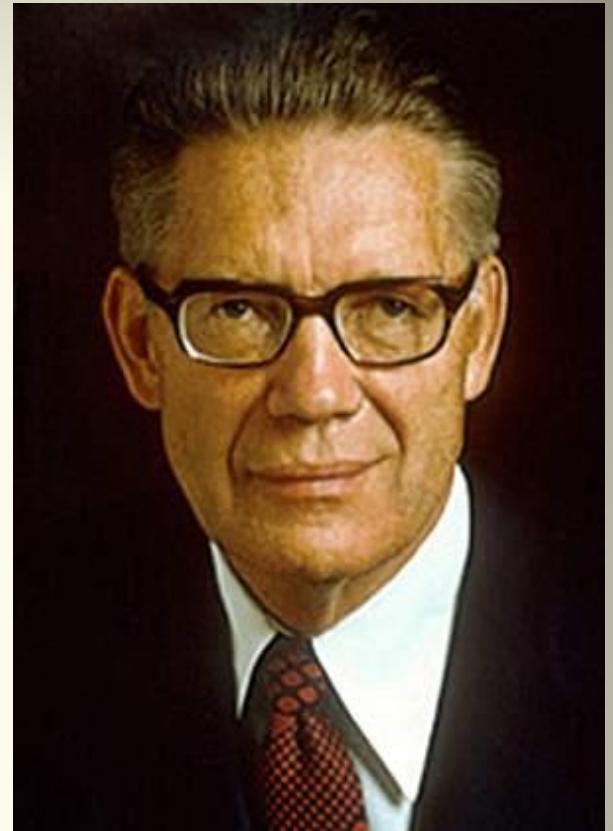


The Atonement of Jesus Christ



Now, the atonement of Christ is the most basic and fundamental doctrine of the gospel, and it is the least understood of all our revealed truths. Many of us have a superficial knowledge and rely upon the Lord and his goodness to see us through the trials and perils of life.



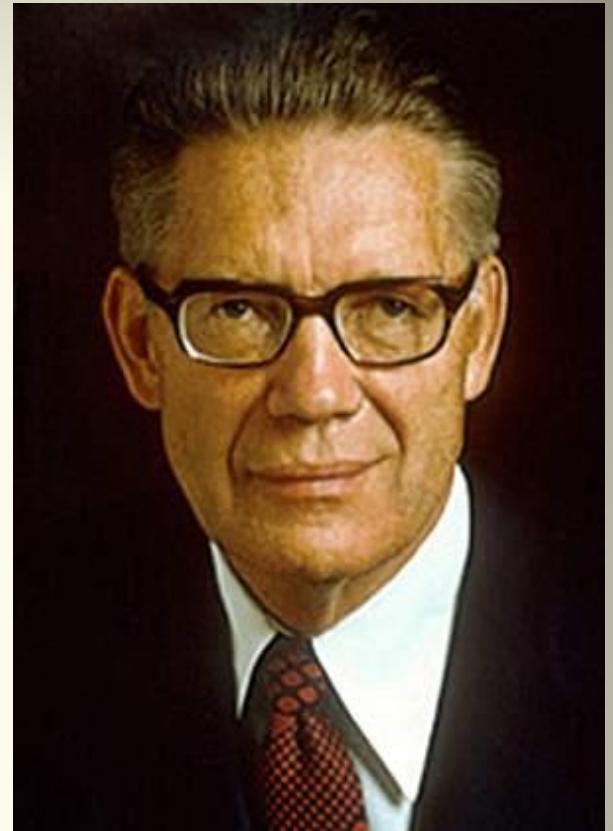
Bruce R. McConkie
The Purifying Power of
Gethsemane,
Ensign May 1985, 9

But if we are to have faith like Enoch and Elijah we must believe what they believed, know what they knew, and live as they lived. May I invite you to join with me in gaining a sound and sure knowledge of the Atonement.



Bruce R. McConkie
The Purifying Power of
Gethsemane,
Ensign May 1985, 9

We must cast aside the philosophies of men and the wisdom of the wise and hearken to that Spirit which is given to us to guide us into all truth. **We must search the scriptures**, accepting them as the mind and will and voice of the Lord and the very power of God unto salvation.”



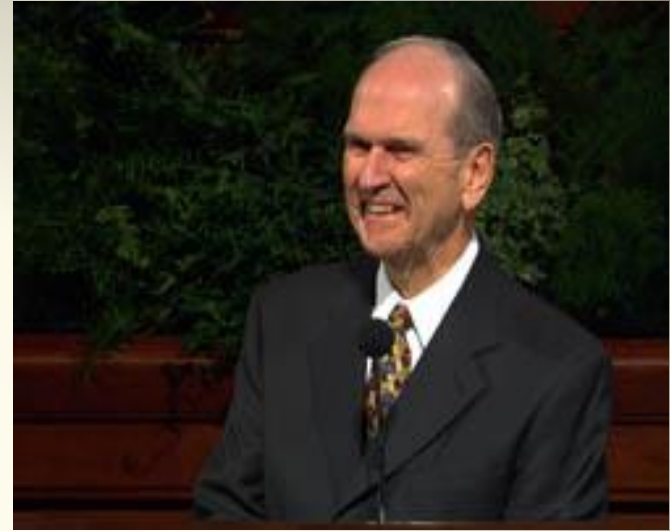
Bruce R. McConkie
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“With this background in mind, let us now ponder the deep meaning of the word atonement. In the English language, the components are at-one-ment, suggesting that a person is at one with another. Other languages employ words that connote either expiation or reconciliation.



Elder Russell M. Nelson
“The Atonement”, CR,
October 1996.

Reconciliation comes from Latin roots re, meaning “again”; con, meaning “with”; and sella, meaning “seat.” Reconciliation, therefore, literally means “to sit again with.” Rich meaning is found in study of the word atonement in the Semitic languages of Old Testament times.



Elder Russell M. Nelson
“The Atonement”, CR,
October 1996.

In Hebrew, the basic word for atonement is kaphar, a verb that means “to cover” or “to forgive.” Closely related is the Aramaic and Arabic word kafat, meaning “a close embrace”—no doubt related to the Egyptian ritual embrace.



Elder Russell M. Nelson
“The Atonement”, CR,
October 1996.

References to that embrace are evident in the Book of Mormon. One states that “the Lord hath redeemed my soul ... I have beheld his glory, and I am encircled about eternally in the arms of his love.” Another proffers the glorious hope of our being “clasped in the arms of Jesus.”



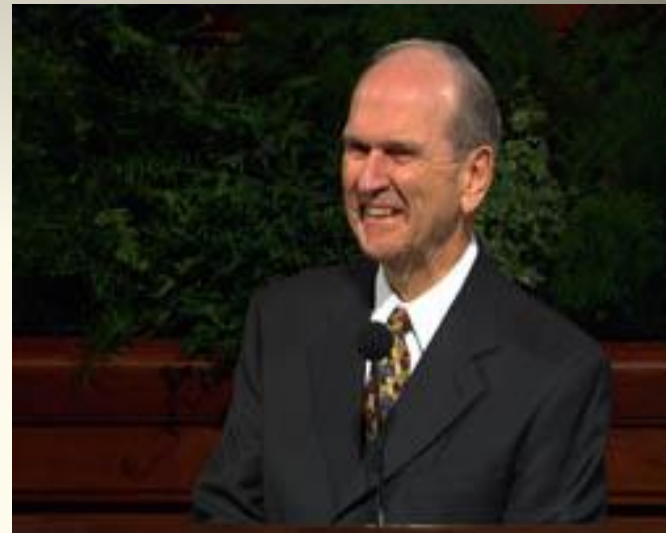
Elder Russell M. Nelson
“The Atonement”, CR,
October 1996.

It is doctrinally incomplete to speak of the Lord's atoning sacrifice by shortcut phrases, such as "the Atonement" or "the enabling power of the Atonement" or "applying the Atonement" or "being strengthened by the Atonement."



Elder Russell M. Nelson
"Drawing the Power of Jesus
Christ in our Lives"
General Conf., April 2017

These expressions present a real risk of misdirecting faith by treating the event as if it had living existence and capabilities independent of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. There is no amorphous entity called “the Atonement” upon which we may call for succor, healing, forgiveness, or power. Jesus Christ is the source.



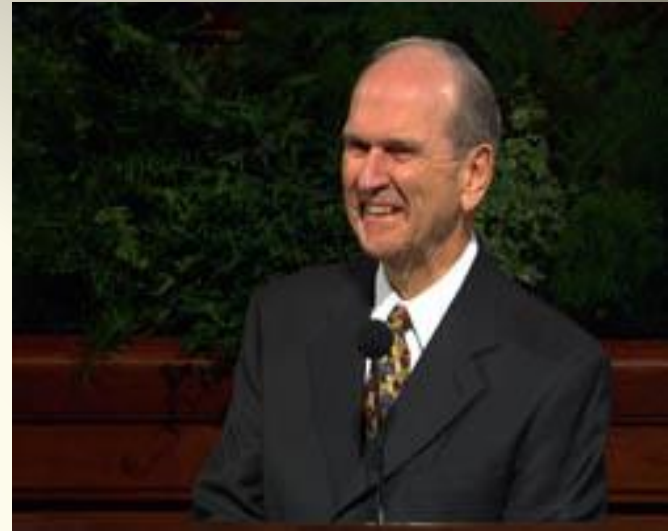
Elder Russell M. Nelson
“Drawing the Power of Jesus
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Sacred terms such as Atonement and Resurrection describe what the Savior did, according to the Father's plan, so that we may live with hope in this life and gain eternal life in the world to come. The Savior's atoning sacrifice—the central act of all human history—is best understood and appreciated when we expressly and clearly connect it to Him.



Elder Russell M. Nelson
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Do you remember the biblical story of the woman who suffered for 12 years with a debilitating problem? She exercised great faith in the Savior, exclaiming, “If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.” This faithful, focused woman needed to stretch as far as she could to access His power. Her physical stretching was symbolic of her spiritual stretching.



Elder Russell M. Nelson
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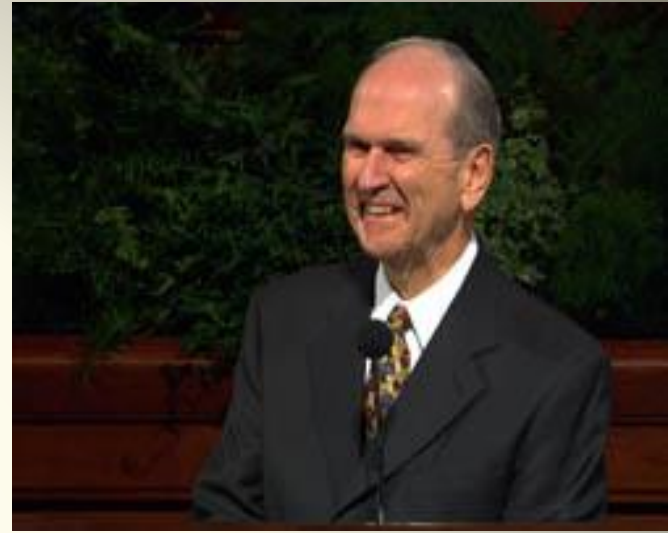
Mark 5:25-34

Many of us have cried out from the depths of our hearts a variation of this woman's words: "If I could spiritually stretch enough to draw the Savior's power into my life, I would know how to handle my heart-wrenching situation. I would know what to do. And I would have the power to do it."



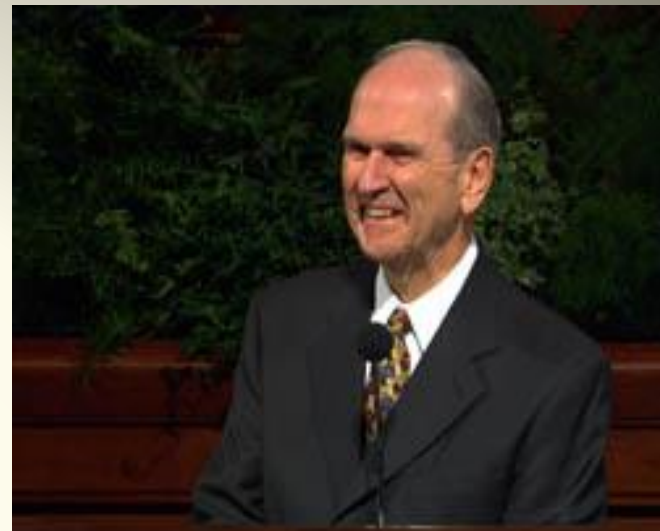
Elder Russell M. Nelson
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When you reach up for the Lord's power in your life with the same intensity that a drowning person has when grasping and gasping for air, power from Jesus Christ will be yours. When the Savior knows you truly want to reach up to Him—when He can feel that the greatest desire of your heart is to draw His power into your life—



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you will be led by the Holy Ghost to know exactly what you should do.... The gospel of Jesus Christ is filled with His power, which is available to every earnestly seeking daughter or son of God. It is my testimony that when we draw His power into our lives, both He and we will rejoice....



Elder Russell M. Nelson
“Drawing the Power of Jesus
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There is an imperative need for each of us to strengthen our understanding of the significance of the Atonement of Jesus Christ so that it will become an unshakable foundation upon which to build our lives. As the world becomes more devoid of foundational standards and as honor, virtue, and purity are increasingly cast aside in the pursuit of appetite, our understanding of and faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ will provide strength and capacity needed for a successful life.



Elder Richard G. Scott
He Lives all Glory to His Name
Ensign, May 2010, 77

It will also bring confidence in times of trial and peace in moments of turmoil. I energetically encourage you to establish a personal study plan to better understand and appreciate the incomparable, eternal, infinite consequences of Jesus Christ's perfect fulfillment of His divinely appointed calling as our Savior and Redeemer.



Elder Richard G. Scott
He Lives all Glory to His Name
Ensign, May 2010, 77

Profound personal pondering of the scriptures accompanied by searching, heartfelt prayer will fortify your understanding of and appreciation for His priceless Atonement. Another powerful way to learn of Jesus Christ and His Atonement is through consistent temple attendance.



Elder Richard G. Scott
He Lives all Glory to His Name
Ensign, May 2010, 77



“And now, as pertaining to this perfect atonement, wrought by the shedding of the blood of God—I testify that it took place in Gethsemane and at Golgotha, and as pertaining to Jesus Christ, I testify that he is the Son of the Living God and was crucified for the sins of the world. He is our Lord, our God, and our King. This I know of myself independent of any other person....



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I am one of his witnesses, and in a coming day I shall feel the nail marks in his hands and in his feet and shall wet his feet with my tears. But I shall not know any better then than I know now that he is God's Almighty Son, that he is our Savior and Redeemer, and that salvation comes in and through his atoning blood and in no other way."



Bruce R. McConkie
The Purifying Power of
Gethsemane,
Ensign May 1985, 9