

Testimonies That Plural Marriage Was Commanded by God

As you read these accounts, look for what these individuals did that helped them receive spiritual confirmation that plural marriage was commanded by God.



“When the principle of polygamy was first taught I thought it the most wicked thing I ever heard of; consequently I opposed it to the best of my ability, until I became sick and wretched. As soon, however, as I became convinced that it originated as a revelation from God through Joseph, and knowing him to be a prophet, I wrestled with my Heavenly Father in fervent prayer, to be guided aright at that all-important moment of my life. The answer came. Peace was given to my mind. I knew it was the will of God” (Phebe Woodruff, in Edward W. Tullidge, *The Women of Mormondom* [1877], 413; punctuation standardized).



“I searched the scripture and by humble prayer to my Heavenly Father, I obtained a testimony for myself that God had required that order [of plural marriage] to be established in his church. I made a greater sacrifice than to give my life, for I never anticipated again to be looked upon as an honorable woman by those I dearly loved. [How] could I compromise conscience [and] lay aside the sure testimony of the spirit of God for the Glory of this world?” (Zina Diantha Huntington Young, autobiographical sketch, Zina Card Brown Family Collection, Church History Library, Salt Lake City; spelling and punctuation standardized).



“I was personally acquainted with Joseph Smith, the Prophet, during twelve or fourteen years, by whom I was first taught this doctrine, and knew him to be a man of truth and honor. But then, I am not dependent on his word for my knowledge of plural marriage; the Lord gave me a divine testimony confirming His teachings, which no man can give nor take away” (Lorenzo Snow, in Eliza R. Snow, *Biography and Family Record of Lorenzo Snow* [1884], 405).

- What are some faithful steps that these individuals took when they learned about plural marriage?
- How did having a witness that Joseph Smith was an inspired prophet influence these individuals to obey this commandment?
- How might these experiences be helpful for someone who has questions about whether Joseph Smith was acting as an inspired prophet of God when he implemented the practice of plural marriage?