“Lovest Thou Me?”

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Je, Wanipenda?”

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If we want to show our love for God, we should understand how He recognizes our love.

Kama tunataka kuonyesha upendo wetu kwa Mungu, tunapaswa kuelewa jinsi Yeye anavyotambua upendo wetu.

In the parable of the prodigal son, the elder brother initially struggled to celebrate when his younger brother returned home after a period of poor choices and “wast[ing] his substance with riotous living.”The elder brother’s pride and self-righteousness kept him from embracing the joy of his brother’s repentant return. We also may let opportunities pass us by without letting our loved ones know, through our words and actions, of our sincere love for them.

Katika mfano wa mwana mpotevu, kaka mkubwa mwanzoni alihangaika katika kumsherehekea mdogo wake aliyerudi nyumbani baada ya kipindi cha chaguzi mbaya na kutapanya urithi wake kwa maisha ya tamaa.”Kiburi cha kaka mkubwa na kujiona kuwa mwenye haki vilimzuia kukubali shangwe ya kurudi kwa kaka yake aliyetubu. Nasi pia yawezekana tukaacha fursa zitupite kwa kutowafanya wapendwa wetu kujua upendo wetu kwao, kupitia maneno na matendo.

There are many powerful examples in the scriptures of sincere love shared and received: Naomi and Ruth, Ammon and King Lamoni, the prodigal son and his father, the Savior and His disciples.

When love is freely given and sincerely received, a virtuous cycle ensues with an increase of love between both the giver and the receiver.

Kuna mifano mingi yenye nguvu katika maandiko ya upendo wa dhati uliotolewa na kupokelewa: Naomi na Ruthu, Ammoni na Mfalme Lamoni, mwana mpotevu na baba yake, Mwokozi na wanafunzi Wake.

Wakati upendo unapotolewa bure na kupokelewa kwa dhati, mduara wa wema huanzishwa wenye ongezeko la upendo kati ya mtoaji na yule mpokeaji.

God’s love is perfect, infinite, enduring,and “most sweet.”It fills the soul with “exceedingly great joy.”Nevertheless, at times we may find it difficult to recognize God’s love in our lives. However, our perfectly loving Heavenly Father so deeply desires for us to experience His love that He “speaketh unto [us] according to … [our] understanding.”Hewillexpress His love for us in wayswe, individually,canrecognize. We may experience God’s love for us when we observe the beauties of nature, or receive answers to prayers, or have thoughts come to our mind in the very moment of need, or experience sweet moments

Upendo wa Mungu ni mkamilifu, hauna mwisho, wenye kuvumilia,na “ni mtamu zaidi.”Unaijaza nafsi “kwa shangwe kuu kupita kiasi.”Hata hivyo, nyakati zingine huonekana ni vigumu kutambua upendo wa Mungu katika maisha yetu. Hata hivyo, Baba yetu wa Mbinguni mwenye upendo aliye mkamilifu kwa upendo wa kina sana anatamani sisi tuonje upendo Wake kwamba Yeye “anasema kwetu [sisi] kulingana na … uelewa [wetu].”Yeyeataonyeshaupendo Wake kwa ajili yetu katika njia ambazosisi, binafsi,tunawezakutambua. Tunaweza kuona upendo wa Mungu kwa ajili yetu tunapotazama

of joy. The greatest manifestation of Heavenly Father's love for us that resonates with both mind and heart is when He allowed His Beloved Son to offer Himself as the atoning one.

urembo katika mazingira asili, au tunapo pokea majibu ya sala, au kupata wazo akilini mwetu muda huo huo wa uhitaji, au tunapopitia nyakati za shangwe. Dhihirisho kuu la upendo wa Baba wa Mbinguni kwa ajili yetu ambao unaafikiana na vyote akili na moyo ni pale Yeye aliporuhusu Mwanawe Mpendwa kujitoa kama dhabihu ya kulipia dhambi.

Like the prodigal son's elder brother, our focus is often centered on ourselves. We are so consumed with seeking evidence of God's love forus, and we become frustrated when we do not see it. But the beautiful paradox is that the more we are focused onshowing ourlove for God, the more easily werecognize Hislove for us.Perhaps this is why the Savior responded to the question "Which is the great commandment?" with this simple and important invitation: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

Kama yule kaka mkubwa wa mwana mpotevu, fokasi yetu mara nyingi huwa kwetu binafsi. Tunazama sana kwenye kutafuta ushahidi wa upendo wa Mungu kwa ajili yetusisi, na tunakanganywa tunapokosa ushahidi huo. Lakini mfano wa kupendeza ni kwamba kadiri tunavyo fokasi zaidi kwenyekuonyesha upendo wetukwa Mungu, ndivyo kwa urahisi zaiditunavyotambuaupendo Wake kwetu.Pengine hii ndiyo sababu Mwokozi alijibu swali "Amri kuu ni ipi?" kwa mwaliko huu rahisi na muhimu: "Nawe umpende Bwana Mungu wako kwa moyo wako wote, na kwa roho yako yote, na kwa akili zako zote."

Sometimes the way we show our love to those we hold most dear is not necessarily the way they recognize love. This may be frustrating for both the giver and the receiver. It may be helpful to ask those we love how they recognize love expressed. Likewise, if we want to show our love for God, we should understand how He recognizes our love. Fortunately, He has clearly outlined several ways in the scriptures that we can show our love for Him.

Wakati mwingine jinsi tunavyo onyesha upendo wetu kwa wale tuwapendao sio lazima iwe jinsi ambayo wao huutambua upendo. Hii yaweza kuwa ya kukanganya kwa wote wawili mtoaji na mpokeaji. Inaweza kuwa yenye msaada kuwauliza wale tuwapendao wanatambuaje onyesho la upendo. Vile vile, kama tunataka kuonyesha upendo wetu kwa Mungu, tunapaswa kuelewa jinsi Yeye anavyo tambua upendo wetu. Kwa bahati nzuri, Yeye kwa uwazi kabisa amebainisha njia kadhaa katika maandiko ambazo tunaweza kuonyesha upendo wetu Kwake.

Lovest Thou Me More Than These?

In the instructive exchange between Peter and the resurrected Lord at the Sea of Tiberias, we learn of ways we can show our love for the Lord.

"Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee."

The key question in this inquiry by the Lord is "Lovest thou memorethanthese?" We show our love to the Lord when we put Him above "these," and "these" can be anyone, any activity, or anything that displaces Him from being the most important influence in our lives.

Je, Wanipenda Mimi Zaidi Ya Hawa?

Katika mazungumzo kati ya Petro na Bwana Aliyefufuka kwenye Bahari ya Tiberia, tunajifunza juu ya njia ambazo sisi tunaweza kuonyesha upendo wetu kwa Bwana.

"Yesu alimwambia Simon Petro, Simoni, mwana wa Yona, je, wanipenda mimi zaidi ya hawa? Yeye akamwambia, Ndiyo, Bwana; wewe wajua kwamba nakupenda."

Swali muhimu katika maulizo ya Bwana ni "Wanipendazaidikulikohawa?" Tunaonyesha upendo kwa Bwana tunapomweka Yeye juu ya "hawa," na "hawa" inaweza kuwa mtu ye yote, shughuli yo yote, au kitu cho chote ambacho kinachukua nafasi Yake kutokana na kuwa ushawishi muhimu zaidi katika maisha yetu.

There will never be enough time in a day, a week, a month, or a year to get done all we want

Kamwe hapatakuwa na muda wa kutosha kwenye siku, wiki, mwezi, au mwaka wa kufanya

or need to accomplish. Part of the test of mortality is to use the precious resource of time for what is most important for our eternal good and to let go of those things that are less important.

yote tunayotaka au tunayohitaji kukamilisha. Sehemu ya mtihani wa maisha ya duniani ni kutumia rasilimali ya thamani ya muda kwa kile kilicho muhimu zaidi kwa faida yetu ya milele na kuachana na mambo ambayo hayana umuhimu sana.

President Russell M. Nelson said: "The question for each of us … is the same. … Areyouwilling to let God be the most important influence in your life? Will you allow His words, His commandments, and His covenants to influence what you do each day? Will you allow His voice to take priority over any other? Are youwillingto let whatever He needs you to do take precedence over every other ambition? Are youwillingto have your will swallowed up in His?"We demonstrate our discipleship and love for God when we make Him our top priority.

Rais Russell M. Nelson alisema: "Swali kwa kila mmoja wetu … ni lile lile. … Je,weweuko radhi kuacha Mungu awe na ushawishi muhimu zaidi katika maisha yako? Je, utaruhusu neno Lake, amri Zake, na maagano Yake, yashawishi kile unachofanya kila siku? Je, utaruhusu sauti Yake ichukue kipaumbele cha juu zaidi ya sauti zingine zote? Je, wewe ukoradhikuruhusu cho chote Yeye anachohitaji ukifanye kiwe cha kwanza juu ya lengo lingine lo lote? Je, wewe ukoradhikuruhusu mapenzi yako yamezwe katika Yake?"Tunaonyesha uanafunzi wetu na upendo kwa Mungu tunapomfanya Yeye kuwa kipaumbele chetu cha juu.

Feed My Sheep

In the next verse of this same discussion between Peter and the Savior, we learn of another way the Lord recognizes our expressions of love: "[The Lord] saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

Lisha Kondoo Wangu

Katika mstari unao fuata wa mazungumzo yale yale kati ya Petro na Mwokozi, tunajifunza juu ya njia nyingine ambayo kwayo Bwana anatambua uonyeshaji wetu wa upendo: "[Bwana] anamwambia tena kwa mara ya pili, Simoni, mwana wa Yohana, je, wanipenda? Petro akamjibu, "Ndio, Bwana; wewe wajua kuwa nakupenda. Yesu akamwambia, Lisha kondoo wangu."

We show our love for Heavenly Father when we serve, listen to, love, lift, or minister to His children.That service may be as simple as trulyseeingothers without judgment. In the76th section of the Doctrine and Covenants, we get a glimpse of the character of those who will inherit a celestial glory: "They see as they are seen, and know as they are known."They see others as God sees them, and He sees them as they can become, with glorious divine potential.

Tunaonyesha upendo wetu kwa Baba wa Mbinguni tunapo hudumu, tunapo msikiliza, tunapo mpenda, kuinua, au kuwatumikia watoto Wake.Huduma hiyo yaweza kuwa rahisi kamakuwaonawengine bila kuwa hukumu. Katikasehemu ya 76 ya Mafundisho na Maagano, tunapata picha ya tabia za wale watakao urithi utukufu wa selestia: "Wao wanaona kama wanavyoonwa, na kujua kama wanavyojulikana."Wanawaona wengine kama vile Mungu anavyowaona wao, na Yeye anawaona kama wanavyoweza kuwa, wenye uwezekano mtukufu wa kiungu.

After returning home from my mission, I took over the lawn-care business my brothers and I had started as teenagers. I was also busy with my university studies. One spring week, heavy rain and looming final exams left me overwhelmed and behind on yard work.

Baada ya kurudi nyumbani kutoka misioni, nilisimamia biashara ya kutunza bustani ambayo mimi na kaka zangu tulikuwa tumeianzisha tukiwa vijana wadogo. Pia nilikuwa na kazi nyingi za masomo yangu ya chuo kikuu. Wiki moja ya majira kuchipua, mvua nyingi na mitihani ya mwisho wa muhula vilinizidia na nikawa nyuma kwenye kazi zangu za utunzaji wa bustani.

Midweek the skies cleared, and I planned to catch up on yard work after classes. But when

Katikati ya wiki anga zikawa wazi, nami nikapanga kukamilisha kazi za bustani baada ya

I arrived home, my truck and equipment were gone. Curious, I visited the scheduled yards; each one had already been beautifully trimmed. At the last yard on the schedule, I saw my younger brother walking behind the mower. He saw me, smiled, and waved. Overcome with gratitude, I hugged and thanked him. His meaningful act of service deeply strengthened my love and loyalty for him. Serving each other is an unmistakable way we show our love for God and His Beloved Son.

madarasa. Lakini nilipowasili nyumbani, gari langu pamoja na vifaa vilikuwa vimetoweka. Kwa shauku, nilitembelea bustani zilizokuwa kwenye ratiba; kila moja ilikuwa tayari imefyekwa. Kwenye uwanja wa mwisho wa bustani iliyo kwenye ratiba, nilimwona kaka yangu mdogo akisukuma mashine ya kukata nyasi. Aliniangalia, akatabasamu, na kupunga mkono. Nikiwa nimezidiwa kwa shukrani, nilimkumbatia na kumshukuru. Kitendo chake cha maana cha huduma kwa kina kiliimarisha upendo wangu na heshima kwake. Kuhudumiana ni njia dhahiri ya kuonyesha upendo wetu kwa Mungu na Mwanawe Mpendwa.

Confess His Hand in All Things

We also manifest our love for God by having a grateful heart. The Lord said, “In nothing doth man offend God, … save those who confess not his hand in all things.”We show our love for God by acknowledging Him as the source of every good thing in our lives.

In the early days of launching a company, my business partner and I would pray earnestly before important meetings, asking for Heavenly Father’s help. Time after time, God answered our prayers, and our meetings went well. After one meeting, my business partner pointed out that we had been quick to ask for help but slow to give thanks. From then on, we made it a habit to offer sincere prayers of gratitude, recognizing the Lord’s hand in our successes. We show our love for God with “an attitude of gratitude.”

Kiri Mkono Wake katika Mambo Yote”

Pia tunadhihirisha upendo wetu kwa Mungu kwa kuwa na moyo wa shukrani. Bwana alisema, “Katika cho chote mwanadamu hamkosei Mungu, … isipokuwa wale wasio kiri mkono wake katika mambo yote.”Tunaonyesha upendo wetu kwa Mungu kwa kumtambua Yeye kama chanzo cha kila jambo jema katika maisha yetu.

Katika siku za mwanzo za uzinduzi wa kampuni, mimi na mwenzangu katika biashara tungesali kwa dhati kabla ya mikutano muhimu, tukiomba msaada wa Baba wa Mbinguni. Muda baada ya muda, Mungu alijibu sala zetu, na mikutano yetu ilienda vyema. Baada ya mkutano mmoja, mwenzangu alieleza kwamba tumekuwa wepesi katika kuomba msaada lakini wazito kutoa shukrani. Kuanzia hapo, tulifanya hii iwe tabia yetu kutoa sala ya dhati ya shukrani, tukiukiri mkono wa Bwana katika mafanikio yetu. Tunaonyesha upendo wetu kwa Mungu kwa kuwa na “mtazamo wa shukrani.”

If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments

Another way we show our love for Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son is to choose to obey Them. The Savior said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”This kind of obedience is neither blind nor compulsory but is a sincere and willing expression of love. Father in Heaven wants us towantto be obedient. Sister Tamara W. Runia called this “affectionate obedience.” She said, “Even though we don’t have perfect obedienceyet, we try affectionate obediencenow, choosing to stay, again and again, because we love Him.”

“Mkinipenda, Mtazishika Amri Zangu”

Njia nyingine tunayo onyesha upendo wetu kwa Baba wa Mbinguni na Mwanawe Mpendwa ni kuchagua kuwatii Wao. Mwokozi alisema, “Mkinipenda, mtazishika amri zangu.”Utii wa aina hii si wa upofu wala si wa lazima lakini ni wa dhati na onyesho la hiari la upendo. Baba wa Mbinguni anataka sisitutakekuwa watiifu. Dada Tamara W. Runia aliita huu “utii wa upendo.” Yeye alisema, “Ingawa hatuna utii mkamilifubado, tunajaribu utii wa kupendasasa, kuchagua kubaki, tena na tena, kwa sababu sisi Tunampenda.”

Heavenly Father gave us agency to inspire us towantto choose Him.His work and glory is not only to bring to pass our eternal lifebut also includes a hope that our greatest desire is to return to Him. However, He will never force us to obey. In the hymn "Know This, That Every Soul Is Free," we sing:

He'll call, persuade, direct aright,
And bless with wisdom, love, and light,
In nameless ways be good and kind,
But never force the human mind.

As mission leaders, my wife, Christina, and I were inspired by so many missionaries who chose to be obedient not only because it was a missionary standard but because they wanted to show their love for the Lord by humbly choosing to represent Him.

Elder Dale G. Renlund said: "Our Heavenly Father's goal in parenting is not to have His childrendowhat is right; it is to have His children-chooseto do what is right and ultimately become like Him. If He simply wanted us to be obedient, He would use immediate rewards and punishments to influence our behaviors."We show our love for God when we choose to obey and follow Him.

Our Heavenly Father and our Savior recognize our expressions of love for Them when we put Them first in our lives, serve one another, gratefully acknowledge every blessing from Them, and choose to obey and follow Them.

I testify that each one of us truly is a child of Godand He loves us perfectly.I testify that He yearns for us to experience His love in ways we recognize and understand. And the beautiful paradox is that we will experience His love for us even more deeply as we show our love for Him.In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Baba wa Mbinguni alitupatia haki ya kujiamulia ili kutuvutia sisitutakekumchagua Yeye. Kazi na utukufu Wake siyo tu kuleta uzima wetu wa milelelakini pia inajumuisha tumaini kwamba hamu yetu kuu ni kurudi Kwake. Hata hivyo, Yeye kamwe hatatulazimisha kutii. Katika wimbo wa dini "Tuko Huru Kuchagua," tunaimba:

"Aita, aelekeza,
Abariki kwa mwangaza,,
Ni mkarimu, mzuri,
Na pia halazimishi."

Kama viongozi wa misioni, mimi na Christina, mke wangu, tulivutiwa na wamisionari wengi ambao walichagua kuwa watiifu, siyo tu kwa sababu ilikuwa ni kiwango cha umisionari lakini kwa sababu wao walitaka kuonyesha upendo wao kwa Bwana kwa unyenyekevu kuchagua kumwakilisha Yeye.

Mzee Dale G. Renlund alisema "Lengo la Baba yetu wa Mbinguni katika malezi siyo kufanya watoto Wakekutendakile kilicho sahihi; ni kufanya watoto Wakewachaguekufanya kile kilicho sahihi na hatimaye kuwa kama Yeye. Kama Yeye angetaka tu sisi tuwe watiifu, Yeye angetumia zawadi za papo kwa papo na adhabu ili kushawishi tabia zetu."Tunaonyesha upendo kwa Mungu tunapo chagua kumtii Yeye.

Baba wa Mbinguni na Mwokozi wetu wanatambua dhihirisho letu la upendo Kwao tunapo waweka Wao kwanza katika maisha yetu, tunapo tumikiana, kwa shukrani tunapo kiri kila baraka kutoka Kwao, na tunapo chagua kutii na kuwafuata Wao.

Ninashuhudia kwamba kila mmoja wetu hakika ni mtoto wa Mungu,na kwamba anatupenda sote kikamilifu.Ninashuhudia kwamba Yeye ana hamu ya kuona sisi tunaonja upendo Wake katika njia tunazo weza kutambua na kuelewa. Na fumbo zuri ni kwamba tutapata upendo Wake kwetu hata kwa kina zaidi tunapo onyesha upendo wetu Kwake.Katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.