

Christ Is Risen; Faith in Him Will Move Mountains

By President Russell M. Nelson

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Faith in Jesus Christ is the greatest power available to us in this life. All things are possible to them that believe.

Such a simple phrase but people really don't believe it. We make figurative and spiritualize so much of the Lord's Word now as a "culture" in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints it really is shameful, obviously so, which is why we got this talk directed at us as members by the Lord's mouthpiece. Another simple yet profound quote I've shared often that ties into this, that "all things are possible to them that believe", is this quote from Joseph Smith:

"I believe all that God ever revealed, and I never hear of a man being damned for believing too much; ***but they are damned for unbelief.***"

- Joseph Smith Jr (TPJS, Section Six 1843-44, p.373)

The next thing we do as Saints is we overinflate our own personal revelation and deflate the revelation from the oracles of God; we aggrandize the spirit-o-meters and put down the revelations coming from the keys.

Need of Revelation

"The plea of many in this day is, that we have no right to receive revelations; but if we do not get revelations, we do not have the oracles of God; and ***if they have not the oracles of God, they are not the people of God.*** But say you, What will become of the world, or the various professors of religion ***who do not believe in revelation and the oracles of God as continued to His Church in all ages of the world,*** when He has a people on earth? ***I tell you, in the name of Jesus Christ, they will be damned; and when you get into the eternal world, you will find it will be so, they cannot escape the damnation of hell.***"

- Joseph Smith (TPJS, Section Five 1842-43, p.272)

Brothers and Sisters, all things are possible for those that believe in the revelation from the keys and then act on them; if we do not act in faith and follow the oracles we are NOT "the people of God" and we will be damned. Period.

My dear brothers and sisters, I am grateful for the privilege of speaking with you on this Easter Sunday.¹

President Nelson then put this into his footnotes: In some parts of the world, people use a unique and special way of exchanging greetings on Easter morning. In their local language, the greeter will say, “Christ is risen!” The greeted person then responds, “Truly! He is risen!” For example, the exchange of Easter greetings by Russian speakers begins with “Христос воскрес” (Christ is risen [resurrected!]), answered by “Воистину! воскрес!” (Truly! He is risen!).

Which I find strange as well as fascinating... Why? Fun useless trivia? Deeper unseen meaning? This reminds me of Islam greetings but for Christians... I wonder how much our viewpoints would be different if we addressed every follower of Christ with our testimonies of Him, for that is what this is- “I know Christ is risen” followed by “amen!”... If only we could take what we squeeze into a couple holidays and make it a part of our actual character and spread it throughout our entire lives, imagine what we could accomplish, how much personal growth could be obtained.

The atoning sacrifice and Resurrection of Jesus Christ changed each of our lives forever. We love Him and gratefully worship Him and our Heavenly Father.

During the past six months, we have continued to grapple with a global pandemic. I marvel at your resilience and spiritual strength in the face of illness, loss, and isolation.

“illness, lose, and isolation” sound like many of the things people have listed when describing the “desolating sickness” (D&C 45: 31) and its “many desolations” (D&C 45: 33)

I pray constantly that, through it all, you will feel the Lord’s unfailing love for you. If you have responded to your trials with a stronger discipleship, this past year will not have been in vain.

Interesting that he is already hammering home the theme of “standing in Holy places and being not moved” vs “lifting up one’s voice and cursing God and dying”... Here he says that if the last year has not created a stronger disciple out of you that it was in vain. Interesting considering that his big push for 2020 was that of a “hinge point” and now he is talking as though the hinge has already swung- it is a matter of which side of the door you now find yourself on. Also interesting when taking into account what Elder Cook recently said at a BYU-Idaho Faculty devotional (4 principles that set a foundation for eternity):

“[I have] had the spiritual impression that many lessons resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic will bless the kingdom now and in the future.

While the “leadership side of Zion’s Camp is profound, the underlying bright line doctrine is even more important,” said Elder Cook. First, the redemption of Zion “... cannot be brought to pass until mine elders are endowed with power from on high” (Doctrine and Covenants 105:11), and second, the Lord’s Saints must always provide for the “poor and afflicted among them” (Doctrine and Covenants 105:3).”

The same thing could have been said at the disbandment of Zion’s Camp, “If you have responded to your trials [during Zion’s Camp] with a stronger discipleship, this past year will not have been in vain.” Those who are familiar with my work know that this is what I have been

saying for years now, the desolating sickness comes to wake drunkard Ephraim up and then test them, and the one doing the discerning is none other than Joseph Smith Jr.

"Behold, I, the Lord, will give unto **my servant Joseph Smith, Jun.**, power that he shall **be enabled to discern** by the Spirit those who shall go up unto the land of Zion, **and those of my disciples who shall tarry.**"

-Jesus Christ (D&C 63:41)

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. **Then shall ye return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.**"

- Jesus Christ (3 Nephi 24: 16-18)

"There has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing; and let those be chosen that are worthy. **And it shall be manifest unto my servant, by the voice of the Spirit, those that are chosen; and they shall be sanctified;** And inasmuch as they follow the counsel which they receive, they shall have power after many days to accomplish all things pertaining to Zion."

- Jesus Christ (D&C 105: 35-37)

"**And the lord of the vineyard said unto one of his servants:** Go and gather together the residue of my servants, and take all the strength of mine house, which are my warriors, my young men, and they that are of middle age also among all my servants, who are the strength of mine house, save those **only whom I have appointed to tarry;** And go ye straightway unto the land of my vineyard, and redeem my vineyard; for it is mine; I have bought it with money. Therefore, get ye straightway unto my land; break down the walls of mine enemies; throw down their tower, and scatter their watchmen. And inasmuch as they gather together against you, avenge me of mine enemies, that by and by I may come with the residue of mine house and possess the land."

- Jesus Christ (D&C 101: 5-58)

"Verily, verily I say unto you, that my **servant Joseph Smith, Jun.**, is the man to whom I likened the servant to whom the Lord of the vineyard spake in the parable which I have given unto you. Therefore let **my servant Joseph Smith, Jun.**, say unto the strength of my house, my young men and the middle aged— Gather yourselves together unto the land of Zion, upon the land which I have bought with money that has been consecrated unto me."

- Jesus Christ (D&C 103: 21-22)

This morning, we have heard from Church leaders who come from every populated continent on earth. Truly, the blessings of the gospel are for *every* race, language, and people. The Church of Jesus Christ is a *global* church. Jesus Christ is our leader.

Something as simple as this last statement, a statement said all the time by members, just goes right over most people's heads- "The Church of Jesus Christ is a global *church*"... once again, the ignorant and the arrogant apparently don't realize that the New Jerusalem is a theocracy... If SLC was the New Jerusalem we couldn't be calling it a "church" anymore... It would be an actual kingdom with kings and queens and the Lord of Lords ruling over those kings and queens... We have gotten to a point in time as members of the church, where traditional lingo is said so often we simply don't even know what we are saying or *not* saying anymore... The church currently is a "global church", and someday soon, it will be a "global kingdom" with its first headquarters being not in SLC, but in Independence Missouri, and its second headquarters eventually being in Jerusalem, so that the law shall go forth from Zion and The Word from Jerusalem.

Thankfully, even a pandemic has not been able to slow the onward march of His truth.

This last statement is either a slip of the tongue or it proves a point I've made repeatedly over the last few years- and that is that the Lord is interested in depth of conversation, not numbers. Having 18 million terrestrial members doesn't cut it, the Lord wants "His Kingdom" to grow, The Church of the Firstborn, which are only those members of the church who have obtained Celestial Glory by their righteousness and faithfulness. If covid has not "been able to slow" us, then that means exactly what I've been saying, the number of members who have gone from a lower sphere to a Celestial Sphere of living in the last few years has actually increased, despite the fact that the overall growth of the church has not only slowed, it has almost come to a stop. If this is not what the Prophet meant than it was a slip of the tongue because covid very much so has "slowed the onward march and growth"... The Lord needs members with Zion in the view moving forward, He doesn't simply need warm bodies in pews, though that is a start!

The gospel of Jesus Christ is exactly what is needed in this confused, contentious, and weary world.

Each of God's children deserves the opportunity to hear and accept the healing, redeeming message of Jesus Christ.

I hate the word "deserves" as people know, and it is used here in a context that non-members (and frankly a lot of ignorant members) won't understand. This is not talking about "this life", but rather "the course of life", let me explain... if we "deserved" it *in this life* we would all be blessed with it- however, some were blessed with it and others not. God is a just God, we have to believe that in order to exercise faith in Him sufficient for life and salvation, meaning as soon as we say "people deserved to hear the gospel *in this life!*" people will then point to all the people who died in ignorance and then we have a problem... we then have to backtrack and clarify with an understanding of the Spirit World and preaching to those in prison, etc. none of which "the world" understands which are listening to this talk. Better to just list our responsibilities IMO then list off entitlements...

No other message is more vital to our happiness—now and forever.² No other message is more filled with hope. No other message can eliminate contention in our society.

Faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of all belief and the conduit of divine power. According to the Apostle Paul, “Without faith it is impossible to please [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”³

[President Nelson in his footnotes here](#): Hebrews 11:6. Lectures on Faith states that faith “is the first great governing principle which has power, dominion, and authority over all things” ([1985], 5). [References the Lectures on Faith. A study of which is highly recommended. We have and are going through and breaking down the Lectures on Faith in weekly firesides, we would highly recommend for those who aren't familiar with the Lectures on Faith to check out the series. Far too much to include here and far too important for your salvation to not understand!](#)

Everything good in life—every potential blessing of eternal significance—begins with faith. Allowing God to prevail in our lives begins with faith that He is willing to guide us. True repentance begins with faith that Jesus Christ has the power to cleanse, heal, and strengthen us.⁴

“Deny not the power of God,” the prophet Moroni declared, “for he worketh by power, *according to the faith* of the children of men.”⁵ It is *our* faith that unlocks the power of God in *our* lives.

The rest of that Moroni verse states that the Lord is “the same today and tomorrow, and forever.” Which those who have studied the Lectures on Faith will understand why knowing that fact is crucial to one exercising faith in the Lord. But more than that, this is key to everything we have been learning and been leading up to, having faith as the Brother of Jared, asking in faith believing that we will receive, rending that veil of unbelief, and watching as the Lord makes bare His arm in the eyes of all nations in “bringing about Zion”. This is why I have asked all those in this group, and all those listening to this who have Zion’s blood beating through their veins, to pray and fast that the Lord will “bring again Zion”, that we will have the Celestial Law restored, that we will see and participate in the redemption of Zion and the building of New Jerusalem, and that according to our faith it will be granted for the Lord will treat us the same way He has treated all His other children in times past, and He will reward and spare His good sons and daughters who serve Him (3 Nephi 24: 16-18)

And yet, exercising faith can seem overwhelming. At times we may wonder if we can possibly muster enough faith to receive the blessings that we so desperately need.

"For without Zion, and a place of deliverance, ***we must fall***; because the time is near when the sun will be darkened, and the moon turn to blood, and the stars fall from the heaven, and the earth reel to and fro. Then, if this is the case, and if we are not sanctified and gathered to the places God has appointed, with all our former professions and our great love for the Bible, ***we must fall; we cannot stand; we cannot be saved***; for God will gather out his Saints from the

Gentiles, and then comes desolation and destruction, and none can escape except the pure in heart who are gathered. "

Joseph Smith the Prophet (TPJS, pp. 70-71)

We desperately need the faith as the Brother of Jared, for without it we will never rend the veil of unbelief, redeem Zion, or build the New Jerusalem in Jackson County Missouri, and without such a city the Lord will never come and thus "*we must fall*"...

After reading Isaiah Chapter 60 and Psalms 102 (which I'd suggest reading) Parley P. Pratt wrote,

"In this chapter we learn, First, that there is a city to be built in the last days, unto which, not only Israel, but all the nations of the Gentiles, are to flow; and the nation and kingdom that will not serve the city shall perish and be utterly wasted. Second, we learn that the name of that city is Zion, the city of the Lord. Third, we learn that it is called the place of His sanctuary, and the place of His feet. Fourth, that the best of timber, consisting of fir, pine, and boxwood, is to be brought in great plenty, to beautify the place of His sanctuary, and make the place of His feet glorious. Fifth, the precious metals are to abound in such plenty, that gold is to be in the room of brass, silver in the room of iron, brass in the room of wood, and iron in the room of stones. Their officers are to be peace officers, and their exactors righteous exactors; violence is no more to be heard in the land; wasting nor destruction within their borders. Their walls are to be Salvation, and their gates Praise: while the glory of God, in the midst of the city, outshines the sun. The days of their mourning are ended; their people are all righteous, and are to inherit the land forever, being the branch of the Lord's planting, that He may be glorified. A little one shall become a strong nation, and the Lord will hasten it in His time.

The Psalmist David has told us, concerning the time of the building of this city, in his one hundred and second Psalm, from the thirteenth to the twenty-second verse: "Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion ; for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come. For Thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof. So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Thy glory. When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generation to come : and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord. For He hath looked down from the height of His sanctuary ; from Heaven did the Lord behold the earth ; to hear the groaning of the prisoner ; to loose those that are appointed to death ; to declare the name of the Lord in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem ; when the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the Lord."

*From this scripture we learn First, that there is a set time to build up Zion, or the city of which Isaiah speaks, namely, just before the second coming of Christ ; and that when this city is built, the Lord will appear in His glory, and not before. **So from this we affirm, that if such a city is never built, then the Lord will never come.** Second, we learn that the people and kingdoms are to be gathered together, to serve the Lord, both in Zion and Jerusalem ; and third, that this Psalm was written expressly for the generation to come, and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord, -when they read it and see it fulfilled."*

- Elder Parley P. Pratt (A Voice of Warning, p.79)

However, the Lord put those fears to rest through the words of the Book of Mormon prophet Alma.

Alma asks us simply to *experiment* upon the word and “exercise a *particle* of faith, yea, even if [we] can no more than desire to believe.”⁶ The phrase “particle of faith” reminds me of the Lord’s biblical promise that if we “have faith as a *grain of mustard seed*,” we shall be able to “say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and *nothing shall be impossible unto [us]*.”⁷

The Lord understands our mortal weakness. We all falter at times. But He also knows of our great potential. The mustard seed starts small but grows into a tree large enough for birds to nest in its branches. The mustard seed represents a small but *growing* faith.⁸

Now this last bit really is fascinating and I frankly don’t know where to start... The first two references listed above were simply the scriptures in question and didn’t add anything, but tying it to that next paragraph and also what he said in that paragraph leave me wondering... Joseph Smith made some very specific, very clear teachings about the parable of the mustard seed, and they are very, VERY different from what President Nelson said here... or are they?

Parable of the Church in Last Days

And again, another parable put He forth unto them, having an allusion to the Kingdom that should be set up, just previous to or at the time of the harvest, which reads as follows--"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field: which indeed is the least of all seeds: but, when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." Now we can discover plainly that this figure is given to represent the Church as it shall come forth in the last days. Behold, the kingdom of Heaven is likened unto it. Now, what is like unto it?

"Let us take the Book of Mormon, which a man took and hid in his field, securing it by his faith, to spring up in the last days, or in due time; let us behold it coming forth out of the ground, which is indeed accounted the least of all seeds, but behold it branching forth, yea, even towering, with lofty branches, and God-like majesty, until it, like the mustard seed, becomes the greatest of all herbs. And it is truth, and it has sprouted and come forth out of the earth, and righteousness begins to look down from heaven, and God is sending down His powers, gifts and angels, to lodge in the branches thereof.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a mustard seed. Behold, then is not this the Kingdom of Heaven that is raising its head in the last days in the majesty of its God, even the Church of the Latter-day Saints, like an impenetrable, immovable rock in the midst of the mighty deep, exposed to the storms and tempests of Satan, but has, thus far, remained steadfast, and is still braving the mountain waves of opposition, which are driven by the tempestuous winds of sinking crafts, which have [dashed] and are still dashing with tremendous foam across its triumphant brow; urged onward with redoubled fury by the enemy of righteousness, with his pitchfork of lies, as you will see fairly represented in a cut contained in Mr. Howe's Mormonism Unveiled? And we hope that this adversary of truth will continue to stir up the sink of iniquity, that the people may the more readily discern between the righteous and the wicked.

- Joseph Smith (TPJS, Section Two 1834-37, p.98)

President Nelson said: The mustard seed starts small but grows into a tree large enough for birds to nest in its branches. The mustard seed represents a small but *growing* faith which is actually combining the parable of the mustard seed with the teaching of Christ that “if ye shall have faith as that of a mustard seed”... Did he make a mistake? Did he combine the two intentionally? Or does he simply not know the difference? For Joseph Smith taught clearly that the parable of the mustard seed’s primary interpretation was that of “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” growing in strength and not that of the “faith” of individuals- is there a connection?

"Our lives have already become jeopardized by revealing the wicked and blood thirsty purposes of our enemies; and for the future we must cease to do so; all we have said about them is truth, but it is not always wise to relate such truth. Even Jesus the Son of God had to refrain from doing so, and to restrain his feelings many times for the safety of his own person and those of his followers, and had to conceal the righteous purposes of his heart in relation to many things pertaining to his father’s Kingdom. When quite a boy he had all the intelligence necessary to rule and govern the Kingdom of the Jews, and could reason with the wisest and most profound doctors of law and divinity, and make their theories and practice to appear like folly compared with the wisdom he possessed, but he was a boy only, and lacked physical strength even to defend his own person, and was subject to cold, to hunger, and to death. *So it is with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; we have the principles of revelations and the knowledge within us is sufficient to organize a righteous government upon the earth, and to give universal peace to all mankind if they will receive it; but we lack the physical strength as did our Savior when a child, to defend our principles, and we shall have of necessity to be afflicted, persecuted, and smitten, and to bear it patiently until Jacob is of age; then he will take care of himself.*"

- **Joseph Smith** (Joseph Smith Papers, Historian's Office, Martyrdom Account page 53. "Not Always Wise to Expose Evil" Thursday, a.m.—June 27, 1844.— From Teachings of Joseph Smith)

Doctrine and Covenants 49:

24 But before the great day of the Lord shall come, Jacob shall flourish in the wilderness, and the Lamanites shall blossom as the rose.

Doctrine and Covenants 97:

18 And, now, behold, if Zion do these things she shall prosper, and spread herself and become very glorious, very great, and very terrible.

Doctrine and Covenants 105:

31 But first let my army become very great, and let it be sanctified before me, that it may become fair as the sun, and clear as the moon, and that her banners may be terrible unto all nations;

Doctrine and Covenants 45:

70 And it shall be said among the wicked: Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible; wherefore we cannot stand.

I believe the following quote I will share ties the subject together perfectly... The relationship between The Church being the mustard seed, the member's faith, the Redemption of Zion, the building up of the New Jerusalem, etc.

“And it shall be said among the wicked, let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible. Terrible, for what? For bayonets, for cannon, for the sword? No. Terrible for their righteousness. We are told that ‘the righteous are bold as a lion,’ while ‘the wicked flee when no man pursueth.’ No, it is not by means of carnal weapons, nor by wealth, nor by the power of the arm of flesh, that God’s people will be preserved, but it will be by fasting and prayer, by faith and good works, by the practice of principles of virtue and truth, by shaking ourselves free from the trammels and shackles of sin, of selfishness, of fraud, of deception, of crookedness and hypocrisy, of error and evil in all their forms. This is what will make the people powerful; they will be a terror to the ungodly by reason of their righteousness, and God will fight their battles. He will thunder from the heights of Zion with the artillery of His Holy Spirit; with that power He will thresh the nations; by the words of His mouth will He cause the earth to tremble, and by the breath of His lips will He slay the wicked. You need not fear that God will call upon you to fight the battles of Zion. He will fight them in His own way. And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy.”

- Orson F. Whitney (Collected Discourses 1:362)

We need to have faith as the Brother of Jared, that is why we are here in this cast off state without the center stake of Zion, without the tabernacle of our Lord and Savior, we were cast off and put in the Mountains of the Lord to grow in strength of faith, and once we had that faith and that Priesthood power through righteousness, the heavens would no longer be shut and angels would come and “lodge in the branches”, we would have the redemption of Zion and we would be building the New Jerusalem...

We Cannot Be Perfect Without Our Dead

*The Kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed. The mustard seed is small, but brings forth a large tree, and the fowls lodge in the branches. **The fowls are the angels. Thus angels come down, combine together to gather their children, and gather them.** We cannot be made perfect without them, nor they without us; **when these things are done**, the Son of Man will descend, the Ancient of Days sit; we may come to an innumerable company of angels, have communion with and receive instruction from them. Paul told about Moses' proceedings; spoke of the children of Israel being baptized. (1 Cor. 10:1-4.) He knew this, and that all the ordinances and blessings were in the Church. Paul had these things, and we may have the fowls of heaven lodge in the branches, etc.*

The "Horn" made war with the Saints and overcame them, until the Ancient of Days came; judgment was given to the Saints of the Most High from the Ancient of Days; the time came that the Saints possessed the Kingdom. This not only makes us ministers here, but in eternity.

- Joseph Smith (TPJS, Section Four 1839-42, p.159)

Righteousness to Sweep the Earth

But to proceed. In the letter alluded to, the principles of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins were not only set forth, but many passages of scripture were quoted, clearly elucidating the subject; let

me add, I do positively rely upon the truth of those principles inculcated in the New Testament, and then pass on from the above-named items, to the item or subject of the gathering, and show my views upon this point. It is a principle I esteem to be of the greatest importance to those who are looking for salvation in this generation, or in these, that may be called, "the latter times." All that the prophets that have written, from the days of righteous Abel, down to the last man that has left any testimony on record for our consideration, in speaking of the salvation of Israel in the last days, goes directly to show that it consists in the work of the gathering.

First, I shall begin by quoting from the prophecy of Enoch, speaking of the last days: "Righteousness will I send down out of heaven, and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten, His resurrection from the dead (this resurrection I understand to be the corporeal body); yea, and also the resurrection of all men; righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, a Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming, for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion a New Jerusalem." (Moses 7:62, 1902 edition.)

Now I understand by this quotation, that God clearly manifested to Enoch the redemption which He prepared, by offering the Messiah as a Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world; and by virtue of the same, the glorious resurrection of the Savior, and the resurrection of all the human family, even a resurrection of their corporeal bodies, is brought to pass; and also righteousness and truth are to sweep the earth as with a flood. And now, I ask, how righteousness and truth are going to sweep the earth as with a flood? I will answer. Men and angels are to be co-workers in bringing to pass this great work, and Zion is to be prepared, even a new Jerusalem, for the elect that are to be gathered from the four quarters of the earth, and to be established an holy city, for the tabernacle of the Lord shall be with them.

- Joseph Smith (TPJS, Section Two 1834-37, p.83)

There is a lot there and a lot of points of reference that I hope everyone takes the time to read and read until they understand them...

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gets "planted"
2. The Church grows strong (think "faith as the Brother of Jared"), or as Nephi put it "the Power of the Lamb descends upon the Saints of God in their scattered state" (see my paper "The Power of the Lamb")
3. There are resurrections
4. Angels and men become coworkers to "gather their children"
5. The Redemption of Zion
6. Christ comes to A-O-A with Adam
7. We will receive instruction on the Kingdom (New Jerusalem) and how to build it
8. The building of the New Jerusalem

What makes this information so fascinating with what President Nelson just taught is that he connected members obtaining faith as the Brother of Jared back to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints becoming strong enough for the birds/fowls (i.e. "angels") to come out and start their work. This confirms an awful lot and fits in perfectly with revealed doctrine and the macro-last day timeline!

The Lord does not require *perfect* faith for us to have access to His *perfect* power. But He does

ask us to believe.

President Nelson's footnotes above were:

Doctrine and Covenants 78:17–18

17 Verily, verily, I say unto you, *ye are little children*, and ye have not as yet understood how great blessings the Father hath in his own hands and prepared for you;

18 And ye cannot *bear all things* now; nevertheless, be of good cheer, for I will lead you along. The kingdom is yours and the blessings thereof are yours, and the riches of eternity are yours.

Mosiah 3:19

19 For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and *becometh as a child*, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, *willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father*.

Which I also find fascinating considering the timing of this talk and what has transpired over the last 6 months: “the Lord doesn’t expect you to be perfect, but He does expect you to believe” and the references are all about becoming meek and following the Lord *as a child* as well as “bear[ing] all things”... This should bring to thought such papers as “Bear the Heat” as well as “The Why, The Key”... The subject matter as well as the points of reference are all tied together. We need to have faith as the Brother of Jared and we need to have exact obedience to the Lord and His keys, and submit ourselves to all things the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon us... All tied together...

My dear brothers and sisters, my call to you this Easter morning is to *start today* to increase your faith. Through your faith, Jesus Christ will increase your ability to move the mountains in your life,² even though your personal challenges may loom as large as Mount Everest.

Your mountains may be loneliness, doubt, illness, or other personal problems. Your mountains will vary, and yet the answer to each of your challenges is to increase your faith. That takes work. *Lazy learners and lax disciples will always struggle to muster even a particle of faith.*

That last line is golden. Simple as that. If one needs faith in order to move the mountains in our lives and “lazy learners and lax disciples *will always* struggle to muster even a particle of faith”, we can infer the outcome of lazy learners and lax disciples in action.

To do anything well requires effort. Becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ is no exception. Increasing your faith and trust in Him takes effort. May I offer five suggestions to help you develop that faith and trust.

President Nelson is now going to give us 5 recommendations for having faith as the Brother of Jared so as to rend the veil of unbelief and become worthy enough to perform the tasks the Lord has sent us down to this Earth at this time to perform. Let's pay close attention to what those are:

First, **study**. Become an engaged learner. Immerse yourself in the scriptures to understand better Christ's mission and ministry. Know the doctrine of Christ so that you understand its power for your life. Internalize the truth that the Atonement of Jesus Christ applies to *you*. He took upon Himself *your* misery, *your* mistakes, *your* weakness, and *your* sins. He paid the compensatory price and provided the power for you to move *every* mountain you will ever face. You obtain that power with your faith, trust, and willingness to follow Him.

Moving your mountains may require a miracle. Learn about miracles. Miracles come according to your faith in the Lord. Central to that faith is trusting His will and timetable—how and when He will bless you with the miraculous help you desire. Only *your unbelief* will keep God from blessing you with miracles to move the mountains in *your* life.¹⁰

This would have been a perfect time for President Nelson to reference that quote above from Joseph Smith but he didn't. I find that modern Apostles and Prophets quote Joseph Smith an awful lot without referencing him and then members start quoting them as though it was their quote. For example, there was a recent quote from President Nelson regarding "becoming a principle of inspiration/revelation unto oneself" which was 100% ripped from Joseph Smith that now gets quoted as though it was President Nelson who said it. I always try to reference others, I find as I do this

A) the Lord blesses me and leads me to more knowledge, as I am not seeking it for self-aggrandizing

B) the temptation for priestcraft is replaced with a spirit of charity, wanting to build others up, their voice, their testimony, their contributions, etc.

C) I feel better about myself. Stealing quotes and work from others makes one feel dirty, until they have become filth themselves at which point in time they feel nothing

The references President Nelson provided here were both pretty self-explanatory but should still be setting off red flags as the first one is a call to repentance for the Saints of God who are now spiritualizing and making figurative the Words of Christ:

Mormon 9:19–21

19 And if there were miracles wrought then, why has God ceased to be a God of miracles and yet be an unchangeable Being? And behold, I say unto you he changeth not; if so he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles.

20 And the reason why he ceaseth to do miracles among the children of men is because that they dwindle in unbelief, and depart from the right way, and know not the God in whom they should trust.

21 Behold, I say unto you that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth.

While the second is pointing to none other than the Brother of Jared himself as an example of not only faith, but faith tied to President Nelson's first point, "studying the scriptures", a dead ringer for "Faith as the Brother of Jared":

Ether 12:30

30 For the brother of Jared said unto the mountain Zerin, Remove—and it was removed. And if he had not had faith it would not have moved; wherefore thou workest after men have faith.

The more you learn about the Savior, the easier it will be to trust in His mercy, His infinite love, and His strengthening, healing, and redeeming power. The Savior is never closer to you than when you are facing or climbing a mountain *with faith*.

Second, choose to **believe** in Jesus Christ. If you have doubts about God the Father and His Beloved Son or the validity of the Restoration or the veracity of Joseph Smith's divine calling as a prophet, *choose to believe¹¹ and stay faithful. Take your questions to the Lord and to other faithful sources. Study with the desire to believe rather than with the hope that you can find a flaw in the fabric of a prophet's life or a discrepancy in the scriptures. Stop increasing your doubts by rehearsing them with other doubters.* Allow the Lord to lead you on your journey of spiritual discovery.

That was a lot of gold... I don't know what else to say about it, it simply is true!

1. Study should be grounded in the Lord and *faithful sources!* I've committed everyone to remove unfaithful sources from their lives in one of my last papers, "The Why, The Key". This cannot be understated... "But how do we know the unfaithful sources?!" I hear one ask, well:

"Our right to guidance from Holy Ghost.

We have the right to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, but we cannot have that guidance, if we wilfully refuse to consider the revelations that have been given to help us to understand and to guide us in the light and truth of the everlasting gospel. We cannot hope to have that guidance when we refuse to consider these great revelations which mean so much to us both temporally and spiritually.

Now if we find ourselves in this condition of unbelief or unwillingness to seek for the light and the knowledge which the Lord has placed within our reach, then we are liable or in danger of being deceived by evil spirits, the doctrines of devils, and the teachings of men. And when these false influences are presented before us, we will not have the distinguishing understanding by which we can segregate them and know that they are not of the Lord. And so we may become prey unto the ungodly, to the vicious, to the cunning, to the craftiness of men."

- President Joseph Fielding Smith (Doctrines of Salvation, p.43)

2. Study with the intent to believe and not with the intent to be the exception, or with the intent to tear down, break apart, etc: Man, has this one been timely considering the recent counsels coming down from the First Presidencies...

3. Don't rehearse your doubts with other doubters: once again, timely... This also ties directly into the same points of reference warned of by President Nelson in this conference- those "lifting up their voices, cursing God and dying"... Man have we seen this happen in droves, and AFTER the Prophet said "this is where we are!" and "please don't do this!"

Third, **act** in faith. What would you do if you had *more* faith? Think about it. Write about it. Then *receive more* faith by doing something that *requires more* faith.

"What would you do if you had more faith?" Redeem Zion tomorrow? But see, this one is hard for me as faith is not something I lack or rather lacking faith isn't what is stopping the things I long to do in this life. Receiving more faith by doing something that requires faith is a great point.

Fourth, **partake of sacred ordinances** worthily. Ordinances unlock the power of God for your life.¹²

The reference is what you'd expect it to be:

Doctrine and Covenants 84:20

20 Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest.

Once again, seems like a straight forward point, but when taken in conjunction with the above points and once again in conjunction with what the counsel from the First Presidency recently was... We've had members lift up their voices, curse God and die spiritually with other doubters, and who are now saying "they don't have to do anymore temple work..." once again, all dead ringers. Don't cut the thread and sink yourself to hell; cling to the ordinances of God.

And fifth, **ask** your Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, for help.

Faith takes work. Receiving revelation takes work. But "every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."¹³ God knows what will help your faith grow. Ask, and then ask again.

A nonbeliever might say that faith is for the weak. But this assertion overlooks the *power* of faith.

This is one of those examples I said above, "faith is power", Lectures on Faith, Joseph Smith. Please study them when you get the time...

Would the Savior's Apostles have continued to teach His doctrine after His death, at the peril of their lives, if they had doubted Him?¹⁴

This footnote here is FASCINATING!:

Without the power of faith, would Abinadi have suffered death by fire for refusing to deny what he knew to be true? (see Mosiah 17:7–20). Without that power, would Ether have hidden in the cavity of a rock (see Ether 13:13–14) and Moroni endured years of loneliness (see Moroni 1:1–3) when their lives could have been much more comfortable if they had only denounced what they believed?

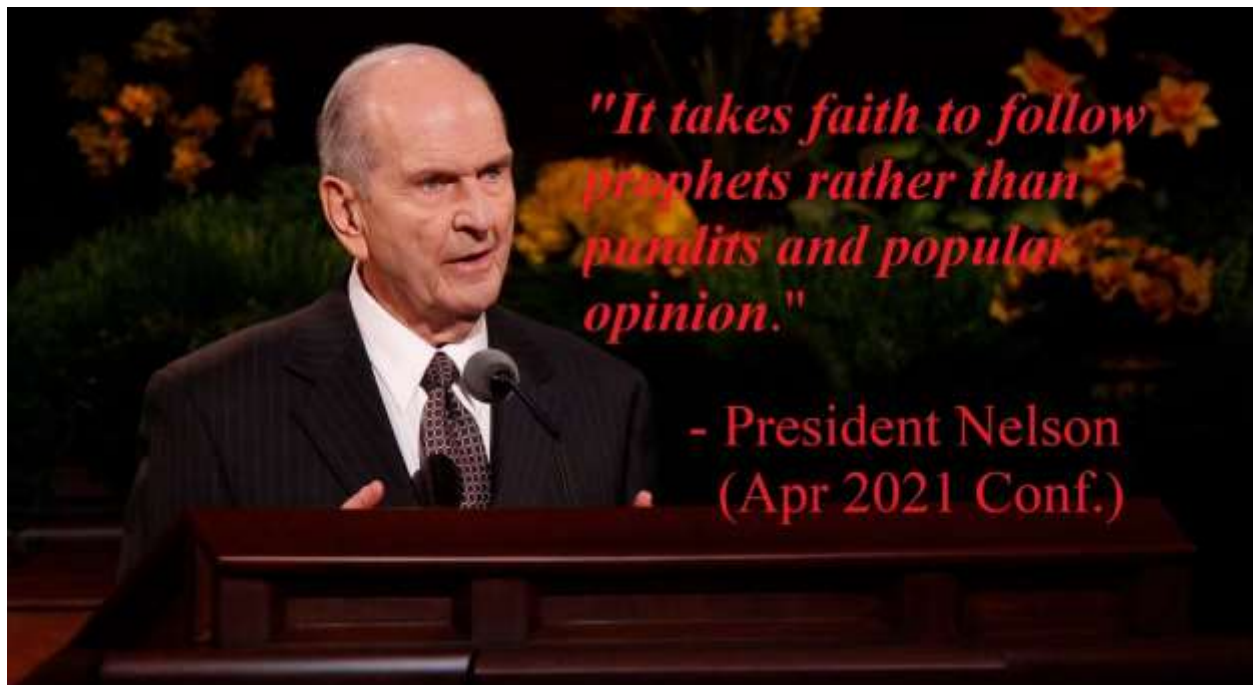
The footnote here provided by President Nelson includes 1. Abinadi, 2. Ether, and 3. Moroni

Would Joseph and Hyrum Smith have suffered martyrs' deaths defending the Restoration of the Lord's Church unless they had a sure witness that it was true? Would nearly 2,000 Saints have died along the pioneer trail¹⁵ if they did not have faith that the gospel of Jesus Christ had been restored? Truly, faith is the power that *enables* the unlikely to accomplish the impossible.

Here we go again- "faith/power/enabling/etc.", please see my Lectures on Faith series to see why this is actually redundant. (also another example of people quoting Joseph while not actually referencing him- this one coming from Elder Bednar with his "enabling power of the atonement")

Do not minimize the faith you already have. It takes faith to join the Church and remain faithful. ***It takes faith to follow prophets rather than pundits and popular opinion.***

How is this the first time I have seen this quote since the conference?! This should have been plastered everywhere on social media! I'm making a visual right now...



You are welcome...

It takes faith to serve a mission during a pandemic. It takes faith to live a chaste life when the world shouts that God's law of chastity is now outmoded. It takes faith to teach the gospel to children in a secular world. It takes faith to plead for the life of a loved one and even more faith to accept a disappointing answer.

Two years ago, Sister Nelson and I visited Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, and Tahiti. Each of those island nations had experienced heavy rains for days. Members had fasted and prayed that their outdoor meetings would be protected from the rain.

In Samoa, Fiji, and Tahiti, *just* as the meetings began, the rain stopped. But in Tonga, the rain did *not* stop. Yet 13,000 faithful Saints came hours early to get a seat, waited patiently through a steady downpour, and then sat through a very wet two-hour meeting.

We saw vibrant faith at work among each of those islanders—faith sufficient to stop the rain and faith to persevere when the rain did not stop.

The mountains in our lives do not always move how or when we would like. But our faith will *always* propel us forward. Faith *always* increases our access to godly power.

Please know this: if everything and everyone else in the world whom you trust should fail, Jesus Christ and His Church will *never* fail you. The Lord never slumbers, nor does He sleep.¹⁶ He “is the same yesterday, today, and [tomorrow].”¹⁷ He will not forsake His covenants,¹⁸ His promises, or His love for His people. He works miracles today, and He will work miracles tomorrow.¹⁹

Faith in Jesus Christ is the *greatest power* available to us in this life. All things are possible to them that believe.²⁰

Those last two paragraphs are ripped directly from Lectures on Faith... They are parts of God's characteristics and attributes that we have to understand before we can exercise faith in Him sufficient for life and salvation. Once again, I would plead with you to study the Lectures on Faith, if not my series then please study them yourself in some other way!

Your *growing* faith in Him will move mountains—not the mountains of rock that beautify the earth but the mountains of misery in your lives. Your *flourishing* faith will help you turn challenges into unparalleled growth and opportunity.

Any chance that his choice of word “flourishing” here as well as his italics of it have a deeper meaning? You know like:

Doctrine and Covenants 49:

24 But before the great day of the Lord shall come, *Jacob shall flourish in the wilderness*, and the Lamanites shall blossom as the rose.

If so, then we have broken down this talk with a correct understanding... So let us end this talk with the final commitment/testimony from President Nelson, making them our own words:

On this Easter Sunday, with my deep feelings of love and gratitude, I declare my witness that Jesus Christ is indeed risen. He is risen to lead His Church. He is risen to bless the lives of all of God's children, wherever they live. With faith in Him, we can move the mountains in our lives. I so testify in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.