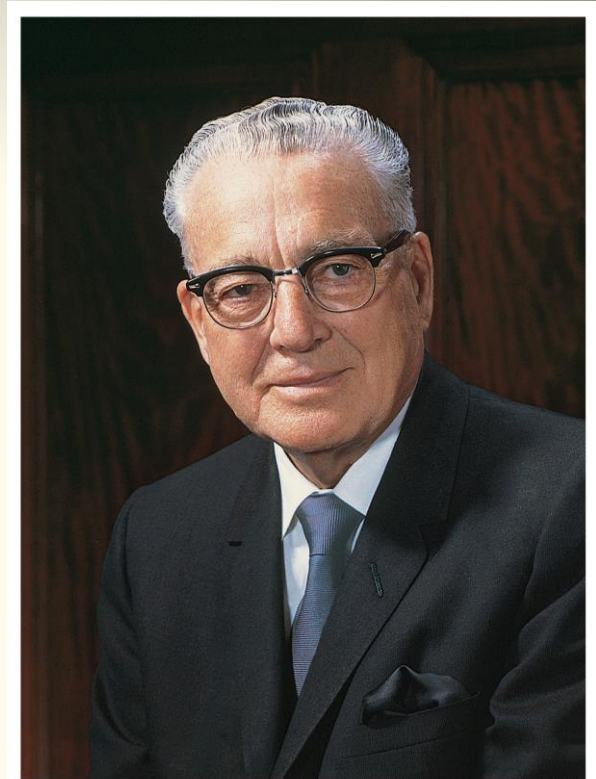


The Atonement of Jesus Christ



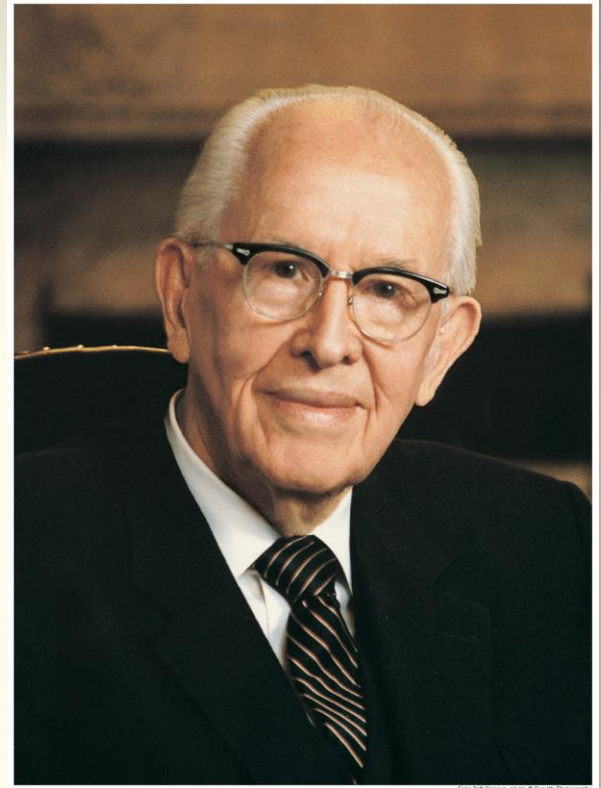
“But no Adam, no Fall; no Fall, no Atonement; no Atonement, no Savior.... And if there never was a Fall, why should there be any atonement?” And when you begin to see that, you see how vital to all we are teaching is an understanding of the Fall, making necessary the Atonement.



Harold B. Lee, photo © Merrett Smith

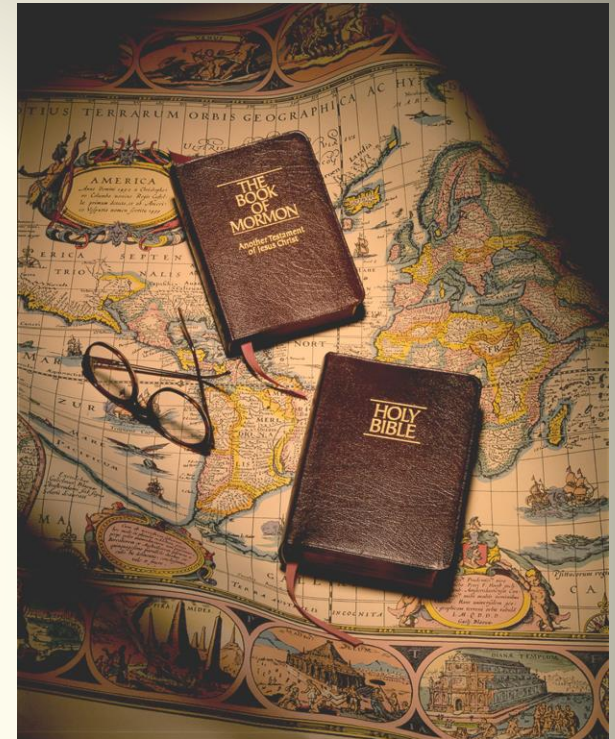
Harold B. Lee
“The Fall of Man,”
CES Summer Lecture,
June 23:1954

Just as a man does not really desire food until he is hungry, so he does not desire the salvation of Christ until he knows why he needs Christ. No one adequately and properly knows why he needs Christ until he understands and accepts the doctrine of the Fall and its effect upon all mankind.



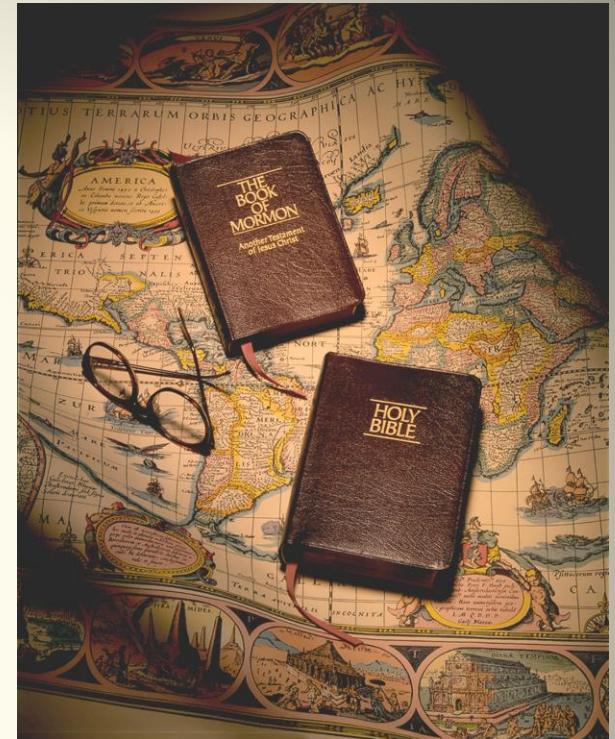
Ezra Taft Benson,
“The Book of Mormon
and the Doctrine and
Covenants,” General
Conference, April 1987.

In our carnal and fallen state, our sinful nature becomes contrary to that God who gave us life and offends the spirit inside of us, robbing us of joy. We become enemies to God our Father and the godly “genes” within us. We are left in a state of misery and separation from God.



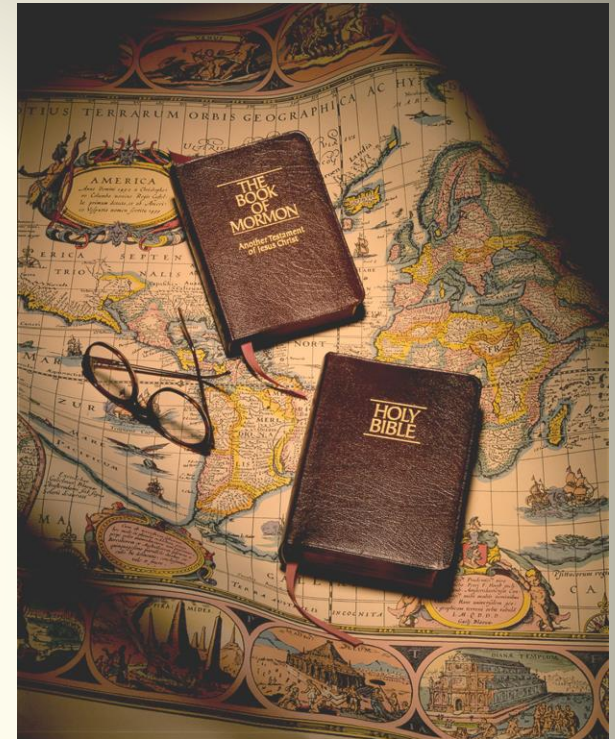
**“The Atonement of
Jesus Christ: Glad
Tidings of Great Joy,”**
2007 Sperry Symposium,
242-243.

Alma explains that “all men that are in a state of nature, or... in a carnal state, are in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity; they are without God in the world, and they have gone contrary to the nature of God, therefore they are in a state contrary to the nature of happiness” (Alma 41:11).



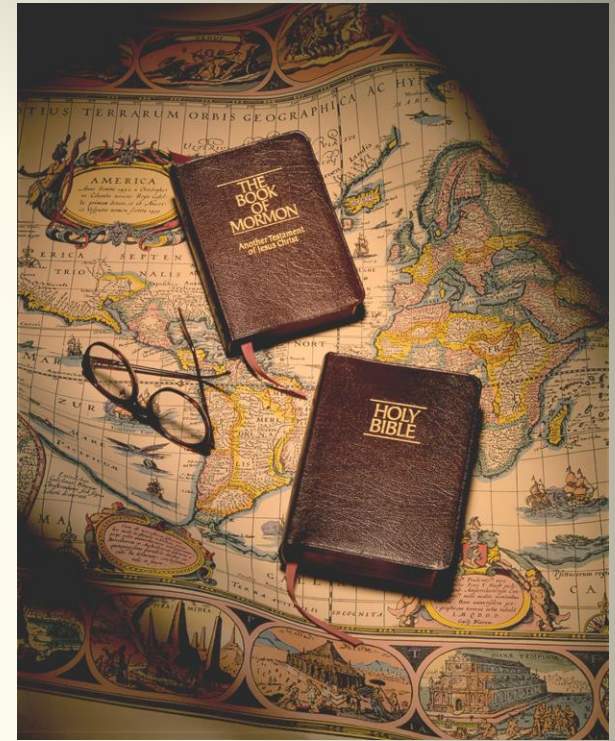
**“The Atonement of
Jesus Christ: Glad
Tidings of Great Joy,”**
2007 Sperry Symposium,
242-243.

You cannot do wrong and feel right. Without Christ's atonement for our sins, our spirits would become subject to the devil and "we [would] become devils, angels to a devil, to be shut out from the presence of our God, and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself" (2 Nephi 9:8-9).



**“The Atonement of
Jesus Christ: Glad
Tidings of Great Joy,”**
2007 Sperry Symposium,
242-243.

With no atonement to overcome our spiritual death, we would be left forever in a state of misery. Thus we see that with no atonement the effects of the Fall would be total and irrevocable. Mankind would be lost temporally and spiritually, without resurrection or repentance; forever separated from God.



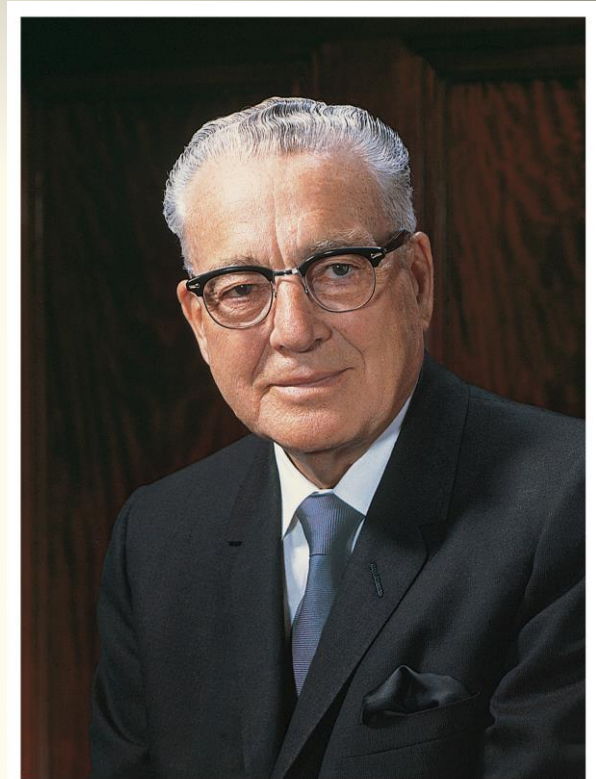
**“The Atonement of
Jesus Christ: Glad
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The “natural man” would remain an “enemy to God...forever and ever” without the power to become a saint (Mosiah 3:19). Thus estranged, we would be unable to become at one with God and obtain any kind of joy. Truly there had to be an infinite atonement to overcome the effects of the Fall in order to make us at one again with God and bring us a fullness of joy.



**“The Atonement of
Jesus Christ: Glad
Tidings of Great Joy,”**
2007 Sperry Symposium,
242-243.

The forbidden fruit was sweet, but the tree of life was bitter, and how like life that is. Sometimes the things that are best for us and the things that bring eternal rewards seem at the moment to be the most bitter, and the things forbidden are oftentimes the things which seem to be the more desirable



Harold B. Lee, photo © Merrett Smith

Harold B. Lee
"The Fall of Man,"
CES Summer Lecture,
June 23:1954

I believe that when we think about it—two people, two trees—that what we're really thinking about is two stewardships. And that the fruit of the First Tree symbolizes the gift that women give to every soul that chose the plan of Christ. It symbolizes the role and power of women in the Great Plan of Happiness.



Valerie Hudson Cassler
FAIR Symposium,
August 2010

It was not, in this view, right or proper for Adam to partake first of the fruit of the First Tree. It was not his role to give the gift of the fruit of the First Tree to others. It is interesting to think that even Adam, who was created before Eve, entered into full mortality and full agency by accepting the gift of the First Tree from the hand of a woman. In a sense, Adam himself was born of Eve.



Valerie Hudson Cassler
FAIR Symposium,
August 2010

Now, what is Adam going to do? Well, I think we know this part of the Great Plan of Happiness very well. We believe that Adam will give the gift of the fruit of the Second Tree to the children of God, those who are worthy to receive it,



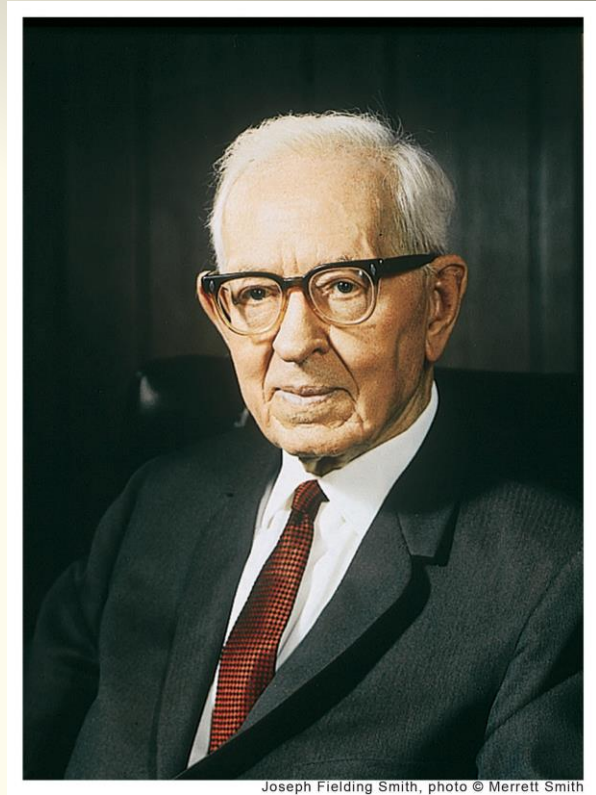
Valerie Hudson Cassler
FAIR Symposium,
August 2010

just as Eve and her daughters give the fruit of the First Tree in the Garden of Eden to all who are worthy to partake of it. And that fruit of the Second Tree, as we know, are the ordinances of salvation and exaltation.



Valerie Hudson Cassler
FAIR Symposium,
August 2010

I'm very, very grateful that in the Book of Mormon, and I think elsewhere in our scriptures, the fall of Adam has not been called a sin. It wasn't a sin. ... What did Adam do? The very thing the Lord wanted him to do; and I hate to hear anybody call it a sin, for it wasn't a sin. Did Adam sin when he partook of the forbidden fruit?



Joseph Fielding Smith, photo © Merrett Smith

Joseph Fielding Smith
“Fall—Atonement—
Resurrection—Sacrament,”
Charge to Religious
Educators, 124.

I say to you, no, he did not!
Now, let me refer to what
was written in the book of
Moses in regard to the
command God gave to
Adam. [Moses 3:16–17.]
“Now this is the way I
interpret that: The Lord said
to Adam, here is the tree of
the knowledge of good and
evil.



Joseph Fielding Smith, photo © Merrett Smith

Joseph Fielding Smith
“Fall—Atonement—
Resurrection—Sacrament,”
Charge to Religious
Educators, 124.

If you want to stay here, then you cannot eat of that fruit. If you want to stay here, then I forbid you to eat it. But you may act for yourself, and you may eat of it if you want to. And if you eat it, you will die.” I see a great difference between transgressing the law and committing a sin.



Joseph Fielding Smith, photo © Merrett Smith

Joseph Fielding Smith
“Fall—Atonement—
Resurrection—Sacrament,”
Charge to Religious
Educators, 124.

Unto Adam
and also unto
his wife, did I,
the Lord God,
make a coat
of skins, and
clothed them.

Moses 4:27



Is our only purpose in life an empty existential exercise— simply to leap as high as we can, hang on for our prescribed three score years and ten, then fail and fall, and keep falling forever? The answer to those questions is an unequivocal and eternal no! With prophets ancient and modern, I testify that “all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things.”



Jeffrey R. Holland
“Where Justice, Love and
Mercy Meet,
General Conference,
April 2015

Thus, from the moment those first parents stepped out of the Garden of Eden, the God and Father of us all, anticipating Adam and Eve's decision, dispatched the very angels of heaven to declare to them—and down through time to us—that this entire sequence was designed for our eternal happiness..



Jeffrey R. Holland
“Where Justice, Love and
Mercy Meet,
General Conference,
April 2015

It was part of His divine plan, which provided for a Savior, the very Son of God Himself—another “Adam,” the Apostle Paul would call Him—who would come in the meridian of time to atone for the first Adam’s transgression.



Jeffrey R. Holland
“Where Justice, Love and
Mercy Meet,
General Conference,
April 2015

That Atonement would achieve complete victory over physical death, unconditionally granting resurrection to every person who has been born or ever will be born into this world. Mercifully it would also provide forgiveness for the personal sins of all, from Adam to the end of the world, conditioned upon repentance and obedience to divine commandments.



Jeffrey R. Holland
“Where Justice, Love and
Mercy Meet,
General Conference,
April 2015

Let the Savior be your “lead” in life. He has said, “I am ... the Rock of Heaven ... ; whoso cometh in at the gate and climbeth up by me shall never fall.” The Redeemer will safely lead you over the most difficult obstacles of life. His laws are absolutely secure anchors of protection that dispel fear and assure success in an otherwise dangerous world. Such a life will certainly provide you peace and happiness.



Richard G. Scott
“The Atonement can Secure
Your Peace and Happiness,”
General Conference,
October 2006

Climbing

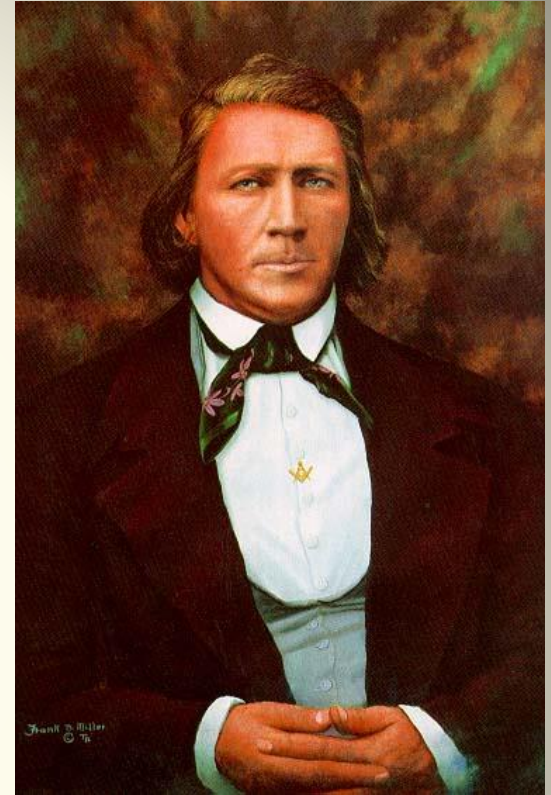
I have not yet become the person I desire to be. I have not yet reached the peak of perfection that I desire to ascend. Gratefully the Savior is there, being and showing me the way. Ordinances and covenants provide points of security which protrude like pitons along the pathway up the mountain. Obedience to his instructions ties me securely to each point of growth and provides me with the opportunity to continue to ascend higher.



At times I struggle and fall from the heights to which he has led me. With each slip and wrong choice, gratitude fills my heart that I am harnessed in the safety of his atoning love. I begin again to steadily resume my climb up the peak of perfection, knowing that he is always on belay.

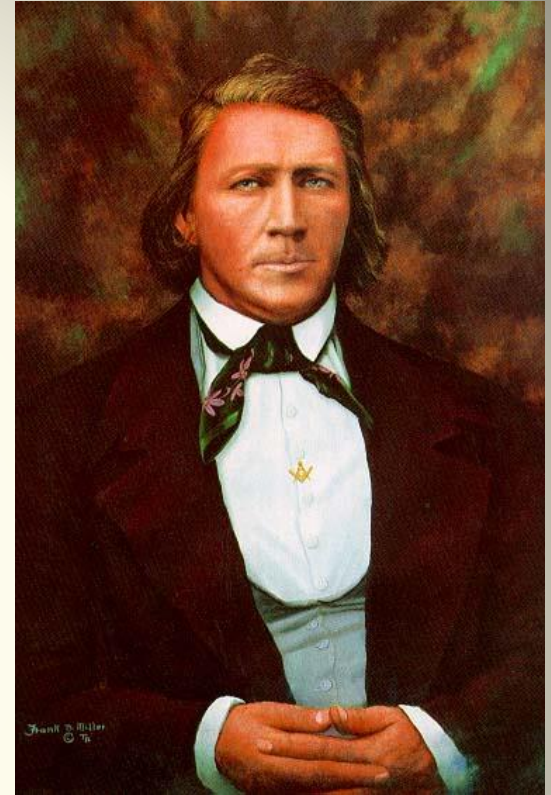


Our spirits were pure and holy when they entered our tabernacles; and if they have been defiled, it has been by the influence of Satan, through the weakness of the flesh. There is a constant warfare, and in the great majority of cases, the flesh overcomes the spirit. In the few cases where the spirit overcomes the flesh, it yields obedience to the whisperings of the eternal Spirit of truth, which elevates it above the power of all unholy desires and passions.



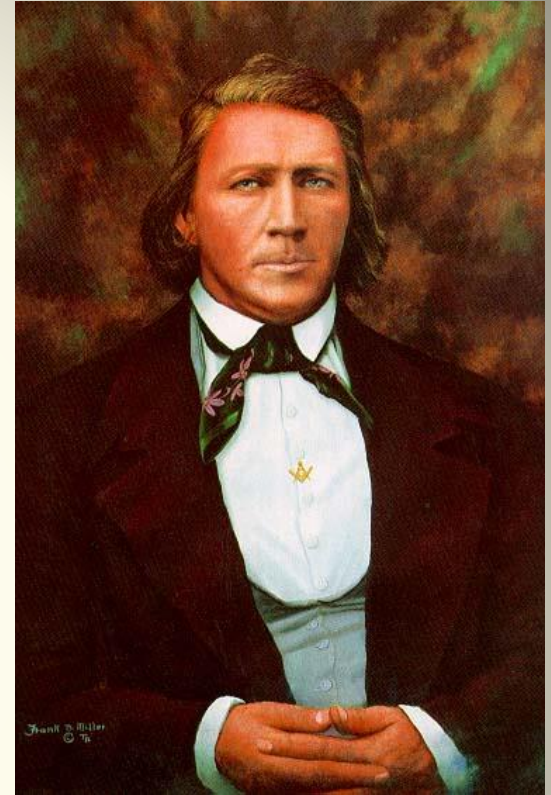
Brigham Young
Journal of Discourses,
8:138-39;.

The Devil cannot exercise his influence over us, only as we permit him to do so.... In the first place the spirit is pure, and under the special control and influence of the Lord, but the body is of the earth, and is subject to the power of the Devil, and is under the mighty influence of that fallen nature that is of the earth.



Brigham Young
Discourses of Brigham
Young, 69-70.

If the spirit yields to the body, the Devil then has power to overcome the body and spirit of that man, and he loses both.... When you are tempted ... stop and let the spirit, which God has put into your tabernacles, take the lead. If you do that, I will promise that you will overcome all evil, and obtain eternal lives.



Brigham Young
Discourses of Brigham
Young, 69-70.

“That your Joy might be Full”

John 15:11 – Christ’s joy is in us

D&C 93:33-34 – Fullness of joy requires a body

2 Nephi 2:25-26 – Purpose of Adam’s Fall

Moses 5:10-11 – Knowledge of our redemption

Alma 41:10-11 – Wickedness contrary to happiness

Alma 36:17-21 – Redemptive joy follows agony of sin

Mosiah 4:2-3 – Spirit fills with joy

3 Nephi 17:16-22 – Christ prays and weeps for joy

“That your Joy might be Full”

D&C 18:10-16 – Joy comes in helping others repent

Alma 26:10-16 – Being an instrument for God

Alma 29:13-16 – Joy comes from helping others

Alma 48:11-13 – Soul has joy in helping free others

Hebrews 12:1-4 – Christ overcame all because of the joy that was set before him. Seeing the joy can help us endure trials

John 15:8-14 – God’s glory comes in helping others become as he is. Christ’s joy is in helping the Father accomplish his work.