

Fireside December 20 2020

MICAH'S NOTES

What do you define belief as?

be•lief bĭ-lĕf ►

- n. The mental act, condition, or habit of placing trust or confidence in another.
- n. Mental acceptance of and conviction in the truth, actuality, or validity of something.
- n. Something believed or accepted as true, especially a particular tenet or a body of tenets accepted by a group of persons.

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the act of doing what the Lord tells you to do, ergo faith are beliefs acted upon. Faith without the do (ie. works) is dead (ie. simply beliefs).

Faith is the “substance”, “the principle of action in all intelligent beings” and is not only “the moving cause of all action in intelligent beings,” faith is also “a principle of power in all intelligent beings, whether on heaven or on earth.” Real faith has to be based on knowledge, on things which are true and faith that leads to life and salvation has to center in Christ. “Three things are necessary in order that any rational and intelligent being may exercise faith in God unto life and salvation: 1. The idea that he actually exists, 2. A correct idea of his character, perfections and attributes, 3. An actual knowledge that the course of life which he is pursuing is according to his will.”

Belief is hearing the word; faith is proving the word. Beliefs are closely connected with “desire”, both of which feed into our choices and thus our actions/outcomes are determined primarily by our “beliefs” (what we hear and surround ourselves with).

Is it bad for our beliefs to change? Is it good? How could it be both good and bad? How is repentance connected to our beliefs?

We hear something, “belief”, and the more we hear is the more our “desire” for it increases, the more our desire increases the more our actions follow suit (faith), as our actions (faith) begin to change we then can judge the fruit, the outcomes. It *is* absolutely wrong to “change our beliefs” if we have not reached the point in time where we can accurately judge the fruit- this is true for any field and any activity. If the medicine says “it takes 30 minutes to activate” and you wait 10 and then change your belief to “nah, this doesn’t work” you will find yourself chasing your tail and not accomplishing much your entire life. If however, you get to the fruit, and you can clearly judge that fruit to be “bad”, yes, you should change your beliefs and desires because we shouldn’t desire bad fruit! Changing crowds changes beliefs overtime, for better or worse. When we repent, or change, we have to evaluate our beliefs and

what/who we are hearing them from if we want our repentance, or change, to have any sort of lasting efficacy.

How would you respond to someone who challenges your belief by saying it is no better /no more true than their belief? How should we respond?

Tough question because there isn't a "one size fits all" answer when not dealing on an individual basis. If you are talking to people "broadly speaking" you should present the truth "generally", with logos, logic, rationale and reasoning being your main focus with "the Word of God" or "scriptures" being your baseline. Preach my Gospel (chapter 10) teaches:

"There are many reasons why it is vital to use the scriptures as the basis for your teaching. For example:

-The Lord and His prophets have instructed us to do so (see Doctrine and Covenants 42:12, 56–58; 71:1). A latter-day prophet counseled, "The words and the way they are used in the Book of Mormon by the Lord ... should be used by us in teaching gospel principles" (Ezra Taft Benson, "The Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants," Ensign, May 1987, 84).

-The scriptures invite the Holy Ghost into your teaching. They teach God's word with power (see Alma 31:5).

-The scriptures answer the great questions of the soul (see 2 Nephi 32:3; Jacob 2:8).

-The scriptures give authority and validity to your teaching, even in areas without a Christian background.

Your ability to teach with power from the scriptures comes in large measure from the time you personally spend studying them. As you daily feast upon the word, your ability to teach from the scriptures will improve. In addition, your invitations to study and ponder the scriptures will be more powerful because you are doing the same thing in your life. Help people gain faith in Jesus Christ through studying the scriptures—particularly the Book of Mormon—and to gain a testimony that the scriptures are sources of revealed truth. When people come to believe the scriptures, you will be better able to help them understand the doctrine correctly." (Preach my Gospel Chapter 10, pg 183)

Specifically, if you are one of one with someone, you do and say what the Spirit tells you to do and say when it tells you to say and do it. Sometimes that means getting spit on and punched and not saying a thing, other times it means cutting off a drunk man's head in the street- the "convincing power unto man" is the Holy Ghost, once we qualify for it the Lord will tell us how to respond to these specific situations in the very moment we are in them.

BLAKE'S NOTES

What do you define belief as?

Belief is something we accept and place confidence/trust in as truth

We do this consciously in our minds

It becomes the guide and standard by which we make choices and live our lives

Our goal should be to center our belief in truth as it is revealed to us by the Holy Ghost. This is how the scriptures tell us we obtain “the mind of the Lord”. This is how we become a Zion people of “one heart” and “one mind”.

Is it bad for our beliefs to change? Is it good? How could it be both good and bad?

No, it is not bad for our beliefs to change. If our beliefs aren’t anchored in “truth”, then they must definitely change for us to make any real changes or progress in our lives.

Once we have acquired a belief in truth, then to change that belief would require that we reject truth. This is how a change of belief is bad.

3 Nephi 1:24-25

24 And there were no contentions, save it were a few that began to preach, endeavoring to prove by the scriptures that it was no more expedient to observe the law of Moses. Now in this thing they did err, having not understood the scriptures.

25 But it came to pass that they soon became converted, and were convinced of the error which they were in, for it was made known unto them that the law was not yet fulfilled, and that it must be fulfilled in every whit; yea, the word came unto them that it must be fulfilled; yea, that one jot or tittle should not pass away till it should all be fulfilled; therefore in this same year were they brought to a knowledge of their error and did confess their faults.

How is repentance connected to our beliefs?

Repentance is the conscious choice to turn to God as the source of truth. A life where our decisions are based on opinions or non-truths turn us away from God. This may have led us to commit sin. So in order to remedy or repent, we must turn back to God, seek truth in divinely ordained sources, and then conform our lives to the truth we receive.

How would you respond to someone who challenges your belief by saying it is no better/no more true than their belief? How should we respond?

I would point out that truth is truth. It is supreme above all else. It is believed or not. Truth has the power to change and improve lives. Opinions or non-truths have no such power. That is the difference between the two and why it is proper to say that one belief is “better” than another.

If a person’s belief is not anchored in truth, then we must be willing as Latter-day Saints to point out those beliefs that aren’t anchored in truth. We should do it as the Lord instructed in D&C 121, by “persuasion” and with longsuffering. This is where each of your voices becomes essential. Because my ability to persuade is different from Micah’s or Jordan’s.