

Alma 58:91 *Fear*

They need not fear. We need not fear. Fear is the opposite of faith.

I have been in the councils of the Church and seen many things. I have seen disappointment and shock and concern. Never once have I seen any fear.

Boyd K. Packer, CES, Feb. 2004

Alma 58:10

Pour out our souls in Prayer

2 Elder Eyring speaking of his father . . .

He was suffering through the end of a long struggle with bone cancer. He still weighed enough and was in such pain that it was hard work to move him from a chair to his bed. Others far more heroic than I spent the months and the days caring for him. But I took some turns on the midnight-to-dawn shift.

The effects of disease had removed the powers of reason he'd used to make a mark that is still visible in science. He seemed to me almost like a child as we talked through the night. Most of his memories were of riding across the range together with his father in Old Mexico. But sometimes even those happy pictures could not crowd from his mind the terrible pain.

One night when I was not with him and the pain seemed more than he could bear, he somehow got out of bed and on his knees beside it—I know not how. He pled with God to know why he was suffering so. And the next morning he said, with quiet firmness, “I know why now. God needs brave sons.”

Henry B. Eyring, *Waiting Upon the Lord*, p. 116

Alma 58:11

did visit us with assurances

3 When is it most likely that our God will visit us?

At midnight! Precisely at the darkest hour, when least expected, the bridegroom came.

When the world is full of tribulation and help is needed, but it seems the time must be past and hope is vain, then Christ will come. The midnights of life are the times when heaven comes to offer its joy for man's weariness.”

Spencer W. Kimball, *Faith Precedes the Miracle*, p. 255.

Alma 58:11

Peace to our soul

4 John A. Widtsoe has said:

Preparedness is today on every tongue. There is danger ahead, and defenses must be set up. Preparedness is not a new word to Latter-day Saints. For one hundred and ten years our voice has been one of warning to prepare against the commotion and calamities of the last days. We have taught and continue to teach that full preparedness and complete defense against the devastation by evil is the acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ we may look for the peace of Eden, but not before.

Our land is setting up defenses of powder and steel. That is well enough. But there are intangible defenses more powerful which direct the use of material defenses. These must be fostered, if our preparedness shall be adequate.

CR, Oct. 1940, pp. 61-62

5 If all the world is crumbling around us, the promised Comforter will provide His peace as a result of true discipleship.... We can have His peace with us irrespective of the troubles of the world. *His* peace is that peace, that serenity, that comfort spoken to our hearts and minds by the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, as we strive to follow *Him* and keep *His* commandments....

Just as Helaman discovered in the midst of battle that “he did speak peace to our souls” (Alma 58:11)...., all sincere seekers can have that same peace spoken to them. That peace comes from the assurances spoken by a still, small voice.

Dennis E. Summers, Conference Report, Apr. 1997, 41-42; or *Ensign*, May 1997, 31.

Alma 58:34-35

No desire to murmur

6 God will not ennoble a person, man or woman, who refuses to uphold... those whom God has called and ordained to preside over [him or her].

James E. Faust, *Ensign*, May 1998, p. 97.

7 If our lips are closed to murmuring, then our eyes will be open.

Neal A Maxwell, *Ensign*, Nov. 1989 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint, 1989], 82-84.

8 Your criticism may be worse than the conduct you are trying to correct.

James E. Faust, *Ensign*, Nov. 1987 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1987], 35.

9 The primary reason we are commanded to avoid criticism is to preserve our own spiritual well-being, not to protect the person whom we would criticize.... Does this counsel to avoid faultfinding and personal criticism apply only to statements that are false? Doesn't it also apply to statements that are true? The fact that something is true is not always a justification for communicating it... For example, it is wrong to make statements of fact out of an evil motive, even if the statements are true. One who focuses on faults, though they be true, tears down a brother or sister.... Even though something is true, we are not necessarily justified in communicating it to any and all persons at any and all times.... One who focuses on faults, though they be true, fosters dissensions and divisions among fellow Church members in the body of Christ.

Dallin H. Oaks, *Ensign*, Feb. 1987 [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1987], 68-69.

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Helaman understood the principle that the Lord stands by us as we stand by those in authority over us. He continued his letter to Moroni by asking why the government had not sent the requested assistance. Then, almost as an apology for being negative, he wrote, “We do not desire to murmur” (Alma 58:35). Notice how Helaman shared an unpleasant truth in a manner that would still allow the lines of communication to remain open. His sensitivity to his leaders, as well as his subordinates, is commendable. His was not the expression of a weak-kneed foot soldier trying not to be responsible for the bad news he had born. While he was not blind to the problem, he chose to relate the details to Moroni and at the same time reinforce his own support...recognizing full well that he could not expect God to stand by him if he didn’t stand by his leaders. He concluded his letter by reaffirming his testimony of the source of his small army’s strength: “We trust God will deliver us, notwithstanding the weakness of our armies, yea, and deliver us out of the hands of our enemies” (Alma 58:37). It is apparent that he believed that the blessings of deliverance were in direct correlation with his support of those who presided over him.

Jack R. Christianson and K. Douglas Bassett, *Life Lessons from the Book of Mormon* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], 175-176.

Alma 58:37

11 *But it mattereth not*

Faith is not bravado, not just a wish, not just a hope. True faith is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ—confidence and trust in Jesus Christ that leads a person to follow Him.

Centuries ago, Daniel and his young associates were suddenly thrust from security into the world—a world foreign and intimidating. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego refused to bow down and worship a golden image set up by the king, a furious Nebuchadnezzar told them that if they would not worship as commanded, they would immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. “And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?”

The three young men quickly and confidently responded, “If it be so [if you cast us into the furnace], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and *he will deliver us out of thine hand.*” That sounds like my eight-grade kind of faith. But then they demonstrated that they fully understood what faith is. They continued, “*But if not,...* we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” That is a statement of true faith.

They knew that they could trust God—even if things didn’t turn out the way they hoped. They knew that faith is more than mental assent, more than an acknowledgement that God lives. Faith is total trust in Him.

Faith is believing that although we do not understand all things, He does. Faith is knowing that although our power is limited, His is not. Faith in Jesus Christ consists of complete reliance on Him... we must understand that great challenges make great men. We don’t seek tribulation, but if we respond in faith, the Lord strengthens us. The *but if not*s can become remarkable blessings.

Dennis E. Simmons, “But if Not,” *Ensign*, May 2004

12 When the things you realistically can do to help are done, leave the matter in the hands of the Lord and worry no more. Do not feel guilty because you cannot do more. Do not waste your energy on useless worry.

Richard G. Scott, in Conference Report, Apr. 1988 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1988], 79.

Alma 58:39

13 President Ezra Taft Benson said, “Men and women who turn their lives over to God will discover that He can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He will deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, strengthen their muscles, lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, raise up friends, and pour out peace. Whoever will lose his life in the service of God will find eternal life.”

The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson [1988], 361