

Achievement of Zion Survey Findings

The following survey request with some instructions was sent electronically to over 2500 potential respondents. Ninety individuals responded by the end date.

*Below is a link to a survey concerning the achievement of Zion. The survey is being conducted to inform a priesthood discussion session at the upcoming elders conference that will be held on Friday afternoon, at 3:15, March 31. Your responses will be collated and shared to inform that discussion. Responses must be received by end of day, **March 29, 2023**.*

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AchievementOfZion>

The first 4 questions focus on what we Cherish: (what we hold dear, what we entertain or harbor in our mind and heart, deeply and resolutely) that hinder or assist the achievement of Zion. Questions 5 and 6 focus on what we Cultivate: (to develop, to promote, to grow, to harvest) that hinder or assist the achievement of Zion.

Questions 1 and 2 pertain to us as individuals. Question 3 and 4 are from the perspective of the branch or group you associate with. Questions 5 and 6 can be responded to either way. Each response box is limited to 100 characters to facilitate concise, thoughtful responses.

The two tables below provide some basic understanding of who responded.

Please select the choice that best represents where you live:		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Within a 60 mile radius of the Centerplace	62.50%	55
In the US, outside of a 60 mile radius of the Centerplace	34.09%	30
Outside of the US	3.41%	3
	Answered	88
	Skipped	2

Are you participating in the 2023 Elders Conference?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, at Waldo RB	37.50%	33
Yes, virtually through Zoom	22.73%	20
No	39.77%	35
	Answered	88
	Skipped	2

The table below summarizes how many answered each question and how many responses were received for each question.

What do I cherish that may be a hindrance and a barrier to the achievement of Zion?		
	Total Responses	254
Answered		86
Skipped		4
What do I cherish that may assist with the achievement of Zion?		
	Total Responses	314
Answered		90
Skipped		0
What does the branch/group you associate with cherish that may be a hindrance and a barrier to the achievement of Zion?		
	Total Responses	221
Answered		77
Skipped		13
What does the branch/group you associate with cherish that may assist with the achievement of Zion?		
	Total Responses	259
Answered		86
Skipped		4
What are we nurturing, cultivating that may assist with the achievement of Zion?		
	Total Responses	222
Answered		77
Skipped		13
What are we nurturing, cultivating that may be a hindrance and a barrier to the achievement of Zion?		
	Total Responses	233
Answered		75
Skipped		15

The following 6 tables reflect the filtered responses and corresponding frequency of 6 open ended questions survey participants were asked to answer.

Q1 - What do I cherish that may be a hindrance and a barrier to the achievement of Zion?

Frequency	Filtered Responses
22	My love of personal comforts/being comfortable/love of worldly things
	<i>Being comfortable. I can do what I want when I want, for the most part. I don't have to think about things like food, shelter, and having loved ones.</i>
14	My self-centeredness /wanting my way/my will
	<i>My own personal view of things regarding Zion. Personal boundaries/autonomy over my own life direction - My unyielding attitude</i>
5	My feeling of unworthiness
	<i>I have bouts of believing I am not good enough</i>
5	My distractions/to busy
	<i>I am easily distracted. Again it isn't a cherish thing but it is definitely a hindrance.</i>
7	My Fear/distrust
	<i>Thinking negative thoughts about world conditions and brooding over injustices to me and others.</i>
5	My need for the approval of others
	<i>Wanting others to accept me</i>
6	My being overly focused on personal time
	<i>My free time. I like to relax and not feel pressured to do something. Stewardship of time; time spent on trivial things.</i>
12	My need for a sense of security other than God/overly focused on temporal concerns
	<i>My job and the security it provides - earthly possessions, working extra hours to earn money. I have too much STUFF.</i>
21	My watching of TV, Videos, News Entertainments and Electronics
	<i>Internet-movies, documentaries, reading opinion pieces, news, medical & health articles. (time consuming) - Screen time (phone,laptop,tv) - too many emails</i>
5	My lack of faith/unbelief & spiritual preparation
	<i>Feelings that prevent me from having a broken heart and contrite spirit - Failing to pray over every situation first - Personal relationship with God - My scripture interpretation instead of asking/waiting for the H.S. consistent answer</i>
5	My personal relationships with others/Not loving-not charitable enough
	<i>God loves all and I need to learn to see people the way God sees people - Compassion for all</i>
12	My focus on family and friends
	<i>Family comes before church and church before Christ - Fun activities with friends and family</i>
13	My focus on personal interests/hobbies, and good activities
	<i>hobbies, such as TV and reading, that are not in alignment with Zion - Worldly pursuits and hobbies</i>
5	My being caught up in Worldly Concerns
	<i>Having been reared in a Babylonian society, it is difficult to completely separate from the "things" of the world.</i>
5	My self-righteousness/My pride/My selfishness
	<i>I love to judge and find fault in spite of my knowledge that it is wrong and my best efforts to stop - a sense that restorationists are better than other christians</i>
5	My lack of full commitment/My slothfulness
	<i>Priorities other than God and His work - Partial Consecration - My slothfulness</i>
4	My participation in unrighteousness/worldly lusts and desires/my sins
	<i>Lusts of the flesh - my sins</i>
4	Nothing
	<i>I do not love or cherish anyone or anything above the cause of Zion</i>
56	Not applicable

Q2 - What do I cherish that may assist with the achievement of Zion?

Frequency	Filtered Responses
10	A close daily walk with Jesus <i>My relationship with Christ. This one needs some work, but it's the most important thing I need in order to be of any use at all.</i>
11	My faith, My belief, My love in and for the Father and the Son - understanding his greatness <i>A deep and abiding faith that Jesus is the Christ and that He is in charge. - Putting everything on the lord and not to stress me out - I LOVE God.</i>
5	My hope and desire for Zion to be! <i>Having hope in Zion - Desire for Zion and to prepare for Zion - the Hope of Zion</i>
8	My desire to worship God <i>Opportunities for worship. Being remote from the Center place, there are limited opportunities and few saints for corporate worship. - Since corporate worship is limited, there are ample opportunities for individual worship</i>
14	My absolute reliance on the work of the Holy Spirit <i>Absolute dependence upon the Spirit - allowing the Spirit to go before me</i>
20	My desire to use the talents He gave me to contribute to the work of the Kingdom <i>That each of us has gifts and talents unique which makes us collectively stronger - Teaching, especially the youth, tutoring, mentoring - Music, this is my best contribution to my congregation and a gift that I am truly thankful for. I can only minister to others in this way with God's help.</i>
5	My desire to live my Faith <i>Being a powerful example, that others might see Christ through you - True religion (taking care of the fatherless and widow)</i>
18	My desire to serve others <i>I am trying to be of service. I started a Zion's League, a young Adult Group, and I teach Sunday School - I am willing to do hard things--go different places, knock on doors and invite strangers in etc.</i>
6	My desire to build relationships and encourage others <i>Encouraging others in their KINGDOM gifts to be used a that level</i>
4	My willingness to seek God's will together <i>The blessing received from God as we come together under God Spirit.</i>
14	My love and compassion for others <i>Love of people, their hopes and dreams as well as mine - Looking out for each other's welfare - Learning to love all, unconditionally like Jesus loves me.</i>
42	My desire for prayer, fasting, & study <i>Prayer for a greater vision and courage to do what is righteous, regardless of the consequences - Pray always, for those in need, the church, those unchurched, family friends, etc. - Searching the scriptures for hidden meanings and truth</i>
11	My close ties and bonds with family <i>I cherish my family and have always had a great desire for them to be in Zion.</i>
10	My desire to serve God - to keep His commandments <i>Desire to serve God - The delights of that which is holy, good, and lovely in the sight of God</i>
19	My fellowship with the Saints <i>My church family, not just my congregation. I love the Saints. If we could get everyone to agree on a common goal and not our differences, imagine the things we could accomplish. - The Spirit of God with is generated by the fellowship with other Saints.</i>
7	My desire to labour with like-minded saints <i>I desire and cherish working with like-minded Saints who work to overcome obstacles - Working together - I am ready and willing to help in any way I can towards the common goal of Zion.</i>
6	My desire to establish the cause of Zion <i>I cherish the the principles and goals of Zion, which I have believed in, all my life. - I have a strong desire to do what I can to establish the cause of Zion</i>
17	My desire to share my testimony of the gospel and the Kingdom <i>Speaking to those who haven't found Him - Tell others about Jesus and his gospel - Sharing my testimony about gathering to the Centerplace to those scattered Saints.</i>
9	I cherish God's truth contained in Scripture <i>Understanding of the the Word of God in all its forms</i>
5	My desire to share God's resources for the work of the Kingdom <i>Sharing surplus and financial needs for needy individuals and families.</i>
33	Not Applicable

Q3 - What does the branch/group you associate with cherish that may be a hindrance and a barrier to the achievement of Zion?

Frequency	Filtered Responses
7	Seem to cherish the status quo <i>Sense of complacency. Satisfied with the status quo.</i>
11	Seem to cherish autonomy/have an independent mindset <i>Autonomy on everyhting-how to spend money, priesthood calls, etc - We tend, I believe, to be too independent.</i>
16	Seem to cherish tradition <i>Too close to tradition - Traditions that are not found in Scriptures</i>
10	Seem to focus ons self-serving activities/ focus is inward <i>Being too self-serving as a branch - building projects, social events, potlucks, teas, retreats for members only - Almost zero community outreach - Lack of discipling others. Not about Jesus but about denomination.</i>
2	Willing to settle for lesser blessings <i>An underlying tendency to settle for MILK and personal pleasure</i>
6	Settle for minimal level of engagement <i>Apathy. Too few are willing to get involved with ministry</i>
16	Cherish worldly conveniences, possessions and comforts <i>As with probably all of us, we cherish the temporal conveniences and possessions that we have.</i>
2	Seem to not focus on need on Zion but on esoteric teachings <i>As a branch we don't seem to emphasize the need for Zion and discuss and preach ways to make that our mission statement after we have made our covenant with Christ.</i>
5	Cherish being "the Church" - Being choosen - Being special <i>Being the "chosen" - Belief that they are better than others</i>
8	Cherish worldly concerns more than Kingdom concerns <i>Those at the head of the organization are more faithful to fads of social justice than they are to Restoration purposes.</i>
4	Cherish being right/self-righteousness/judgemental - Pharisitical sin <i>Many, not a majority, cherish "being right" even when it may be very clear that it is wrong to hold to this so strongly. - not reasoning one with another</i>
11	Over reliance on Priesthood - in some instances "ineffective" <i>People expecting priesthood to make them holy - Priesthood not functioning as it should</i>
3	Cherish the familiar <i>Speak and associate with only those we know.</i>
6	Holding onto righteous indignation <i>We don't obey the scripture to go to the person we have a problem with.</i>
5	Fostering False pride - empty pride <i>Praising good actions as a source of pride - Lack of consistent individual and congregation level repentance</i>
5	Engaging in unchristian behavior <i>Gossiping - idle words - judgemental at time</i>
4	Being content - at ease <i>downplay the lateness of the hour with regards to the latter day calling. "Safe" preaching.</i>
4	No Idea <i>I do not know what they cherish except maybe pride</i>
5	Ineffective worship practices <i>Follow a protestant model for worship (like pretty much all branches we visit); talking head considered worship</i>
5	Harboring mistrust <i>Too interested in conspiracy</i>
5	A lack of vision and plan for Zion <i>It appears that there not a "vision" of Zion, speaking as a group and not individually.</i>
6	Desire to have our way instead of God's way <i>To caught up in our own ideas of how things will be - Listening to their own wisdom</i>
4	No Idea <i>I do not know what they cherish except maybe pride</i>
54	Not Applicable

Q4 - What does the branch/group you associate with cherish that may assist with the achievement of Zion?

Frequency	Filtered Responses
38	Not applicable
9	Cherish Zion concepts <i>A belief of Zion concepts</i>
19	Cherish Fellowship with other believers in God - One with God and One with one another <i>A desire to be one with our fellow believers in God - Fellowship with people of like faith - Providing activities and worship experiences that create bonds of love and brotherhood between members</i>
32	We love and support for one another <i>Our branch collectively has a great love for each other in spite of differing levels of spirituality. - We keep in touch with each other during the week and encourage each other along the narrow path. It is very uplifting!</i>
9	We have a strong desire to be part of building the Kingdom and the cause of Zion <i>A strong desire to be a part of building the Kingdom. We work well together and are a group that are all active and engaged in whatever needs doing. - We honor our Restoration heritage, but our focus is learning and adopting the ways of the Kingdom into which we are being called.</i>
5	We cherish being faithful <i>Great Faith - faith to overcome obstacles</i>
18	We cherish serving and assisting one another and others <i>We are generous in our temporal giving and in serving - Mutual support in times of need</i>
15	We cherish good efforts leading to the cause of Zion <i>Our branch holds services at local nursing homes - We are quite active in sending out missionaries and volunteers in other vital activities.</i>
18	We cherish coming together/associating with other branches <i>We have had occasional multi-branch gatherings that were very well supported and reinforced the need to be of one heart and one mind. - Members from all over, contributing to meetings, in the loving spirit of Christ.</i>
5	We cherish community involvement in good causes - engagement <i>Our branch has had a community service committee and has contacts with organizations and individuals that help us to reach out to those who are not necessarily church members</i>
10	We cherish fellowship with the Father and the Son <i>Desire for a close relationship with our Heavenly Father - The Fellowship of Christ</i>
18	We cherish earnest prayer <i>Dedicated room for individual and corporate daily prayer seeking God's mind and heart for the Kingdom - Intercessory prayer - We continue in prayer for Zion - 24 hour prayer vigil once/month</i>
4	We cherish a faithful and engaged priesthood functioning in their calling <i>Understanding the needs of the branch on an individual and collective level (Deacon, as well as Teacher and Priest)</i>
6	We cherish witnessing in word and deed - sharing the gospel <i>Sharing our testimonies. -Witnessing to others- supporting missionary work in several countries</i>
10	We cherish trusting God and doing His will <i>Desire to be God's people - We are hungry for the gospel and any direction from the Lord. - Desire to do God's will</i>
9	We cherish having a vision and plan for Zion <i>Our vision board that records what our vision is and what we are praying and bringing forth for the Kingdom - We share a focused vision of what we ARE doing on a daily basis to bring to pass the prophecies that speak of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.</i>
5	We cherish being a welcoming group <i>Being a welcoming group to those that come to worship.</i>
8	We cherish worshiping in Spirit and Truth with one another <i>Honest worship of various kinds that identifies why we are there and how it contributes to the Kingdom - We encourage worship participation from all members of the congregation and only reserve priesthood authority issues for performance of ordinances. - Presence & guidance of the Holy Spirit in our services</i>
10	We cherish learning of His ways <i>The desire to learn. Most, if not all, can be found reading the Scriptures daily, as well as various restoration periodicals. - Studying together - The process of finding everything we believe in scripture instead of using traditions to guide us.</i>
7	We cherish common consent and being unified <i>The Requirement that Unity in the priesthood is necessary before presenting anything to the congregation/Body. - The requirement that unity in the body is required before anything is done</i>

Q5- What are we nurturing, cultivating that may assist with the achievement of Zion?

Frequency	Filtered Responses
2	Nurturing a deep love for others
4	Nuturing a deep love of the Father and the Son <i>Loving Jesus more than anything</i>
5	Nuturing a daily walk with God <i>Stepping out in faith, not having everything figured out, just letting God lead and being obedient</i>
18	Nuturing compassion, concern, and support for others <i>A sharing of love and support for members and their loved ones. - Loving support for member and non-members alike - Love and respect for all humanity.</i>
9	Nuturing a faithful and engaged priesthood <i>A group of the best Priesthood that I have ever worked with striving to find our way - On a branch-level, we are cultivating proper use of priesthood offices</i>
16	Nuturing personal preparation and righteousness <i>Confession of sin with deep repentance. - Personal spiritual preparation so we may be effective in our priesthood ministry - Rising early to meet with Jesus, to converse with Him, to study. A private time of the day or night. Being sensitive to his Will</i>
5	Nuturing a willingness to be valiant in our testimony - in word and deed <i>A willingness to be valiant in our testimony of Jesus Christ, God, and the Holy Spirit - Sharing the truth with others in our daily walk - Potluck vs feeding the hungry</i>
5	Nuturing a willingness to serve God by serving others <i>Prepare extra rooms in my house for those who will gather in - Being willing to follow God's will whenever or wherever that takes us.</i>
16	Nurturing participation in good causes <i>Active involvement in our neighborhoods and meeting our neighbors' needs - We are trying to be more active in our community. Providing for the poor.</i>
4	Nuturing a willingness to work together <i>inasmuch as we have tried to come together - encouraging missionaries of groups to work together to accomplish missionary ministries</i>
7	A willingness to be involved in the lives of others in a real way <i>Becoming involved in a real way with families in need. - Building better relationships with branches close by</i>
5	Nurturing Charity <i>Having Charity (the pure love of Christ) be the operating principle of our lives</i>
13	Nuturing a willingness to Worship together - to associate with one another <i>I like the gatherings where all branches come together. Fostering an atmosphere where all are welcome is definitely a step in the right direction. - Developing joint services with other branches</i>
16	Nuturing opportunities to learn together about Zion, her principles, and other aspects of the Kingdom <i>educating Saints about Zion and her principles - On a branch-level, we are cultivating a proper understanding of what it means to be a member of Christ's church</i>
11	Nuturing our families and youth <i>Ministry to our families, then and along with ministry within our branches and outreach ministry. - I am working on maintaining a relationship with my daughter, who has strayed far from the path. I'm praying for wisdom on how to handle the situation. - Raising our youth to know God</i>
16	Nurturing earnest prayer <i>Deep intercessory prayer for God's Elect throughout the globe - We should continue to pray for the purpose and progress zion</i>
4	Nurturing being a faithful and engaged people <i>Encouraging covenant keeping</i>
10	Nurturing the sharing of the gospel - sharing the vision of Zion <i>Sharing Jesus with those the Spirit indicates need the testimony. - Taking the gospel to the other parts of the world</i>
3	Nurturing the use of our talents for God's purposes <i>Having members contribute with music, devotions, reading of scriptures and discussion.</i>
3	Nuturing trust in God <i>Stepping out in faith, not having everything figured out, just letting God lead and being obedient</i>
19	Nurturing good efforts <i>Our church magazines. Restoration Voice, Tidings of Zion, Vision, and access to the book store. - Personally speaking, domestic outreach is a tremendous blessing to those of us not in the center place. - The Freedom Stewardship Ministry (if I said that right—the group trying to help others get out of debt) seems to be a step in the right direction - Supporting CPRS and missionaries, and the gathering of the branches</i>
3	Nurturing the vision of the kingdom and Zion
7	Nothing or I don't know <i>Not much in the centerplace</i>
14	Not Applicable

Q6 - What are we nurturing, cultivating that may be a hindrance and a barrier to the achievement of Zion?

Frequency	Filtered Responses
11	Cultivating a dismissive attitude toward working with other groups, inside and outside the Restoration. <i>Keeping separate, having barriers - Unwillingness to recognize and help anyone and all others who are striving to build the Kingdom</i>
17	Cultivating reluctance to seek out and do God's will (concerning the achieving of Zion) - reluctance to listen and hear <i>Not asking the Lord, every minister has his own view on the redemption of Zion - Not truly listening to God as a people - running before God. Our future is in HIS Hands and His Time. His will, not ours.</i>
7	Cultivating grudges, anger, bitterness, hard feelings towards one another <i>I think there continues to be so much division, distrust, hurt, and anger among so many groups, even within just the restoration. It makes it hard to become ONE when these feelings continue.</i>
7	Cultivating complacency - apathy, slothfulness, a lack of motivation <i>Comfortable and satisfied with doing little</i>
21	Cultivating worldly pursuits - worldly concerns <i>As of right now, we don't know how to "break away from Babylon"—we are tied to our 40 hour work week because we need our income - Minds tuned to things other than Zion building endeavors...entertainment, occupation, technology - Love of money and tied to the world - watching TV/sports</i>
4	Cultivating behaviors unbecoming Saints - Lack of compassion <i>Backbiting, finding fault, refusing to find a way to bridge differences.</i>
4	Cultivating a focus on being right, having things our way <i>Being too heavily focused on being the "right" church; we must first be a "right" person in Jesus and then He will direct our paths. We should develop people with "righteous" hearts. - Thinking my way is the best</i>
3	Cultivating differences - arguing not reasoning <i>Calls for unity in the Restoration but not dealing with the core problems</i>
9	Cultivating self-righteousness, being judgmental - Pharistical sin <i>Clinging to the idea that mistakes are not allowed in the Kingdom building process - pretending to be superior to others</i>
4	Cultivating gossip, fault finding and bickering <i>Continued fault finding and bickering over authority and positions, and efforts</i>
12	Cultivating Distrust - seperation <i>Independent mindset - Deep seated distrust of anyone that doesn't attend a certain branch or congregation</i>
15	Cultivating a Spirit of Independence - Division - Disunity - Isolation <i>The desire for autonomy rather than a unified church following the pattern given in scripture - Our independence is a detriment to building Zion. - We do not work together as branches, churches, as individuals - unity is lacking</i>
5	Cultivating inappropriate power and control <i>Desire for power/leadership - many priesthood seek to control instead of serve members</i>
9	Cultivating Pride - ego - jealousy - envy <i>Pride against things and people we know nothing about - pride that we are the chosen ones - Priestcraft</i>
3	Cultivating snobbery <i>General overall snobbery</i>
2	Cultivating False doctrines, untruths <i>misguided practices that have crept into the church which are counterproductive to the zionic concept</i>
4	Cultivating disobedience/sin by not addressing it - Lack of repentance <i>We, as Priesthood, overlook infractions of the Gospel Law that it might offend a member causing them to leave the Branch</i>
8	Cultivating traditions <i>Holding to traditions of man</i>
2	Cultivate hypocrisy <i>We focus on being righteous and spiritual and drawing close to God, but we don't look to the needs in the community as being on par with personal righteousness. We focus on withdrawing from the world, but the only way to build Zion will be to start engaging in the community.</i>
5	Cultivating self-interests - self-centeredness - selfishness <i>not treating other saints as of equal value as ourselves</i>
8	Cultivating a reluctance to be doers <i>Plenty of hot air talk but little Center Place changes for our Community. - We believe in the "idea" but it's easier to just attend regularly and be fed and nothing more</i>
4	Don't know of anything <i>I have no clue but I'm thankful</i>
60	Not applicable