

The Process of Using Faith To Do Miracles

President Benson said “People that devote their lives to God discover that they can do more in their life than they could ever do themselves”.

He will EXPAND your joy, AMPLIFY your vision, STIMULATE your mind, STRENGTHEN your muscles, EDIFY your spirit, MULTIPLY your blessings, INCREASE your opportunities, COMFORT your soul, GATHER friends to you, FILL you with peace.

Mathew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

“The powers of heaven are governed by spiritual laws; receiving them is conditional on your observation of the law.”

Doctrine & Covenants 130:20-21 There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated— And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.

Doctrine & Covenants 121:36 That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

Doctrine & Covenants 121:34-36 Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen? Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn this one lesson— That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

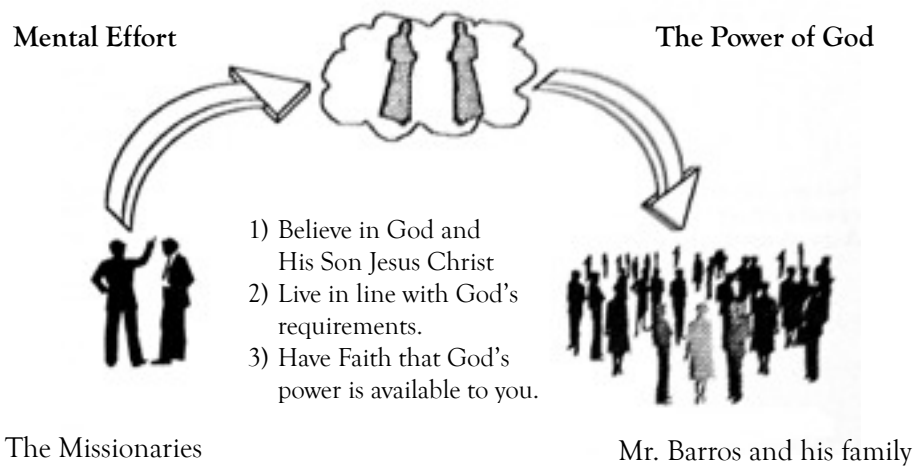
You will also understand the role that thought plays in the act of exercising faith and how to face the trials of your faith, which you will certainly encounter, when you try to invoke the powers of heaven.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Joseph Smith:

- 1) Faith is the thing that causes action in all intelligent beings, both in heaven and on earth
- 2) Faith is not only a principle of action, but also of power.
- 3) Therefore Faith is the primary, grande governing principle of power, dominion, and authority over all things.

Missionaries have the power to do everything by faith (2 Nephi 2:1 “...having power given them to do all things by faith...”)



The Scriptures teach us that certain powers of heaven are governed by the faith of mortal men.

Ether 12:18 And neither at any time hath any wrought miracles until after their faith; wherefore they first believed in the Son of God.

1 Nephi 7:12 Yea, and how is it that ye have forgotten that the Lord is able to do all things according to his will, for the children of men, if it so be that they exercise faith in him? Wherefore, let us be faithful to him.

Moroni 10:7 And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore I would exhort you that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and forever.

2 Nephi 27:23 For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men save it be according to their faith.

Moroni 7:33 And Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me.

Ether 12:27,31 And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them. For thus didst thou manifest thyself unto thy disciples; for after they had faith, and did speak in thy name, thou didst show thyself unto them in great power.

Doctrine & Covenants 63:3 Ye endeavored to believe that ye should receive the blessing which was offered unto you; but behold, verily I say unto you there were fears in your hearts, and verily this is the reason that ye did not receive.

*Faith and Fear
cannot abide together
at the same time.*

"to obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Sam 15:22)

Doctrine & Covenants 82:10 I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.

Today is the first day of the rest of our lives and we CAN and WILL desire in faith!!

Elder McConkie said, where we have fallen short is that we have not desired with all our heart in faith, to bring souls into the Kingdom. Maybe we still have not decided that we can and will bring many people to the Church.

Mormon 9:21 Behold, I say unto you that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth.

We have to ask for specific things of the Lord.

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Doctrine & Covenants 11:5 Therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive; if you will knock it shall be opened unto you.

- This promise is repeated about 100 times in the scriptures, nevertheless, He cannot help us if we do not ask the Lord in Faith to help us and give us what we desire. I testify to you that the Spirit is much more anxious to help you than you are to be helped. - Dilworth Young, June 1970

Lectures on Faith

...where doubt and uncertainty are, there is no faith. They cannot exist together.

Therefore, doubt and Faith cannot exist in the mind of man at the same time.

So anyone who's mind has doubt and fear cannot have unshaken confidence.

And without unshaken confidence, Faith is weak.

Faith is the principle of Action and of Power in all intelligent beings.

What should we understand as missionaries working (acting) by Faith?

We understand that when a missionary works by Faith he works by mental force instead of physical force.
(Wise man vs. Common Man)

Working by Faith is accomplished by words instead of by physical efforts.

- 1) Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- 2) Joshua 10:12-13 Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed...
- 3) James 5:17-18 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

All this was done by Faith

Faith, therefore is work by words.

And with words His great works have been and will always be done.

through WORDS
When men begin to live by Faith [^] they begin to approach GOD,
and when their Faith is perfected they become like Him.

Leviticus 19:2 Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them,
Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.

Matthew 5: 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Lesson 15: President George Q. Cannon taught: "If any of us are imperfect, it is our duty to pray for the gift that will make us perfect. Have I imperfections? I am full of them. What is my duty? To pray to God to give me the gifts that will correct these imperfections. If I am an angry man, it is my duty to pray for charity, which suffereth long and is kind. Am I an envious man? It is my duty to seek for charity, which envieth not. So with all the gifts of the Gospel. They are intended for this purpose. No man ought to say, 'Oh, I cannot help this; it is my nature.' He is not justified in it, for the reason that God has promised to give strength to correct these things, and to give gifts that will eradicate them" (Millennial Star, 23 Apr. 1894, 260).

We can and must seek after perfection!!

There are Three Types of Missionaries

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1) Disobedient Missionaries | Occasionally succeed at baptizing. Normally the manipulate people. |
| 2) Obedient Missionaries | Also Occasionally Baptize - They have Faith that brings Action. |
| 3) Obedient Missionaries with Faith | Make Miracles happen - They have Faith that brings Power. |

I) Righteous Living

- a) Does things out of pure motives. **No guile**
- b) Is obedient to the commandments and the rules.
- c) Uses time wisely **Lives in and not of the world. Eliminates all distractions.**
- d) Avoids inappropriate conversations
- e) Only thinks about bringing souls to Christ through baptism. **Looks at ones true potential as a son or daughter of God.**

Doctrine & Covenants 121:36 That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie said that Faith is a gift that is given to those who live righteous lives. It is always given where righteousness is present. And the greater degree of obedience to God's laws, the greater will be the gift of faith given. **Faith is given in direct proportion as the degree of obedience.**

II) Righteous Goals and Desires

- a) Choose a righteous desire.

Doctrine & Covenants 8: 10 Remember that without faith you can do nothing; therefore ask in faith. Trifle not with these things; **do not ask for that which you ought not.**

Helaman 10:5 "all things shall be done unto thee according to thy word, for thou shalt not ask that which is contrary to my will."

- b) Baptize Weekly

Not to only to help the Mission President.
Not because you want a leadership position.

Alma 26:21-22 what natural man is there that knoweth these things? I say unto you, there is none that knoweth these things, save it be the penitent.

- c) Desire is more than dreaming

Concentrate your mind on a few righteous desires.
The desire has to be specific, you have to write it down.
Remember your righteous desire every day in Faith.

22 Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing-unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed; yea, and it shall be given unto such to bring thousands of souls to repentance, even as it has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance.

(By WORDS through prayer)

Helaman 10: 5 And now, because thou hast done this with such unweariness, behold, I will bless thee forever; and I will make thee mighty in word and in deed, in faith and in works; yea, even that all things shall be done unto thee according to thy word, for thou shalt not ask that which is contrary to my will.

It is requisite that we first have **pure & just motives** in order to invoke the powers of heaven.

We must have our eyes fixed on the Glory of God in order to be inspired in setting our righteous goals.

President Kimball said the following on the subject of Faith: We believe that we must track our goals. It is through our goals that we live our lives. We always make goals when we play sports. When we go to school, we have a goal to graduate and earn a diploma. Our whole life is influenced by the feeling we get when we achieve our goals. We need goals in order to progress in life. It is goals that give us the endurance we need along the path to success, just like swimmers, runners and many other types of athletes. It is useful to use our goals to supervise, evaluate and measure our performance. It is good to have goals. When we work to find our long range objectives, we concentrate our mind to reach the highest goal possible and try with all our strength to achieve it. The goals we set should always be established high enough that they force us to stretch in order to reach them.

III) Plan of Action (Goals)

| Righteous Desire Goal - US | Our Plan - US | The Lord's Part - ME | Your Sacrifice - ME My Commitment |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan out the Goals as specifically as possible • We should include a period of time that the goals should be accomplished. - Baptize 1 Family per week. -Baptize 4 per week or month. -Baptize 2 per week. - Baptize 1 family in the last week of the month. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do everything we can to accomplish our goals. • This includes doing everything in our power to make sure the goal is accomplished - Faith unto action. - Reading the missionary handbook. - Standards. - Avoid inappropriate conversations. - Do well at planing your day, week & month. - Challenge yourself daily. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write down in detail the blessings that we desire, specifically the ones that invoke the powers of heaven. - Inspiration to overcome obstacles. - Touch the hearts of the leaders and members. - The Spirit to testify of my words. - Reveal to me the heart of Mr. Barros - Physical Strength - Inspiration to know when to invite him to be baptized. - Bless me to be able to use the skills that I have trained for. - Give me new ideas by inspiration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a specific list of appropriate attitudes that we must have in order to qualify for blessings from the Lord • Our commitments should be established with inspiration and should demonstrate our dignity, dedication and our devotion to receive the Lord's help. - Not to have negative feelings towards any other group or individual. - Bare my testimony every day before leaving the house. - Read the Book of Mormon every day. - Pray out loud twice a day. - Pray silently 24/7. - Avoid bad thoughts. - Pray for every investigator. |

IV) Pray

Present your plan to Heavenly Father in a long and detailed prayer, explain to the Lord every detail of your plan and all the reasons that you are doing this.

Doctrine & Covenants 82:10 I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise. **Ether 3:26 For he had said unto him in times before, that if he would believe in him that he could show unto him all things-it should be shown unto him; therefore the Lord could not withhold anything from him, for he knew that the Lord could show him all things.**

We need to learn how to negotiate with the Lord.

It should be a prayer of compromising with God, not just asking Him for things.

Ether 3 story of the Brother of Jared seeing the finger of The Lord. He negotiated with The Lord and compromised with Him.

Helaman 11: 9 -16 And it came to pass that the judges did say unto Nephi, according to the words which had been desired. And it came to pass that when Nephi saw that the people had repented and did humble themselves in sackcloth, he cried again unto the Lord, saying: O Lord, behold this people repenteth; and they have swept away the band of Gadianton from amongst them insomuch that they have become extinct, and they have concealed their secret plans in the earth. Now, O Lord, because of this their humility wilt thou turn away thine anger, and let thine anger be appeased in the destruction of those wicked men whom thou hast already destroyed. O Lord, wilt thou turn away thine anger, yea, thy fierce anger, and cause that this famine may cease in this land. O Lord, wilt thou hearken unto me, and cause that it may be done according to my words, and send forth rain upon the face of the earth, that she may bring forth her fruit, and her grain in the season of grain. O Lord, thou didst hearken unto my words when I said, Let there be a famine, that the pestilence of the sword might cease; and I know that thou wilt, even at this time, hearken unto my words, for thou saidst that: If this people repent I will spare them. Yea, O Lord, and thou seest that they have repented, because of the famine and the pestilence and destruction which has come unto them. And now, O Lord, wilt thou turn away thine anger, and try again if they will serve thee? And if so, O Lord, thou canst bless them according to thy words which thou hast said.

Alma 37:37 Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.

Doctrine & Covenants 133:57 And for this cause, that men might be made partakers of the glories which were to be revealed, the Lord sent forth the fulness of his gospel, his everlasting covenant, reasoning in plainness and simplicity. **The purpose of the Gospel is to exalt mankind. Moses 1:39 - For behold, this is my work and my glory -- to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.**

Doctrine & Covenants 50:10-11 And now come, saith the Lord, by the Spirit, unto the elders of his church, and let us reason together, that ye may understand; Let us reason even as a man reasoneth one with another face to face.

We need to present our goals daily to the Lord until our desires have been realized.

We should be specific in our requests.

In our effort to ask for help from the Lord to reach our righteous desires (goals), we cannot only pray out loud, but we must learn to offer frequent silent prayers. **Pray always**

Doctrine & Covenants 19:28 And again, I command thee that thou shalt pray vocally as well as in thy heart; yea, before the world as well as in secret, in public as well as in private.

Nephi had already received the sealing power and yet he negotiated with The Lord and his faith and prayer was granted.

V) Exert Yourself Mentally

When a missionary works by Faith, he exerts himself mentally, not physically.

If our mind is not consumed in what we are working toward, then we do not have a true desire.

JST Matt. 6: 38 Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matt 6:33)

Doctrine & Covenants 6:36 Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.

The Lord said to us: “Doubt not, but be believing” (Mormon 9:27).

The level of mental exertion will determine which missionaries will baptize weekly and which ones will baptize monthly.

President Kimball said, How can a man become what he has not thought?

Think 24/7 not only on the number of baptisms, but also on their names and their needs.

Negative thought does not require any effort, Positive thinking does.

Positive Thought: 1 Nephi 3:15 But behold I said unto them that: As the Lord liveth, and as we live, we will not go down unto our father in the wilderness until we have accomplished the thing which the Lord hath commanded us.

Negative Thought: 1 Nephi 3:14 But Laman fled out of his presence, and told the things which Laban had done, unto us. And we began to be exceedingly sorrowful, and my brethren were about to return unto my father in the wilderness.

Control Your Thoughts:

- 1) Become aware of what you are thinking
- 2) Evaluate your thoughts: “This thought is helping me baptize Mr. Barros and his family.”
“This thought is increasing my Faith.”
- 3) Substitute thoughts: Substitute negative thoughts that will not help me baptize and will not increase my faith with ones that will.
- 4) Meditate: Meditate on your plan at least in the morning, if possible, then before bed as well.
- 5) Visualize: See your investigators dressed in white standing in the baptismal font.

Doctrine & Covenants 4:2,7

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| all your Heart | - | Your Feelings, Care, Concern, etc. |
| all your Might | - | All your Spiritual Strength and your Priesthood Power. |
| all your Mind | - | All of your Thought |
| all your Strength | - | All of your Physical, Moral, Mental & Emotional Strength. |

After we do all these things, we then have a marvelous promise:

Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Amen.

VI) Maintain the Thoughts that encourage Mental Exertion.

This process will take time to produce results.

Some people take more time than others.

One time Joseph Smith was asked how he was able to lead such a diverse group of people, He responded “I teach them correct principles and they govern themselves”.

That which a man continually thinks about determines his actions in times of opportunity and stress. I will know what you are if you tell me what you think about when you don't have to think. - President David O. McKay

After you endure in this process, you will see the effects of your faith, you will see great numbers of the elect converted and baptized into the church.

Faith

+ Works

Miracles