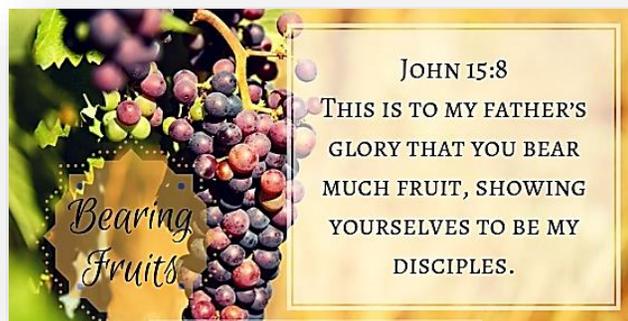


## Seek To Be a Fruitful Witness



In order to be fruitful in your witness for Christ, you must seek the Holy Spirit and have it actively working in your daily life. After baptism we each had the gift of the Holy Spirit given to us when confirmed a member of the church. The trouble is too many of us set the gift upon a shelf and do not unwrap it; have it working in our daily lives. Oh, we may seek it out upon occasion or when we have a crisis in our lives, but if we want to be powerful witnesses for Jesus, we have to have the Holy Spirit working daily in our lives to guide, direct and empower us. **Jesus promised: *Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me in both Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8).***

When we are walking daily with the Holy spirit as our guide, the way we live our lives is a witness to those around us. We are called to be bright lights in the midst of a dark world. In a world that grows ever darker in this, the Last Days, you are called to be a bright light. If enough of us are bright lights we become that city set on a hill.

The disciples of Jesus did not become bright lights until after Pentecost when they received the Holy Spirit. Following the day of Pentecost Peter healed a lame man at the gate of the temple, Acts 3:4-10. Peter then preached to the crowd and many were converted. This was a fruitful

witness. ***Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand (Acts 4:4). Yes, 5000 people were converted. Now that is a fruitful witness.***

Annas and Caiaphas and other High Priests questioned Peter and John. Peter, the coward who had denied Jesus, was no longer afraid to speak the truth and spoke boldly to them. ***And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them (Acts 4:7-8).*** Peter proceeded to preach truth to them with power and authority. The High Priests were amazed at Peter and John's boldness. ***Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it (Acts 4:13-14).***

The story does not end there. The High Priests had to let Peter and John go. ***Then Peter and John went forth and prayed in one accord and prayed: And now, Lord, behold their threatenings; and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul; neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all (Acts 4:29-33). Note that they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and under that Spirit they established a small Zion order.***

Nephi and Lehi the sons of Helaman converted many of the lamanites by the power of the Holy Spirit. ***And it came to pass that Nephi and Lehi did preach unto the Lamanites with such great power and authority, for they had power and authority given unto them that they might speak; and they also had what they should speak given unto them; Therefore they did speak unto the great astonishment of the***

Lamanites, to the convincing them, insomuch that there were eight thousand of the Lamanites who were in the land of Zarahemla and round about, baptized unto repentance, and were convinced of the wickedness of the traditions of their fathers (Helaman 2:80-81). Yes, 8,000 were converted. Talk about an example of a fruitful witness. It says of Nephi and Lehi: *And behold the Holy Spirit of God did come down from heaven, and did enter into their hearts, and they were filled as if with fire; and they could speak forth marvelous words (Helaman 2:111).*

Now these stories of becoming fruitful witnesses by the power of the Holy Ghost should inspire all of us to grow spiritually and come up to a higher level. I believe this is the level that God is calling his priesthood to rise to. This is the level the church needs to be on to be a fruitful witness to the world. We need to come up to a Zion level even as the early church did, after Pentecost, with faithful active believers, filled with the Holy Ghost who are of one heart and mind.

Yes, we can individually witness and bring a few into the knowledge of Christ and this is a very good thing to do and we need to do more of that under the guidance of the Good Spirit. Indeed, we are to rejoice over even one soul being saved. *And if it so be that you should labor all your days, in crying repentance unto this people, and bring save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father (Doctrine & Covenants 16:3f)!* Yet we also have the high calling of bringing forth that city set on a hill, a light to all the world. A fruitful witness that will cause multitudes to come to learn of her ways. To learn of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. *And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost (1 Nephi 3:187).*

This is our calling. Why do we tarry in the valley? What keeps us camped at the foot of the mountain? We have been camped there for too long! What keeps us from climbing higher and growing spiritually to become the fruitful witnesses that Jesus calls us to be. Can you imagine if we had 8,000 people suddenly asking for baptism? This is possible, if we would apply ourselves.

What say you to all of us becoming fruitful witnesses for Jesus? If we will live out his laws in our daily lives under the power of the Holy Spirit Zion would become a reality, the city set on a hill. Then a great witness would go forth from Zion. Let's do this thing. It's time, indeed it is past time!

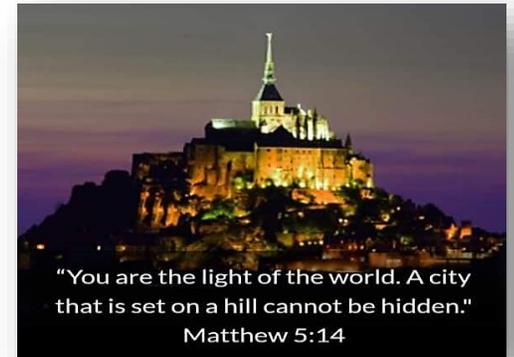
*Remember this which I tell you before, that you may lay it to heart, and receive that which shall follow. Behold, verily I say unto you, For this cause I have sent you that you might be obedient, and that your hearts might be prepared to bear testimony of the things which are to come; and also that you might be honored of laying the foundation, and of bearing record of the land upon which the Zion of God shall stand; and also that a feast of fat things might be prepared for the poor; And that the testimony might go forth from Zion; yea, from the mouth of the city of the heritage of God (Doctrine & Covenants 58:3a-4a).*

## **Digging Deeper**

A Fruitful Witness = A City,  
A Light to the World, an  
Ensign

*The Word of God* by Ray Zinser, Chapter 13 – “*The Church of Jesus Christ*”.

Zinser says: “One of the dramatic and well-known functions of the Church of Jesus Christ is to “Evangelize the World””. One of the closing instructions of Jesus to his disciples after the resurrection highlighted the outreach theme. *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. Amen (Matthew 28:18-19).* ...The objective of the church of Jesus Christ can be achieved only if the Kingdom of God on earth (Zion) is established. Jesus made it very clear in his ministry that the highest priority was in building up the Kingdom of God...The evangelistic



“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”  
Matthew 5:14

message in the word includes the call to gather to Zion to build the Kingdom of God on earth as the demonstration center of righteousness. *I say unto you that Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her, and she shall be an ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven (Doctrine & Covenants 64:8a).*

Building the Kingdom of God on the earth (Zion) and the return of Jesus Christ are closely connected. Zion must be established...Prior to the time of Jesus' return (the latter days) we are admonished to **call upon the inhabitants of the earth to invite them to prepare for the great day of the Lord**: *Behold, verily I say unto you, that these are the words of the Lord your God; wherefore, labor ye, labor ye in my vineyard for the last time: for the last time call upon the inhabitants of the earth, for in my own due time will I come upon the earth in judgment; and my people shall be redeemed and shall reign with me on earth Doctrine & Covenants 43:7a-b).*

**Arthur Oakman in "The Endowment" stated**: After outlining the signs of the times and the wars and rumors of war, Jesus said, *"And again, this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come (Matthew 24:32)."* How can the gospel of the Kingdom be preached in all the world for the witness until there is a visible Kingdom of which witness could be borne? ...**This is still the purpose of God, that in the midst of the nations there shall be a revelation not alone of social justice, but a revelation on the Kingdom of God socially—for Christ is the Savior of society as well as the Savior of individuals.**



## Action Section

**It seems we always come back to the basics of spiritual disciplines.** How many of our action sections have listed these disciplines as the road to spiritual growth and our assisting in bringing forth Zion. Yet we fail to do them on a regular basis, so the Kingdom languishes and our fruitful witness is lost.

**Alma and the sons of Mosiah left us an example to follow on how to become fruitful witnesses.** *But this is not all: they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God...they fasted much, and prayed much, that the Lord would grant unto them a portion of his Spirit to go with them, and abide with them. That they might be an instrument in the hands of God, to bring, if it were possible, their brethren, the Lamanites, to the knowledge of the truth (Alma 12:5; 14-15).* And they did just that, and brought salvation to thousands of the Lamanites.

*And this is the blessing which hath been bestowed upon us, that we have been made instruments in the hands of God, to bring about this great work. Behold, thousands of them do rejoice, and have been brought into the fold of God (Alma 14:82-83).*

**Consider**: What if we would pray and fast to be instruments in the hands of God like Alma and the sons of Mosiah? What if we would all pray and fast for Zion to come and shine forth into this dark world as a great witness? **It's time to wake up and apply ourselves to the spiritual disciplines that will take us upward and onward. We must climb to a higher spiritual level to become the fruitful witnesses God has called us to be.**

**Action** = In the coming days commit yourself to **Prayer and Fasting** and just see what God will do. We can not be fruitful witnesses on the spiritual level that we now reside.

