



*Applying the Atonement
of Jesus Christ*



Bruce C. Hafen,
The Broken Heart, 7-8

I once wondered if those who refuse to repent but who then satisfy the law of justice by paying for their own sins are then worthy to enter the celestial kingdom. The answer is no. The entrance requirements for celestial life are simply higher than merely satisfying the law of justice. For that reason, paying for our sins will not bear the same fruit as repenting of our sins.



Bruce C. Hafen,
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The 'natural man' will remain an enemy to God forever – even after paying for his own sins – unless he also 'becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child'... The Atonement does more than pay for our sins. It is also the agent through which we develop a saintly nature.

Ezekiel 36:26

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”

Katallage (Greek) - Restoration to [the divine] favor, to reconcile - A Change of Heart

Why a New Heart?

Sometimes, even after we have felt the Savior's love and accept his tender mercy to forgive us of our sins, we still struggle to lose our desire or longing for the sin. Thus begins the battle within.

The Battle Within

After receiving the tender mercy from the Lord to cover us, many of us feel that we now must do everything right to retain a remission of their sins. We think that we must grit our teeth, clench our fists, and simply try harder to do and be good. We find ourselves in a constant battle to overcome our fallen nature. But Paul, Nephi, and others from the scriptures paint a different picture.

Romans 7:22-25; 2 Nephi 4:17-21



C. S. Lewis
“Mere Christianity”

“We begin to notice, besides our particular sinful acts, our sinfulness; begin to be alarmed not only about what we do, but about what we are. This may sound rather difficult, so I will try to make it clear from my own case. When I come to my evening prayers and try to reckon up the sins of the day, nine times out of ten the most obvious one is some sin against charity; I have sulked or snapped or sneered or snubbed or stormed. And the excuse that immediately springs to my mind is that the provocation was so sudden and unexpected: I was caught off my guard, I had not time to collect myself.



C. S. Lewis
“Mere Christianity”

Now that may be an extenuating circumstance as regards those particular acts: they would obviously be worse if they had been deliberate and premeditated. On the other hand, surely what a man does when he is taken off his guard is the best evidence for what sort of a man he is. Surely what pops out before the man has time to put on a disguise is the truth. If there are rats in a cellar you are most likely to see them if you go in very suddenly. But the suddenness does not create the rats: it only prevents them from hiding.



C. S. Lewis
“Mere Christianity”

In the same way the suddenness of the provocation does not make me an ill-tempered man: it only shows me what an ill-tempered man I am...And if (as is said before) what we are matters even more than what we do--if, indeed, what we do matters chiefly as evidence of what we are--then it follows that the change which I most need to undergo is a change that my own direct, voluntary efforts cannot bring about...I cannot, by direct moral effort, give myself new motives. After the first few steps in the Christian life, we realize that everything which really needs to be done in our souls can be done only by God.”

A Broken Heart - Multiple meanings

- A heart that feels sorrow, pain, and empathy towards others*
- A heart that is obedient*
- A heart that is open and receptive*
- A heart that does not work properly*

A Broken Heart - Sorrow, pain, empathy

In humility our Savior's heart was "stilled and broken" through the things that he suffered in Gethsemane and on Calvary's cross as he experienced all the pain, suffering, temptation, and sin which all mankind would experience. Our hearts in turn must be broken or pained at what we have done to cause the Savior such suffering. With this pained and broken heart, we must not hate ourselves but come to him for peace and healing. Isaiah prophesied that Christ would come to bind up the broken hearted.

Alma 7:11-13; Isaiah 61:1



Neil L. Anderson

“Wounded”

General Conference, October 2018

God did not create our spirits to be independent of Him. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through the incalculable gift of His Atonement, not only saves us from death and offers us, through repentance, forgiveness for our sins, but He also stands ready to save us from the sorrows and pains of our wounded souls. The Savior is our Good Samaritan, sent “to heal the brokenhearted.”

The Prince of Peace

Ephesians 2:13-17
2 Corinthians 5:17-21



A Broken Heart - Obedient

A broken heart can also refer to a heart that is well-trained or obedient, such as a horse that has been broke. In “breaking” a horse, the cowboy does not desire to break the spirit of the horse, but simply get the horse to trust the rider and respond quickly and obediently to his commands. A well-broke horse becomes one with the rider and responds without hesitation or doubt to what the rider asks him to do.

A Broken Heart - Open and Receptive

A broken heart is one that is open, such as we think of an egg that is broken or a vault that is broken into. In this instance, the heart that may have been hardened is now open to receive the light, love, and healing of the Savior and his infinite and intimate atonement. We give space for Christ to enter our hearts to heal and make at one the broken pieces of our heart.

A Broken Heart - Improperly Functioning

Another connotation for the term “broken heart” indicates a heart that does not function properly, such as we refer to a watch that is broken. The goal of our Heavenly parents and the Savior is not that we walk around with a heart that does not work properly - a heart that desires and longs for things that are not godly - but they desire that we have a heart that functions as they designed; one that enjoys, desires, and seeks after heavenly light and belonging. Only the Savior’s atoning sacrifice can heal or repair such a heart and give us a new heart after a nature that is divine.

Hosea 5:14-15

Christ, as the Lion of Judah, will come and tear hearts that are hardened that they may be broken and open to be changed. He then waits until we recognize that our heart is broken and come seeking him to repair it. He will then bind up our broken heart.

Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 11:28-30

An illustration from the Narnia series showing Aslan, a golden lion, and Eustice Scrubb, a green dragon-like creature. Eustice is lying on his back on a wooden plank, with Aslan sitting on his chest. Aslan is looking at Eustice with a gentle expression. The background is a warm, orange and yellow landscape. The scene is reflected in a pool of water in the foreground.

Voyage of the Dawn Treader

*from "The Chronicles of Narnia,"
By C.S. Lewis*

*Broken hearted and in tears,
Eunice begs Aslan to free him from
the scales of bitterness, meanness,
and anger that have filled his heart
so completely that he has become on the
outside the monster that has been inside
him. Even after Aslan warns him of
the pain it will cause, Eustice pleads for
Aslan to do whatever it takes to set him free.*



The Lion Waits

*Silently, patiently, He watches.
Strong, steadfast, yet filled
with compassion,*

*His heart reaches out to his
children, seeking to be at one.
They harden their hearts to his
tender attempts to warn them
and keep them safe.*

*He sees the menace of evil and
complacency enter the hearts of
his beloved children.*

*Powerfully and swiftly, He strikes -
Tearing asunder their hardening hearts.*



The Lion Waits

*Quietly He returns to his place
and waits.*

*Silently, patiently,
He watches again.*

*His aching heart hurts as
His children seek healing through
the ways of the world.*

*Days, months, and years
they struggle to find healing for their
broken hearts.*

Still the Lion waits.

Silently, patiently, He watches and weeps.



The Lion Waits

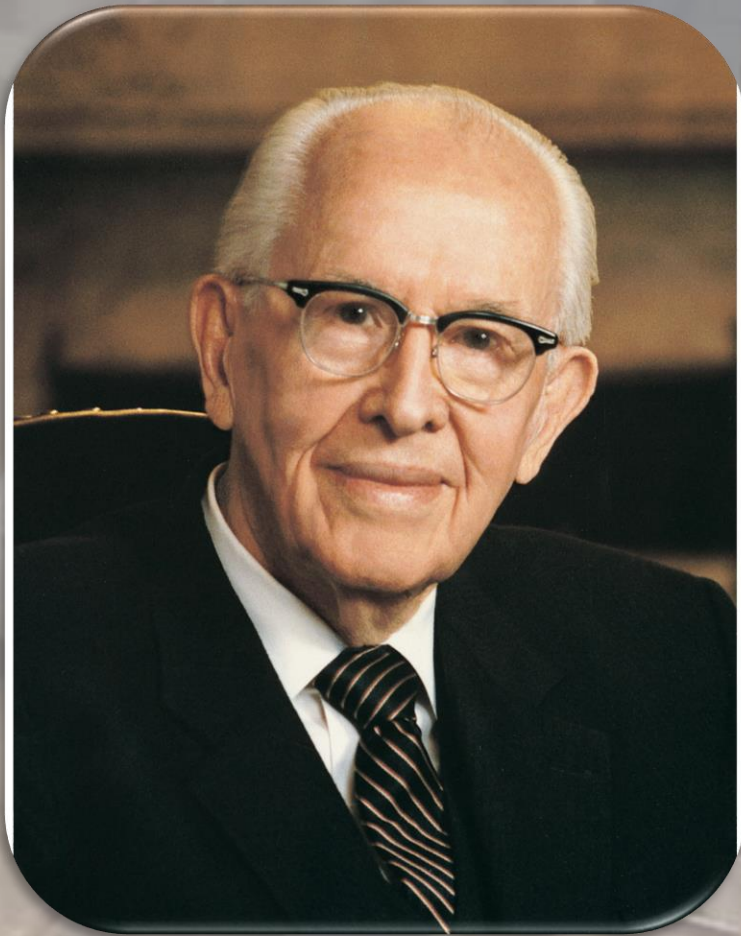
*Continually He feels after them,
beckoning them to return.
Unceasing in his cries,
His tender voice begins
to penetrate their broken hearts.
Slowly, sorrowfully they begin to turn.
Hesitantly they move toward him
as fear begins to be replaced by faith.
Tenderly He takes them in.*



The Lion Waits

*They yield to his healing.
He works a mighty change
within them,
Binding up their broken hearts.
Now beating with his,
their hearts become one.
Finally, that for which he has waited*

At one ment



Ezra Taft Benson

“Born of God,”

General Conference October 1985

The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. Christ takes the slums out of people, and then they take themselves out of the slums. The world would mold men by changing their environment. Christ changes men, who then change their environment. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature.



David O. McKay

Steppingstones to an Abundant Life, 127.

You can change human nature. No man who has felt in him the Spirit of Christ even for half a minute can deny this truth, the one great truth in a world of little lies. You do change human nature, your own human nature, if you surrender it to Christ. Human nature can be changed here and now. Human nature has been changed in the past. Human nature must be changed on an enormous scale in the future, unless the world is to be drowned in its own blood. And only Christ can change it.



D. Todd Christofferson
“Justification & Sanctification”
Ensign, June 2001

To be sanctified through the blood of Christ is to become clean, pure, and holy. If justification removes the punishment for past sin, then sanctification removes the stain or effects of sin. The Prophet Joseph Smith testified: “And this is the gospel, the glad tidings, which the voice out of the heavens bore record unto us—”That he came into the world, even Jesus, to be crucified for the world, and to bear [justify] the sins of the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness”
(D&C 76:40–41).



David A. Bednar

“Ye Must Be Born Again”

General Conference, April 2007

We are instructed to “come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny [ourselves] of all ungodliness” (Moroni 10:32), to become “new creature[s]” in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:17), to put off “the natural man” (Mosiah 3:19), and to experience “a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually” (Mosiah 5:2).



David A. Bednar

“Ye Must Be Born Again”

General Conference, April 2007

Please note that the conversion described in these verses is mighty, not minor—a spiritual rebirth and fundamental change of what we feel and desire, what we think and do, and what we are. Indeed, the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ entails a fundamental and permanent change in our very nature made possible through our reliance upon “the merits, and mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah” (2 Nephi 2:8). As we choose to follow the Master, we choose to be changed—to be spiritually reborn.

A Mighty Change of Heart

Mosiah 27:25-26

Alma 5:14

Mosiah 3:19

Mosiah 4:2-3

Mosiah 4:11-13

Mosiah 5:2, 7

Alma 13:10-12

Alma 5:26

Natural Man

Saint

*Atonement of Jesus Christ
Yielding to the Holy Ghost*

