

Katy 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Spiritual Message #57

WHAT I LEARNED AT STAKE CONFERENCE TODAY!

Years ago I made a whole set of charts about having different degrees of testimony about different things in the church. (You can see them on my web page a [www.cordellvail.com/epistles/charts](http://www.cordellvail.com/epistles/charts)). I kept hearing people say in Fast and Testimony meetings that they “HAVE A TESTIMONY”. Every time I heard that said I asked myself, “A TESTIMONY OF WHAT?” From experience over the years I knew that we all have testimonies of different things at different levels. We don’t just have “A TESTIMONY”. There are lots of people who have a testimony of going to the temple. However there must be a few of them who have a testimony of temple work but no testimony at all of honesty. Why else would we need lockers in the temple? It is not uncommon to meet a less active person who still has a testimony of the Book of Mormon but not of President Nelson being the true living prophet in our day. So that is why I wrote those research papers about “DIFFERENT DEGREES OF TESTIMONY”.

Today in Stake Conference, President Hansen’s talk opened a whole new vista of thought for me about Testimony. I had never connected the dots between Testimony and Conversion. He taught us that having a Testimony is believing or knowing something is true. That is what is in my charts. But the new dimension he added to my thought process is “LIVING IT”. That is the point I missed that I was trying to get to in my charts years ago. We may know it is right to pay tithing but TRUE CONVERSION IS LIVING IT... DOING IT!!! The sure test of conversion is not just having a testimony of something or just knowing it is true but LIVING IT! That is true conversion.

This time I think I “GOT IT”!

Brother Vail

See chart below

# The testimony of Oliver Cowdery

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Know that Jesus is the Christ	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Know that Joseph Smith was a true prophet	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Know the Book of Mormon is true	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in receiving answers to prayer	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe compassionate service is important	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in doing missionary work	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in being morally clean/pure in heart	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Testimony of the need to be a member	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Accept the doctrine of the Plan of Salvation	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in the necessity of being baptized	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in the being married in the temple	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Always keep the temple covenants	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Attend the temple at least once a month	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in doing genealogical research	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in paying a full tithing	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in paying a generous fast offering	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in attending church every week	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in attending Stake Conference	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in listening to General Conference	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in keeping the Sabbathday holy	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe it is wrong to shop on Sunday	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe it is wrong to see movies on Sunday	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe it is wrong to watch TV on Sunday	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in not working on Sunday	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in not taking drugs of any kind	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in keeping the Word of Wisdom	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in having personal prayer daily	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in having family prayer daily	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in being totally honest in all dealings	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Believe in accepting any church calling	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

This list could go on and on....



1. You believe that the principle is false to the degree that you fight against it in total rebellion.
2. You believe that the principle is false but you do not fight against it.
3. You simply do not believe it is true and see no need for it in your life.
4. You have no knowledge of the principle so you don't have a testimony of it.
5. You know of the principle but you do not have a testimony one way or the other of it.
6. You know of the principle and hope it is true but are not sure to live it all the time.
7. You have faith that the principle is true to the point that you live it even though you wonder sometimes.
8. You have a firm testimony of the principle and live it no matter what.
9. You have received a witness of the principle and teach it to others.
10. You have received a 'PERFECT KNOWLEDGE IN THAT THING'.

From: [www.cordellvail.com/epistles/charts](http://www.cordellvail.com/epistles/charts)

[Go Back to MAIN PAGE](#)