



*Applying the
Intimate Atonement of
Jesus Christ*



Bruce R. McConkie
“The Purifying Power
of Gethsemane”

General Conference, April 1985

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”

General Conference, April 1985

May I invite you to join with me in gaining a sound and sure knowledge of the Atonement. We must ... 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.

Ezekiel 36:25-28

Four Aspects for Applying the Atonement of Jesus Christ:

1. *Kaphar (Hebrew) - To cover; appease, cleanse - Mercy*
2. *Katallage (Greek) - Restoration to [the divine] favor, to reconcile - A Change of Heart*
3. *Kafat (Aramaic) - A close embrace - Divine Help or Grace*
4. *Atonement (English) - To set at one again - Become like God. Christian Science - The state of union with God in which man exemplifies the attributes of God*

Kaphar - To cover

Summary: Just as Adam and Eve were given a coat of skins to “cover” their sins after leaving the Garden of Eden, the Atonement of Jesus Christ acts as a shield and protection to cover us from our sins when we truly repent. Because we are in a fallen world, Christ offers his atonement as a harness to protect us as we climb the mountain to become like God, exercising faith in Jesus Christ that he will always be on belay.

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.”

Kataallage (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 be perfect to retain a remission of their sins. We think that we must grit our teeth, clench our fists, and simply try harder to do everything right. 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

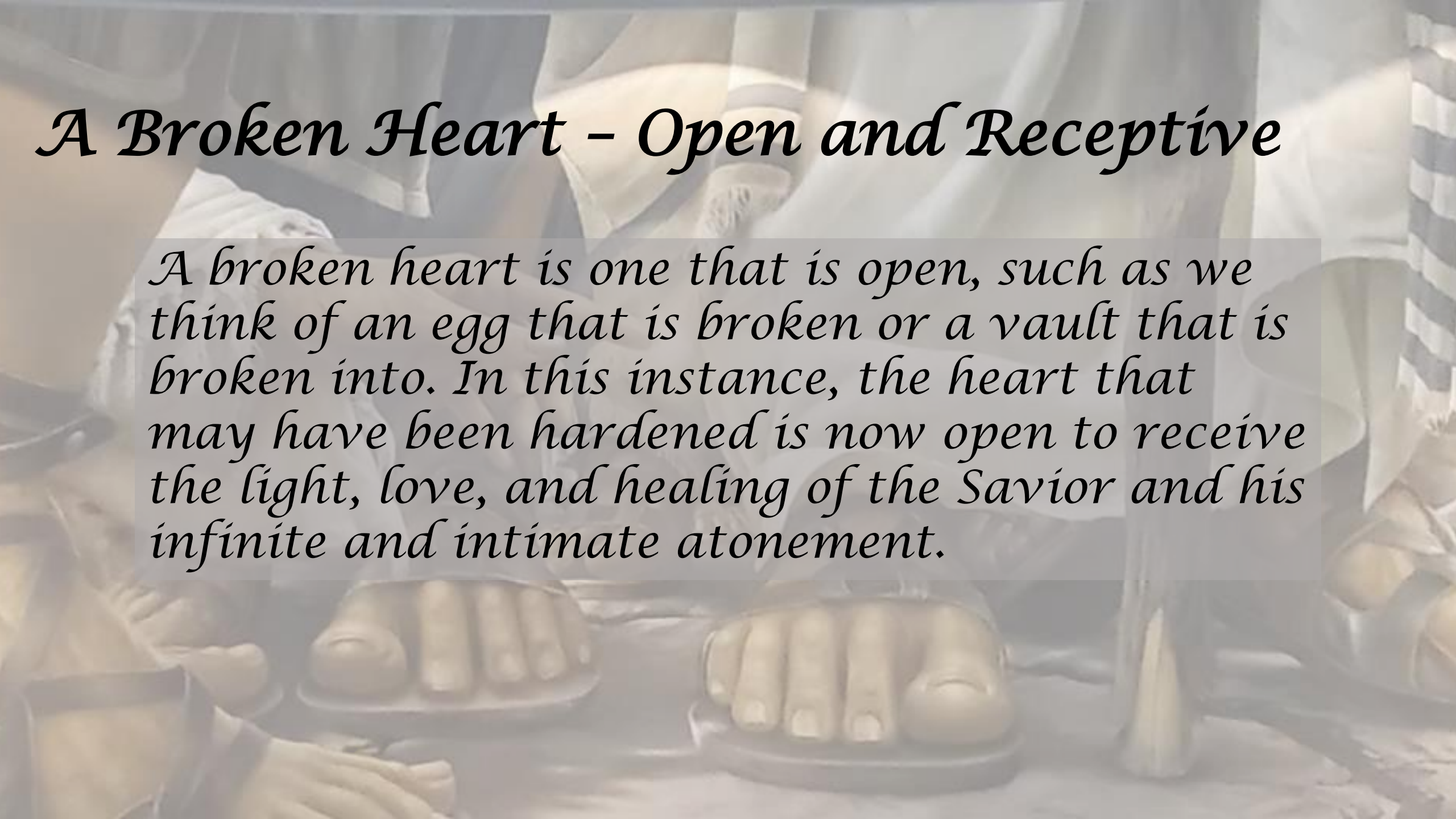
The Prince of Peace

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.

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 book 'The Voyage of the Dawn Treader' showing Aslan, a golden lion, and Eustice, a green dragon-like creature. Eustice is lying on his back, and Aslan is sitting on his chest, looking at him. The background is a warm, orange-yellow color.

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.*



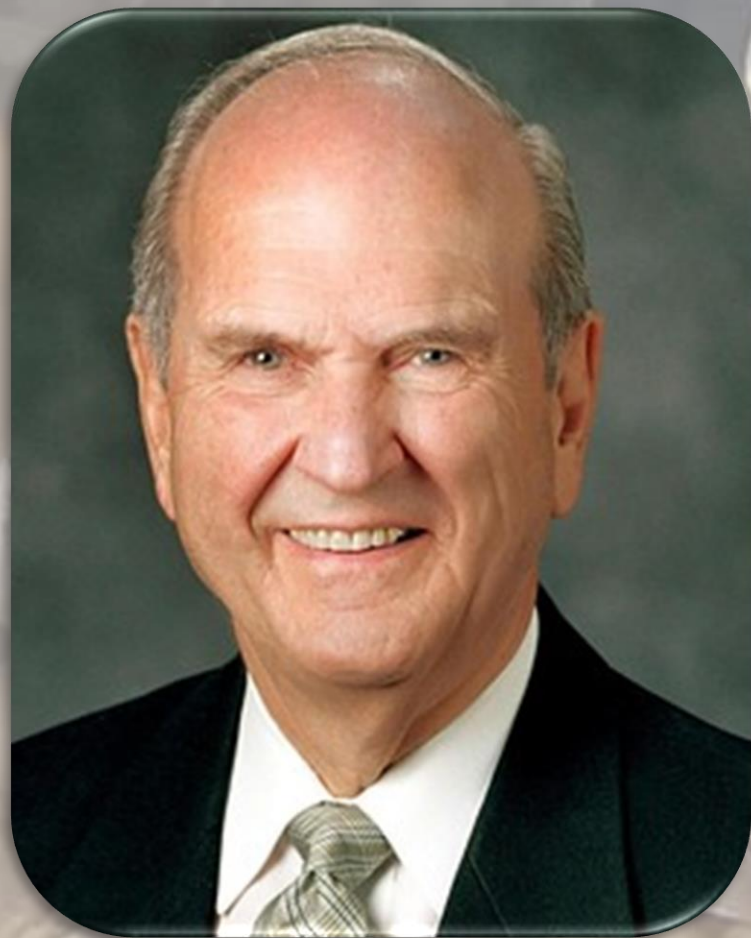
The Lion Waits

*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

Luke 8:43-48



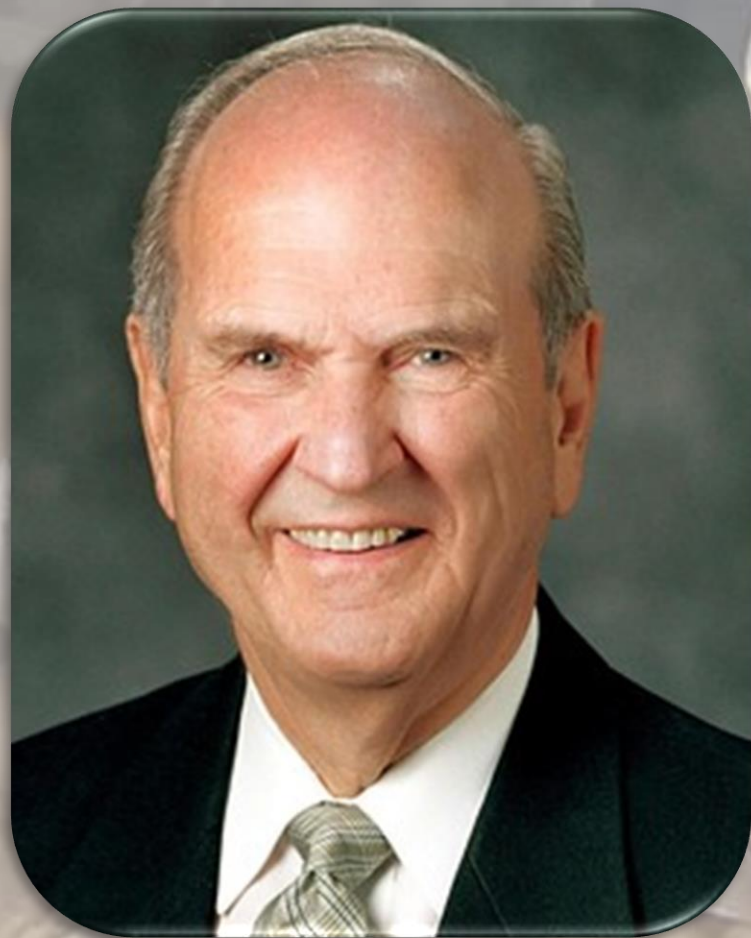


Russell M. Nelson

“Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ in our Lives”

General Conference, April 2017

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. 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.”

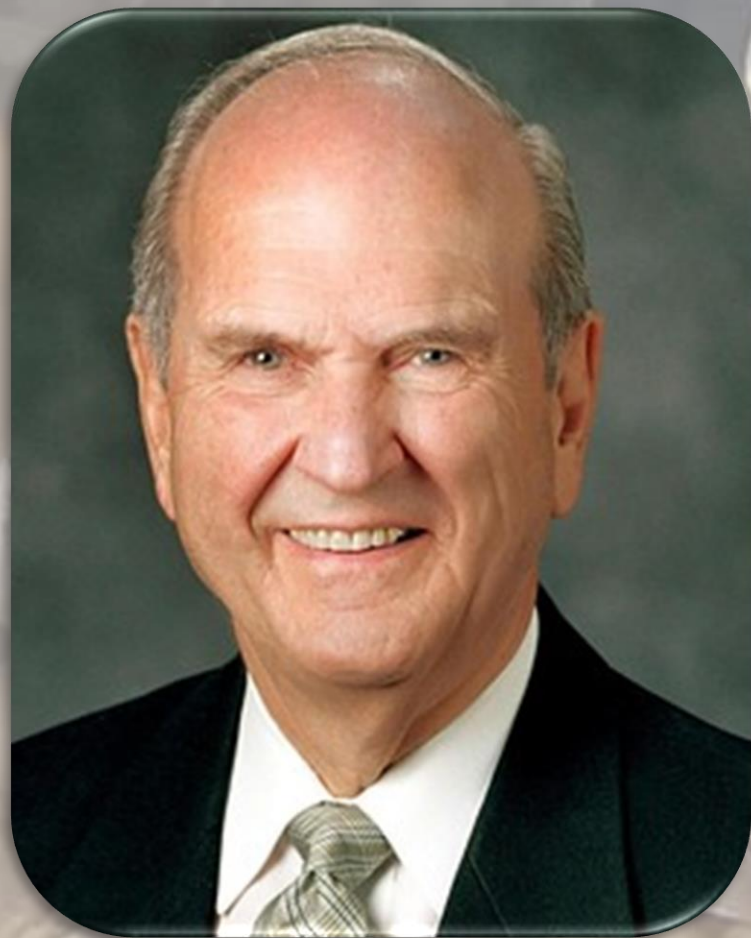


Russell M. Nelson

“Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ in our Lives”

General Conference, April 2017

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.



Russell M. Nelson

“Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ in our Lives”

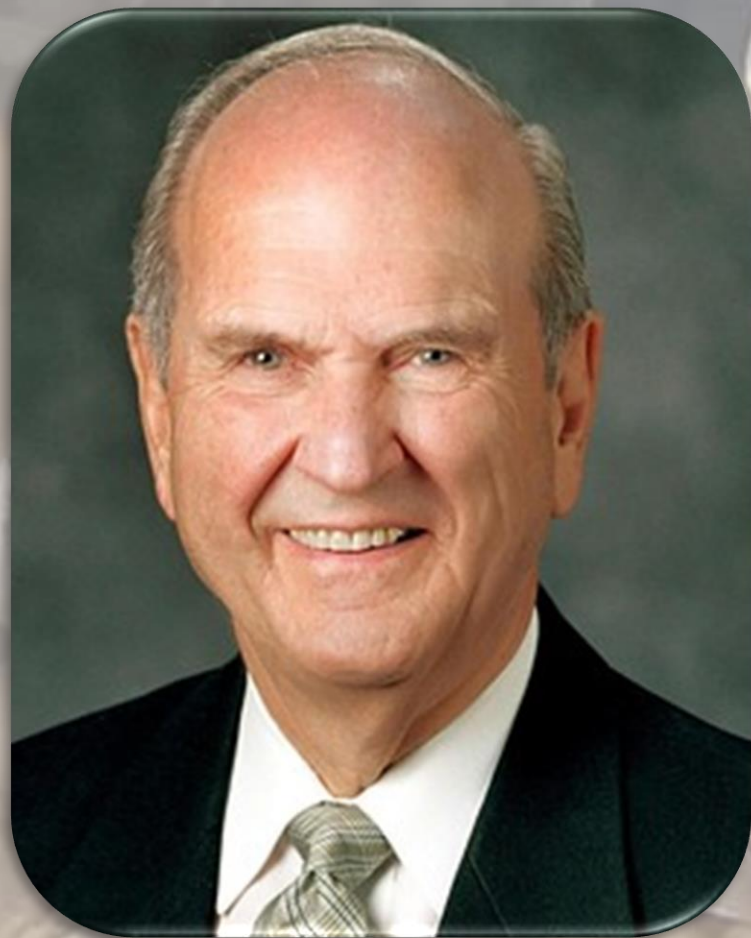
General Conference, April 2017

When you spiritually stretch
beyond anything you have ever
done before, then His power will
flow into you. And then you will
understand the deep meaning of
words we sing in the hymn
“The Spirit of God”:

*The Lord is extending the Saints’
understanding....*

*The knowledge and power of God
are expanding;*

*The veil o’er the earth is beginning
to burst*



Russell M. Nelson

“Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ in our Lives”
General Conference, April 2017

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.



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.”



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.



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

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.



David A. Bednar

“Ye Must Be Born Again”

General Conference, April 2007

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

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

Saint

*Atonement of Jesus Christ
Yielding to the Holy Ghost*

Natural Man

