

Doctrinal Mastery of James 2:17-18

1. Act in faith.
2. Examine concepts and questions with an eternal perspective.
3. Seek further understanding through divinely appointed sources.

As you read the following scenarios, think of reasons we may not always act on gospel principles we know.

1. A young woman wants to read her scriptures every day. She sometimes loses motivation when she doesn't understand or find meaning in what she is reading.
2. A young woman faithfully paid tithing as a child. Now that she is older and has a consistent job, the amount of tithing expected of her is more than she has ever given and is more difficult to pay.
3. A young man has learned about Jesus Christ and His Atonement for years. He believes that Jesus suffered for the sins of mankind and that his sins can be forgiven. He had a meaningful experience with repentance in the past. However, he finds himself going long periods of time without thinking about repenting.

Choose one of the situations above, or think of another gospel principle you believe in but struggle to act on. Write how you or the person in your chosen situation could use the three principles of acquiring spiritual knowledge to address the situation.

If you would like some help applying these principles to the situation you chose, consider answering some or all of the following questions.

Principle 1: Act in faith

In the past, what gospel principle have you acted on in faith?

What did you learn about Jesus Christ from that experience that may help you with this situation?

Principle 2: Examine concepts and questions with an eternal perspective

How do you think Heavenly Father sees this situation? In what ways could He help?

How might acting on this principle lead to blessings now and eternally?

Principle 3: Seek further understanding through divinely appointed sources

How might James 2:17–18 help in this situation? What other scriptures or general conference talks could help you better understand and feel motivated to live this principle? (For example, see Alma 32:27–28.)

It can often be helpful to discuss these matters with a trusted friend, family member, or Church leader. Who might the Lord want you to discuss this situation with?