

# PRINCIPLES

## Why Focus on Principles?

“It is worth great effort to organize the truth we gather to simple statements of principle.”  
-Richard G. Scott, *Ensign* 1993

“The most important [thing] you can do...is to immerse yourselves in the scriptures. Search them diligently...Master the principles.”  
-Ezra T. Benson, *Ensign*, Nov. 1986

A principle is so valuable because it teaches truth. truth can be applied to any part of your life. If you truly understand a principle, its application to yourself and its consequences, then you are in a place of true freedom to choose. This is a powerful tool to build all knowledge and application upon. If you can secure principles in your education and character then you will have a strong foundation based on God’s truth.

We want to not just obtain facts, information, and knowledge. We want to understand and apply truth. Seeking out, studying, and making connections to true principles is the true path to intelligence.

## What are Principles?

“Principles are concentrated truth, packaged for application to a wide variety of circumstances.” This means that a gospel principle usually suggests action as well as the consequences that follow. -Richard G. Scott, “Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge”, *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 86

### Characteristics of True Principles (Audrey Rindlisbacher)

- Foundational idea upon which behavior is based, it is not the application
- True for all people, all the time
- Creates greater freedom for the individual and society
- Enlightens the understanding, enlarges the soul, expands your mind, brings new connections and ideas.
- Empowers and gives hope
- Increases desire for good - in thoughts, behavior, environment, and relationships
- Generates growth, enlivens
- Increases health and wholeness
- Creates win / win situations

Principles are “guidelines for the righteous exercise of moral agency. Principles provide basic guidelines for behavior and action.”

-David A. Bednar, *Increase in Learning*, p.155

A principle is an enduring truth or rule individuals can adopt to guide them in making decisions. They are universal and help people apply the doctrines of the gospel to everyday living. -Gospel Teaching and Learning handbook (section 2.5)



True principles show the correct path of action to take in any circumstance, for all people, in all times.



True principles enlighten the understanding, enlarge the soul, expands the mind, are empowering, and give hope.

### Some examples of True Principles:

- You reap what you sow, small and simple things bring about great things, preparation is vital.
- You have a purpose and individual mission in this life.
- Liberty is self-government in Christ
- Passion is suffering for what matters most, being a finisher, commitment, endure to the end.
- Proper Role of Government
- Humility leads to life long learning.
- Act and not be acted upon.