

12 May 2024

Seeing with Eyes of Faith

Dear Sisters & Elders:

As we grow our faith individually and collectively as a mission by reading, studying, and discussing the scriptures on Christ in the 26-week mission study and improvement plan, we are prepared to see more clearly with eyes of faith.

“Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you? Do you look forward with an eye of faith, and view this mortal body raised in immortality, and this corruption raised in incorruption, to stand before God to be judged according to the deeds which have been done in the mortal body?” (Alma 5:15).

What does it mean to look forward with an eye of faith? Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained, *“... we see the spiritual truths of God through the perspective of an eye of faith. Paul said: ‘The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.’* (1 Corinthians 2:14). *The scriptures, our prayers, our own experiences, modern prophets, and the gift of the Holy Ghost bring us the spiritual perspective of truth necessary for our journey here on earth.”*

Let me try and say this in simple terms. We must have faith in Jesus Christ to see and understand the spiritual truths of God. Why? Because the natural man is not interested in spiritual truth. These truths can only be understood through powerful personal study of the scriptures, meaningful heaven-connected prayers, miraculous missionary experiences, modern prophets, and the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

I will give you an example. We know from the scriptures that we will all be brought to stand before the judgment bar of God. There are over 55 different references in the topical guide that talk about this last and final judgment. As I read them it is clear to me that we will all be accountable for our choices, actions, decisions, and desires. Even the document ***The Living Christ*** reinforces this, *“Each of us will stand to be judged of Him according to our works and the desires of our hearts.”* And yet, the natural man does not believe this. The natural man sounds a lot like Korihor as explained in Alma 30:17. *“And many more such things did he [Korihor] say unto them, telling them that there could be no atonement made for the sins of men, but every man fared in this life according to the management of the creature; therefore every man prospered according to his genius, and that every man conquered according to his strength; and whatsoever a man did was no crime.”* Do we see with eyes of faith or eyes of fear and unbelief?

To understand and believe in the Final Judgment, we must look with our spiritual eyes, hear with our spiritual ears, and open our spiritual hearts to the word of God. Looking with an eye of

faith, means we believe what the scriptures teach us. It means we understand that whatever we sow, we will also reap. It means the parables and scripture stories that we read and learn about have personal application (e.g., see the parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31).

Seeing with an eye of faith means that we study closely the scriptures for personal application. It means we seek out the words of the prophets and apostles and then act upon their counsel. It means that we lay aside our own weapons of rebellion (Alma 23:7) and begin to exercise greater faith in Jesus Christ. What weapons of rebellion do we need to lay down? Pride? Selfishness? Dishonesty? Perhaps our greatest weapon of rebellion may be our desire to do our own will rather than the will of God. It has been my personal life-long goal to identify every weapon of rebellion I possess and then bury them deep in the ground of repentance.

There is one other related aspect of an “eye of faith” worth mentioning. It comes from Sister Tamara Runia in last the October 2023 General Conference. *“As humans, we have an earthbound point of view, but God sees the grand overview of the universe. He sees all creation, all of us, and is filled with hope. Is it possible to begin to see as God sees even while living on the surface of this planet—to feel this overview feeling? I believe we can, through the eye of faith, zoom out and view ourselves and our families with hope and joy. The scriptures agree. Moroni speaks about those whose faith was so “exceedingly strong” that they “truly saw … with an eye of faith, and they were glad. (Ether 12:19). With an eye focused on the Savior, they felt joy and knew this truth: because of Christ, it all works out. Everything you and you and you are worried about—it’s all going to be OK! And those who look with an eye of faith can feel that it’s going to be OK now.* What an incredible promise!

It is my hope and prayer that each of us in the Ghana Kumasi Mission will sharpen our spiritual vision, open our spiritual ears, and soften our spiritual hearts. Doing so will allow us to see scriptural truths clearly with eyes of faith and receive our own witness that prophetic warnings are imperatives upon which we must act. May we no longer procrastinate the day of our repentance, but instead accept and live up to the high-high expectations that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have of us. May our eyes of faith fill us with hope for the future and a desire to live worthy of every privilege, every blessing, and every joy which the Lord will bestow upon the faithful.

All My Love,
President Kunz