**The Atonement of Jesus Christ**

**Week 9.5 – January 3, 2024**

**Notes and Quotes**

**Introduction**

**President Russell M. Nelson, “Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into Our Lives,” *General Conference*, April 2017**

“God so loved the world that He sent His Only Begotten Son to help us. And His Son, Jesus Christ, gave His life for us. All so that we could have access to godly power﻿—power sufficient to deal with the burdens, obstacles, and temptations of our day. Today I would like to speak about **how we can draw into our lives the power of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ**.

**We begin by learning about Him**. “It is impossible for [us] to be saved in ignorance.” The more we know about the Savior’s ministry and mission﻿—the more we understand His doctrine and what He did for us﻿—the more we know that He can provide the power that we need for our lives….

As we invest time in learning about the Savior and His atoning sacrifice, we are drawn to participate in **another key element to accessing His power: we choose to have faith in Him and follow Him**. Faith in Jesus Christ propels us to do things we otherwise would not do. Faith that motivates us to action gives us more access to His power.

**We also increase the Savior’s power in our lives when we make sacred covenants and keep those covenants with precision**. Our covenants bind us to Him and give us godly power. As faithful disciples, we repent and follow Him into the waters of baptism. We walk along the covenant path to receive other essential ordinances. And gratefully, God’s plan provides for those blessings to be extended to ancestors who died without an opportunity to obtain them during their mortal lives.

**Another element in drawing the Savior’s power into our lives is to reach up to Him in faith. Such reaching requires diligent, focused effort….** 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—you will be led by the Holy Ghost to know exactly what you should do. When you spiritually stretch beyond anything you have ever done before, then His power will flow into you.”

**Russell M. Nelson, “The Atonement,” *General Conference*, October 1996.**

… 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. Expiation means “to atone for.” Reconciliation comes from the Latin roots re, meaning “again”; con, meaning “with”; and sella, meaning “seat.” Reconciliation … means “to

sit again with.” Rich meaning is found in the study of the word atonement in the Semitic languages of the Old Testament times. 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 “to embrace” – no doubt related to the Egyptian ritual embrace.

**Four Levels of Faith**

**Level 1** Hope or Belief **Alma 32**

**Level 2** Knowledge **Hebrews 11**

**Level 3** Power  **Ether 12**

**Level 4** Perfection **Moroni 7**

**President Russell M. Nelson, “Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into Our Lives,” *General Conference*, April 2017**

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.” 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 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.

**Atonement of Jesus Christ definition: *Adapted from***

**Russell M. Nelson*,* “The Atonement,” *GC*, October 1996**

***Hebrew*** – kaphar, *kaw-far****´*;** to cover; to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel: --appease, make (an) atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, purge (away), put off, (make) reconciliation. [Also: Kippur—expiation, (only in plural)].  **MERCY – Pardon Sins**

***Greek***– Katallage, kat-al-lag-ay***´*;** restoration to (the divine) favor; reconciliation. **CHANGE OF HEART**

***Aramaic or Arabic –*** kafat; a close embrace. **GRACE**

***English*** *–* atonement**1.** Satisfaction or reparation for a wrong or injury; amends. **2.** *Theol* the doctrine concerning the reconciliation of God and man, as accomplished through the life, suffering, and death of Christ. **3.** *Christian Science*, the state of union with God in which man exemplifies the attributes of God**.** **4.** *Archaic*, reconciliation; agreement, unity. **AT ONE MENT**

***Ezekiel 36:25-28***

**Personal Insight, May 18, 2018. Power obtained by Christ through his infinite atonement.**

25: **The Power to Cleanse** us through the price that he paid

so that he could extend mercy to those who repent. This

correlates with ***kaphar***, the Hebrew word for atonement

which means, *“to cover.”*

26: **The Power to Change** us by giving us a new heart and

spirit; one that has no more disposition to do evil. This

aligns with ***katallege***, the Greek word for atonement

which means “*to reconcile*.” or bring back into balance.

27. **The Power to Walk** in His Ways and Do Good. This

aligns with the ***kafat***, the Aramaic form of atonement

which means *to embrace*. I equate this with *grace*, the

divine help or strength we receive from Christ to do the

good we otherwise could not do on our own.

28. **The Power to be At One with God**. This is the meaning

of ***atonement****,* the English word used to describe the

purpose of Christ’s mission, life, sacrifice, and

resurrection. We become his people and dwell with him

because we have now become one with Him.

(*Cf*. Alma 42:13-15; Mosiah 4:2-3; 5:2; Mosiah 24:15; John 17:2-23; 3 Nephi 19:25-33; Moroni 7:48)