

# How To Gain Knowledge By Scientific and Religious Methods

Morris G. Anderson

May 27, 2021

## Abstract

We can obtain knowledge through scientific and religious methods. Both techniques require faith and patience built upon desire, belief, hope, and work. The religious method requires much more faith and effort than the scientific approach and enables us to obtain greater knowledge. The methods presented here are derived in part, from the writings of the Prophet Alma, contained in The Book of Mormon, Another Testament of Jesus Christ (see [Alma Chapter 32](#)), where he teaches us how to gain knowledge by conducting an experiment. I have learned much by applying these methods to the study of science and engineering. However, the most important knowledge I have obtained is, God lives and Jesus is the Christ! **Key definitions are attached.**

## Scientific Method

1. Desire to understand why Nature is the way it is.
2. Believe that Nature is governed by law.
3. Observe something with our physical senses directly or through scientific instruments.
4. Hope that we can learn to understand the law governing our observation and develop a model of it.
5. Work to develop a model of the law governing our observation. This requires us to:
  - a. Exercise Faith: searching, studying, relying and building on the work of others.
  - b. Hypothesize and ponder possible solutions.
  - c. Be Patient and Persevere.
  - d. Experiment to determine if our model is accurate by comparing it with observational data.
6. Seek greater knowledge by repeating these steps.

## Religious Method

1. Desire to believe in God.
2. Believe in God: He created all things, “All human beings—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents ([The Family Proclamation](#))”. God loves us and wants us to be happy.
3. Believe that we can communicate, through the power of the Holy Ghost, with God in sincere prayer.
4. Desire to believe in Jesus Christ the son of God. Jesus Christ atoned for our sins and we can become clean through him when we repent of our wrong choices.
5. Be humble enough to pray to God for guidance and inspiration.
6. Hope that we can cultivate a desire sufficient within us to motivate us to follow God’s inspiration, repent of our wrong choices, and keep his commandments.
7. Work to learn of God, his will, and all things. This requires us to:
  - a. Exercise Faith: searching and relying on the word of God, repenting, pondering, and praying.
  - b. Follow the word of God and the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
  - c. Be Patient and Persevere.
  - d. Pray to God and thank him for blessing us, through the atonement of his Son Jesus Christ, with repentance and forgiveness. Thank him for the knowledge and guidance we receive.
  - e. Experiment by applying the knowledge and following the guidance we receive to gain personal experience that it is good.
8. Seek greater knowledge by repeating these steps.

## **Definitions:** (the source is referenced after each definition)

### **Truth**

... truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come;  
Doctrine and Covenants 93:24

### **Learning**

The acquisition of knowledge or skills through experience, study, or by being taught. (1<sup>st</sup> response from google search 2021-05-15)  
... seek learning even by study and also by faith. (Doctrine and Covenants 109:7)

### **Believe**

Accept (something) as true; feel sure of the truth of (1<sup>st</sup> response from google search 2021-05-15)

### **Desire**

A strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen (1<sup>st</sup> response from google search 2021-05-15)

### **Hope**

A feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen (1<sup>st</sup> response from google search 2021-05-15)

### **Faith**

Complete trust or confidence in someone or something (1<sup>st</sup> response from google search 2021-05-15)

... faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (JST, Hebrews 11:1)

... if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true. (Book of Mormon Alma 32:21)

All true faith must be based upon correct knowledge or it cannot produce the desired results. Faith in Jesus Christ is the first principle of the gospel and is more than belief, since **true faith always moves its possessor to some kind of physical and mental action**; it carries an assurance of the fulfillment of the things hoped for. From the Bible Dictionary

... faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone (James 2:17)

... I will shew thee my faith by my works. (James 2:18)

### **Patience**

The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. (1<sup>st</sup> response from google search 2021-05-15)

### **Persevere**

To persist in anything undertaken; maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty, obstacles, or discouragement; continue steadfastly (1<sup>st</sup> response from <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/persevere> 2021-05-15)

### **Repent**

To repent, we recognize our sins and feel remorse, or godly sorrow. We confess our sins to God. We also confess very serious sins to God's authorized Church leaders, who will support us as we truly repent. We ask God to forgive us. We do all we can to correct the problems our actions may have caused; this is called restitution. As we repent, our view of ourselves and the world changes. As we change, we recognize that we are children of God and that we need not continue making the same mistakes over and over. If we sincerely repent, we turn away from our sins and do them no more. We resist any desire to commit sin. Our desire to follow God grows stronger and deeper. From Repentance through the Atonement of Jesus Christ at <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/preach-my-gospel-a-guide-to-missionary-service/lesson-3-the-gospel-of-jesus-christ?lang=eng>