

Faith and Missionary Work in the Ward
5th Sunday Lesson
June 30, 2008 – Mike Baird

Principle – Witness → Faith → Action

Witness/Evidence produces Faith

- Hebrews 11:1
"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the *evidence* of things not seen"
- Romans 10:17
"So then *faith cometh by hearing*, and hearing by the word of God"
- What is the role of the Holy Ghost?
 - 2 Nephi 33:1
"for when a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men"
 - D&C 42:17
"For, behold, the Comforter knoweth all things, and beareth record of the Father and of the Son"
- Why doesn't evidence always create faith?
 - Hard heart (2 Nephi 33:2)
 - 2 Nephi 33:2
"But behold, there are many that harden their hearts against the Holy Spirit, that it hath no place in them; wherefore, they cast many things away which are written and esteem them as things of naught"
 - Sin
 - Unbelief (Mosiah 26: 3)
 - Mosiah 26:3
"And now because of their unbelief they could not understand the word of God; and their hearts were hardened"

Faith requires that we act

- James 1:22
 - " But be ye *doers* of the word, and not hearers only"
- What should we do?
 - 2 Nephi 32:1-5
 - ". . .feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do... receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do"
 - We can apply what we learn from the scripture to know how to be, say and do
 - For those times where it is not spelled out the HG will guide us
- Why don't we act?
 - Fear
 - "Let faith guide your actions and not your fears"
 - "We react based upon our fears or we are acted upon"
 - Doubts
 - Joseph Smith
 - " For doubt and faith do not exist in the same person at the same time; so that persons whose minds are under doubts and fears cannot have unshaken confidence; and where unshaken confidence is not, there faith is weak." (Lectures on Faith, 6:12)

Action produces evidence (witness)

- Ether 12:6
" And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye *receive no witness until after the trial of your faith* "
- President Harold B Lee
"you must learn to walk to the edge of the light, and perhaps a few steps into the darkness, and you will find that the light will appear and move ahead of you"

Testimony

- A testimony is a result of a witness
- Our testimonies are the sum of all our witnesses

Apply to missionary work

- Change our focus
- Missionary work has not been our "focus"

What does focus mean?

- Magnifying glass
- How do we then magnify things for missionary work?
 - Put it at the top of our agenda
 - Put it in our prayers
 - other ideas?
 - Not a new program

Anxiously Engaged

- Neal A Maxwell

"There is a difference, therefore, between being steadily and effectively or "anxiously " engaged, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, being frantically engaged one moment and being passive and detached the next.

Lest we wrongly assume that traveling on the straight and narrow path requires hectic pace, let us remember that the Lord does not want us to weary by the way and for very good reasons. Thoughtless haste and spurts of service are not what is desired, for such naiveté is like the businessman who confuses volume with profit"

(Notwithstanding My Weakness, pg 3)

The result of changing focus

- As we change focus we will recognize opportunities when they present themselves
- As we are prepared to act (exercise faith), we will receive opportunities
- We never know
 - Maria Karlsson