



Enjoy the Words of Eternal Life

By M'Shelle Dixon - Womens Conference 2010

"We have no place to worship our God; and behold, what shall we Do?" Alma 32:5

We have NO PLACE to worship our God. NO PLACE meaning... No Time? No Energy? No Desire? No Understanding? What is your NO PLACE? The Humble Question: "What shall we do?" Let's look to the scriptures Alma Chapter 32 for the Lord's counsel to the Zoramites. 6 Principles:

Principle #1 - Become truly humble and prepare to hear the Word. v. 6 "their afflictions had truly humbled them, and that they were in a preparation to hear the word. We begin our study of the scriptures by first deciding to How do we humble ourselves? We repent. v. 13 says "for a man sometimes, if he is compelled to be humble, seeketh repentance;." Whatever you haven't done in the past - leave it in the past. Repent and humble yourselves and prepare now to hear the Word of God.

Principle #2 - Open your mind, your heart, and your schedule. v. 10-11 "Behold I say unto you, do ye suppose that ye cannot worship God save it be in your synagogues only? And moreover, I would ask, do ye suppose that ye must not worship God only once in a week? Is there ONE spot? ONE time? ONE way? --To study the Word? Open your mind, your heart, and your schedule; the word of God can be studied anywhere, anytime, anyplace.. An eager student takes advantage of every extra moment to learn. I promise you, that as you open your heart, your Mind, and your schedule Ideas and changes for your life and for your schedule will start flowing in!

Principle #3 - Don't expect it to be easy at first. v 26 "Now, as I said concerning faith - that it was not a perfect knowledge—even so it is with my words. Ye cannot know of their surety at first unto perfection." Continue in v 27, next page, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words" v 28 "Now, if ye give place that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold , if it be a true seed, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out...it will begin to swell within your breasts...and you will begin to say within yourselves—It must needs be that this is a good seed or that the word is good, for it *beginneth* to enlarge my soul; yea, it *beginneth* to enlighten my understanding, yea, it *beginneth* to be delicious to me." Notice the word used three times: *beginneth*. Learning to become a student of the scriptures is like learning a new language; it is hard at first..

Principle #4 Recognize how a study of the word makes you feel
v. 34 "the word hath swelled your souls, and ye also know that it hath sprouted up, that your understanding doth begin to be enlightened, and your mind doth begin to expand." It feels good doesn't it? Recognizing and

recording how the Word made you FEEL in your study will be the greatest motivator to get you to do it again! And again!

Principle #5 Nourish Your New Habit

v 37-39 we learn that when you nourish a tree it eventually takes root and brings forth fruit. Why do you want fruit? Because you can eat it. It is the Word, and as you partake of it the fruit, or the word, is now in you! You know what else you can do with fruit? You can share it with others. A child comes to you with a problem and a woman with a well nourished tree says, "Oh, I read about that this morning" and goes and picks from her tree. A friend in need, an investigator, a child - if they need you; you will be armed with fruit to share. Beware of the Barren v 39. We are the Mother. They look to us.

Principle #6 Look Forward & Enjoy the Feast!

This chapter concludes with the last three verses repeating the final counsel three times. When the Lord repeats Himself, we should listen, right? v 41, 42, 43 all carry this challenge: by your FAITH, by your DILIGENCE, and by your PATIENCE. We must have Faith, Diligence, & Patience. And if we do, what is our reward? A Feast!!! Look forward (it says in v 41) to the day that "ye shall feast even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst." Let us Feast upon the word of Christ and we shall see a day in which we will never be hungry again.

Quotes Used w/references:

We will learn to love the scriptures if we will turn to the word of God to solve our problems, and teach our children to do the same:

"Going to the scriptures to learn what to do makes all the difference. We will find answers in the scriptures. The Lord seemed to anticipate all of our problems and all of our needs, and He put help in the scriptures for us - of only we seek it..."
(Elder Henry B. Eyring, Ensign, July 2005, 24)

Like the poor who were pushed out from their synagogues - we are similarly bullied as we allow our calendars and our lifestyle to push out any time we could have with the Word of God.

"Today, the Bible and other scripture are readily at hand, yet there is a growing scriptural illiteracy because people will not open the books. Consequently, they have forgotten things their Grandparents knew." (Elder D. Todd Christofferson, "The Blessing of Scripture" General Conference, April 2010)

Learning to become a student of the scriptures is like learning a new language. It is difficult at first.

"When I was 10 years old, my family became refugees in a new land. I had always been a good student in school—that is, until we arrived in West Germany. There, my educational experience was a significantly different one. The geography we studied in my school was new to me. The history we studied was also very different. Before, I had been learning Russian as a second language; now, it was English. This was hard for me. Indeed, there were moments when I truly believed my tongue simply was not made to speak English. Because so much of the curriculum was new and strange to me, I fell behind. For the first time in my life, I began to wonder if I was simply not smart enough for school. Fortunately I had a teacher who taught me to be patient. He taught me that steady and consistent work—patient persistence—would help me to learn. Over time, difficult subjects became clearer—even English. Slowly I began to see that if I applied myself consistently, I could learn. It didn't come quickly, but with patience, it did come. From that experience, I learned that patience was far more than simply waiting for something to happen—patience required actively working toward worthwhile goals and not getting discouraged when results didn't appear instantly or without effort." (*Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Continue in Patience, General Conference, Priesthood, Session, April 2010*)

I hope this has been helpful to you in your study of the Word! May God bless you in your efforts!

--M'Shelle Dixon

