Truth, Its Very Being and Nature

Deuteronomy 32:4
4 [He is] the Rock, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he.

Psalms 25:5
5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou [art] the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Psalms 40:11
11 Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.

Psalms 89:14
14 Justice and judgment [are] the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Isaiah 10:20
20 And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

Jeremiah 9:3
3 And they bend their tongues [like] their bow [for] lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.

John 3:21
21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 4:23
23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 8:44
44 Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:45
45 And because I tell [you] the truth, ye believe me not.

John 15:26
26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

2 Corinthians 13:8
8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

Ephesians 4:25
25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

1 Nephi 16:2
2 And it came to pass that I said unto them that I knew that I had spoken hard things against the wicked, according to the truth; and the righteous have I justified, and testified that they should be lifted up at the last day; wherefore, the guilty taketh the truth to be hard, for it cutteth them to the very center.

1 Nephi 16:3
3 And now my brethren, if ye were righteous and were willing to hearken to the truth, and give heed unto it, that ye might walk uprightly before God, then ye would not murmur because of the truth, and say: Thou speakest hard things against us.

2 Nephi 28:28
28 And in fine, wo unto all those who tremble, and are angry because of the truth of God! For behold, he that is built upon the rock receiveth it with gladness; and he that is built upon a sandy
foundation trembleth lest he shall fall.

2 Nephi 33:5
5 And it speaketh harshly against sin, according to the plainness of the truth; wherefore, no man will be angry at the words which I have written save he shall be of the spirit of the devil.

2 Nephi 33:6
6 I glory in plainness; I glory in truth; I glory in my Jesus, for he hath redeemed my soul from hell.

Jacob 4:13
13 Behold, my brethren, he that prophesieth, let him prophesy to the understanding of men; for the Spirit speaketh the truth and lieth not. Wherefore, it speaketh of things as they really are, and of things as they really will be; wherefore, these things are manifested unto us plainly, for the salvation of our souls. But behold, we are not witnesses alone in these things; for God also spake them unto prophets of old.

D&C 1:39
39 For behold, and lo, the Lord is God, and the Spirit beareth record, and the record is true, and the truth abideth forever and ever. Amen.

D&C 50:9
9 Wherefore, let every man beware lest he do that which is not in truth and righteousness before me.

D&C 84:45
45 For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

D&C 88:66
66 Behold, that which you hear is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness--in the wilderness, because you cannot see him--my voice, because my voice is Spirit; my Spirit is truth; truth abideth and hath no end; and if it be in you it shall abound.

D&C 93:28
28 He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things.

D&C 93:29
29 Man was also in the beginning with God. Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be.

D&C 93:30
30 All truth is independent in that sphere in which God has placed it, to act for itself, as all intelligence also; otherwise there is no existence.

D&C 93:36
36 The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth.

D&C 93:37
37 Light and truth forsake that evil one.

D&C 93:39
39 And that wicked one cometh and taketh away light and truth, through disobedience, from the children of men, and because of the tradition of their fathers.

D&C 123:12
12 For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it--

Moses 5:7
7 And then the angel spake, saying: This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father, which is full of grace and truth.
Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Section One 1830-34, p.43

Avoid contentions and vain disputes with men of corrupt minds, who do not desire to know the truth. Remember that "it is a day of warning, and not a day of many words." If they receive not your testimony in one place, flee to another, remembering to cast no reflections, nor throw out any bitter sayings. If you do your duty, it will be just as well with you, as though all men embraced the Gospel.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.2
"Mormonism" embraces all truth that is revealed and that is unrevealed, whether religious, political, scientific, or philosophical. 9:149.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.8
Our religion descends to the whole life of man, although some, sometimes, say, there is divine law, there is human law, and there are principles which pertain to our religion and there are principles which pertain to the philosophy of the world. But let me here say to you, that the philosophy of the religion of heaven incorporates every truth that there is in heaven, on earth, or in hell. 15:125.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.32
The Spirit of the Lord enlightens every man that comes into the world. There is no one that lives upon the earth but what is, more or less, enlightened by the Spirit of the Lord Jesus. It is said of him, that he is the light of the world. He lighteth every man that comes into the world and every person, at times, has the light of the spirit of truth upon him. 14:201.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.132
There is not a despot upon the earth whose power has not originally sprung from the Priesthood, and there is not a law in the Priesthood but what is founded on the revelations of Jesus Christ. These are the laws upon which all governments were originally based. Truth will endure forever, and every person that cannot abide truth will fail in obtaining eternal life. Truth is what we have. Let us live to it and we shall abide for ever and no power can prevent it. 7:149.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.153
Belief is inherent in the creature implanted within him for his use and benefit to believe or disbelieve. Your own experience may satisfy you that faith is not brought into requisition by the presentation of either facts or falsehoods to the external senses, or to the inward perceptions of the mind. If we speak of faith in the abstract, it is the power of God by which the worlds are and were made, and is a gift of God to those who believe and obey his commandments. On the other hand, no living, intelligent being, whether serving God or not, acts without belief. He might as well undertake to live without breathing as to live without the principle of belief. But he must believe the truth, obey the truth, and practice the truth, to obtain the power of God called faith. 8:259-260.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.220
Do you think that people will obey the truth because it is true, unless they love it? No, they will not. Truth is obeyed when it is loved. Strict obedience to the truth will alone enable people to dwell in the presence of the Almighty. 7:55.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.319
It is necessary that all have the privilege of receiving or rejecting eternal truth, that they may be prepared to be saved, or be prepared to be damned. 7:139.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.429
It is a special privilege and blessing of the holy Gospel to every true believer, to know the truth for himself. 1:234.

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.430
A man or woman desirous of knowing the truth, upon hearing the Gospel of the Son of God proclaimed in truth and simplicity, should ask the Father, in the name of Jesus, if this is true. If they do not take this course, they try and argue themselves into the belief that they are as honest as any man or woman can be on the face of the earth; but they are not, they are careless as to their own best interests. 12:95.

Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p.810

Truth
Truth is absolute and eternal; it endureth forever. (D. & C. 1:39; 88:66; Ps. 100:5; 117:2.) It never varies; what is true in one age is true in every age. The theories of men (scientific or otherwise) vary from discovery to discovery and are in a continuing state of flux, unless they chance on a particular point to reach ultimate truth. Then there is no more change, and the truth discovered is in complete harmony with every other truth in every other field. Truth never conflicts with truth.

Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p.811

Truth is not relative; it is absolute. What is true in one eternity is true in the next. The knowledge men have of the truth may be great at one time and slight in another, or the reverse, but the quantity of ultimate truth is neither added to nor diminished from by revelations received or discoveries made. For instance: Jesus Christ is the Son of God and salvation is based on his atoning sacrifice. Accountable persons can be saved only on conditions of faith, repentance, baptism, receipt of the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring in righteousness to the end. These are eternal, absolute truths. They apply to every living person from Adam to the last man. There is nothing relative about them. Similarly: Joseph Smith was the anointed of the Lord in the restoration of the gospel in latter-days. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lords kingdom on earth and the only place where salvation may he found. Again these are absolute, eternal, ultimate truths.

Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p.811

Truth

The only field in which men have the assurance that there is any measurable knowledge of ultimate truth is in the field of revealed religion. Certainly there are many scientific discoveries which are pure truth, but there are also many scientific theories in which fact and hypothesis are intermingled. There are also many truths in all churches, but the measure of truth required to assure salvation is found only in the Church were God has placed it according to his own will. Mormonism, so-called, is thus a synonym for truth. "Have the Presbyterians any truth?" the Prophet asked. "Yes. Have the Baptists, Methodists, etc., any truth? Yes. They all have a little truth mixed with error. We should gather all the good and true principles in the world and treasure them up, or we shall not come out true Mormons." (Teachings, p. 316.)

Neal A. Maxwell, All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience, p.6

Few doctrines, save those pertaining to the reality of the existence of God, are more basic than the truth that God is omniscient. "O how great the holiness of our God! For he knoweth all things, and there is not anything save he knows it." (2 Ne. 9:20.) Unfortunately, this truth is sometimes only passively assented to by individuals who avoid exploring it and coming to understand its implications. Later on, such believers sometimes have difficulty with the implications of this core doctrine which connects with other powerful doctrines such as the foreknowledge of God, foreordination, and foreassignment. The all-loving God who shapes our individual growing and sanctifying experiences and then sees us through them could not do so if He were not omniscient.

Neal A. Maxwell, All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience, p.23

There is little doubt, for instance, but that a goodly portion of our pride proceeds from some assumptions we make about ourselves and our lives assumptions that are at first soothing but very wrong. We think, for instance, that we "own" ourselves. It is perfectly true that our individual identity is guaranteed, that we are agents for ourselves, and so forth but this truth, when it is torn away from other realities, gives us a very lopsided view of things. Without the ransoming atonement of the Savior, we would be stranded souls, doomed to die with no hope of the resurrection or of individual immortality. We were literally purchased by Jesus. (Acts 20:28.) Quite true, we do not yet have to acknowledge that reality, though someday we will. Nor are we now even forced to follow the conditions that the Purchaser laid down. So, in a sense, we are quite free to do as we please, just as if we were our "own."

Neal A. Maxwell, All These Things Shall Give
Thee Experience, p.29

Clearly, we had to be moved on from the first estate where the truth that "all these things shall give thee experience" no doubt seemed so very logical to us moved on to this earth, where all these experiences are sometimes so inexplicable and even nearly intolerable.

Neal A. Maxwell, All These Things Shall Give Thee Experience, p.108

The Prophet Joseph spoke of how apostates often bring severe persecutions upon their former friends and associates. "When once that light which was in them is taken from them they become as much darkened as they were previously enlightened, and then, no marvel, if all their power should be enlisted against the truth, and they, Judas like, seek the destruction of those who were their greatest benefactors." (HC 2:23.)

Neal A. Maxwell, The Smallest Part, p.4

We live in an age that is flooded with facts and issues, big and small. But, ironically, in some respects men are, as never before, . . . ever learning, and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth," or of the real issues. The poet, E. E. Cummings, described one view of learning when he wrote: "All ignorance toboggans into know and trudges up to ignorance again, a process which would be a reflection of futility as much as humility. Much of the flood flowing from the frontiers of knowledge is very valuable, but in the deluge of data there are also many insignificant truths. There are also isolate truths which are, in many respects, like the isolate individual both wander in perpetual search of companionship and meaning. Some research is actually undertaken in reaction to the human condition not to alleviate it. President John R. Silber of Boston University has observed:

Neal A. Maxwell, The Smallest Part, p.4

"One can forget the meaninglessness of his own existence by occupying himself with scientific experiments of dubious import. Countless scientists and scholars spend their lives in the search of truths that are irrelevant to them."

Neal A. Maxwell, The Smallest Part, p.4

Something can be both true and unimportant. Therefore, just as there are, in Jesus' words, "the weightier matters of the law," there are "weightier truths! We must not only distinguish between fact and fancy, but know which facts are worthy of fealty.

Neal A. Maxwell, The Smallest Part, p.4

The gospel of Jesus calls our attention to the reality that there is an aristocracy among truths; some truths are simply and everlastingly more significant than others! In this hierarchy of truths are some which illuminate both history and the future and which give to men a realistic view of themselves a view that makes all the difference in the world.

Neal A. Maxwell, The Smallest Part, p.4

In this context, one can see how being "learned" (by simply indiscriminately stockpiling a silo of truths) is not necessarily the same thing as being wise, for wisdom is the distillation of data not merely its collection and storage.

Neal A. Maxwell, The Smallest Part, p.4 - p.5

So far as is known, the question Pilate put to Jesus, apparently without expecting the Savior to answer "What is truth?" a has been answered only once: the Lord later said, ". . . truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come." Truth is a knowledge of reality of "things." Some realities are transitory and inconsequential; some realities maintain themselves everlastingly, or longitudinally, over vast spans of time. In the hierarchy of truth, therefore, some truths describe those realities which persist from age to age which are more significant than fleeting facts. A knowledge of such central realities as the existence of God and his presiding and purposeful role in the universe, the great rescue mission of his Son Jesus Christ, and of man's co-eternity with our Heavenly Father is sovereign sense! Other gradations of truth reflect knowledge of those things which are often important, but passing and proximate.