

Faith

What is faith?

First principle of the gospel – centered in Christ	Articles of Faith 1:4	4 We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost
Hope (in truth)	Alma 32:21	21 And now as I said concerning faith--faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.
Building material (Indiana Jones); assurance of the reality of things not seen or experienced with 5 senses	Hebrews 11:1	Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
A principle of power	Hebrews 11:3	Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. Power to act, to change, and to endure
Foundation of all righteousness	Joseph Smith	
Based on truth and preceded by knowledge	Mormon Doctrine, p. 252	“Faith is based on truth and preceded by knowledge. Until a person gains a knowledge of the truth, he can have no faith.” “Faith can be exercised only by those who conform to the principles of truth which come from the true God who actually exists.” The more we conform ourselves to His attributes, the more power we have to overcome the world. Brother of Jared (stones)
Pre-requisite for miracles	Mormon Doctrine, p. 266	“Miracles are the fruits of faith”
Necessary for salvation	Mosiah 3:12	
Reward bestowed for personal		Feel approval of Heaven through the Holy Ghost Strength of faith depends on quantity and quality of

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righteousness		evidence, which depends on sacrifice (for truth)
Trust in the Lord and His timing		
Motivates us and gives us strength to improve and endure hardship		
Proactive - Belief in action - Doing it anyway		When too tired, too worn out, etc. Brother of Jared (stones) Nephi's bow

Scriptural Examples of Faith

Brother of Jared (stones)

Nephi (bow, Laban)

Abraham (kill Isaac, but promised posterity)

Sarah (son after past age)

Effects of Faith

Miracles and miseries	Hebrews 11:33-38	Saved from armies, fire, lions, sword, raised dead, BUT ALSO afflicted, destitute, imprisoned, killed, mocked, sawn asunder, stoned, tempted, tormented, tortured, wandered
		Alma & Sons of Mosiah

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What holds us back?

Self-worth	Neal A. Maxwell, p. 5	<p>“Unrepented of mistakes bring a measure of self-hatred”</p> <p>We set limitations on self and God Believing we must be perfect or “earn” His love</p>
	Believing Christ, p. 46	<p>Atonement = exalted despite imperfections</p> <p>“In fact, the whole purpose of the atonement of Christ is to provide a way whereby those who have not kept, do not keep, and probably will not keep all the commandments all the time can still be exalted in the celestial kingdom of God—where they will continue to make progress in eternity until they are perfected—provided that they genuinely hunger and thirst after righteousness” (Robinson, 1992, pp. 46-47).</p>
	Believing Christ, p. 48	<p>“We agree that perfection is our ultimate goal and that we will work with him toward that goal. Thus the idea of ‘keeping the commandments’ is still a vital part of the arrangement, but ‘keeping the commandments <i>perfectly</i>’ isn’t, at least not for now. In return for this wonderful concession, we also agree to repent whenever and however we fail to keep the commandments perfectly and to try again, and again, and again, if necessary, and never to give up repenting and trying to be like him. The Savior in turn agrees to cover our mistakes while we are learning and making progress” (Robinson, 1992, p. 48).</p>
	Believing Christ, p. 60	
	Believing Christ, p. 72	Faith wks covenant
	Believing Christ, p. 77	“By his grace any problem can be overcome, any circumstance can be worked around, anyone can be saved”
Discouragement		
Disbelief/unbelief	Maxwell in Lund, p. 186	God placed us here to succeed
Selfishness		Charity = Spirit = evidence course is pleasing to God = increased faith
Pride	Gideon	Only 300 men – forced dependence on God
Sin		Must qualify for some blessings “Limit” God when we don’t honor our covenants
Not willing to pay	Children of	Didn’t want to talk with God—YOU do it, Moses!

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price	Israel Gospel Principles SWK quote p. 105	Offered all in sacrifice = obtain faith
Doubt	Jesus & Jairus Peter on the water	
Tragedy or adversity or unexpected		Not the circumstances, but the discouragement and despair they bring
Confusion re: Suffering	Making Sense of Suffering, p. 40	<p>“The price of much wisdom is much grief” – Solomon</p> <p>What is the price of compassion, patience, etc. Are we willing to pay the price to become those things?</p> <p>“The outward miracle must wait until the inward is finished”</p> <p>“Sorrow seems to move in slow motion” – Making Sense of Suffering, p. 40</p>
Impatience		“Slow processes can’t be quickly undone”
Comparison	Making Sense of Suffering, p. 69	“It does little good to look at others’ tests because every single one is different”

How can we develop faith?

Great manifestations come with great responsibility and opposition		Moses – Sees God, then Satan Protects us from accountability
Small and simple things	Alma 37:6	Liken scriptures to ourselves
	Matthew 6:13	One day at a time – daily bread
Recognize tactics of Satan	Lund, p. 214	Direct v. implicit choices = Satan keeps our focus off the consequences
Use our agency		Faithful through both good AND evil “Educate” our desires

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		God will not make us and the devil CANNOT make us
Attitude		Opposition of flesh of mind/attitude – invite in or deny access to Savior
Build a relationship with Christ		How can we trust someone we don't know? Must believe they love us, will help us, comfort us, and save us via the Holy Ghost
	Moses 6:63	All things bear record of Christ
	Alma 30:44	All things testify of Christ
Perseverance		Truth + Time = Experience = Patience = Salvation
Law of the Harvest		Effort → Harvest

Why is faith so important?

Promises

Spiritual gifts given to those who keep all my commandments, and them that seeketh so to do

(D&C 46:9)

“The Lord compensates the faithful for every loss . . . (Elder Wirthlin in Lund, p. 84)

“Things always work out” (Hinckley in Lund, p. 201).

“...I know that he can *save* me, that he can save me from myself, from my sins, from my weaknesses, from my lack of talent” (Robinson, 1992, p. 34).

“There are many who want to serve God and keep his commandments, who hunger and thirst after righteousness, but who, because of the very loftiness and nobility of their desires, despair at the reality of their performance” (Robinson, 1992, p. 34).

References

Maxwell, Neal A. (2004). *Moving in His Majesty & Power*. Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book.

Robinson, Stephen E. (1992). *Believing Christ*. Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book.