



Other people seem so sure of their testimonies, but I'm not. Does that mean I don't have one?

"A testimony is a testimony, and it should be respected, whether it is small or large."¹

Because one of the purposes of this life is to build faith in Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, we are born without a sure knowledge of truth. We first hear the truth, and then we must desire to know for ourselves by acting on that truth (see John 7:17; Alma 32:28–34). We believe first; then knowledge can come if we seek it. So belief is nothing to scoff at.

A young man once said to Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles that he didn't *know* but *believed* the Church is true.

"I hugged that boy until his eyes bulged out," said Elder Holland. "I told him with all the fervor of my soul that *belief* is a precious word, an even more precious act, and he need never apologize for 'only believing.' . . . I told this boy that belief was always the first step toward conviction."²

We know spiritual truths by spiritual means (see 1 Corinthians 2:10–14). As we sincerely seek the truth and obey God's commandments, the Holy Ghost witnesses to us that the gospel is true. Through this process, you can gradually become more confident in knowing you do have a testimony. **NE**

NOTES

1. Boyd K. Packer (1924–2015), "How Does the Spirit Speak to Us?" *New Era*, Feb. 2010, 3.
2. Jeffrey R. Holland, Apr. 2013 general conference.

Tell Us What You Think:

If Heavenly Father has so many children, how can He know me personally and care about me?

Send your answer and photo by February 15, 2019.

Go to newera.lds.org, and click "Submit Your Work." Sign in with your LDS Account and then select "New Era" under "Choose Magazine." Click "Add File" to select your file and photos, and then click "Submit" to upload and send us your file.

FUN STOP ANSWERS (from pages 40–41): Find the Right Answer Right Away: 1. address 2. down 3. close 4. change 5. match 6. train 7. bow 8. crane 9. light Crack the Code: Top row: what goes up must come down; jaywalking; forever family; middle: split into groups, a face in the crowd, speaking in church; bottom: pace back and forth, middle school, lucky break Just a Riddle: The letter O How many Fs: 10. Some find only 9 because our brains have a hard time catching the "f" in "of," which makes a "v" sound.