

3 Nephi 5: 1-3*Faith leads to repentance and good works*

1 If we think deeply, we realize that the first principle—faith in the Lord Jesus Christ—underlies all else; that is, it takes faith in Christ to repent or be baptized or perform any other ordinances of the gospel. Jesus made saving repentance possible and He made baptism meaningful. If we have faith in Him, we will repent and be baptized.

If we do not repent, or refuse to be baptized, or are unwilling to keep His commandments, it is because we do not have sufficient faith in Him. Thus, repentance, baptism, and all other principles and ordinances are not entirely separate but are actually extensions of our faith in Christ. Without faith in Him, we do little of eternal value. With faith in Him, our lives become focused on doing things of eternal value.

John H. Groberg, Conference Report, Oct. 1993, 35; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 26.

3 Nephi 5: 12*“I am called Mormon”*

2 Anyone who comes to know the man Mormon, through the reading and pondering of his words, anyone who reads this precious trove of history which was assembled and preserved in large measure by him, will come to know that Mormon is not a word of disrepute, but that it represents the greatest good—that good which is of God.

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Mormon Should Mean ‘More Good,’” *Ensign*, November 1990, p. 53.

3 Nephi 5: 12

3 *First Church after Transgression*

In the days of King Mosiah I, as a fulfillment of repeated warning and prophecy (see Jacob 3:4), a righteous remnant left the land of Nephi because of the wickedness of the people, being led northward to the land of Zarahemla. Later, after many of the Nephites had returned to the land of Nephi and subsequently had escaped the perverse jurisdiction of wicked King Noah, Alma established a church in the wilderness (see Omni 1: 12-13; Mosiah 18:1-34).

R. Millet and J F. McConkie, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1992], 4:22-23.

3 Nephi 5:13

4 *“disciple”*

Discipleship is general; any follower of a man or devotee to a principle may be called a disciple. The Holy Apostleship is an office and calling... comprising as a distinguishing function that of personal and special witness to the divinity of Jesus Christ as the one and only Redeemer and Savior of mankind.

James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, 212, emphasis in original. See also D&C 193:28.

5 While in every instance the Nephite twelve are spoken of as disciples, the fact remains that they had been endowed with divine authority to be special witnesses for Christ among their own people. Therefore, they were virtually apostles to the Nephite race, although their jurisdiction

was, as revealed to Nephi, eventually to be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of Peter and the twelve chosen in Palestine.

Answers to Gospel Questions, comp. Joseph Fielding Smith Jr., 5 vols. [1957-66], 1:122.

6 The word *disciple* comes from the Latin [meaning] a learner. A disciple of Christ is one who is learning to be like Christ—learning to think, to feel, and to act as he does. To be a true disciple, to fulfill that learning task, is the most demanding regimen known to man. No other discipline compares... in either requirements or rewards. It involves the total transformation of a person from the state of the natural man to that of [a] saint, one who loves the Lord and serves with all of his heart, might, mind, and strength.

L. Tom Perry, Chauncey C. Riddle, "Becoming a Disciple," *Ensign*, Sept. 1974, 81; or conference report, Oct. 2000, 77; or *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 61.

3 Nephi 5: 21-26

Gathering

7 Another sign of the times is the gathering of the faithful (see D&C 133:4). In the early years of this last dispensation, a gathering to Zion involved various locations in the United States, to Kirkland, to Missouri, to Nauvoo, and to the tops of the mountains. Always these were gatherings to prospective temples.

With the creation of stakes and the construction of temples in most nations with sizeable populations of the faithful, the current commandment is not to gather to one place but to gather in stakes in our own homelands. There the faithful can enjoy the full blessings of eternity in a house of the Lord. There, in their own homelands, they can obey the Lord's command to enlarge the borders of His people and strengthen her stakes (see D&C 101:21; 133:9, 14). In this way the stakes of Zion are "for a defense, and for a refuge from the storm and from the wrath when it shall be poured out without mixture upon the whole earth" (D&C 115:6).

Dallin H. Oaks, Conference Report, Apr. 2004, 6; or *Ensign*, May 2004, 8.

8 Let them come [the Jews] like clouds and like doves to their windows. Let the large ships of the nations bring them from the distant isles; and let kings become their nursing fathers, and queens with motherly fondness wipe the tear of sorrow from their eye... Let them know that it is Thy good pleasure to restore the kingdom unto Israel.

From the dedicatory prayer given by Orson Hyde in Jerusalem and recorded in *History of the Church*, 4:456-57.

9 And we further testify that the Jews among all nations are hereby commanded, in the name of the Messiah to prepare to return to Jerusalem in Palestine, and to rebuild that city and temple unto the Lord.

Writings of Parley P. Pratt, p. 3.

3 Nephi 5: 25*Covenant*

- 10 God's people have been known as a covenant people. The gospel itself is the new and everlasting covenant. The posterity of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob is the covenant race. We come into the Church by covenant, which we enter into when we go into the waters of baptism. The new and everlasting covenant of celestial marriage is the gate to exaltation in the celestial kingdom. Men receive the Melchizedek Priesthood by an oath and covenant.
Marion G. Romnet, in Conference Report, April 1962, 12.

3 Nephi 5*Conclusion*

- 11 The holy scriptures contain no proclamation more revelant, no responsibility more binding, no instruction more direct than the injunction given by the resurrected Lord as He appeared in Galilee to the eleven disciples. Said He, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." The Prophet Joseph Smith declared, "After all that has been said, the greatest and most important duty is to preach the Gospel." Some of you here today will yet remember the words of President David O. McKay, who phrased the familiar, "Every member a missionary!"

To their words I add my own. Now is the time for members and missionaries to come together, to work together, to labor in the Lord's vineyard to bring souls unto Him. He has prepared the means for us to share the gospel in a multitude of ways, and He will assist us in our labors if we will act in faith to fulfill His work.

President Thomas S. Monson, *Ensign*, Nov. 2013, p. 4.

- 12 During a meeting of the Utah South Area Conference held several weeks after the beginning of the new year 1987, Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone pronounced the following blessing on the people who live in the Utah South Area.

God bless the Utah South Area. The Lord has planted and is planting giants in the land. Apostles and prophets are being born in your homes. Some of your youth will walk in the highest places in this kingdom. Your sons who are on missions will return and fill the most sacred callings. You do not know who your children are.

As we faithfully commit and follow through with a great missionary thrust, God will bless us. Our children will see visions. Our leaders will dream sacred dreams. Angelic and unseen beings will watch over and protect you and your children. Employers' hearts will be softened. Bounteous blessings will flow. Satanic influences will be thwarted. Our people will walk in holiness protected and blessed as the "children of light". Homes will be protected from evil and destroying powers will pass us by. You will come to the shade of trees, to the cooling fountains, to the haven of rest. Peace, love and hope will be yours.

This Utah South Area will be the fountainhead of blessings that flow to every people on this earth. Let us fulfill our divine destiny to prepare for these promises.

Press forward saints. His love will guide you through your lives.

