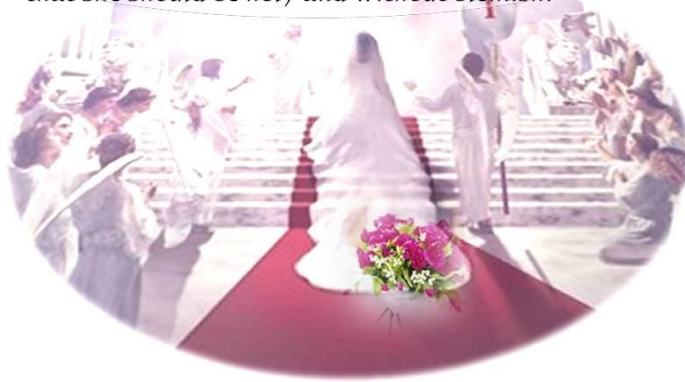


## August Week #4 Devotionals and Consideration

Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.



**We are required to impart of our substance.**

### **WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO?**

Perhaps thou shalt say, The man has brought upon himself his misery; therefore I will stay my hand, and will not give unto him of my food, nor impart unto him of my substance, that he may not suffer, for his punishments are just. But I say unto you, O man, whosoever doeth this, the same hath **GREAT CAUSE TO REPENT**; and except he repenteth of that which he hath done, he **PERISHETH FOR EVER, AND HATH NO INTEREST IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

**MOSIAH 2:30-31**

Jesus is the Judge of every soul He has created. At times, we mistakenly undertake that duty to ourselves. Judgmental thoughts flood our minds daily. We behold our fellow beings through a glass darkly. Watching each other, we mistakenly think we know and understand another's behavioral motives.

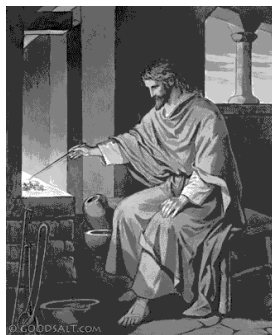
If we reverse that scenario to the idea that our peers know and understand our own behavioral motivation, we'll probably take a very different stance. We are born as individual as we can be. We live in contrasting circumstances, have assorted life experiences; we are created with varying gifts, talents, and

proclivities. None of us truly translates the actions of another. When people experience trauma, disease or abuse, changes occur in their physiological, emotional, and mental function. Since none of us are identical, we cannot hold each other to the same standards.

**Mosiah 2:36-37 And now, if God, who has created you, on whom you are dependent for your lives, and for all that ye have and are, doth grant unto you whatsoever ye ask that is right, in faith, believing that ye shall receive, O then, how had ye ought to impart of the substance that ye have, one to another? And if ye judge the man who putteth up his petition to you for your substance, that he perish not, and condemn him, how much more just will be your condemnation, for withholding your substance, which doth not belong to you, but to God, to whom also, your life belongeth.**

Our substance does not belong to us; however, we carefully guard each segment of our lives. We do not fully comprehend that we are as the dust of the earth. We desire to elevate ourselves to a higher plane. It makes us feel good to consider ourselves as superior beings. We recount to ourselves all the wonderful things we do for the Lord. After all, we give away our used clothing, teach a class at church, give someone a ride, pray for others, go to church whenever the door is open, comfort a friend in time of need.... The list we make in our minds goes on and on.

**Alma 16:223-225 And now behold, my brethren, I say unto you, Do not suppose that this is all; for after ye have done all these things, if ye turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance if ye have, to those who stand in need: I say unto you, If ye do not any of these things, behold, YOUR PRAYER IS VAIN, and availeth you nothing, and ye are as HYPOCRITES who do deny the faith; Therefore if ye do not remember to be charitable, ye are as dross, which the refiners do cast out, (it being of no worth,) and is trodden under foot of men.**



We see from the above scripture that we contemplate our list of wonderful things we do in a different light than our Maker does. Sometimes unbelievers call us hypocrites and sometimes rightly so. When we talk a good talk, we need also to walk the good walk. We pray for the sick and afflicted and this is necessary. How often do we visit them also, ministering to their needs?

**D&C 101:2g Therefore, if any man shall take of the abundance which I have made, and IMPART NOT HIS PORTION, according to the law of My gospel, unto the poor, and the needy, he shall, WITH THE WICKED, LIFT UP HIS EYES IN HELL, BEING IN TORMENT.**

So, we say we love Jesus...what does that mean? Jesus related to Peter three times that if Peter loved Him he would take action to prove it. He would submit to the will of His Lord. He would impart to the "sheep."



We like to feel that Jesus is all about US. If we search the Word of God we find that Jesus is all about ALL OF US. He wants communion with US and EVERYONE ELSE, too. He gives us the opportunity to assist Him in bringing our fellow beings to the knowledge and truth of Jesus Christ and His great love for us all. He is not willing to leave anyone behind. It is our duty and our privilege to reach out and testify to all those we have contact with.

There is a contemporary Christian song by Matthew West called "Do Something" that illustrates this concept.

The lyrics of the song refer to the terrible things that are happening to people all around us.

Matthew sings, "I shook my fist at heaven and said, 'God, why don't You do something?'" God answers him with, "I did...I created YOU."

The chorus reminds us that it's time for us to DO something.

God doesn't ask us to do anything, lest He makes a way for us. He asks us to LOVE one another. He wants us to SHOW our love for one another by our deeds. This is a challenge for us because of our human nature. Our natural man is an enemy to our God.

To accomplish the duties that He has assigned to us, we will need His divine assistance. He has told us to pray that He will supply us with the LOVE needed to do His will.

He doesn't expect us to conjure up within ourselves the feelings and thoughts necessary to minister to the people He places in our path. He only asks us to allow Him to flood our own hearts with that love that only flows from His heart. Let us go forward, being true followers of Jesus Christ!

**Moroni 7:52-53**

**Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which He hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of His Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is, that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as He is pure. Amen.**



## WHAT IF I DO SOMETHING?



**D&C 102:2b But, behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh Saints, to the poor and afflicted among them, and are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom.**

Since imparting of our substance is characteristic of SAINTS and required by the law of the CELESTIAL KINGDOM, we should have great desire to be obedient if we call ourselves Saints.

The most prominent goal in my life is to walk with Jesus Christ and to be accepted into His Kingdom. There is no greater joy to be had!

Why, then, am I slothful and disobedient?

Is it because I'm a bit lazy?  
I think so.

Is it because I lack self-discipline?  
I think so.

Is it because I'm selfish?  
I think so.

My world revolves around me.

Only occasionally do I venture into the realm of selflessness. I seldom look for ways to impart of my substance to those in need.

But, yet, I want so much to be selected as one of God's jewels.

Writing these lessons has enlightened and inspired me to try harder. I am in much need of improvement. I want to follow the Master. His love is so precious to me and I want to bless His name.

I hope you have also been lifted to new heights of service for our God and King.

His Kingdom is glorious!



Let's strive together for the Kingdom!

**Luke 12:50-52 And they said, Who then is that faithful and wise servant? And the Lord said unto them, It is that servant who watcheth, to impart his portion of meat in due season. Blessed be that servant whom his Lord shall find, when He cometh, so doing.**