

Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz Production
Week 30
Alma 32-35

In chapter 32 Alma turns from the wicked Zoramites praying atop the rameumptom, and focuses his attention on the poor. Those that are ready to hear the good word. There are two main chapters in the Book of Mormon on faith. If someone is going to give a talk in church or study this topic you know they will get to one of both of these chapters. That is in Ether chapter 12 or Alma chapter 32 nearly everything there is to learn about faith is in these two chapters and yet sometimes we struggle nailing down what faith really is, how it works in our lives. I admit I have struggled at times defining what faith is in my life.

In this episode I hope to outline as clear as possible the difference in Faith and Hope at least as I understand it. Starting with Alma 32:21 it says:

“And now as I said concerning faith—**faith** is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye **hope** for things which are **not** seen, which are true.” This of course is a classic definition of faith. It continues in verse 26 and 27:

26 Now, as I said concerning faith—that it was not a perfect knowledge—even so it is with my words. Ye cannot know of their surety at first, unto perfection, any more than faith is a perfect knowledge.

27 But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than **desire** to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words.”

In 1973 October General Conference Hartman Rector Jr. gave a talk called “Ye shall receive the Spirit. In this talk he quotes Doctrine and Covenants section 42 verse 14 and says:

““And the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith; and if ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach.” (D&C 42:14.)”

On the surface it appears that all that is necessary to receive the Spirit is to ask for it, but it is not quite so easy a question! What is the difference between just ordinary prayer and a “prayer of faith”?

As we consider that question, the difference is immediately apparent. The difference is *faith*, and what *is* faith? Of course, there are many definitions of faith, but one definition is “a strong belief plus *action*.” It is not perfect knowledge (as Alma

explains in [Alma 32](#)), but real faith lets a man *act* as if he knows it is true when he really doesn't.

Therefore, faith in a real sense is power—power to act and perform without actual knowledge. The Lord's formula for receiving the Spirit, then, is to get on our knees and communicate with him. Tell him what we are going to do—make commitments with him—outline our program—and then get up off our knees and go and *do* precisely what we have told him we would do. In the *doing*, the Spirit comes.”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1973/10/you-shall-receive-the-spirit?lang=eng>

In my opinion, and this is just my opinion, the difference in faith and belief or faith in Hope, has one important ingredient: that is God's will. What I mean by that is: I believe I can move a mountain, but until I know that it's God's will and I receive direction from him to command the elements that mountain will Never move, Oh I can believe, I can believe with every fiber of my being, but it's not me, or my strength that is moving that mountain, it's God's. My belief therefore is in God and His all-knowing ways. If God tells me to do something I can go forth in faith that his will will be done and not my own.

A great example of this is in a story recently shared with me by a friend of mine. He told me that where he lives there was a fast moving fire threatening his home and all of his neighbors homes. The wind from the south was very strong and that fire had traveled miles in just minutes. The whole city it appeared was being evacuated and the threat of danger was very high. He said he had this overwhelming feeling come over him to rebuke the wind. The message was simple, as he walked outside the feeling of the spirit was present. He said he knew this feeling because the feeling of the spirit was familiar to him. (as a side note that is a very important key) He knew this feeling because the feeling of the spirit was familiar to him. He sought for it often and he described it as a tingling sensation and it was hard for him to hold back tears. There were people around him so when his mind he commanded the wind to cease with boldness and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He did not doubt has the wind still blew he walked inside knowing the wind would stop blowing when God was ready. He had done his part and obeyed with exactness. Less than a minute later the wind had completely stopped, not a leaf on the trees were moving. Then in complete amazement he watched in awe, as his merciful Maker changed the direction of the wind, and blew the fire out with a dominating northern wind so strong that the fire stopped in its tracks and was completely extinguished within minutes. He said it was a complete miracle. winds don't blow one way for hours then all of a sudden just change and blow in the exact opposite direction. Now someone might say that my friend had great faith, and they would be right. But the important ingredient in that miracle was God's will. It was God that changed the wind, my friend was simply blessed to witness His all-powerful hand in saving his home.

I too have had experiences like this in my life. And if I could give any advice it would be: Every day strive in some way to feel the promptings of the Holy Spirit, become familiar with those feelings, with those promptings, become familiar with His voice. When he speaks, obey. I believe that if we do this you will find that the Holy Ghost will speak to you often. If he knows you are trying to listen He will give you direction in the simple things of your life. And then as we prepare ourselves God also will be preparing some miraculous event for you. He will give you an opportunity to witness His all-powerful hands. And perhaps, you just might be lucky enough to be the instrument that He uses to stop the winds, to save a neighborhood, to move a mountain, or any other of a million Miracles he has performed for His children that he loves.

It is not God that we are waiting on, please remember that Heavenly Father is waiting on you. He is ready to show you miraculous things. I pray that you will prepare yourself so that when He speaks we all can be a witness. This I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.