

# ‘THIS HOPE’

## THE PRAYER OF ZION

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*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath **this hope** in him **purifieth himself, even as he is pure**. (I John 3:1-3)*

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which He hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that **when He shall appear, we shall be like Him** – for we shall see Him as He is – that we may have **this hope**, that we may be **purified even as he is pure**. Amen. (Moroni 7:53)*

### The Pure In Heart

Hope is an abiding prayer of the heart, and a particular hope – the hope to be like Jesus Christ when He appears in glory – is the prayer of Zion.<sup>1</sup>

*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath **this hope** in him **purifieth himself, even as he is pure**. (I John 3:2,3)<sup>2</sup>*

Why is *this* hope, called *the hope of glory*,<sup>3</sup> the prayer of Zion? As it is written, Zion is THE PURE IN HEART.<sup>4</sup>

*... verily thus saith the Lord, Let Zion rejoice, **for this is Zion, THE PURE IN HEART**; therefore let Zion rejoice... (D&C 94:5c)*

### Ye Have Purified Your Souls

We purify our hearts by obeying the Truth, Jesus Christ, through His Spirit of truth unto *unfeigned love of the brethren*.<sup>5</sup>

*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently. (I Peter 1:22)*

For this is His *new* commandment, that we love each other even as He has loved us.<sup>6</sup>

*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men*

<sup>1</sup> cf. Psalm 33:18-22, 38:15, 71:12-24, 147:11 with Romans 4:16-22, 8:25, 15:13

<sup>2</sup> Bible references are from The Holy Scriptures, an Inspired Revision (IR) of the Authorized Version, also known as the Inspired Version (IV) and Joseph Smith Translation (JST)

<sup>3</sup> cf. Colossians 1:27 & Jacob 3:4 with Romans 8:19

<sup>4</sup> cf. Jacob 2:48-50 with Jacob 3:7 & Alma 14:77

<sup>5</sup> cf. John 1:12-16, 14:6,15-18,26, 16:13 & 17:17 with I John 3:16-19 & D&C 42:12e

<sup>6</sup> John 15:12-14

know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:34,35)

*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. (John 15:12-14)*

It is written, therefore, that we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren even as Jesus laid down His life for us.<sup>7</sup>

*Hereby perceive we the love of Christ, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue only; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. (I John 3:16-19)*

### **Even As He is Pure**

Is it actually possible for us to love with such a great and perfect love as Jesus Christ has loved us – with a sacrificial love that leads us to lay down our lives for our brethren – and so fulfill the law and commandment of Jesus Christ? Notwithstanding what we may conclude, this is nonetheless what Jesus requires of us.<sup>8</sup>

*Behold, I am the law, and the light; look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live, for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life. Behold, I have given unto you the commandments; therefore keep my commandments. And this is the law and the prophets, for they truly testified of me. (III Nephi 7:10-12)*

We cannot so love, however, in and of our-

<sup>7</sup> cf. Alma 27:25

<sup>8</sup> cf. Romans 13:8-10 with Matthew 7:21 & 22:36-39

selves.<sup>9</sup> This kind of love is not natural (native) to our hearts.<sup>10</sup> How then are we to love as Jesus loves and, thereby, be like Him?<sup>11</sup> We must be born again, born of the incorruptible seed of God, His incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.<sup>12</sup>

*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. (I Peter 1:23)*

*It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63)*

*... If ye continue in my word, **then are ye my disciples indeed**; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free ...If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John 8:31,32,36)*

As in all things, God does not give us commandments except He first provides a way for us to accomplish them.<sup>13</sup> Accordingly, we must look to God to bestow upon us charity, the pure and perfect love by which Jesus Christ loves, the same love He bestows upon all who are true followers of His Son.<sup>14</sup>

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which He hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, **that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him – for we shall see Him as He is – that we may have this hope, that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen. (Moroni 7:53)***

<sup>9</sup> cf. Moroni 7:18-20,45-53 & 8:18 with 10:29,30

<sup>10</sup> cf. Romans 5:6-11

<sup>11</sup> cf. I John 4:8,16 & 5:12 with II Corinthians 4:5-7

<sup>12</sup> John 1:12-16 & 3:1-21 with Alma 3:27-37

<sup>13</sup> I Nephi 1:65 & 5:59; cf. D&C 46:4b

<sup>14</sup> cf. Romans 5:1-5 with III Nephi 4:49,50

## And Hope Maketh Not Ashamed

Jesus Christ is our hope.<sup>15</sup> Therefore, it is written<sup>16</sup> that we are *saved by hope*, specifically *this hope, the hope of glory, the earnest expectation* of being glorified with Jesus Christ.<sup>17</sup>

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have ... received the Spirit of adoption; whereby we cry, Abba, Father...and if children, then...joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, **that we may be also glorified together.** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be named with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.** For **the earnest expectation [hope] of the creature** waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to tribulation not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected it **in hope.** Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For...the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.** For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then with patience we do wait for it. (Romans 8:14-25)*

To be glorified together with our Lord must we must love fervently, and to love fervently we must pray *with all the energy of heart* to be filled with His Spirit whereby we might be filled with His pure and perfect love, charity.<sup>18</sup> For, as it is written, we receive the love of God through His Spirit of

<sup>15</sup> I Timothy 1:1

<sup>16</sup> cf. Romans 15:4 & I Corinthians 10:11

<sup>17</sup> cf. Colossians 1:27 with Romans 5:3-5 & Philip-  
pians 1:20

<sup>18</sup> Moroni 7:50-53; cf. John 14:15-18 & I John  
4:8,16 with D&C 46:8b & Moroni 7:50-53 & 8:18

truth, the Holy Ghost or Comforter.<sup>19</sup>

*And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Romans 5:5)*

And we receive His Spirit through the prayer of faith.<sup>20</sup>

*Remember that that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit, and in this there is no condemnation; **and ye receive the Spirit through prayer;** wherefore, without this there remaineth condemnation. (D&C 63:16)*

*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 20,21)*

## Hope for a Better World

A common trait found in those who trust in God is an indomitable hope and confidence in His compassion.

*This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. (Lamentations 3:21-26)*

They hope for a better world, even a place at the right hand of God where our Lord is glorified.<sup>21</sup>

*Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with*

<sup>19</sup> I Nephi 3:63-71 with Moroni 8:29b

<sup>20</sup> I Nephi 3:61-75 with Luke 3:28,29 & D&C 42:5

<sup>21</sup> cf. Jacob 2:23,24 with Acts 2:32-36 & Romans  
8:34

*surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God. (Ether 5:4)<sup>22</sup>*

### **That We Might Live Through Him**

God sent His Only Begotten Son into the world *that we might live through Him* and, thereby, be like Him in this world.

*In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live through him**. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another... And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **because as he is, so are we in this world**. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us. (I John 4:9-11, 16-19)*

Accordingly, those who trust in Jesus Christ will shine forth as He shown forth, even as a light on a hill.<sup>23</sup> For this is our calling in our Lord, to let our Light – meaning Jesus Christ who is our Light – shine through us unto the world to the glory and honor of our heavenly Father.

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the light of the world; a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid... Therefore, let your light*

<sup>22</sup> cf. Hebrews 11:8-19 with Romans 4:16-25; see also Galatians 2:20,21, 4:6,19 & 5:5,6 with John 5:19,31, 8:44 & 14:10-12; see also D&C 17:7 & Alma 19:65-71 with II Corinthians 4:6,7 & Hebrews 1:3

<sup>23</sup> cf. Matthew 4:15,16 with Isaiah 2:2-4, 52:6-10, 55:6-13, 58:13,14, 59:21

*so shine before this world, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16,18)*

*While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light... (John 12:36a)*

*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. (II Corinthians 4:6,7)*

As it is written, glory and praise of God is found in this, that we bring forth much fruit in all manner of righteousness and truth.<sup>24</sup>

*Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7,8)*

*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, **unto the glory and praise of God**. (Philippians 1:9-11)*

Briefly comprehended, through His Only Begotten Son, His everlasting incarnate Word of Life, God has provided *the Way* whereby we may accomplish all His commandments.<sup>25</sup> To illustrate, God commanded us to be holy even as He is holy.<sup>26</sup> In order for us to keep this commandment,

<sup>24</sup> John 15:1-17 & Ether 5:27-29 with Ephesians 5:9 & Galatians 5:22-26

<sup>25</sup> cf. I Nephi 1:65 & 5:59 & D&C 92:1 with John 14:6, I John 1:1,2 & Colossians 2:6-10

<sup>26</sup> I Peter 1:16

God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to baptize all who believe on His name with fire and the Holy Ghost, and thereby hallow them.<sup>27</sup>

*John answered them, saying; I baptize with water, but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; He it is of whom I bear record. He is that prophet, even Elias, who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose shoes' latchet I am not worthy to unloose, or whose place I am not able to fill; for he shall baptize, not only with water, but with fire, and with the Holy Ghost. (John 1:27,28)*

Without Jesus, we can do nothing.<sup>28</sup> He is our life, even our *strength* and our *song*, and has become our *salvation*.<sup>29</sup>

*And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee; though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion; for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee. (Isaiah 12:1-6)*

## **The King of Zion**

Jesus is the Christ. He is *Messiah*, the *King of Zion*, the *Rock of Heaven*.

*And the Lord said, Blessed is he through whose seed Messiah shall come; for he saith, I am Messiah, the King of Zion, the Rock of*

<sup>27</sup> Mark 1:6 & John 1:11,12,16 with John 14:6

<sup>28</sup> John 15:4,5

<sup>29</sup> cf. Colossians 3:1-4 with Exodus 15:2 & Psalm 118:14

*heaven, which is broad as eternity; and whoso cometh in at the gate, and climbeth up by me shall never fall.*<sup>30</sup> (Genesis 7:59 IR)

And He calls His people *Zion* because they are of one heart (a pure and perfect heart) and mind (a sound and firm mind), and dwell together in righteousness, having no poor among them.<sup>31</sup>

*And the Lord called His people Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them. (Genesis 7:23 IR)*

This condition of righteousness that prevails among His people is founded upon the atonement He has made for them.<sup>32</sup> Our Lord, as the Lamb of God, was slain from the foundation of the world that He might redeem His people, *Zion*.<sup>33</sup> That is, He gave Himself to atone for their sins and to *purify unto Himself a peculiar people*, a people who are *pure even as He is pure*.<sup>34</sup>

*For the grace of God which bringeth salvation to all men, hath appeared; teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ**; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, **and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.** (Titus 2:11-14)*

Accordingly, those who set their hearts upon being pure as He is pure will have a portion

<sup>30</sup> cf. John 10:1-18 & II Nephi 6:79-85 with Matthew 11:12-16

<sup>31</sup> cf. Philippians 2:1-5 & I Corinthians 2:9-16 with Hebrews 8:10-13 & Ezekiel 36:26-28; cf. Jacob 2:49,50

<sup>32</sup> cf. John 15:13,14 with Alma 8:97 & Alma 9:32

<sup>33</sup> cf. Genesis 7:54 IR & Revelation 13:8 with John 15:13,14 with D&C 45:2d-1,18

<sup>34</sup> Romans 5:6-11

in Zion. They become new creatures in whom *old things are passed away ... all things become new.*<sup>35</sup>

*Therefore if any man live in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*  
(II Corinthians 5:17)

Upon being born of God, a mighty change takes place in their hearts, causing them to no longer have a disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.<sup>36</sup>

*And now, because of the covenant which ye have made, ye shall be called the children of Christ, His sons and His daughters; for behold, this day He hath spiritually begotten you, for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on His name; therefore, ye are born of Him and have become His sons and His daughters.* (Mosiah 3:8,9)

But this is not the end of their conversion. They must continue on *in the faith of Christ*, feasting upon His words and, thereby, walk in wisdom's path until they grow up together in the full stature of Christ, until they love fervently even as our Lord loves.<sup>37</sup>

*... they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God.* (Helaman 2:31)

This is God's call upon our lives, to set our affections on *things above* that we might be sanctified, i.e. set apart, for His king-

<sup>35</sup> cf. Matthew 6:22,38 IR with I Timothy 1:1

<sup>36</sup> cf. IV Nephi 1:3,4,17-21 with Mosiah 3:3,4,8,9 & John 3:14-22

<sup>37</sup> cf. II Nephi 13:27-32 with Mosiah 1:79-90; see also Ephesians 4:8-16 & Galatians 2:16-21 with I Peter 1:22,23

dom.<sup>38</sup> Whosoever responds to His call will appear with our Lord in glory.

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **Set your affection on things above**, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, **then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*** (Colossians 3:1-3)

### Have Ye Received His Image...?

Is this our hope, to appear with Jesus Christ in glory? Do we have this hope abiding within us, to receive His image within our countenances and thereby be pure as He is pure? This was the question Alma was led to ask the church in His day.

*And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, Have ye spiritually been born of God? **Have ye received His image in your countenances?** Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do you exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you? Do you look forward with an eye of faith, and view this mortal body raised in immortality, and this corruption raised in incorruption, to stand before God, to be judged according to the deeds which have been done in the mortal body? I say unto you, Can you imagine to yourselves that ye hear the voice of the Lord, saying unto you, in that day, Come unto me ye blessed,<sup>39</sup> for behold your works have been the works of righteousness upon the face of the earth? (Alma 3:27-32)*

Now again the Lord is asking His church if this is the desire of our hearts, to be pure as Jesus is pure? Unless we are *possessed of His love* we are nothing and, therefore, cannot assist in building up His Zion.<sup>40</sup>

*Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto*

<sup>38</sup> cf. John 14:6

<sup>39</sup> cf. Matthew 25:32-47

<sup>40</sup> cf. Moroni 7:49-53 with 8:18

*you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. Behold, I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work; **and no one can assist in this work, except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things whatsoever shall be intrusted to his care.** (D&C 11:3,4)*

*And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity... Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but **charity is the pure love of Christ**, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. (Moroni 7:50,52)*

Therefore, my beloved brethren, let us heed the call to pray in faith,<sup>41</sup> to pray with *all the energy of heart*, that we might be filled with charity.

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love which He hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, that **when He shall appear, we shall be like Him** – for we shall see Him as He is – that we may have **this hope**, that we may be **purified even as he is pure**. Amen. (Moroni 7:53)*

If we so pray God will fill us with His Holy Spirit whereby we are filled with this love and the blessed hope that shall sustain us until the end shall come.<sup>42</sup>

*...And the remission of sins bringeth meekness and lowliness of heart, and because of meekness and lowliness of heart cometh the visita-*

*tion of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come when all the saints shall dwell with God. (Moroni 8:29b)*

Let us take heart, then, for the Lord has said:

*The hopes of my people and the goals of my church, while not yet fully realized, and at times and to many seemingly distant, are closer to realization than many recognize. (D&C 142:5a)*

It is His good pleasure to give us the kingdom, but we must seek it with our whole hearts.<sup>43</sup>

*Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound, and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble, and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills, and flourish; and Israel shall be saved in mine own due time. And by the keys which I have given shall they be led, and no more be confounded at all. Lift up your hearts and be glad; your redemption draweth nigh. Fear not, little flock, the kingdom is yours until I come. Behold, I come quickly. Even so. Amen. (D&C 34:6)*

*I am in your midst and ye can not see me, but the day soon cometh that ye shall see me and know that I am; for the veil of darkness shall soon be rent, and he that is not purified shall not abide the day; wherefore, gird your loins and be prepared. Behold, the kingdom is yours and the enemy shall not overcome. (D&C 38:2b,c)*

<sup>41</sup> cf. Ether 5:6-10 & Moroni 7:18-26 with Hebrews 11:1

<sup>42</sup> I Nephi 3:187-189 with Hebrews 6:19

<sup>43</sup> D&C 38:4d-f