

“They’re Just Rehearsing”: Reading Scripts and Finding Life

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La Anunciación (1559) Juan Correa de Vivar, Prado Museum





- “First and foremost, you are a child of God”
- “Second, as a member of the Church, you are a child of the covenant”
- “Third you are a disciple of Jesus Christ”

President Russell M. Nelson, May 2022 Worldwide Devotional

“I plead with you to take charge of your testimony. Work for it. Own it. Care for it. Nurture it so that it will grow. Feed it truth. ... Engage in daily, earnest, humble prayer. Nourish yourself in the words of ancient and modern prophets. Ask the Lord to teach you how to hear Him better. Spend more time in the temple and in family history work. ... We live in the dispensation when ‘nothing shall be withheld.’ Thus, in time, the Lord will answer all our questions. In the meantime, immerse yourself in the rich reservoir of revelation we have at our fingertips. I promise that doing so will strengthen your testimony, even if some of your questions are not yet answered. Your sincere questions, asked in faith, will always lead to greater faith and more knowledge.”

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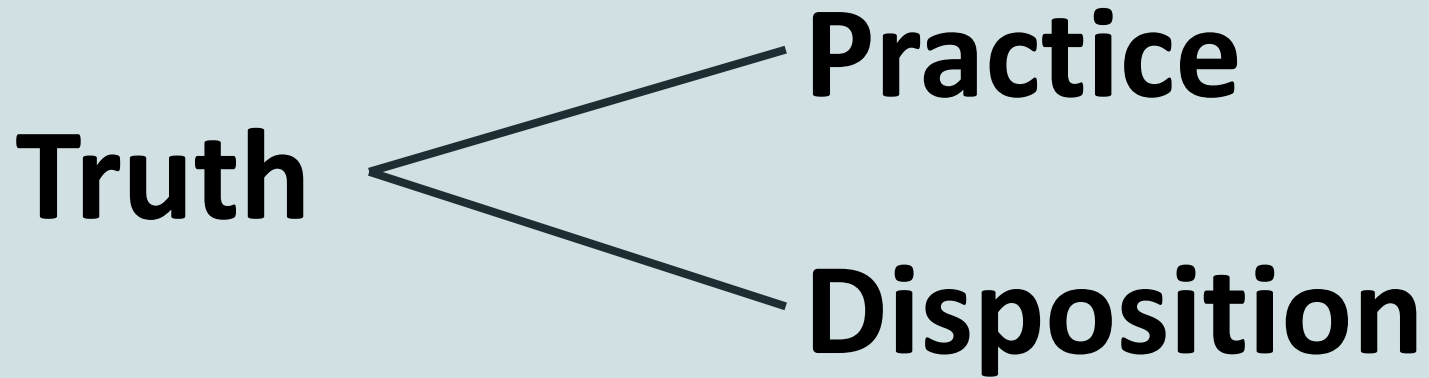
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1) **openness** to what God might reveal to you,

2) **sincerity** in our desire to learn truth,

3) and a **disposition of faith** in relation to what we do not yet know or truths that we might not yet understand.



The truth of the Gospel is that we are Children of God, and that our eternal relationship with God can only be fully realized as we make covenants with Him, and that the way we keep that covenant is through a path of discipleship.

“Wherefore, I beseech of you, brethren that ye should search diligently in the light of Christ that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, yet certainly will be a child of Christ.” (Moroni 7:19)

“How is it possible that ye can lay hold upon every good thing?” (Moroni 7:20)

“And now I come to that faith, of which I said I would speak” (Moroni 7:21)

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Practices

- “earnest, humble prayer,”
- nourishing ourselves in the words of ancient and modern prophets,
- participating in the rituals of going to the temple,
- engaging in service.

“For the word of God is **quick, and powerful**, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (KJV)

“For the word of God is **alive and active**. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (NIV)

Hebrews 4:12

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Bernardo Carvalho (b.1960)

Nine Nights (Vintage, 2008)

“Estão apenas ensaiando” or
[They’re just rehearsing] (2000)





The humble peasant wearing a watch and Death without a scythe or robe **(they're just rehearsing)** enter the stage. The peasant turns to Death and recommences his litany with the same intonation and detachment that to him seem most appropriate. **But this time, to his surprise, the director does not interrupt him**, because his eyes are wide open and he is pale, while the man, previously just a shadow, whispers something in his ear. And as he sees the man whispering in the director's ear, and the face of the director and his assistant, **who for the first time do not interrupt him** but continue to stare at him wide-eyed and aghast (the assistant with eyes full of tears before the peasant's supplication of Death) while they listen to what the other tells them in their ears, leaning over the chair, even though the intonation on stage was the same and **should therefore, logically, have been interrupted once more**, the actor himself interrupts the action and finally understands, terrified and at the same time,

the sinister coincidence of the scene and the moment, what that shadow has come to announce about the world outside, with horns, motors, and sirens; he understands why his wife has not appeared and finally what the humble peasant feels; he understands why the director has not interrupted him this time, **because he is finally perfect in the skin of the peasant in his supplication before Death; he understands that for one instant he in fact has embodied the peasant, that involuntarily and unconsciously, by a trick of fate, he has become the peasant himself because of what that shadow has come to announce;** he understands everything in a second, even without knowing the details of the accident that killed her crossing the street two blocks from the theater, before the wide-open eyes of the director and the assistant, beneath the unrestrained laughter of the lighting tech and the technician on the mezzanine, coming to the end of the joke.

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Thank you!



