

The Power of Light and Truth

Elder Robert R. Steuer Of the Seventy
Ensign, May 2008, 99–101

Today scientists describe light as a "carrier" or "messenger" or "mediator."

To observe the physical properties of light can be exciting, but discovering the properties of spiritual light and truth is even more awe inspiring and essential.

For us to prosper in these times when peace has been taken from the earth, spiritual light must burn within us. How do we obtain this spiritual light and ensure that the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ fill our souls? I would like to suggest three ways: (1) learn true doctrine, (2) gain pure testimony, and (3) live the gospel courageously.

(1) Learn true doctrine

President Henry B. Eyring stated: "The word of God is the doctrine taught by Jesus Christ and by His prophets... They can open the minds of people to see spiritual things not visible to the natural eye. And they can open the heart to feelings of the love of God and a love for truth."

Liahona, July 1999, 85; *Ensign*, May 1999, 73

President Boyd K. Packer reinforced this truth in saying: "The Light of Christ is also described in the scriptures as 'the Spirit of Jesus Christ.' ... The Spirit of Christ can enlighten the inventor, the scientist, the painter, the sculptor, the composer, the performer, the architect, the author to produce great, even inspired things for the blessing and good of all mankind."

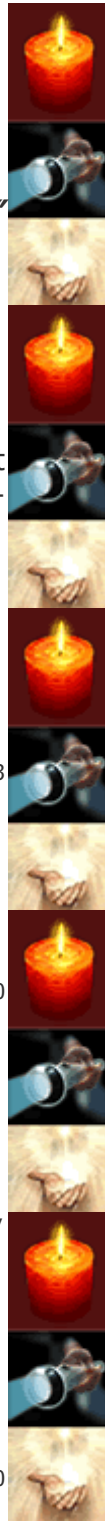
Liahona & Ensign, Apr. 2005, 8, 10

(2) Gain pure testimony

This testimony is the confirmation by the Holy Ghost that God is our Father and Jesus is the Christ. The light and truth we see in all things urge us to obtain knowledge by study and by faith, which precedes the confirmation by the Spirit. We can learn much of God's handiwork and goodness by our physical senses. But an even deeper testimony is revealed as we spiritually seek the truth "with real intent."

President Spencer W. Kimball said: "The treasures of both secular and spiritual knowledge are hidden ones—but hidden from those who do not properly search and strive to find them. ... Spiritual knowledge is not available merely for the asking; even prayers are not enough. It takes persistence and dedication of one's life."

The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, ed. Edward L. Kimball (1982), 389–90



All things are created and made to bear record of me.
Moses 6:63

Our testimonies are strengthened as we reverently observe the great universe God has created.



Elder M. Russell Ballard said: "Clear declaration of truth makes a difference in people's lives. That is what changes hearts."

Liahona & Ensign, Nov. 2004, 41

My wife and I attended a sacrament meeting near Recife, Brazil. A young boy, possibly 9 or 10 years of age, ...said, "Our family has been studying about moral agency." He then read: "Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh. ... And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil." The boy then said, "Some of my older friends are choosing to smoke and use drugs, but we all will have to accept the consequences of our actions." He finished with his testimony, saying, "I can see that this is true." This testimony from one so young was powerful and touched our hearts deeply.

(3) Live the gospel courageously

It takes real effort and sacrifice to live the gospel courageously. For some years temple worship for the Saints who live near Manaus, Brazil, has meant travelling two days in a crowded riverboat on the Amazon River, followed by two days' travel in buses through the hot tropics to the Recife temple. Arriving worn out and tired, they would shower, dress appropriately, and immediately begin their temple worship. After several days of service to the Lord, they would make the long, difficult journey home. The words "but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" were beautifully reflected by their sacrificing actions.

To be at peace in these wonderful yet challenging times, we must learn true doctrine, gain pure testimony, and live the truths of the gospel courageously.

