

The Purpose of Faith-Promoting Stories

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Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said:

“I think the proper course for us to pursue is to turn to the holy scriptures and learn what the Lord has done for the people of his church in days of old. The more we know about the way an unchangeable God has operated in days past, the greater surety we will have that he will repeat himself in days present.

“The faith-promoting stories in the scriptures will accomplish their purpose if we let them, and that purpose is to create faith in our hearts so that we will trust in the same Lord who blessed our forbears and thereby inherit the same blessings that he poured out upon them. . . .

“Having so studied and having thereby gained faith like the ancients, we also shall enjoy what they enjoyed. Pure religion and undefiled will dwell in our hearts, as it did in theirs, and we for our day will be able to testify of the goodness of God to us as they testified of that same goodness to them” (“The How and Why of Faith-Promoting Stories,” *New Era*, July 1978, 5).

Do Not Embellish, Extend, or Decorate Stories

Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said:

“As useful as stories are, I have always been scrupulously careful in telling stories not to give the impression that a fictitious story is true or that I participated in an incident when I did not. I know there are those who will want to make the stories appear to be part of their own experience. Personally, I feel that is dishonest. I would not do it, nor would I recommend it to anyone else. If I ever tell a story in my teaching and indicate that it is from my own experience, it did happen to me or I would never identify it that way. Nor should you feel it necessary to embellish or extend or decorate a story. If it won’t stand on its own to illustrate the point, then don’t use it” (*Teach Ye Diligently* [1975], 242).