

HOW TO BUILD FAITH IN GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE



Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

HOW HAVE YOU APPLIED THIS?

Every morning, I try to read a scripture passage that gives me guidance for the day. I then pray that I might incorporate that scripture in my life. It has been a testimony builder to start off my day remembering Christ.

Brandyn Y.

Every day I strengthen my testimony by reading my scriptures. Instead of just quickly finishing a chapter so I can get it done, I actually study it and think about what I am reading. It helps me study in depth if I have a scripture marker in hand.

Samantha L.

The scriptures enlarge our memory by helping us always to remember the Lord and our relationship to Him and the Father. They remind us of what we knew in our premortal life. And as these things penetrate our minds and hearts, our faith in God and His Beloved Son takes root.

The central purpose of all scripture is to **fill our souls with faith** in God the Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ—faith that They exist; faith in the Father’s plan for our immortality and eternal life; faith in the Atonement and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which animates this plan of happiness; faith to make the gospel of Jesus Christ our way of life; and faith to come to know “the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom [He has] sent” (John 17:3).

The word of God, as Alma said, is like a seed planted in our hearts that produces faith as **it begins to grow within us** (see Alma

32:27–43; see also Romans 10:13–17). Faith will not come from the study of ancient texts as a purely academic pursuit. It will not come from archaeological digs and discoveries. Faith comes by the witness of the Holy Spirit to our souls, Spirit to spirit, as we hear or read the word of God. And faith matures as we **continue to feast upon the word.**

Scriptural accounts of the **faith of others serve to strengthen our own.** We recall the faith of a centurion that enabled Christ to heal his servant without so much as seeing him (see Matthew 8:5–13). We hear and take courage from the determination of a tender boy prophet, hated and bitterly persecuted by so many adults: “I had seen a vision; I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it, neither dared I do it” (Joseph Smith—History 1:25).

Because they expound the doctrine of Christ, the scriptures are accompanied by the Holy Spirit, whose role it is to **bear witness of the Father and the Son** (see 3 Nephi 11:32). Therefore, being in the scriptures is one way we receive the Holy Ghost. Of course, scripture is given through the Holy Ghost in the first place (see 2 Peter 1:21; D&C 20:26–27; 68:4), and that same Spirit can attest its truth to you and me. **Study the scriptures carefully, deliberately. Ponder and pray over them.** Scriptures are revelation, and they will bring added revelation.

May we **feast continuously** on the words of Christ that will tell us all things we should do (see 2 Nephi 32:3). **NE**

From the April 2010 general conference address “The Blessing of Scripture” (Ensign, May 2010, 32–35).

Share Your Experiences

Share *your* experiences in applying this principle and read the experiences of other youth by going to [lds.org/go/428](https://www.lds.org/go/428).

