

Stepping Stones for Spiritual Growth

Ladies (and members and friends of the Church of Jesus Christ -- Oak Grove Restoration Branch), as you may know, the majority of our women's devotionals for last year were based on the 2004 pamphlet published by the Fellowship of Restoration Patriarchs entitled, "Spiritual Preparation of the Body of Christ."

This project was initiated due to the inspired message presented to Oak Grove, as received through Elder Ed Story in June, 2014, regarding the recommendations of the Patriarchs.

During the past year, as I read our monthly devotionals, I began to sense that the guidelines and counsel presented in the pamphlet were truly "Stepping Stones for Spiritual Growth."

This coming year, on each Communion Sunday, you will see one of these "Stepping Stones for Spiritual Growth" in your bulletin.

We would not want to leave behind the 2004 Patriarchs' pamphlet, Ed Story's inspired message, or the devotionals and preparations created by the Women's Department in 2014-2015.

The monthly "Devotionals and Consideration" and "Preparation Guide for Devotionals" were far too extensive to absorb in one sitting, so we will pull some of the highlights from each one to share with you afresh--that we may follow the stepping stones and continue to grow spiritually.

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



Preparation Guide for October Women's Devotionals:
Remember = A List, A Plan and A Goal are all three Keystones for change. If you do something for 21 days it becomes a habit. Let us continue to grow change and become transformed. The goal is set before us to Build Up the Cause of Zion.

D&C 94:5f Nevertheless, Zion shall escape if she observe to do all things whatsoever I have commanded her, but if she observe not to do whatsoever I have commanded her, I will visit her according to all her works, with sore affliction, with pestilence, with plague, with sword, with vengeance, with devouring fire.

First thing listed in the guide prepared by the Patriarchs of the church: "Am I willing to deny myself now, the things of this world that cannot be taken into Thy kingdom?"

Action = "Make a written list of the activities in which you currently participate that cannot be taken into the Kingdom, and work diligently to eliminate them from your life."

Make yourself ready, for the Bridegroom is at the door. Zion calls to us. World conditions are worsening. We must quickly build up God's Kingdom in this place.

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

D&C 140:5d but My word shall not fail, neither will My promises, for the foundation of the Lord standeth sure.

Romans 12:2-3 And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.

Pray; ask God to open your mind to that which you need to change in your life to prepare yourself for Zion and Christ's return. We need to become transformed. Start this very week with at least one change.

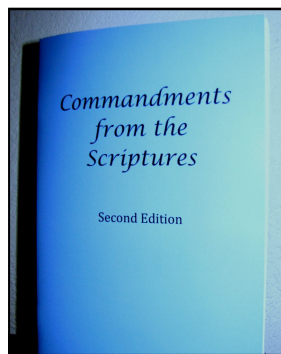
Read Hymn #180:

“Admonition”

Let us examine ourselves and consider if we are slothful in keeping God's commandments.

Over and over again we have been told to keep His Commandments.

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



Note: Sherrie Smith recently revised and expanded the above booklet, which was first published by the Oak Grove Women's Department in 1983. It is an excellent guide for studying commandments found throughout the Holy Scriptures (Inspired Version), the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants.

Read Hymn #63:

“Let us pray for one another, for the day is fading fast.”

Do you look around you and see night growing stronger in recent events in the world?

Are you developing good prayer habits?

Ask yourself how you can improve your prayer life and set a goal.

Make a commitment to come to prayer meeting on Wednesday nights and join with the body of Christ as we pray for one another.

Alma 16:219 Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto Him; cry unto Him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto Him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening.

In D&C 85:36-37 God calls us “His Friends” and tells us to assemble together. He challenges us to study His words and learn of Him through Faith and Study.

Consider what God is asking you to do in this scripture.

Could you come to church more often?

Are you daily reading and studying His words?

Consider what you need to do to improve in this area.

Make a list and a plan, then move out in faith to accomplish these things--that your faith might grow stronger.

D&C 85:36a Therefore, verily I say unto you, My friends, Call your solemn assembly, as I have commanded you; and as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning even by study, and also by faith.