

Personal Development Using the Lord's Sure Principles

H. Wallace Goddard

2008 BYU Campus Education Week

1st Session: Faith: The Natural Man vs. the Man of Christ

- A. The faithlessness of the natural man vs. the faithfulness of the man of Christ
- “No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God . . . and it is through sorrow and suffering, toil and tribulation, that we gain the education that we come here to acquire and which will make us more like our Father and Mother in heaven” (Orson F. Whitney quoted in Spencer W. Kimball, *Faith Precedes the Miracle*, p. 98).
- B. Building the foundation of faith: The eternal perspective
- Carlfred Broderick: *The Uses of Adversity*
 - President Brigham Young: “there is not one hour’s experience but what is beneficial to all those who make it their study, and aim to improve upon the experience they gain” (JD 9, 292).
- C. “He who receiveth all things with **thankfulness** shall be made glorious” (D&C 78:19 emphasis added).
- Blessings of gratitude affirmed by research (Lyubomirsky, 2007; Seligman, 2003).

2nd Session: Repentance and the Heavenly Gift of Hope

- A. Repentance: Ways of thinking about this heavenly gift
- “*Repentance* is not a foreboding word. It is, following *faith*, the most encouraging word in the Christian vocabulary. Repentance is simply the scriptural invitation for growth and improvement and progress and renewal. You can change! You can be anything you want to be in righteousness.” (Jeffrey R. Holland, “For Times of Trouble,” BYU Devotional Address, 18 March 1980).
- B. Great examples and patterns in the Book of Mormon of those who have repented: Alma the Younger (see Mosiah 27 & Alma 36); Nephi (see especially 2 Nephi 4: 17-20); and others.
- C. Repentance opens the door to renewal

3rd Session: The Lord's Program of Gifts

- A. The world's mindset versus the Lord's mindset
- “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8).
 - Martin Seligman: “I do not believe that you should devote overly much effort to correcting your weaknesses. Rather, I believe that the highest success in living and the deepest emotional satisfaction comes from building and using your signature strengths” (*Authentic Happiness*, p. 13).
- B. The Lord's revelation on gifts
1. To each is given a gift (D&C 46:11).
 2. No one has every gift (D&C 46:11-12).
 3. Use gifts to bless (D&C 46:26).
 4. Seek earnestly the best gifts—always remembering (D&C 46:8).
 5. Give thanks for whatsoever blessing ye are blessed with (D&C 46:32).

4th Session: The Gift of the Holy Ghost: Renewed by Heavenly Power

A. The context: Our Agency in Premortal and Mortal Life

- “Throughout your premortal life, you developed your identity and increased your spiritual capabilities. Blessed with the gift of agency, you made important decisions, such as the decision to follow Heavenly Father’s plan. These decisions affected your life then and now. You grew in intelligence and learned to love the truth, and you prepared to come to the earth, where you could continue to progress” (*True to the Faith*, Plan of Salvation, 115).

B. God’s messenger: Roles of the Holy Ghost (see *True to the Faith*, Holy Ghost, 81–82)

- Witness of the Father and the Son (2 Nephi 31:18)
- Reveals the truth of all things (Moroni 10:5)
- Guides us in decisions (2 Nephi 32:5)
- Bestows Gifts of the Spirit (D&C 46:9-11)
- Comforter (John 14:26)
- Sanctifier (3 Nephi 27:20)
- Holy Spirit of Promise (D&C 132:7)

C. The “record of heaven” (Moses 6:61)

- Following the Spirit: “Joy Mapping”

Keeping a record

President Henry B. Eyring, “O Remember, Remember,” *Ensign*, November 2007:

“Tonight, and tomorrow night, you might pray and ponder, asking the questions: Did God send a message that was just for me? Did I see His hand in my life or the lives of my children? I will do that. And then I will find a way to preserve that memory for the day that I, and those that I love, will need to remember how much God loves us and how much we need Him. I testify that He loves us and blesses us, more than most of us have yet recognized. I know that is true, and it brings me joy to remember Him.”

Draw on the strength of generations

President James E. Faust, “I would like to say a word about the ministering of angels. In ancient and modern times angels have appeared and given instruction, warnings, and direction, which benefited the people they visited. We do not consciously realize the extent to which ministering angels affect our lives. President Joseph F. Smith said, ‘In like manner our fathers and mothers, brothers, sisters and friends who have passed away from this earth, having been faithful, and worthy to enjoy these rights and privileges, may have a mission given them to visit their relatives and friends upon the earth again, bringing from the divine Presence messages of love, of warning, or reproof and instruction, to those whom they had learned to love in the flesh’ (*Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. (1939), 436). Many of us feel that we have had this experience. Their ministry has been and is an important part of the gospel” (A Royal Priesthood,” *Ensign*, May 2006, 50-53).

Essential reading: *The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ*
Doctrine & Covenants, Section 46

Recommended reading: Martin Seligman: *Authentic Happiness*
Carlfred Broderick: *The Uses of Adversity*