Lesson 46
Ether 7–15

These notes will cover only chapter 12 of Ether.

Ether 12

Verse 3: When Ether says that all things are fulfilled by faith, what does he mean? What kinds of things can be fulfilled, and how are they fulfilled through faith?

Verse 4: Ether says that those who believe can hope for a better world. Is he referring only to the “next world”? Is the answer to our present sorrows “Don’t worry, it will be better later,” or does the gospel change this world as well?

How does hope make us sure and steadfast? How does it cause us to be “abounding in good works”?

Verse 6: How does remembering that trust is a synonym for faith help make what Moroni says more intelligible? For example, why would faith require that we hope for something not seen?

Why would we not receive a witness until after our faith (trust) had been tested?

Verse 7: When Moroni says that Christ showed himself to the fathers by faith, does he mean by their faith or by Christ’s?

Verse 8: What heavenly gift is Moroni speaking of?
**Verse 9:** The wording of this verse indicates that we can partake of the heavenly gift even before our hope is realized. How does trusting in the Lord (having faith) make it possible for us to partake of the gift?

**Verses 10–22:** What things does Moroni show us with this list?

**Verses 26:** What is grace? What does it mean to be meek? (A look at a historical dictionary would be helpful here, perhaps the *Oxford English Dictionary* or Webster’s 1828 dictionary.)

What does it mean to say that the Lord’s grace is sufficient? Sufficient for what?

**Verse 27:** What kinds of weaknesses is the Lord speaking of? Should we be grateful for our weaknesses?

Why do we need to be humble? How does this contrast with what our culture often teaches us and our children? How might weak things become strong to us?

**Verse 28:** What’s the connection between weaknesses on the one hand and faith, hope, and charity on the other?

What does it mean to say that the Savior is the “fountain of all righteousness”? What does the word *fountain* mean here?

**Verse 29:** What does it mean to be comforted? (Here, again, a look at a historical dictionary may be helpful.) How would these words have been a comfort to Moroni? *Which* words does he mean by “these words”?

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Verses 30–31: Moroni illustrates the idea of faith with examples. How might these examples of faith have served to comfort him? What purpose or purposes do they serve for us?

Verse 32: Here he illustrates hope. How is this example of hope particularly appropriate?

Verses 33–35: Moroni illustrates the meaning of charity. He uses humans to illustrate faith, and he uses our relation to the Son to illustrate hope. How is this illustration of charity particularly significant?

Verse 33: What does it mean to say that Jesus laid down his life so he could take it up again?

Does the phrase “to prepare a place for the children of men” refer to “laying down of thy life” or to “thou mightest take it again”? In other words, does it mean he laid down his life to prepare a place for us or that he was resurrected to prepare a place for us? What difference in our understanding might each of these make?

Verse 34: This verse, paraphrased, says, “Christ’s love is charity, so unless people have charity they cannot inherit a place in the Father’s kingdom.” What is the connection between the ideas of the two clauses? In the paraphrase, what does so (wherefore in the verse) tell us?

Verse 36: What does grace have to do with charity?

Verse 37: The Lord tells Moroni he will be made strong because he has seen his weaknesses. Does that mean we must know our weaknesses if we are to be made strong?
What does it mean to know one’s weaknesses? How do we discover them?

What is the significance of using the passive voice—“shalt be made strong”—rather than the active—“will become strong”? What does “shalt be made strong even unto the sitting down” mean?

**Verse 39:** Moroni says that Jesus talked with him “in plain humility.” Does this mean that Jesus too is humble, or is the verse describing Moroni? If it is describing Jesus, what would it mean for him to be humble when he has no weaknesses? Does this teach us anything about what our own humility ought to be like?