

THE POWER OF THE ATONEMENT FOR US PERSONALLY

from *MORMON DOCTRINE* by Elder Bruce R. McConkie

Nothing in the entire plan of salvation compares in any way in importance with that most transcendent of all events, the atoning sacrifice of our Lord. It is the most important single thing that has ever occurred in the entire history of created things; it is the rock foundation upon which the gospel and all other things rest.

from *TEACHINGS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CHURCH, JOHN TAYLOR, Chapter 6*

A. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ all mankind will be resurrected.

B. The Atonement enables the faithful to overcome spiritual death and obtain exaltation.

God's plan:

- That man should fall
- Because man obtained a knowledge of good and evil, he should know concerning the Atonement which comes through Jesus Christ.
- The Atonement made it possible for him to obtain exaltation and glory and to become a son of God by adoption.
- **Man cannot inherit a celestial glory without being obedient to a celestial law.**

C. The Atonement redeems little children and those people who die w/o the gospel.

D. Because the Savior has been "touched with our infirmities," He can comprehend our trials.

- It was necessary, when the Savior was upon the earth, that He should be tempted on all points to comprehend the weaknesses and strengths of fallen human nature.
- He can comprehend the depth, power, and strength of the afflictions that men have to cope with in this world.

E. The first principles and ordinances of the gospel are necessary for us to receive the full blessings of the Atonement.

This is what is required of man to partake in the blessings of the Atonement:

- **Faith in God** the Father and in His Son Jesus Christ.
- **Repentance** and a forsaking of sin, combined with a full purpose of heart to keep the commandments.
- **Baptism** for the remission of sins.
- The reception of the **Holy Ghost** through the laying on of hands of those who have the Holy Priesthood.

F. We partake of the sacrament in remembrance of the Savior's Atonement.

from *AN EYE SINGLE TO THE GLORY OF GOD* by Robert L. Millet

The task of the disciple of Christ is to deny self, to seek the way of the Master, to be willing to forsake the manmade and the material, and to pursue with steadfastness the divine and the everlasting. . . To walk as a disciple is to walk in the light, to forsake darkness, to cleave unto Him who is the Light. To be a disciple is to seek to be changed, to open oneself to the transforming powers of Jesus the Christ.

Brigham Young: "The man or woman who enjoys the spirit of our religion has no trials; but the man or woman who tries to live according to the Gospel and still clings to the spirit of the world, has trials and sorrows acute and keen.

DISCIPLES ARE THOSE WHO:

- Have **disciplined** themselves and **have chosen to be pupils or followers of Christ.**
- Have **agreed to be taught** or trained by another, especially Jesus Christ.
- Have gained the witness that the path laid out by Jesus Christ is the only true path to peace and fulfillment.
- Have a depth of discipleship gauged by their **hearts and desires**, not just outward performance of duties.
- **See to the welfare of others in Christ's name.**
- **Put off the natural man.**
 - **C. S. Lewis:** "The natural man is something self-centered, something that wants to be petted and admired. It wants to be left to itself, to keep away from anything better or stronger or higher than it. It is afraid of the light and air of the spiritual world for it knows that if the spiritual life gets hold of it, all its self-centeredness and self-will are going to be killed and it is ready to fight tooth and nail to avoid that."
 - This entails the gradual acquisition of a pure heart which is unconcerned about power, fame, or notoriety.
 - **C. S. Lewis:** "The more you obey your conscience, the more your conscience will demand of you. And your natural self, which is being starved and hampered at every turn, will get angrier and angrier. It is as though Jesus were saying to each of us: 'Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work. I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. Hand over the whole natural self. I will give you a new self instead, In face, I will give you Myself.'"

- **Give service** which sanctifies both the giver and the receiver. Pres. David O. McKay: "If you want to love God, you have to learn to love and serve the people. That is the way you show your love for God."
- **Take up their cross** by applying the atoning blood of Christ, by repenting and coming to Him. Thus, the death of the natural man is followed **by the birth of the spiritual man**.
- **Undergo temptation**. It is also a call to suffer, to bear with the trials of this life and particularly the indifference or rejection of those who despise the way of holiness. We must bear what Christ has borne.
- **Give all to Christ each day** with no reservations, no uncertainty, no hesitation.
- Painfully **sever the tie with the world**, sealing escape hatches, ridding themselves of any kind of security to fall back on in case of failure. A genuine believer knows he is going ahead with Christ until death.
- **Take upon them the name of Christ** and covenant to bear others' burdens, to mourn with those that mourn, and to comfort those who stand in need of comfort.
- Know that the way of the disciple is the way of holiness. It is **a walk away from the ways of the world**.
- Are **called to a higher righteousness**. They covenant before God and man to see that their actions evidence their Christian commitment.
- **Have charity** or the pure love of Christ. To have charity is to love Christ purely and to love purely, just as Christ does.
- Are not obsessed with the marvelous and mountain-moving works to be done; rather, they concentrate upon the task at hand, resting assured that **small steps** contribute eventually to the realization of the great.
- **Seek for and obtain perspective on life**. Disciples come to know that despite present difficulties or current challenges, eternal life comes to those who proceed along the strait and narrow in unspectacular but steady fashion.
- **". . .continue in my word."** The call to discipleship is a call to continue. To carry on. To persist. To endure. To finish. The Lord needs finishers, those who make the commitment and then walk the road to the very end.
- Qualify for the gift of salvation. Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a serious matter. Followers of the Christ must be **willing to encounter hardship and pain and suffering**, even as their Master did.
- Are **willing to submit to whatever** following the Master and the counsel of living oracles might entail. **Regularly and consistently disciples will be asked to:**
 - **Attend meetings** and training sessions
 - **Support** with time and patience **the loved ones** who attend those sessions
 - **Go on campouts**
 - **Work in canneries and on farms**
 - **Contribute financially** in tithes and offerings
 - **Visit and minister to ward or branch members**
 - **Clothe the naked** and feed the hungry
 - Lift and liberate and **lighten the burdens of others**
 - **Be willing to be inconvenienced**.
- Know that eternal life, the glory of the celestial kingdom, life with **God cannot be had through living a life of ease**.
- Have covenanted to **allow their religion to be seen and felt on all days and at all times**: in supermarket lines, in our homes and with family members, on the crowded highway, or at the ballpark.
- Know it is important to acknowledge what whatever changes need to be made in our character—whether in speech, ability to control our tempers, our lack of charity—**can be made in a lasting way only through the intervention of divine powers**.
- Test their discipleship by **seeking for and allowing the powers of Deity to change their hearts**, renovate their souls, and point them toward people.
- **Love others** and minister in their behalf; love and forgive and extend themselves to those who need them.
- **Seek for discernment**, not alone to tell good from evil but also to sort out the less important from the more important, the fascinating from the vital.
- **Know they become totally free only as they submit to the will of the Lord**.

The gospel covenant consists of a **two-way promise** between us and our Redeemer. First, Christ promises on His part that He will justify us, pronounce us clean, innocent, free from sin and stain. As disciples, we promise that we will accept the ransoming powers of Christ, repent of our sins, trust in the Lord, and seek thereafter to live the life of one called out of the world. **As disciples we agree to:**

- **Perform certain works** that evidence our faith and signify our commitment to the gospel covenant
- **Receive the ordinances of salvation**
- **Keep our thoughts, actions, and speech pure**
- **Extend ourselves in acts of Christ-like service to our fellow beings**.

Cyprus in France

Erme sittd.

- death + cooking
- eggshells in breath

→ mystic

! mercy + praise + adore

- 3 devoted women - self-sufficient

- Dependent on Christ - can't do it alone - paradox

(Elder Eyring - doctrine)

Read from manual, -