

Scientific Method

Joseph Smith's First Vision

During this time of great excitement my mind was called up to serious reflection and great uneasiness;. . . What is to be done? Who of all these parties are right; or are they all wrong together? If any one of them be right, which is it, and how shall I know it?

Ask a Question

I was one day reading the Epistle of James, first chapter and fifth verse, which read: *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.* I reflected on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, I did.

Gather Information

At length I came to the conclusion that I must either remain in darkness and confusion, or else I must do as James directs, that is ask of God. I at length came to the determination to “ask of God,” concluding that if he gave wisdom to them that lacked wisdom, and would give liberally, and not upbraid, I might venture.

Form a Hypothesis

After I had retired to the place where I had previously designed to go, having looked around me, and finding myself alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God.

Do the Experiment

I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me. . . When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me be name and said, pointing to the other – This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him! . . . I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong.

See Answer

Some few days after I had this vision, I happened to be in company with one of the Methodist preachers, I took occasion to give him an account of the vision which I had had. I was greatly surprised at his behavior; he treated my communication not only lightly, but with great contempt, saying it was all of the devil, that there were no such things as visions or revelations in these days; that all such things had ceased with the apostles, and that there would never be any more of them. We must all check his results and find the answer ourselves.

Check Results

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Ask a Question	Gather Information
Form a Hypothesis	Do the Experiment
See Answer	Check Results