

Come Unto Jesus

Is our "response" pleasing to the Lord?

We were told, through our Brother, Elder Don Cutshall, in August, 2015, that the **devotionals** written and put together by several dozen of our women in the Oak Grove Restoration Branch that year, were "pleasing to the Lord."

As you know, the **devotionals** were developed around the "Spiritual Preparation of the Body of Christ" pamphlet prepared by our Patriarchs in 2004. We did this because of Elder Ed Story's message in June 2014 calling our branch to obey and be cleansed; becoming transformed and made new creatures worthy of His Invitation. Have we forgotten this?

Additionally, these "**Stepping Stones**" have been prepared each month in this past year to highlight those **devotionals** and keep them before us and to assist us in our daily spiritual growth.

We must grow! We cannot stand still. There is no such thing as standing still in spiritual matters. If we stand still we will slowly decline.

D&C 32:3e ...wherefore, be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may be ready at the coming of the Bridegroom; for, behold, verily, verily I say unto you, that I come quickly; even so. Amen



WATCH and BE READY

Beginning next month, there will be a new type of bulletin insert -- a resource -- to assist us in growing even closer to God! We must, "Trim Our Lamps and Be Ready for the Bridegroom."

We hope you will actually be inspired to **re-read the full devotionals** from last year. [See www.ogrb.org Resource Page](http://www.ogrb.org). 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 September Women's Devotionals:

Revelation 22:14-17 Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.... I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst, Come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Why not make this personal to you by truly accepting the most important invitation: Come unto Jesus!

- Obey His commandments and be repentant.
- Have a contrite heart and seek Jesus through daily prayer and study.
- Make this invitation a priority in life.
- Follow His example and carry His image in your countenance and in your actions.

Have you accepted His invitation to Come?

Remember, His invitation to Come may be the most important one to receive, the most important one to ever accept, and the most important invitation you will ever offer to others!

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

7. We are required to come unto Jesus.

Action = "Come unto Jesus."

Revelation 22:16-17

Week #1 September

What is our response when our Lord calls us to come to Him?

Moroni 10:29-30 Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in Him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is His grace sufficient for you, that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ; ...then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.

His grace, while extended freely, does exact a response from us:

- Come repenting of sins (do not be rebellious).
- Come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit (like a little child).
- Come with humility before Christ and others (reconcile in all ways possible).
- Come and do His will (willing to sell all we have for His sake, His work, and for His people).

If we come unto Him under His conditions we will see His face!

Also read 1 John 1:8-9
Also read Matthew 5:5
Also read 3 Nephi 5:71-72

Week #2 September

COME UNTO ME
By William Baxter

“Come unto me,”
the Saviour cries,
All ye by sin oppressed;
Confess My name
before the world,
And I will give you rest.

Assume My mild
and easy yoke,
And by obedience prove,
Your heart’s devotion
to My cause,
Your gratitude and love.

In meekness strive
to do My will,
All other teachers flee,
Lay every earthly trust aside,
And learn alone from Me.

The stores of wisdom
all are Mine,
And to each trustful heart,
Treasures of knowledge,
deep and pure,
I gladly will impart.

I am of meek and lowly heart,
And those who follow Me,
Must cast all lofty pride away,
And learn humility.

Through life, then,
humbly follow on;
In death, lean on My breast;
Fear not the dark
and gloomy grave,
Beyond it lies your rest.

[The Millennial Harbinger
(October 1851): 600.]

Also read 3 Nephi 4
Also read D&C 85:18b

Week #3 September

Listen to His Words. What is important to Him? What does He want us to hear?

Mark 1:12-13 Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God; and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel.

John 4 ...Whosoever drinketh of the water which I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Matthew 6:38 Seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Mark 8:43 He that layeth down his life for My sake and the gospel’s, shall come with Him, and shall be clothed with His glory in the cloud on the right hand of the Son of Man.

Luke 17 The kingdom of God cometh not with observation; Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God has already come unto you.

Certainly, if we *Come to Jesus*, we will see that being students of His words will bring us closer to Him.

Also read Matthew 5 and 13

Week #4 September

Are we like others who have chosen to *Come unto Jesus*?

Read/share the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, found in the New Testament of the Holy Scriptures. All ages!

Consider the stories of praise: The shepherds with haste at the birth of Christ; aged Simon and Anna waiting at the temple to hold Jesus in their arms; wise men following the star and thereby being rewarded with finding Jesus and worshiping, praising God and sharing their joy with others!

Consider the stories of healing: Cast unclean spirits out [and healed] a man at Capernaum and also at the house of Simon and Andrew; healed lepers; healed the paralyzed man lowered through the roof.

Consider the stories of forgiveness and teaching: the Sermon on the Mount, the Parables, woman washed His feet with her tears; sinners full of gratitude to Jesus for chance to reverse sinful ways.

Jesus wants us to *come to Him*. Like those who came before, will we also *come unto Him* by believing, repenting, listening, learning, and proclaiming what He has done?

Also read Matt., Mark, Luke, John