

Sixty Days of Response to the Solemn Assembly

...By the endurance of faith on His name to the end. Amen - Moroni

The Lord issued a call to His people to gather in a Solemn Assembly with broken hearts and contrite spirits, and on September 27, 2020 many of you responded to that call and gathered in Independence and other designated places within the CenterPlace, around the country, internationally in Kenya and the Philippines, and homes all over the world. This gathering was not to start a new church or initiate a movement, it was to come before God in humble repentance, confession of our sins, and to ask for His forgiveness.

The spirit of humility was manifest in each person present during the two days of worship and repentance. Even so that the prayers of repentance and confession of our individual and corporate sins within the body, were lifted for more than 8 hours from saints all over the world. Modern day revelation reminds us that no one can assist in this work except they be humble and full of love. That humility was present in the body of Christ's followers this weekend.

Now what? We have participated in 60 days of preparation, gathered in a Solemn Assembly to lay bare and present our hearts and minds to the Lord, to seek His condescension, blessings and revelation for our lives, and now it is time for each of us to respond to that revelation.

The body was not challenged by a revelation or thus sayeth the spirit during the service, however, we were challenged by these words of truth, **“what if the Lord blessed us with a thousand revelations?”** Each one now is a walking revelation of the way He moved to bring us to a deeper sense of our complicit involvement in the sins that have bound our lives and the church for so many years.

Our way forward lies not only in repenting from something, but repenting towards something—the work of the Kingdom. Consider these words from an article in the Tidings of Zion, Issue #118, pg.3:

“Oakman continues, *We have devaluated the splendid word ‘repentance’ by thinking of it in negative terms. We have imagined that repentance means merely ‘leaving off doing that which is wrong.’* Certainly there is a need for us to remember and reflect on that which is wrong in our life, but only for the purpose of adjusting our focus on doing that which is right. We should only reflect on the past in light of how it will inform our current and future walk. Reflection on what has happened for any other reason is a form of self-indulgence that steals away precious energy for what we could do for the sake of the Kingdom.

“Oakman shares that, *No man can forget or overcome his sin by always thinking about it. What Jesus points out is that repentance is directed toward the Kingdom. It is not only the consciousness of sin that leads to adjustment, but the fact that attention is to be centered on a better way of life.*

While repentance is away from self, it is away from self because it is toward God. It begins by thinking about our resources and our gifts, and how these can be used for the coming of the Kingdom. It begins not by thinking about what is wrong with us, but by thinking how our faculties can be used for a cause that endures.”

There were many testimonies of the way our hearts and minds were changed during the prayer and fasting prior to and during the assembly. Testimonies of how, in our personal sacrifice that the Lord saw in secret, He continues to reward us openly according to His promises. He is truly leading us in the path of righteousness for His name sake and wants to give us the Kingdom if we but keep his commandments.

Now what? He is looking for our response, our righteous sacrifice, a people who are repentant and prepared in every way to meet Jesus, a people actively engaged in the work of His Kingdom.

The following devotionals are divided into four categories to help us maintain our focus on Him.

- There is Joy in the pruning – Sept. 28-Oct. 12
- Once you are in the path, “Is all done?” – Oct. 13-27
- Endure hardness as a good soldier in Christ – Oct. 28-Nov. 11
- Pressing forward with a perfect brightness of hope – Nov. 12-26

September 28 – Joy in the pruning

John 15:1,2 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the Husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

My family and I lived in a development near a very large apple orchard. Each winter, the migrant workers would come through and remove all of the dead branches from the trees and any “suckers” that would not produce or support the weight of the fruit, in the fall. As they performed the pruning they left behind large piles of branches and suckers that were removed from the tree.

These piles, many times, appeared to be the same size of the tree they were laying near. As I reflect upon the images and the cutting away of those things in my life that are not profitable to the building of the Kingdom, I recognize the need for the process to take place in my life. Many times, I flinch at the pain of the shears, but if I claim to trust the vinedresser then I will submit to His good judgement.

September 29 – God is never closer...

“The vinedresser is never nearer the branches than when he is pruning them.” ~ David Jeremiah

If our desire is to be in the presence of the Father and the Son, there is a price to be paid for both parties. God made His sacrifice when Jesus came and died for our sins. What must we sacrifice that is not beneficial to the Kingdom?

September 30 – What is standing in the way of the Kingdom?

Matthew 19:16-22 *And, behold, one came and said, Good master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God; but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honor thy father and mother. And, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up; what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go, sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.*

October 1 – The Cost

Luke 14:26-29 *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, or husband, yea and his own life also; or in other words, is afraid to lay down his life for my sake, cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. Therefore, settle this in your hearts, that ye will do the things which I shall teach, and command you. For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have money to finish his work?*

October 2 – Suffering for spiritual change

Hebrews 11:38-40 *Of whom the world was not worthy; they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promises; God having provided some better things for them through their sufferings, for without sufferings they could not be made perfect.*

October 3 – Suffering for God’s glory

Jacob 3:59 – 63 *And it came to pass that they went forth whither the master of the vineyard had hid the natural branches of the tree, and he said unto the servant, Behold these: And he beheld the first, that it had brought forth much fruit; and he beheld also, that it was good. And he said unto the servant, Take of the fruit thereof, and lay it up, against the season, that I may preserve it unto mine own self; For behold, said he, this long time have I nourished it, and it hath brought forth much fruit. And it came to pass that the servant said unto his master, How comest thou hither to plant this tree, or this branch of the tree? for behold, it was the poorest spot in all the land of thy vineyard.*

October 4 – Covenant and Sacrifice

Lectures on Faith (LoF) 6:9a-d *It was in offering sacrifices that Abel, the first martyr, obtained knowledge that he was accepted of God. And from the days of righteous Abel to the present time, the knowledge that men have that they are accepted in the sight of God, is obtained by offering of sacrifice. And in the last days, before the Lord comes, he is to gather together his saints who have made a covenant with him by sacrifice. PS. 50:3-5, “Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour*

before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant **with me by sacrifice**.

October 5 – There is fellowship in trials

LoF 6:8a-d *It is in vain for persons to fancy to themselves that they are heirs with those, or can be heirs with them, who have offered their all in sacrifice, and by this means obtained faith in God and favor with him so as to obtain eternal life, unless they in like manner offer unto him the same sacrifice, and through that offering obtain the knowledge that they are accepted of him.*

October 6 – Deny Yourself

Matthew 16: 25-29 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. And now for a man to take up his cross, is to deny himself all ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and keep my commandments. Break not my commandments for to save your lives; for whosoever will save his life in this world, shall lose it in the world to come. And whosoever will lose his life in this world, for my sake, shall find it in the world to come. Therefore, forsake the world, and save your souls; for what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul.*

October 7 – Sacrifice

John 12:24-26 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am there shall also my servant be; if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.*

October 8 – How far will our faith take us?

“I am a committed to-the-death devoted follower of Jesus Christ. I am not a mere fan who will walk away when I don’t like what he asks me to do or when my ‘self’ disagrees with his solution to a problem in my life.” – Katherine Walden

October 9 – Willing to suffer for the love of God

Mosiah 12:5-8 *Now they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they could not bear that any human soul should perish; Yea, even the very thoughts that any soul should endure endless torment, did cause them to quake and tremble. And thus did the Spirit of the Lord work upon them, for they were the very vilest of sinners. And the Lord saw fit in his infinite mercy to spare them; nevertheless they suffered much anguish of soul, because of their iniquities; and suffering much, fearing that they should be cast off forever.*

October 10 – Love is expressed through sacrifice

Alma 14:118 *For behold, they had rather sacrifice their lives than even to take the life of their enemy; and they have buried their weapons of war deep in the earth, because of their love towards their brethren.*

October 11 – Victory through weakness

“God’s means of delivering us from sin is not by making us stronger and stronger, but by making us weaker and weaker. That is surely rather a peculiar way of victory, you say; but it is the divine way. God sets us free from the dominion of sin, not by strengthening our old man but by crucifying him; not by helping him to do anything, but by removing him from the scene of action.” – Watchman Nee

October 12 – The natural man must die

Romans 6:3-7 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should **not** serve sin. For he that is dead to sin is freed from sin.*

October 13 – Keep on the Straight Path

2 Nephi 13:25-29 *And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; And ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of*

*the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye enter in by the way, ye should receive. And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask, **if all is done?** Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far, save it were by the word of Christ, with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save; Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men.*

October 14 – Keep on the Straight Path, our hope is in the choosing...

2 Nephi: 15-10 I have charity for my people, and great faith in Christ, that I shall meet many souls spotless at his judgment seat. I have charity for the Jew: I say Jew, because I mean them from whence I came. I also have charity for the Gentiles. But behold, for none of these can I hope, except they shall be reconciled unto Christ, and enter into the narrow gate, and walk in the straight path, which leads to life, and continue in the path until the end of the day of probation.

Hope is in the choosing. For most saints, it is not a lack of understanding the basic commandments of God, of knowing right from wrong, or what sin verses righteousness is. It is a problem of choosing a path of our own liking rather than choosing the straight road Christ trod which leads to eternal life.

October 15 – Keep on the Straight Path, learning every day

*Doctrine & Covenants (D&C) 85:36a-b Therefore, verily I say unto you, my friends, Call your solemn assembly, as I have commanded you; and as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning even by study, and also by faith. Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing, and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, **a house of learning**, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God;*

Many wise men in and out of the church have advanced the thought that we should learn something valuable each day to render an increase in our knowledge. Nephi refers to this as “feasting on the words of Christ.” There is profound wisdom to be found in daily searching and pondering the Word of the Lord.

October 16 – Keep on the Straight Path, power of purposeful prayer

Alma 16:219-222 Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid- day, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase. But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness; Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you.

In the Book of Mormon, Enos called unto the Lord to bless his people the Nephites. That purposeful prayer was then extended to the Lamanites who were their adversaries. The resulting generational promises of God to remember these people for which Enos prayed became some of the main purposes for the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. There was power in the purpose and in the praying of those prayers.

October 17 – Keep on the Straight Path, love of sacrifice

*Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.** And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.*

Author Oakman was known to have said “the reward of sacrifice is the sacrifice.”

October 18 – Simplify, removing the chaos in your life

2 Nephi 15:7 I glory in plainness; I glory in truth; I glory in my Jesus, for he hath redeemed my soul from hell.

One of the great joys of the Book of Mormon is the plainness contained therein—we all can acknowledge that fact. There is freedom in plainness, in the lack of ambiguity and chaos. There is a wonder in a simplified life with Jesus as our only source of light and truth.

October 19 – Simplify, Removing the chaos in your life. ‘Clean your closet’

Isaiah 2:2-3 *Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.*

The truly valuable things in this life are never things we acquire or consume. Often we attribute too much value to physical things we surround ourselves with in this life. Much of our time is spent in desiring things, finding things, acquiring things, taking care of things, worrying about our things. An excess of this clutter detracts our minds from what is truly valuable. The late Rich Mullins said “things are never worth what they costs us.”

October 20 – Simplify, Remove the chaos in your life. ‘Check your calendar’

Psalms 46:10 *Be still, and know that I am God;*

Our calendars are often filled past capacity as we pencil events and people in and out. We meet ourselves and our family members coming and going to meetings, gatherings, events and scheduled appointments and our own assigned tasks. There is value in a simpler and quieter life where a space of time can be found for God.

October 21 – Simplify, Remove the chaos in your life. ‘Clear your head’

John 5:40 *Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.*

Most of us have too many remnants of traditions and dogmas that temper our discussions and relationships in the body of Christ. We have arrived at many of our treasured opinions not by meditating on the word of God but by trusting in the arm of flesh.

October 22 – Simplify the Chaos in Your Life. ‘Make room for hope’

2nd Nephi 13:28-29 *Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far, save it were by the word of Christ, with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save; Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men.*

We live in a day where hope in the things of this world is fleeting. Let us find comfort in a much greater hope.

October 22 – Choosing the Best Things

Philippians 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just; whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on **these** things.*

October 23 – Choosing the Best Things, choose to love others instead of always being right

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

October 24 – Choosing the Best Things, to be present instead of making excuses

Whenever the door are open for worship, let us find ourselves in the company of the saints. Eldon Anderson calls this the ‘ministry of presence.’ May it be so with us.

October 25 – Choosing the Best Things, to serve instead of demanding to be served

Galatians 5:13 *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

Mosiah 1:49-50 *And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God. Behold, ye have called me your king; and if I, whom ye call your king, do labor to serve you, then had not ye ought to labor to serve one another?*

There is an 80/20 rule applicable to most organizations. Twenty percent do the work for the remainder of the group. Let it not be so in the church of Christ. Our lives have been filled with gifts and talents distinctly individual. Let us use them in faithful joyous service.

October 26 – Choosing the Best Things, sometimes you must say no

D&C 24:3a *And verily I say unto thee, that thou shalt lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better.*

One of the hardest things for an engaged disciple of Christ to do is to say no to a request. Unfortunately, we cannot do everything for everyone all the time, there is not time or energy. This only breeds mediocrity as our efforts and energies are spread too thin. We must carefully and prayerfully choose which things are best, even from among the many good things we might do.

October 27 – Testimony for or against?

Once a person's mind is stretched by a new thought and awareness, that person becomes accountable for those new understandings and the scriptures tell us that will stand as a bright testimony against (or for us) at the last day.

Mosiah 1:125 *And now I have spoken the words which the Lord God hath commanded me, And thus saith the Lord: "They shall stand as a bright testimony against this people in the judgement day, Wherefore they shall be judged, every man according to his works,*

October 28 – Endure Hardness

II Timothy 2:3-4 *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth, entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

In Mormon's epistle to his son Moroni, he described some of the most horrific scenes of what was happening to a once righteous people. However, as their hearts were hardened and the spirit ceased to strive with the people and they had a thirst for blood and revenge, Mormon told his son, Moroni 9:6 *...notwithstanding their hardness, let us labor diligently, for if we should cease to labor, we should be brought under condemnation...* Settle this in your mind each morning, that you give Christ preeminence in your life.

October 29 – Valley of the shadow

Psalms 23:4 *Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

Why is it that nearly every Christian funeral has printed or it is spoken, the 23rd Psalm? Can words really provide a level of comfort and strength in a time of sorrow or grief? We know the answer is true because each one reading these words, at some point in time, has felt that comforter sent to strengthen us in our lowest, most challenging times. Continue to bear an affirmative testimony of the understandings God brought to you during your time of fasting and prayers prior to the Assembly and certainly those spiritual insights that came while we were assembled.

October 30 – Increasing and decreasing

John the Baptist recognized his role and knew how to stay focused on his mission of preparing the way. And, at the pinnacle of his ministry at the Jordan river, he recognized the: *...Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world.* John 1:29

Because of our flesh, it is very easy to be ensnared in the pride of our own thoughts and begin to think that we are something special in our service to Jesus. John the Baptist was not enticed by the people who came out regularly to see him and to hear the preparatory gospel he preached. He was not impressed when people recognized him and traveled to hear his preaching. His response should echo in our ears, *He (Jesus) must increase but I must decrease.* John 3:31

November 1 – Enduring the fiery darts

Ephesians 6:16 – *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

Just a little over 30 days ago, an event took place that helped to focus our attention on our need to humble ourselves, confess our sins and repent before the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In 30 days have you maintained that hungering and thirsting for His righteousness and not our own? Each morning we are granted a new opportunity to gird on the armor and live each day as if He is returning today. *We are more than conquerors...* Rom. 8:37

November 2 – Not our righteousness

Deuteronomy 9:4 *Speak not thou in thine heart, after the Lord thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the Lord hath brought me in to possess this land; but for the wickedness of these nations the Lord doth drive them out from before thee.*

Israel is an allegory for you and me. Enduring requires us to not substitute our definition of righteousness for His. Always remember that the way to God is always a way of God.

November 3 – Press Forward

I Nephi 1:62 And I beheld a rod of iron; and it extended along the bank of the river and led to the tree by which I stood; and I also beheld a strait and narrow path which came along by the rod of iron, even to the tree by which I stood. ...68 And it came to pass that I beheld others pressing forward; and they came forth and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; 69 and they did press forward through the mists of darkness clinging to the rod of iron even until they did come forth and partake of the fruit of the tree.

This prophetic vision found only in the record of Joseph speaks, screams at you and I today in 2020, to search the word of God, read the word of God and cling to the word of God for it will guide us across this gulf and land our souls in the Kingdom of God if we but keep His commandments.

November 4 – Pluck the fruit thereof!

Alma 16:171-173 And because of your diligence, and your faith, and your patience with the word, in nourishing it, that it may take root in you, behold, by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is whiter above all that is white; yea, and pure above all that is pure; and ye shall feast upon this fruit, even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst. Then my brethren ye shall reap the rewards of your faith, and your diligence, and patience, and long suffering, waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you.

Patience and Endurance go together like humility and repentance. Patiently endure and keep the vision alive that brings you to this tree of life!

November 5 – Endureth All Things

I Corinthians 13:4-8 – Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things...Charity NEVER FAILETH...(Emphasis added.)

We can endure if the Love of God is present in us.

November 6 – The best person in us

Psalm 1:1-2 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;

During prayer service on September 23, a sister in our congregation shared her testimony that God is requiring her to seek out the best person within her. She is a good soul, faithful and shares her talents and yet realizes our standards are not his standards. Her testimony bore the mark of a repentant daughter. Are you hungering and thirsting for His righteousness that transforms us by the renewing of our minds?

November 7 – Drawing us in loving kindness

Jeremiah 31:3 Yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.

God does not force any man to worship him. He does not diminish nor destroy our agency to choose. But God, in His love and compassion for all of His creation, does draw us to Him in loving kindness and desires to share His glory with us as His spiritually begotten sons and daughters. Take time today to ponder the changes all around you and how all things work together for your good if you Love God and are called according to his purpose. Especially the trials of this life, they are designed to bring out the best in us.

November 8 – Israel, Israel God Is Calling

“Israel, Israel canst thou linger, still in errors gloomy ways? Mark how judgements pointing finger justifies no vain delays, Come to Zion, Come to Zion! Zion’s walls shall ring with praise.” – Richard Smith

Earlier in this song from the Hymns of the Restoration it says, “...Angels are descending ...and towards man their powers extending that the saints may homeward fly...” The words of Moroni provide a very clear image of how the ministry of angels can be experienced in our day and time. Angels have not ceased to minister unto the children of

men. *Calling us to repentance and to do the work of the covenants of the Father...Be of a strong faith, a firm mind; in every form of Godliness.* Moroni Chapter 7

November 9 – Peaceable followers of Christ

Moroni 7:3 – *Wherefore I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ, and that have obtained a sufficient hope, by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth, until ye shall rest with him in heaven.*

Enduring to the end. The servant who made the last entries into the record of the covenants, the Book of Mormon saw into our day and time and saw the church and the peaceable walk with the children of men. He saw the works of people in the last days and the fruit they were bearing was good. Always examine the fruit you are bearing and endure the pruning and the ingrafting of the word so your fruit is desirable of Him. *And if ye labor with your mights with me, ye shall have joy in the fruit which I shall lay up unto myself, against the time which shall soon come.* Jacob 3:139

November 10 – Endure in Patience

II Nephi 13:19-21 *And I heard a voice from the Father, saying, Yea, the words of my beloved, are true and faithful. He the endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this, that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he can not be saved.*

Run with patience the race that is set before us and don't let anything steal your joy. *Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore.* Psalm 16:11

November 11 – Enduring in song

Keep your eyes upon Jesus so that you can reach Higher Ground. O Jesus the Giver of All We Enjoy guide us as We're Marching to Zion that we Never Be Discouraged. The Church's One Foundation is Jesus, Mighty King in Zion and I know He Leadeth Me.

Tenderly, tenderly lead thou me on, On o'er the way where my Savior hath gone; Bright on his pathway the sunlight hath shone; tenderly, tenderly, lead thou me on.... Now has my weak heart grown trustingly strong; Ways have grown short that seemed once to be long; Gladly I join in the triumphant song, Tenderly, Tenderly, leading me on. Press forward by the endurance of faith on his name to the end. Moroni 3-Amen.

November 12 – Morning Prayer

Psalm 5:2-3 *Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God; for unto thee will I pray. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.*

The early morning prayer is so important. It sets the standard for the whole day. Jesus was found often praying early in the morning and many times would leave his disciples and leave to pray alone to His Father. In Andrew Murray book, "The Inner Life," the unceasing prayer in our life will keep us in the very bosom of God Himself. As our loving Father, we will be secure in the everlasting arms of His care."

November 13 – Pressing On

Philippians 3:13-15 *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded; and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

God will continue to reveal new things as we study His word and will open many doors of opportunity for our growth. But, the desire of our heart should be to continue to press to the high mark of that prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

November 14 – Trust

Proverbs 3:4-6 *So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

This is not a part time work, but a complete desire of our hearts to trust God in every situation of life. When we acknowledge Him in all our ways, as this scripture states, He will direct our path.

November 15 – Answer the Knock

Revelations 3:20-21 *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

Answering the knock to the door of our heart, the Lord said he will come in. Oh, what joy, the Lord said, "I will come in to him, and sup (spend time) with him, and he with me." In other words, we will have a conversation with the King of Kings.

November 16 – Feast

2 Nephi 14:4 *Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.*

As we continue to press forward, feasting on the words of Christ, it becomes a full satisfying meal. God, by calling upon Him, will sit at our table and feast with us. He loves you so much that he wants to lead us to the Tree of Life in His Holy City Zion.

November 17 – Never Alone

John 14:16-18 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.*

The hymn writer has penned, "no never alone, no never alone, He promise never to leave me, never to leave me alone." We can all testify of the many times we were in great need to receive answers to move forward. The loss of a loved one. The joy of a newborn child. As He promised, "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you."

November 18 – Smile, be Happy

Psalm 37:4-5 *Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

As we get closer and closer to eternal life our smile and happiness should increase. As we continue in our relationship with our Savior, joy increases. He continues to give us the desire of our hearts. May we continue to glorify Him for the joy of Salvation and this great latter-day work.

November 19 – My Friend

John 15:14-15 *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*

Jesus calls us friends, if we keep His commandments. Our Lord of Lords, our friend, our guide, will lead us as we move and press forward. He will never misguide us, so trust Him and do what He says in His word.

November 20 – Looking

I Peter 3:12-14. *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;*

As this scripture states, God is observing and is looking over us. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers;" Another one of His attributes which is so helpful to us, is when we sin or do wrong, we feel remorse or sorry. So, we move back, after repenting to that narrow path. Praise God.

November 21 – Strength for Today

Psalm 18:1-2 *I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

Psalm 27:1 *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

The Lord is the strength of our lives, because He is dependable and so longsuffering toward us individually and collectively. We are His creation, His family, our rock, our fortress, or deliverer, a very present help in time of need. This desire in our hearts to keep moving forward grows and grows.

November 22 – Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Isaiah 60:19-21 *The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee; but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself; for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Thy people also shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.*

As we continue to move to higher or more Christ like ways of living. This scripture tells us, "the Lord shall be unto thee as everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Zion the Holy City.

November 23 – Loving Each Other

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

The more intimate our relationship with Christ, the more we have love for our companions, our families and our neighbors. Continue to pray that we will look at our wives, children and those about us through the eyes of our Savior. Then we will love as He loves.

November 24 – Witnessing

Mosiah 11:205-207 *Confessing all their sins, and publishing all the things which they had seen, and explaining the prophecies and the scriptures to all who desired to hear them: And thus they were instruments in the hands of God, in bringing many to the knowledge of the truth, yea, to the knowledge of their Redeemer. And how blessed are they! For they did publish peace; they did publish good tidings of good; and they did declare unto the people that the Lord reigneth.*

As we continue to draw closer and closer in our relationship with Jesus Christ, we realize that we had been witnessed to by others and now we can't keep quiet either. The desire to share with others brings such joy. We want everyone to know the love and joy we have found.

November 25 – Visit

D&C 85:22a *Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned, to warn his neighbor; therefore, they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads.*

When we realize the forgiveness of sins and rebirth in our lives, we feel the desire to visit, sharing around the dinner table with our families. Inviting our siblings and their children in to share the joys of living the Kingdom of God. Family game nights and other activities draw us closer together. Spending personal time with or companions and children always will please our God and create wonderful memories.

November 26 – Zion the Beautiful

D&C 6:3a-4b *Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion: seek not for riches but for wisdom; and, behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich. Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich. 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 unto this generation: keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed.*

As we have enjoyed the Spiritual blessing that has come thru the preparation of the solemn assembly, and following, our lives have been enriched to as never before. Let us continue to follow our Savior as we continue to seek, "Zion The Beautiful."