

Testimony
Youth Fireside, March 15, 2003
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Testimony

How can he say: "I know"

How can I "know"

What if I have doubts?

Can I "fake myself" into believing?

Bishop – do you have doubts?

What about things I don't understand? Don't I need to know everything before I can say "I know the Church is true"?

Is it OK to rely on other's testimonies – Like Parents?

"Wouldn't it be easier if God just showed himself?"

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

Harden not your heart

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

