



# "Spiritual Considerations..."

*Selected articles designed to assist in our Bible study and Christian walk.*

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*Dave Phillips, editor*

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## "Equipped"

Dave Phillips, Germantown

When is a soldier fully equipped? When is a teacher adequately prepared? When does a traveler have all provisions secured? Not unless the soldier knows the type of war, or the teacher knows the question, or the traveler knows the road, will the question ever be answered. I cannot know if I am fully prepared unless I know the future. However, the one who does know the future spoke by inspiration of the type of preparations needed. Paul said,

**Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm (Eph. 6:13, NASV)**

We have been given full assurance that with the armor of God, we are adequately prepared. The means by which the Christian is equipped with the armor is described in the same letter.

**And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (Eph. 4:11,12, NASV)**

It is the task and privilege of the church to be used by God to equip the followers. Can you imagine a more important role? Can you think of a greater tragedy than not associating with the church in order to be prepared for a spiritual battle? What about an attitude where one does not associate with the church where he/she could help prepare a brother or sister for spiritual warfare? There are times when we are strong and can build others up. There are other times when we are weakened and need the strength of another.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews was compelled to remind struggling believers of their purpose in life. The better ministry, the better covenant, the better promises (Heb. 8:6) were the foundation of a more faithful commitment to the task at hand.

**Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen (Hebrews 13:20, 21, NASV)**

We have the promises of God, the sacrifice of His Son, the guidance of His Word, the presence of His Spirit, and the encouragement of the church. What more do we need? Is it possible that we have been fully outfitted for some time, but have yet to set forth on the journey? If God is equipping us, let's go!

## May We Be So Bold

Larry West, West Monroe, Louisiana

I was flying through Salt Lake City. I had a five-hour layover. And who wants to hang around the airport! I checked my briefcase into a locker and stepped out front and hopped a bus to Temple Square. "I want to see this place," I said to myself.

Beautiful young people met me at the gate. Clean cut. Bright. Smiling. "May we help you?" they asked as I stepped through. "Yes," I said. "May I take a tour?"

A sweet young lady took me on a private tour. It was nice. Sad, but nice. "Thank you," I said to her about 30 minutes later, ready to leave. "Would you like to have a Book of Mormon?" she asked. "All right," I answered, expecting her to simply hand me one. "At least that's one more I can throw into the garbage can," I thought to myself.

"Well," she responded, taking a card from her pocket, "just fill this out and our representatives in your area will bring one to you."

"How could I have missed that set-up?" I thought to myself. I took her card and began to fill it out. "Address?" When I got to the address part, it dawned on me, "I'll just write down the address of

the church building." Conniving? Maybe. A little. "Heh, heh," I thought, "I'll see if they'll come to my office there!"

About three weeks after I returned home, it happened. It really did. Two representatives arrived at the building, came upstairs, entered my office, and asked my secretary to see me.

Beautiful young people. Clean cut. Bright. Smiling. "We have come to bring you the book you requested when you were in Salt Lake City," they said. Into my office they marched. Boldly. Nice they were. And confident. Under their arms was the Book of Mormon. I was rather shocked! "Into the building of the Church of Christ? They would really come here?" I thought. "Up the stairs? Into a preacher's office? Unbelievable! Was I presumptuous to think such a thing? Smug? But it's what happened next that made me gasp. It was then that they asked, "May we explain it to you?"

What? Here they were on my turf. In my office. And were asking for a study! "May we tell you what we believe?" Think of it. And from a preacher!

***May we be so bold!*** May we be so confident. Focused. Determined.

More resolute to tell potential converts about Joseph Smith they were than we are to tell about the Lord and Savior of all mankind!

You know, Marines are known for their bravado. When sent into battle, they like to "knock down the door." Running out of their amphibious vehicles, screaming like renegades invading enemy shores, they're the ones who want to be first. Army? Navy? You guys, follow the Marines.

***May we be so bold!***

Oh, I didn't tell you, there's more. To the story, I mean. I'm sometimes hard to catch at home. So it was amazing they caught me. But, yet, it wasn't the timing. Not really. It wasn't merely by accident I happened to be there that day. You see, these two "representatives" from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day, so bold, so confident...this wasn't their initial visit. It was their third time to come. Set on getting it done, that's what they were. Not interested in just making an appearance so they could tell headquarters, "Well, we went by." They came back! Three times!

And there's more. And this may not be significant. Not to you. It was to me. A little. Because it means maybe they could have been all the more intimidated. Frightened more, I think. But they weren't. These two beautiful young people. Not twenty-two years old. Clean cut. Bright. Smiling. These two who had come on to my turf. And were asking for a study!

They were girls.

Yes, Lord, may we be so bold!

### **What Did You Say?**

Steve Higginbotham, Glasgow, KY

Communication is sometimes a very difficult task. It is not uncommon for us to misunderstand someone as well as be misunderstood by someone else. We spend our lives communicating with people on a daily basis, and yet we still do not master the art of communication. For example, take note of some of the following real headlines written by professional writers (communicators).

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers  
Eye Drops Off Shelf  
Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim  
Miners Refuse to Work After Death  
Two Sisters Reunited After 18 Years in Checkout Counter  
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge  
Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Killed  
Kids Make Nutritious Snacks  
Local High School Dropouts Cut In Half

Some things really are hard to understand. But you know something, it's not that way with the Bible (John 7:17; 8:32; Eph. 5:17). When we read the Bible about what we should do to be saved, or how we should live, the message is simple and plain. When you really stop and think about it, the problem with many people is not that they cannot understand the Bible, it's that they choose not to obey it.