Building Faith In Christ

Alma 32-34
Alma Teaches 32:21-24
Vs. 21 Faith is not – perfect knowledge
Vs. 21 Faith brings us to hope
Vs. 21 Hope brings us an assurance
Vs. 22-24 Assurance is that God loves us and wants us back
Imparteth his word to all
Requires only a desire

Article Four

We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are:
**Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ**

President Gordon B. Hinckley

Speaking of worthiness in coming into the Church, President Joseph F. Smith once wrote: “People must be taught before they are fit candidates for baptism. Now, what shall they be taught? Why, faith in God, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost, faith in the efficacy of prayer, and in the ordinances and principles of the gospel which Jesus taught; faith in the restoration of this gospel and all its powers, to the Prophet Joseph Smith;

President Gordon B. Hinckley

faith in the Church which he was instrumental in establishing; faith in the priesthood, as authorized servants of the living God; faith in the revelations received in modern times; faith in the performance of the works required of a Latter-day Saint; faith in the principle of tithing, and in all other requirements, temporal and spiritual, mentioned in the law of God; and, finally, faith to live lives of righteousness before the Lord”


President Wilford Woodruff

Exercise Faith in God

As the ancients had faith; as the world was created by faith; as Noah built an ark and preached the gospel of repentance for one hundred twenty years by faith; as Abraham went out not knowing where he was
going by faith; as the ancients performed many mighty works, such as the subduing of cities and kingdoms by faith;

**President Wilford Woodruff**

therefore I say to the Latter-day Saints, you are required by the God of Israel, your heavenly Father, and by his Son Jesus Christ, by the holy angels, and by every principle of eternal truth, to exercise faith in the revelations of God, for they will be fulfilled as the Lord lives.—JD 25:10, January 6, 1884.

**Elder Bruce R. McConkie**

There are no limits to the Power of faith. By it the worlds were made; by it all things are; by it the heavens and the earth shall pass away. Faith is the supreme, ruling in the Universe; it is the power of God; it is infinite and eternal. If the earth itself, the universe, the sidereal heavens -- all things were created and are preserved and held by faith, who is to say that the little things of this life shall not be governed by that same infinite power?, Vol.4, p.85

**Elder Bruce R. McConkie**

There is nothing the Twelve shall seek -- in faith -- that shall not be done! "But no man is possessor of all things except he be purified and cleansed from all sin. And if ye are purified and cleansed from all sin, ye shall ask whatsoever you will in the name of Jesus and it shall be done. But know this, it shall be given you what you shall ask." (D&C 50:28-30.)

*The Mortal Messiah*

**A window full of pots**

**vs.**

**A Fruit Bearing Tree**

*Alma 32-34*

**Alma challenges**
Must try it 32:27
Must believe it will work 32:28
“If any man will do his will”
Results increases faith 32:29
You must acknowledge truth 32:30
Test results 32:31-33

To Become Dormant
Have not reached your desired outcome
“Have come short of the Glory of God”

Elder Russell M. Nelson
Some people on life’s journey forget who they really are and what is really important. Without sure identity and priority, blessings that matter most are at the mercy of things that matter least.

Elder John A. Widtsoe
First, to keep our testimony we must feed it, regularly and plentifully. The steps that lead to a testimony: desire, prayer, study, and practice, must be trodden continuously. The desire for truth should stamp our every act; help from God in all things must be invoked; the study of the gospel, which has not been plumbed to its depth by any man should be continued; and the practice of gospel principle, in all our labors, must never be forgotten.

He who would retain this testimony is required to give constant study to the gospel. He cannot live forever on that which he learned yesterday. By a little such study every day, light will follow light, and understanding will increase. This is doubly important since we live in a changing world, which requires continuous applications of gospel truth to new conditions.

To keep his testimony, a person must (1) increase in the use of gospel principles. There must be (2) stricter conformity with the higher as well as the lesser laws of life—(3) more activity in Church service; (4) increasing charity and kindness; (5) greater sacrifice for the common good; (6) more readiness to help advance the plan of salvation; (7) more truth in all we do. And as our knowledge of gospel law increases, our activity under gospel law must increase.

By such feeding, a testimony may be kept; may remain whole
and sound; and may grow to become an increasingly certain
guide, and a constant joy in life. There is no other way to
preserve a testimony.

Evidences and Reconciliations. P. 39

The Cycle of Faith

Levels of Faith, Hope, and Knowledge

[Assurance]

Second Level of Faith
Faith unto Power

Elder James E. Talmage

The predominating sense in which the term faith is used throughout the
scriptures is that of full confidence and trust in the being, purposes, and
words of God.
Such trust, if implicit, will remove all doubt concerning things
accomplished or promised of God…even though such things be not
apparent to or explicable by the ordinary senses of mortality

Lectures on Faith
1:9 …faith is the assurance which men have of the existence of things
which they have not seen, and the principle of action in all intelligent
beings.

Elder James E. Talmage

Paul taught: “Now faith is the substance [i.e., confidence, or assurance]
of things hoped for, the evidence [i.e., the demonstration or proof] of
things not seen.” Heb. 11:1

Elder James E. Talmage
Belief, in one of its accepted senses, may consist in a merely intellectual assent, while faith implies such confidence and conviction as will impel to action.

Jesus the Christ P. 96-97

**Lectures on Faith**

1:10 ...faith, and faith only, which is the **moving cause of all action** in them; that without it both mind and body would be in a state of inactivity, and all their exertions would cease, both physical and mental.

**Lectures on Faith**

1:11 ...faith is...the moving cause of all action...in all ...intelligent beings.

**Lectures on Faith**

1:17 Who cannot see, that if God framed the worlds by faith, that it is **by faith that he exercises power** over them, and that faith is the **principle of power**? And if the principle of power, it must be so in man as well as in the Deity? This is the testimony of all the sacred writers, and the lesson which they have been endeavoring to teach to man.

**Matt 17:20**

...for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a **grain of mustard seed**, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

**Paul and Faith [Hebrews 11]**

:4 Abel
:5 Enoch
:6 Noah
:7-20 Abraham
:23-26 Moses
:29 Red Sea
:20 Jericho

The Cycle of Faith
Levels of Faith, Hope, and Knowledge

[Assurance]

Faith

The Instigative Intermediary that Activates Priesthood Power and Personal Resolve

Instigate
To urge on to some action, inspire, provoke, stimulate, inflame, kindle, galvanize.

Intermediary
Acting as a go between,

Chem. A substance formed at a stage between the raw material and the finished product

Faith

The Instigative [action that inspires, stimulates] Intermediary [the go between] that Activates Priesthood Power and Personal Resolve.

D&C 130:20-21
There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated
And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.
D&C 104:16
But it must needs be done in mine own way

D&C 82:10
I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.

D&C 132:46
...whatsoever you seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever you bind on earth, in my name and by my word...shall be eternally bound.

Alma Prescribes 4 Requisites
32:41
Faith
Great Diligence
Patience
Anticipation [looking forward]

Requisites Explained
33:2 - Faith
Faith to worship God not hinged to location
33:4 - Diligence
Diligence [matters not where you pray]
33:19-22 Faith
Moses & brass serpent

Requisites Explained
34:8
Patience
34:9-10
Looking forward

The Atonement Will BE

Elder Bruce R. McConkie
Baptism began with Adam. "He was caught away by the Spirit of the Lord, and was carried down into the water, and was laid under the water. "... He was then taught that "by the blood ye are sanctified," (Moses 6:59-68.) That is to say, without the atonement and without the shedding of the blood of God's Son, neither baptism nor any ordinance would have any efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection of the dead.

The Promised Messiah, p.387
Elder George Q. Morris

And what would Spirit world existence mean, what objective would it have, if there were nothing beyond our existence in the spirit world, because God found it necessary for us to come to the earth to get our experience, to gain a body, to pass through death, to be raised an immortalized and glorified being so that we might go on to perfection.

Elder George Q. Morris

Without the atonement there would have been no creation of an earth because that would have meant that we would have all come to the earth as is stated by Lehi, and after transgression had occurred, death would follow, and the earth would be merely the eternal graveyard of the sons and daughters of God. That would have been the end.

Elder George Q. Morris

The Lord would not undertake to create an earth for that end. An earth life would never have been planned except for this glorious principle of the atonement. And would we have an heaven without the principle of the atonement, would we ever have had an existence in heaven as spirit children of God without the atonement, for God the Eternal Father is a being, a Glorified Being of flesh and bone, exalted and celestialized, and that comes through death and the resurrection by means of the atonement.

Elder George Q. Morris

Unless spirit and matter are inseparably connected, we cannot have a fulness of joy. And if they are so connected, we may have joy in its fullest degree, which I would say means attainment, achievement, exaltation. We must come to the earth; we must have earth life; we through death; and we must be exalted and glorified through the power of God and through the gospel and the resurrection.

Lectures on Faith

1:24
Faith, then, is the first great governing principle which has power, dominion, and authority over all things; by it they exist, by it they are upheld, by it they are changed, or by it they remain, agreeable to the will of God. Without it there is no power, and without power there could be no creation nor existence!

Alma 32:42
Diligence
Faith
Patience
By and by [looking forward]

Elder Bruce R. McConkie
If we keep the commandments and are true and faithful in all things, we shall inherit eternal life in our Father's kingdom. Those who attain this high state of glory and exaltation shall dwell in the presence of God. They shall see his face and converse with him mouth to mouth.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie
Joseph Smith said: "After any portion of the human family are made acquainted with the important fact that there is a God, who has created and does uphold all things, the extent of their knowledge respecting his character and glory will depend upon their diligence and faithfulness in seeking after him, until, like Enoch, the brother of Jared, and Moses, they shall obtain faith in God, and power with him to behold him face to face." (Lectures on Faith 2:55.)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie
This is the ultimate aim and hope of faithful mortal men: to see the face of God while they dwell in the flesh. After they have gained a knowledge of him by the power of the Holy Ghost, if they are true and faithful in all things and because he is no respecter of persons, they have power to see his face as have prophets in all ages. "And it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will." (D&C 88:68.)

A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, p.49

Elder Delbert L. Stapley
"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 John 3:1-3.) As sons and daughters of God, we are
required to purify and perfect ourselves in righteousness, otherwise, we cannot be with him nor enjoy eternal lives and glory in his kingdom. To become like God we must possess the powers of Godhood.

**Elder Delbert L. Stapley**

For such preparation there are important covenants obligations, and ordinances for mankind to receive beyond the requirement of baptism and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Every person is to receive his or her endowments in the house of the Lord which permit them, if faithful and true, to pass by the angels who stand as sentinels guarding the way to eternal glory in the mansions of God.

Conference Report, April 1961, p.66

**Elder David B. Haight**

As he dedicated the cornerstone of the Salt Lake Temple on April 6, 1853, President Brigham Young made this observation about the endowment:

“Your endowment is, to receive all those ordinances in the House of the Lord, which are necessary for you, after you have departed this life, to enable you to walk back to the presence of the Father, passing the angels who stand as sentinels, … and gain your eternal exaltation in spite of earth and hell.” *(in Journal of Discourses, 2:31.)*

Conference Report, April 1992

**Alma 32:43**

*Then, my brethren, ye shall reap the rewards of your faith, and your diligence, and patience, and long-suffering, waiting for the tree [Christ] to bring forth fruit unto you.*
Knowledge 2
Waiting for the tree (Christ)
To bring forth fruit to you

Hope 1
Desire to believe

Hope 2
Look forward with faith,
Diligence, patience, anticipation

Faith 1
Plant the seed,
do not resist the spirit

Faith 2
Nourish with care
And diligence

Knowledge 1
The see is good,
enlarges the soul