

Looking Forward With An Eye of Faith

Everything we do we Create Mentally First: <ul style="list-style-type: none">~ Talk~ Travel~ Build things<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fence• House• Rearrange your room	And everything Heavenly Father Creates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">~ Creation~ Scriptures
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Alma 5:16

Alma asked the saints to "...look forward with an eye of faith..."

Alma later taught in Alma 32:40 "...if we will not nourish the word, Looking Forward with an Eye of Faith to the fruit thereof, ye can never pluck of the fruit..."

Belief to Faith

James E Talmage

"One cannot have faith without belief, yet he may believe and still lack faith. Faith is vivified, vitalized, living belief." Notice Talmages use of "vivified". Vivify means to give life to; make come to life; animate. And "vivid" means forming clear or striking mental images... bringing strikingly realistic or lifelike images to mind.

Believing is Seeing

President Boyd K Packer said:

"There are two kinds of faith. One of them functions ordinarily in the life of every soul. It is the kind of faith born by experience; it gives us certainty that a new day will dawn, that spring will come, that growth will take place. It is the kind of faith that relates us with confidence to that which is scheduled to happen ..."

"There is another kind of faith, rare indeed. This is the kind of faith that causes things to happen. It is the kind of faith that is worthy and prepared and unyielding and it calls forth things that otherwise would not be. It is the kind of faith that sometimes moves things. Few men possess it. It comes by gradual growth. It is a marvelous, even a transcendent, power, a power as real and as invisible as electricity."

In a world filled with skepticism and doubt the expression "seeing is believing" promotes the attitude, "You show me, and I will believe." We want all of the proof and all of the evidence first. It seems hard to take things on faith.

When will we learn that in spiritual things it works the other way about – that believing is seeing?

Faith pp. 42-43

I would repeat that last phrase: "believing is seeing!"

Alma 5:15, 16

15. Do you look forward with an Eye Of Faith, and View this mortal body raised in mortality?

16. Alma continues asking, ... can you imagine to yourselves that you hear the voice of the Lord.....

So to me it seems this principle of faith is in some way connected to a process of envisioning.

And later Alma emphasizes the long range scope of this:

Alma 32:40

If ye will not nourish the word, looking forward With an Eye of Faith to the fruit thereof, ye can never pluck of the fruit of the tree of life.

And centuries later:

Moroni tells us in Ether 12:19 of “many whose faith was so exceedingly strong,” because they looked into the future or “look forward with an Eye Of Faith,” to the extent, “that they could not be kept from within the veil,” but truly saw with their eyes the things which they had beheld with an eye of faith, and they were glad.

**To receive it, we must be able to believe it! To believe it, we must be able to “see” it!
To “see” it, we must be able to awaken the Eye of Faith!**

The Prophet Joseph Smith

The things of God are of deep import, and time, experience, and careful and ponderous, and solemn thoughts, can only find them out. Thy mind, oh man! If thou wilt lead a soul unto salvation must stretch as high, as the utmost heavens. And search into and contemplate the darkest abyss and the broad expanse of eternity...thou must commune with god. (p. 45)

President Ezra Taft Benson

Man must take time to mediate, to sweep the cobwebs from his mind, so that he might get a more firm grip on the truth and spend less time chasing phantoms and dallying in projects of lesser worth...take time to meditate. Ponder the meaning of the work in which you are engaged.

Thus we realize, ponderous mental effort, as emphasized above by the savior, the prophet Joseph Smith and President Benson, opens communication externally between your divine spirit and the Holy Ghost, and internally between your divine spirit and your mortal intellect, opening pathways for insight, comprehension, promptings and confirmations.

Choices of thought should originate not in the brain, but in the commands of the spirit, to which the brain faithfully and righteously responds when and only when, the commands are delivered in compliance with the laws upon which such commands are predicated; elevating the scope and power of the Eye of Faith to a pinnacle of supreme significance during our mortal lives.

Also when one Eye of Faith is either dimmed or blurred or out of focus, the individual’s spirit is allowed to shrink from its divinely endowed power of control, and the responsive but undiscerning mortal brain, at any given moment, immediately and dutifully responds to “the natural man.” At this point, although the spirit continues to enliven the mortal body, it assumes a subordinate role in the initiation of thought and the control of agency and becomes “acted upon” to the detriment of both the mortal body and the divine spirit.

Alma 32, 21-24

5 Steps to Develop Faith from Simply Hoping, to Actual Knowledge.

1. Hope – Desire (Look for evidence)
2. Test Drive, Experiment. (Plant a seed)
3. Recognize changes. Don’t have too high of expectations too fast. It will feel right. You will begin to feel different. “...yea it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, ...”
These are very tender beginnings and require careful attention to what is going on.
4. Don’t stop now. “Nourish it with great care, that it may get root, that it may grow up and bring forth fruit unto us. And now behold, if ye nourish it with much care it will get root, and grow up, and bring forth fruit.
(This is a promise from God.)
5. Feast on the fruit for the rest of your life. Don’t just nibble here and there. This will continue to strengthen your faith and knowledge throughout your life.

Reality of LIGHT and DARKNESS

Just prior to pronouncing the dedicatory prayer of the London Temple, President David O. McKay spoke about light and darkness in the human brain. He said as darkness is allowed in, an equal amount of light must leave. As light enters, an equal amount of darkness is dispelled. Darkness and light cannot occupy the same space at the same time. The only way darkness may be cast out is for light to replace it.

He emphasized that this exchange of light and darkness is voluntary. When we willingly search for fault in others, when we seek unrighteous dominion, when we choose to focus our thoughts upon wickedness, we willingly invite darkness in and thrust out that proportion of light. As darkness continues to enter, light continues to depart, and it thus becomes more and more difficult to comprehend truth. The choice is ours.

It becomes obvious that a very long-range view, indeed an internal perspective, is not only desirable but is imperative. Knowing this, however, does not make it happen. In fact, in the face of our mortal earthly struggles, an eternal point of view is difficult to achieve, even if we agree that such a view is preferable. What then can we do to change the mortal view, a view that thrusts itself upon us so automatically?

The answer is: the incomparable Eye of Faith, the most powerful and everlasting way to replace a mortal short-term view with an eternal perspective so strongly recommended by latter day apostles and prophets.

D&C 88:67 *(It is clear here that the lord is not referring to our mortal eyes)*

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

These notes were compiled by Alan Turner from the book “THE EYE OF FAITH” by Ron L. McIntyre

“There is no labor from which most people shrink as they do from that of sustained and consecutive thought. It is the hardest work in the world.”

Wallace D Wattles

Pres. Dean Madsen counseled; “Before you say your prayers, spend a few minutes contemplating about your blessings, the character of God. Then your prayers will take on a whole new meaning.”