

Converted Unto the Lord

Ghana Kumasi Mission

The Gathering of Israel

This latter-day gathering of Israel depends a great deal upon the hunters and fishers for whom the Lord has sent: the full-time missionaries. To quote President Nelson, they “play a *pivotal* role.” You see, they are the present and the future of the Lord’s work. What they experience as missionaries will have lasting, eternal implications for them, their posterity, and the Church.



Elder Marcus B. Nash



- Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and atoned for your sins?
- Do you believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and through him the Church of Jesus Christ was restored to the earth?
- Do you believe that the Book of Mormon is true?
- Do you believe that Russell M. Nelson is a prophet of God?
- Do you believe that you have been called by prophecy to serve as a missionary?

Testimony

- How do you know when you have a testimony?
- What does it feel like?
- What is the difference between transactional vs transformational missionary work?

Manifestations of a testimony

What scriptures come to mind where a testimony of Jesus Christ is manifested?

Testimony and Conversion

- Testimony is the **beginning of and a prerequisite to continuing conversion**. Testimony is a point of **departure**; it is not an ultimate **destination**. Strong testimony is the foundation upon which conversion is established.
- Testimony alone is **not and will not be enough to protect us in the latter-day storm of darkness and evil in which we are living**. Testimony is important and necessary but not sufficient to provide the spiritual strength and protection we need.



Elder David A. Bednar

Testimony and Conversion

A **testimony** is spiritual knowledge of truth obtained by the power of the Holy Ghost. Continuing **conversion** is constant devotion to the revealed truth we have received—with a heart that is willing and for righteous reasons.

Knowing that the gospel is true is the essence of a testimony. Consistently being true to the gospel is the essence of conversion. We should know the gospel is true and be true to the gospel.



Elder David A. Bednar

To be converted, we must believe...

- **First, Heavenly Father lives, and each missionary is a beloved child of God called to serve Him.**
- **Second, Jesus is the Christ, the living Son of the living Father.**
- **Third, they must believe that Joseph Smith Jr. was and is a prophet of God.**



Elder David A. Bednar

Requirements for Conversion

- Stay in the Right Way

”Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound; and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills and flourish” **D&C 35:24**

- Know and Trust God

- Look unto Christ always—to seek Him always—and view the vital practices of finding, teaching, working with members, planning, setting goals, inviting, following up, and reporting on the key indicators of conversion and baptizing converts *as means to actively join with the Lord* in laboring for the salvation of others.



Elder David A. Bednar

Doctrine and Covenants 4:4

For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo,
he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the **same**
layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth
salvation to his soul;

3 Nephi 9:13-14

- O all ye that are spared because ye were more righteous than they, will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?
- Yea, verily I say unto you, if ye will come unto me ye shall have eternal life. Behold, mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and **whosoever will come, him will I receive; and blessed are those who come unto me.**

How do we come unto Him?



Conversion to Christ is the personal responsibility of the individual missionary

- “The truth is that you must own your own conversion. No one else can do it for you. ...
- “... I plead with you to take charge of your testimony. Work for it. Own it. Care for it. Nurture it so that it will grow. Feed it truth. ...
- “Engage in daily, earnest, humble prayer. Nourish yourself in the words of ancient and modern prophets.