

An Invitation to Worship with Jesus Christ

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Recently I was asked to bring the invocation for an upcoming priesthood worship service on a Saturday afternoon. As only about a dozen elders would attend the informal worship, there were no immediate plans made for anyone to preside. As we met together at the appointed time, we sang a suggested hymn and a brother offered the leading prayer. The worship continued with many sharing their testimonies and prayers. Because no one was in charge of our service, I did not have the opportunity to give the invocation that I had prepared for.

It had become clear to me, that rather than no one in particular presiding over of our service, the Lord God Himself was presiding and leading our worship. Near the conclusion of the service, I felt that I had a testimony to share. The Lord had impressed some specific thoughts for the invocation, but the opportunity never seemed to present itself. Rather than praying, I was led to share those thoughts with the brethren in the form of a testimony concerning worship.

At times, in our rush to worship, we sometimes are inclined to move quickly through our praise of giving honor and glory to the Lord, so that we can immediately extend our petitions to the Father. When we take these shortcuts in our worship, we often fail to consider how the Father would desire for us to worship Him as well as inviting Him to participate in our worship, for He desires to reveal Himself.

Our Heavenly Father commands that we should always praise Him and give Him the honor and glory that is due Him and His Son, Jesus Christ. As we acknowledge Him, we should also personally invite His presence to join us. This invitation to the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost gives true purpose to our worship. We should never take it for granted. He comes to those that seek Him!

With this invitation for the Lord to direct and guide our worship, it brings a number of opportunities for the Lord to bless His children while enriching and enhancing their worship together. Several things came to mind as I considered the blessings when we offer our invitations to the Savior for Him to come unto our presence.

- 1) Invite the Lord to fill our hearts with the joy that comes from the presence of His Holy Spirit.
- 2) Invite the Lord to draw out our minds and hearts that we are permitted to abide with Him for a season.
- 3) Invite the Lord, the Father of Life and Light, to grant the spirit of discernment and the gifts of patience and wisdom.
- 4) Invite the Lord to take away the seeds of unbelief and doubt that sometimes encumber us and to help us to hearken unto the voice of His Spirit.
- 5) Invite the Lord to move upon us that pride is not found among us.
- 6) Invite the Lord that through His grace we are humble and contrite before Him and before our brothers and sisters.
- 7) Invite the Lord to touch us through the power of His Spirit that we are quickened, and we, together can truly learn to worship the Lord God in Spirit and in Truth.
- 8) Invite the Lord to illuminate our path and permit us to be one with Him, His Son, Jesus Christ and with our brothers and sisters.
- 9) Invite the Lord that He would renew within us the vision of Zion and the work of restoration and gathering His people.
- 10) Invite the Lord to bless us, to this end.

The invitation for us to “Come unto Me” and worship should never become routine or just a tradition in the Church of Jesus Christ. Even as we struggle with the “weaknesses” so evident in our lives, the Christ invites each of us to lay our burdens down before His feet as he promises to turn our weaknesses into strengths. In worship there is opportunity extended to the body of Christ to become steadfast and immovable as we seek to establish the cause of Zion. Christ’s invitation is to worship Him. As you ponder His invitation, remember to invite Him to come join with you as you worship the Heavenly Father with your praise, thanksgiving, prayers and testimonies, as you seek to bring honor and glory unto His name.