

## Faith Outline by Mike Baird

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### Faith is the moving cause of all action

- Joseph Smith:  
If men were duly to consider themselves, and turn their thoughts and reflections to the operations of their own minds, they would readily discover that it is 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 1:10)
- Examples:
  - Walking
  - Farmer planting the seed

### Faith is the evidence of things not seen

- Heb 11:1  
" Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."  
JST: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"
  - Joseph Smith:  
" From this we learn that 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."
- Orson Pratt  
" Faith, in a more extended sense, is the assurance of the mind in relation to what has been, what is or what will be. This faith or assurance of the mind is obtained only through evidence. It is not a knowledge of things, but the belief of things of which the mind has no certain knowledge. All belief is founded on evidence." (*Orson Pratt's Works*, 48)
- Orson Pratt  
" Faith or belief is the result of evidence presented to the mind. Without evidence, the mind cannot have faith in anything" (*True Faith*, 2)
- Evidence that God lives

- Heb 12:1  
" Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us"
- Witnesses
  - Joseph Smith and others
- Physical creation
- Alma to Korihor (Alma 30:40-42)  
" And now what evidence have ye that there is no God, or that Christ cometh not? I say unto you that ye have none, save it be your word only.  
But, behold, I have all things as a testimony that these things are true; and ye also have all things as a testimony unto you that they are true; and will ye deny them?  
Believest thou that these things are true?"

## Faith comes by hearing the word of God

- Romans 10:17
- Joseph Smith:  
"Faith comes by hearing the word of God, through the testimony of the servants of God; that testimony is always attended by the Spirit of prophecy and revelation." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Pg 148)

## The spiral

Evidence → Faith → works (action) → evidence

See "Faith to Testimony"

( <http://mikebaired.net/Church/GospelTopics/FaithToTestimony.pdf> )

## Alma and the seed

- stages:
  - seed → seedling → tree → tree bearing fruit
- Alma 32: 26-43
- V 27:
  - "if" it is our responsibility
  - particle of faith or just desire to believe – motivates us
    - Joseph Smith:  
"... it is faith, and faith only, which is the moving cause of all action in them"
- V 28:
  - "compare the word unto a seed"
    - Word of God
      - **Book of Mormon** Gospel, , Words of Prophet, words of your parent
  - "if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart"

- Cannot have a hard heart or seed cannot be planted
- “When you feel these swelling motions”
  - First stage in gaining a testimony
  - All our senses can be deceived but not the feeling of the Spirit
- V 29-33
  - Seed begins to grow
  - “it is good”
    - If the tree where this seed came from is a good tree and the seed grows then the seed is good and if it continues to grow will bear the same fruit.
- V 34
  - “is your knowledge perfect?”
    - Yes “in that thing”
    - you can know it is true then
      - Don’t have to wait for all knowledge
- V35
  - “because it is light”
    - You can know it is of your heavenly father
    - By the fruits you can know it
- V38-39
  - Neglect
- V40-41
  - Nourish
- V42-3
  - Most precious fruit

## What inhibits the growth of faith?

- Why does the same evidence produce faith in one and not in another
  - Orson Pratt:
 

“The weakness or strength of faith will, therefore in all cases be in proportion to the weakness or strength of the impressions produced upon the mind by evidence. It is often the case, that the judgment becomes weak and beclouded, that the evidences, however great, and clear, and lucid, and demonstrative, produces no sensible impression upon the mind. Hence: Faith does not always exist in impaired or vitiated minds with a strength proportioned to the degree or force of evidence” (“True Faith”, pg 5)
  - Difference in the individual
  - Soft clay vs hard clay
  - Alma 12:10
    - Humble – faith will grow (2 Nephi 28:30)
    - Harden heart – faith becomes less and less
      - we cast out the seed

- we try and bend the iron rod to what we are doing instead of conforming to the word of God
- “Why were Laman and Lemuel ‘so dense?’”
  - 1 Nephi 15: 7-11
    - Not harden your heart – Alma 12:10-11
    - Ask in faith – D&C 42:61
- Alma 32:16-18
  - Humble without being compelled
  - When we ask for a sign we don’t realize there is evidence all around us – we don’t see because of the hardness of our hearts
- Orson Pratt:
 

“The evidence which God always gives to establish the divinity of his revelations is sufficient to produce faith in the heart of every person living, who examines it in a proper manner. Hence every creature in all the world, who has come to years of understanding, and who has evidence placed within his reach, is condemned if he does not believe it.” (“True Faith”, pg 13)

## Why Faith

- “Wouldn’t it be easier if God just showed himself?”
  - If we had all knowledge then agency would be taken away and there is no growth
    - That was Satan’s plan!
- We cannot grow in any other way
  - Must be done in this life (Alma 34:32-34)

## What can produce faith sufficient to save?

- Sacrifice
  - Heb 10:32-34
  - Joseph Smith, Lectures on Faith 6:7
 

” Let us here observe, that a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation”
- Knowledge you are on the right path
  - Joseph Smith, Lectures on Faith 6:2
 

” An actual knowledge to any person, that the course of life which he pursues is according to the will of God, is essentially necessary to enable him to have that confidence in God without which no person can obtain eternal life.”
- How do you know you are on the right path?
  - By the sacrifices we make
    - Joseph Smith Lectures on Faith: 6:10
 

”Those, then, who make the sacrifice, will have the testimony that their course is pleasing in the sight of God; and those who have this testimony will have faith to lay hold on eternal life, and will be enabled, through faith, to

endure unto the end , and receive the crown that is laid up for them that love the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ”

- If you are unwilling to sacrifice your faith will decrease
  - Joseph Smith Lectures on Faith: 6:10  
” But those who do not make the sacrifice cannot enjoy this faith, because men are dependent upon this sacrifice in order to obtain this faith: therefore, they cannot lay hold upon eternal life”
  - Joseph Smith Lectures on Faith: 6:12