

LIVING OUT THE 1ST TWO PRINCIPLES OF ZION; BELIEF AND BEING POOR IN SPIRIT

BY SHEILA SCHRUNK

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are they who shall believe on me; and again, more blessed are they who shall believe on your words, when ye shall testify that ye have seen me and that I am. 4 Yea, blessed are they who shall believe on your words, and come down into the depths of humility, and be baptized in my name; for they shall be visited with fire and the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins. 5 Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit, who come unto me; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



JESUS CHRIST SEEKS TO PREACH TO THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE ON HIS WORDS!

Matt. 4:17-21 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee saw two brethren, Simon and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And he said unto them, I am he of whom it is written by the prophets. Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they, **believing** on his words, left their nets and straightway followed him. And going on thence, he saw two other brethren, James and John, his brother, the sons of Zebedee...and he called them. They immediately left their father in the ship and followed him.



WHY WOULD “BELIEVE” AND POOR IN SPIRIT” BE THE FIRST PRINCIPLES MENTIONED IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT?

Jesus Christ was preaching on the Sermon on the Mount how his disciples and followers must have the belief that he was who he said he was. He had already shown them how he taught in the synagogues, and preached “the gospel of the kingdom” and healed the sick, those who **believed** on his name.

Jesus was seeking those disciples and followers who would believe in his Messiahship and mission for “**The Kingdom of God**” here on earth! When all that followed him put their complete **belief** and trust in him, we see **faith in action!**

Jesus Christ Feeding the Multitude



JESUS CHRIST IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE!

As Jesus taught the believers of his day, he demonstrated the power of the principles of the gospel through the wondrous examples in His life!

All the Beatitudes, he demonstrated in His ministry to the people He came in contact with daily. The Sermon on the Mount, with its key points of the importance of the Beatitudes, is Jesus commission to all peoples everywhere to come unto Him and be His disciples, saints, and servants to all we encounter.

Matt.6:38, Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

John, the apostle states “But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become sons of God; only to them who **believe** on his name. John 1:12

Paul states in Hebrews 6:1-2, the fundamental principles of the gospel. “Therefore not leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of **faith** toward God. Of the doctrine of baptisms, of resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.”

Jesus especially preached that **faith** without action or the progressive development of such faith would not apply the ordinances and principles stated in Hebrews. Faith is not simply belief. Belief is an important part of faith, but if one doesn't exhibit the obedience, trust and aroused action, James states in Chapter 2 verse 19 “Thou believest there is one God; thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble; thou hast made thyself like unto them, not being justified.”

From the Beginning of the Fall of Man, God Has Instructed First Adam and Then All Mankind to Harken to His Voice and Believe

Genesis 6:53 And he also said unto him, If thou wilt, turn unto me and hearken unto my voice, and **believe**, and repent of all thy transgressions, and be baptized, even in water, in the name of mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth, which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, asking all things in his name, and whatsoever ye shall ask it shall be given you.

The word **Belief** has interesting meanings from the Greek and Hebrew!

“The Greek word of belief and faith is **pistis** which means confident or trust. In essence the words faith and belief are one and the same. When people have faith or belief it simply means they are convinced by the facts. Faith is not mere intellectual stance, but a belief that leads to action.”

The Hebrew word for belief is **emunah** with synonyms; “faith, trust, confidence, religion, devotion, and fidelity. It is translated as faithfulness. And yet it describes much more than just believing a statement about God. It reveals a life of full reliance upon Him.”

The Lord spoke to Enoch in his day about the Messiah and when he would come. Genesis 6:59, And the Lord said, Blessed is he through whose seed Messiah shall come; for he saith, I am Messiah, the King of Zion, the Rock of heaven, which is broad as eternity; and whoso cometh in at the gate, and climbeth up by me shall never fail.

In Genesis 7:1, we are told by Enoch that Adam taught these things and some **believed** and “some perished in their sins”. Genesis 8:11, Noah preached “hearken and give heed unto my words, **believe** and repent of your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. The Son of God, even as our fathers did, and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost, that ye may have all things manifest;” ...

Genesis 15:12, “And it came to pass, that Abram looked forth and saw the days of the Son of Man, and was glad, and his soul found rest, and he **believed** in the Lord; and the Lord counted it unto him for righteousness.”



Hebrews 11:6-7, states that “But without **faith** it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Vs. 7 By **faith** Noah, being warned of God of things not seen yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by **faith**.”

Noah's Ark Encounter



Mosiah 9: 33 – 36 Now there was in Mormon a fountain of pure water, and Alma resorted thither, there being near the water, a thicket of small trees, where he did hide himself in the day time, from the searches of the king.

And it came to pass that as many as **believed** him, went thither to hear his words. And it came to pass after many days, there were a goodly number gathered together to the place of Mormon, to hear the words of Alma. Yea, all were gathered together that **believed** on his word, to hear him. After he did teach them, and did preach unto them, repentance, and redemption, and faith on the Lord. And it came to pass that he said unto them, Behold, here are the waters of Mormon; for thus were they called.

Waters of Mormon



The Lord provided the burning of the bosom the first time Bob was ask by Lyle Smith to go with him to India and Nepal for missionary work. Bob had three days to decide so we prayed and fasted about him going and he had an experience of being in India but still wanted the Lord's affirmation. When he called Lyle to say he would go, we both had the burning of the bosom that it was of the Lord. What a blessing that it is from the Lord.

D & C 9:3c... and if it is right, I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore , you shall feel that it is right,...





Some of the Saints in far away nations have miraculously experienced such as the Lord coming to them in visions or dreams and making Himself known to them that they might choose Him (the only living God) who desires for us to all come back into His presence. Some Saints have endured beatings and even death from the village or family when they became a Christian. Some I've met began with a small desire (like a mustard seed) to believe and evil spirits were cast out of them with administration and continual ministry and some times more administrations if needed. Some turned from alcoholism, evil doings, idol worshipping, and such to stand fast and sure in their testimony of the Lord.



I Nephi 7:56 And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; And he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; And there shall be fold and one shepherd; And he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture.



In Australia, I saw men who were raised as shepherds on their families' sheep ranch who the Lord miraculously led their lives to the point that they are doing a wonderful priesthood work in their area and abroad in the Philippines as they now are faithful shepherds for the Lord.

THE DIFFERENT MEANINGS OF "POOR IN SPIRIT" FROM HEBREW, GREEK, AND ENGLISH

Greek word is **ptochos** (pto-khos') defined- "of one who crouches and cowers, thence beggarly, poor, destitute, spiritually poor, either in a good sense (**humble, devout person**) or bad "

The Hebrew word **anav** which is pronounced (aw-nawv) means poor, lowly, afflicted, **humble, meek**, oppressed. As in "the pauper rather than mere peasant."

Webster's 1828 Dictionary definition after "**Poor in Spirit**" is: 'in a scriptural sense, **humble; contrite**; abased in ones' own sight by a sense of guilt. Matt. 5:v3"

Alma 5:39 And now I would that ye should be **humble**, and be submissive, and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times;

Alma 10:28 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;

Alma 16:137 Yea, he that truly **humbleth** himself and repenteth of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same be blessed; yea, much more blessed than they who are compelled to be **humble**, because of their exceeding poverty; therefore blessed are they who **humble** themselves without being compelled to be **humble**,

DC 61:6c And now verily I say unto you, and what I say unto one I say unto all, Be of good cheer, little children, for I am in your midst, and I have not forsaken you, and inasmuch as you have **humbled** yourselves before me, the blessings of the kingdom are yours.

Ether 5:28 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.



James 2:5 Harken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chose the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?



Isaiah 57: 15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

D & C 61:6c – And now verily I say unto you, and what I say unto one I say unto all, Be Of Good Cheer, little children for I am in your midst, and I have not forsaken you, and inasmuch as you have humbled yourselves before me the blessings of the kingdom are yours.



D & C 102:3e “for behold, I have prepared a great endowment and blessing to be poured out upon them, inasmuch as they are **faithful**, and continue in **humility** before me;”

D & C 4:2a “Remember **faith**, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, **humility**, diligence. Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you Amen”

D & C 34:3d and the time soon cometh that great things are to be shown forth unto the children of men; but without **faith** shall not anything be shown forth except desolations upon Babylon, the same which has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

D & C 34:1b “I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was crucified for the sins of the world, even as many as will **believe** on my name, that they may become the sons of God, even one in me as I am in the Father, as the Father is one in me, that we may be one.”

D & C 1:4 a-d “Wherefore I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave commandments, and also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world; 4b and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets...

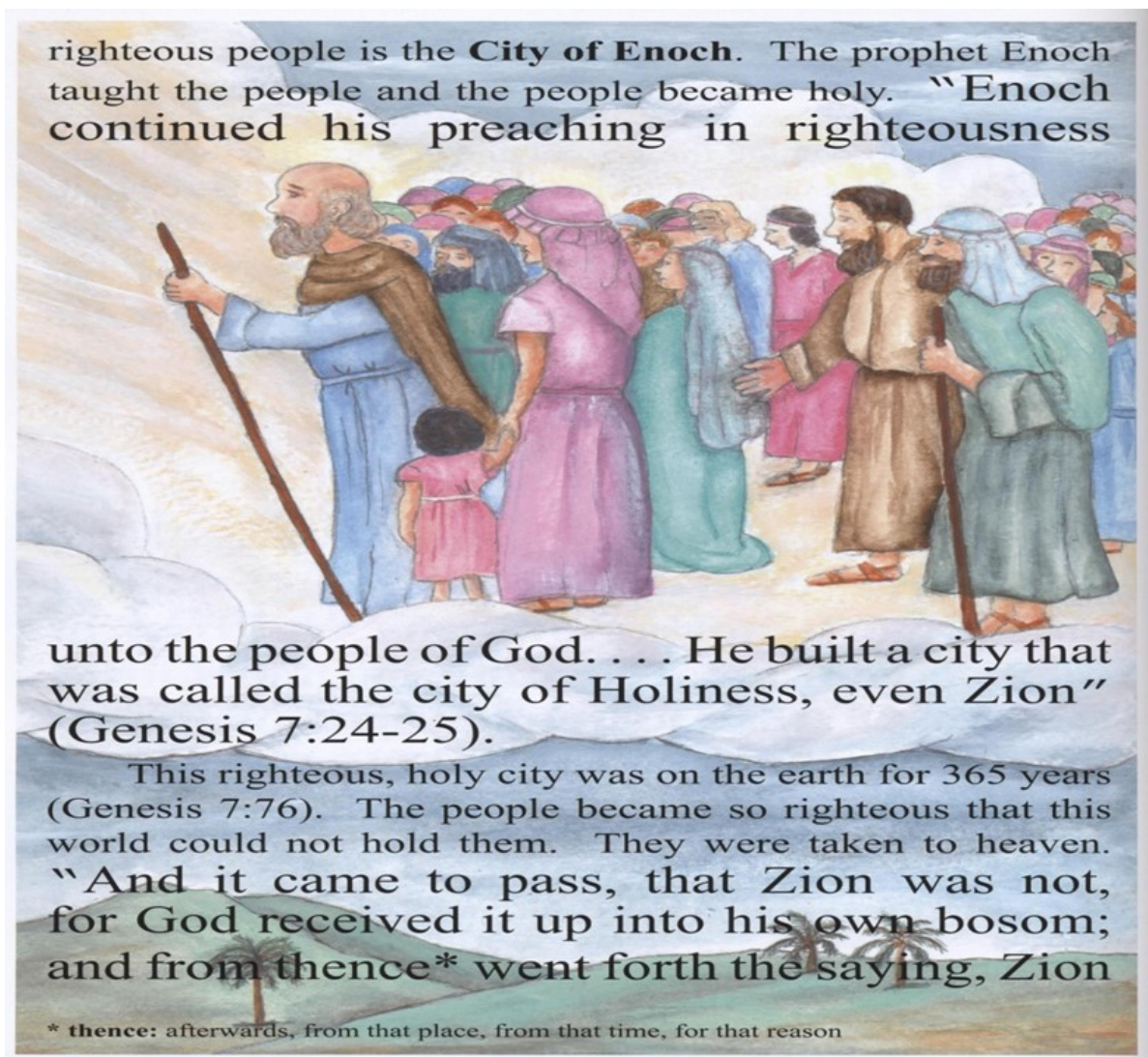
4d that **faith** also might increase in the earth; that mine everlasting covenant might be established,

4e and faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualifies him for the work.



The Lord has impressed my mind more than once that it is not so much my teachings at these Women's or Youth Retreats as it is that I be a true sister to my sisters and the saints there and think like an ambassador for them when I share. And when I have opportunity to share that I express our need to prepare for the Saints around the world to come to the land of the New Jerusalem, even Zion. That we are here for them in great love and understanding to welcome them and have a familiar face to greet them. And advocate their cause.

There are Dear precious Saints all over the world and our neighborhoods that we need to be praying for that we might all come to Zion singing praises of our Lord!





And the Lord called his people

Zion

Because they were of One Heart

and One Mind

and dwelt in Righteousness

And there was No Poor among them.

ZION THE BEAUTIFUL BECKONS US ON

