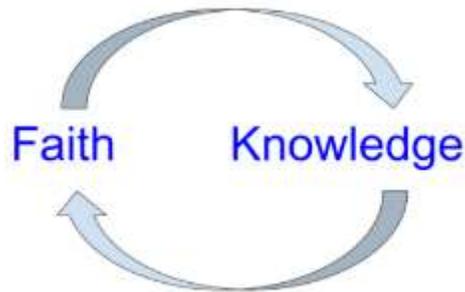


## LECTURE SIXTH- PART ONE

*Note. This lecture is so plain, and the facts set forth so self-evident, that it is deemed unnecessary to form a catechism upon it: the student is therefore instructed to commit the whole to memory.*

1 Having treated, in the preceding lectures, of the ideas of the character, perfections and attributes of God, we next proceed to treat of the knowledge which persons must have, that the course of life which they pursue is according to the will of God, in order that they may be enabled to exercise faith in him unto life and salvation.

Joseph's Thoughts:



Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith p.148

Faith comes by hearing the word of God, through the testimony of the servants of God; that testimony is always attended by the Spirit of prophecy and revelation.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 217

A man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge... Hence it needs revelation to assist us, and give us knowledge of the things of God.

Lectures on Faith:Lecture First

As we receive by faith all temporal blessings that we do receive, so we in like manner, receive by faith all spiritual blessings that we do receive. But faith is not only the principle of action, but of power also, in all intelligent beings, whether in heaven or on earth. Who cannot see that if God framed the worlds by faith, that it is by faith that he exercises power over them, and that faith is

the principle of power? And that if the principle of power, it must be so in man as well as in the Deity?

## Lectures on Faith:Lecture Second

Let us here observe that after any portion of the human family is made acquainted with the important fact that there is a God who has created and does uphold all things, the extent of their knowledge respecting his character and glory, will depend upon their diligence and faithfulness in seeking after him, until like Enoch, the Brother of Jared, and Moses, they shall obtain faith in God, and power with him to behold him face to face.

**Ryan and Kelly's Thoughts:** This part we wanted to break into several sections that build on each other. Joseph Smith starts by outline a few concepts and how they relate. Through the Lecture 6 you will see these concepts repeated several times so its important to see the order and reason. You need to be able to rely on the logic and how things are presented.

The **first concept** is knowledge which we must have as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. But what are we to have a knowledge of?

The **second concept** is the course of life that we pursue. (Bible dictionary: direction, lead, path, way)

The **third concept** is the knowledge our course is according to the will of God.

The **fourth concept** is the end result of the first three concepts. We are enabled to exercise faith in him.

The **fifth concept** is our exercised faith results in life and salvation.

To address the first concept a little more in-depth we selected an article from President Joseph Fielding Smith. In 1971 (almost 50 years ago) spoke about the importance of the correct knowledge of God. He also gave a warning that there are members of the Church who do not have a TRUE knowledge of our Heavenly Father. If members have not already studied or listened to the previous Lectures this Lecture will be difficult to comprehend.

In every age the Lord's prophets have been called upon to combat false worship and proclaim the truth about God. In ancient Israel there were those who worshiped images and pagan gods, and Isaiah asked: "To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?"

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." (Isa. 40:18, 28.) See also Isaiah 40:29 to 31.

Much of the world today does not have this knowledge of God, **and even in latter-day Israel** there are those who have not perfected their understanding of that glorious being who is our Eternal Father. To those without this knowledge we might well say: “Why dost thou limit the glory of God? Or why should ye suppose that he is less than he is? Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, is infinite and eternal; that he has all power, all might, and all dominion; that he knows all things, and that all things are present before his face?” [The Most Important Knowledge \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org)

If members have not already studied or listened to the previous Lectures on Faith this Lecture 6 will be difficult to comprehend. We must as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints have the knowledge that leads us to Stand in Holy Places and to Not be Ashamed to wait upon the Lord

2 Nephi 6:

7 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers; they shall bow down to thee with their faces towards the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; **and thou shalt know that I am the Lord; for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.**

13 Wherefore, they that fight against Zion and the covenant people of the Lord shall lick up the dust of their feet; and **the people of the Lord shall not be ashamed.** For the people of the Lord are they who wait for him; for they still wait for the coming of the Messiah.

Additional scriptures:

John 17:3, Doctrine and Covenants 42:61, Alma 18:35, Joel 2:28-29, Doctrine and Covenants 50: 23-24, 3 Nephi 20:25-29

Micah's Thoughts:

**D&C 121:**

44 That he may know that thy faithfulness is stronger than the cords of death.

45 Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.

So we need to have this knowledge that our life is on the path that God wants us on or we will not have the confidence to go to God and exercise faith in Him sufficient for life and salvation, let alone wax strong enough to be brought into His presence (as was the case with the Brother of Jared and his faith). So what builds that foundation so that we can wax stronger and stronger in confidence and what is the biggest obstacle?

### **Proverbs 14:**

26 In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

### **Philippians 1:**

14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

### **Proverbs 3:**

25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 3:**

6 And behold, how oft you have transgressed the commandments and the laws of God, and have gone on in the persuasions of men.

7 For, behold, you should not have feared man more than God. Although men set at naught the counsels of God, and despise his words—

8 Yet you should have been faithful; and he would have extended his arm and supported you against all the fiery darts of the adversary; and he would have been with you in every time of trouble.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 45:**

28 And when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fulness of my gospel;

29 But they receive it not; for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the *precepts of men*

## **2 Nephi 28:**

26 Yea, wo be unto him that hearkeneth unto the precepts of men, and denieth the power of God, and the gift of the Holy Ghost!

31 Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm, or shall hearken unto the precepts of men...

## **2 Nephi 27:**

25 Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men—

So what have we learned? We've learned that walking that path that we know the Lord wants us on is to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" (Philip. 2:12, Ps. 2:11, Eph. 6:5, etc.) and the counter to that is to fear the Lord according to man's precepts, or as was told to Joseph Smith Jr. above, "to fear man more than God"... What does this "fearing the Lord according to man's precepts" look like?

## **2 Nephi 28:**

8 And there shall also be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.

And finally, what causes us to fear man more than God and adapt this attitude?

## **Doctrine and Covenants 121:**

34 Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?

35 Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men

Simply put, they love the world more.

We will get more information of this when we get to point 5 in this lecture.

2 This knowledge supplies an important place in revealed religion; for it was by reason of it that the ancients were enabled to endure as seeing him who is invisible. An actual knowledge to any person that the course of life which he pursues is according to the will of God, is essentially necessary to enable him to have that confidence in God, without which no person can obtain eternal life. It was this that enabled the ancient saints to endure all their afflictions and persecutions, and to take joyfully the spoiling of their goods, knowing, (not believing merely,) that they had a more enduring substance (Hebrews 10:34).

Joseph's Thoughts:

Calling and election/Second Comforter = confidence

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith p.299

Then I would exhort you to go on and continue to call upon God until you make your calling and election sure for yourselves, by obtaining this more sure word of prophecy, and wait patiently for the promise until you obtain it, etc.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith p.306

We have no claim in our eternal compact, in relation to eternal things, unless our actions and contracts and all things tend to this. But after all this, you have got to make your calling and election sure. If this injunction would lie largely on those to whom it was spoken, how much more those of the present generation! 1st key: Knowledge is the power of salvation. 2nd key: Make your calling and election sure. 3rd key: It is one thing to be on the mount and hear the excellent voice, etc., and another to hear the voice declare to you, You have a part and lot in that kingdom. (May 21, 1843.) DHC 5:401-403.

John 14:15-18

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

## Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 150-151

The other Comforter spoken of is a subject of great interest, and perhaps understood by few of this generation. After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost, (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter, then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted. When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter, which the Lord hath promised the Saints, as is recorded in the testimony of St. John...

Now what is this other Comforter? It is no more nor less than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself; and this is the sum and substance of the whole matter; that when any man obtains this last Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time, and even He will manifest the Father unto him, and they will take up their abode with him, and the visions of the heavens will be opened unto him, and the Lord will teach him face to face, and he may have a perfect knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God; and this is the state and place the ancient Saints arrived at when they had such glorious visions—Isaiah, Ezekiel, John upon the Isle of Patmos, St. Paul in the three heavens, and all the Saints who held communion with the general assembly and Church of the Firstborn.

**Ryan and Kelly's Thoughts:** Elder Neal A. Maxwell gave an excellent talk on how to make our life Christ centered.

To speak of personal progress and drawing closer to the Savior requires our trusting not only in the Lord's plan for all mankind but also trusting in his unfolding and particularized plan for each of us. Drawing ever closer to the Lord, therefore, means much more than merely acknowledging that he is in charge, though that is a beginning. Believers who remain underinvolved with Him are, in a sense, living without Him in the world. Alma warned that living without God in the world is "contrary to the nature of happiness." (Alma 41:11.) In my opinion, that warning was not just for agnostics!

We must resist the caresses of the world, knowing that insofar as we are already resisting these caresses, these blandishments of Babylon, we are succeeding! Moreover, we are doing so in a time of tremendous temptation, a time when the adversary seeks to blur the distinction between what Ezekiel called "the holy and [the] profane." (Ezek. 44:23.)

For those of us who continue steadily in that course, the day will come when we will meet our ancestors and predecessor disciples; they will praise us for our achievements and for our courage—just as we have often praised them for meeting their individual challenges.

The Lord is preparing a very particular people for very particular chores in the next and everlasting world. Our schooling here cannot be a casual thing, or we would not be able to have immense joy there. One day, some of the challenges, the imponderables, and the incongruities that chafe and frustrate us now (and which are sufficient to deflect the weak from the path of duty) will be seen as having been necessary to our eternal happiness. Then we will even find ourselves thanking the Lord for not removing the thorns in the flesh which we wish so desperately could be removed now. Those who have coped with thorns in the flesh will one day repose in an everlasting rose garden; this rose garden was promised!

God bless us all, meanwhile, as we make our way, righteously and resolutely, to that garden in the city of God! The gatekeeper is Jesus Christ—and “he employeth no servant there” (2 Ne. 9:41); if we come to know him now, he will know us then!

[The Christ-Centered Life \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](http://churchofjesuschrist.org)

Micah’s Thoughts:

Building upon what I went through last section let us turn to

### **1 John 3:**

1 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.

2 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.

### **Moroni 7:**

48 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.

### **1 John 4:**

7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Love isn't simply an emotion, "charity" isn't simply a feeling... In previous lectures we learn that the Holy Ghost is the mind and will of God, it is the knowledge we gain as we act in the way the Lord would act, and by so doing our confidence waxes stronger and stronger.

**Joseph Smith, TPJS, 9**

*Until we have perfect love we are liable to fall; and when we have a testimony that our names are sealed in the Lamb's book of life, we have perfect love, and then it is impossible for false Christs to deceive us.*

To have a testimony that our names are sealed in the Lamb's book of life is to have one's calling and election made sure, which Joseph went over above. So now we have built upon the concepts of fearing the Lord and working out our salvation with fear and trembling which develops in us the mind of God and love, which will eventually culminate with having one's calling and election made sure which will grant unto one "perfect love".

3 Having the assurance that they were pursuing a course which was agreeable to the will of God, they were enabled to take, not only the spoiling of their goods, and the wasting of their substance, joyfully, but also to suffer death in its most horrid forms; knowing, (not merely believing,) that when this earthly house of their tabernacle was dissolved, they had a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Joseph's Thoughts:

### **Having assurance while progressing to the Second Comforter**

#### Rebellion

*(Mosiah 15:26-27)* But behold, and fear, and tremble before God, for ye ought to tremble; for the Lord redeemeth none such that rebel against him and die in their sins; yea, even all those that have perished in their sins ever since the world began, that have wilfully rebelled against God, that have known the commandments of God, and would not keep them; these are they that have no part in the first resurrection. Therefore ought ye not to tremble? For salvation cometh to none such; for the Lord hath redeemed none such; yea, neither can the Lord redeem such; for he cannot deny himself; for he cannot deny justice when it has its claim.

#### Weakness

*(2 Nephi 25:23)* For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.

*(Jacob 4:7)* Nevertheless, the Lord God showeth us our weakness that we may know that it is by his grace, and his great condescensions unto the children of men, that we have power to do these things.

*(Ether 12:27)* And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.

## “Swallowed Up in the Will of the Father” Neal A. Maxwell Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“The submission of one’s will is really the only uniquely personal thing we have to place on God’s altar. The many other things we ‘give’ ... are actually the things He has already given or loaned to us.

2 Nephi 31:2,17-21, 2 Nephi 32:1-3

I must speak concerning the doctrine of Christ... Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen that your Lord and your Redeemer should do; for, for this cause have they been shown unto me, that ye might know the gate by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost. And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; and ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by the way ye should receive. And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask if all is done? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far save it were by the word of Christ with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save. Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen.

And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts concerning that which ye should do after ye have entered in by the way. But, behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts? Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost? Angels speak by the power of the Holy

Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.

**Ryan and Kelly's Thoughts:** In an increasingly unjust world, to survive and even to find happiness and joy, no matter what comes, we must make our stand unequivocally with the Lord. We need to try to be faithful every hour of every day so that our foundation of trust in the Lord will never be shaken. My message is one of hope and counsel for those who may wonder about the seemingly unfair distribution of pain, suffering, disaster, and heartache in this life.

Our love of God must be pure, without selfish intent. The pure love of Christ must be the motive in our devotion.

Now all this suffering might indeed be unfair if everything ended at death, but it doesn't. Life is not like a one-act play. It has three acts. We had a past act, when we were in the premortal existence; and now we have a present act, which is mortality; and we will have a future act, when we return to God.

It's not so much what happens to us but how we deal with what happens to us. That reminds me of a passage from Alma. After a long war "many had become hardened," while "many were softened because of their afflictions." The same circumstances produced opposite responses. The writer who lost so much was not able to draw from the well of faith. Each of us needs to have our own storehouse of faith to help us rise above the troubles that are part of this mortal probation.

So where should each of us make our stand? As we demonstrate our devotion to God by our daily acts of righteousness, He can know where we stand. For all of us this life is a time of sifting and refining. We all face trials.

[Where Do I Make My Stand? \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](http://churchofjesuschrist.org)

**Micah's Thoughts:**

I loved the thoughts provides above, I just wanted to add a few more scriptures:

## **2 Corinthians 12:**

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

### **Philippians 3:**

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the just.

4 Such was and always will be the situation of the saints of God, that unless they have an actual knowledge that the course that they are pursuing is according to the will of God, they will grow weary in their minds and faint; for such has been and always will be the opposition in the hearts of unbelievers and those that know not God, against the pure and unadulterated religion of heaven, (the only thing which ensures eternal life,) that they will persecute, to the uttermost, all that worship God according to his revelations, receive the truth in the love of it, and submit themselves to be guided and directed by his will, and drive them to such extremities that nothing short of an actual knowledge of their being the favorites of heaven, and of their having embraced that order of things which God has established for the redemption of man, will enable them to exercise that confidence in him necessary for them to overcome the world, and obtain that crown of glory which is laid up for them that fear God.

Joseph's Thoughts:

**Without knowledge one will not handle the trials that will come.**

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 32

You are not as yet brought into as trying circumstances as were the ancient Prophets and Apostles. Call to mind Daniel, the three Hebrew children, Jeremiah, Paul, Stephen, and many others, too numerous to mention, who were stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, slain with the sword, and wandered about in sheep skins and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented, of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and in mountains, and hid in dens, and caves of the earth; yet they all obtained a good report through faith; and amidst all their afflictions they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to receive persecution for Christ's sake. We know not what we shall be called to pass through before Zion is delivered and established; therefore, we have great need to live near to God, and always be in strict obedience to all His commandments, that we may have a conscience void of offense toward God and man.

John Taylor, Deseret News: Semi-Weekly, Aug. 21, 1883, p. 1.

John Taylor, the third President of the Church, said, "I heard the Prophet Joseph say, in speaking to the Twelve on one occasion: 'You will have all kinds of trials to pass through. And it is quite as necessary for you to be tried as it was for Abraham and other men of God, and (said he) God will

feel after you, and He will take hold of you and wrench your very heart strings, and if you cannot stand it you will not be fit for an inheritance in the Celestial Kingdom of God.”

**Ryan and Kelly’s Thoughts:** . President Howard W. Hunter once said, “God knows what we do not know and sees what we do not see.” None of us knows the wisdom of the Lord. We do not know in advance exactly how He would get us from where we are to where we need to be, but He does offer us broad outlines in our patriarchal blessings. We encounter many bumps, bends, and forks in the road of life that leads to the eternities. There is so much teaching and correction as we travel on that road. Said the Lord, “He that will not bear chastisement is not worthy of my kingdom.” “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.”

As we live on earth we must walk in faith, nothing doubting. When the journey becomes seemingly unbearable, we can take comfort in the words of the Lord: “I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee.” Some of the healing may take place in another world. We may never know why some things happen in this life. The reason for some of our suffering is known only to the Lord.

President Brigham Young offered the profound insight that at least some of our suffering has a purpose when he said:

“All intelligent beings who are crowned with crowns of glory, immortality, and eternal lives must pass through every ordeal appointed for intelligent beings to pass through, to gain their glory and exaltation. Every calamity that can come upon mortal beings will be suffered to come upon the few, to prepare them to enjoy the presence of the Lord. ... Every trial and experience you have passed through is necessary for your salvation.”

We have much reason to hope. Joy can be ours if we are willing to sacrifice all for the Lord. Then we can look forward to the infinitely priceless possibility of overcoming all the challenges of this life. Then we will be with the Savior forever and, as President Brigham Young also said, “anticipate enjoying the glory, excellency and exaltation which God has prepared for the faithful.”

[Where Do I Make My Stand? \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](http://churchofjesuschrist.org)

**Micah’s Thoughts:**

Think about this one for one second... If we are not doing what the Lord has asked us to do, and we know it, we must surely “grow weary in their minds and faint” or “fall asleep”... As we learned

in previous lectures, the first way we learn is by “human testimony” and then we work out from there, or in other words:

### **Romans:**

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (verses 15-21 are also great)

Well we have had a preacher, we have had teachers, the Lord told us:

### **Doctrine and Covenants 101:**

44 A certain nobleman had a spot of land, very choice; and he said unto his servants: Go ye unto my vineyard, even upon this very choice piece of land, and plant twelve olive trees;

45 And set watchmen round about them, and build a tower, that one may overlook the land round about, to be a watchman upon the tower, that mine olive trees may not be broken down when the enemy shall come to spoil and take upon themselves the fruit of my vineyard.

But what did we do? Continuing:

### **Doctrine and Covenants 101:**

46 Now, the servants of the nobleman went and did as their lord commanded them, and planted the olive trees, and built a hedge round about, and set watchmen, and began to build a tower.

47 And while they were yet laying the foundation thereof, they began to say among themselves: And what need hath my lord of this tower?

48 And consulted for a long time, saying among themselves: What need hath my lord of this tower, seeing this is a time of peace?

49 Might not this money be given to the exchangers? For there is no need of these things.

50 And while they were at variance one with another they became very slothful, and they hearkened not unto the commandments of their lord.

So they rejected the original command, and what as the effect of this? Continuing:

### **Doctrine and Covenants 101:**

51 And the enemy came *by night*, and broke down the hedge; and the servants of the nobleman arose and were affrighted, and fled; and the enemy destroyed their works, and broke down the olive trees.

52 Now, behold, the nobleman, the lord of the vineyard, called upon his servants, and said unto them, Why! what is the cause of this great evil?

53 Ought ye not to have done even as I commanded you, and—after ye had planted the vineyard, and built the hedge round about, and set watchmen upon the walls thereof—built the tower also, and set a watchman upon the tower, and watched for my vineyard, and not have *fallen asleep*, lest the enemy should come upon you?

54 And behold, the watchman upon the tower would have seen the enemy while he was yet afar off; and then ye could have made ready and kept the enemy from breaking down the hedge thereof, and saved my vineyard from the hands of the destroyer.

As President Benson so clearly put it: “My dear brethren and sisters, we must prepare to redeem Zion.” Now, if we ignore this, what do we know will happen to us? We will have feared man more than God, we will not be increasing in confidence, etc. etc. we will have “grown weary in [our] minds and fainted”, we will have “fallen asleep”... We read in

### **2 Nephi 27:**

5 For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For behold, ye have closed your eyes, and ye have rejected the prophets; and your rulers, and the seers hath he covered because of your iniquity.

The ten virgins also ties into this same concept and time period... We learn here in Lecture Sixth why this sleep has fallen upon us- we know the mind and will of God and we have acted in rebellion against His will- seeking out own will over that of the Lord and thus have been cut off from His light and truth. We will not gain the power again until we awaken and live according to that which the Lord has commanded us.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 113:**

7 Questions by Elias Higbee: What is meant by the command in Isaiah, 52d chapter, 1st verse, which saith: Put on thy strength, O Zion—and what people had Isaiah reference to?

8 He had reference to those whom God should call in the last days, who should hold the power of priesthood to bring again Zion, and the redemption of Israel; and to put on her strength is to put on the authority of the priesthood, which she, Zion, has a right to by lineage; also to return to that power which she had lost.

So if we awake and arise, what do we do to prepare for such a redemption and return to lost power?

### **3 Nephi 24:**

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

And we are back to “fearing the Lord according to His precepts”, but it mentions here that they “spake often one to another”, so let’s round out that understanding by turning to

### **Doctrine and Covenants 101:**

12 And in that day all who are found upon the watch-tower, or in other words, all mine Israel, shall be saved.

13 And they that have been scattered shall be gathered.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 88:**

81 Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.

82 Therefore, they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads.

83 He that seeketh me early shall find me, and shall not be forsaken.

84 Therefore, tarry ye, and labor diligently, that you may be perfected in your ministry to go forth among the Gentiles for the last time, as many as the mouth of the Lord shall name, to bind up the law and seal up the testimony, and to prepare the saints for the hour of judgment which is to come;

85 That their souls may escape the wrath of God, the desolation of abomination which awaits the wicked, both in this world and in the world to come. Verily, I say unto you, let those who are not the first elders continue in the vineyard until the mouth of the Lord shall call them, for their time is not yet come; their garments are not clean from the blood of this generation.

5 For a man to lay down his all, his character and reputation, his honor and applause, his good name among men, his houses, his lands, his brothers and sisters, his wife and children, and even his own life also, counting all things but filth and dross for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ, requires more than mere belief, or supposition that he is doing the will of God, but actual knowledge: realizing, that when these sufferings are ended he will enter into eternal rest; and be a partaker of the glory of God.

Joseph's Thoughts:

### **Sacrifice of all things is REQUIRED**

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 31

this one thing is sure, that they who will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution; and before their robes are made white in the blood of the Lamb, it is to be expected, according to John the Revelator, they will pass through great tribulation.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 42

We have all been children, and are too much so at the present time; but we hope in the Lord that we may grow in grace and be prepared for all things which the bosom of futurity may disclose unto us. Time is rapidly rolling on, and the prophecies must be fulfilled. The days of tribulation are fast approaching, and the time to test the fidelity of the Saints has come. Rumor with her ten thousand tongues is diffusing her uncertain sounds in almost every ear; but in these times of sore trial, let the Saints be patient and see the salvation of God. Those who cannot endure persecution, and stand in the day of affliction, cannot stand in the day when the Son of God shall burst the veil, and appear in all the glory of His Father, with all the holy angels.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 259

The enemies of this people will never get weary of their persecution against the Church, until they are overcome. I expect they will array everything against me that is in their power to control, and that we shall have a long and tremendous warfare. He that will war the true Christian warfare against the corruptions of these last days will have wicked men and angels of devils, and all the infernal powers of darkness continually arrayed against him. When wicked and corrupt men

oppose, it is a criterion to judge if a man is warring the Christian warfare. When all men speak evil of you falsely, blessed are ye. Shall a man be considered bad, when men speak evil of him? No. If a man stands and opposes the world of sin, he may expect to have all wicked and corrupt spirits arrayed against him.

**Ryan and Kelly's Thoughts:** In the depths of his anguish in Liberty Jail, the Prophet Joseph Smith cried out: "O God, where art thou? And where is the pavilion that covereth thy hiding place?"

The pavilion that seems to intercept divine aid does not cover God but occasionally covers us. God is never hidden, yet sometimes we are, covered by a pavilion of motivations that draw us away from God and make Him seem distant and inaccessible. Our own desires, rather than a feeling of "Thy will be done," create the feeling of a pavilion blocking God. God is not unable to see us or communicate with us, but we may be unwilling to listen or submit to His will and His time.

Our feelings of separation from God will diminish as we become more childlike before Him. That is not easy in a world where the opinions of other human beings can have such an effect on our motives. But it will help us recognize this truth: God is close to us and aware of us and never hides from His faithful children.

One of my daughters-in-law spent many years feeling that God had placed a pavilion over her. She was a young mother of three who longed for more children. After two miscarriages, her prayers of pleading grew anguished. As more barren years passed, she felt tempted to anger. When her youngest went off to school, the emptiness of her house seemed to mock her focus on motherhood—so did the unplanned and even unwanted pregnancies of acquaintances. She felt as committed and consecrated as Mary, who declared, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." But although she spoke these words in her heart, she could hear nothing in reply.

Hoping to lift her spirits, her husband invited her to join him on a business trip to California. While he attended meetings, she walked along the beautiful, empty beach. Her heart ready to burst, she prayed aloud. For the first time, she asked not for another child but for a divine errand. "Heavenly Father," she cried, "I will give you all of my time; please show me how to fill it." She expressed her willingness to take her family wherever they might be required to go. That prayer produced an unexpected feeling of peace. It did not satisfy her mind's craving for certainty, but for the first time in years, it calmed her heart.

Submitting fully to heaven's will, as this young mother did, is essential to removing the spiritual pavilions we sometimes put over our heads. But it does not guarantee immediate answers to our prayers.

[Where Is the Pavilion? \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](http://churchofjesuschrist.org)

Micah's Thoughts:

This is almost word for word taken from Philippians 3 which I read above... So I'll just add a little context here for people about Paul and what he had to actually suffer, so when you read Philippians 3 again you will know Paul isn't preaching idle words but from real experience with suffering:

## **2 Corinthians 11:**

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I anger not?

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

6 For unless a person does know that he is walking according to the will of God, it would be offering an insult to the dignity of the Creator, were he to say that he would be a partaker of his glory when he should be done with the things of this life. But when he has this knowledge, and most assuredly knows that he is doing the will of God, his confidence can be equally strong that he will be a partaker of the glory of God.

Joseph's Thoughts:

**I do not accept all things from God; however I will sit at the table with Abraham. Good Luck, you will be cast out.**

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 331

I have tried for a number of years to get the minds of the Saints prepared to receive the things of God; but we frequently see some of them, after suffering all they have for the work of God, will fly to pieces like glass as soon as anything comes that is contrary to their traditions: they cannot stand the fire at all. How many will be able to abide a celestial law, and go through and receive their exaltation, I am unable to say, as many are called, but few are chosen.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 324-325

All men know that they must die. And it is important that we should understand the reasons and causes of our exposure to the vicissitudes of life and of death, and the designs and purposes of God in our coming into the world, our sufferings here, and our departure hence. What is the object of our coming into existence, then dying and falling away, to be here no more? It is but reasonable to suppose that God would reveal something in reference to the matter, and it is a subject we ought to study more than any other. We ought to study it day and night, for the world is ignorant in reference to their true condition and relation. If we have any claim on our Heavenly Father for anything, it is for knowledge on this important subject. Could we read and comprehend all that has been written from the days of Adam, on the relation of man to God and angels in a future state, we should know very little about it. Reading the experience of others, or the revelation given to them, can never give us a comprehensive view of our condition and true relation to God. Knowledge of these things can only be obtained by experience through the ordinances of God set forth for that

purpose. Could you gaze into heaven five minutes, you would know more than you would by reading all that ever was written on the subject.

We are only capable of comprehending that certain things exist, which we may acquire by certain fixed principles. If men would acquire salvation, they have got to be subject, before they leave this world, to certain rules and principles, which were fixed by an unalterable decree before the world was.

The disappointment of hopes and expectations at the resurrection would be indescribably dreadful.

**Ryan and Kelly's Thoughts:** President M. Russell Ballard said: Is It Worth It? ([churchofjesuschrist.org](http://churchofjesuschrist.org))

We must be willing to establish in our minds this fact: In order to be great in whatever we attempt to do in life, we have to decide in advance that it is all worth it.

Have you set your priorities? Are they solidly and clearly defined in your minds? Were they clear when you got up this morning, and will they be clear tomorrow morning and each morning? What I would like to convey to you is that we are the sons and daughters of God. We have a great destiny, a great challenge, and a great work to do. Our number one priority could well be, "Am I doing and living and acting each day as a candidate for the highest degree of glory in the celestial kingdom?" I think this is our ultimate long-range goal and our number one priority. I believe that as we think about this and as we understand a few of the insights the Lord has given to us in the scriptures, we can easily come to the conclusion, "Yes, it is worth it."

I would encourage you to read carefully the instructions given in Doctrine and Covenants 76 as you try to answer in your minds, it worth it?"

Oh, my brothers and sisters, if you could only contemplate and really understand while at your young age what that means! And then, if you could just place that priority properly in your life and live up to it, you would never have any difficulty making the right decisions. You would always have tucked in the back of your mind this concept: "It is worth it. I am not going to compromise; I am not going to shortcut; I am going to commit myself all the way, because it is worth it."

May I share with you the feeling of Melvin J. Ballard, my grandfather and an Apostle of the Lord? His recorded testimony is one of the great witnesses of this generation. He knew what it was like to stand in the presence of the Savior of this world and be embraced and blessed by him. He recorded in his testimony before the Quorum of the Twelve and the First Presidency in the temple on January 7, 1919: "Oh! if I could live worthy, though it would require four-score years, so that in the end when I have finished I could go into His presence and receive the feeling that I then had in His presence, I would give everything that I am and ever hope to be!" (quoted by Melvin R. Ballard, Melvin J. Ballard—Crusader for Righteousness, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1966, p. 66). That is where we are trying to go. We are trying to qualify for that blessing and that honor.

To end this section, we would give the following commitments

- Ponder the phrase: what does it mean for you to decide in advance that it is all worth it?

- Are you willing to give everything that you are and ever hope to be?
- Are you willing today this very moment to covenant with God that you will pay the price?

We know that as you covenant to give everything and to pay the price that your life and eternal progression will never be the same. You will be changed, and you will have an ever burning desire to obey God's commands and sacrifice

#### Micah's Thoughts:

I want to bring this back to the redemption of Zion again, not just because it is singly the most important thing for Saints to prepare for, but because it provides an example that will bring the principles taught in this lecture into clear focus. If we are not preparing and doing all we can to "bring about Zion", "it would be offering an insult to the dignity of the Creator, were he to say that he would be a partaker of his glory when he should be done with the things of this life." So brothers and sisters, be watchmen on the tower, or in other words "all mine Israel" saith the Lord. As we become watchmen on the tower and walk the walk the Lord has laid out for us, we will develop this faith- we will wax stronger and stronger in confidence, and be filled with the Love of God, we will obtain faith as the Brother of Jared. The Lord promised:

"There has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing; and let those be chosen that are worthy. And it shall be manifest unto my servant, by the voice of the Spirit, those that are chosen; and they shall be sanctified; And inasmuch as they follow the counsel which they receive, they shall have power after many days to accomplish all things pertaining to Zion."

- Jesus Christ (D&C 105: 35-37)

In the name of Jesus Christ, amen!