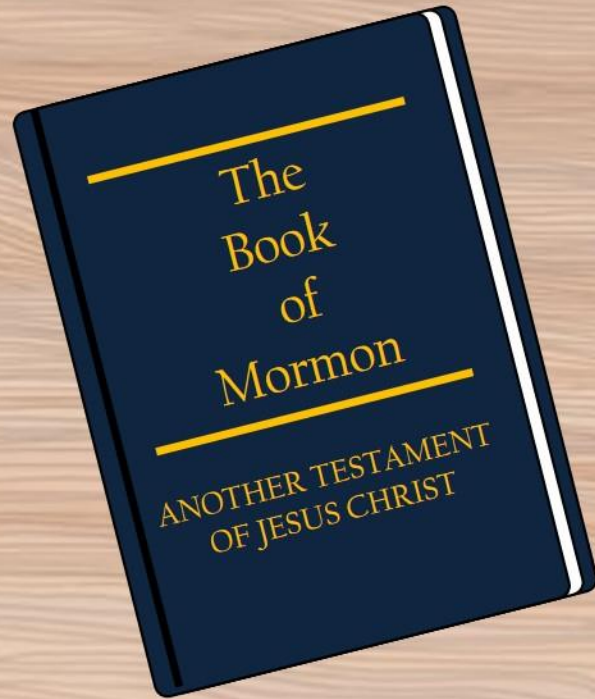


Witness Through The Holy Ghost



2 Nephi 33





“Success in righteousness, the power to avoid deception and resist temptations, guidance in our daily lives, healing of the soul—these are but a few of the promises the Lord has given to those who will come to His word.”

Ezra T. Benson

Nephi Laments

Not mighty in writing—
Nephi realizes that the messages he is speaking is difficult to write, because when he speaks he speaks by the power of the Holy Ghost.

into



unto

What is the difference between a message going *unto* someone's heart and a message going *into* someone's heart?

Why do you think it is significant that the Holy Ghost carries the truth *unto* our hearts but not *into* our hearts?



Rebellion

Pride

Envy



Behaviors of
Hardened
Hearts

Faithlessness

Loss of the Spirit

If we harden our hearts against the Holy Spirit, we will not understand the value of the word of God.

When we open
our hearts,
messages from the
Holy Ghost can
enter our hearts



By testifying of the truth, the Holy Ghost provides an opportunity for us to receive a spiritual witness and testimony of the truth that is taught.

“Please notice how the power of the Spirit carries the message *unto* but not necessarily *into* the heart. A teacher can explain, demonstrate, persuade, and testify, and do so with great spiritual power and effectiveness. Ultimately, however, the content of a message and the witness of the Holy Ghost penetrate into the heart only if a receiver allows them to enter.”

David A. Bednar



“Why just *unto* the heart? Individual agency is so sacred that Heavenly Father will never force the human heart, even with all His infinite power. ... God allows us to be the guardians, or the gatekeepers, of our own hearts. We must, of our own free will, open our hearts to the Spirit.”

Gerald N. Lund

Words Written in Weakness

“If you receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach”

D&C 42:14



If a message is from God, the Spirit will bear witness of it, whether it is delivered orally or in writing.

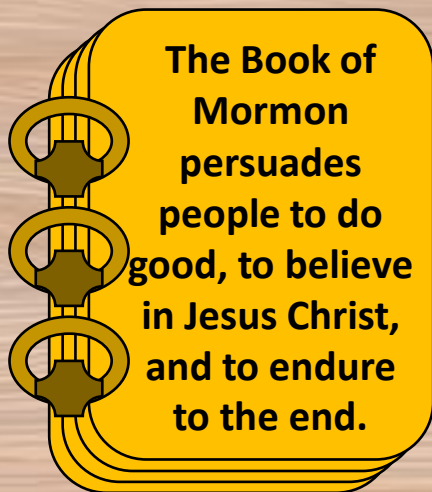


Any doctrine that opposes the principle of revelation is rooted in the kingdom of darkness. Those who argue for a closed canon, declaring the Bible to be the final or last word that God will speak, have at the same time closed the door to any possibility of understanding the true meaning of the Bible. Revelation can be understood only by the spirit of revelation.

Nephi knew that the record in which he was making would be rejected by those who deny the spirit of revelation. He also knew that those who rejected the testimony of the Book of Mormon would do so in the name of loyalty to the Bible.

The Purpose of Nephi's Record

A hope that his readers will believe in Christ



For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them; and I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry.

2 Nephi 33:3

I pray continually for ...

I know that the Lord God will consecrate my prayers for the gain of my people.

2 Nephi 33:4

I know ...

I glory in plainness; I glory in truth; I glory in my Jesus, for he hath redeemed my soul from hell.

2 Nephi 33:6

I glory ...

I have charity for my people, and great faith in Christ that I shall meet many souls spotless at his judgment-seat.

2 Nephi 33:7

I have ...



James H. Fullmer

How can we strengthen our personal testimonies of Jesus Christ and His Atonement?

President Joseph Fielding Smith said: “It seems to me that any member of this Church would never be satisfied until he or she had read the Book of Mormon time and time again, and thoroughly considered it so that he or she could bear witness that it is in very deed a record with the inspiration of the Almighty upon it, and that its history is true.”

Joseph Fielding Smith



“There will come into [their] lives and into [their] homes an added measure of the Spirit of the Lord, a strengthened resolution to walk in obedience to His commandments, and a stronger testimony of the living reality of the Son of God.”

Gordon B. Hinckley

Nephi's Farewell



“The Book of Mormon is the most Christ centered scriptural record ever published. Every doctrine within its covers is but an appendage to its central theme—the testimony that Jesus is the Christ. All who believe in Christ will believe the words of this book. One cannot truly believe in the Bible and at the same time not believe in the Book of Mormon.”

JFM and RLM



“There is not that person on the face of the earth who has had the privilege of learning the gospel of Jesus Christ from these two books (the Bible and the Book of Mormon), that can say that one is true, and the other is false. No Latter-day Saint, no man or woman, can say the Book of Mormon is true, and at the same time say that the Bible is untrue. If one be true, both are; and if one be false, both are false.”

Brigham Young

A Rejection

Christ was rejected by a nation professing loyalty to the Law of Moses



“Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that accuseth you, *even* Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: **for he wrote of me.** But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?”
John 5:45-47



Joseph Smith was rejected by many who profess loyalty to the Bible... Even though **he is mentioned** in the Bible by Moses, Ezekiel, and Isaiah



“Nephi, as with all the holy prophets since the world began, will stand at the judgment bar of god as a witness against those who rejected his testimony.”
JFM and RLM



If we do not respect the words of the Lord and His servants, then their words will condemn us at the last day

Crying From the Dust

Nephi understood the destiny of the record he was keeping

He knew:

The record would spring forth out of the earth –

Psalm 85:11

Isaiah 45:8

Carrying:

The testimony of those whose bodies had long since returned to the dust

Isaiah 29:4

1 Nephi 27:13



All would be judged:

By the manner in which they accepted or rejected the voice of prophecy as it was available to them, either in scriptural writ or by the voice of living oracles (Prophets)



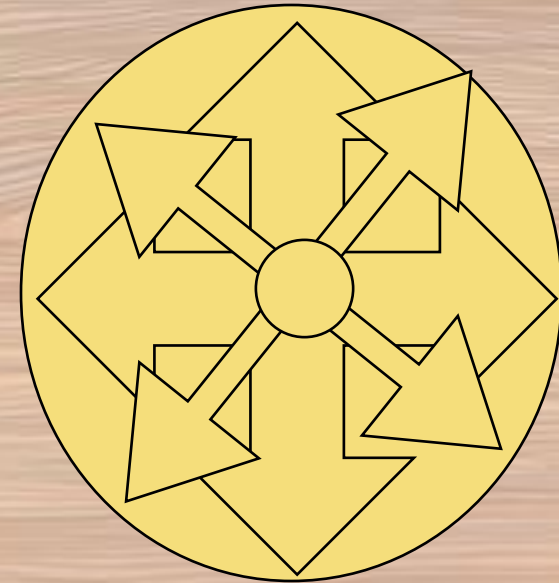
Sealed On Earth

A Pattern in which the prophets of all ages seal their teaching with a testimony that what they have taught is divine truth. (D&C 1:8-10)

Nephi sealed his testimony



*“For what I seal on earth,
shall be brought against
you at the judgment bar;
for thus hath the Lord
commanded me, and I must
obey. Amen.”*



Sources:

Ezra T Benson *The Power of the Word* Ensign May 1986

David A Bednar (“Seek Learning by Faith” [address to CES religious educators, Feb. 3, 2006], 1, si.lds.org).

Gerald N. Lund (“Opening Our Hearts,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2008, 33).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary Vol 1 pg 172-174

Brigham Young *Journal of Discourses* 1:38

Joseph Fielding Smith (in Conference Report, Oct. 1961, 18).

Gordon B. Hinckley (“A Testimony Vibrant and True,” *Ensign*, Aug. 2005, 6).

The Heart 2 Nephi 33:2:

“The heart is a tender place. It is sensitive to many influences, both positive and negative. It can be hurt by others. It can be deadened by sin. It can be softened by love. Early in our lives, we learn to guard our hearts. It is like we erect a fence around our hearts with a gate in it. No one can enter that gate unless we allow him or her to.

“In some cases the fence we erect around our hearts could be likened to a small picket fence with a Welcome sign on the gate. Other hearts have been so hurt or so deadened by sin that they have an eight-foot (2.5-m) chain-link fence topped with razor wire around them. The gate is padlocked and has a large No Trespassing sign on it. ...

“... The condition of our hearts directly affects our sensitivity to spiritual things. Let us make it a part of our everyday striving to open our hearts to the Spirit. Since we are the guardians of our hearts, we can choose to do so” (Gerald N. Lund, “Opening Our Hearts,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2008, 33, 34).