

Self-Reliance Newsletter

By: Michael J. Goodwin

September 2016

Principle #12 – Stay on Task, Receive Ordinances

From: [My Foundation: Principles, Skills, Habits.](#)

The church focuses on 12 principles of employment self-reliance, as found in the newly developed booklet, [My Foundation: Principles, Skills, Habits.](#)

I wish to help you focus on the elements of Employment as it is fundamental to achieving most of the other elements. Please share this information with anyone you can.

After you read the article, The Law of Soil Management by Elder Widtsoe, you might want to read further publications by him, available by the Gutenberg Project, linked below. Another great work by Elder Widtsoe and his wife follow, revealing a modern interpretation of the Word of Wisdom. Having finished reading it Sunday, we will be changing our eating habits.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/search/?query=widtsoe>

Dry-Farming: A System of Agriculture for Countries under a Low Rainfall

A Rational Theology, as Taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Joseph Smith as Scientist: A Contribution to Mormon Philosophy

Two sources for the Word of Wisdom, A Modern Interpretation:

<http://www.ldsveg.org/WidtsoeWordOfWisdomAModernInterpretation.htm>

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/browse?type=title&index=1662272&key=word%20of%20wisdom%20a%20modern%20interpretation%20%2F%20by%20john%20a%20widtsoe%20and%20leah%20d%20widtsoe&c=x>

Employment News:

Chrysler in Belvidere plant on adding 300 new jobs in the near future. See link below.

Also see the last link for FCA group careers, in Belvidere too.

<http://www.rrstar.com/news/20160714/fiat-chryslers-belvidere-plant-gets-350m-300-jobs-to-retool-for-jeep-cherokee>

<http://find.fcagroupcareers.com/s/Belvidere-IL/Manufacturing/Assembly-Line/Xljcp-cl289866-lc21466-jf409-ct100232-coUS>

12 STAY ON TASK, RECEIVE ORDINANCES

STAY ON TASK, RECEIVE ORDINANCES

- Ponder:** What keeps us from doing the things that matter most?
- Watch:** “Doing What Matters Most” (No video? Read the next page.)
- Discuss:** What are some insignificant things people do to waste their time? The Lord commanded Joseph Smith to build temples even when Church members were very poor. Why?
- Read:** Doctrine and Covenants 84:20; 136:4; 1 Nephi 18:2–3 (on the right)
- Read:** “The Law of Soil Management” (on the next page)
- Discuss:** What did the Lord reveal to Elder Widtsoe in the temple? What did the Lord reveal to Nephi in the mount?
- As we seek self-reliance, why is it so important to be temple worthy?
- With a partner, read the scripture below. What does it mean to you that through temple worship we are prepared to receive every needful thing in our lives? Talk about what this means to your life and your goal of self-reliance.

“And do thou grant, Holy Father, that all those who shall worship in this house may ... be prepared to obtain every needful thing.”

D&C 109:14–15

- Commit:** Commit to doing the following actions during the week. Check the boxes when you complete each task:

- Practice being temple worthy every day.
- Teach this principle to your family. Teach them how temple attendance will help them succeed spiritually and temporally, and discuss with them what you must do to receive the Lord’s power that is found in temple ordinances.
- Continue to practice the previous foundation principles.

“In the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest.”

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 84:20

“And this shall be our covenant—that we will walk in all the ordinances of the Lord.”

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 136:4

“I did build [the ship] after the manner which the Lord had shown unto me; wherefore, it was not after the manner of men. And I, Nephi, did go into the mount oft, and I did pray oft unto the Lord; wherefore the Lord showed unto me great things.”

1 NEPHI 18:2–3



DOING WHAT MATTERS MOST

If you are unable to watch the video, read this script.



NARRATOR: *A plane crashed in Florida one dark night in December. Over 100 people were killed. It was just 20 miles from safety.*

PRESIDENT UCHTDORF: *After the accident, investigators tried to determine the cause. The landing gear had indeed lowered properly. The plane was in perfect mechanical condition. Everything was working properly—all except one thing: a single burned-out light bulb. That tiny bulb—worth about 20 cents—started the*

chain of events that ultimately led to the tragic deaths of over 100 people.

Of course, the malfunctioning light bulb didn't cause the accident; it happened because the crew placed its focus on something that seemed to matter at the moment while losing sight of what mattered most.

The tendency to focus on the insignificant at the expense of the profound happens not only to pilots but to everyone. We are all at risk. . . . Are your thoughts and heart focused on those short-lived fleeting things that matter only in the moment or on things that matter most?

(Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "We Are Doing a Great Work and Cannot Come Down," Ensign or Liahona, May 2009, 59–60)

THE LAW OF SOIL MANAGEMENT

ELDER WIDTSOE: *For several years, under a federal grant with my staff of workers, we had gathered thousands of data in the field of soil moisture; but I could not extract any general law running through them. I gave up at last.*

My wife and I went to the temple that day to forget the failure. In the third endowment room, out of the unseen, came the solution, which has long since gone into print. . . .

That is the gift that comes to those who enter the temple properly, because it is a place where revelations may be expected. I bear you my personal testimony that this is so.

(In Alan K. Parrish, Modern Temple Worship, 156–57)

"The Lord will bless us as we attend to the sacred ordinance work of the temples. Blessings there will not be limited to our temple service. We will be blessed in all of our affairs. We will be eligible to have the Lord take an interest in our affairs both spiritual and temporal."

BOYD K. PACKER,
The Holy Temple
(1980), 182

FINAL ACTIVITY

Go Forward and Serve

GO FORWARD AND SERVE

Ponder: Based on the scriptures and quote on the right, how does *losing* ourselves in the service of others actually *save* us?

Read: Now that you have completed *My Foundation*, we invite you to consider again the counsel in principle 7. President Uchtdorf said:

"Selfless acts of service and consecration refine our spirits, remove the scales from our spiritual eyes, and open the windows of heaven. By becoming the answer to someone's prayer, we often find the answer to our own."

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Waiting on the Road to Damascus,"
Ensign or Liahona, May 2011, 76

Discuss: How can service to others open the "windows of heaven" in your life?

Practice: Create a plan with your group or family to do one of the following:

1. Perform a service project in your community. You might serve the sick at a hospital, take food to an orphanage, or choose another activity.
2. Visit the closest Church family history center with your family. Prepare your family history using the booklet *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together*. Then go to the temple and perform sacred ordinances for family members who have died.
3. Volunteer in a self-reliance center or serve as a group facilitator. Individually mentor someone on their path to self-reliance.



"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

MATTHEW 16:25

"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God."

MOSIAH 2:17

"The purpose of both temporal and spiritual self-reliance is to get ourselves on higher ground so that we can lift others in need."

ROBERT D. HALES,

"Coming to Ourselves: The Sacrament, the Temple, and Sacrifice in Service,"
Ensign or Liahona, May 2012, 36

This is the final issue of my newsletter concerning the 'My Foundation: Principles, Skills, Habits' booklet.

There are 7 unique chapters in the booklet, My Job Search. I will highlight each chapter during the next 7 months. Since there are many pages to each chapter, I will refer you to the booklet itself. Just click on the link below to open the pdf file on the church website. You may then save it on your own computer.

References:

[Self-Reliance Services](#)

[Self-Reliance Presentation](#) Author: Michael J. Goodwin

Other Church Employment Self-Reliance Booklets available:

[Leader Guide](#)

[My Path](#)

[Starting and Growing My Business](#)

[My Job Search](#)

[Education for Better Work](#)

Sincerely,

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