

Faith in Jesus Christ



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Faith in Jesus Christ

What Is Faith?

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the first principle of the gospel. It is a spiritual gift, and it is necessary to our salvation. King Benjamin declared, "Salvation cometh to none . . . except it be through repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Mosiah 3:12, page 152).

Faith is not perfect knowledge; faith is a "hope for things which are not seen, which are true" (Alma 32:21, page 289). Faith is a principle of power that motivates us to act. For example, farmers plant seeds that they hope to harvest eventually. Each day we do things when we can only hope for the end result. This is faith.

Faith is a strong belief of truth within our souls that helps us want to do good.

We Can Be Saved through Faith

In order to be saved, we must center our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Peter taught that "there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12, page 1371). Through faith in the Savior and through repentance, we make His Atonement fully effective in our lives.

To have faith in Jesus Christ means to have such trust in Him that we obey His commandments. As we place our faith in Jesus Christ and become His obedient disciples, Heavenly Father will forgive our sins and prepare us to return to live with Him. Through faith we can also receive strength to overcome temptations. We will find peace, healing, and joy as we faithfully trust Jesus Christ and obey His commandments.

We Can Increase Our Faith

We can receive many blessings by exercising faith in Jesus Christ, and we should work to increase our faith in Him. The Savior said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, . . . nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matthew 17:20, page 1217). A mustard seed is very small, but it grows into a large plant.





We increase our faith the same way we improve or develop any other skill. We study and practice and work at it. As we do so, we improve. If we want to increase our faith in Jesus Christ, we must work at it.

We can increase our faith in God by obeying His commandments, studying His word, and seeking His guidance.

We can also increase our faith by praying to Heavenly Father about our hopes, desires, and needs. But we should also remember that faith must be combined with action to be effective (see James 2:17, page 1540).

Faith involves doing all we can to bring about the things we hope and pray for. Sometimes we want the blessing without faithfully doing our part. Many of us want to have health and strength but use addictive substances that harm our bodies. Many of us want to be close to the Lord but don't want to pray to Him and keep His commandments. But God expects us to do what we can to receive the blessings we desire.

An important way to increase our faith is to hear and study the word of the Lord. We hear the word of the Lord at our Church meetings. We can study His word in the scriptures. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can come to know God and experience the sweet peace of repenting and being forgiven.



“Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth; believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; believe that man doth not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend.”

Mosiah 4:9, page 155

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Additional Scriptures

- **Romans 10:17, page 1430**
(faith comes by hearing the word of God)
- **Hebrews 11, pages 1532–34**
(the doctrine of faith)
- **Alma 32:21–43, pages 289–91** (how to develop your faith)
- **Ether 12:4–27, pages 509–10; Moroni 7:20–48, pages 522–25** (miracles happen through faith)





Personal Experience

I spent six years in the state prison. Before entering prison I thought I had faith in Jesus Christ. I came to understand that although I did have faith that Christ was real, I did not have faith in the Savior. I did not trust that the Lord loved me and had my happiness in mind. I did not trust that He had a perfect plan for me and that His plan would not fail.

For three years I did everything in my power to convince the Lord that I knew what was best. I studied the scriptures, prayed continually, went to institute daily, and fasted weekly. I knew that Christ was able to perform mighty miracles. I believed all of the scriptures that said if you asked in faith, you would receive. So why was my plan not happening?

I had faith that the Savior lived. But it was not until I let go of my will and my plan for my life that I truly came to have faith in Jesus Christ. I had to trust that I was in His loving hands and that He knew how to heal my broken heart. I came to know that He would never have me endure more pain or affliction than was necessary to help me become who He needs me to be. Having faith in who the Lord is and in His plan brings true happiness and peace.

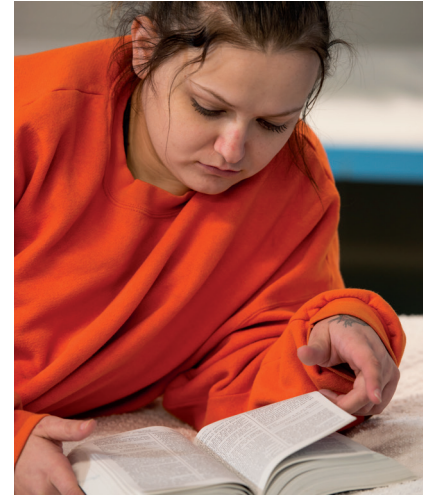
“I had to trust that I was in His loving hands and that He knew how to heal my broken heart.”



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RESPONSE FORM

How would you define faith?



Why do we need to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

How does faith in Jesus Christ influence your hope for the future?

What is the relationship between your faith and your actions?



What can you do now to increase your faith in Jesus Christ?

How can faith help you in your current situation? What blessings have you received from faith?

Is there anything else that you have learned from this lesson that you would like to share?

Name _____ **Offender #** _____