

The Triumph of Hope

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Håbets triumf

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Hope is a living gift, a gift that grows as we increase our faith in Jesus Christ.

My dear brothers and sisters across the world, as we begin this very special time of general conference, the eyes of heaven will certainly be focused upon us. We will hear the voice of the Lord through His servants; we will feel the “guiding, directing, [and] comforting” influence of the Holy Ghost, and our faith will be strengthened.

Three years ago, President Russell M. Nelson began general conference with these words: “Pure revelation for the questions in your heart will make this conference rewarding and unforgettable. If you have not yet sought for the ministering of the Holy Ghost to help you hear what the Lord would have you hear during these two days, I invite you to do so now. Please make this conference a time of feasting on messages from the Lord through His servants.”

The scriptures link three words powerfully together: faith, hope, charity. The gift of hope is a priceless endowment from God.

The word *hope* is used for many things we want to happen. For example, “I hope it won’t rain,” or “I hope our team wins.” My intent is to speak of our sacred and eternal hopes centered in Jesus Christ and the restored gospel and our “confident expectation[s] of ... the promised blessings of righteousness.”

Our Hope for Eternal Life

Our hope of eternal life is assured through the grace of Christ and our own choices, allowing us the remarkable blessing of returning to our heavenly home and living forever in peace and

Håb er en levende gave, en gave, der vokser, når vi øger vores tro på Jesus Kristus.

Mine kære brødre og søstre over hele verden, idet vi indleder denne meget særlige tid med »generalkonference«, vil himlens øjne helt sikkert være rettet mod os. Vi vil høre »Herrens røst« gennem hans tjenere. Vi vil føle Helligåndens »vejledende, anvisende og trøstende« indflydelse, og vores tro vil blive styrket.

For tre år siden indledte præsident Russell M. Nelson generalkonferencen med disse ord: »Ren åbenbaring om de spørgsmål, I har i hjertet, [vil] gøre denne konference belønnende og uforglemmelig. Hvis I endnu ikke har bedt om hjælp fra Helligånden til at hjælpe jer med at høre, hvad Herren vil have jer til at høre i disse to dage, vil jeg opfordre jer til at gøre det nu. Gør nu denne konference til en tid, hvor I kan nyde budskaber fra Herren gennem hans tjenere.«

Skrifterne forbinder disse ord på kraftfuld vis: Tro, håb og næstekærlighed. Håb er en uvurderlig gave fra Gud.

Ordethåb bruges om meget, som vi ønsker vil ske. For eksempel: »Jeg håber, at det ikke regner« eller »Jeg håber, at vores hold vinder«. Min hensigt er at tale om vores hellige og evige håb, der er centreret i Jesus Kristus og det gengivne evangelium, og vores »håbefulde forventninger om ... retfærdighedens lovede velsignelser«.

Vores håb om evigt liv

Vores håb om evigt liv sikres gennem Kristi nåde og vores egne valg. Det åbner for den store velsignelse at kunne vende tilbage til vores himmelske hjem og leve for evigt i fred og lykke med

happiness with our Heavenly Father, His Beloved Son, our faithful family and precious friends, and the righteous men and women from every continent and every century.

On earth we experience joy and sorrow as we are tested and proven. Our victory comes through faith in Jesus Christ as we triumph over our sins, difficulties, temptations, unfairness, and the challenges of this mortal life.

As we strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ, we see beyond our struggles to the blessings and promises of eternity. Like a light whose brilliance grows, hope brightens the darkened world, and we see our glorious future.

Hope Comes from God

Since the beginning, our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son have eagerly blessed the righteous with the precious gift of hope.

After leaving the garden, Adam and Eve were taught by an angel of the promise of Jesus Christ. The gift of hope enlightened their lives. Adam declared, “My eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy.” Eve spoke of “the joy of [their] redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient.”

Just as the Holy Ghost brought hope to Adam, the power of the Lord’s Spirit enlightens the faithful today, illuminating the reality of eternal life.

The Savior sends us a Comforter, the Holy Ghost, a companion bringing faith, hope, and peace “not as the world giveth.”

“In the world,” the Savior said, “ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer [keep a brightness of hope]; I have overcome the world.”

In times of difficulty, we choose to trust the Lord in faith. We quietly pray, “Not my will but thine be done.” We feel the Lord’s approval for our meek willingness, and we await the promised peace the Lord will send in His chosen timing.

The Apostle Paul taught, “The God of hope [will] fill you with ... joy and peace ... , that ye may abound in hope;” “rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation;” “through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

A Lesson of Hope

The prophet Moroni knew firsthand about having hope in Christ during tribulation. He explained his harrowing situation:

vor himmelske Fader, hans elskede Søn, vores trofaste familie, kære venner og retskafne mænd og kvinder fra hvert et kontinent og fra hvert århundrede.

På jorden oplever vi glæde og sorg, mens vi bliver prøvet. Vores sejr kommer gennem tro på Jesus Kristus, når vi overvinder vores synder, vanskeligheder, fristelser, uretfærdigheder og udfordringer i dette jordiske liv.

Når vi styrker vores tro på Jesus Kristus, kan vi se ud over vores kampe og frem mod evigheds velsignelser og løfter. Som et lys, der tiltager i styrke, lyser håb den formørkede verden op, og vi ser vores herlige fremtid.

Håb kommer fra Gud

Lige siden begyndelsen har vor himmelske Fader og hans elskede Søn ivrigt velsignet de retskafne med den dyrebare gave håb.

Da Adam og Eva havde forladt haven, blev de undervist af en engel om løftet om Jesus Kristus. Håbets gave oplyste deres liv. Adam erklærede: »Mine øjne [er] blevet åbnet, og i dette liv skal jeg nyde glæde.« Eva talte om »glæden over [deres] forløsning og det evige liv, som Gud giver alle de lydige«.

Ligesom Helligånden bragte håb til Adam, oplyser Herrens Ånds kraft de trofaste i dag og belyser realiteten af evigt liv.

Frelseren sender os en Talsmand, Helligånden, en ledsager, der bringer tro, håb og fred, »ikke som verden giver«.

»I verden har I trængsler,« sagde Frelseren, »men vær frimodige, jeg har overvundet verden.«

I svære tider vælger vi at stole på Herren i tro. Vi beder stille: »Ske ikke min vilje, men din.« Vi føler Herrens accept af vores sagtmødige villighed, og vi afventer den lovede fred, som Herren vil sende, når han finder det for godt.

Apostlen Paulus sagde: »Håbets Gud [vil] fylde jer med ... glæde og fred ... så at I bliver rige i håbet,« »[er] glade i håbet; udholdende i trængslen,« »ved Helligåndens kraft.«

En lektion om håb

Profeten Moroni kendte selv til at have håb i Kristus under prøvelser. Han forklarede om sin rystende situation:

“I am alone. ... I have not ... whither to go.”

“I make not myself known ... lest they should destroy me.”

Remarkably, in this dark and lonely hour, Moroni records his father's words of hope:

“If a man have faith he must needs have hope; for without faith there cannot be any hope.”

“What is it that ye shall hope for? ... Ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal.”

My brothers and sisters, hope is a living gift, a gift that grows as we increase our faith in Jesus Christ. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for.” We build this substance—the evidence blocks of our faith—through prayer, temple covenants, keeping the commandments, continually feasting on the scriptures and the words of modern-day prophets, taking the sacrament, serving others, and worshipping weekly with our fellow Saints.

A House of Hope

To fortify our hope in a time of increasing wickedness, the Lord has directed His prophet to dot the earth with His temples.

As we enter the Lord's house, we feel the Spirit of God, verifying our hope.

The temple testifies of the empty tomb and that life beyond the veil continues for all.

For those who do not have an eternal companion, the ordinances powerfully confirm that every righteous person will receive every promised blessing.

There is sublime hope as a young couple kneels across the altar to be sealed, not just for time but for eternity.

There is an immensity of hope for us in the promises made to our posterity, whatever their current circumstances.

There is no pain, no sickness, no injustice, no suffering, nothing that can darken our hope as we believe and hold tightly to our covenants with God in the house of the Lord. It is a house of light, a house of hope.

When Hope Is Discarded

We shed tears of sorrow as we see the sadness and despair in those who have no hope in Christ.

I recently observed from a distance a couple

»Jeg er alene ... Jeg har [intet] sted at gå hen.«

»Jeg giver mig ikke til kende ... for at de ikke skal slå mig ihjel.«

Det er bemærkelsesværdigt, at Moroni i denne mørke og ensomme stund skriver sin fars ord om håb ned:

»Hvis et menneske derfor har tro, må han nødvendigvis have håb, for uden tro kan der ikke være noget håb.«

»Og hvad er det, I skal håbe på? ... I skal have håb om ved Kristi forsoning og hans opstandelses kraft at blive oprejst til evigt liv.«

Mine brødre og søstre, håb er en levende gave, en gave, der vokser, når vi øger vores tro på Jesus Kristus. »Tro er fast tillid til det, der håbes på.« Vi opbygger denne tillid – beviser for vores tro – gennem bøn, tempelpagter, at holde bud-dene, at blive ved med tage for os af skrifterne og nutidige profeters ord, at tage nadveren og at tilbede ugentligt sammen med vores medhellige.

Et håbets hus

For at forstærke vores håb i en tid med stigende ugudelighed har Herren befalet sin profet at fylde jorden med sine templer.

Når vi træder ind i Herrens hus, føler vi Guds Ånd bekræfte vores håb.

Templet vidner om den tomme grav, og at livet på den anden side af sløret fortsætter for alle.

For dem, der ikke har en evig partner, bekræfter ordinaancerne kraftigt, at hvert retskafne individ vil modtage hver eneste lovede velsignelse.

Der er et storslået håb, når et ungt par knæler ved alteret for at blive besejlet, ikke blot for tid, men for al evighed.

Der er umådeligt håb for os i løfter, der er givet vores efterkommere, uagtet deres nuværende situation.

Der er ingen smerte, ingen sygdom, ingen uretfærdighed, ingen lidelse, intet, der kan for-mørke vores håb, når vi tror og holder fast i vores pagter med Gud i Herrens hus. Det er et lysets hus, et håbets hus.

Når håb tilsidesættes

Vi græder af sorg, når vi ser bedrøvelsen og fortvivlelsen hos dem, der ikke har håb i Kristus.

For nylig iagttog jeg på afstand et par, der en-

who at one time had faith in Christ but then decided to discard their belief. They were successful in the world, and they found pleasure in their intellect and the rejection of their faith.

All seemed well until the husband, still young and energetic, suddenly fell ill and died. Like an eclipse of the sun, they had blocked the light of the Son, and the result was an eclipse of hope. The wife, in her disbelief, now felt disoriented, painfully unprepared, unable to comfort her children. Her intellect had told her that her life was in perfect order until suddenly she could see no tomorrow. Her despair brought darkness and confusion.

Hope in Heartbreaking Tragedy

Let me contrast her painful despair with another family's hope in Christ during a heartbreaking time.

Twenty-one years ago the newborn son of my nephew Ben Andersen and his wife, Robbie, was life-flighted from their Idaho farming community to Salt Lake City. I arrived at the hospital, and Ben explained the severe, life-threatening complications with their baby's heart. We placed our hands on Trey's tiny head. The Lord blessed him with continued life.

Trey had heart surgery the first week of his life, and more surgeries followed. As the years passed, it became apparent that Trey would need a heart transplant. Although his physical activities were limited, his faith expanded. He wrote, "I have never felt sorry for myself because I have always known the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ and a testimony of the plan of salvation."

Trey kept on his phone this well-known quote from President Nelson: "The joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives."

Trey wrote: "I have always looked forward to serving a full-time mission, but ... my doctors won't let me serve a mission until at least a year after my transplant. ... I've put my faith in Jesus Christ."

Trey was excited at being accepted into the accounting major at BYU beginning this semester, but even more excited in late July when he received the very anticipated telephone call to come to the hospital for his heart transplant.

gang havde tro på Kristus, men som så besluttede sig for at kaste deres tro bort. De havde succes i verden, og de fandt nydelse i deres intellekt og afvisning af deres tro.

Alt virkede godt, indtil manden, der stadig var ung og energisk, pludselig blev syg og døde. Som en solformørkelse havde de blokeret for Sønnens lys, og resultatet var en formørkelse af håb. I sin manglende tro følte hustruen sig nu desorienteret, smerteligt uforberedt og ude af stand til at trøste sine børn. Hendes intellekt havde fortalt hende, at der var fuldstændig styr på hendes liv, indtil hun pludselig ikke kunne se nogen fremtid. Hendes fortvivlelse medførte mørke og forvirring.

Håb i hjerteskrærende tragedie

Lad mig i kontrast til hendes smertefulde fortvivlelse dele en anden families håb i Kristus i en hjerteskrærende tid.

For 21 år siden blev min nevø Ben Andersens nyfødte søn og hans hustru, Robbie, fløjet med lægehelikopter fra landet i Idaho til Salt Lake City. Jeg ankom til hospitalet, og Ben forklarede de alvorlige, livstruende hjerteproblemer, deres baby havde. Vi lagde vores hænder på Treys lille hoved. Herren velsignede ham ved at lade ham leve.

Trey fik en herteoperation i den første uge af sit liv, og flere operationer fulgte. Som årene gik, blev det klart, at Trey ville få brug for en herte-transplantation. Selvom hans fysiske aktiviteter var begrænsede, voksede hans tro. Han skrev: »Jeg har aldrig haft ondt af mig selv, for jeg har altid kendt til vigtigheden af at have tro på Jesus Kristus og et vidnesbyrd om frelsesplanen.«

Trey havde følgende velkendte citat af præsident Nelson på sin telefon: »Den glæde, vi føler, har lidet at gøre med vores livsvilkår og alt at gøre med vores fokus i livet.«

Trey skrev: »Jeg har altid set frem til at tjene på en fuldtidsmission, men ... mine læger vil ikke lade mig tage på mission før tidligst et år efter min transplantation ... Jeg har sat min lid til Jesus Kristus.«

Trey var begejstret for at blive optaget på økonomistudiet på BYU, som begyndte dette semester, men han blev endnu mere begejstret i slutningen af juli, da han modtog det længe ventede opkald om at komme til hospitalet for at få en hjertetransplantation.

“One year,” Trey said, “and I will be on my mission.”

There were great expectations as he entered the operating room. However, during the surgery there were devastating complications, and Trey never regained consciousness.

His mother, Robbie, said: “Friday had been the most heartbreaking day ... just trying to wrap our minds around it. ... I had stayed up late just trying to process everything. ... But Saturday, I woke up with a feeling of absolute joy. It wasn’t just peace; it wasn’t denial. I felt joy for my son, and I felt joy as his mother. ... Ben had gotten up a lot earlier than me, and when we finally got a chance to talk, Ben had awakened with the exact same feeling.”

Ben explained: “Clarity came to my soul as God taught me through His Holy Spirit. I awoke at 4:00 a.m. and was filled with indescribable peace and joy. How is this possible? ... The passing of Trey is so very painful, and I miss him so much. But the Lord does not leave us comfortless. ... I look forward to a joyful reunion.”

The Promise of Hope

Trey had noted in his journal these words from President Nelson’s general conference talk: “It doesn’t seem possible to feel joy when your child suffers with an incurable illness or when you lose your job or when your spouse betrays you. Yet that is precisely the joy the Savior offers. His joy is constant, assuring us that our ‘afflictions shall be but a small moment’ [Doctrine and Covenants 121:7] and be consecrated to our gain.”

Brothers and sisters, the peace you seek may not come as quickly as you desire, but I promise you that as you trust in the Lord, His peace will come.

May we nurture our precious faith, pressing forward with a perfect brightness of hope. I testify that our hope is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Through Him, all our righteous dreams will be realized. He is the God of hope—the triumph of hope. He lives and He loves you. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

»Et år,« sagde Trey, »og så er jeg på mission.«

Der var store forventninger, da han kom ind på operationsstuen. Men under operationen opstod der katastrofale komplikationer, og Trey genvandt aldrig bevidstheden.

Hans mor, Robbie, sagde: »Fredag var den mest hjerteskrænkende dag ... Vi forsøgte bare at forstå, hvad der var sket ... Jeg var blevet længe oppe for at prøve at bearbejde det hele ... Men lørdag vågnede jeg med en følelse af absolut glæde. Det var ikke bare fred; det var ikke fornægtelse. Jeg følte glæde for min søn, og jeg følte glæde som hans mor ... Ben var stået op meget tidligere end mig, og da vi endelig fik en mulighed for at tale sammen, var Ben vågnet med nøjagtig den samme følelse.«

Ben forklarede: »Der kom klarhed i min sjæl, da Gud underviste mig gennem sin Helligånd. Jeg vågnede kl. 4.00 og var fyldt med ubeskrivelig fred og glæde. Hvordan er det muligt? ... Treys bortgang er så smertefuld, og jeg savner ham så meget. Men Herren efterlader os ikke trøstesløse ... Jeg ser frem til et glædeligt gensyn.«

Løftet om håb

Trey havde skrevet disse ord i sin dagbog fra præsident Nelsons generalkonferencetale: »Det synes ... ikke muligt at føle glæde, når ens barn lider af en uhelbredelig sygdom, eller når man mister sit job, eller når ens ægtefælle svigter. Alligevel er det lige præcis det, Frelseren tilbyder. Hans glæde er konstant, den forvisser os om, at vores »modgang og ... trængsler skal kun vare et øjeblik« (L&P 121:7), og de vil blive helliget til vores gavn.«

Brødre og søstre, den fred, I søger, kommer måske ikke lige så hurtigt, som I ønsker, men jeg lover jer, at når I stoler på Herren, vil hans fred komme.

Må vi nære vores dyrebare tro og trænge os fremad med et fuldkomment klart håb. Jeg vidner om, at vores håb er vor Frelser, Jesus Kristus. Gennem ham vil alle vores retfærdige drømme blive opfyldt. Han er håbets Gud – håbets triumf. Han lever, og han elsker jer. I Jesu Kristi navn. Amen.