

The Answer Is The Doctrine Bednar

Provo MTC Devotional

The Answer is the Doctrine

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Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

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Elders and sisters, I rejoice in this opportunity to be with you tonight. When Sister Bednar said it was 39 years since I was seated in the congregation where you are I'm not sure she needed to share that. But that brings a

crushing weight of responsibility because I remember vividly what it was like to sit just a few rows away from Spencer W. Kimball, Ezra Taft Benson, and Gordon B. Hinckley. In those days there was not a Missionary Training Center as we have here now. I served my mission shortly after Parley P. Pratt returned from Europe. We entered the Mission Home in Salt Lake City,

<Sister Bednar interrupts: These young missionaries didn't laugh when you said Parley P. Pratt because they don't know him and now they'll think you're just as old as he is!>

I am as old as Parley P. Pratt. So, we had a week in the Mission Home in Salt Lake City. On average I think the groups coming in to the Mission Home there were maybe two hundred, two-hundred and fifty missionaries. We were there for a week and then the missionaries speaking Norwegian and the Northern European languages would go to Rexburg,

Idaho, to Ricks College for the language training mission there. If you were going to Asia or the Pacific Islands you would go to BYU-Hawaii for your language training mission there. And everybody else came to Provo. The reason that it is so crushingly overwhelming I still have the notes that I took when I was seated where you are seated. I still refer to them and it's hard for me to imagine that I'm here while you're there.

So, I pray for the assistance of the Holy Ghost. I'm not the teacher tonight. The Holy Ghost is the teacher. You would really be making a mistake if you devoted most of your time and attention tonight to writing down things that I say. You should pay specific attention to the impressions that will come to your heart and mind by the power of the Holy Ghost. That is the spirit of revelation. That spirit tonight will comfort you. Perhaps, it may afflict you. Perhaps, it may rebuke you and correct you. Perhaps, in ways that I never could. I invite you to pay very close attention to those impressions. That is what you ought to be writing down.

Now, I'm going to try something tonight that I've never done speaking here at the MTC to missionaries. Let me set the stage and give you a couple of ground rules.

I'm here tonight to help you to learn. I'm not here to give a talk. I'm not here to teach you. I'm here to

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The answer is the doctrine Bednar; this phrase encapsulates the teachings of Elder David A. Bednar, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His insights and doctrines provide profound guidance for personal development, spirituality, and community engagement. Elder Bednar's teachings emphasize the importance of understanding doctrine, the role of the Holy Ghost, and the necessity of personal revelation. This article will explore these key themes in depth, showcasing how they contribute to a deeper understanding of faith and personal growth.

Understanding Doctrine

Elder Bednar often emphasizes the significance of doctrine in the lives of individuals and

congregations. Doctrine can be understood as the core principles and beliefs that form the foundation of faith. In the context of Latter-day Saint teachings, doctrine is not merely a collection of rules or guidelines; it is a framework that shapes the way individuals interact with their faith, their communities, and themselves.

The Role of Doctrine in Personal Growth

Understanding doctrine is essential for personal growth and spiritual maturity. Elder Bednar has articulated several key points regarding the role of doctrine in the lives of believers:

1. **Foundation of Faith:** Doctrine serves as the bedrock upon which faith is built. It provides clarity and direction, helping individuals navigate life's challenges.
2. **Source of Strength:** In times of difficulty, a deep understanding of doctrine can offer comfort and reassurance. It reminds individuals of their purpose and divine potential.
3. **Guiding Principles:** Doctrine provides guiding principles that can inform decisions and behaviors. It acts as a moral compass that directs individuals toward righteous living.

Examples of Key Doctrines

Elder Bednar has highlighted several essential doctrines that are pivotal for members of the Church:

- **The Nature of God:** Understanding that God is our Father and that He loves us profoundly is fundamental to Latter-day Saint belief. This doctrine shapes how individuals approach prayer, worship, and their relationship with the divine.
- **The Atonement of Jesus Christ:** The doctrine of the Atonement emphasizes the redemptive power of Christ's sacrifice. It teaches that individuals can repent and be forgiven, offering hope and a path to healing.
- **Continuing Revelation:** The belief in continuing revelation, both personally and through church leadership, is a cornerstone of Latter-day Saint faith. This doctrine encourages members to seek personal guidance from the Holy Ghost.

The Importance of the Holy Ghost

Another critical aspect of Elder Bednar's teachings is the role of the Holy Ghost in guiding individuals toward truth and understanding. The Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit, is considered a divine companion that offers comfort, guidance, and enlightenment.

The Holy Ghost as a Teacher

Elder Bednar has often spoken about the Holy Ghost as a teacher who helps individuals discern truth. This role is vital for several reasons:

- **Personal Revelation:** The Holy Ghost provides personal revelation, allowing individuals to receive tailored guidance for their unique circumstances.
- **Confirmation of Truth:** When individuals explore doctrine or make decisions, the Holy Ghost can confirm the truthfulness of their understanding, providing peace and assurance.
- **Protection from Deception:** In a world filled with conflicting messages, the Holy Ghost can help individuals discern truth from error, leading them away from false teachings.

How to Invite the Holy Ghost into Our Lives

To fully benefit from the guidance of the Holy Ghost, Elder Bednar encourages individuals to take specific actions:

1. **Prayer and Scripture Study:** Engaging in regular prayer and studying sacred texts invites the presence of the Holy Ghost, creating an environment conducive to revelation.
2. **Worthy Living:** Striving to live a life in harmony with gospel principles helps individuals maintain the companionship of the Holy Ghost. This includes avoiding sin and seeking repentance when necessary.
3. **Service and Charity:** Serving others fosters an atmosphere of love and kindness, which aligns with the nature of the Holy Ghost. Acts of service can also open individuals' hearts to receive guidance and inspiration.

The Necessity of Personal Revelation

Elder Bednar strongly advocates for the importance of personal revelation in the lives of believers. Personal revelation is the process by which individuals receive guidance and inspiration from God tailored to their unique circumstances.

The Process of Receiving Personal Revelation

To receive personal revelation, Elder Bednar outlines a few essential steps that can help individuals prepare themselves spiritually:

- **Seek with Faith:** Approaching God with a sincere desire to know His will is crucial. This involves believing that answers can and will come.
- **Be Patient:** Revelation often comes gradually and may not always be immediate. Patience is essential as individuals wait for divine guidance.

- Act on Promptings: When individuals feel the influence of the Holy Ghost, acting on those promptings is vital. This demonstrates faith and opens the door for further revelation.

The Impact of Personal Revelation

The benefits of personal revelation are profound and far-reaching:

1. Empowerment: Individuals who receive personal revelation often feel empowered to make decisions that align with God's will.
2. Increased Faith: Experiencing personal revelation can strengthen faith and trust in God, fostering a deeper relationship with the divine.
3. Enhanced Understanding: Personal revelation can lead to greater understanding of doctrine, helping individuals apply principles in their lives more effectively.

Community and Doctrine

Elder Bednar's teachings also highlight the role of community in understanding and living doctrine. The Church is not merely a collection of individuals; it is a community of faith that supports and uplifts one another.

The Role of the Church in Doctrine

The Church serves several essential functions concerning doctrine:

- Teaching and Learning: Church meetings, classes, and activities provide opportunities for individuals to learn about doctrine and share insights.
- Fostering Community: The Church creates a sense of belonging, allowing individuals to connect with others who share similar beliefs and values.
- Encouragement and Accountability: Being part of a faith community encourages individuals to live according to gospel principles and provides accountability.

Creating a Culture of Doctrine

To cultivate a culture of doctrine within the Church, Elder Bednar encourages:

1. Open Discussions: Encouraging open discussions about doctrine can deepen understanding and foster a culture of inquiry.
2. Sharing Personal Experiences: Members sharing personal experiences related to doctrine can

inspire and uplift others.

3. Emphasizing Application: Teaching doctrine with an emphasis on how to apply principles in daily life makes learning relevant and impactful.

Conclusion

In summary, the phrase **the answer is the doctrine Bednar** succinctly captures the essence of Elder David A. Bednar's teachings. His focus on the importance of doctrine, the role of the Holy Ghost, and the necessity of personal revelation provides a comprehensive framework for understanding faith and spirituality. By engaging with these teachings, individuals can cultivate a deeper relationship with God, enhance their personal growth, and contribute positively to their communities. As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints embrace these principles, they can experience the transformative power of understanding and living doctrine.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does 'the answer is the doctrine Bednar' refer to in a religious context?

It refers to Elder David A. Bednar's teachings within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, emphasizing the importance of doctrine in guiding personal faith and understanding.

How has Elder Bednar's doctrine influenced modern church teachings?

Elder Bednar's doctrine emphasizes personal revelation and the application of gospel principles, encouraging members to seek their own understanding and testimony of the teachings.

What are some key principles of Elder Bednar's doctrine?

Key principles include the importance of agency, the role of the Holy Ghost in personal revelation, and the need for members to build their faith on the doctrine of Christ.

Why is Elder Bednar's doctrine considered relevant today?

His teachings address contemporary issues like doubt and uncertainty, providing a framework for individuals to find strength and guidance through doctrine.

How can members of the church apply the doctrine taught by Elder Bednar in their daily lives?

Members can apply his doctrine by studying scriptures, engaging in prayer, and seeking personal revelation to better understand and live gospel principles.

What challenges do members face in understanding 'the answer is the doctrine Bednar'?

Challenges include the complexity of doctrine, varying levels of personal study, and the need for a personal connection to the teachings.

In what ways has Elder Bednar's doctrine been integrated into church programs?

His doctrine has been integrated into the curriculum of church classes, youth programs, and general conference addresses, emphasizing personal growth and understanding.

What resources are available for those wanting to learn more about Elder Bednar's doctrine?

Resources include church publications, his conference talks, online classes, and discussions within church communities focused on his teachings.

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