoa, he promised his Mother that he would not go swimming out in the sea. One day after his arrival in Samoa, he was persuaded by Elder Wood to join the group for the usual bath at sea. As the new Elder was wading out to sea, he slipped and fell into a deep hole in the reef. As he was unable to swim, he soon dropped to the bottom of the hole. Elder Wood had promised to be responsible for the new Elder’s safety, and noticing him absent, began a frantic search. Brigham Smoot was soon found in the attitude of prayer at the bottom of the hole. His limp body was dragged from the hole and carried to the beach. Blood was flowing from his eyes, nose and mouth.

Elder Wood said of his companion, ‘He was perfectly lifeless and dead.’ In vain the Elders used all normal restorative measures.

By this time a large crowd of inquisitive natives had gathered around. Their telling of a native boy who had previously drowned in the same hole brought no comfort to the worried missionaries.

Elder Wood said that at this time *he felt inspired by the Spirit* that the only way his companion’s spirit could re-enter his body would be to administer to him. Accordingly, the Body of Elder Smoot was dressed in clean garments and a new suit of clothes. The superstitious natives warned against such treatment of the body, and thought it sacrilegious to tamper with life and death.

Obedient to the inspiration, however, the head was anointed with oil (James 5:14). While Elder Wood was sealing the anointing, he felt life come back to Elder Smoot’s body. Shortly after the administration, Elder Smoot talked with the missionaries and bore solemn testimony to them. *He told of how*, in the spirit, he watched them recover his body from the hole, take it to the beach and try to restore it to life. *He also told of touching Elder Wood on the shoulder and telling him that the only way to bring life back into the body was to use the Priesthood which he bore.”**

* “Samoa Mission Journal.” Joseph Dean, President of the Samoa Mission, date of June 18, 1889. Now in the Church Historian’s Office. Salt Lake City, Utah.

This experience revealed to me that a spirit may speak to a mortal. It is perceived as a *thought, an impression to the mind*, and is heard in the mortal’s own tone of voice. The Receiver, on his own free agency, then decides what to do with the thought.

