

# A LESSON IN FAITH

## FROM THE BIBLE DICTIONARY:

FAITH IS TO HOPE FOR THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN, BUT WHICH ARE TRUE (HEB. 11:1; ALMA 32:21), AND MUST BE CENTERED IN JESUS CHRIST IN ORDER TO PRODUCE SALVATION. TO HAVE FAITH IS TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN SOMETHING OR SOMEONE. THE LORD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF AND HIS PERFECT CHARACTER, POSSESSING IN THEIR FULLNESS ALL THE ATTRIBUTES OF LOVE, KNOWLEDGE, JUSTICE, MERCY, UNCHANGEABLENESS, POWER, AND EVERY OTHER NEEDFUL THING, SO AS TO ENABLE THE MIND OF MAN TO PLACE CONFIDENCE IN HIM WITHOUT RESERVATION. FAITH IS KINDLED BY HEARING THE TESTIMONY OF THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH (ROM. 10:14—17). MIRACLES DO NOT PRODUCE FAITH, BUT STRONG FAITH IS DEVELOPED BY OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST; IN OTHER WORDS, FAITH COMES BY RIGHTEOUSNESS, ALTHOUGH MIRACLES OFTEN CONFIRM ONE'S FAITH.

FAITH IS A PRINCIPLE OF ACTION AND OF POWER, AND BY IT ONE CAN COMMAND THE ELEMENTS, HEAL THE SICK, AND INFLUENCE ANY NUMBER OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN OCCASION WARRANTS (JACOB 4:4—7). EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, BY FAITH ONE OBTAINS A REMISSION OF SINS AND EVENTUALLY CAN STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

ALL TRUE FAITH MUST BE BASED UPON CORRECT KNOWLEDGE OR IT CANNOT PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESULTS. FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST IS THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF THE GOSPEL AND IS MORE THAN BELIEF, SINCE TRUE FAITH ALWAYS MOVES ITS POSSESSOR TO SOME KIND OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ACTION; IT CARRIES AN ASSURANCE OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE THINGS HOPED FOR. A LACK OF FAITH LEADS ONE TO DESPAIR, WHICH COMES BECAUSE OF INIQUITY.

ALTHOUGH FAITH IS A GIFT, IT MUST BE CULTURED AND SOUGHT AFTER UNTIL IT GROWS FROM A TINY SEED TO A GREAT TREE. THE EFFECTS OF TRUE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST INCLUDE (1) AN ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE THAT THE COURSE OF LIFE ONE IS PURSUING IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD (SEE HEB. 11:4); (2) A RECEPTION OF THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO MAN IN THIS LIFE; AND (3) AN ASSURANCE OF PERSONAL SALVATION IN THE WORLD TO COME. THESE THINGS INVOLVE INDIVIDUAL AND PERSONAL TESTIMONY, GUIDANCE, REVELATION, AND SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE. WHERE THERE IS TRUE FAITH THERE ARE MIRACLES, VISIONS, DREAMS, HEALINGS, AND ALL THE GIFTS OF GOD THAT HE GIVES TO HIS SAINTS. JESUS POINTED OUT SOME OBSTACLES TO FAITH IN JOHN 5:44 AND 12:39—42 (SEE ALSO JAMES 1:6—8).

|| FAITH IS A GIFT FROM GOD, BUT YOU MUST NURTURE YOUR FAITH TO KEEP IT STRONG. FAITH IS LIKE THE MUSCLE OF YOUR ARM. IF YOU EXERCISE IT, IT GROWS STRONG. IF YOU PUT IT IN A SLING AND LEAVE IT THERE, IT BECOMES WEAK. ||  
-TRUE TO THE FAITH

## CIRCLE A TOPIC TO FOCUS ON:

PRAYER • TITHING • FASTING • REPENTANCE • SABBATH DAY

HOW DOES YOUR FAITH HELP YOU LIVE THAT PARTICULAR PRINCIPLE?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

ASK A FAMILY MEMBER TO SHARE AN EXPERIENCE THAT HAS STRENGTHENED HIS OR HER FAITH. SHARE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES AS WELL.