

May We Ever Strive to Become “The Bride of Christ”

In the devotions from last year on the action page for February 2015 it said, “This Month I plan to look at my heart and to remove from it any sin I find there. I will also ask God to reveal to me the hidden sin in my heart that I may not even be aware of. I will come down into the depths of humility and repent. I will seek to purify/sanctify my heart through study, fasting and prayer. I will make a conscious effort to put on the whole armor of God. I will do all I can to become a Bride of Christ who has no guile or deception within my heart.”

“Without guile” means to be the same inside and out!

1) The more we surrender our will and put our trust in God, the more we will become filled with strength, faith and light. **Repentance is essential to cleanse and receive new birth.**

2) The more we surrender, the more we become aware of our weakness and that we cannot possibly do this on our own. **Jesus provided the atonement that allows us a new life--at one with Him.**

Elder Howard Parker said in a sermon: “All unused time will flow to our weakness and our actions follow our heart.” **Man is in a fallen state and we battle this carnal, sensual, and devilish nature for pure hearts, for pure minds and to submit our will into the hands of our Creator.**

Obadiah 1:3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee.

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.

We hope you will actually be inspired to re-read the full devotionals from last year. See www.ogrb.org Resource Page. May we continue to put the actions the Patriarchs recommended into our daily lives--for the cause of Zion!

Questions: Contact Pat Chadwick, Women’s Leader, 2010-2016

Stepping Stones for Spiritual Growth



Preparation Guide for February Women’s Devotionals:

Continuing in our preparation to establish the cause of Zion, consider the great Battle for our Heart.

The root word “heart” means “the center of anything.” What have you given your heart to?

It seems like this would be an easy choice--seeking Zion in our hearts--but we are blind many times to our own sins!

Do we appear to be something we’re not, hiding behind a façade for others to see? If we want a pure heart, “without guile,” we must be mighty in prayer and fasting, repenting often, letting God’s word dwell in us, forgiving others. No more facades!

Fifth thing listed in the guide prepared by the Patriarchs of the church: “Am I without guile?”

Action = “Let your every action and word reflect the truth of who and Whose we are, with no deception whatsoever.”

Read Alma 3:27-29, 50-53

Week #1 February

Put on the full armor of God and battle areas of darkness in your life by cleaving to the Light of Christ!

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.... Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day.

1. Choose Godliness.
2. Establish cause of Zion.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...

In order to have a pure heart, without guile, sometimes we must taste the bitter that we might know to prize the good. The gift of agency allows us to choose Godliness in the daily battle for our hearts, our mind and our will!

We have been placed here, in this time, to establish the "cause of Zion" which is righteousness.

What have you given your heart to?

Lift up the standard of Christ's Light in your life!

Also read D&C 85:3a-b

Week #2 February

Read Hymn #358:

"Give Me Thy Heart says the Father above, no gift so precious to Him as our love..."

Psalm 115:9-11 O Israel, trust thou in the Lord; He is thy help and thy shield. ...Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is your help and your shield.

Guard your heart from guile by submitting your will to God's will and trusting in Him -- even in times of affliction and sorrow.

A friend wrote this: "Praise God today for all your trials. ... It is through trial, testing, and emptying out yourself to God that every new revelation of Christ is given or born inside of you. ... If you remove yourself from that trial you are taking yourself out of the hands of God. Empty yourself and submit to His will."

We are in a battle for our heart.

Let us acknowledge the sovereignty of God and submit our will to His.

Trust in God!

Also read Mosiah 1:119-120

Week #3 February

Read Hymn #358:

"Give Me Thy Heart says the Spirit divine, All that thou hast to My keeping resign; Grace more abounding is Mine to impart, Make full surrender, and give Me thy heart."

D&C 24:1b ...if thou art faithful and walk in the paths of virtue ... I will preserve thy life, and thou shalt receive an inheritance in Zion.

Keep your heart fixed on the Lord by using tools to keep your heart pure and true.

Elder Tom Mitchell said in a class at OGRB that God is calling us back to these spiritual disciplines:

1. Purposeful prayer and fasting.
2. Feasting upon the Word of God daily. (renews mind, gives wisdom and counsel, convicts, and fills with the Holy Spirit)
3. Humility (meekness and lowly condition allows God's Spirit to fill us, use us and mold us)
4. Service (doers of the Word serve the Lord by serving others)

God is CALLING. He is PREPARING a place for us. Let us also be PREPARING for Him!

Also read Enos 1:46

Week #4 February

Read Hymn #358:

"Give Me Thy Heart says the Savior of men, Calling in mercy again and again. Turn now from sin, and from evil depart..."

Proverbs 16:6-7 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged; and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil. When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

In a sermon, Elder Howard Parker shared four key steps in repenting:

1. Godly sorrow

2 Corinthians 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance.

2. Admission of sin and guilt

3. Cease to do evil (true repentance means to turn around and walk in a new direction that is opposite to our sin)

4. Learn to do well

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do well.

Let us accept God's forgiveness and in turn extend our forgiveness to others.

Restore right relationships!

Fight the good fight! Keep a pure heart -- free from guile!

Also read 1 John 2:9-11