

*Acquiring  
Spiritual  
Knowledge  
Part 2*

*59115*

**Remember that it is OK to experience grief and pain.**

**Even Jesus grieved for those He loved.**

# **Myopic**

nearsighted or shortsighted

**When we view our circumstances with an eternal perspective, the Lord can help us deal with these feelings.**



# *Act in Faith*

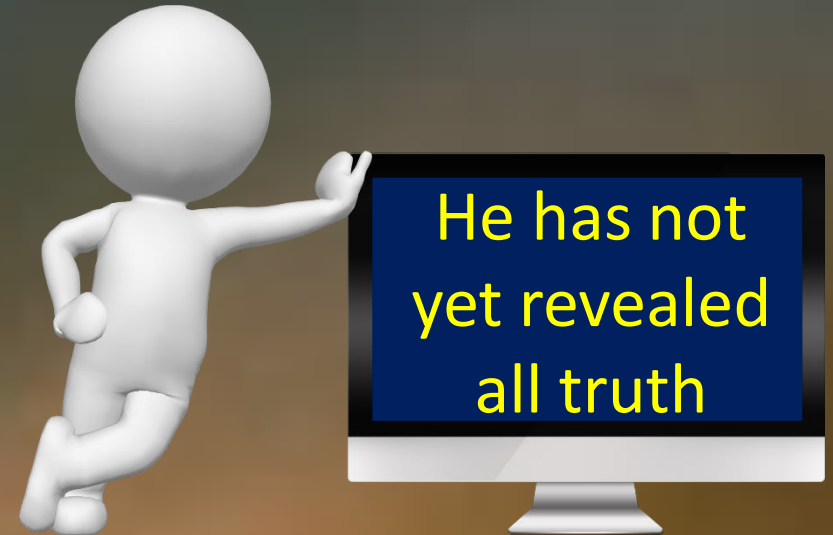


“When those moments come and issues surface, the resolution of which is not immediately forthcoming, *hold fast to what you already know and stand strong until additional knowledge comes.*” <sup>(1)</sup>

*Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.  
D&C 6:36*



When we may not immediately find answers to our questions, it is helpful to remember that although Heavenly Father has revealed all that is necessary for our salvation...



# *Trust*

Learning how to trust in the Lord is vital to being able to act in faith



What does it mean to trust someone?

Who in your life do you trust to help you make it safely through mortality?

We act in faith when we choose to trust God and turn to Him first through sincere prayer, a study of His teachings, and obedience to His commandments.

# *Prayer, Study, and Keeping Commandments*

How would turning to God first in prayer show that you trust Him?

How does a willingness to pray, study the Lord's teachings, and obey His commandments show that we trust Him and want to act in faith?

How does an unwillingness to do these things show a lack of trust in Him?

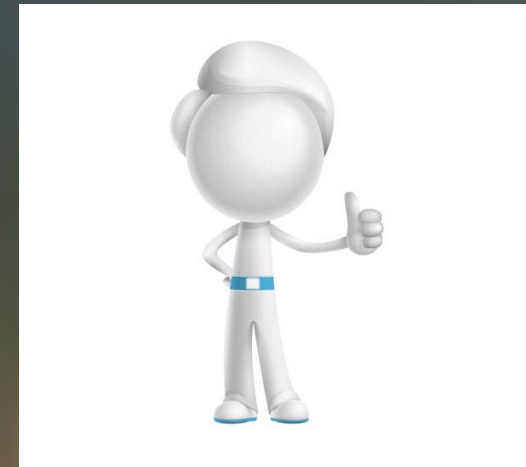




# *Hold Fast To What You Know*

It is important that we rely on the testimony that we already have of Jesus Christ, the Restoration of His gospel, and the teachings of His ordained prophets.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland



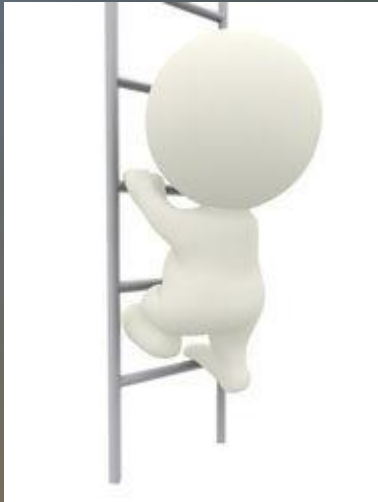
*...hold fast to what you already know and stand strong until additional knowledge comes.”*

# *Trust in the Lord*

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*



*For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.*

*2 Nephi 28-30*

# *Examine Concepts and Questions with an Eternal Perspective*

To examine doctrinal concepts, questions, and social issues with an eternal perspective, we consider them in the context of the plan of salvation and the teachings of the Savior.

We seek the help of the Holy Ghost in order to see things as the Lord sees them

*That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

*For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.  
1 Corinthians 5, 10-11*





# *The Gift Itself*

To be distracted by less significant details at the expense of missing the unfolding miracle of the Restoration is like spending time analyzing a gift box and ignoring the wonder of the gift itself.



**To examine doctrinal concepts, questions, and social issues with an eternal perspective, we consider them in the context of the plan of salvation and the teachings of the Savior.**

# Seek Further Understanding through Divinely Appointed Sources

Truth Through:  
The light of Christ, the Holy Ghost, the scriptures,  
parents, and Church leaders.



The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—the Lord’s prophets upon the earth today—are a vital source of truth. The Lord has chosen and ordained these individuals to speak for Him.

# Trustworthy Sources

Sincere seekers of truth should be wary of unreliable sources of information

*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20*

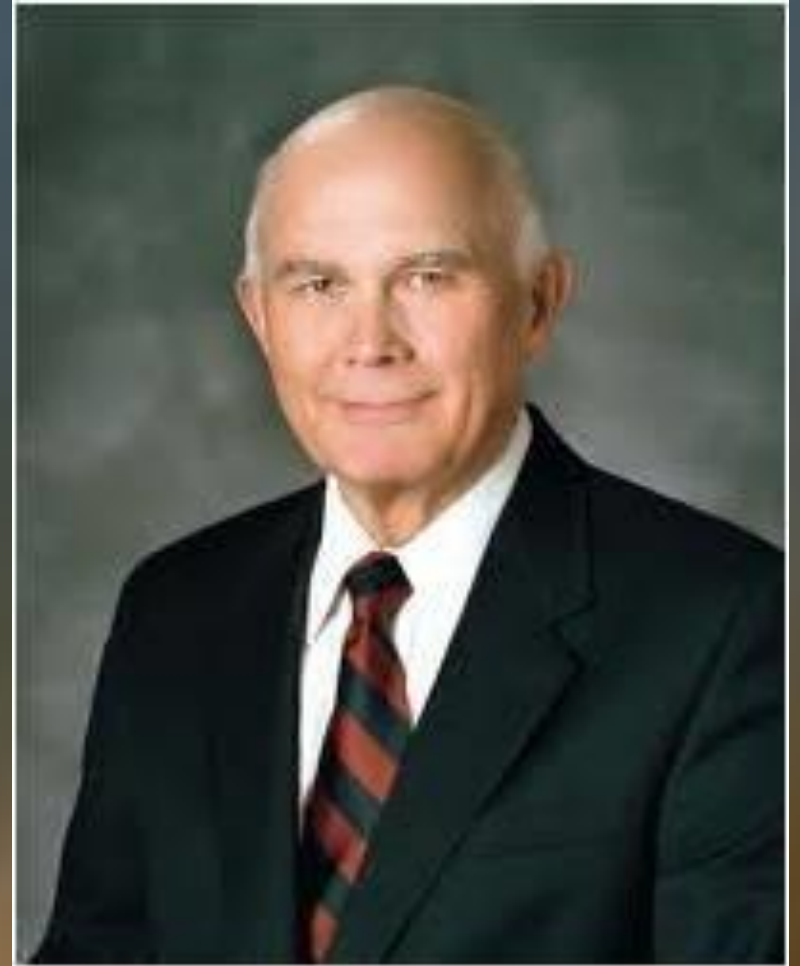


Learning to recognize and avoid unreliable sources can protect us from misinformation and from those who seek to destroy faith.



Because Latter-day Saints know our Heavenly Father's plan for His children, we know that this mortal life is not a one-act play sandwiched between an unknowable past and an uncertain future.

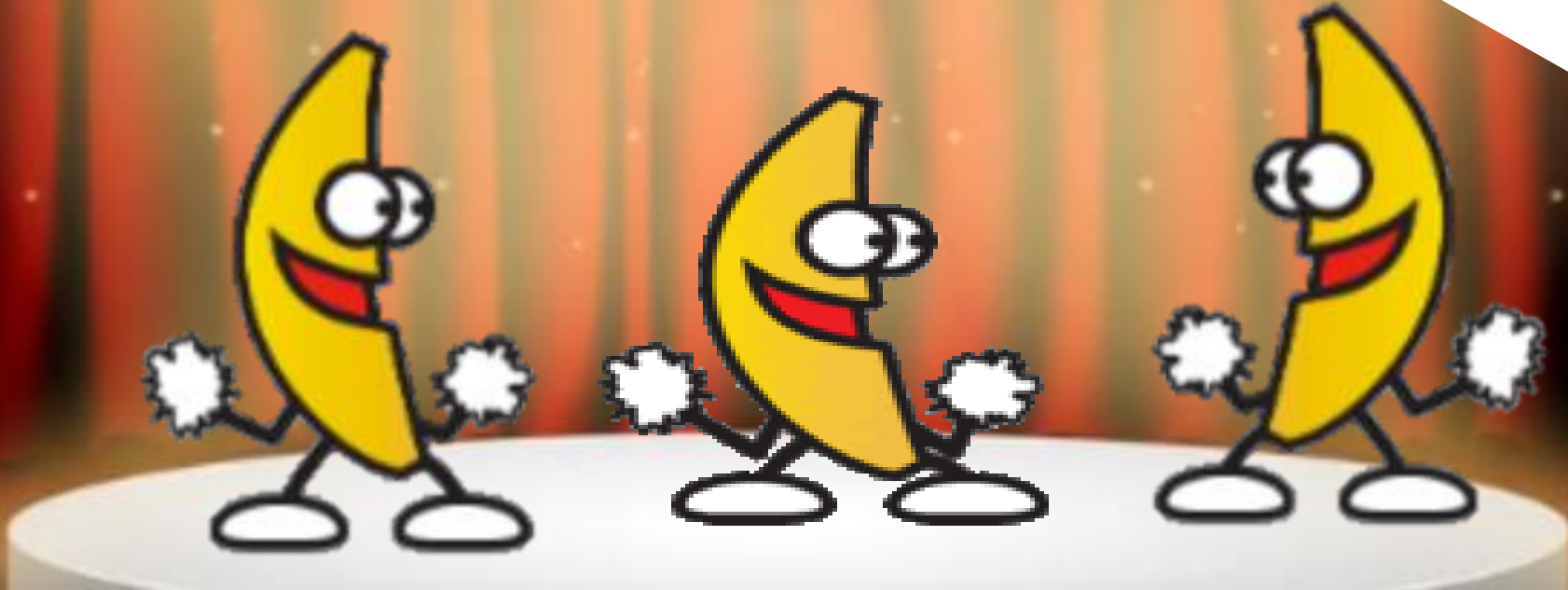
(2)



This life is like the second act in a three-act play. Its purpose is defined by what is revealed about our spiritual existence in Act 1 and our eternal destiny in Act 3.

Because of our knowledge of this Plan and other truths that God has revealed, we start with different assumptions than those who do not share our knowledge.

As a result, we reach different conclusions on many important subjects that others judge only in terms of their opinions about mortal life.  
(2)



## Sources:

1. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland “Lord, I Believe,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2013, 94).
2. Dallin H. Oaks, “As He Thinketh in His Heart” [evening with a General Authority, Feb. 8, 2013 3-4],



“Let God Prevail,” located at [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://ChurchofJesusChrist.org), from time code 6:58 to 8:24,

If we begin with an eternal perspective, we will arrive at conclusions that reflect eternal truth. But if we begin with worldly assumptions, we are likely to arrive at worldly conclusions. So we may need to reframe some questions because we simply do not accept the premises on which they are based. For example, you have probably been asked, “Shouldn’t any two people who love each other be able to marry?” From the perspective of much of the world, the answer would seem to be yes. But think about what you know about the plan of salvation and about Heavenly Father’s purpose for marriage. The plan of salvation provides an eternal perspective and a gospel premise that reframes the question. Some questions you may consider are “Why is the family ordained of God?” or “Why has the Lord established marriage between a man and a woman?” Think about what you know about the spirit children of Heavenly Father—where they come from and what He wants for them now and in the eternities. Think about why He has blessed us with the power to seal families in temples. How does your understanding of these principles reframe the question and allow you to see the issue through the light of the gospel?  
(Chad H Webb, “That They May Know How to Come unto Him and Be Saved” [Brigham Young University–Hawaii devotional, Mar. 22, 2016], byuh.edu)

**Vital Source of Truth:**  
*The Church is making great efforts to be transparent with the records we have, but after all we can publish, our members are sometimes left with basic questions that cannot be resolved by study. ... Some things can be learned only by faith (see D&C 88:118). Our ultimate reliance must be on faith in the witness we have received from the Holy Ghost” (Dallin H. Oaks, “Opposition in All Things,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2016, 117).*

**Seeking Further Understanding:**  
*Much of what the Lord reveals to His prophets is intended to prevent sorrow for us as individuals and as societies. When God speaks, He does so to teach, inspire, refine, and warn His children. When individuals and societies ignore their Heavenly Father’s instructions, they do so at the risk of trial, torment, and toil.  
“God loves all His children. That is why He pleads so earnestly with us through His prophets. Just as we want what is best for our loved ones, Heavenly Father wants what is best for us. That is why His instructions are so crucial and sometimes so urgent. That is why He has not abandoned us today but continues to reveal His will to us through His prophets. Our fate and the fate of our world hinge on our hearing and heeding the revealed word of God to His children” (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Why Do We Need Prophets?” Ensign, Mar. 2012, 4).*

**God Uses Ordinary Men to Lead:**  
*“On one occasion, Karl G. Maeser was leading a party of young missionaries across the Alps. As they reached the summit, he looked back and saw a row of sticks thrust into the snow to mark the one safe path across the otherwise treacherous glacier.  
“Halting the company of missionaries, he gestured toward the sticks and said, ‘Brethren, there stands the priesthood [meaning the priesthood leaders God has put in place to guide His people]. They are just common sticks like the rest of us, ... but the position they hold makes them what they are to us. If we step aside from the path they mark, we are lost.’ (In Alma P. Burton, Karl G. Maeser, Mormon Educator, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1953, p. 22.)  
“Although no one of us is perfect, the Church moves forward, led by ordinary people.  
“The Lord promised:  
“If my people will hearken unto my voice, and unto the voice of my servants whom I have appointed to lead my people, behold, verily I say unto you, they shall not be moved out of their place.  
“But if they will not hearken to my voice, nor unto the voice of these men whom I have appointed, they shall not be blest.’ (D&C 124:45–46.)  
“I bear witness, brethren and sisters, that the leaders of the Church were called of God by proper authority, and it is known to the Church that they have that authority and have been properly ordained by the regularly ordained heads of the Church. If we follow them we will be saved” (Boyd K. Packer, “From Such Turn Away,” Ensign, May 1985, 35).*