

January 16 2022 Fireside: Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith

The Saints Subject to Divine Counsel p.254

In regard to the building up of Zion, it has to be done by the counsel of Jehovah, by the revelations of heaven; and we should feel to say, "If the Lord go not with us, carry us not up hence." We would say to the Saints that come here, we have laid the foundation for the gathering of God's people to this place, and they expect that when the Saints do come, they will be under the counsel that God has appointed. The Twelve are set apart to counsel the Saints pertaining to this matter; and we expect that those who come here will send before them their wise men according to revelation; or if not practicable, be subject to the counsel that God has given, or they cannot receive an inheritance among the Saints, or be considered as God's people, and they will be dealt with as transgressors of the laws of God. We are trying here to gird up our loins, and purge from our midst the workers of iniquity; and we hope that when our brethren arrive from abroad, they will assist us to roll forth this good work, and to accomplish this great design that "Zion may be built up in righteousness; and all nations flock to her standard;" that as God's people, under His direction, and obedient to His law, we may grow up in righteousness and truth; that when His purposes shall be accomplished, we may receive an inheritance among those that are sanctified. (July 15, 1842.) DHC 5:61-66.

Lindley's Thoughts:

My desire for Zion to be built first in my home and then in a community of like minded individuals is getting stronger and stronger. At times this desire is so strong it's almost painful. I honestly don't know if these series of scriptures we chose to go over have much to do with building Zion but at least for me they have everything to do with Zion and rending the veil and becoming sanctified and able to stand in God's holy city.

Speaking of how the redemption of Zion works come about in section 103 the Lord says

19 Therefore, let not your hearts faint, for I say not unto you as I said unto your fathers: Mine angel shall go up before you, but not my presence.

20 But I say unto you: Mine angels shall go up before you, and also my presence, and in time ye shall possess the goodly land.

If we follow the foot note in verse 20 we learn more about how the angels and presence of the Lord go with us

Exodus 14:19-20

19 ¶ And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

In the day time the pillar of fire was before their faces guiding and instructing them, but at night it went behind the children of Israel. From behind it became a barrier giving light to those in front and putting off darkness toward the camp of Egyptians at their rear. And if we follow the next footnote for darkness we are led to Helaman chapter 5 verses 28, 29 & 34 read as follows

28 And it came to pass that they were overshadowed with a cloud of darkness, and an awful solemn fear came upon them.

29 And it came to pass that there came a voice as if it were above the cloud of darkness, saying: Repent ye, repent ye, and seek no more to destroy my servants whom I have sent unto you to declare good tidings.

34 And it came to pass that the Lamanites could not flee because of the cloud of darkness which did overshadow them; yea, and also they were immovable because of the fear which did come upon them.

We start to see more clearly why I'm D&C section 45 says

67 And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion.

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 am not sure what trials and persecutions await those who go to Zion but I am certain that we will go with angels, angels like the resurrected Joseph Smith to give us instruction and guidance in the day and protection round about us.

I testify that as we build his city the Lord will go before our faces, he will be on our right hand and on our left, he will fight our battles and his angels will be around us to lift us up.

See D&C 84:88

Exodus 14:14

Russell's Thoughts:

In speaking on the building up of Zion to the Saints that will come, Joseph said, "we have laid the foundation for the gathering of God's people to this place, and they expect that when the Saints do come, **they will be under the counsel that God has appointed...**" and they will "be **subject to the counsel that God has given**, or they cannot receive an inheritance among the Saints, or be considered as God's people"

Joseph Smith said on another occasion, "let the Saints be diligent in building the Temple, and all houses which they have been, or shall hereafter be, commanded of God to build; and wait their time with patience in all meekness, faith, perseverance unto the end, knowing assuredly that all these things...are **always governed by the principle of revelation.**"

Joseph will call his boys to lay the foundation for the gathering of God's people. If we truly pledge ourselves to be Joseph's boys and desire to lay the foundation for the gathering of God's people to Zion we should expect that we will be under the counsel that God has appointed through the keys and we will come to Zion "according to revelation" subjecting ourselves to the counsel God has given. All things are governed by revelation and by the Holy Ghost. "**The Holy Ghost is God's messenger** to administer in all those priesthoods." – (TPJS p 323)

If we are to be a Zion people, are we following the counsel that God has appointed by the keys through revelation? Or are we halting between two opinions – Babylon and Zion as Elijah asked ancient Israel. Are we following the prophet or our spirit-o-meters?

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, **How long halt ye between two opinions?** if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word. (1 Kings 18:21)

If we are halting between two opinions, if we do not subject ourselves to the counsel that God has given, then we "CANNOT receive an inheritance among the Saints or be considered as God's people". We will be "dealt with as transgressors of the laws of God." We need to put it all on the altar of the Lord.

As Elijah asked the people, "And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and **the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.** And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken." (1 Kings 18:24)

And Elijah prayed to the Lord after he had prepared the sacrifice, "Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God." (1 Kings 18:37-39)

Lorenzo Snow reported a day when someone came and asked Joseph (it had happened hundreds of times), "Who are you?" He replied, "Noah came before the flood. **I have come before the fire.**" Joseph Smith has been called to bring the fire in our day the last dispensation of the fullness of times. A time when we will see the restoration of all things including the redemption of Zion. He will purge from our midst the workers of iniquity so that Zion will be built up in righteousness. We will be God's people – Joseph's Boys, under His direction, and obedient to His law.

We need to gird up our loins brothers and sisters. Joseph Smith said, "I have tried for a number of years to get the minds of the Saints prepared to receive the things of God; but we frequently see some of them, after suffering all they have for the work of God, will fly to pieces like glass as soon as anything comes that is contrary to their traditions: **they cannot stand the fire at all.** How many will be able to abide a celestial law, and go through and receive their exaltation, I am unable to say, as many are called, but few are chosen." (Jan. 20, 1844.) DHC 6:183–185. – (TPJS p. 331)

May we bear the heat that “we may grow up in righteousness and truth; that when His purposes shall be accomplished, we may receive an inheritance among those that are sanctified.”

The Lord expects... “great things of you, while you are privileged to enjoy the blessing of the Saints’ society.” Joseph’s boys “pray (to) our heavenly Father that you may be very prayerful, very humble, and very charitable; working diligently, spiritually and temporally for the redemption of Zion, that the pure in heart may return with songs of everlasting joy to build up her waste places and meet the Lord when He comes in His glory. Brethren, in the name of Jesus Christ, we entreat you to live worthy of the blessings that shall follow, after much tribulation, to satiate the souls of them that hold out faithful to the end” —M&A 1:137–138. – (TPJS p78)

Micah’s Thoughts:

I’ve been dealing with a lot of people recently who have been asked questions or who themselves are asking questions about “Zion”, about “Celestial Law”, including “the Law of Consecration”, so I am grateful that this TPJS was chosen for this Sunday, because it gives me a good excuse to read the following scriptures again:

Doctrine and Covenants 105:

34 And let those commandments which I have given concerning Zion and her law be executed and fulfilled, *after her redemption*.

35 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.

36 And it shall be manifest unto my servant, by the voice of the Spirit, those that are chosen; and they shall be sanctified;

37 And inasmuch as they *follow the counsel which they receive*, they shall have *power after many days to accomplish all things pertaining to Zion*

We as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, do not currently receive inheritances as Joseph Smith was teaching here- inheritances being key to the entire law of consecration as laid out by the Lord in ancient times as well as modern times (i.e. as taught in the Doctrine and Covenants) and the Lord here in D&C 105 that that law, the Law of Consecration as pertaining to Zion will not be restored/lived until after the Redemption of Zion. Those that teach that we currently live the Law of Consecration are either A) completely and utterly wrong, B) simply saying we are living part of the consecration, (which isn’t really useful) or C) the most pernicious of the three, saying that the Redemption of Zion isn’t needed any longer.

D&C 105:34. The Revocation of the Law of Consecration

The law of Zion mentioned in verse 34 is the law of consecration. President J. Reuben Clark Jr. explained:

“It was under these circumstances, with the Saints scattered and sometimes hunted like wild animals, with their property gone, their organization largely broken up, wounded in mind and spirit, with the

condemnation of the Lord pronounced upon their heads because of their unfaithfulness, not to say wickedness, with 'Zion' to all intents and purposes destroyed, that the Lord commanded them, in the great revelation given at Fishing River,— “‘And let those commandments which I have given concerning Zion and her law be executed and fulfilled, after her redemption.’ (105:34) “It is interesting to note that after this pronouncement, the Lord practically never referred to the United Order in his revelations to the Prophet. The people had had their opportunity and failed. He then gave them the law of tithing in a revelation

given in Missouri itself, in Zion, (July 18, 1838, Sec. 119), which is still in full force and effect. . . . “Thus the Lord directed that the law he had given regarding the setting up of the United Order in Zion was to be ‘executed and fulfilled’ after the redemption of Zion, that is, in the meaning in which the Lord was then using the word Zion, the ‘redemption,’ the reestablishment of the people in Missouri. This has not yet been accomplished.” (“The United Order and Law of Consecration As Set Out in the Revelations of the Lord,” Church News, 15 Sept. 1945, p. 9.)

Doctrine and Covenants SECTION 119

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Far West, Missouri, July 8, 1838, in answer to his supplication: “O Lord, show unto thy servants how much thou requirest of the properties of thy people for a tithing.” HC 3:44. The law of tithing, as understood today, had not been given to the Church previous to this revelation. The term “tithing” in the prayer just quoted and in previous revelations (64:23; 85:3; 97:11) had meant not just one-tenth, but all free-will offerings, or contributions, to the Church funds. *The Lord had previously given to the Church the law of consecration and stewardship of property, which members (chiefly the leading elders) entered into by a covenant that was to be everlasting. Because of failure on the part of many to abide by this covenant, the Lord withdrew it for a time, and gave instead the law of tithing to the whole Church.* The Prophet asked the Lord how much of their property he required for sacred purposes. The answer was this revelation.

So the hope and prayer was for converted Saints to come to and build Zion according to the fullness of the Gospel, according to Celestial Law. We are now in a cast off state preparing ourselves for the Redemption of Zion. Here are a few “following counsel” quotes that we recently found to add to the list that I believe tie in well to the theme here:

Wilford Woodruff:

"I ask you in the name of the Lord, who is called to guide the temporal affairs of this Church and kingdom, for its advantage, redemption and exaltation, as pure as a bride adorned for her husband, if it be not that man who is placed as the lawgiver and leader of Israel? There is no man on the footstool of God who has this authority but him who stands at the head; and his Counselors and the Apostles, Bishops and Elders ought to be coworkers with him, and they should work together in carrying out his counsel. And when counsel comes we should not treat it lightly, no matter to what subject it pertains, for if we do it will work evil unto us."

...

Speaking of President Brigham Young: "We have been governed by counsel instead of commandment in many things, which has been a blessing to the Saints, for “he that is commanded in all things” (D&C 58:26) and obeyeth it with slothfulness (D&C 58:29) and not a

willing mind, (D&C 64:34) is not qualified before the Lord as that man is who, having the power within him, bringeth to pass much righteousness without being commanded in all that he does. (D&C 58:27-28)" (JD 14:31, The Work of God, Etc)

...

"It is our duty, brethren, to live in that way and manner before our God, that we will find no difficulty in administering in any of the ordinances of the kingdom of God; we should live so that the spirit and power of the Holy Ghost will rest down upon us; we should humble ourselves before the Lord in our closets, and live day by day, so that we can know what is right and what is wrong, and when the Presidency give us any instruction or charge, to live so that we will be ready to follow their counsel." (JD 4:94, The Facilities Afforded, Etc.)

Search the Revelations of God p.11

Search the scriptures--search the revelations which we publish, and ask your Heavenly Father, in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, to manifest the truth unto you, and if you do it with an eye single to his glory nothing doubting, He will answer you by the power of His Holy Spirit. You will then know for yourselves and not for another. You will not then be dependent on man for the knowledge of God; nor will there be any room for speculation. No; for when men receive their instruction from Him that made them, they know how He will save them. Then again we say: Search the Scriptures, search the Prophets and learn what portion of them belongs to you and the people of the nineteenth century.

You, no doubt, will agree with us, and say, that you have no right to claim the promises of the inhabitants before the flood; that you cannot found your hopes of salvation upon the obedience of the children of Israel when journeying in the wilderness, nor can you expect that the blessings which the apostles pronounced upon the churches of Christ eighteen hundred years ago, were intended for you. Again, if others' blessings are not your blessings, others' curses are not your curses; you stand then in these last days, as all have stood before you, agents unto yourselves, to be judged according to your works.

Lindey's Thoughts: how do we become a person of Zion able to withstand the heat and not fear the darkness of the cloud. The first step is to search the scriptures and apply them to ourselves.

This is the faith as the brother of Jared.

If you haven't read or listened to Micah's paper on the faith of the brother of Jared make it a priority and do it soon.

In a talk by Orson Pratt called "The Faith and Visions of the Ancient Saints—The Same Great Blessings to Be Enjoyed By the Latter-Day Saints"

Brother Pratt also expounds on the faith as the brother of Jared and then says if the scriptures

"...they are written for our edification and that of our children. (2 Ne. 4:15)The heed that we give to the everyday duties which are pointed out to us, will determine in a great measure our reward."

In case you were wondering what our every day duties are they are the big things we are asked to do so often we sometimes call them that little things but as with so much we have it backwards.

The most important big things we need to do everyday are read the scriptures and say our prayers.

A few more words from elder pratt

"It is my belief that if this people more carefully read the oracles of the ancients, they would be directed more diligently to attend to the Living Oracles."

"We are commanded to search the Scriptures for instructions, John 5:39 but I fear that we neglect this counsel too much, and become careless.'

"If the Saints will give most earnest and diligent heed unto the instructions given in those books D&C 84:43 which have been pre-[p. 347a]served, and especially to the instructions which are given by our President, they will prosper and be blest in all things."

“Do you think that it is really our privilege, as the children of God in this dispensation, to attain to the same blessings which were received by those ancient people of God?” Yes, and far greater; for you will find in this same history, in a part which I have not read, that a portion of the same things should be given to the Latter-day [p. 346b] Saints through their faith. The Lord says, “Then will I show the great and marvelous things of my kingdom unto them, as I did to him.” Ether 4:7

But it all depends, recollect, upon the great principle of faith, and you are to obtain these things upon condition of practicing those everyday duties which you are hearing proclaimed from day to day. With such wisdom, and by continuing steadfast therein, your faith will increase in those great and heavenly principles, until you can lay hold by faith upon all the great and marvelous things that were communicated to him."

A Discourse by Elder Orson Pratt, Delivered in the Tabernacle, Great Salt Lake City, April 13, 1856. Reported By: G. D. Watt.

"You are to claim blessings by your conduct, you are so instructed; some are apt to be so neglectful and remiss in their duties that they are not able to claim them. They forget what is in store for them, and do not pray for the Spirit to impress those blessings upon their minds, but suffer their minds to be drawn out too much upon temporal business instead of the things of God, and become weary in mind and body, so that they feel like neglecting the more prominent duties, such as family prayer and many others."

Russell's Thoughts:

Searching the scriptures and searching the revelations of God leads us on the path to increased faith and personal revelation. Last April our Prophet Russell M. Nelson asked us to “become an engaged learner by immersing ourselves in the scriptures...choose to believe in Christ...act in faith...partake of sacred ordinances worthily...and ask our Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, for help.” He continued “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.” God knows what will help your faith grow. Ask, and then ask again.” (Russell M. Nelson – Christ is Risen; Faith in Him Will Move Mountains)

I would include our Patriarchal Blessings in the revelations we must study and obtain a greater knowledge of.

President Thomas S. Monson said, “The prophet Alma explained that this “Liahona,” as it was called, was a compass prepared by the Lord. It worked for them according to their faith and pointed the way they should go (see Alma 37:38–40)

The same Lord who provided a Liahona to Lehi provides for you and for me today a rare and valuable gift to give direction to our lives, to mark the hazards to our safety, and to chart the way, even safe passage—not to a promised land, but to our heavenly home. The gift to which I refer is known as your patriarchal blessing. Every worthy member of the Church is entitled to receive such a precious and priceless personal treasure.

Your patriarchal blessing is yours and yours alone. It may be brief or lengthy, simple or profound. Length and language do not a patriarchal blessing make. It is the Spirit that conveys the true meaning. Your blessing is not to be folded neatly and tucked away. It is not to be framed or published. Rather, it is to be read. It is to be loved. It is to be followed. Your patriarchal blessing will see you through the darkest night. It will guide you through life’s dangers.” – (Thomas S. Monson, Your Patriarchal Blessing: A Liahona of Light)

As my knowledge has increased in the gospel so has my understanding of the blessings promised and the counsel the Lord has provided to me in my patriarchal blessing. I will not share a portion of it as it is sacred to me but if you are not regularly studying the Lord’s word direct to you through your patriarchal blessing, I encourage you to do so. If you have not received your patriarchal blessing, I encourage you to make that a priority to prepare yourself to receive the word of the Lord directly to you through one of his chosen patriarchs.

I thank the Lord that I have found this community of Saints that love the Lord and long to be a Zion people. Many are seeking diligently to search the scriptures and the revelations of God to increase their faith and are receiving knowledge, wisdom and personal revelation. It is a wonderful blessing that we can share in these treasures of knowledge, wisdom and revelation with one another through Discord, firesides and papers full of insights into the revealed word of the Lord.

Orson Pratt sums up how I feel about our group well and our desires to bring forth Zion, “As in temporal things, so in spiritual: each faithful member here in this life is made a partaker of all spiritual blessings granted to the Church: each one inherits the benefits of all the gifts. There are

a great variety of spiritual gifts given; but none of these gifts are given for the exclusive benefit of the individual possessing them: for instance, God has given to some to hold the keys of revelation, and knowledge, and wisdom: they become stewards over these gifts: they use these keys to unlock the sacred treasures of eternity, and become acquainted with hidden stores of knowledge, deep mysteries are made plain; secret things are manifested; wonders are exhibited; and the mild, richly laden with the choice treasures of the heavenly worlds, and the wonderful works of God, feasts upon the delicious food; the soul is filled with joy unspeakable; the heart swells with the love of God; and the bosom yearns with compassion towards all mankind, and especially towards all who are pure in heart. **They long to pour out the knowledge which they have received, into the hearts of others who are equally worthy with themselves: the impartation of knowledge to others who are pure in heart, diffuses in each and all, the same joy and happiness that they themselves have, indeed, their own joy is increased by imparting their knowledge to others;** and if they impart all the knowledge they have to the pure in heart. then, all become equal in knowledge, so far as it is revealed: this makes them one so far as the revealed knowledge is concerned. Now the whole body of the Saints who are thus made equal in knowledge are not revelators; the keys were not entrusted to them all, but the keys of this rich stewardship were entrusted to some for the benefit of all. Now it matters not, through what source this knowledge is first communicated, whether to one or to all, if the pure in heart are all equally benefitted by it.” (The Masterful Discourses of Orson Pratt p. 607-608)

As Joseph admonished us to ask “with an eye single to his glory nothing doubting, He will answer you by the power of His Holy Spirit. You will then know for yourselves and not for another. You will not then be dependent on man for the knowledge of God; nor will there be any room for speculation.”... “You stand then in these last days, as all have stood before you, agents unto yourselves, to be judged according to your works.”

So what will we do when we have obtained that knowledge Joseph Smith spoke of? Are we still standing between two opinions? We as agents unto ourselves must obtain the faith required to perform the works and bring forth the promised miracles of Zion in our lives and the lives of our fellowmen.

Micah’s Thoughts: What is really being taught here is a functioning explanation of what was taught in the Lectures on Faith, so bear with me as I read some of Lecture 2:

56 We have now clearly set forth how it is, and how it was, that God became an object of faith for rational beings; and also, upon what foundation the testimony was based, which excited the enquiry and diligent search of the ancient saints, to seek after and obtain a knowledge of the glory of God: and we have seen that it was human testimony, and human testimony only, that excited this enquiry, in the first instance in their minds—it was the credence they gave to the testimony of their fathers—this testimony having aroused their minds to enquire after the knowledge of God, the enquiry frequently terminated, indeed, always terminated, when rightly pursued, in the most glorious discoveries, and eternal certainty.

Question 8: What testimony had the immediate descendants of Adam, in proof of the existence of a God?

The testimony of their father. And after they were made acquainted with his existence, by the testimony of their father, they were dependent upon the exercise of their own faith, for a knowledge of his character, perfections and attributes. (2:23-26)

Question 144: What testimony have men, in the first instance, that there is a God?

Human testimony, and human testimony only. (2:56)

Question 145: What excited the ancient saints to seek diligently after a knowledge of the glory of God, his perfections and attributes?

The credence they gave to the testimony of their fathers. (2:56)

Question 146: How do men obtain a knowledge of the glory of God, his perfections and attributes?

By devoting themselves to his service, through prayer and supplication incessantly, strengthening their faith in him, until like Enoch, the brother of Jared, and Moses, they obtain a manifestation of God to themselves. (2:55)

Question 147: Is the knowledge of the existence of God a matter of mere tradition, founded upon human testimony alone, until a person receives a manifestation of God to themselves?

It is.

End quote Lecture 2 Lectures on Faith

What is taking place in the TPJS? Joseph Smith has a testimony, he knows the thing, this is the human testimony... But is that enough for others? No... But it is enough for the elect of God to have their faculties excited to enquiry, in the first instance in their minds—it will always be the credence people give to human testimony that will create this first instance. Then, when this testimony has been aroused in their minds to enquire after the knowledge of God and if it is rightly pursued, their search will end “in the most glorious discoveries, and eternal *certainty*.”

The Spirit of God the Spirit of Knowledge p.205

As we have noticed before, the great difficulty lies in the ignorance of the nature of spirits, of the laws by which they are governed, and the signs by which they may be known; if it requires the Spirit of God to know the things of God; and the spirit of the devil can only be unmasked through that medium, then it follows as a natural consequence that unless some person or persons have a communication, or revelation from God, unfolding to them the operation of the spirit, they must eternally remain ignorant of these principles; for I contend that if one man cannot understand these things but by the Spirit of God, ten thousand men cannot; it is alike out of the reach of the wisdom of the learned, the tongue of the eloquent, the power of the mighty. And we

shall at last have to come to this conclusion, whatever we may think of revelation, that without it we can neither know nor understand anything of God, or the devil; and however unwilling the world may be to acknowledge this principle, it is evident from the multifarious creeds and notions concerning this matter that they understand nothing of this principle, and it is equally as plain that without a divine communication they must remain in ignorance. The world always mistook false prophets for true ones, and those that were sent of God, they considered to be false prophets and hence they killed, stoned, punished and imprisoned the true prophets, and these had to hide themselves "in deserts and dens, and caves of the earth," and though the most honorable men of the earth, they banished them from their society as vagabonds, whilst they cherished, honored and supported knaves, vagabonds, hypocrites, impostors, and the basest of men.

Lindey's Thoughts: we know that we need knowledge to progress a quote by Joseph Smith that we have heard a lot lately in discord is that

"A man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge"

So why not all at once why slowly one line at a time?

"You are not to suppose that you are going to be jumped into the midst of revelations, and by one great and grand step are to burst the veil, and to rend it from your eyes, do you think that you are to step into the celestial kingdom and see it all at once? No, these blessings are by far too precious to be attained in such a way; they are to be attained by diligence and faith from day to day, and from night to night. Hence you are to become habituated to do good in your thoughts and conduct, in all that you do, until you become perfectly initiated into the great principles of righteousness, and continue to live uprightly until it becomes a kind of second nature to be honest, to be prudent, to govern all your passions, and bring all of the influences of the flesh, of the fallen nature, into the most perfect subjection to the law of God."

You cannot expect to live as many have lived, and then be able by one tremendous great effort to at once call down the powers of heaven into your midst. All, who will enjoy the privileges which it is the prerogative of the Latter-day Saints to enjoy, must live for them.

If you were, within one week from this time, to be let into all the visions that the brother of Jared had, what a weight of responsibility you would have upon you; how weak you would be, and how unprepared for the responsibility; and after the vision had closed up in your minds, and you left to yourselves, you would be tempted in proportion to the light that had been presented before you. Then would come the trial, such as you never have had. This is the principle upon which the devil is allowed to try us.

"When you shall rend the veil that is between you and the heavens, it will be by your works of faith and obedience. Do you realize that you are the individuals to rend that veil?"

"When you shall have faith to rend that veil which is over your minds, you will find that the heavens are ready and waiting to bestow the blessings promised, just as soon as you are prepared to receive them."

When we figure out how to work these two principles of humility and obedience. Reading and acting on what we have read it will be said of us like it was of the brother of Jared:

"And because of the knowledge of this man he could not be kept from beholding within the veil."
Ether 3:19

Russell's Thoughts:

Revelation 3:15-16

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

President Nelson told us that “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.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks recounted the following story when he was President of BYU.

“Many years ago the federal government placed county agents throughout the country to help farmers learn to be more productive. One county agent in the South went to visit an old farmer in his area, but he found that convincing the farmer to change proved rather difficult.

He asked the farmer, “Wouldn’t you like to know how to get your cows to give more milk?”

“Nope,” the farmer replied.

“Well, wouldn’t you like your pigs to have larger litters of baby pigs?”

Again the farmer answered, “Nope.”

“Well, wouldn’t you like to learn how to get more corn per acre?”

The same answer was given as before: “Nope.”

Exasperated, the county agent asked, “Well, why not?”

The farmer replied simply, “I already knows more than I does.”

In other words, his knowledge was greater than his application of that knowledge, so why make matters worse by obtaining even more knowledge!

This story highlights two great challenges of mortality: first, the need to constantly increase our knowledge and, second, the need to continually improve our behavior to keep up with that greater knowledge. But there’s also a third challenge the county agent might have uncovered if he had asked a second “why” question: “Why don’t you do as much as you know?” This question gets closer to the core of the problem—the farmer’s level of love for his work, or what he was in his heart. In addition to increasing what we know and improving how we apply that

knowledge, we must refine who we are deep down in our heart.” – (William H Baker – Knowing, BYU Speeches)

I liked what Joseph said here that “unless some person or persons have a communication, or revelation from God, unfolding to them the operation of the spirit, they must eternally remain ignorant of these principles”

Joseph Fielding Smith said, “Revelation is promised us through our faithfulness; so, also knowledge pertaining to the mysteries and government of the Church. The Lord withholds much that he would otherwise reveal if the members of the Church were prepared to receive it. When they will not live in accordance with the revelations he has given, how are they entitled to receive more?”

We have little occasion to clamor for more revelation when we refuse to heed what the Lord has revealed for our salvation. However, the authorities are directed by revelation, and this is apparent to all who have the spirit of discernment. The Lord has not forsaken his people, although they have not always put their trust in him.” – (Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1 – p. 283)

Elder Dallin H. Oaks stated, “The Apostle Paul taught that the Lord’s teachings and teachers were given that we may all attain “the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13). This process requires far more than acquiring knowledge. It is not even enough for us to be convinced of the gospel; we must act and think so that we are converted by it. In contrast to the institutions of the world, which teach us to know something, the gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us to become something.”

He continued, “The Apostle John spoke of what we are challenged to become when he said: “Beloved, **now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 Jn. 3:2; see also Moro. 7:48).” (“The Challenge to Become,” Ensign, November 2000)

Are we working on our spiritual foundations to become the sons and daughters of God?

Micah’s Thoughts:

This TPJS goes well with the last quote as well as the Lectures on Faith- same concepts. Without the idea of revelation in the first instance what do we have? If we don’t believe in what Adam said happened what did Adam’s children have? If we don’t believe in what Joseph Smith Jr said happened to him, what do we have? Without the first instance of revelation we would have nothing to then bear our human testimony of. What Joseph is teaching here that is even more important than the concepts also taught in the Lectures on Faith, and even more important than how to detect evil spirits, etc. the heart of what Joseph Smith Jr is teaching here is what I call “the pyramid of truth”, and without an understanding of it people will stone and kill the real, true, and living prophets of God- without an understanding of the pyramid of truth people will give way to demons, devils, false spirits and poison by degrees that leaven, expand, and become impossible to contain. With an understanding of the pyramid of truth people are able to discern,

people are able to build their houses on stone, sure foundations so that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds it will have no power over you because of the foundation upon which you are built- a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall!

(20-31) Deuteronomy 32:15, 18, 30–31. To What or Whom Does the Word Rock Refer?

“Christ is the Stone of Israel. (Gen. 49:24.) ‘I am the good shepherd, and the stone of Israel. He that buildeth upon this rock shall never fall.’ (D. & C. 50:44.) Christ is thus the stone or foundation upon which all men must build. Of him the psalmist prophesied: ‘The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.’ (Ps. 118:22; Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10–11; Luke 20:17–18.) Peter used this truth to teach that the saints ‘as lively stones’ should build ‘a spiritual house,’ with Christ, the Stone of Israel, as the foundation. (1 Pet. 2:1–9.)” (McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 768.)

That the Apostle Paul understood this concept is clear from a statement he made about the children of Israel during the period of their wanderings: “For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:4). In other words, they all ate the same spiritual meat and drank the same spiritual drink.

If you are not familiar with the pyramid of truth I would strongly urge you to check out Discord, as well as some videos done by Joseph (Limnah) and Carlos (Son of Manasseh)

I know I read this quote often, but I do so because A) this man was a president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (which means pyramid of truth) and B) what he said here and how he said it I have not found in other places better with as few words as he used in the quote

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)

Gift of Salvation p.68

The great plan of salvation is a theme which ought to occupy our strict attention, and be regarded as one of heaven's best gifts to mankind. No consideration whatever ought to deter us from showing ourselves approved in the sight of God, according to His divine requirement. Men not infrequently forget that they are dependent upon heaven for every blessing which they are permitted to enjoy, and that for every opportunity granted them they are to give an account. You know, brethren, that when the Master in the Savior's parable of the stewards called his servants before him he gave them several talents to improve on while he should tarry abroad for a little season, and at the end of it He will call each to render an account; and where the five talents were bestowed, ten will be required; and he that has made no improvement will be cast out as an unprofitable servant, while the faithful will enjoy everlasting honors. Therefore we earnestly implore the grace of our Father to rest upon you, through Jesus Christ His Son, that you may not faint in the hour of temptation, nor be overcome in the time of persecution. (January 22, 1834) DHC 2:4-24.

Lindey's Thoughts:

Without the redemptive power of Christ we might ask ourselves if we are able or worthy to build Zion.

Isaiah 33 begs the question:

14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

We have been given a call to build Zion and as our desire to do so grows stronger I ask you to make this call more personal. Apply these next words from elder Pratt to you personally.

"You are all on a mission to make yourselves of one heart and of one mind Moses 7:18 before the Lord, and if you are faithful you can claim the promises that He will pour out His Spirit upon you, and that Spirit will be poured out upon those who are faithful from morning until evening, and they will be quickened and invigorated to perform whatever is necessary."

"It was by his knowledge of God, by his perseverance, his diligence and obedience in former years, that he was enabled to rebuke the devil, in the name of Jesus Christ, and drive him from him."

"So it will be with you, whether you have the necessary preparation or not, for the Lord will say to the powers of darkness, you are now at liberty to tempt my servants in proportion to the light that I have given. Go and see if they will be steadfast to that light; use every plan so far as I permit you, and if they will yield they are not worthy of me nor of my kingdom, and I will deliver them up and they shall be buffeted."

So I ask again

Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

He that searcheth the scriptures and maketh then his own. He by do doing that gains sufficient knowledge to rend the veil. He that lives by the light and fears the Lord.

15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

It is my testimony that the promises of those who do this will build Zion.

16 He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

17 Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

See also laments 4:11-22

Russell's Thoughts:

I like this from Joseph, "No consideration whatever ought to deter us from showing ourselves approved in the sight of God, according to His divine requirement." As Saints we should know what is required of us and do the hard work to humble ourselves and remove all obstacles that might prevent us from consecrating all and following our Savior.

Being dependent on heaven for every blessing we should strive earnestly to be good stewards of what the Lord has blessed us with, living a consecrated life for the building up of the Kingdom of God on the earth and for the establishment of Zion.

Orson Pratt said, "Each is required to improve upon his stewardship, and obey every law connected with the additional knowledge imparted, in order that he may be prepared for more, through the keys that are ordained and thus knowledge is multiplied upon knowledge, and the light grows brighter and brighter until the perfect day, the whole body being perfected in knowledge, light, and truth, through the choice gifts of revelation given to some." (The Masterful Discourses of Orson Pratt p. 608)

President Russell M. Nelson said "...it is now time that we each implement extraordinary measures—perhaps measures we have never taken before—to strengthen our personal spiritual foundations. Unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures.

My dear brothers and sisters, these are the latter days. If you and I are to withstand the forthcoming perils and pressures, it is imperative that we each have a firm spiritual foundation built upon the rock of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

So I ask each of you, how firm is your foundation? And what reinforcements to your testimony and understanding of the gospel are needed?

The temple lies at the center of strengthening our faith and spiritual fortitude because the Savior and His doctrine are the very heart of the temple. Everything taught in the temple, through instruction and through the Spirit, increases our understanding of Jesus Christ. His essential ordinances bind us to Him through sacred priesthood covenants. Then, as we keep our covenants, He endows us with His healing, strengthening power. And oh, how we will need His power in the days ahead.”

The Lord’s house is dedicated as a house of learning. Gordon B. Hinkley said, “Every temple, large or small, has its beautiful celestial room. . . . It is our privilege, unique and exclusive, while dressed in white, to sit at the conclusion of our ordinance work in the beautiful celestial room and ponder, meditate, and silently pray. (“Closing Remarks,” Ensign, November 2004)

In the summer of 2020 I had a dream that I have pondered on frequently. In my dream, I had in my mind that I was again a young boy. I was outside of my old Downey, California chapel where I attended Primary as a young boy. I walked into the building and through it to an outdoor gathering. There was a grand pavilion and videos of family memories were being projected onto a big screen that the crowd was enjoying. This reminded me of our old family gatherings where slide shows or movies were projected for all to see and enjoy. My Grammie and Papa were there, my mother was there. I did not witness specific individuals but the impression I had was that many family members were there and taking part in those celebrations. I looked back to the church and where I had entered the celebrations from. I had the question in my mind where is my father?

As I walked back to the entrance my father entered the church along with Nancy my stepmother. I greeted them with open arms embracing my father and Nancy. I then walked them through the church toward the great pavilion where they were greeted by family members and took part in those celebrations. I joined with them for a time but then my mind was caught up in who was not there with us.

I thought of my uncle Paul and looked around the celebrations, but he was not there. I then left the party and went through a different door to the same church building. I found myself standing there in my old Primary room surrounded by many people who were gathered there waiting. I searched around and found my uncle Paul. He greeted me, tousled my hair, and said, “How are you doing Zeke?” (That was his nickname for me as he always said I should have been named Zeke). I told him that he was missing the party and I saw in his face the desire to be part of that. I embraced him around his waist, and I said, “I love you Uncle Paul”. He embraced me back and said, “I love you too Zeke”. At that point I said goodbye and returned to the family party and awoke from my dream.

It was this dream that drove me to serve in the Temple as an ordinance worker. It was this dream that drove me to increase and accelerate the work for my ancestors. It was this dream that drove me to do the work for my Uncle Paul’s ancestors. I’m still trying to get permission to do the work for Paul. It was this dream that caused me to further contemplate and study Celestial Plural Marriage. It was the spirit of Elijah turning my heart to my ancestors and ponder what it means to be a Savior on Mount Zion. Since that dream I have continued to learn line upon line as the

Lord continues to instruct me in His house. If you are not going to the temple, make an appointment today and make a regular commitment to the Lord to serve and be taught in His Holy House.

Some of the sweetest revelations to me have happened in the temple and have strengthened my spiritual foundations. Last year I had been praying over what more I could sacrifice to receive more light, knowledge, and revelation in my life about what I need to be preparing for as well as what debris I must clear from my life. There have been clear answers that all pointed to my service in the temple and throughout the year the Lord continued to stretch me to sacrifice and spend more time serving in the temple and doing family history work. I made a goal to do all the work I could for my direct line pedigree chart ancestors and their siblings. I still have more to find and do but this focus has been such a strength in my life as I serve my ancestors in the temple.

I frequently schedule temple appointments last minute when I have a free moment to get all this work done. One time while studying in my office I felt prompted to go to the temple the next day and went online and scheduled an early Saturday morning endowment that had opened. The morning session was a direct load so there was not time to study the scriptures and ponder in the chapel before the session. While I was in this session, I asked the Lord what more I need to do, and I felt prompted to study Helaman chapter 5. I typically have no idea what is in store for me when the Lord gives me these impressions to study specific scriptures (my scripture reference retention is poor, and I am working on that). As I went into the celestial room, I grabbed a set of scriptures and sat in a corner of the room.

4 And it came to pass that Nephi had become weary because of their iniquity; and he yielded up the judgment-seat, and **took it upon him to preach the word of God all the remainder of his days**, and his brother Lehi also, all the remainder of his days;

So they quit their jobs and took to preach the word of God the rest of their life. I have felt that this is something that I will be asked to and choose to do both in dreams and impressions as I work through the process of consecration and consecrate all to the Lord. I like Nephi am growing weary of Babylon and long for Zion like many of you.

Orson Hyde said, “Do we ever wish to see the time when we can retire from the scenes of everyday life, to the temple of God, and go no more out? Are we looking for a period of this kind? Yes, when we shall be made pillars in the temple of our God. We know when a pillar is placed in a building, it is placed there to remain, pillars are not often removed. All pillars are considered permanent; they are not to be taken away, because the removing of them endangers the safety of the building. In order to be made pillars in the temple of our God, what are we to do? We must overcome.” – (JD 1:121, Orson Hyde, The Man to Lead God’s People)

17 And it came to pass that **they did preach with great power**, insomuch that they did **confound** many of those **dissenters** who had gone over from the Nephites, insomuch that they came forth and did confess their sins and were baptized unto repentance, and immediately returned to the Nephites to endeavor to repair unto them the wrongs which they had done.

18 And it came to pass that Nephi and Lehi did preach unto the Lamanites with such great power and authority, for **they had power and authority given unto them that they might speak, and they also had what they should speak given unto them—**

19 Therefore they did speak unto the great astonishment of the Lamanites, to the convincing them, insomuch that there were eight thousand of the Lamanites who were in the land of Zarahemla and round about baptized unto repentance and were convinced of the wickedness of the traditions of their fathers.

So the Lord gave them much power and authority in their preaching because they had done the work and sacrificed for the Lord and the people of their dying nation. I need to make sure I'm doing the work and preparing myself to preach with power like Nephi and Lehi had. There were not small numbers of people being converted either and the army was sent to put them in prison.

And this is the part that hit me with such force where I knew that Nephi and Lehi had given all to have the protection of the Lord and I must do the same.

22 And after they had been cast into prison many days without food, behold, they went forth into the prison to take them that they might slay them.

23 And it came to pass that **Nephi and Lehi were encircled about as if by fire**, even insomuch that they durst not lay their hands upon them for fear lest they should be burned. Nevertheless, Nephi and Lehi were not burned; and **they were as standing in the midst of fire and were not burned.**

24 And **when they saw that they were encircled about with a pillar of fire, and that it burned them not, their hearts did take courage.**

36...the faces of Nephi and Lehi; and behold, they did shine exceedingly, even as the faces of angels. And he beheld that **they did lift their eyes to heaven; and they were in the attitude as if talking or lifting their voices to some being whom they beheld.**

38 And they said unto the man: Behold, what do all these things mean, and who is it with whom these men do converse?

39 Now the man's name was Aminadab. And Aminadab said unto them: **They do converse with the angels of God.**

As I read these verses in the temple my thoughts were that they talked not only to the Savior but with their ancestors whom they had redeemed through temple work as Saviors on mount Zion. They had been endowed with power to preach the gospel and those angels had been called down to protect Nephi and Lehi from those who sought to harm them. As we do the same work for our ancestors and keep our temple covenants, we can call upon this same power in our lives to bring down miracles in faith as President Nelson suggests. "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."

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem; which cometh down out of heaven from my God; and I will write upon him my new name. (Revelations 3:12)

40 And it came to pass that the Lamanites said unto him: What shall we do, that this cloud of darkness may be removed from overshadowing us?

41 And Aminadab said unto them: You must repent, and cry unto the voice, even until ye shall have faith in Christ, who was taught unto you by Alma, and Amulek, and Zeezrom; and when ye shall do this, the cloud of darkness shall be removed from overshadowing you.

42 And it came to pass that they all did begin to cry unto the voice of him who had shaken the earth; yea, they did cry even until the cloud of darkness was dispersed.

43 And it came to pass that when they cast their eyes about, and saw that the cloud of darkness was dispersed from overshadowing them, behold, they saw that **they were encircled about, yea every soul, by a pillar of fire.**

44 **And Nephi and Lehi were in the midst of them; yea, they were encircled about; yea, they were as if in the midst of a flaming fire, yet it did harm them not, neither did it take hold upon the walls of the prison; and they were filled with that joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.**

45 And behold, the Holy Spirit of God did come down from heaven, and did enter into their hearts, and they were filled as if with fire, and they could speak forth marvelous words.

46 And it came to pass that there came a voice unto them, yea, a pleasant voice, as if it were a whisper, saying:

47 Peace, peace be unto you, because of your faith in my Well Beloved, who was from the foundation of the world.

48 And now, when they heard this they cast up their eyes as if to behold from whence the voice came; and behold, they saw **the heavens open; and angels came down out of heaven and ministered unto them.**

I love the example of Nephi and Lehi. Their righteousness was infectious! They had the faith to expect miracles and they occurred regularly as they went about the Lord's work. I find it miraculous that the Lord is working through so many of us and that several of us have had these faith building experiences in dreams and visions and in the temple relating to how we can be Saviors on Mount Zion to bring forth the Redemption of Zion. If you have not read Ammon's words on his vision in the temple of a Pillar of Fire and his dream of the Two Candlesticks they are awesome faith promoting experiences and I'm grateful he shared them. This groups faith is infectious and I'm inspired daily by your faith and dedication to the cause of Zion. Now that we know we need to go forward and DO THE WORK. As I said in my last fireside I did with Micah, Do it now! Now is the time! This is the Place! We are the ones! The prophet Joseph "will call each to render an account".

I'd like to close with President Nelson's words.

"And to each of you who has made temple covenants, I plead with you to seek—prayerfully and consistently—to understand temple covenants and ordinances. Spiritual doors will open. **You will learn how to part the veil between heaven and earth, how to ask for God's angels to attend you, and how better to receive direction from heaven. Your diligent efforts to do so will reinforce and strengthen your spiritual foundation.**

...whenever any kind of upheaval occurs in your life, **the safest place to be spiritually is living inside your temple covenants!**

Please believe me when I say that **when your spiritual foundation is built solidly upon Jesus Christ, you have no need to fear.** As you are true to your covenants made in the temple, you will be strengthened by His power. Then, when spiritual earthquakes occur, you will be able to stand strong because your spiritual foundation is solid and immovable."

Have faith, have hope, live like His Son, help others on their way – (He Sent His Son)

Micah's Thoughts:

The most important part of this quote, IMO, is as follows: *He will call each to render an account; and where the five talents were bestowed, **ten will be required***

How often is that ever taught with regard to this parable? Where five are given, **ten will be required.** Far too often today, I'd go as far to say "more often than not", in the Church, we teach against the requirement- "nothing will be required!" we tell ourselves either living the lap of luxury or in a state of embarrassing slothfulness... But the fact remains, there are requirements on us, and as the Lord clearly taught:

Doctrine and Covenants 82:

2 Nevertheless, there are those among you who have sinned exceedingly; yea, even all of you have sinned; but verily I say unto you, beware from henceforth, and refrain from sin, lest sore judgments fall upon your heads.

3 For of him unto whom much is given much is required; and he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation.

4 Ye call upon my name for revelations, and I give them unto you; and inasmuch as ye keep not my sayings, which I give unto you, ye become transgressors; and justice and judgment are the penalty which is affixed unto my law.

5 Therefore, what I say unto one I say unto all: Watch, for the adversary spreadeth his dominions, and darkness reigneth;

6 And the anger of God kindleth against the inhabitants of the earth; and none doeth good, for all have gone out of the way.

I want to end with a section taken out of my ten virgins paper because I think it ties all four of these TPJS together nicely:

Joseph Smith's error [in the first attempt at New Jerusalem] was not turning away the poor foolish uncertified virgins from Zion. This mistake will not repeat when Joseph Smith returns as the next time "the door will be shut." The D&C manual states regarding "what was the value of certificates for members?" "President Joseph Fielding Smith noted that "a certificate from the judge or bishop in Kirtland was to be made and it would 'render every man acceptable and answereth all things, for an inheritance, and to be received as **a wise steward**, and as **a faithful laborer**; otherwise he shall not be accepted of the bishop in Zion.' "All who were to go up to Zion from other parts of the Church, were required to carry with them certificates, showing that they were in **full fellowship** and **worthy to obtain the blessings** which, in Zion, awaited the obedient." (Church History and Modern Revelation, 1:271.)"

The manual continues answering "who is faithful and wise?"

"The scriptures teach that the station and rewards we inherit in the life after this are determined by how firmly we commit ourself to the gospel, seek the power of the Atonement to overcome our sins, and take responsibility for our stewardship over temporal blessings. The Savior said, "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. . . . If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" (Luke 16:8, 11). Elder James E. Talmage explained: "Worldly minded men do not neglect provision for their future years, and often are sinfully eager to amass plenty; while the 'children of light,' or those who believe spiritual wealth to be above all earthly possessions, are less energetic, prudent, or **wise**. By 'mammon of unrighteousness' we may understand material wealth or worldly things. While far inferior to the treasures of heaven, money or that which it represents may be the means of accomplishing good, and of furthering the purposes of God. Our Lord's admonition was to utilize 'mammon' in good works, while it lasted, for some day it shall fail, and only the results achieved through its use shall endure. If the wicked steward, when cast out from his master's house because of unworthiness, might hope to be received into the homes of those whom he had favored, how much more confidently may they who are genuinely devoted to the right hope to be received into the everlasting mansions of God! Such seems to be part of the lesson. "Make such use of your wealth as shall insure you friends hereafter. Be diligent; for the day in which you can use your earthly riches will soon pass. If you have not learned wisdom and prudence in the use of 'unrighteous mammon,' how can you be trusted with the more enduring riches? If you have not learned how to use properly the wealth of another, which has been committed to you as steward, how can you expect to be successful in the handling of great wealth should such be given you as your own? Emulate the unjust steward and the lovers of mammon, not in their dishonesty, cupidity, and miserly hoarding of the wealth that is at best but transitory, but in their zeal, forethought, and provision for the future." (Jesus the Christ, pp. 463–64.)"

In summary, the parable of the 10 virgins is teaching that in the church there will be 10 virgins who prepared themselves spiritually, making themselves worthy, preparing themselves and their families [in that regard]. Five of the virgins were wise and took care of their temporal salvation as well, whereas the five foolish virgins were expecting the oil to be provided [or were unaware or hoping that there would be no requirements]. When the admittance process begins those that have prepared both their spiritual salvation and temporal salvation are revealed (the wick, the bishop, the spirit of revelation, Joseph Smith Jr, etc.); the foolish virgins now realizing that the redistribution of wealth isn't going to occur [and that things were required by their hand], ask the wise virgins for some of their temporal salvation so that they can both be admitted. The wise virgins deny the request knowing that such a transaction would make they themselves unworthy (Ananias and Sapphira) but tell the foolish virgins to go and take care of their temporal salvation (the market, the sellers etc). The "poor of Zion" will have to trust in Zion, be patient, and wait. They will eventually be brought into the program. There will be those however that try to force their way in but the door will be shut and the Savior will then say to those people "ye know me not"- "For if you have not learned wisdom and prudence [for your temporal salvation] how can you be trusted with the more enduring riches?"

End Quote

I pray that we may not neglect the duties resting on us, to hear the Word of God and get a testimony born of the Spirit independent of others, and then to do the things required by our hands so that we may qualify, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen!