

Episode 7: Alma and the Zoramites

Alma 31–32

Name: _____

Principle: Faith is not perfect knowledge. It's an experiment: plant the word, nourish it, and watch what it does in you.

Read Alma 31:5; Alma 32:21; Alma 32:27–28; Alma 32:41

Alma 31:5 ⁵And now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else, which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God.

Alma 32:21 ²¹And now as I said concerning faith—faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.

Alma 32:27–28 ²⁷But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, 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. ²⁸Now, we will compare the word unto a seed. 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 by your unbelief, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts; and when you feel these swelling motions, ye 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.

Alma 32:41 ⁴¹But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life.

Discuss & reflect

1. Alma believed the word had “more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword” (31:5). Where have you seen words change people more than force?
2. Alma says even a “desire to believe” is enough to start (32:27). Where are you on that spectrum right now?
3. The Zoramites prayed once a week on the Rameumptom, then didn't speak of God until the next week. How could faith become a once-a-week thing for anyone?
4. The tree needs “diligence” and “patience” (32:41). What does nourishing your testimony look like day to day?

Cross-reference

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Ether 12:6 “And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.”

✍ Mark it

Mark Alma 32:27 and circle “desire to believe.” In the margin, write one question you want answered.

What I learned

One thing I'll do this week:

Sketch notes

 doodle, map, or diagram

Family discussion

What is one “seed” (a habit or a truth) our family wants to plant and nourish this month?

✂ cut out · keep in your scriptures as a bookmark

MEMORY VERSE

“...even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you”

Alma 32:27