

## HOW TEACHING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST HAS CHANGED ME AS A DISCIPLE

My evolution from being merely human to becoming a disciple of Christ.

1) I'm stubborn and assertive. My sister leaving for kindergarten.

- While you're gone, I am going to break all your dolls.
- No gospel teaching yet

2) Learned about the Church and attended with my family. When I turned 8 and was to be baptized.

- I needed to have some sins to repent of. Swearing.

3) From here through college, I followed the tenets of the church and was an obedient member. I became RS president at one time. I was faithful.

4) Years passed. I married and had children and then divorced. Still faithful, maybe too superficial. *Too hurried to commit to deep study.*

**Henry B. Eyring:** You and I need to be patient and for a reason. A quick reading of the Book of Mormon, a few prayers, a shallow attempt at repentance, a casual regard for the covenants we've made—of course that is not enough. The scriptures use over and over again the word steadiness to describe faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6) I know my weaknesses: procrastination, sloth, fear.

*Just finished BoF M 2 days ago.*

**Ether 12:27:** And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.

**Moroni 7:47-48:** "But 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. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love**, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; **that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.**"

4) I feel deep gratitude for the Restoration of the gospel, prophets, the Book of Mormon, the priesthood

- Christ's atonement
- Joseph Smith and the knowledge and authority he brought
- The church the true kingdom of God on the earth

5) I have a desire to yield to the spirit and live God's teachings

- All these changes have come as I loved teaching and serving you.

*Alma Speaking to me*

**Alma 13:27-29:** "And now, my brethren, I wish from the **inmost part of my heart**, yea, with **great anxiety even unto pain**, that ye would **hearken unto my words**, and **cast off your sins**, and **not procrastinate the day of your repentance**; But that ye would **humble yourselves** before the Lord, and **call on his holy name**, and **watch and pray continually**, that ye **may not be tempted** above that which ye can bear, and thus **be led by the Holy Spirit**, becoming **humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long-suffering**; Having **faith on the Lord**; having a hope that ye shall receive **eternal life**; having **the love of God always in your hearts**, that ye may be lifted up at the last day and **enter into his rest.**"

*What an honor has been mine to learn and teach.*

I know and love the Savior Jesus Christ with all my heart.

Joseph Smith

Restoration of the Gospel

I choose to be obedient, to learn, and to feel the gospel in my whole body.

*+ desire  
What a blessing has been mine.*

*Beginning -*

In the last couple of years, I have had a desire to be more obedient and have prayer and scripture study before leaving my bed each morning.

- Desire prompted changes in me
- Depth in reading and pondering
- Feeling for the scriptures and the prophets — *Learning the D+e was God leading JS + teaching Him*

To have HEART and feeling for anything, we must first have a base of knowledge to work from

- Know the scriptures that depict His life
- Learn His life so well that you FEEL it
- The reason for my growth: increasing my knowledge to FEEL the Savior in my HEART and soul
- Then feel gratitude for His sacrifice
- Let my heart grow full of His charity and love

These are ways I have deepened, changed, grown: — *beginning of my spiritual maturity*

1) I want to learn to "live by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God." Matt 4:4

- Read and study widely: prophets, apostles, church authorities, scriptures, scripture commentaries, any church resource material
- I have spent countless hours studying and pondering. — *Stacks of handouts*

2) I now feel the love that Christ and God offer me. Not just read words.

3) Incorporate charity more fully in my life

- Teaching means giving myself. Having charity.
- Actively love those I teach. I freely give to those I love.
- Love the Lord first and then my neighbor as myself. "As I have loved you, love one another"
- Have Christ's heart in mine. Love freely and constantly. *Not just His words*

5) <sup>Finally</sup> A few years ago, I decided I needed to be more obedient. Read scriptures every morning—at least 15 seconds. Learned the words not the heart. <sup>for about 3 years.</sup>

6) Called as a Gospel Doctrine teacher many years ago. This was the beginning of my real learning. *I began teaching me.*

- Spiritual birth is a process.
- The process begins with knowing the Savior Jesus Christ.
  - His calling, Atonement, suffering, kindness, sacrifice, love for all mankind
  - Christ is the center of all learning: like the sun, the heart
  - Learn about him from the scriptures

**Bruce R. McConkie:** “I think that **people who study the scriptures get a dimension to their life that nobody else gets and that can’t be gained in any way except by studying the scriptures.** There’s an increase in faith and a desire to do what’s right and a feeling of inspiration and understanding that comes to people who study the gospel—meaning particularly the Standard Works— and who ponder the principles, that can’t come in any other way” (David Croft, “Spare Time’s Rare to Apostle,” *Church News*, 24 Jan. 1976, 4).

**Ezra Taft Benson:** “The way to develop greater spirituality is **to feast on the words of Christ as revealed in the scriptures**” (Conference Report, Apr. 1984, 7; or *Ensign*, May 1984, 7).

**Spencer W. Kimball:** “The years have taught me that if we will energetically pursue this worthy personal goal [of scripture study] in a determined and conscientious manner, and the **doctrines of the Lord shall come to have more meaning to us** than we ever thought possible. As a consequence, **we shall have greater wisdom** with which to guide ourselves and our families, so that **we may serve as a light and source of strength** to our nonmember friends with whom we have an obligation to share the gospel” (*Ensign*, Sept. 1975, 2–3).

**President Kimball:** “I find that when I get casual in my relationships with divinity and when it seems that no divine ear is listening and no divine voice is speaking, that I am far, far away. **If I immerse myself in the scriptures the distance narrows and the spirituality returns. I find myself loving more intensely those whom I must love with all my heart and mind and strength, and loving them more, I find it easier to abide their counsel**” (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, 135).