

Sixty Days of Preparation for the Solemn Assembly

Preface

On September 21st of this year, 2020, it will have been 197 years since the Angel Moroni visited Joseph Smith Jr. in his bedroom and told him about the golden plates that were buried in a stone box not far from Smith's home. 197 years of an awakening in these last days that God continues to speak to mankind and his promises to the House of Israel are not forgotten. In this time since the experience by Joseph, the church that emerged that was described by the almighty in section 1 of the Doctrine and Covenants as coming, *"out of obscurity, and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I the Lord am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually."* Sect. 1:5c ...the Lord has waited for us to truly be His people.

In your individual preparation to be a part of and contribute spiritually to the **Solemn Assembly** that has been called and is scheduled for Sept. 26-27 of 2020, the following scriptures and supporting council is offered as a blessing to each of you individually as well as to all those collectively who have, through their covenant with the Holy One of Israel, discovered the fullness of the scriptures that was spoken of in Luke 11:53. "Woe unto you Lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge, the fullness of the scriptures, ye enter not in yourselves into the kingdom; and those who were entering in, ye hindered."

The inspired version is the only version of the Bible that sheds light on what the key of knowledge is in this 11th chapter of Luke. *"The fullness of the scriptures..."*

From the foundation of this earth and the record we have of its creation and God's blessing upon it and upon the inhabitants, there has been a raging lion going to and fro upon the face of this earth devouring the souls of men and women. Satan has been described as this raging animal knowing that his time is short in relationship to eternity and has sought to destroy our joy in Christ. The Book of Joel in chapter 1:12, *"...because joy is withered away from the sons of men". (Remember that in God's presence is the fullness of joy....Ps. 16:11)*

As a result of this withering away over time, ancient Israel was directed to, *"call a Solemn Assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord and cry unto the Lord."* Joel 1:14

The Holy One of Israel is calling his covenant people to gather together in a Solemn Assembly on Sept. 26-27 of this year.

You may be curious as to why these dates in September have been selected. In our prayers and deliberations regarding the Solemn Assembly, it was impressed upon our hearts and minds that the visitations by Moroni was a quickening of the restoration in these last days. Moroni's visits to the prophet all coincided with the Israelite harvest festival.

Each time Moroni visited Joseph Smith Jr., it occurred in the Month of September and all of the visitations by Moroni were tied to a Feast Day of Israel. This year, Yom Kippur starts at Sundown on the 27th and runs through the 28th of Sept. The record indicates that Moroni visited Joseph Smith annually and the visits occurred generally around the time of the Israelite harvest festival season. The visits are recorded as follows:

- Sept. 21, 1823 Feast of Tabernacles
- Sept. 22, 1824 On the eve of Rosh Hashanah
- Sept. 22, 1825 On the day of Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement
- Sept. 22, 1827 Rosh Hashanah /Feast of Trumpets – Joseph allowed to take the plates

Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with an appropriate 25 hour period of fasting and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services. The significance of this date is that it is set aside every year since the Lord spoke to Moses in Leviticus 16:29 – *“And this shall be a statute forever unto you; that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you.”* Yom Kippur is for the atonement of personal and national sins.

If it is your desire to attend this Solemn Assembly on September 26-27 and offer the sacrifice of a Broken Heart and a Contrite Spirit, and seriously come before the Lord with no pretense, then please come. However, if it is your intent to withhold your sacrifice and just show up, then please exercise a modicum of introspection and stay home.

These words are not self-righteous views that any man has devised nor is it a judgement on any person, male or female, however, it is a call to sincere repentance, fasting and to pray this prayer from Psalms 139:23-24 over the next 60 days: *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; And see if there be any wicked way in me, lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Many have been fasting and praying concerning our understanding of a Solemn Assembly and have chosen to fast on Wednesdays. The counsel in the scriptures is very clear regarding fasting:

- It is personal and is always accompanied by prayer, study, pondering on our relationship to things eternal.
- We are to not appear to any man that we are fasting. No one but your Father in heaven should know. There is a promise that as He seeth our devotion in secret, that He will reward us openly. Don't appear unto those around you to be fasting or make a show of it as sometimes is displayed.
- Fasting is most often described as abstaining from one or a series of meals/food.
- We can abstain from many things, TV, pleasure, recreation and other pursuits of life, however, the call is to *“sanctify a fast.....afflict your soul....”* Strong words yes. If I abstain from TV for 24 hours, although it is a good thing, I have not experienced discomfort in my flesh.
- Please pray and ask the Lord to guide you in the sacrifice he is asking of you in this time of preparation.
- Fasting is not simply skipping a meal or two. Our fasting is intended to offer a reminder of our dependence on the Holy One of Israel and afford us time to feed our souls in communing with God in the time we would have been feeding our physical bodies.

With these thoughts of Assembling in Solemnity, we encourage and invite you to engage the next 60 days in preparation to draw nigh unto God.

60 Days of preparing our hearts and our souls to enter into His presence:

July 27 - The basics

Joel 2:12-14 *“Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart, and not your garments, and repent, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and he will turn away the evil from you. Therefore repent, and who knoweth but he will return and leave a blessing behind him;*

Our understanding of repentance has, on the more simplistic side, been described as – “ceasing to do evil and starting to do good”. The idea being that we cannot simply cease sinning and leave a void in our lives, we must fill that void with goodness and service to God and our fellow man.

Apostle Charles Hield a servant of the Lord in 1942 wrote the following about Repentance:

- “Penitence” etymologically signifies pain, grief, distress rather than a change of thought and purpose. Thus Latin Christianity stresses as man’s primary need – the Grief over sin, rather than the abandonment of sin, and his return to God’s ways.
- “Re” in the Latin means “back again”. This “return to God”, of which the turning from sin is the negative aspect, was taught by all the prophets of the Old Testament, as well as Christ and His disciples. (Acts 9:35; I Thess. 1:9)
- Throughout all the Three Standard Books of our church, man’s destiny, as well as his duty, is to be with God, as well as God with him. Sin is the consequence of straying from God and his laws. (Deut. 11:26-28)
- In the New Testament, repentance obviously was expected to result in a change of conduct. (Matt. 3:2-8; Acts 26:20; Luke 3:8)
- TO REPENT, WE MUST BE CONVINCED THAT WE ARE NOT LIVING AS GOD DESIRES AND INTENDED FOR US TO LIVE. THIS LIVING BELOW OUR POSSIBILITIES, GOD CLASSIFIES AS SIN.

On this first day of your journey, make the prayer that David prayed in the 139th Psalm yours as we are convicted of our sins and hopefully we are convinced that we need to repent as individuals and as covenant members of the House of Israel. (*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts...*)

July 28 - Capturing our attention

Recognizing our need for repentance comes in an instant, as in the case of Saul on the road to Damascus and over a period of time as in the case of Jim Adams. Jim was an elder in the Miami Pittsburg district of the Reorganized Church. As a young man, Jim had been drawn away by many of the promises the world brings to our door and had entangled himself in a number of things that were drawing him further from the Lord and the purpose the Lord had for him.

Jim was at a square dance on the dance floor with a flask of whiskey in his pocket and he felt someone tap him on the shoulder and said, **“You, have to stop living like this”**. Now Jim was not opposed to fighting in his younger days and proceeded to challenge whoever it was that had tapped him on the shoulder. No one was there. He realized this was a spiritual wake up call for him. Over the course of a few years he executed changes (Repented) in his life and began searching for truth with his wife Helen and he was eventually called to the Aaronic and then the Melcheizedek priesthood and served dutifully.

How does the Lord get your attention and convict you of the sin present in your life? The scriptures are so plain in the warning voice - and we should glory in plainness....and truth. *“There is a way which seemeth right unto man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* Prov. 14:12

Pause sometime today and ask sincerely for the Lord to show you those things festering in your soul to which your eyes are blinded. The things that seem right in our modern society but to a Holy God are unacceptable. Take time in your fasting to ask the Lord to tap you on the shoulder and help you expose those things that seemeth right unto you but may be leading to a slow spiritual death. Every soul is precious in the sight of the Lord and that means YOUR SOUL is precious and He desires to draw you to Him in loving kindness.

July 29 - In His image

It is said that a child has the nature of his / her parent. God’s plans are that we, too, grow to partake of His nature. (II Peter 2:4 - *“...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.”*)

If this “divine nature” is to be in us, we should ask ourselves if this is just-magically going to happen and all is well? Or, are we responsible for the exercising of our faith to the point that we have to recognize our separation from God and work out our souls salvation with fear and trembling and study to show ourselves approved, a workman that needeth not be ashamed and able to rightfully divide the word of truth. It does not appear that God ever intended our relationship with Him to be a passive one. Don’t just go through the motions and remain luke-warm in your walk with Christ.

July 30 - Nothing hidden

I Timothy 5:23 - *“Some men’s sins are open beforehand, going before to judgement, and some men they follow after.”*

The secret sins that so easily beset us, restrain us from walking close with Christ. Don’t wait for your sins to follow- after you into the next life, **forsake** them, take up your cross and follow Him. Read about King Lamoni speaking with Aaron. Alma 13:50 - *“Behold, saith he: I will give up all that I possess; Yea I will forsake my kingdom that I may receive this great joy.”* Psalm 16:11 proclaims: *“In His presence is the fullness of joy.”*

July 31 - Indebted

King Benjamin provided counsel to all those who will listen and his words are true and faithful in every generation:

Mosiah 1:53 - 54 *“I say unto you that if ye should serve him (God) who hath created you from the beginning, and art preserving you from day to day by lending you breath, that you may live and move and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another- I say if ye should serve Him with all your whole soul, and yet ye would be unprofitable servants.”*

As our hearts become broken in the knowledge of our sin, being convinced of our need to repent is apparent.

August 1 - Wickedness never was happiness

Romans 3:23 - *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

Charles Heil - *“A sinner is a person who has become a problem to himself and to others through the disregard of God’s laws for his being. However small the sin, it takes something from us. Not only does sin separate us from God, it sets man at variance with man. It is the greatest cause of strife in the human family and race.”*

August 2 - Exposed

Psalm 51:9-11 – “Hide thy face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.”

A.W. Tozar reminds us: “Hardly anything else reveals so well the fear and uncertainty among men as the length to which they will go to hide their true selves from each other and even from their own eyes.”

August 3 - Rebellion

Mosiah 1:108 – “But wo, wo unto him who knoweth that he rebelleth against God! For salvation cometh to none such, except it be through repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. “ I Samuel 15:23 – “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.” (concerning Saul)

August 4 - Which one are we?

Luke 18:10-13 – “Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself; God, I thank thee that I am not as other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers; or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. But the publican, standing a far off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me a sinner.”

The Lord is faithful to forgive when we confess our sins and repent with all sincerity of heart acting in no hypocrisy.

August 5 - Take up your cross

Matthew 5:29-31 – “Behold, it is written by them of old time, that 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. Behold, I give unto you a commandment, that ye suffer none of these things to enter into your heart, for it is better that ye should deny ourselves of these things, wherein ye will take up your cross, that that ye should be cast into hell.”

Matthew 5:34 – “And now I speak, a parable concerning your sins; wherefore cast them from you, that ye may not be hewn down and cast into the fire.”

Lust was/is the downfall of Israel in many generations and our generation is no different.

August 6 - Prepare for that which is to come

D&C 1:3 – “Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear; prepare ye prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in haven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of the servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles shall be cut off from among the people; for they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant; they seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great which shall fall.”

The Book of Mormon writers understood well that if we should serve him with our whole souls, we would still be unprofitable servants. Recognizing the need to repent requires us to humble ourselves and confess.

August 7 - Our hearts desires

D&C 6:4 – “Verily, verily I say unto you, even as you desire of me, so shall it be unto you; and if you desire, you shall be the means of doing much good in this generation. Say nothing but repentance to this generation: keep my commandments and assist to bring forth my work according to my commandment, and you shall be blessed.”

From the moment the Lord set His hand this last time to gather the House of Israel, the call has been to preach repentance and nothing but repentance. Hearken unto that portion of His spirit in you and come down into the depths of humility and confess, repent and endure as a good soldier in Christ.

August 8 - The earth crying out

Genesis 7:55 – “And it came to pass, that Enoch looked upon the earth, and he heard a voice from the bowels thereof, saying, Woe! woe! woe! is me the mother of men! I am pained, I am weary, because of the wickedness of my children! When shall I rest, and be cleansed from the filthiness which has gone forth out of me? When will my creator sanctify me, that I may rest, and righteousness for a season abide upon my face?”

August 9 - Harrowing up our souls

Alma 19:10-12 – “And now my son, I would to God that ye had not been guilty of so great a crime; I would not dwell upon your crimes to harrow up your soul, if it were not for your good; But behold, ye cannot hide your crimes from God, and except ye repent, they will stand as a testimony against you at the last day.”

We know that a father who loves his son chastens him and corrects him. Invite the chastening of the Lord and the confirmation of his love as he searches your inward parts with the light of his love.

August 10 - His love for the House of Israel

Jacob 3:87-89 – “And it came to pass that They beheld that the fruit of the natural branches had become corrupt also, yea, the first and the second and also the last; And they had all become corrupt; And the wild fruit of the last had overcome that part of the tree which brought forth good fruit, even that the branch had withered away and died. And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard wept.....”

The parable of the Olive Tree in the book of Jacob is actually a love story about the love of the Father for His covenant people, the House of Israel.

August 11 - A conscious and positive response to God's love

Charles R. Heild – “A knowledge of sin is possible without turning from it. One may even leave off his evil ways because of a dread of punishment. That is not true repentance. After his conversion the Apostle Paul not only stopped persecuting the Christians, he devoted his whole life and lived courageously. (for Christ)”

Acts 26:28 – “The (King) Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

Are you being persuaded to search even deeper, the depths of humility?

August 12 – We are more than conquerors through Christ

Revelation 3:10-12 – “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, this is New Jerusalem which cometh down out of heaven from my God....”

August 13 - Confessing

Psalm 32:1-11 – *“Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and who have no sins to be covered. Blessed is the man whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.....thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble.....Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.....Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.”* (imputeth=ascribe)

August 14 - The first shall be last

III Nephi 9:90-92 – *“...That the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which H hath covenanted with His people, O house of Israel. Therefore, when these works, and the work which shall be wrought among you hereafter, shall come from the Gentiles unto your seed, which shall dwindle in unbelief because of iniquity. For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, That He may show forth His power unto the Gentiles for this cause; That the Gentiles – if they will not harden their hearts – that they may repent and come unto Me and be baptized in My name and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people – O house of Israel.”*

I Peter 1:13 – *“**Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind,** be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

August 15 - Every work and every secret thing to be judged

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 – *“LET US HEAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER; FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS; FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN. FOR GOD SHALL BRING EVERY WORK INTO JUDGEMENT, WITH EVERY SECRET THING, WHETHER IT BE GOOD OR WHETHER IT BE EVIL.”*

The first step to wisdom is silence, the next is listening – Listen with your heart as the Savior of the world, the Holy One of Israel - is calling us to repentance.

August 16 - Willing to give it up

Alma 13:53 *And if there is a God, and if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to know thee, and that I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day.*

King Lamoni, In his conversion process, first tried to offer in sacrifice all of his worldly possessions, treasures and powers; not understanding that all of that already belonged to God. The only thing King Lamoni, (and all of us), have to offer, all that can be sacrificed, to give away, is all of our sins, that we also might know Him.

August 17 - Believe

Genesis 5:2 *And as many as believed in the Son, and repented of their sins, should be saved. And as many as believed not, and repented not, should be damned. And the words went forth out of the mouth of God, in a firm decree, wherefore they must be fulfilled.*

The key to knowing God is to believe He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him in faith. That process, of coming to know a righteous and Holy God, always begins with real personal repentance.

August 18 - Our best is still filthy

Psalm 69:5 *O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.*

Psalm 90:8 *Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.*

Isaiah 64:6 *But we have sinned; we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

God's all seeing eye pierces through all the darkness, all the distance, all the veils of this world to the intents of the heart. He knows our sins. Unfortunately, we often do not see those sins as easily in our life. It may be easier or more convenient to see the faults of others.

Let us not deceive ourselves; we are sinners, often wretched in our lesser moments. Let us not seek to hide what has been kept in the darkness. Let us confess our sins in the light to the only one who can cleanse them and make us whole.

August 19 - Separated

Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

It is the desire of God that we might be with Him, scripture plainly documents this fact. Scripture also tells us He cannot abide sin and wickedness in His presence. It is our disobedience, the sin within our daily walk that separates us, that dulls the ear that could hear, and blinds the eyes that could see His wonder and love on a grander scale.

August 20 - Only name or way given under heaven

Mosiah 8:89 *And now had ye not ought to tremble and repent of your sins, and remember only in and through Christ ye can be saved?*

It is not only important what we repent of, but to whom we cry for repentance.

August 21 - Own it

1st John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Repentance first requires confession. We have to 'own' what we have done and what we really are. If we half believe that we are sinners, and partially confess half of our sinfulness, we should only expect half of our sinfulness to be forgiven.

August 22 - An all-consuming love

II Nephi 3:33-47 *I am encompassed about because of the temptations and the sins which doth so easily beset me. And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted.*

My God hath been my support; he hath led me through mine afflictions in the wilderness; and he hath preserved me upon the waters of the great deep.

He hath filled me with his love, even unto the consuming of my flesh. He hath confounded mine enemies, unto the causing of them to quake before me.

Behold, he hath heard my cry by day, and he hath given me knowledge by visions in the night time.

And by day have I waxed bold in mighty prayer before him; yea, my voice have I sent up on high; and angels came down and ministered unto me. And upon the wings of his Spirit hath my body been carried away upon exceeding high mountains. And mine eyes have beheld great things; yea, even too great for man; therefore I was bidden that I should not write them.

O then, if I have seen so great things; if the Lord in his condescension unto the children of men, hath visited me in so much mercy, why should my heart weep, and my soul linger in the valley of sorrow, and my flesh waste away, and my strength slacken, because of mine afflictions?

And why should I yield to sin, because of my flesh? Yea, why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart, to destroy my peace and afflict my soul? Why am I angry because of mine enemy?

Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin.

Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul.

August 23 - Sincerity of heart

Mosiah 2:16-17 And again: Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you: And now, if you believe all these things, see that ye do them.

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,...

Repentance is an action verb. It is not an accomplishment as much as an on-going process. Repentance is not only Godly sorrow, but a movement toward Godly actions.

August 24 - As we forgive those

Mosiah 11:137-141 Therefore I say unto you, Go; and whosoever transgresseth against me, him shall ye judge according to the sins which he has committed; And if he confess his sins before thee and me, and repenteth in the sincerity of his heart, him shall ye forgive, and I will forgive him also;

Yea, and as often as my people repent, will I forgive them their trespasses against me.

And ye shall also forgive one another your trespasses: for verily I say unto you, He that forgiveth not his neighbor's trespasses, when he says that he repents, the same hath brought himself under condemnation.

Now I say unto you, Go; and whosoever will not repent of his sins, the same shall not be numbered among my people: and this shall be observed from this time forward.

Repentance and forgiveness go hand-in-hand like two best friends. Neither is quite whole without the presence of the other.

August 25 - Refrain from sin

D&C 81:1a-d Verily I say unto you, my servants, that inasmuch as you have forgiven one another your trespasses, even so I, the Lord, forgive you; nevertheless there are those among you who have sinned exceedingly; yea, even all of you have sinned, but verily I say unto you,

Beware from henceforth and refrain from sin lest sore judgments fall upon your heads; for unto whom much is given much is required; and he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation.

Ye call upon my name for revelations, and I give them unto you; and inasmuch as ye keep not my sayings which I give unto you, ye become transgressors, and justice and judgment is the penalty which is affixed unto my law:

August 26 - Intercession for us

Mosiah 8:27 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors: and he bare the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Incredible as it may seem, Jesus bears the sins of every man and woman that were, that are, and that will ever be. He expects nothing from us, but when we call ourselves by His name He demands our all.

August 27 - Zero tolerance policy

D&C 1:5f *...for I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven;*

August 28 – His cleansing power

Psalm 51:1-3 *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me.*

August 29 - We wrestle not against flesh and blood

Romans 7:25-26 *But my members are warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. And if I subdue not the sin which is in me, but with the flesh serve the law of sin; O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

August 30 - Forsaking our sins

D&C 90:1a *Verily, thus saith the Lord, It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face, and know that I am, and that I am the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world;*

August 31 - Our sins have far reaching effects

Ezra 9:1-7 *Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons; so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands; yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass. And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished. Then were assembled unto me everyone that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice. And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the Lord my God, And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God; for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.*

Notice how the individual sins of the nation BECAME the sins of the nation. No man is an island. My sin affects you, as your sin affects me, and the whole body of Christ. Sin is sin, and we need to recognize our need to stand, united, in repentance unto He who is perfect. As we are called to be one, blessing and cursing will be OURS.

September 1 - Clearing out the clouds over Zion

D&C 102: 2a-3a *Behold, I say unto you, Were it not for the transgressions of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been redeemed even now; but, behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh Saints, to the poor and afflicted among them, and are not united according to the union required by the law of the celestial kingdom; and Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself; and my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer. I speak not concerning those who are appointed to lead my people, who are the first elders of my church, for they are not all under this condemnation; but I speak concerning my churches abroad;*

This revelation was given on June 22, 1834, just four years after the church was officially formed, and was already found to be under condemnation. To my knowledge, this condemnation has not been lifted. If it is to be lifted, it must start as you and I become united in His Spirit. The body cannot function without the life giving touch of the Master's will. But it will take each of us giving up our own will; dying to self, so that Christ may be all in us, individually and corporately. We must repent of our rebellion, and submit to He who is mighty to save.

September 2 - Our will vs. His

Joshua 7:1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing; for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing; and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel.

Again, the sin of one person will affect the body of Christ. In this familiar verse, one man thought to commit a sin to prosper himself. Obviously, the Lord knew. NO sin is secret to the Lord, and ALL sin affects everyone else. Even the best intentions can lead us astray, as long as we seek our own will. We must seek the Lord, as a people, with all our heart, mind, and strength. Remember, it is HIS church.

September 3 - The people called to repentance

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Again, another very familiar scripture. But the inference here is the repentance of the corporate body. This is not to say that individuals who repent will not receive a blessing, but the Lord's desire to bless His people, as a nation, is the greater hope. And any blessing given, will be enjoyed by all. It's all about becoming one, and learning to live that way.

September 4 - Rebellion acknowledged

Daniel 9: 5-8 We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments; Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee. O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

So, how many of us were actually involved in the decisions that caused the demise of the Reorganized church? Probably not many. Does this lack of involvement make us righteous? Not at all. We may not have been involved in those past decisions, but we have perpetuated the falling away by not being the light, the example, that the Lord wanted us to be. We are all guilty of going astray. We must stand united in our repentance, so that we might be lifted up, together.

September 5 - Every soul has a gift to contribute

I Corinthians 12: 12-27 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one

body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary; And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need; but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked; That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

In Paul's dissertation, we learn how important each member is to the whole. God created us to be one, even as He is one with His son; it's how we become sanctified. Each member is needed by every other member, to fulfill our calling as the children of God, and to establish His Kingdom.

September 6 - National rebellion

Daniel 9: 3-9 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes; And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments; Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee. O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him;

There's an important point made in this scripture. Daniel is very detailed in his enumeration of the sins of Israel. Too often, when we pray, we say "forgive me", without receiving understanding from the Lord, as to what sins have been committed. This is not an exercise in humiliation, but rather, an exercise in understanding God. As we get to know Him, we become more aware of how our sin pains Him. It's our place to know, and repent, which then gives Him the privilege of forgiving us, and welcoming us back into his presence.

September 7 - Endowed with power from on high

"The Endowment" (pg. 26) by Earl Curry - "This purification will be from the lusts of the flesh, from the temptation of the devil, from evil ways and thoughts, from selfishness, from personal glorification, from narrow and unholy purposes, and the like. Out of the grand experiences of these days will come liberation from the sins of the flesh, which as men give way to them bind them as with chains. Out of the glory of these days shall arise a brotherhood of extraordinary ministers and people whom God can and shall wondrously use to achieve His purposes, in the noblest of all possible associations-even God working with man and man with God-both doing so sacrificially and with glorious ends in view. By all these things, as you shall individually and collectively carry them out, shall the ministry of this day be made ready for the crowning experiences of the Endowment."

Isn't this beautiful? God, being involved with our sanctification, using His power, to achieve His purpose. In the paragraph above this selection, the author makes this statement; "This purification shall come about because of the exalted spiritual experiences that shall be SHARED". Again, we need each other to become the body of Christ, and it's Gods will to see us achieve this. Like produces like. Man can only give what he has within himself- fleeting mortality. We need Gods power to achieve what He desires to do IN us, and THROUGH us.

September 8 - A people being forgiven

2 Chronicles. 6: 24-31 *And if thy people Israel be put to the worse before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee; and shall return and confess thy name, and pray and make supplication before thee in this house; Then hear thou from the heavens, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest to them and to their fathers. When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance. If there be dearth in the land, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting or mildew, locusts or caterpillars; if their enemies besiege them in the cities of their land; whatsoever sore, or whatsoever sickness there be; Then what prayer or what supplication soever shall be made of any man, or of all thy people Israel, when everyone shall know his own sore and his own grief, and shall spread forth his hands in this house; Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men;) That they may fear thee, to walk in thy ways, so long as they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.*

This scripture is an excerpt from King Solomon's prayer. This is the King of Israel, accepting the sin of his people corporately, and pleading with the great I AM to forgive the trespasses of his kingdom. As Section 81 tells us "unto whom much is given, much is required"; we have been given much. If we, as a church, are ever to see the Kingdom of God on earth, we must live up to our privilege. This requires us to become the Body of Christ. That same section 81 also states "I, the Lord, am bound when you do what I say, but when you do not what I say, ye have no promise". It's time to prove the Lord at his word, and come together before His throne of grace, and repent.

September 9 - All-in repentance

Nehemiah 9: 1-2 *Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.*

Interesting how the act of repentance required a temporal form, even as a people. Repentance is to be more than just a verbal pronouncement; it is to be a humbling of the mind and body. Even as Christ shed great drops of blood over the sin of His people, so should we feel pain, in the knowledge that He who loves us more than anyone else, has been willfully mocked. This can only be achieved as we see God for who He really is, and what sin means to Him. This is a relational gospel, and is built upon love. We can't truly love God, as He deserves, until we see our sin as it really is.

September 10 - The Covenant connects us all as latter day Israel

Romans 5: 8-12 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned;*

Is it "fair" for us to willingly accept the sins of the body as our own? Do we cut off our finger when it gets an infection, or does the body, willingly, sacrifice itself to bring healing to that finger. Our calling is a calling of love. Even as Jesus took upon himself our sin, so must we bear one another's burdens so that the body may be healthy and whole. The hand alone cannot heal itself, nor the foot. It takes a body to bring

healing to the individual, and in doing so, joy and peace is enjoyed by the whole body. This is the life we have been invited to. This is also the life we chose when we entered the waters of baptism.

September 11 - A contrite church

D&C 63:15e *Wherefore, let the church repent of their sins, and I, the Lord, will own them; otherwise they shall be cut off.*

In the parable of the vine, found in John 15, the Lord makes clear our working relationship: “I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.” Again, no man is an island. We need the strength of each other, and, more importantly, the vine. Our purpose in this life is to bear fruit for the Lord of the vineyard. There is no other purpose for us. We cannot allow our own agendas to inhibit the production of fruit. If we don’t work together, we become withered, and will be cast out. To abide in Jesus is both an individual and corporate response, which includes repenting.

September 12 - Call to assemble in solemnity

Joel 2: 12-18 *Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; And rend your heart, and not your garments, and repent, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and he will turn away the evil from you. Therefore repent, and who knoweth but he will return and leave a blessing behind him; that you may offer a meat offering, and a drink offering, unto the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a **solemn assembly**; Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them; wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people.*

“Rend your heart, and not your garments”; the Lord sees our motives, he knows what is in our hearts. Our hearts are like an open book to Him, and He turns the pages and sees what we cannot. This is why we cannot come before the Lord, in repentance, without examining ourselves and our place before Him. Purity comes from Him. The key to individual and corporate repentance lies in the heart. Jesus said “blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”. When our hearts are pure, they become pliable, and then our Heavenly Father can mold us into what He desires us to be. We need to accept Jesus as not only our Savior, but our King. His promises are sure.

September 13 - He is a jealous God

Mosiah 7: 31-35 *Wo be unto this people, for I have seen their abominations, and their wickedness, and their whoredoms: and except they repent, I will visit them in mine anger. And except they repent, and turn to the Lord their God, behold, I will deliver them into the hands of their enemies; Yea, and they shall be brought into bondage; and they shall be afflicted by the hand of their enemies. And it shall come to pass that they shall know that I am the Lord their God, and am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of my people. And it shall come to pass that except this people repent, and turn unto the Lord their God, they shall be brought into bondage; and none shall deliver them, except it be the Lord, the Almighty God.*

When it comes to our allegiance, our God is jealous. Do we have idols in our lives, personally and corporately? Yes, we do. There is no middle ground; we are either for Him, or against Him. Can we not see that our transgressions have led us into bondage? We are more comfortable than others, perhaps, but we

are in bondage. But Jesus has said “If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”. Is the body of Christ free from sin, able to be a light to the world? Not until we repent, and allow the Lord to lead us out of the captivity of sin. Only He is mighty to save. Let us purge ourselves of this world and partake in the Kingdom that awaits those who believe on His name.

September 14 - Are you willing or must we be compelled to repent?

Helaman 4: 4-9 And it came to pass that in this year, Nephi did cry unto the Lord, saying, O Lord, do not suffer that this people shall be destroyed by the sword; but O Lord, rather let there be a famine in the land, to stir them up in remembrance of the Lord their God, and perhaps they will repent and turn unto thee; And so it was done, according to the words of Nephi. And there was a great famine upon the land among all the people of Nephi.

And thus, in the seventy and fourth year, the famine did continue, and the work of destruction did cease by the sword, but became sore by famine. And this work of destruction did also continue in the seventy and fifth year. For the earth was smitten, that it was dry, and did not yield forth grain in the season of grain; and the whole earth was smitten, even among the Lamanites as well as among the Nephites, so that they were smitten that they did perish by thousands, in the more wicked parts of the land. And it came to pass that the people saw that they were about to perish by famine, and they began to remember the Lord their God; and they began to remember the words of Nephi.

Do we REALLY want to learn obedience by the things we suffer? That is option 2. Option 1 is coming together, in fasting and prayer, and seek the forgiveness of our Heavenly Father. When we are brought into a remembrance of our sin, it leads us to He who is the forgiver of sin. We need to become born again; a new, clean vessel, so that the Lord can fill us with Himself. Jesus didn't die so we could all go to church; He died so we could BECOME the church. One body, comprised of many parts. As the hymn says “this our calling, this our purpose”. The time is right, His work must hasten. The groom cometh soon.

September 15 - Wake up

Matthew 25: 1-12 And then, at that day, before the Son of Man comes, the kingdom of heaven shall be likened unto ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five of them were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Lest there be not enough for us and you, go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage; and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, Ye know me not. Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

Many times, we read the Parable of the Virgins and we are told that there were five virgins that were ill prepared for the return of the Bridegroom and we forget that all 10 were sleeping. It is true that five were foolish because they only brought the oil in their lamps, which was not enough to endure until the Bridegrooms returned, but all of them lacked anticipation and possibly thought that he would not come as soon as He did.

September 16 - Be Vigilant

Matthew 24: 50-54 ...know this, if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to have been broken up; but would have been ready. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant,

whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing; And, verily I say unto you, he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

How many times have we looked in anticipation for the return of the Lord and been frustrated because of the things of this world? How many times have we heard that the Kingdom will be established in generations past only to see that they have come and gone? These are the very things that the adversary uses to lull us to sleep.

September 17 - Be faithful

Leonard Ravenhill – “God honors not wisdom nor personality but faith. Faith honors God. And God honors faith.”

We must have faith, collectively, that the Lord’s plan is perfect. We must trust that He carries, so that not one soul is lost unnecessarily. And we **MUST** repent for our lack of faith in regard to these things.

September 18 - Be a witness

D&C 32:3e Wherefore, be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may be ready at the coming of the Bridegroom; for, behold, verily, verily I say unto you, that I come quickly; even so. Amen.

The light of the world is Jesus Christ. It is also the fruit of a lamp that is full of oil. How do we know if we have enough oil? The light that is cast from our lamps are the testimonies and reflection of Jesus Christ within our lives. It shines unto the world and testifies of a loving Father and Son who desire to redeem mankind.

When was the last time you had a testimony of how God is working in your life? If it has been a while, consider how much oil is in your lamp and vessel. If you find it wanting, what in this world is replacing that oil?

September 19 - Be loving and patient

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Each instinct, if you listen to it, will claim to be gratified at the expense of the rest. The first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. – CS Lewis

Have you ever felt that the Kingdom has not been established because others refuse to be obedient? Each saved soul is a part of the Body of Christ and therefore is placed there by the hand of God to assist in the perfect function of that body. Unless the entire body is present and functioning as designed the work of the Kingdom is stifled.

September 20 - Study

John 1:16 For in the beginning was the Word, even the Son, who is made flesh, and sent unto us by the will of the Father. And as many as believe on his name shall receive of his fullness. And of his fullness have all we received, even immortality and eternal life, through his grace.

It is through the written word that we become acquainted with God and his nature. His son is the “Word made flesh” and to drink in the words of the fullness of the gospel is to take in His nature, even the fullness of God. It is through this devotion and sacrifice of time that we are even able to contemplate coming into the Presence of the Father.

September 21 - Be Prayerful

Leonard Ravenhill – “No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few prayers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.”

How many quality relationships have you had with people where there is no communication? Communication is at the heart of all relationships and when it suffers, the bond of that relationship suffers. The Lord asks us to pray unceasingly, not to gain anything more than a relationship, through that relationship we get to know ourselves, not the other way around. He already knows us.

September 22 - Fast

Matthew 9:15-17 *And while he was thus teaching, there came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft but thy disciples fast not? And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bride-chamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.*

IV Nephi 1:13 *And they did not walk any more after the performances and ordinances of the Law of Moses, but they did walk after the commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God, continuing in fasting and prayer, and in meeting together oft, both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord.*

We learn of the Lord through studying our scriptures. We speak to the Lord through prayer; but we hear the Lord through fasting. Fasting although is more than abstaining from food, by translation, begins with by sacrificing food. Fasting has been defined as the organization of your life around a central [spiritual] theme. Everything focused on coming into the presence of God.

September 23 - Be Listening

Gary Rohrmayer – “Intimacy with God is not experienced through monolog prayers but through reflective listening as well as earnest petitioning.”

Much of our time is invested in studying and prayer as we walk through life with God. However, if we want God to walk with us we must be willing to take time and listen to His voice.

September 24 - Be Humble

Ether 5:27-29 *And when I had said this, the Lord spake unto me, saying, Fools mock, but they shall mourn; and my grace is sufficient for the meek, that they shall take no advantage of your weakness; and if men come unto me, I will shew 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. Behold, I will shew unto the Gentiles their weakness, and I will shew unto them that faith, hope, and charity, bringeth unto me the fountain of all righteousness.*

Humility is the understanding that God is the creator of all things and nothing we have done or acquired was done by our will, but God's. We have come into this world with nothing and we will leave it with nothing. Sorrow comes in response of this fact to a stubborn heart, but joy to the Saint.

September 25 - Be immersive

Francis Chan – “We never grow closer to God when we just live life. It takes deliberate pursuit and attentiveness.”

This world we live in seduces us into believing we deserve things; vacation, entertainment, and good food, but these things are designed to distract us from the sinful nature of this world and how much God is needed to redeem mankind. Let us be deliberate in our dedication to the plan of salvation.

September 26 - Atonement

Isaiah 53:7-12 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Without the Christ we have no way of receiving forgiveness and therefore are not able to come into the presence of the Father. His example leads us to know that love is not fully realized without sacrifice. The Father and Son weighed each soul and determined each one of us was worthy of that Love.

September 27 - Prepare to come into his presence

D&C 45:10b-d And at that day when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins; for they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived, verily I say unto you, They shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day, and the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation, for the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their King and their lawgiver.

Charles Spurgeon – “Oh, brethren, be great believers! Little faith will bring your souls to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to you.”

Let us all come in faith with humility to petition unto our Lord that He would forgive us of our complacency, our judgements, and our self-righteousness, that His righteous condemnation would be lifted from His Church. Let us also ask for strength to live up to the privilege that He has bestowed upon us, an undeserving people.

Solemn Assembly

The things we have and will experience in this life will stand as a bright testimony against or for us at the last days. Arise, and shake the dust off of our garments and be men (women) of sound understanding as a result of His goodness and mercy unto us. Come into His gates with thanksgiving for the great things the Lord hath done.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.....