

Gospel Methodology: Changing Our Disciplines from within a Gospel Framework

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BYU will become an “educational Everest” because of the unique light BYU can send into the educational world. I read that as a charge not to hide our unique educational candle “under a bushel” and a charge to share our gospel-based insights and ideas with the world- not for the praise of the world but for the benefit of the world.”

President Worthen in his Address Fall 2022 to BYU Students and Faculty

What stars do you look to?

Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny.

President Kimball's 2nd Century Address

If we remain true to our unique educational model, we will, as President Kimball prophesied, “become the fully recognized university of the Lord about which so much has been spoken in the past.” That is the destiny of BYU. “Surely,” as President Kimball observed, “we cannot refuse that rendezvous with history.”

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One that is
Christ-centered



As the mission statement makes clear: “Any education is inadequate which does not emphasize that His is the only name given under heaven whereby mankind can be saved.”

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Gospel Methodology

What is it?

Intellectual inquiry bathed in
the light of the gospel

Illumination of mind

Peace in spirit

Clarity of emotion to guide
exploration from personal
transformation

Joyful process

Union with God, sanctification,
exaltation



An intellectual inquiry based in truth

All things must be done in order. D&C 28,43

Start with known truth

Basic questions are already answered in
gospel canon

Do you believe in the authority of these
answers?

If yes, start with them.

If no, experiment on them....see what
happens (Alma 32)

For example, what is intelligence.....



For example, what is intelligence...

Man was also in the beginning with God. Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created nor made, neither indeed can be...For man is spirit. The elements are eternal, and spirit and element inseparably connected, receive a fulness of joy; and when separated, man cannot receive a fulness of joy. D&C 93:29, 33-34

Seek after anything virtuous, lovely,
of good report or praiseworthy
Articles of Faith 1:13; Philippians
4:8

Think about....true, honest, just, and pure things
Start with your question....

Let the question deepen and expand

Pray for direction and guidance

Recognize answers and test them out

If you ask general questions, you get general
answers. Ask specific questions, you get specific
answers.

Clay Christensen



Look for Spiritual Frequency Impressions: A Loving God's Communication with You

Elder Scott's observation- that at times we may receive unsolicited impressions from the Spirit- leads me to conclude that God is constantly trying to communicate with us, even more than we may recognize. And it becomes *vital* that we seek to be consistently tuned to a spiritual frequency that allows us to have our attention awakened, to notice what God wants us to notice, and to be sensitive to the spiritual significance of our experiences- in other words, to receive the message the Lord is inviting us to receive.

Tracy Browning, Primary General Presidency, BYU Speeches, Feb 14, 2023

Illumination of Mind,
Peace in the Spirit,
"feeling" that it is right

But, behold, I say unto you,
that you must study it out in
your mind; then you must ask
me if it be right, and if it is
right I will cause that your
bosom shall burn within you;
therefore, you shall feel that it
is right.

But if it be not right, you shall
have no such feelings, but you
will have a stupor of thought
that shall cause you to forget
the thing which is wrong;
therefore, you cannot write
that which is sacred save it be
given you from me. D&C 9:8,9



For because of the word which he [God] has imparted unto me, behold, many have been born of God, and have tasted as I have tasted, and have seen eye to eye as I have seen; therefore they do know of these things of which I have spoken, as I do know; and the knowledge of which I have is of God.

Alma 36:26

Seek, and ye shall find. Knock and it shall be opened unto you. Matthew 7:7

- Notice your cognitive dissonance (what ideas are at odds within you)
- Notice your countertransference (what outside you is bothering you on the inside)
- Tease apart social pressures to conform and adopt particular points of view
- Listen to your heart and inner self
- Our questions will deepen if we live in alignment with truth
- Pay attention to special teachers who are sign posts, beacons
- Be open to alternative ways to acquire knowledge, not only traditional ways

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Matthew 6:33



- Key turning points or directional pivots
- Ask questions with the end in mind (teleology)
- CS Lewis on truth
- Discernment: joyful process
- Wise Mind- Linehan
- Mindfulness, Meditation, Focusing

Be an experiential learner yourself

Self-awareness becomes of a source of truthful inquiry

Pondering and prayer= mindfulness

Build emotional muscles

Be willing to go against the popular and secular views for the sake of truth (as witnessed by the Holy Ghost)

Be willing to be patient if others do not see what you feel you see (as opposed to contentious)

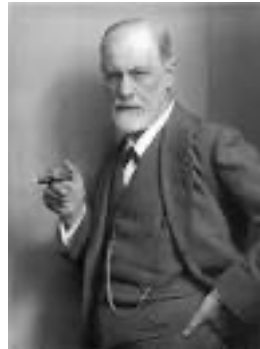
Experiment with living more truthfully; personal purity brings light and knowledge, peace, integrity, confidence and joy

Listen to your feelings to make wise decisions not to react to them, or ignore them

Learn to discern your feelings from spiritual promptings



Freud was not too great to be aware that he had always confined himself 'to the ground floor and basement of the edifice,' in other words, that he had confined himself [theoretically] to a lower, the psychological dimension. He became a victim of reductionism only when he...[declared] that he had 'already found a place for religion by putting it under the category of the neurosis of mankind.' Even a genius cannot completely resist his *Zeitgeist*, the spirit of his era.



The Will to Meaning, Victor Frankl, p. 27

We should deal statistically
and spiritually with root
problems, root issues, and
root causes in BYU's second
century.

President Kimball's 2nd Century Address



A gospel methodology by necessity includes personal transformation

Content founded in truth is arrived at not only through reading, study, experiments and discussions with colleagues but also through

1. inspiration, revelation
2. spiritual/religious practice that purifies and sanctifies
3. acting in faith
4. receiving the witness of the Holy Ghost
5. living with integrity (covenant and commandment keeping) so that we not only “know” truth, but we also feel it

Until we have climbed the hill just before us, we are not apt to be given a glimpse of what lies beyond. The hills ahead are higher than we think. This means that accomplishments and further direction must occur in proper order, after we have done our part. We will not be transported from point A to point Z without having to pass through the developmental and demanding experiences of all the points of achievement and all the milestone markers that lie between!

President Kimball's 2nd Century Address



Nephi rebuked Laman and Lemuel, saying, “Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have heard his voice...and he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words.

1 Nephi 17:45

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.

Alma 26:22

And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me [to Truth], how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!

- D&C18:15



A work of service to benefit others

As the flagship higher education institution of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, BYU strives to emit a **unique light for the benefit of the world-** a light that will enable BYU to be counted among the exceptional universities in the world and an essential example for the world.

BYU Mission Statement

We seek to do so not in arrogance or pride but in the spirit of service.

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