

Notice the way in which the Lectures are presented. Truth is revealed or presented. Questions are asked. Questions are answered. Scriptures (i.e. the word of God) are given to support the statements of truth given/presented.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON THE FOREGOING PRINCIPLES

### Question 1: What is theology?

It is that revealed science which treats of the being and attributes of God, his relations to us, the dispensations of his providence, his will with respect to our actions and his purposes with respect to our end. (Buck's Theological Dictionary, page 582)

#### It is that revealed science

1828 Dictionary Definition of Science

In a general sense, knowledge, or **certain knowledge**; the comprehension or **understanding of truth** or facts **by the mind**.

D&C 93:24 And **truth is knowledge of things** as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come;

Theology is the revealed understanding of truth or knowledge about who God is, what kind of a being He is, and what He expects of us.

### Question 2: What is the first principle in this revealed science?

1 Faith being the first principle in revealed religion, and the foundation of all righteousness, necessarily claims the first place in a course of lectures which are designed to unfold to the understanding the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

Faith. (1:1)

#### Faith being the first principle in revealed religion

*-Faith is a principle and is the first one God revealed.*

Elder Bednar-"The Principles of My Gospel"-April 2021 General Conference

"a gospel principle is a doctrinally based guideline for the righteous exercise of moral agency. Principles derive from broader gospel truths and provide direction and standards as we press forward on the covenant path."

*Where is it shown in scripture that faith was the first principle revealed? When did God first reveal to man the principle of faith?*

Moses 3:16-17

And I, the Lord God, commanded the man, saying: Of every tree of the garden **thou mayest freely eat,**

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **thou shalt not eat of it,** nevertheless, **thou mayest choose for thyself, for it is given unto thee but, remember that I forbid it, for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

*The Lord is giving Adam and Eve truth (a declaration that if they eat the fruit, they will die) which they can act upon. Faith is NOT the promise the Lord makes, but is the decision or choice to act upon revealed truth. Notice how Satan tries to disconnect Eve from light and truth (and from the Lord) by questioning the validity of the Lord's declaration (Moses 4:10) that they would*

*die. D&C 93:39 And that wicked one cometh and taketh away light and truth. By introducing questions about what is truth or what is light, Satan seeks to destroy faith. This is why Eve (and Adam's) choice or their Fall was such a blessing. By acting upon revealed truth, they came to understand and to know for themselves. Thereby we learn how the Lord reveals truth, how we act in faith, and the effects of faith.*

### **Question 3: Why is faith the first principle in this revealed science?**

1 Faith being the first principle in revealed religion, and the foundation of all righteousness, necessarily claims the first place in a course of lectures which are designed to unfold to the understanding the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

Because it is the foundation of all righteousness. Hebrews 11:6: Without faith it is impossible to please God. 1 John 3:7: Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness, is righteous, even as he [God] is righteous. (1:1)

#### **Faith is the foundation of all righteousness**

2 Nephi 2:13

And if ye shall say there is no law, ye shall also say there is no sin. If ye shall say there is no sin, ye shall also say there is no righteousness. And if there be no righteousness there be no happiness. And if there be no righteousness nor happiness there be no punishment nor misery. And if these things are not there is no God.

1 Nephi 14:14

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and **they were armed with righteousness** and with **the power of God in great glory**.

*Why were they armed with righteousness? Because they had acted in faith on revealed truth and reaped the rewards of doing so.*

1 Nephi 19:11

For thus spake the prophet: The **Lord God surely shall visit** all the house of Israel at that day, **some with his voice, because of their righteousness**, unto their great joy and salvation

1 Nephi 22:26

And **because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power...**

### **Question 4: What arrangement should be followed in presenting the subject of faith?**

2 In presenting the subject of faith, we shall observe the following order:

3 First, Faith itself—what it is:

4 Secondly, The object on which it rests; and

5 Thirdly, The effects which flow from it.

First, Should be shown what faith is: (1:3)

Secondly, The object upon which it rests; and (1:4)

Thirdly, The effects which flow from it. (1:5)

### **Question 5: What is faith?**

6 Agreeably to this order we have first to show what faith is.

7 The author of the epistle to the Hebrews, in the eleventh chapter of that epistle, and first verse, gives the following definition of the word faith:

8 Now faith is the substance [assurance] of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

9 From this we learn, that faith is the assurance which men have of the existence of things which they have not seen; and the principle of action in all intelligent beings.

It is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen: Hebrews 11:1. That is, it is the assurance we have of the existence of unseen things. And being the assurance which we have of the existence of unseen things, must be the principle of action in all intelligent beings. Hebrews 11:3: Through faith we understand the worlds were framed by the word of God. (1:8-9)

**Faith is the proper use of agency to confirm, verify, or prove what previously was unknown, undone, or unseen to you. Faith is choosing to receive AND act upon the light of truth/Spirit of Jesus Christ as it is manifest to our spirits.**

1. Faith is choosing to receive the light of truth (intelligence) as truth acts and manifests itself in the universe.

D&C 93:31

Behold, here is the agency of man, and here is the condemnation of man; because that which was from the beginning (i.e. truth) is plainly manifest unto them, and they receive not the light (of truth).

“...when you **feel** pure intelligence flowing into you, it may **give you** sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon; (i.e.) **those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God**, will come to pass; and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation, until you become perfect in Christ Jesus.” TPJS p. 151

All things whatsoever God in his infinite wisdom has seen fit and proper to reveal to us, while we are dwelling in mortality, in regard to our mortal bodies, are revealed to us in the abstract, and independent of affinity of this mortal tabernacle, but are revealed to our spirits precisely as though we had no bodies at all... Joseph Smith, King Follett Discourse

2. God the Father and Jesus Christ are the objects upon which faith MUST rest.

In D&C 93:29, we learn that Intelligence is the light of truth. It was not created or made. Intelligence is co-eternal with God. God the Father has already developed his ability to receive and gather intelligence according to the principle of faith in such a way that He is the light, He is the truth. The same applies to Jesus, hence why he says “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6) and “I am the light” (3 Nephi 11:11).

D&C 93:12-14

And I, John, saw that he received not of the fulness at the first, but received grace for grace; And he received not of the fulness at first, but continued from grace to grace, until he received a fulness;

And thus he was called the Son of God, because he received not of the fulness at the first. Since God is a God of truth (which we learn later in the Lectures on Faith), as He speaks, so it is.

Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Ezekiel 12:25

For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass

3. Truth/Light/Spirit is the medium or vehicle through which Jesus Christ operates.

Truth/Light/Spirit have agency to act for itself and it is not controlled by anything else because it emanates from God the Father and Jesus Christ. It acts upon us, but only if we choose to allow it to do so (i.e. receive it).

D&C 93:30 All truth is independent in that sphere in which God has placed it, to act for itself, as all intelligence also

D&C 88:6-13

He that ascended up on high, as also he descended below all things, in that he comprehended all things, that he might be in all and through all things, the light of truth;

7 Which truth shineth. This is the light of Christ. As also he is in the sun, and the light of the sun, and the power thereof by which it was made.

8 As also he is in the moon, and is the light of the moon, and the power thereof by which it was made;

9 As also the light of the stars, and the power thereof by which they were made;

10 And the earth also, and the power thereof, even the earth upon which you stand.

11 And the light which shineth, which giveth you light, is through him who enlighteneth your eyes, which is the same light that quickeneth your understandings;

12 Which light proceedeth forth from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space—

13 The light which is in all things, which giveth life to all things, which is the law by which all things are governed, even the power of God who sitteth upon his throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things.

4. What are the effects of faith?

D&C 93:27-28

And no man receiveth a fulness unless he keepeth his commandments.

He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is **glorified in truth and knoweth all things.**

D&C 88:66-67

Behold, that which you hear is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness—in the wilderness, because you cannot see him—my voice, because my voice is Spirit; my Spirit is truth; truth abideth and hath no end; and if it be in you it shall abound.

And if your eye be single to my glory, **your whole bodies shall be filled with light**, and there shall be no darkness in you; and **that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things**.

Helaman 12:9-21

Yea, behold at his voice do the hills and the mountains tremble and quake.

10 And by the power of his voice they are broken up, and become smooth, yea, even like unto a valley.

11 Yea, by the power of his voice doth the whole earth shake;

12 Yea, by the power of his voice, do the foundations rock, even to the very center.

13 Yea, and if he say unto the earth—Move—it is moved.

14 Yea, if he say unto the earth—Thou shalt go back, that it lengthen out the day for many hours—it is done;

15 And thus, according to his word the earth goeth back, and it appeareth unto man that the sun standeth still; yea, and behold, this is so; for surely it is the earth that moveth and not the sun.

16 And behold, also, if he say unto the waters of the great deep—Be thou dried up—it is done.

17 Behold, if he say unto this mountain—Be thou raised up, and come over and fall upon that city, that it be buried up—behold it is done.

18 And behold, if a man hide up a treasure in the earth, and the Lord shall say—Let it be accursed, because of the iniquity of him who hath hid it up—behold, it shall be accursed.

19 And if the Lord shall say—Be thou accursed, that no man shall find thee from this time henceforth and forever—behold, no man getteth it henceforth and forever.

20 And behold, if the Lord shall say unto a man—Because of thine iniquities, thou shalt be accursed forever—it shall be done.

21 And if the Lord shall say—Because of thine iniquities thou shalt be cut off from my presence—he will cause that it shall be so.

### **Question 6: How do you prove that faith is the principle of action in all intelligent beings?**

10 If men were duly to consider themselves, and turn their thoughts and reflections to the operations of their own minds, they would readily discover that it is faith, and faith only, which is the moving cause of all action, in them; that without it, both mind and body would be in a state of inactivity, and all their exertions would cease, both physical and mental.

11 Were this class to go back and reflect upon the history of their lives, from the period of their first recollection, and ask themselves, what principle excited them to action, or what gave them energy and activity, in all their lawful avocations, callings and pursuits, what would be the answer? Would it not be that it was the assurance which we had of the existence of things which we had not seen, as yet?—Was it not the hope which you had, in consequence of your belief in the existence of unseen things, which stimulated you to action and exertion, in order to obtain them? Are you not dependent on your faith, or belief, for the acquisition of all knowledge, wisdom and intelligence? Would you exert yourselves to obtain wisdom and intelligence, unless you did believe that you could obtain them? Would you have ever sown if you had not believed that you would reap? Would you have ever planted if you had not believed that you would

gather? Would you have ever asked unless you had believed that you would receive? Would you have ever sought unless you had believed that you would have found? Or would you have ever knocked unless you had believed that it would have been opened unto you? In a word, is there any thing that you would have done, either physical or mental, if you had not previously believed? Are not all your exertions, of every kind, dependent on your faith? Or may we not ask, what have you, or what do you possess, which you have not obtained by reason of your faith? Your food, your raiment, your lodgings, are they not all by reason of your faith? Reflect, and ask yourselves, if these things are not so. Turn your thoughts on your own minds, and see if faith is not the moving cause of all action in yourselves; and if the moving cause in you, is it not in all other intelligent beings?

First, By duly considering the operations of my own mind; and secondly, by the direct declaration of scripture. Hebrews 11:7: By faith Noah, being warned of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Hebrews 11:8: By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out not knowing whither he went. Hebrews 11:9: By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. Hebrews 11:27: By faith Moses forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. (1:10-11)

### **Faith is a principle of action in all intelligent beings**

*(So faith is not exercised by unintelligent beings? What principle do unintelligent beings act upon? Or are unintelligent things those which are “acted upon”?)*

*First we must ask, what is an intelligent being?*

The mind or the intelligence which man possesses is co-equal [co-eternal] with God himself... I want to reason more on the spirit of man; for I am dwelling on the body and spirit of man—on the subject of the dead. I take my ring from my finger and liken it unto the mind of man—the immortal part, because it had no beginning. Suppose you cut it in two; then it has a beginning and an end; but join it again, and it continues one eternal round. So with the spirit of man. As the Lord liveth, if it had a beginning, it will have an end. All the fools and learned and wise men from the beginning of creation, who say that the spirit of man had a beginning, prove that it must have an end; and if that doctrine is true, then the doctrine of annihilation would be true. But if I am right, I might with boldness proclaim from the housetops that God never had the power to create the spirit of man at all. God himself could not create himself.

Intelligence is eternal and exists upon a self-existent principle. It is a spirit from age to age and there is no creation about it. All the minds and spirits that God ever sent into the world are susceptible of enlargement.

Joseph Smith-King Follett Discourse

*Alma 32:28*

*Now, we will compare the word unto a seed. Now, if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a **true seed**, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief, that ye will resist the **Spirit of the Lord**, behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts; and when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves—It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me.*

2 Nephi 2:13-14

And if these things are not there is no God. And if there is no God we are not, neither the earth; for there could have been **no creation of things, neither to act nor to be acted upon**; wherefore, all things must have vanished away.

And now, my sons, I speak unto you these things for your profit and learning; for there is a God, and he hath created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are, both **things to act and things to be acted upon**.

Alma 13:3-4

And this is the manner after which they were ordained—being called and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God, **on account of their exceeding faith and good works**; in the first place being left to choose good or evil; **therefore they having chosen good, and exercising exceedingly great faith**, are called with a holy calling, yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with, and according to, a preparatory redemption for such. 4 And thus they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, while **others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds, while, if it had not been for this they might have had as great privilege as their brethren**.

*Faith causes us to act according to revealed truth. Truth, Light, Spirit must first be revealed to our minds for a person to act upon it.*

*Joseph Smith-James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him*

*JS-H 1:13-14 At length I came to the conclusion that I must either remain in darkness and confusion, or else I must do as James directs, that is, ask of God. I at length came to the determination to “ask of God,” concluding that if he gave wisdom to them that lacked wisdom, and would give liberally, and not upbraid, I might venture.*

*14 So, in accordance with this, my determination to ask of God, I retired to the woods to make the attempt.*

**Brother of Jared**-Ether 2:25 and Ether 3:1

*Therefore what will ye that I should prepare for you that ye may have light when ye are swallowed up in the depths of the sea?*

*And it came to pass that the brother of Jared, (now the number of the vessels which had been prepared was eight) went forth unto the mount, which they called the mount Shelem, because of its exceeding height, and did molten out of a rock sixteen small stones; and they were white and clear, even as transparent glass; and he did carry them in his hands upon the top of the mount, and cried again unto the Lord...*

**Alma and the sons of Mosiah**-Mosiah 27:25-26, Mosiah 28:1,3,4

*And the Lord said unto me: Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be born again; yea, born of God, changed from their carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness, being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters;*

*26 And thus they become new creatures; and unless they do this, they can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God.*

*Now it came to pass that after the sons of Mosiah had done all these things, they took a small number with them and returned to their father, the king, and desired of him that he would grant unto them that they might, with these whom they had selected, go up to the land of Nephi that they might preach the things which they had heard, and that they might impart the word of God to their brethren, the Lamanites—*

*Now they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they could not bear that any human soul should perish; yea, even the very thoughts that any soul should endure endless torment did cause them to quake and tremble.*

*4 And thus did the Spirit of the Lord work upon them, for they were the very vilest of sinners.*

***If men were duly to consider themselves, and turn their thoughts and reflections to the operations of their own minds, they would readily discover that it is faith, and faith only, which is the moving cause of all action, in them; that without it, both mind and body would be in a state of inactivity, and all their exertions would cease, both physical and mental.***

*We come to understand ourselves and faith better as we understand the operations of our own mind*