

3 Nephi 26: 6-12

If you believe, then greater things will be made manifest

1 Now the Lord has placed us on probation as members of the Church. He has given us the Book of Mormon, which is the lesser part, to build up our faith through our obedience to the counsels which it contains, and when we ourselves, members of the Church, are willing to keep the commandments as they have been given to us and show our faith as the Nephites did for a short period of time, then the Lord is ready to bring forth the other record and give it to us, but we are not ready now to receive it. Why? Because we have not lived up to the requirements in... the reading of the record which had been given to us and in following its counsels.
Joseph Fielding Smith, in *Conference Report*, October 1961, 20

2 There is another truth regarding the relationship of doing (being obedient or keeping the commandments) and knowing (having the truth of the gospel made known to us through our application of it). This additional truth concerns the Lord's practice of testing our hearts and minds relative to our new knowledge. He does this so that through our overcoming a trial, we will, in a sense, have the truth of the gospel indelibly stamped upon our souls. Our understanding and our heart become further purified, almost as gold—and our inner surety after having our trials will be rich. For example, the Lord instructs Mormon to not put certain information on the plates that we were to receive in the last days because it "is expedient... to try their faith, and if it so be that they shall believe these things then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them" (3 Ne. 26:9).
Kenneth Johnson, *Ensign*, Mar. 1995, pp. 10-11.

3 I have had many people ask me through the years, "When do you think we will get the balance of the Book of Mormon records?" And I have said, "How many in the congregation would like to read the sealed portion of the plates?" And almost always there is a 100-percent response. And then I ask the same congregation, "How many of you have read the part that has been opened to us?" And there are many who have not read the Book of Mormon, the unsealed portion. We are quite often looking for the spectacular, the unobtainable. I have found many people who want to live the higher laws when they do not live the lower laws.
The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 531-32.

4 You want your students to see that their challenge is not to prove that the Book of Mormon is true but to prove to God that *they*—the students—are true. When they do this, they will know the book is true. And when they prove that they will do what the book says, God will tell them more... (3 Nephi 26:9-10)...

The Book of Mormon is about people proving their belief to God little by little. And then He confirms their belief and gives them more.

One of the most wonderful confirmations I know is found in the book of Ether. The Lord asked the brother of Jared if he saw more than the Lord's finger.

"And he answered: Nay; Lord, show thyself unto me.

"And the Lord said unto him: Believeth thou the words which I shall speak?

“And he answered: Yea, Lord, I know that thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie.

“And when he had said these words, behold, the Lord showed himself unto him” (Ether 3:10-13).

The brother of Jared did not come to that moment in a sudden jump but over a lifetime. He was given a little light, he had faith, and he exercised it. When the Lord saw that he believed, He gave him a little more light, until finally the Lord said essentially, “Will you believe anything I say?” And the Lord knew that the brother of Jared told the truth when he answered, “Yea, Lord, I know that thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie” (v.12)...

I bear testimony that however much you have learned from the Book of Mormon before, you should read it again and prove it. Prove it by proving yourself. Do the things you feel impressed to do, and you will find things in it that you have never seen before.

Henry B. Eyring, *Ensign*, Feb. 2004 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2004], 11-12.

3 Nephi 26: 14, 16

Loosen the tongue of the Children

5 Some time ago, Nate, then just over three said: “Mommy, there is another little girl who is supposed to come to our family. She has dark hair and dark eyes and lives a long way from here.”

The wise mother asked, “How do you know this?”

“Jesus told me, upstairs.”

The mother noted, “We don’t have an upstairs,” but quickly sensed the significance of what had been communicated. After much travail and many prayers, the Barker family were in a sealing room in the Salt Lake Temple in the fall of 1995—where a little girl with dark hair and dark eyes, from Kazakhstan, was sealed to them for time and eternity. Inspired children still tell parents “great and marvelous things.”

Neal A. Maxwell, *Ensign*, May 1996, pp. 69-70.

6 My experience is that, as the prophets have known, and the poets also, children come into this world

“Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory...
From God, who is our home.”

William Wordsworth, “Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood,” lines 630-66.

I wonder if I might, in all humility, present a few ideas through the mouths of children, which have relevance not alone to them, but to all of us.

7 We have a little girl who is, I think, especially susceptible to spiritual things. From her babyhood she gave me an almost eerie feeling sometimes, because she would walk about the yard and in her play, stop and look up and say, “Hi, Jesus,” or “I love you, God”; just a little

child. And I know that not all of that has been borne in upon her from the environment of her life. The sweet assurance and confidence she has, nothing doubting, that God is, and that Jesus is, and that they are interested in her and related to her and that she may talk with them and apply to them on her little knees at night and in the morning, and expect that when she prays for her little sister who is ill, she will be blessed by them—this sweet confidence and assurance we need. The scriptures not only affirm, it, my own life and experience affirm it.

Marion D. Hanks, *Through the Eyes and Mouths of Children*, Brigham Young University Speeches of the Year, 10 Jan. 1956, p. 3.

3 Nephi 26: 16, 18

8 *When is it appropriate to share sacred things?*

I have learned that strong, impressive spiritual experiences do not come to us very frequently. And when they do, they are generally for our own edification, instruction, or correction. Unless we are called by proper authority to do so, they do not position us to counsel or to correct others. Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, January 1983, 53.

9 Should you receive a vision or revelation from the almighty, one that the Lord gave you concerning yourselves... you should shut it up and seal it closed, and lock it as tight as heaven is to you, and make it as secret as the grave. The Lord has no confidence in those who reveal secrets, for he cannot safely reveal himself to such persons.

Brigham Young, *Discourses*, 40-41.

3 Nephi 26:19

Every Man Dealing Justly

10 When you get what you want in your struggle for gain,

And the world makes you king for a day,

Just go to the mirror and look at yourself

And see what the man has to say.

It isn't your father or mother or wife,

Whose judgment upon you must pass,

The one whose verdict counts most in your life

Is the one staring back in the glass.

He's the one you must satisfy beyond the rest,

For he's with you right up to the end;

And you have passed your most difficult test

If the man in the glass is your friend!

You may be one who got a good break—

Then say I'm a wonderful guy;

But the man in the glass says you're only a fake;

If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You may fool the world down your pathway of years,

And get pats on the back as you pass;

But your final reward will be heartaches and
Tears if you've cheated the man in the glass.
David Horton Elton

11 One day in the middle of an important examination in high school, the point of my lead pencil broke. In those days we used pocketknives to sharpen our pencils. I had forgotten my penknife, and turned to ask a neighbor for his. The teacher saw this; he accused me of cheating. When I tried to explain, he gave me a tongue-lashing for lying; worse, he forbade me to play on the basketball team in the upcoming game.

I could see that the more I protested the angrier he seemed to become. But again and again I stubbornly told what had happened. Even when the coach pleaded my cause, the teacher refused to budge. The disgrace was almost more than I could bear. Then, just minutes before the game, he had a change of heart and I was permitted to play. But there was no joy in it. We lost the game; and though that hurt, by far the deeper pain was being branded a cheat and a liar.

Looking back, I know that lesson was God-sent. Character is shaped in just such crucibles. My parents believed me; they were understanding and encouraging. Supported by them and a clear conscience, I began to realize that when you are at peace with your Maker you can, if not ignore human criticism, at least rise above it.

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, pp. 367-368.