

May Week #2 Devotionals & Consideration



Why Should I Want to Live in Covenant Today?

Whenever someone challenges you with something new, and encourages you to try it, are you skeptical? Do you want to know why you should try it?

Most of us at least desire a reason for trying something new. In like manner, you might ask, "Why should I want to make the sacrifices to live in covenant?"

If you combine a study of God's word with an observance of people's lives—those who have done such as this, you will see two main reasons why living in Covenant has such great benefits: the NOW blessings and the FUTURE blessings!

When we choose to begin living in Covenant with God now, He promises many specific blessings for our life here on Earth—not that life will always be easy—but, that we will be encouraged along the way.

How do I know this to be true? First, take a look at **Mosiah 1:58** which promises, **He [the Lord] doth require that ye should do as He hath commanded you, for which if ye do, He doth immediately bless you....**

When I am struggling to feel the NOW blessings, because I have had disappointments, hurts, things that stir up anger in my heart, and so on, I try to make a list of my past blessings and see what the Scriptures promise for the NOW blessings.

Maybe you have done this and find it helpful, too. As **D&C 1:7** tells us, we can be assured that God will keep His promises. **Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.**

Let's look at just a few of these **NOW blessings**. Our Loving Maker desires to grant us peace and strength in hard times in our life. As you read and bask in His promises, look for the requirements on your part also.

Alma 17:3 ...whosoever shall put their trust in God, shall be supported in their trials, and in their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day.

Phillipians 4:7-9 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.... Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do; and the God of peace shall be with you.

D&C 10 Seek not for riches, but for wisdom, and behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich; behold he that hath eternal life is rich.

D&C 6:4a Verily, verily, I say unto you, even as you desire of Me, so shall it be done unto you; and, if you desire you shall be the means of doing much good in your generation.

Volumes could be written pertaining to the blessings that follow good stewardship.

Perhaps best known, and with good reason, are these Scriptures:

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground...And all nations shall call you blessed, for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts.”

D&C 129:8b-h reminds us that we should heed the many revelations to pay our tithing and give free-will offerings and consecrations to the Bishop, and, until we do, we as a people cannot receive the blessings that have been looked for in Zion.

Counsel in **D&C 130** tells us to exercise the principal of sacrifice and the repression of unnecessary wants in order to get rid of debt. This was said to be applied in our private lives as well as to the Church as a whole.

Do any of us have need to alleviate debt in our lives, or perhaps desire to help others in need, or give to the Lord's work at large?

Fulfilling this portion of our Covenant lifestyle assuredly will bless us NOW in this world as well as in the Eternal world ahead.

In addition to keeping the financial law and receiving the above blessings, there are the blessings granted due to keeping other stewardship laws.

This includes financial, physical and spiritual stewardship.

One of my favorite promises is to our nation:

II Nephi 1:12-13, 20-21 And if it so be that they shall serve Him according to the commandments which He hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them.... And if it so be that they shall keep His commandments, they shall be blessed upon the face of this land, and there shall be none to molest them, nor to take away the land of their inheritance; and they shall dwell safely forever.

Now let us look forward to the **FUTURE blessings of eternal life**—living in the presence of our Savior and His love—and being free from pain; which is, of course, so important in remembering why we're choosing the often-challenging Covenant-way of life!

Here are a few examples of the FUTURE blessings to keep in mind when struggling with following through with our part of the “deal.”

FUTURE blessings would include, of course, the gift of Eternal Life as stated in numerous places. But what comes along with Eternal Life?

D&C 51:5b And whoso is found a faithful, a just, and a wise steward, shall enter into the joy of his Lord, and shall inherit eternal life.

D&C 95:3b ...and I will try you, and prove you herewith; and whoso layeth down his life in My cause, [a life lived in Covenant] for My name's sake, shall find it again; even life eternal.

This Scripture brings a blessing that we all hope for in our lifetime, but if not in our lifetime, then we will look forward to it in the FUTURE:

Isaiah 51:11 Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy and holiness shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

FUTURE blessings continue:

D&C 76 For thus saith the Lord, I the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear Me, and delight to honor those who serve Me in righteousness and in truth unto the end; great shall be their reward, and eternal shall be their glory...

Alma 19:44 And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those who are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which called paradise; a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care and sorrow.

And here is my personal favorite FUTURE blessing. This is a promise that will come if we are found keeping the commandments—and what a marvelous promise it is!

Mosiah 1:88-91 ...I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they hold out faithful to the end, they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never ending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it.

Notice that each of these blessings do carry conditions. The conditions are where we need to focus our heart and energy; the blessings will flow freely thereafter.

Later, I will share several stories of times I have tested the Lord's promises and He has followed through with the blessings He promised.

Most of the promises found in Scripture are specifically for those who have entered into Covenant with God.

Making Covenant assures us of His blessings!

The following poem was written by my great uncle, Patriarch Bill J. Dollins:

Grant me, O Lord, just this one day,

The strength to live for Thee;

Not for tomorrow's needs I pray,

Nor rest my thoughts on yesterday,

But humbly seek Thy loving way,

And feel Thee close to me.

I can't re-live my yesterday;

For me, tomorrow may not be;

My time of service is today,

So wilt Thou help me, Lord, I pray,

To live my life in such a way,

That I may walk with Thee.

In close communion may I stay,

And with Thee ever be;

When sunlight sends its shining ray

To herald in each bright new day,

Then grant me strength,
O Lord, to say,

Just let me live today for Thee.

Also, on the next page you will find a song titled "I'll Live in Covenant." It may be sung to the tune of "Blessed Assurance."

I'LL LIVE IN COVENANT

I'll live in Cove—nant, Dear Lord with thee;
My life must sh—ow, my love for Thee.
My words and deeds now, must clearly show;
That your great love, Lord, I've come to know.

CHORUS:

To live in Cove—nant, Dear Lord with thee;
To live in Cove—nant, I've promised Thee.
Day, by day and eternally,
I'll live in Cove—nant, Dear Lord, with Thee.

Not my own will, Lord, this I can say,
Not for one moment to have my way;
Thy plan is best and this now I know,
Lead where Thou wilt, Lord, I'll gladly go.

(REPEAT CHORUS)

Thou has a plan, Lord, for me each day,
Some prayer to offer, some word to say.
Make Thy will known, now, that I may see,
Whatever pa—th, Thou hast for me.

(REPEAT CHORUS)

Thou has a place, now, for me to fill,
Where I can kn—ow, and do thy will;
Thou hast a work, Lord, for me to do,
To share that others may know you, too.

(REPEAT CHORUS)

A word to comfort, someone that's dear,
A song to gladden, a smile to cheer,
In all these ways, Lord, our lives can show,
As Cove—nant children, Your love we know.

(REPEAT CHORUS)

Help me to learn, Lord, the Cove—nant way,
I want my li—fe, to always say;
That I am living, day by day,
Always, only, the Cove—nant way.

(REPEAT CHORUS)

(author unknown—sung to the tune of "Blessed Assurance")