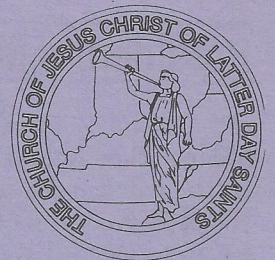




The IRON ROD



OUR CHARGE AS MISSIONARIES IS TO TEACH AND TESTIFY OF CHRIST AND THE RESTORATION AND INVITE ALL TO COME AND BE BAPTIZED UNTO REPENTANCE THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE PARTAKERS OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF LIFE.

President's Message

November, 1991

A Latter Day Application of Alma 26:22

BRINGING THOUSANDS TO REPENTANCE

One of the great blessings that comes to us from having a living prophet is that part of his calling is to expound and interpret the scriptures, (see D&C 24:5,9). Both President Benson and before him President Kimball have done this with Alma 26:22 and applied it to missionaries. President Benson said:

"There are great verses of scripture that have particular application to missionary work. Alma 26:22 is an example of one of the greatest. Here Ammon is rejoicing in the success the Lord has blessed him with in his missionary work among the Lamanites. And then he gives four keys for missionaries to use in bringing thousands of souls to repentance.

"He is speaking directly to missionaries when he says: *Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing - unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed; yea, and it shall be given unto such to bring thousands of souls to repentance, even as it has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance.* What a marvelous verse of scripture.

"**First**, Ammon says that a missionary should be certain that his personal life is in order, keeping his thoughts clean, not going after the lusts of his eyes, being obedient to all mission rules.

"**Second**, Ammon says that a missionary should exercise faith, believing that he can do great things for the Lord, that he can achieve his personal goals, that he can find golden families and teach them with the Spirit and baptize them. *If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth* (Mark 9:23). *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me* (Philippians 4:13). These scriptures on faith should be imbedded into every missionary's mind and heart.

"**Third**, Ammon challenges missionaries to work diligently. Missionary work is *not* easy.

It is the most demanding, the most compelling, the most exhausting, and yet, with it all, the most happy and joyful work in all the world.

"But it requires work. If missionaries really work, they will get the Spirit. If they get the Spirit, they will teach by the Spirit. And if they teach by the Spirit, they will be instruments in the hands of the Lord in bringing thousands of souls unto Him.

"**Fourth**, Ammon tells missionaries that they should pray without ceasing. They should pour out their hearts to the Lord and plead to the Lord for their investigators. The *fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much* (James 5:16).

"Yes, Ammon urges missionaries to live righteously, to exercise faith, to work hard, and to pray continually. Then they will receive personal revelation in their missionary work, which will allow them to bring a harvest of souls into the Church. These are true principles."

This scripture gives 3 promises to missionaries:

1. "**To know the mysteries of God**". The mysteries of God spoken of is the gospel of Jesus Christ. (see D&C 42:61) The missionary discussions present the gospel in simplicity and plainness. Our promise is that we can know the gospel and master the discussions as we teach and testify.
2. "**To reveal things that have never been revealed**". A proper knowledge of the gospel only comes by revelation (D&C 76:7-10). The Spirit reveals through us to those who we teach things that they can hardly imagine and have never thought of before. We will receive personal revelation in our missionary work. We will be given many opportunities to teach. As we teach with the Spirit this promise will be fulfilled in our mission.
3. "**To bring thousands of souls to repentance**". Two great latter-day prophets have taught us that this promise has been given to us as well as to Ammon and his brothers. Many brethren in the early part of our dispensation had the same kind