

We Need Zion Now

God is calling us to come up to a higher level, to “Keep His Commandments” and to “Build Up His Kingdom.”

He promises that if we sanctify ourselves He will empower us.



D&C 140:5c The work of preparation and the perfection of My Saints go forward slowly, and Zion conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of My people justifies.

D&C 102:2c And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto Myself.

D&C 56:4c Behold, thus saith the Lord unto My people, You have many things to do, and to repent of; for, behold, your sins have come up unto Me, and are not pardoned, because you seek to counsel in your own ways. And your hearts are not satisfied. And ye obey not the truth, but have pleasure in unrighteousness.

**Heed the warnings -- hurry and obey!
It is not too late if we will begin today!**

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men; who love not the truth, but remain in unrighteousness.

Do we love God? If so, we will embrace the truth, by going forth and keeping all of His Commandments!

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 June Women's Devotionals:

Do I want Zion? When will I recognize that if I desire to build up the cause of Zion that “keeping the commandments” is the key and it is time to do this -- even past time!

Alma 16:57-58 And now it came to pass that Alma said unto him, Behold, I am grieved because of the hardness of your heart; yea, that ye will still resist the Spirit of the Truth, that thy soul may be destroyed.

Let me no longer be in rebellion of God and His Truth -- when I refuse to listen to the Holy Spirit and do not keep the commandments I am refusing to obey God. If I have a hard heart and resist, my very soul can be destroyed.

D&C 6:3-4 Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep My commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion....

The Holy Spirit of Truth must become a part of my daily life so I will be led into the right pathway -- open my blind eyes, unfog my cloudy mind, soften my heart -- so I may desire to keep all the commandments of God. Once the desire is created in me, He promises to assist me in being obedient to Him!

In the guide prepared by the Patriarchs of the church this guidance is given to those who seek to be a part of Zion:

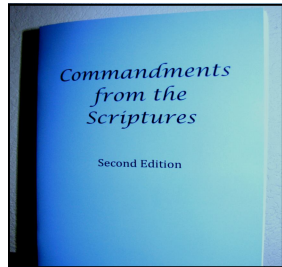
- 1. We are required to keep all the commandments.**
- 2. We are required to embrace the truth.**

Action = “Seek to keep all the commandments of God and embrace the truth, knowing this is impossible of and by myself. Pray often. Ask God to assist by the power of His Holy Spirit, even the Spirit of Truth.”

Read D&C 10 and 11

We say we love Christ. Do we?

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments....



In the introduction to the booklet on the commandments, Gwendoline Sorensen wrote, “Christ said, ‘If ye love Me, keep My commandments.’” (John 14:15)

John 15:10 If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father’s commandments, and abide in His love.

Love of God, therefore, is our motivation for keeping the commandments. Surely we all wish to abide in Christ’s love.

Without God’s help, keeping the commandments is an overwhelmingly difficult task; in fact, it is impossible! But with God all things are possible. Read Philippians 4:13

More than 100 verses in the Scriptures talk about keeping the commandments. Seek them out and study them each day.

Also read Moroni 7:53

Read Hymn #180

“Love ye Me and love all people; love as I have loved you. This your calling; this My purpose; thus be My disciples true.”

Deuteronomy 11:13-32 Harken diligently unto My commandments which I command you this day, to LOVE the Lord your God, and to SERVE Him with all your heart and with all your soul....

The **celestial law of Zion** is the law of love. Jesus said all the law and the prophets hang on two commandments: **love God and love your neighbor.**

LOVE GOD with all your heart, might, mind and strength:

- Mark 12:33-36
- D&C 59:2a
- Moroni 10:29

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as Christ loved us. Love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you:

- John 15:12-13
- Matthew 5:46
- Luke 6:27-38
- 3 Nephi 5:90

Also read D&C 17:4a-b
Also 1 John 4:21

Read Hymn #371

“Trust and Obey”

Since the creation of mankind, God has given guidance and commandments.

See Genesis 2:19-22

Adam and Eve suffered for not keeping the specific commandment God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden. We know what happened:

- Eve was beguiled by Satan
- Eve ate the forbidden fruit
- Eve persuaded Adam to eat also

Because of disobedience, they were expelled from the garden and had to endure sorrow and hard work to make a living.

See Genesis 4:5-6

God gave a new commandment to Adam and Eve: worship God and make an offering to the Lord. This time Adam was obedient. An angel appeared and asked him why he was offering sacrifices to the Lord. Adam replied: “I know not, save the Lord commanded me.” Adam had learned to have trust and to be obedient.

Realizing God gives commandments *for our good*, we know that by keeping them we will be blessed. Of greater importance, though, *we keep the commandments because we love the Lord!*

Also read Isaiah 1:18-20
Also D&C 64:7a, Also 1 Nephi 7:69
Also Mosiah 3:11

Consider blessings received when keeping commandments and consequences if not kept.

D&C 81:3b and Alma 17:47-48 I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say, but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.

CONSEQUENCES

- Isaiah 48:18
- D&C 24:4b and 100:2c
- D&C 92:3a Verily I say unto you... if you keep not My commandments the love of the Father shall not continue with you; therefore you shall walk in darkness.

BLESSINGS

- Luke 21:36
- Deuteronomy 5:29, 15:4-5
- D&C 5:6d-e, 6:1c, 12:3b, 90:1a
- 1 Nephi 5:59, 7:69
- Mosiah 1:88-91
- Revelation 2:26
- Genesis 9:21 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.

Arthur Oakman: “... love Him with all your heart, mind, might, and strength ... love your fellow men ... the essence of the kingdom of God.”

What greater blessing can we have than God’s abiding love, which allows us in turn to love our neighbor as God loves us, and thereby to keep His commandments? That is Zion!

Also read Deuteronomy 11:13-2