

Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz production
Week 48
Ether 12-15

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Paul said this to the Hebrews. We find it in Hebrews 11:1. It is very similar to what Moroni taught in Ether Chapter 12 Verse 6: “Faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.”

Have you ever had someone say to you: You just need to exercise a little more faith, and it made you want to punch them right in their face? What does that even mean? And who are they to tell you how much faith you do or don't have?

The reality is: that faith is a tricky thing. We can feel it sometimes and sometimes we are just hoping that we have it, but we aren't quite sure. That is what I hope to look at with you today. My prayer is that by the end of these few minutes together that you are able to know with a surety what faith is, and when you have it, and when you don't.

Moroni does give some examples in the following verses, in the same chapter, Ether chapter 12 verses 10-15 he tells us about these moments in history:

10 Behold it was by faith that they of old were called after the holy order of God.

11 Wherefore, by faith was the law of Moses given. But in the gift of his Son hath God prepared a more excellent way; and it is by faith that it hath been fulfilled.

13 Behold, it was the faith of Alma and Amulek that caused the prison to tumble to the earth.

14 Behold, it was the faith of Nephi and Lehi that wrought the change upon the Lamanites, that they were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost.

15 Behold, it was the faith of Ammon and his brethren which wrought so great a miracle among the Lamanites.”

Those are all great examples of faith. All of which illustrate a unique point that before some great miracle, before God manifested Himself in power and glory, the Spirit of revelation was present. What I mean by that is:

-Before they of old were called by the Holy order of God; Someone had to have received revelation that that was God's will.

-Before Moses was given the Law of Moses God told him to go up to the top of the mountain.

-Before Alma and Amulek commanded the prison walls to crumble, God had to have told them it was time to do so. Remember they sat in that prison for several days starving and beaten

before God delivered them. If it was by their own power they would have done it after the first day.

My point is: There is a specific principle to faith that is most of the time overlooked. Before we are able to truly exercise faith, we must first receive revelation from God that what we need, what we are about to do is His will.

In Doctrine and Covenants section 8 God said this:

“Behold, I will **tell** you in your mind and in your **heart**, by the **Holy Ghost**, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.

3 Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation; behold, this is the spirit by which Moses **brought** the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground.”

This is the classic example of a miracle. And if we look closely and what happens in this story we see how Moses was able to do this mighty miracle through faith. It is found in Exodus 14 starting in verse 10:

“**10** ¶ And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.”

Now in this story their crying to the Lord was more like whining and complaining, but that is a topic for another time.

Verse 13:

“**13** ¶ And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will **shew to you** to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

14 The LORD shall **fight** for you, and ye shall hold your **peace**.”

Moses knew that God would deliver them. But he didn't know how yet. He trusted that God had gotten them this far and He knew that God would not abandon them now. Up to this point in the story Moses had trust in God. But here is where his faith comes in.

Verse 15:

“**15** ¶ And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

16 Lift thou up thy **rod**, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and **divide** it: and the children of Israel shall go on **dry ground** through the midst of the sea.”

That is it. Now Moses knows what to do. Now he knows God's will, and he can move forward in faith. And that is when we see the miracle of the Red Sea parting.

If Moses would have walked into the water with his staff before receiving this revelation from God, nothing would have happened. And Moses knew that. In order for him to have faith to perform that miracle he needed to receive revelation from God.

And so do we. In order for us to exercise true faith, the kind of faith that produces miracles we need to receive revelation on what God would have us do.

So many times I see people praying and asking and whining and begging God to do some great thing for them. But they have never stopped to ask or ponder what God would have them do. What God's will is for them in this situation. Until that communication is received you are not exercising faith but rather hoping God will answer your prayers. And if we apply that to what Moroni taught "ye receive no [witness](#) until after the [trial](#) of your faith."

The point here is not to do our own will, but to give all the glory and control to the most powerful being in the universe and let Him tell us what He will do. Then all we have to do is trust Him and follow his commands.

The real question now is, when He speaks will you understand what He is saying? That, I find, is the bigger challenge. Will we be able to calm our mind, shut out the shoutings of the Adversary and hear the promptings of the still small voice?

We've talked about this quite a bit in other episodes. But, just as a refresher:

There are 3 voices that a healthy mind hears, our own voice which is always questioning and analyzing. Such as: Should I do this? Should I go there? Is that right?

The voice of the adversary: Which it is important to note. That he can not hear your thoughts but most of the time he doesn't have to. His mission is to pull you away from any situation that will lead you to hear the voice of God. It is his goal to shout so loudly that you'll miss God's voice. It is his voice that tells you to turn the music up, watch more TV, Get angry at your children, blame your spouse, throw your co-worker under the bus, feed your addictions. It is a voice that comes in a barrage of commands. He is brutal and relentless. To the dark realm this is an all out war for your soul. To us, we barely acknowledge their existence. And that is one of their greatest weapons.

The voice of the Spirit is calm and quiet, It speaks warmth to our souls and peace to our fears. He usually will only prompt once. You can recognize this voice because it is direct and matter of fact, He will usually prompt the opposite of what you are doing. For example: If you are settling in to watch the superbowl on Sunday morning, it will prompt you to go to church. If you are heading somewhere where you might be in danger it will prompt you to stay home or not go.

To illustrate further what this actually looks like I'll give you an example:

You find that you're facing a major decision in your life. You have been praying for a while to know what to do. As you sit down to have breakfast a thought enters your mind which says: "Fast today". Immediately you think: But I have a long work day today, that would be hard to fast while I'm working. Everyone will wonder why I'm not eating and I don't want to answer all their questions about it. Fast Sunday isn't for another week and a half. And then your mind asks: What should I do? We then take all that information that just flashed in an instant and we make our choice. Either we recognize that prompting to fast and we put down our fork and kneel in prayer. Now, exercising faith that God has some great blessing or answer for us that He needs us to prepare ourselves for. Or, we succumb to the adversaries' barrage of reasons why we shouldn't fast and we justify that we will just do it next week on fast Sunday.

This is a great pattern to help us recognize when and who is speaking. The Spirit will prompt, the adversary will then give you 3 or 4 reasons why you shouldn't listen and then you will begin to question in your mind what you should do.

I hope that helps. It does take some practice to recognize. It has helped me a ton in my life as I go through these events where I need to know when God is speaking. I can tell you from personal experience that when this happens to me, I take great courage in knowing with confidence when God speaks and how the adversary tries to get me to ignore the feelings. When I see this pattern I get excited that God has something amazing and my faith is strengthened because I have a sure knowledge of God's will. I have seen some pretty amazing miracles in my life because I was able to recognize this process. I pray that you will as well. And I would love to hear about your experiences. Please send me your stories through our website CFMpodcast.org.

In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, Amen.