

Teaching Guide

ABOUT

This teaching guide is designed to help parents with one-on-one teaching situations with their children. It is not meant to be read word for word, but rather will give outlines and suggestions that will help parents teach these important principles in a way that will facilitate edification with their children. Each book, and subsequently each pair of Christ like attributes, is broken up into sections in this teaching guide for easier access and quick referencing. Each section is divided into four sections; Background, Questions, Apply, and Commit. “Background” contains information relevant to the subject and references to material that will help strengthen understanding of the subject. These references are to scripture as well as historical figures who exemplified the attribute, or who were talking about it. “Questions” is a section dealing with examples of questions you can ask your children to help you understand how much or little your child does understand. They are designed to be open ended questions that will not make your child feel stupid, but rather help provoke deeper thought on the subject. Asking questions is most effective when done after reading a book or teaching a principle. “Apply” is an example overview of how to apply the attributes to everyday life, and also why it is relevant in day-to-day life. The stories themselves will greatly help children apply principles in a way that makes sense to them. Finally “Commit” covers how to commit and challenge your children to become the kind of person that Jesus Christ was. You should not be afraid to commit after teaching your children every single time. Commitments should always be in three parts-

- I. “Will you...” the actual commitment should always be a direct and clear question that is easy to understand. It should always be a yes/no question that makes the child commit one way or the other.
- II. “When you...” after the child commits to living said principle you should always promise them blessings- this is done with “assumptive language”, meaning you assume they will do what they say they are going to do and do not play the devil’s advocate. (ie. say “when” and not “if”)
- III. “I know...” after promising them blessings you need to share with your child what you know to be true and how you know it to be true on the principle.

Listed in each section are some examples of each to help get your thoughts together as well as give you some ideas.

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Charity and Love

BACKGROUND

Jesus when asked what was the greatest of all the commandments responded:

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

-Matthew 22; 37-40

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught:

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God... bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your father in heaven...”

-Matthew 5:9, 44-45

Charity is “the pure love of Christ.” When we are filled with it we seek to do good; keeping the commandments of God while feeling a sincere concern for the happiness and welfare of others. You will begin to see people as not just people, but as children of God with divine heritage and godly potential.

Paul taught charity like this:

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

-1 Corinthians 13

Peter taught that:

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”

-1 Peter 4; 8

Quotes on charity and love:

“It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

- Mother Teresa

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”

-Anne Frank

“Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not. Do not waste time concerned whether you “love” your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone you will presently come to love him.”

-C.S. Lewis

“A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog.”

-Jack London

“The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

“To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own.”

-Abraham Lincoln

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

QUESTIONS

- *“How would you like to be treated in school? How do you treat others?”*
 - *“How do you think Michelle/Mike felt when they couldn’t fit in? How could you have helped?”*
 - *“What makes you feel sad/hurt/upset? What makes you feel better?”*
 - *“What could you have done in these situations to make Michelle and Mike feel okay?”*
 - *“Is being good at sports/music/science/art the most important thing about a person? What is?”*
 - *“What do you think Jesus would have done in this situation?”*
 - *“Why do you think they were going to pray? What do you think they were going to ask God?”*
 - *“Why do you think it was important that Mike/Michelle find a friend?”*
-

APPLY

Like in the story with Mike and Michelle, fitting in and finding friends can be hard in life. There will be many challenges and there will be people who are not very nice. We must however remember how it feels to be treated unfairly/impolitely/unkindly and treat others the way we would like to be treated, regardless of whether or not the person is being nice to us. When we live like this and treat others kindly (even when they are being mean to us) we will find that our own lives will become happier and it will no longer matter if the other person is naughty or nice. Share a toy, help someone up when they fall, hug someone when they are feeling down, and you will be lifted higher than the person you help lift.

COMMIT

- I. “Will you...” treat others the way that Jesus would treat them/love your neighbor as yourself/be kind and considerate to everyone/share your toys and hug someone when they are feeling down/love and treat people the way you want to be loved and treated?
 - II. “When you...” treat others the way Jesus would treat them you will feel His love in your life/ when you share you toys and hug someone when they are feeling down you will feel better than if you had been selfish.
 - III. “I know...” that when I have lifted others up and helped them I have had peace and happiness in my life/ when I have shared I had more fun with the person than when I was alone/ that Jesus is happy when we make others happy.
-

Obedience and Sacrifice

BACKGROUND

Obedience is the first law of heaven and is a principle of faith. Jesus himself stressed the importance of obedience to God's commandments and laws when he taught the Sermon on the Mount:

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven... Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven... Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

-Matthew 5; 13-16/19-20, 7; 21-27

Jesus also taught the powerful doctrine that:

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

-John 14; 15

The relationship between obedience and sacrifice is like that of a circle and an oval (or a square and a rectangle) in that obedience is sacrifice, but sacrifice is not necessarily obedience- just like a square is a rectangle but a rectangle is not necessarily a square... (And likewise a circle is an oval but an oval is not necessarily a circle.) This is why obedience is greater than sacrifice; for if one is completely obedient he has sacrificed completely, whereas if someone is sacrificing completely it does not by definition mean he is completely obedient. A real life application to clarify would be this example:

You tell your son to clean his room every Friday; he however makes plans to go to a ballgame on Friday that will take up all of his free time- so obviously he will not get his room clean. (Obedient) You remind him that he needs to be obedient and he cancels his plans for the ball game (Sacrifice) and stays home. Friday comes and goes and he has not cleaned his room. (Obedience)

What was more important, him giving up his ball game (Sacrifice) or getting the room clean (Obedience)? Sacrifice can lead to obedience and obedience is sacrifice (you give up your will for another's will) but sacrifice without obedience is dead, like faith and works.

Quotes on obedience and sacrifice:

"You can sacrifice and not love. But you cannot love and not sacrifice."

-Kris Vallotton

"Let us here observe, that a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things, never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation."

-Joseph Smith Jr.

*"Seven Deadly Sins;
Wealth without work
Pleasure without conscience
Science without humanity
Knowledge without character
Politics without principle
Commerce without morality
Worship without sacrifice."*

-Mahatma Gandhi

"Too few characters out there, flying around like that, saving old girls like me. And Lord knows, kids like Henry need a hero. Courageous, self-sacrificing people. Setting examples for all of us. Everybody loves a hero. People line up for them, cheer them, scream their names. And years later, they'll tell how they stood in the rain for hours just to get a glimpse of the one who taught them how to hold on a second longer. I believe there's a hero in all of us, that keeps us honest, gives us strength, makes us noble, and finally allows us to die with pride, even though sometimes we have to be steady, and give up the thing we want the most. Even our dreams..."

-May Parker (Spiderman)

“[To have Faith in Christ] means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you.”

-C.S. Lewis

“God is God. Because he is God, He is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in His holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to... Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person's seemingly small act of obedience! Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next.”

-Elisabeth Elliot

“What God says is best, is best, though all the men in the world are against it.”

-John Bunyan,

“There is nothing that we are enduring that Jesus does not understand, and He waits for us to go to our Heavenly Father in prayer. If we will be obedient and if we are diligent, our prayers will be answered, our problems will diminish, our fears will dissipate, light will come upon us, the darkness of despair will be dispersed, and we will be close to the Lord.”

-Robert D. Hales

QUESTIONS

- *“What do Flip and Skip learn by the end of the story?”*
 - *“How would their day have been different if they had been obedient to their mother?”*
 - *“How is being obedient to God like being obedient to your mother?”*
 - *“Does God want us to listen to him? How so?”*
 - *“Why did the mother have those rules? How would they have helped them?”*
 - *“What happened when Flip and Skip were disobedient?”*
 - *“Why does being disobedient never make you happy?”*
-

APPLY

Like in the story of Flip and Skip, being disobedient is never fun. We know that “wickedness never was happiness” and that rules and commandments are there to keep us safe and happy, not to make us unhappy. We can have fun while being obedient, there is much good in this world that God created for us, but there are also dangers and things that can cause much unhappiness. God has given us commandments to keep us from spiritual and physical harm, that when obeyed grant us protection, happiness, and great treasures in the life to come. Listen to your parents, obey the commandments, go to church, and otherwise be obedient and the Lord will protect you from the “wolves” of the world.

COMMIT

- I. “Will you...” be obedient to God’s commandments/listen to your parents and follow their protective council/follow the Saviors example by being obedient/ be like Flip and Skip and be obedient to your parents from now on?
 - II. “When you...” live your life obedient to God’s commandments you will be safe/listen to parents you will be protected/follow the Savior and are obedient you become like Him.
 - III. “I know...” that being obedient to God’s commandments has given me safety and peace/that following the Savior’s example and being obedient is the reason why I have peace/if Flip and Skip had been obedient they would have had a better day.
-

Faith and Hope

BACKGROUND

The story of the Elder Basilisk (Basilisks are lizards commonly known as the “Jesus Lizard” because they run on water) is taken in part from the story of Jesus Christ walking on water in the New Testament. It is a story of the “fourth watch principle”, but before we can understand “the fourth watch principle” we first must have an understanding of faith and works, as well as what a “watch” is.

A “watch” was a period of time that a guard would stand guard during the night and morning. There were typically three watches, but the Roman’s added a fourth. They were broken up as follows:

Sundown(6AM) to 9PM	First watch
9PM to midnight(12AM)	Second watch
Midnight(12AM) to 3AM	Third watch *
3AM to sun rise(6AM)	Fourth watch

Hope is an abiding trust that the Lord will fulfill His promises to you. It is shown in confidence, optimism, enthusiasm, and patient perseverance. Faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things, but when you have faith you hope for things which are not seen but which are true. Faith in Jesus Christ means a belief in Him as the Son of God, the Only Begotten of the Father in the Flesh. It means that you accept Him as your Savior and Redeemer and believe your sins can be forgiven through His Atonement. Faith in Him means that you trust him and are confident that He loves you. Your faith in Jesus Christ grows as you become better acquainted with Him and His teachings and as you explore the scriptures and learn of His ways, His love for all people, and His commandments. When we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to the principle (commandment) upon which it is predicated. We however receive no witness (blessing) until after the trial of our faith, and the greater the trial or tribulation the greater the blessings.

James summed this up well:

“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works:

shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?"

-James 2

When asked "how can we know the way?" Jesus responded:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

-John 14; 6

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

-John 3; 16

Paul taught:

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims

on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to fight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

-Hebrews 11

In summary:

1. *Faith precedes the miracle*
 2. *Faith without works is dead*
 3. *No witnesses until after a trial of your faith*
 4. *We don't receive any blessing unless we are obedient*
 5. *The bigger the trial and the harder the tribulation the greater the blessings, glory, and miracles*
 6. *The opposites of faith and hope are fear and despair.*
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So what is the “fourth watch principle”? The Lord after performing the miracle of feeding thousands with just a few loaves of bread and a few fish commanded his apostles to get into a boat and go to the other side of the nearby sea unto the city of Bethsaida, while he sent the people away. What follows is the account giving in the New Testament. (The words in red are my own explanation of what is happening):

(Mark 6)

“And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.”

(So Jesus is alone in a nearby mountain praying)

“And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.”

(So they have so far rowed into the evening as it was now “even”, or evening and the ship was now somewhere in the middle of the sea and Jesus alone was on land)

“And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them:”

(So Jesus is watching them toil and work and row INTO the wind, he can calm the seas and make their travels safe, but he doesn't but instead just watches them- and for how long?)

(Matthew 14)

“And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.”

(The fourth watch is between 3-6 AM. So the Lord watched them row into the wind for the good part of around 6-12 hours before he came down off the mountain and walked on water to them.)

“And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.”

So what did we learn about the “fourth watch principle”?

- 1. The Lord does not ask us to do the easiest things possible, but simply what is required of us. Sometimes that means rowing into the wind for the better part of 6-12 hours when common sense would dictate that you should bring your boat to shore and wait until morning.*
 - 2. Jesus Christ is watching us, and praying for us to push on. With just a word, he can make the sea go calm in our life, but he doesn't and for a purpose. He does however continually watch over us and pray for us to have the strength to endure tribulation.*
 - 3. If you don't endure or row for 12 hours you will never get to see Jesus walking on water in your life, nor will you ever get to walk on water to him. True miracles will not be seen.*
 - 4. As followers of Christ how often do we casually put our ships on the shores of life waiting for the seas to settle before we will launch our boats and do what the Lord requires of us? How often do we criticize Peter*
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as the Lord did “O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” while we admire the storm tossed sea from warm sandy beaches?

5. *Peter had to row 12 hours into a head wind through the night to walk on water as far as he did; can you say the same about your life?*

Are there any other similar accounts that reflect a “fourth watch principle”? Actually there are hundreds, in scripture as well as historical events that shaped the world:

1. *Abraham and Isaac. Abraham had to wait for many years (basically his whole life) before he was able to have a single son, and once commanded to kill his son he had to travel up the mountain, make the altar, and even had to raise the blade to kill his son before the Lord “walked across the water” for him.*
 2. *Every good missionary story will have aspects of the “fourth watch” as missionaries of Christ will always have to first push forward in faith before miracles are seen.*
 3. *Feeding the thousands with just a few loaves of bread and fish. The Lord told the apostles to gather everyone together and get the bread and fish, blessed them and then began breaking them. The apostles were thinking the whole time that there wasn’t enough and the miracle of feeding the thousands happened in the last hours or even minutes as the food itself was being blessed, broken, and/or passed around.*
 4. *Moses parting the Red Sea. The Israelites were backed up to the Red Sea, this being the very place that Moses was commanded to bring them. With their backs against the Red Sea the armies of Pharaoh came after them and the Israelites mourned and murmured thinking all was lost and they would be slaughtered by the army which was now crashing down towards them. It wasn’t until their backs were against the wall and death was imminent that the Lord sent down a pillar of fire stopping the enemy’s armies and parting the Red Sea through his servant Moses.*
 5. *Daniel in the lion’s den. Daniel had to go through multiple trials before being thrown in with the lions. It wasn’t until the lions were within feet of him that the Lord closed their mouths and created a miracle for him.*
 6. *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. As with Daniel, these three were thrown into a fire and it wasn’t until the flames were all around them that the Lord finally stepped in, protecting them and creating a miracle for them and their faith.*
 7. *Elijah and the widow. The widow was gathering sticks to build one last fire to make one last meal for her son and herself to eat before they laid down and died themselves. Elijah asked the woman to first make him some food and worry not about herself. It wasn’t until after she had made the last of her food and given it to the prophet that her cruise of oil never failed.*
 8. *Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus was sick, Jesus didn’t come to heal him even when he asked. Lazarus died and Jesus still did not come back. He did not come to Lazarus until after three days had passed which was important because in Jewish culture after three days the spirit is said to leave the body permanently. It wasn’t until this time that Jesus came back and asked to be brought to the tomb. People even warned him that the body was going to start to smell it had been so long; Jesus raised him from the dead.*
 9. *Noah’s Ark. Noah preached for and built the ark in a period of over a hundred years. No one listened and he was mocked as he built a giant boat on land for over a hundred years. No animals were appearing, no rains came down during that time period. It wasn’t until the very end that the animals began to appear and enter the ark and the rains fell. It took Noah over 100 years of faith and courage before he got his miracle and was safe from the flooding water.*
 10. *General Washington in the American Revolution. Battle after battle General Washington lost to the British while fighting for freedom (a God given right) and the Declaration of Independence. (a piece of paper that holds more power than even the Magna Carta). It wasn’t until after defeat upon defeat, and freezing*
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temperatures and starving conditions that the war turned around. (George Washington praying at Valley Forge)

11. *Thomas Edison and the light bulb. Edison, when queried by a reporter about the seemingly incredible difficulties associate with his work on the light bulb rebutted, "I have not failed 700 times. I've succeeded in proving 700 ways how not to build a light bulb." Needless to say Edison had to try and fail and continue pushing on until God "showed him the light".*

Quotes on faith and hope:

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

-C.S. Lewis

"Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens."

-J.R.R. Tolkien

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

"You have as much laughter as you have faith."

-Martin Luther

"Everyone would like to have stronger faith. By themselves, the scriptures may not strengthen your faith, but being faithful to what they teach, does. In other words, faith cannot be separated from faithfulness."

-John Bytheway

“When every hope is gone, 'when helpers fail and comforts flee,' I find that help arrives somehow, from I know not where. Supplication, worship, prayer are no superstition; they are acts more real than the acts of eating, drinking, sitting or walking. It is no exaggeration to say that they alone are real, all else is unreal.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

“It is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels worthy of himself and claims kindred to the great God who made him.”

-Abraham Lincoln

QUESTIONS

- *“Who do you think the Elder Basilisk is?”*
 - *“How do you think believing that his Elder Brother could save him helped the basilisk?”*
 - *“How does having faith help you get out of whirlpools?”*
 - *“How can Jesus help you get out of trouble like the Elder Basilisk did?”*
 - *“What kind of whirlpools can we get sucked into? How can Jesus help us out of them?”*
 - *“Why was seeing his Elder Brother more important than hearing what the rest of the world was saying?”*
 - *“What happens when you focus on the what the lizards on the beach are saying and not focused on your Elder Brother?”*
-

APPLY

Like in the story of the Elder Basilisk, Jesus Christ can and will save us from the whirlpools of life, if we have faith in him and live obedient to him. The world will mock and scorn us for our belief in Jesus Christ and tell us to just “give up” and let the whirlpools take us under. We however must be “deaf” to these people and not give them ear; for their words are poison and are the opposite of faith and hope- despair and doubt. We must keep our eyes focused on that which others cannot see because of a lack of faith, and remain deaf to their insults while still being polite and thanking them for that which that might have given. Others around you may lose faith and give into the temptation of the whirlpool but you must not, for if you hold out faithful long enough (into the fourth watch) you will see Jesus walking on water.

COMMIT

- I. “Will you...” have faith and follow Jesus and His teachings/trust God and His power to deliver you from the whirlpools of life/live a life centered in faith in Jesus Christ?
 - II. “When you...” have faith and follow Jesus your life will have peace/when you trust God and are obedient. He will deliver you from the whirlpools of life/ live a life centered in faith you will be able to see things more clearly and have a deeper understanding of life
 - III. “I know...” that having faith and following Jesus in my life is what made me a better person/having trust in God pays off as He has delivered me from addictions in my life/ having my life centered in faith has made all the important things in life a close part of me and all the unimportant things fall away.
-

Diligence and Work

BACKGROUND

Diligence is consistent, steady, energetic, and earnest effort in doing the Lord's work. The Lord expects you to work diligently as diligence in keeping the Lord's commandments is an expression of your love for Him and His work. While you work diligently you will find great joy and satisfaction in your work. A diligent person does not wait for leaders to tell them what to do; rather they do many good things of their own will. Diligent people work until they have done all they can do, even while they are tired. A diligent person works effectively and efficiently as they focus on the most important things and avoid wasting time. A diligent person understands the need to plan regularly and effectively while avoiding things that distract their thoughts and actions.

Diligence is so important when it comes to keeping the commandments and following Jesus that Jesus himself promised the Israelites that the plagues that plagued Egypt would not plague them if they would be diligent:

"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

-Exodus 15; 26

The command to be diligent, as well as the blessings associated with it, appears many times in scripture:

"But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

-Joshua 22; 5

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly."

-Psalms 119

“The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked. He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame. The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute. The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious. Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.”

-Proverbs 10; 3-5, 12; 24&27, 22; 29

“Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”

-Isaiah 55; 2

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. I And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

-Hebrews 6; 10-12, 11; 6

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

-2 Peter 3; 13-14

Quotes on diligence and work:

“Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Chaos is inherent in all compounded things. Strive on with diligence.”

-Buddha

“I never could have done what I have done without the habits of punctuality, order, and diligence, without the determination to concentrate myself on one subject at a time.”

-Charles Dickens

“The expectations of life depend upon diligence; the mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.”

-Confucius

“What we hope ever to do with ease, we must learn first to do with diligence.”

-Samuel Johnson

“Patience and Diligence, like faith, remove mountains.”

-William Penn

"Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful!' and sitting in the shade."

-Rudyard Kipling

"The reward of a work is to have produced it; the reward of effort is to have grown by it."

-Antonin Sertillanges

"The big secret in life is that there is no big secret. Whatever your goal, you can get there if you're willing to work."

- Oprah Winfrey

"I do not think there is any other quality so essential to success of any kind as the quality of perseverance. It overcomes almost everything, even nature."

- John D. Rockefeller

"Concentrate all your thoughts upon the work at hand. The sun's rays do not burn until brought to a focus."

- Alexander Graham Bell

"I have not failed 700 times. I've succeeded in proving 700 ways how not to build a light bulb."

-Thomas Edison

QUESTIONS

- *“Why did the hungry bear not go hungry in the winter?”*
 - *“Why did the hungry bear not listen to those telling him to not work so hard?”*
 - *“What would have happened to the hungry bear if he hadn’t have worked hard all year?”*
 - *“How do you think the squirrels/beavers/birds feel now that they didn’t work hard?”*
 - *“What should the birds/beavers/squirrels have been doing all year? Why?”*
 - *“Will we ever not ‘be hungry’ if we do not work hard like the birds/beavers/squirrels? Why?”*
 - *“Why was working hard and being diligent important for the hungry bear?”*
-

APPLY

Just like the hungry bear we too must hungrily seek after the good things in life. We can't be afraid of hard work as the reward for and consequences for not are grand in scope. We must remember that there will always be those who will give up the long term joy for the short term immediate pleasures that life will bring; but we must not give into those temptations ourselves. When we are diligent we can sleep calmly and peacefully at night knowing that all that needed to be done in the day had been done; while those that do not work diligently will never know a good night's rest, and might perish in the winter. If we wish to have peace and a full belly like the hungry bear, we must work hard and not listen to those who would have us eat drink and be merry.

COMMIT

- I. “Will you...” be diligent in keeping the commandments of God/work hard and not rely on others to take care of you/be diligent in doing your chores around the house?
 - II. “When you...” are diligent in keeping the commandments you will prosper in the land/work hard and do not rely on others to take care of you, you will know the peace of self-reliance/are diligent in doing your chores you will help keep love at home.
 - III. “I know...” that being diligent in keeping the commandments of God has allowed me to prosper both spiritually and temporally/that when I have worked hard for my own substance that I have known the blessings which come from being self-reliant/that when I have done my chores and errands I need to that I am able to sleep better at night as well as the fact that my feelings of self-worth increase.
-

Humility and Forgiveness

BACKGROUND

Humility is a willingness to give your will over to the Lord while giving Him the honor for what was accomplished. It includes gratitude for His blessings, acknowledgment of your constant need for His divine help, confidence that you can do whatever it is that he requires of you as you rely on him, and a willingness to trust His chosen servants and follow their teachings and writings. Humility is shown by kindness, forgiving another of their trespasses, and following commandments without murmuring. Humility and forgiveness are not a signs of weakness, but of spiritual matureness and strength. The opposites of humility and forgiveness are pride and hate, which are condemned in the scriptures. People who are prideful assume they are better than others, trust their own wisdom over that of God's and His servants, and take the entire honor themselves.

Jesus set the perfect example of humility and forgiveness, in word and in deed:

“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

-Matthew 26; 39

“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”

-Matthew 23; 11-12

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

-Matthew 6; 12-15

“Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant

went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee. And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.”

-Matthew 18; 21-35

“And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”

-Luke 23; 33-34

The call to be humble and forgive others appears countless times in the scriptures with the warnings associated with not being humble and not forgiving clearly being laid out:

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

-2 Timothy 3; 1-5

“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die. He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat. He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered. He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.”

-Proverbs 13; 10, 15; 10. 28; 25-27

One of the greatest stories in the Old Testament dealing with humility and forgiving others or you yourself will not gain forgiveness, is that of the story of Jonah and the whale. The story of Jonah is found in the book of Jonah in the Old Testament; the whole book being one large chiasmus. A “chiasmus”, or “chiasm (ky'-az-um) is a style of writing (poetry) that uses repetition and a single focus point to stress emphasis on a single point. Chiasmi appear many times in the scriptures although they are not very well known; in fact serious study of this form of poetry with relation to the Bible did not even occur until mid-1900. This form of poetry works as a sideways triangle, with the most important point you are trying to make being at the point; example being A, B, C, C', B', A' with C being the most important point. Example in scripture:

A No one can serve two masters:

B for either he will hate the one,

C and love the other;

C' or else he will hold to the one,

B' and despise the other.

A' You cannot serve God and mammon

-Matthew 6; 24

Jonah is told to go and preach to Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, and Jonah in his heart does not believe, or wish to believe, that those people should be “saved”. The reason that Jonah felt this way was because he knew (being a prophet of God) that Assyria would be the kingdom to eventually take out a large portion of the Jews (the northern kingdom) as well as the fact that Assyria continually made war upon the Jews. It would be like if Jonah was alive around the time that Hitler was born, and was first shown what Hitler would do to the Jews, and then was asked to go and preach to the people of Berlin. Jonah ran and by so doing found his way into the belly of a whale where the center of the chiasmus and Jonah’s realization of his sin was found “those that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy” or “those that think they are better than others, or deserve to be saved more than others, forsake their own salvation”. The “Judging Judge” is one large chiasm as well; color coded for easy explanation as well as added teaching value for the book. The book was written largely with the story of Jonah in mind, so there will be a lot of similarities between the two stories.

Quotes on humility and forgiveness:

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.”

-C. S. Lewis

“I claim to be a simple individual liable to err like any other fellow mortal. I own, however, that I have humility enough to confess my errors and to retrace my steps.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

“Humility and knowledge in poor clothes excel pride and ignorance in costly attire.”

-William Penn

“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

“To err is human; to forgive, divine.”

-Alexander Pope

“There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.”

-Ernest Hemingway

“The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes.”

-Winston Churchill

“A great man is always willing to be little.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

“As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you.”

-C.S. Lewis

“I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.”

-Abraham Lincoln

“A true genius admits that he/she knows nothing.”

- Albert Einstein

“In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet.”

-Winston Churchill

“I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness; the second is frugality; the third is humility, which keeps me from putting myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can become a leader among men.”

-Lao Tzu

“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

-Mother Teresa

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”

-C.S. Lewis

“Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The willingness to forgive is a sign of spiritual and emotional maturity. It is one of the great virtues to which we all should aspire. Imagine a world filled with individuals willing both to apologize and to accept an apology. Is there any problem that could not be solved among people who possessed the humility and largeness of spirit and soul to do either -- or both -- when needed?”

-Gordon B. Hinckley

“Throughout life people will make you mad, disrespect you and treat you bad. Let God deal with the things they do, cause hate in your heart will consume you too.”

-Will Smith

“To be wronged is nothing, unless you continue to remember it.”

-Confucius

“Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.”

-Corrie ten Boom

QUESTIONS

- *“How do you think those people felt being judged by the judge?”*
 - *“How do you think the judge felt being judged by the people?”*
 - *“Why shouldn’t we give out final judgments on anyone?”*
 - *“Who’s job is it to judge all people? Why should that make us happy?”*
 - *“Why should we forgive people even when they’re mean? Whose job is it to judge them?”*
 - *“Who makes mistakes in life? Why is it important to forgive and to ask for forgiveness?”*
 - *“What makes Jesus the perfect judge? Why would the righteous not need fear him?”*
-

APPLY

We all make mistakes, we all ere, we all wish we hadn't have said the word that hurt, we all wish we hadn't have made certain choices in our lives, and we all long for forgiveness. Humility is what paves the road for true repentance to occur, and for true forgiving and forgiveness to take place. When we are spending all of our time focusing on judging others and all they are not doing right, we fail to see the moat in our own eye. This does not mean that we should not correct or discipline others for mistakes made, but it does mean that the correction needs to be centered in humility and progress; ask yourself if what you are saying and doing is attempting to make yourself and this individual a better person, if the answer is no then you shouldn't go any further. Remember that the Judging Judge didn't give people time to explain, or even a way to have them correct themselves and get better, only that they were guilty. When the tables were turned and he himself was being judged by the people they too didn't give him the chance to explain or improve; only that he was guilty. This is not how we should live our lives as we are no more worthy to be saved then the next person. Remember that even after all we can do, grace will still be what ends up saving us. (if we have done all we can do)

COMMIT

- I. “Will you...” forgive those that hurt your feelings and love them anyways/live your life without pride thinking you are better than others/ask for forgiveness to those you have hurt and say you are sorry?
 - II. “When you...” forgive those that hurt you the hurt they caused you will no longer hurt you/live your life without pride you will truly see each person’s individual divine potential/ask for forgiveness and say you’re sorry you will never know the string of being alone in life.
 - III. “I know...” that forgiving others in my life has allowed the pain they caused me to fade away/that living like I am no better than my brothers and sisters has allowed to me to see their divine potential and reach out to them/that by saying I am sorry, and asking for forgiveness I have avoided countless needless fights and instead brought a calming influence.
-

Virtue and Knowledge

BACKGROUND

Virtue in its essence starts with your innermost feelings, thoughts, and desires. It is a standard that has a pattern of behavior and thoughts that are continually rooted in high moral standards. What one chooses to do when he believe no one is watching him is a powerful measure of his virtue. Virtuous people are clean and pure spiritually because they focus on things that are righteous and that uplift, and put unworthy thoughts quickly out of their mind. Your mind is like a stage in a theatre that can only have one act on at a time. If the stage is empty for anyone to put on an act, often the adversary will enter the stage to tempt and distract you. If the stage is not empty however, and is full of uplifting and righteous acts continually, the adversary will not be able to enter the stage of your mind. By being in control of the stage of your mind you will successfully resist persistent urges to temptations and indulgences in sin before they even have roots to grow.

Knowledge is one of the many things that should be filling the stage of mind; both study of the spiritual/faith, and that of temporal/physical. Through prayer and the gift of the Holy Ghost, study can be greatly magnified. Study the words of the prophets continually for spiritual guidance and growth; while studying the best books of learning and expanding your knowledge of the world as we know it. You can also gain knowledge by example, so carefully watching and listening to others can and will help your own knowledge grow as well.

Jesus stressed the importance of virtue in the Sermon on the Mount:

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

-Matthew 5; 8, 27-30

The call to be virtuous appears often in the scriptures:

” The earth is the LORD’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn

deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.”

-Psalms 24

“[A] Virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones. The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.”

-Proverbs 12; 4-5

Paul teaches on virtue and knowledge:

“ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 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.”

-Philippians 4; 8-9

“Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.”

-1 Corinthians 7; 1-9

Peter teaches on virtue and knowledge:

“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

-2 Peter 1; 1-10

Quotes on virtue and knowledge:

“To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one's own mind. If a man can control his mind he can find the way to Enlightenment, and all wisdom and virtue will naturally come to him.”

-Buddha

“The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts: therefore, guard accordingly, and take care that you entertain no notions unsuitable to virtue and reasonable nature.”

-Marcus Aurelius

“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”

-Aristotle

“I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.... Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder.”

-George Washington

“Happiness is the object and design of our existence; and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping all the commandments of God.... We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.”

-Joseph Smith Jr.

“We value virtue but do not discuss it. The honest bookkeeper, the faithful wife, the earnest scholar get little of our attention compared to the embezzler, the tramp, the cheat.”

-John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*

“We do not place especial value on the possession of a virtue until we notice its total absence in our opponent.”

-Friedrich Nietzsche

“But what is liberty without wisdom and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice, and madness, without tuition or restraint. Those who know what virtuous liberty is, cannot bear to see it disgraced by incapable heads, on account of their having high-sounding words in their mouths.”

-Edmund Burke

“...happiness does not consist in amusement. In fact, it would be strange if our end were amusement, and if we were to labor and suffer hardships all our life long merely to amuse ourselves.... The happy life is regarded as a life in conformity with virtue. It is a life which involves effort and is not spent in amusement...”

-Aristotle

“Ignorance is the curse of God; knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven.”

-William Shakespeare

“If money is your hope for independence you will never have it. The only real security that a man will have in this world is a reserve of knowledge, experience, and ability.”

-Henry Ford

“I was bold in the pursuit of knowledge, never fearing to follow truth and reason to whatever results they led, and bearding every authority which stood in their way.”

-Thomas Jefferson

“Let us tenderly and kindly cherish, therefore, the means of knowledge. Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write.”

-John Adams

QUESTIONS

- *“What did the King learn about his stage when nothing was on it?”*
 - *“Why was it important for there always to be something good on the stage?”*
 - *“If the stage was like your mind, what would the good plays be?”*
 - *“If the stage was like your mind, what would the dark creatures be?”*
 - *“What are some good things that we are supposed to put in our mind?”*
 - *“What are some bad things that we are not supposed to put in our mind?”*
 - *“Why are we supposed to keep bad thoughts out of our mind?”*
-

APPLY

The King's Stage is a story about our minds and how we can keep them clean by always keeping good things "on the stage." Virtue isn't just about "what not to think," as it is about "what to think" and the story of the King's Stage shows all the different good, virtuous, and uplifting things we should be putting into our mind. In fact, there is more that we should be putting into our mind than what we should be putting out; gaining knowledge and becoming like Christ being why we are born. If we train our minds by always keeping good thoughts on the "stage of our mind" we will never have to worry about the "dark things of the night" coming and taking over our stage and tempting us with their whisperings. Keeping the scriptures near, or memorizing your favorite verse or hymn will allow you to quickly fill the stage of your mind when you find that it is empty and the dark things of the night are starting to take notice. Watching others and learning from examples is a way that the wise learn, as well as from the good books and teachers the world has to offer. Never let your mind grow dim; always have the best things possible on stage on your mind.

COMMIT

- I. “Will you...” always keep good thoughts in your mind/keep learning and make a commitment to always continue to gain knowledge/memorize a scripture/hymn so that you can recall it in a time of need?
 - II. “When you...” always keep good thoughts in your mind you will be able to think clearly and effectively/learn from the best sources and never stop you will be able take all the knowledge you gain with you to the next life, unlike riches/recall the memorized scripture/hymn you will be able to keep the stage of your mind full so the dark things of the night cannot come onto it.
 - III. “I know...” as I have kept my mind clean enough to be led by inspiration I have been kept from danger and brought to joy/as I have gained knowledge and worked at progressing my wisdom to be able to see the world clearly has greatly expanded/as I have memorized verses and recalled them at the times I need them that I have been kept from bad thoughts, and by that from bad actions that would have harmed me.
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Patience and Listening

BACKGROUND

Patience is the ability to sustain setbacks, distress, hostility, or misery while not becoming frustrated, upset, angry, or even anxious. It is the ability to accept God's infinite wisdom and His timing. When you are patient you hold up under pressure and are able to face hard times while still being a calming influence, full of love, and slow to anger. Patience is related to faith and hope, for when you wait patiently on the Lord, you are indeed waiting for His promises to be fulfilled. Patience with all people, including yourself, is paramount as we all work to overcome our faults and weaknesses.

Hearing is when the words reach our ears; listening is when the words reach our heart. Hearing is when you want others to think you care; listening is when you want to the person speaking to know you care. When you listen to others carefully, you will better be able to feel and understand them better. When people know that their feelings and thoughts matter to you, they will be more likely to be receptive to you in return. Listening is tied in with patience for when one is patient, he will listen, and when one truly listens, he is patient. Waiting on the Lord to fulfill his promises is not the only way we can show patience, in fact the Lord said that "in as much as ye have done it unto anyone of these the least of my brethren, ye have done it unto me..." and listening is one of the greatest ways we can show patience towards one another. People will also communicate through body language, through their eyes, the way they are sitting, their facial expressions, what they are doing with their hands, their tone of voice, and even the movements of their eyes are all messages. Listen to them. Do not be afraid of silence, as people often are not given time to speak and have not had anyone listen to them so they might need time to formulate their thoughts. Pausing and waiting in silence for people to respond is a sign of your patience. Letting people know that you are listening is also obliging; avoid repeating filler phrases such as "uh huh" and "yeah..." and replace them with real listening phrases such as "So you are saying that _____?" and "So you are feeling that _____?"

We wouldn't have the words of Christ today if people had not listened to Christ when he opened his mouth. When he did open his mouth he taught them patience in adversity; to have their mind's eye on the eternal rewards rather than the immediate hardship;

"And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven..."

-Matthew 5; 2, 11-12

The call to be patient in adversity appears many times in scripture;

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those who wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.”

-Psalms 37; 1-9

“He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.”

-Proverbs 14; 29

“Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.”

-Ecclesiastes 7; 8-9

“In your patience possess ye your souls.”

-Luke 21; 19

“But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 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. 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 do we with patience wait for it. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have

hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

-Romans 2; 5-11, 5; 1-5, 8; 24-25, 15; 4-6

“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

-2 Corinthians 6; 1-10

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.”

-1 Thessalonians 5; 14

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.”

-2 Timothy 2; 24-25

“And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so

great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

-Hebrews 6; 11-15, 10; 36, 12; 1

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”

-James 1; 2-4, 19-21, 5; 8-11

Quotes on patience and listening:

“How poor are they that have not patience! What wound did ever heal but by degrees?”

-William Shakespeare

“Patience is the best remedy for every trouble.”

-Plautus

“If I have done the public any service, it is due to my patient thought.”

-Isaac Newton

“If patience is worth anything, it must endure to the end of time. And a living faith will last in the midst of the blackest storm.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

“Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

“He that can have patience can have what he will.”

-Benjamin Franklin

“Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.”

-Aristotle

“No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God . . . and it is through sorrow and suffering, toil and tribulation, that we gain the education that we come here to acquire and which will make us more like our Father and Mother in heaven.”

-Orson F. Whitney

“Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.”

-John Quincy Adams

“I realized that the deepest spiritual lessons are not learned by His letting us have our way in the end, but by His making us wait, bearing with us in love and patience until we are able to honestly to pray what He taught His disciples to pray: Thy will be done.”

-Elisabeth Elliot

“Those speak foolishly who ascribe their anger or their impatience to such as offend them or to tribulation. Tribulation does not make people impatient, but proves that they are impatient. So everyone may learn from tribulation how his heart is constituted.”

-Martin Luther

“I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I'm going to learn, I must do it by listening.”

-Larry King

“I've often stood silent at a party for hours listening to my movie idols turn into dull and little people.”

-Marilyn Monroe

“When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen.”

-Ernest Hemingway

“This is the problem with dealing with someone who is actually a good listener. They don't jump in on your sentences, saving you from actually finishing them, or talk over you, allowing what you do manage to get out to be lost or altered in transit. Instead, they wait, so you have to keep going.”

-Sarah Dessen

“Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.”

-Stephen R. Covey

“You're short on ears and long on mouth.”

-John Wayne

“An appreciative listener is always stimulating.”

-Agatha Christie

“Whoever is going to listen to the philosophers needs a considerable practice in listening.”

-Epictetus

QUESTIONS

- *“What did the young pirate lass do that the other pirates failed to do?”*
 - *“Why did groups of pirates keep running away before Willy could finish his story?”*
 - *“What did the young pirate lass gain from being patient and listening?”*
 - *“Why is it important to listen to others?”*
 - *“Why is it important to be patient?”*
 - *“What kinds of treasures do you think the Lord has waiting for you if you wait patiently on Him?”*
 - *“If you are an impatient pirate what do you end up getting?”*
-

APPLY

As with the story of The Pirates Treasure, we do not gain the rewards until after patiently waiting on them. When we patiently wait on the Lord and do not hastily run away when the going gets hard, we will find that the Lord has hidden “piles of treasure” waiting for us if we but listen to Him. The Lord has commanded everyone to love God with all your might, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. One of the greatest and most important ways we can love our neighbor as ourselves is to be patient with them as they are overcoming their faults (just as we are overcoming ours) and to listen to them. Being patient as well as listening requires conscious, laborious energy; more so even then working and talking. We must strive to become like Christ who was long suffering, a calming influence, a listener and a mediator, as well full of patience and love towards all men. As we become patient and listen we too shall find hidden coves of treasure that the Lord has laid in store for us.

COMMIT

- I. “Will you...” be patient with others as they are overcoming faults/listen to others when they wish someone to talk to/wait patiently on the Lord for his promises to be fulfilled?
 - II. “When you...” are patient with others the Lord will be patient with us/listen to others you will be saving lives/wait patiently on the Lord, He will prosper you.
 - III. “I know...” as I have been patient with others, people have responded by being patient with me/as I have listened to others I have gained friends for life/as I have waited patiently on the Lord, He has never left me naked, cold, or hungry but has always come through.
-