

September Bulletin Insert - 2020

# A Trusting Heart Responds Quickly When God Calls

By Pat Chadwick



*Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Followers of Christ, who have a “Trusting Heart”, will acknowledge God in all that he or she does. In this month of September, it is my hope that all of us in the congregation and indeed the whole church will put their trust in God and acknowledge Him, as He calls us to this most important event, “The Solemn Assembly”.

## The Call

The call has come as stated in the recent Tidings of Zion: “Dear Brothers and Sisters, members of the True and Living /church of Christ. **We beggars and simple servants, come now to share our collective testimony and assurance with you that the Lord of Hosts is calling His people to gather for a solemn assembly. It is our testimony that the call has been so directed by the Lord and confirmed by the Holy Spirit... We now invite each of you to prayerfully consider and prepare your hearts to gather in a solemn assembly this September.**”

The above statement was signed by Vim Horn, Richard Neill, Jack Hagenon, Steve Kropp, Tom Mitchell, Brian Mundy, Mark Nunn, Howard Parker. Vim goes on to say: **Since we met in December, we have continued to study, pray, and discuss together concerning the calling of a solemn assembly at this time, and we testify to you that our assurance that the Lord is calling for His people to come before Him in a solemn assembly has only increased.** (You may find the testimonies of all the above men listed in the recent *Tidings of Zion*.)

## The Open Window

Richard Neill’s testimony is that the Lord has declared = **“The window is now open”**. Richard then says: In Malachi 3:10-11 there is the classic reference to the **“windows of heaven”** becoming open...talking about tithes, but it has a broader application of what happens to a people when they are obedient. **What are the promises that the Lord makes of this window being opened if we are obedient?**

1. The Lord will pour out his blessing,
2. There shall not be room enough to receive it,
3. I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,
4. He shall not destroy the fruits of your ground,
5. Neither shall your vine cast for her fruit before the time in the field.
6. And all nations shall call you blessed.
7. For ye shall be a delightsome land {people}, saith the Lord of hosts.

**In order to claim a blessing, the people must be humble and full of love, diligent, and obedient to God. When the people see and know the window is open, they must be ready and prepared to carry out the Lord’s commands. Finally, they must commit themselves to the task they have been called to do.**

## *Digging Deeper*

### What is a Solemn Assembly?

**Elder Michael Brown:** In simple terms, a solemn assembly is the gathering of the Lord’s people in humility and contrition to confess and repent of their sins, to soften their hearts, and to renew their faith and obedience toward God. A solemn assembly of the Lord’s people is not a focus on what we are doing—

but on laying everything down before the Lord. Solemn assemblies historically have been to draw the people's attention back to their God and to repent from severe moral and spiritual decline...God moves upon prophets and individuals by the Holy Ghost to address the people that they must needs repent or be destroyed.

Howard Parker's class: Another term for Solemn Assembly is Revival.

Historically we see 4 things that happen in a solemn assembly/revival.

1. It follows a moral and spiritual decline,
2. It follows righteous judgments from God, such things as earthquakes, fires, storms, disease/plagues etc.
3. God will raise up a leader to communicate His desires to the people.
4. The Solemn Assembly is followed by extraordinary movement by God.



### Purpose for a Solemn Assembly

Michael Brown: The Lord's admonition given to the church in June 1833 in Doctrine & Covenants 92:1d-f rings very loud and clear to our ears today. They had

been disobedient and found themselves in difficulties in the land of Zion.

*Doctrine & Covenants 92:1d But, behold, verily I say unto you, There are many who have been ordained among you, whom I have called, but few of them are chosen: e they who are not chosen have sinned a very grievous sin, in that they are walking in darkness at noonday; and for this cause, I gave unto you a commandment, that you should call your solemn assembly; that your fastings and your mourning might come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, which is, by interpretation, the Creator of the first day; the beginning and the end.*

The words (fasting and mourning) can be interpreted to us as humility and prayers and repentance. Notice the strong warning that they had (sinned a very grievous sin) –hence the need for a (solemn) or serious and focused assembly to collectively repent as a people before the Lord. We, too, can honestly say we are (walking in darkness at noonday) because in the midst of the fullness of the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we know not what to do because of disobedience and carelessness. This is a grievous sin.

### Who is to Assemble?

From the Conference of Restoration Elders: We believe the call to assemble is for all who are willing to repent and come unto Jesus Christ. We believe the call to assemble is for all who will share with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. (Doctrine & Covenants 17:7b) **We believe this call to assemble is for**

**all who will seek God's purpose in their life and have a desire to (spread the gospel of the kingdom unto all nations) before the end shall come.**

Michael Brown says in Jehoshaphat's day: All of Judah stood humbly before the Lord...including their wives and little children (II Chronicles 20:18). **In Joel 2:16 we see that even the bridegroom and bride had their honeymoon cancelled and the mother with an infant at her breast was gathered for the solemn assembly. Nothing was to be put ahead of repenting and seeking out the Lord. Joel 2:15-16 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.**

## Instructions for the Solemn Assembly

### **Core Dates for the Assembly Are September 25-28**

Michael Brown: The Lord gave instruction to Latter Day Israel in December 1832, as found in *Doctrine & Covenants 85:19b-20a Tarry ye, tarry ye in this place, and call a solemn assembly, even of those who are the first laborers in this last kingdom...Behold, I will hasten my work in its time; and I give unto you who are the first laborers in this last kingdom, a commandment, that you assemble yourselves together, and organize yourselves, and prepare yourselves; and sanctify yourselves.*

**In Section 85 right after that call to the solemn assemble it says: Doctrine & Covenants 85:24b-25d For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble, and reel to and fro as a drunken man, and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light, and the moon shall be bathed in blood, and the stars shall become exceeding angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree. And after your testimony, cometh wrath and indignation upon the people; for after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground, and shall not be able to stand.**

*And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea, heaving themselves beyond their bounds. And all things shall be in commotion; and surely men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people; and angels shall fly through the midst of heaven, crying with a loud voice, sounding the trump of God, saying, Prepare ye, prepare ye, O*

*inhabitants of the earth, for the judgment of our God is come: behold, and lo, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him.*

**Michael Brown:** Compares us to ancient Israel/Judah who were also in crises, II Chronicles 20:1-20. If we are honest with ourselves, we do not know what to do today. We are witnessing prophecies of the Lord coming to pass before our eyes. Examples of the judgments of God include: desolating sickness = (corona virus), pestilence = (locust in Africa & Middle East, Asian murder hornets) burned out cities by wildfires = (California and Australia), tempest and tornadoes, (Joplin Mo.) earthquakes in diverse places = (Utah, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Kansas), waves heaving themselves beyond their bounds = (Hurricanes & rising oceans)...wars and rumors of wars. Do we not face a multitude of judgments like that of Judah?

**Michael Brown:** Continues his instruction in the recent Tidings of Zion as he quotes: *Doctrine & Covenants 85:36-38c Therefore, verily I say unto you, my friends, Call your solemn assembly, as I have commanded you; and as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning even by study, and also by faith.*

*Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing, and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God; that your incomings may be in the name of the Lord; that your outgoings may be in the name of the Lord; that all your salutations may be in the name of the Lord, with uplifted hands unto the Most High. Therefore, cease from all your light speeches, from all laughter, from all your lustful desires, from all your pride and lightmindedness, and from all your wicked doings. Appoint among yourselves a teacher, and let not all be spokesmen at once, but let one speak at a time, and let all listen unto his sayings, that when all have spoken, that all may be edified of all, and that every man may have an equal privilege.*

*See that ye love one another; cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires; cease to be idle; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another; cease to sleep longer than is needful; retire to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary; arise early, that your bodies and your minds may be invigorated; and above all things, clothe yourselves with the bonds of charity, as with a mantle, which is a bond of perfectness and peace;*

*pray always, that you may not faint until I come; behold, and lo, I will come quickly, and receive you unto myself. Amen.*

**Michael Brown ends by saying:** Perhaps because of the disruption to our otherwise self-directed lives, we are currently more willing to ask the Lord for help. We have great need to humble ourselves before the Lord and repent of our sins. How would we respond if the Lord heard our supplications and forgave us and spoke?...Would we be humble enough to accept His direction...especially if it is not what we expect? The world desperately needs an ensign (standard) among the nations...even Zion. We must humble ourselves before almighty God...This is the (angel message) of this last dispensation of time. None of us knows the answers but God will perform His (strange act). Pray in humility and weep for Zion, turn from wickedness and carelessness. God will forgive if we are humble, repentant, and full of love for Him in our hearts. (To Clarify: The information quoted from Michael Brown is from an article he wrote for the Tidings of Zion: **While he is not opposed to a solemn assembly, or to those who support this one, he does not** have a personal testimony of the call for this solemn assembly.)



### *Action Section:* **Preparing for the Solemn Assembly**

Action = Please be Reading the articles and publications concerning the solemn assembly to help you understand it and be prepared. I know at this time, the Conference of Restoration Elders will put out a 60-day preparation guide, starting July 27th. I hope you have received it and are working individually and as a congregation towards coming into **“God’s Presence” at the solemn assembly, for He has called us into “His Presence”. What an invitation!!! This is the most important invitation anyone can receive. This is a serious matter. We must make daily preparation.**

In considering preparing for the Solemn Assembly my mind was drawn to the building of the Kirtland Temple and the dedication service that followed. Inez Smith Davis in her History of the Church says: “Sunday March 27, 1836 was the time set apart for the dedication of the Temple. At a time when they were



few in number and poor...these people built a great testimony of their faith. It was a tribute of love to their maker, and they called it, *The House of the Lord.*”



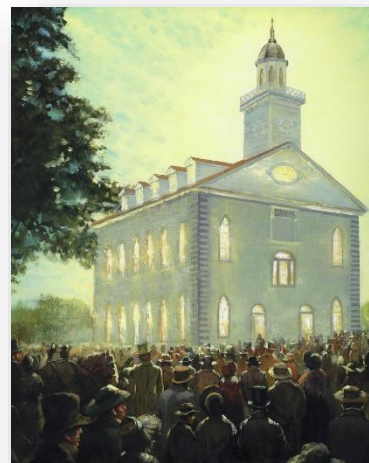
Inez goes on to say how hard everyone worked. “The women were busy spinning wool to make clothing for the workmen. Joseph the prophet and the Presidency, high priests and elders all went into the quarry to prepare stones for the Temple. Everyone worked hard and long hours to keep the work going forward.” She says, “Heber C. Kimball looking at the poverty and suffering of the church, frequently went upon the wall of the building, both by night and day and wept, crying aloud to the almighty to send means that the building could be completed... The women brought their jewelry and gave it to be sold for the building to the temple and their best china and glass were crushed and added to the mortar that covered the outside of the building.”

In considering the early church’s sacrifice to build the Temple, what are you willing to sacrifice for this upcoming Solemn Assembly? Although we are wealthy beyond measure in the material things of this world, we are depleted spiritually. Zion needs to be built but we can’t do it the way we are right now. Are you prepared to weep, cry and repent over our depleted spiritual condition? Will we lay ourselves before the Lord and admit our great need for forgiveness, pleading our cause before Him? We need Zion and we need Spiritual Renewal to build it. Only with God’s power and assistance can Zion come forth. God is calling; it is in your hands how this will turn out. I think everyone knows what needs to be done. Our priesthood is providing guidance and direction. The question is, are we willing to come down into the depths of humility and prepare ourselves for this “Great Event God has Called Us to Participate In”?

The rewards will indeed be great. The dedication service was a powerful service because the people had sacrificed and prepared. Inez says, “It is estimated that over a thousand were present. Every seat and aisle filled. No one who took part in the service ever forgot it. Even the children

remembered...babies in arms were not to be admitted because of possible disturbance, but one mother concealed her babe under her shawl and that child who had not yet spoken shouted, ‘Hosanna to God’, and the congregation sat without moving for the 3-4 hours of that session. There was a short intermission and then the services were continued in the afternoon, and many wonderful things were related of the spiritual blessings that came to the congregation on that day. In all, the services continued over 8 hours.”

**Inez then says, “In the days that followed, the people received a spiritual endowment, which was never forgotten. They went out to the world with new strength, a strength which they were to stand sorely in need of in the trying days that were before them.”**



## **GOD IS CALLING US INTO HIS PRESENCE = WILL YOU BE READY?**

*I Chronicles 16:23-29 Sing unto the Lord, all the earth; show forth from day to day his salvation. Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvelous works among all nations. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he also is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the people are idols; but the Lord made the heavens. Glory and honor are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place. Give unto the Lord, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*