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Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 18

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Abstract: Monthly Book of Mormon lessons for adult women (Relief Society). Each month a verse of Book of Mormon scripture is presented with accompanying quotes from General Authorities and writers of the Church.

Visiting Teacher Messages

Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 18—"And See That Ye Have Faith, Hope, and Charity, and Then Ye Will Always Abound in Good Works" (Alma 7:24)

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, November 3, 1953

Objective: To stimulate the development of faith, hope, and charity, that good works may abound.

FAITH, mentioned first in Alma's quotation above, is essential to the success of any endeavor.

The Prophet Joseph Smith approved the following:

Turn your thoughts on your own minds, and see if faith is not the moving cause of all action in yourselves; and, if the moving cause in you, is it not in all other intelligent beings? And as faith is the moving cause of all action in temporal concerns, so it is in spiritual. . . . But faith is not only the principle of action, but of power also. . . . Had it not been for the principle of faith the worlds would never have been framed neither would man have been formed of the dust. It is the principle by which Jehovah works, and through which he exercises power over all temporal as well as eternal things (*Lectures on Faith*, pp. 8, 9).

In the *Lectures on Faith*, we are told that faith "is the assurance we have of the existence of unseen things." On the same subject Ralph Waldo Emerson explained, "All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."

The necessity for both faith and works is a subject discussed extensively, both in the scriptures and by prominent religious workers. From these sources we must conclude that faith is the root of all work. Upon the interdependence of faith and works, James in the New Testament, gave the following testimony:

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works (James 2:14-18).

* * * * *

If faith produce no works, I see
That faith is not a living tree
Thus faith and works together grow;
No separate life they e'er can know.

—Hannah More

Hope is akin to faith and encourages good works, but it has not the vitality nor the moving power of faith.

Charity, according to the apostle Paul, is of major importance in all good deeds. The spirit which accompanies the works determines in large measure, the good accomplished. All works to be effective should be tempered with charity, or its synonym "love." In *The Book of Mormon*, Mormon tells us that, "Charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him" (Moroni 7:47). One of President

George Albert Smith's favorite expressions was, "Love people into doing the right thing."

The apostle Paul says:

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity . . . it profiteth me nothing. . . . And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. . . . Charity never faileth (I Cor. 13:2, 3, 8, 13).

Charity is so vital in the compassionate service which characterizes our Relief Society organization that the expression last mentioned by Paul was chosen as its motto—"Charity never faileth" (I Cor. 13:8).

Good works are a natural outgrowth of faith, hope, and charity. These three attributes combined bring forth good works in abundance.

Work Meeting—Family Money Management

(A Course Recommended for Use by Wards and Branches at Work Meeting)

Lesson 2—Your Shopping Dollar

Rhea H. Gardner

(For Tuesday, November 10, 1953)

THE standard of living of a nation, a family, or an individual is determined more by the manner in which the money income is spent, and what it is spent for, than by its total value. Inasmuch as women spend a large portion of the family income, it is their responsibility to learn what to look for in buying and how to get full value on every dollar invested.

Experts calculate that a careful shopper who really makes comparisons and takes advantage of genuine bargains can earn \$3 for every hour spent in shopping. But bargains, even real ones, can cost, rather than save money, if they lead you to buy things you do not need. With advertising playing the important selling role it now is, homemakers must learn to interpret what they hear, read, and see on the basis of facts that have been tested and proved by

highly skilled and unprejudiced workers.

There is no magic formula for buying more for your money. However, there are principles which, if observed, will help you to do so.

Compare Values

Prices on similar items, sometimes even on the same item, vary from store to store. Different stores feature different items from time to time. Price is only one of the elements of a bargain. A low-priced item may not be a good buy at all. On the other hand, many people do not realize that a high price may not necessarily mean that an article has great worth.

To compare values fully you not only compare prices, you must also compare:

Quality: Read labels and tags. If there are none, do not buy unless satisfaction