

Last year, in our Women's November devotional, we recommended that each woman choose a "Spiritual Growth Sister." Did YOU do that? It always helps us to have someone to assist us and help us stay accountable when we seek to change habits in our lives.

I have to confess, I chose a Spiritual Growth Sister, but then did not stay in close contact with her as I should have. I plan to renew that relationship, if she will agree to do that, and stay in contact at least through emails--once a week this time.

In thinking about this I also feel impressed to say we can also use our Close Proximity Fellowship Groups as "Spiritual Growth Women's Groups," to help us stay accountable. Invite the women from your Close Proximity Fellowship Group into your home for a time of sharing and prayer. Share one with another the things you desire to change in your lives and then pray for one another. Meet often to encourage and help one another.

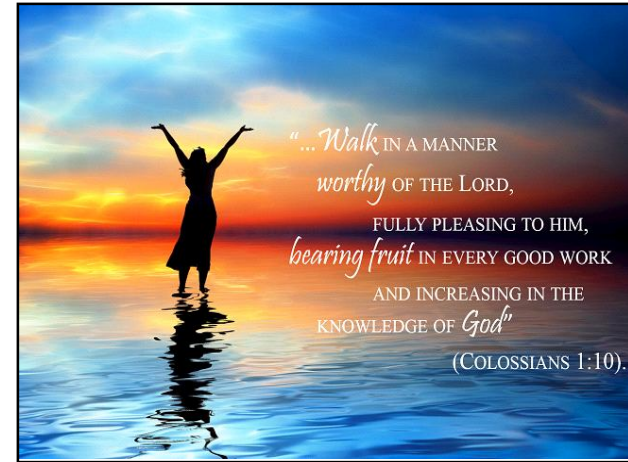


I know I will do better in the changes I desire to make in my life with the help of a friend or even a group of friends to help keep me accountable. I hope all of you will seek to make a new effort to find that "Spiritual Growth Sister or Group" to assist each other in staying accountable. If we work together we can help one another and grow together!

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!

by Pat Chadwick, Women's Leader, 2010-2016

Stepping Stones for Spiritual Growth



Preparation Guide for November Women's Devotionals:
Remember = If we want to become transformed into a Bride worthy of Christ when He returns, we must become arrayed in fine linen clean and white; we must become righteous. We need a plan to assist us in that transformation!

Remember, in recent studies they found people who made a list, along with a plan to follow, and set a goal, were much more likely to succeed in changing and developing new habits. God certainly knows what it takes for us to change; and I believe that is why the Patriarchs included, "A Plan of Action," for us to follow.

My sisters in the faith, with God's help and by helping each other, we can become adorned in robes of righteousness, prepared for Christ's return. God is calling us in many different ways to grow spiritually and come up higher.

Second thing listed in the guide prepared by the Patriarchs of the church: "Do I have ought against any person?"

Action = "Make a written list of those persons that you have ought against or that you know have ought against you. Go to them and make things right by forgiving them and/or seeking their forgiveness."
Read D&C 64:2d-2e

Week #1 November

When Christ returns will we be caught unprepared, as His Bride, wearing a torn and stained wedding dress?

Think how diligently a bride prepares for her wedding--wearing the perfect dress and looking absolutely her best from head to toe.

How will we look when Christ returns? Will Christ be able to rejoice that we have made ourselves ready for His return? Will we be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white?

Isaiah 62:5 For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy God marry thee; and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

Also read Alma 3:39-44

This very day, ask God to help you see the dirty spots/sins in your life. Ask Him to help you repent and change those things that are displeasing to Him. Become transformed into His image, and put on that wedding dress of righteousness.

Week #2 November

Read Hymn #180:

“Admonition”

Do our deeds and the way we live our lives show forth the plan and purpose of God? Are we involved in service to God? In the scriptures we are reminded that love is action. If we love God our actions will show it!

1 John 3:18-19 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue only; but in deed and in truth... hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

Also read Matthew 24:49-53

The spoken word and ministry that has been given to our branch is calling us to prepare, to change, and be more committed to God’s cause. When Christ returns will the actions and deeds in our daily lives reflect our love and service for Him?

What changes do YOU need to make in YOUR daily life so that the deeds in your life will magnify God and testify of your love for Him?

Week #3 November

Read Hymn #63:

“Let Us Pray for One Another.”

We live in a day when Satan has much power and strength.

Remember, Satan is afraid of your prayers--that is why he tries so hard to keep you from praying.

D&C 3:1e But be diligent unto the end; pray always, that you may come off conqueror; yea, that you may conquer Satan, and that you may escape the hands of the servants of Satan, that do uphold his work.

Prayer is powerful and if we will be faithful in praying for one another, we can through prayer, see our loved ones and ourselves delivered.

II Nephi 11:83 And the prayers of the faithful...

When we seek God in prayer He sends His Spirit to be with us.

Let us become mighty in prayer. Let us stand in the gap for each other.

Also read Alma 11:167-170
Note great power of prayer!

Week #4 November

In D&C 85:36b we are called to organize ourselves, to prepare every needful thing and to establish a house of prayer, fasting, faith, learning, glory, order, and to be of God--organized so as to be ready for service.

Are you ready for service? Are you ready to serve God? Are you ready to give Him your best?

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.

So let us give to God our first fruits:

1. Fruit of daily prayer
2. Fruit of fasting often
3. Fruit of growing faith
4. Fruit of daily study and learning about Him
5. Fruit of living a life where our activities glorify Him
6. Fruit of a life sacrificed and lived out for God

Ask yourself how your daily activities are organized. Are they centered in Christ and His cause? Does God have priority in your life?

Also read Matthew 6:31-37