

WE MUST KEEP OUR EYES ON JESUS !

Psalm 5:3 My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, **and will look up.**



Elder Eric Odida of Kenya preached at Waldo during the summer series in 2015. Like our July Devotionals, he preached on the very subjects of Looking Upwards and Being of One Heart and One Mind! We were amazed!! When God wants to send forth a concept He sends it forth in many different ways.

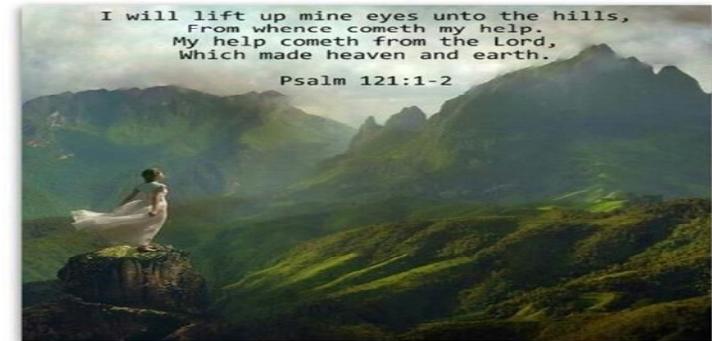
Eric quoted this Scripture from **Luke 21:24-27**: “...And then His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, tell us concerning Thy coming? And He answered them, and said, in the generation in which the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled, there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, like the sea and the waves roaring. The earth also shall be troubled, and the waters of the great deep; **Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. For the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads, for the day of your redemption draweth nigh.**”

If we are going to fulfill our role individually and as a people, to build Zion, we must begin to look upward and grow spiritually. We must become of one heart and one mind with Him and thus with each other. We must move quickly and do those things our patriarchs and most importantly our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ has asked us to do. May we set our eyes upon Jesus and follow Him.

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 lives--for the cause of Zion!

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

Stepping Stones for Spiritual Growth



Preparation Guide for July Women’s Devotionals:

High Priest Leonard Smith of OGRB gave this council by the power of the Spirit in 1994: “**I would challenge you to look to the future and approach the challenge and perplexities that are about. From here we look to our Jesus for the light and truth.** Pressing times are upon you My People; put your hands in My Hands and let Me lead you into new frontiers of discipleship and worship.”

Elder Rob Bird of Lexington gave an inspired message at our CMRB reunion in 2013: “**Practice My Kingdom in your homes each day until each home will be a beacon of light in your neighborhood. Exercise the celestial principles and laws in your branches so My Spirit will be poured out in greater power than you have witnessed or imagined...Don’t ever underestimate the value of the gift of the Holy Spirit, or the power of a fervent prayer, or fail to treasure up and feast upon the promises found in My Word, or the strength found in obedience of My two great commandments.**”

In the guide prepared by the Patriarchs of the church these challenges are given to those who seek to be a part of Zion:

3. We are required to look upward.
4. We are required to be of one heart and one mind.

Action = “Keep my eyes on Jesus through spiritual disciplines of prayer, Scripture study, fasting and consecration of my time and talents to God. Do this daily and not give up. A daily habit and lifestyle. Not overcome by problems and trials of life because I will keep my eyes on Jesus. No contentions between me and brothers/sisters in the faith. Pray for God’s help in these matters. Pray for charity in my heart at all times. Ask God to help me obey and follow the first and great commandment...I will look up!”

Matthew 22:35-39

Week #1 July

Read Hymn #101 (Tan Hymnal)

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will
grow strangely dim, In the light
of His glory and grace.”

2 Corinthians 3:16 Nevertheless,
when their heart shall turn to the
Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

Psalm 40:12-13, 16-17 For innum-
erable evils have compassed me
about; mine iniquities have taken
hold upon me, so that I am not
able to look up; they are more
than the hairs of mine head;
therefore my heart faileth me. Be
pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O
Lord, make haste to help me....Let
all those that seek Thee rejoice
and be glad in Thee; let such as
love Thy salvation say continually,
The Lord be magnified. But I am
poor and needy; yet the Lord
thinketh upon me; Thou art my
help and my deliverer; make no
tarrying, O my God.

Keep my hold firm on the Rod
of Iron. Keep my feet on the
straight and narrow path. Keep
my eyes focused on the
beautiful and white fruit tree.

1 Nephi 2:65-69 ... And it came to
pass that they did come forth and
commence in the path which led
to the tree....

Focus on Christ. Memorize His
Word through Scriptures and
Hymns. Write down blessings
and testimonies for recall.

Also read Psalm 5:3

Week #2 July

The Everlasting Covenant

Genesis 9:21-23 And the bow
shall be in the cloud; and I will
look upon it, that I may remember
the everlasting covenant, which I
made unto thy father Enoch; that,
when men should keep all My
commandments, Zion should
again come on the earth, the City
of Enoch which I have caught up
unto Myself. And this is Mine
everlasting covenant, that when
thy posterity shall embrace the
truth, and look upward, then shall
Zion look downward, and all the
heavens shall shake with
gladness, and the earth shall
tremble with joy; And the general
assembly of the church of the
firstborn shall come down out of
heaven, and possess the earth,
and shall have place until the end
come. And this is Mine everlast-
ing covenant, which I made.

Remember faith, hope, charity
qualifies us for the work. But
we also need much more! We
need virtue, knowledge,
patience, brotherly kindness,
godliness, humility and
diligence. Yes, diligence in
keeping all the commandments
and keeping our eyes on God
and our hearts set on building
up the cause of His Kingdom!

We know that if we will keep
the Vision of God’s Kingdom
(Zion) before us, everything
else will fall into place!

Also read D&C 45:12d-14
Also read D&C 34:6a
Also read Matthew 6:38

Week #3 July

“One Heart and One Mind”

Let us respond to God with
great happiness, joy and unity!

Examples of Unity

Genesis 7:23 (*Enoch’s City of Zion*)
And the Lord called His people, Zion,
because they were of one heart and of
one mind, and dwelt in righteousness;
and there were no poor among them.

Acts 2:41-47 (*After the day of
Pentecost when the Holy Ghost came
upon the disciples shortly after the
death, resurrection, and ascension of
Christ.*) Then they that gladly received
His word were baptized And all that
believed were together, and had all
things common ... with gladness and
singleness of heart, praising God, and
having favor with all the people. And
the Lord added to the church daily

Characteristics of Unity

- Just dealings
- All things common
- No contentions/disputations,
no rich/poor, no bond/free
- Miracles in name of Jesus
- Industrious rebuilders
- Commandment keepers
- Continual fasting, prayer,
meeting together often to pray
and hear the Word of the Lord
- No divisions
- All one--the children of Christ

Contention will cease when the
love of God dwells in the
hearts of the people!

Also read Genesis 6:26-7:78
Also read 3 Nephi and 4 Nephi

Week #4 July

“One Heart and One Mind”

Contentions are a huge
roadblock to becoming of one
heart and one mind. May we
even contend for the faith
without descending into
disagreement with anger.

D&C 136:3b Contentions, bickerings,
and strife are unseemly, hinder the
work of the church, and should not
find place among the Saints.

It is hard, or even impossible,
to have contentions when our
hearts are full of the love of
God--when we are keeping the
first great commandment to
love God with all our hearts,
souls, minds, and strength,
and we are keeping the second
great commandment to love
our neighbor as ourselves.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 And I will give them
one heart, and I will put a new spirit
within you; and I will take the stony
heart out of their flesh, and will give
them a heart of flesh; That they may
walk in My statutes, and keep Mine
ordinances, and do them; and they
shall be My people, and I will be their
God.

As we move toward becoming
one with Christ and the Father,
we will begin to have more and
more of the nature of God
within us. We will become
love, even as God is love.

What am I willing to do to have
more of Christ and less of me?

Also read Mosiah 9:39-41 (Covenant)
Also read Moroni 7:50-53 (Charity)