

Trusting Our Father

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Of the Seventy

Stol på vor himmelske Fader

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God trusts us to make many important decisions, and in all matters He asks us to trust Him.

On June 1, 1843, Addison Pratt left Nauvoo, Illinois, to preach the gospel in the Hawaiian Islands, leaving his wife, Louisa Barnes Pratt, to care for their young family.

In Nauvoo, as persecutions intensified, forcing the Saints to leave, and later at Winter Quarters as they prepared to migrate to the Salt Lake Valley, Louisa faced the decision of whether to make the journey. It would have been easier to stay and to wait for Addison to return than to travel alone.

On both occasions, she sought guidance from the prophet, Brigham Young, who encouraged her to go. Despite the great difficulty and her personal reluctance, she successfully made the journey each time.

Initially, Louisa found little joy in traveling. However, she soon began to welcome the green prairie grass, colorful wildflowers, and patches of ground along the riverbanks. “The gloom on my mind wore gradually away,” she recorded, “and there was not a more mirthful woman in the whole company.”

Louisa’s story has deeply inspired me. I admire her willingness to set aside her personal preferences, her ability to trust God, and how exercising her faith helped her to see the situation differently.

She has reminded me that we have a loving Father in Heaven, who cares for us wherever we are, and that we can trust Him more than anyone or anything else.

Gud har tillid til, at vi kan træffe mange vigtige beslutninger selv, og han beder os om at stole på ham i alle forhold.

Den 1. juni 1843 forlod Addison Pratt Nauvoo i Illinois for at forkynde evangeliet på Hawaii og efterlod sin hustru, Louisa Barnes Pratt, som tog sig af deres unge familie.

Da forfølgelserne i Nauvoo tog til og tvang de hellige til at forlade stedet, og senere mens de befandt sig i Winter Quarters i færd med at forberede rejsen til Salt Lake-dalen, stod Louisa over for beslutningen om, hvorvidt hun skulle foretage rejsen. Det ville have været lettere at blive tilbage og vente på, at Addison kom hjem, end at skulle foretage rejsen alene.

Ved begge lejligheder søgte hun vejledning hos profeten Brigham Young, der opmuntrede hende til at tage afsted. På trods af store vanskeligheder og hendes personlige modvilje, lykkedes det hende at foretage rejsen hver gang.

Til at begynde med fandt Louisa ikke megen glæde i at rejse. Hun begyndte dog snart at værdsætte det grønne prærie græs, de farverige vildtvoksende blomster og små pletter af jord langs flodbredderne. »Tristheden i mit sind forsvandt lidt efter lidt,« skrev hun, »og der var ikke en mere munter kvinde i hele kompagniet.«

Louisas historie har været en dyb inspiration for mig. Jeg beundrer hendes villighed til at tilsidesætte personlige præferencer, hendes evne til at stole på Gud, og hvordan det at udøve sin tro hjalp hende med at se anderledes på sin situation.

Hun har mindet mig om, at vi har en kærlig himmelsk Fader, som bekymrer sig for os, uanset hvor vi er, og at vi kan stole mere på ham end på nogen eller noget andet.

The Source of Truth

God trusts us to make many important decisions, and in all matters He asks us to trust Him. This is especially difficult when our judgment or public opinion differs from His will for His children.

Some suggest that we should redraw the lines between what is right and what is wrong because they say that truth is relative, reality is self-defined, or God is so generous that He does not actually care about what we do.

As we seek to understand and accept God's will, it is helpful to remember that the boundaries between right and wrong are not for us to define. God has established these boundaries Himself, based on eternal truths for our benefit and blessing.

The desire to change God's eternal truth has a long history. It started before the world began, when Satan rebelled against God's plan, seeking selfishly to destroy human agency. Following this pattern, people like Sherem, Nehor, and Korihor have argued that faith is foolish, revelation is irrelevant, and whatever we want to do is right. Sadly, so very often these deviations from God's truth have led to great sorrow.

While some things may depend on context, not everything does. President Russell M. Nelson has consistently taught that God's saving truths are absolute, independent, and defined by God Himself.

Our Choice

Whom we choose to trust is one of life's important decisions. King Benjamin instructed his people, "Believe in God; believe that he is ... ; believe that he has all wisdom ... ; believe that man doth not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend."

Fortunately, we have the scriptures and guidance from living prophets to help us understand God's truth. If clarification beyond what we have is needed, God provides it through His prophets. And He will respond to our sincere prayers through the Holy Ghost as we seek to understand truths we do not yet fully appreciate.

Elder Neil L. Andersen once taught that we should not be surprised "if at times [our] personal views are not initially in harmony with

Kilden til sandhed

Gud har tillid til, at vi kan træffe mange vigtige beslutninger selv, og han beder os om at stole på ham i alle forhold. Det er især vanskeligt, når vores dømmekraft eller den offentlige mening afviger fra hans vilje for sine børn.

Nogle foreslår, at vi burde tegne nye linjer imellem, hvad der er rigtigt, og hvad der er forkert, fordi de siger, at sandhed er relativ, virkelighed er selvdefineret eller at Gud er så storsindet, at han faktisk ikke går op i, hvad vi gør.

Når vi stræber efter at forstå og acceptere Guds vilje, er det gavnligt at huske på, at det ikke er op til os at definere grænsen for, hvad der er rigtigt og forkert. Baseret på evige sandheder har Gud selv fastsat disse grænser, der er til gavn og velsignelse for os.

Der er en lang tradition for at ønske at ændre Guds evige sandhed. Det begyndte før denne verden blev til, da Satan gjorde oprør imod Guds plan, hvor han selvskønte sig at tilintetgøre menneskets handlefrihed. Folk som Sherem, Nehor og Korihor har fulgt dette mønster og argumenteret for, at det er tåbeligt at tro, åbenbaring er irrelevant, og at uanset hvad vi ønsker at gøre, så er det rigtigt. Desværre har disse afvigelser fra Guds sandhed meget ofte ført til stor sorg.

Selvom nogle ting afhænger af konteksten, gælder det ikke for alt. Præsident Russell M. Nelson har gentagne gange sagt, at Guds frelsende sandheder er absolutte, uafhængige og defineret af Gud selv.

Vores valg

Hvem vi vælger at stole på, er en af livets vigtige beslutninger. Kong Benjamin underviste sit folk således: »Tro på Gud; tro, at han er til ... tro, at han har al visdom ... tro, at mennesket ikke fatter alt det, som Herren kan fatte.«

Heldigvis har vi skrifterne og levende profeters vejledning, der kan hjælpe os med at forstå Guds sandhed. Hvis der er behov for yderligere afklaring end den, vi har, tilvejebringer Gud den gennem sine profeter. Og han vil besvare vores oprigtige bønner gennem Helligånden, når vi søger at forstå sandheder, vi ikke fuldt ud har taget til os endnu.

Ældste Neil L. Andersen har engang sagt, at vi ikke bør blive overraskede, »hvis [vores] egne personlige anskuelser til tider i begyndelsen ikke

the teachings of the Lord's prophet. These are moments of learning," he said, "of humility, when we go to our knees in prayer. We walk forward in faith, trusting in God, knowing that with time we will receive more spiritual clarity from our Heavenly Father."

At all times, it is helpful to remember Alma's teaching that God gives His word according to the attention and effort we devote to it. If we heed God's word, we will receive more; if we ignore His counsel, we will receive less and less until we have none. This loss of knowledge does not mean that the truth was wrong; rather, it shows that we have lost the capacity to understand it.

Look to the Savior

In Capernaum, the Savior taught about His identity and mission. Many found His words difficult to hear, leading them to turn their backs and "[walk] no more with him."

Why did they walk away?

Because they did not like what He said. So, trusting their own judgment, they walked away, denying themselves blessings that would have come had they stayed.

It is easy for our pride to come between us and eternal truth. When we don't understand, we can pause, let our feelings settle, and then choose how to respond. The Savior urged us to "look unto [Him] in every thought; doubt not, fear not." When we focus on the Savior, our faith can start to overcome our concerns.

As President Dieter F. Uchtdorf encouraged us to do: "Please, first doubt your doubts before you doubt your faith. We must never allow doubt to hold us prisoner and keep us from the divine love, peace, and gifts that come through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Blessings Come to Those Who Stay

As the disciples walked away from the Savior that day, He then asked the Twelve, "Will ye also go away?"

Peter answered:

"Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

"And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."

er i harmoni med Herrens profets lærdomme. Det er tidspunkter, hvor vi lærer,« sagde han, »når vi ydmygt går på knæ i bøn. Vi går fremad i tro, stoler på Gud og ved, at vi med tiden vil få større åndelig klarhed fra vor himmelske Fader.«

Det hjælper altid at huske på Almas belæringer om, at Gud skænker os sit ord i forhold til den agtpågivenhed og flid, vi viser ham. Hvis vi lytter til Guds ord, vil vi modtage mere, men hvis vi ignorerer hans vejledning, vil vi modtage en mindre og mindre del af ordet, indtil vi intet har. Dette tab af viden betyder ikke, at sandheden var forkert, men det viser, at vi har mistet evnen til at forstå den.

Se hen til Frelseren

I Kapernaum underviste Frelseren om sin identitet og mission. Der var mange, der syntes, at hans ord var hårde at lytte til, hvilket førte til, at de vendte ham ryggen og »de fulgtes ikke mere med ham«.

Hvorfor gik de væk?

Fordi de ikke brød sig om det, han sagde. Og fordi de stolede på deres egen dømmekraft, forduftede de og fornægtede dermed sig selv de velsignelser, de kunne have fået, hvis de var blevet.

Vores stolthed ender let med at stå mellem os og evig sandhed. Når der er noget, vi ikke forstår, kan vi stoppe op, lade vores følelser falde til ro og så vælge, hvordan vi vil reagere. Frelseren opfordrer os til at »se hen til [ham] i alle [vores] tanker; tvivl ikke, frygt ikke«. Når vi fokuserer på Frelseren, kan vores tro begynde at overvinde vores bekymringer.

Som præsident Dieter F. Uchtdorf har opmuntret os til at gøre: »Betvivl derfor jeres tvivl, før I betvivler jeres tro. Vi må aldrig lade vores tvivl tage os til fange og holde os væk fra den guddommelige kærlighed og fred eller de gaver, som kommer af tro på Herren Jesus Kristus.«

Velsignelser kommer til dem, der bliver

Da disciplene forlod Frelseren den dag, spurgte han de tolv: »Vil I også gå jeres vej?«

Peter svarede:

»Herre, hvem skal vi gå til? Du har det evige livs ord.

og vi tror, og vi ved, at du er Guds hellige.«

Now, the Apostles lived in the same world, and they faced the same social pressures as the disciples who walked away. However, in this moment, they chose their faith and trusted God, thus preserving blessings God gives to those who stay.

Perhaps you, like me, sometimes find yourself on both sides of this decision. When we find it difficult to understand or embrace God's will, it is comforting to remember that He loves us as we are, wherever we are. And He has something better for us. If we reach out to Him, He will assist us.

While reaching out to Him can be difficult, just as the father who sought healing for his son was told by the Savior, "All things are possible to him that believeth." In our moments of struggle, we too can cry out, "Help thou [my] unbelief."

Submitting Our Will to His

Elder Neal A. Maxwell once taught that "the submission of one's will is really the only uniquely personal thing we have to place on God's altar." No wonder King Benjamin was so eager that his people become "as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father."

As always, the Savior set the perfect example for us. With a heavy heart, and knowing the painful work He had to do, He submitted to His Father's will, fulfilling His messianic mission and opening the promise of eternity to you and me.

The choice to submit our will to God's is an act of faith that lies at the heart of our discipleship. In making that choice, we discover that our agency is not diminished; rather, it is magnified and rewarded by the presence of the Holy Ghost, who brings purpose, joy, peace, and hope we can find nowhere else.

Several months ago, a stake president and I visited a sister in his stake and her young adult son. After years away from the Church, wandering difficult and unfriendly paths, she had returned. During our visit, we asked her why she had come back.

"I had made a mess of my life," she said, "and I knew where I needed to be."

Apostlene levede i den samme verden, og de stod over for det samme sociale pres som de disciple, der gik deres vej. Men i det øjeblik valgte de deres tro og stolede på Gud, hvorved de bibeholdte de velsignelser, Gud giver til dem, der bliver.

Måske oplever I, ligesom mig, indimellem, at I befinder jer på begge sider af denne beslutning. Når vi synes, at det er svært at forstå eller omfavne Guds vilje, er det en trøst at huske på, at han elsker os, som vi er, hvor end vi er. Og at han har noget bedre i vente til os. Hvis vi rækker ud til ham, vil han hjælpe os.

Det at række ud til ham kan være svært, ligesom det var for den far, der søgte helbredelse til sin søn, og til hvem Frelseren sagde: »Alt er muligt for den, der tror.« I de stunder, hvor vi kæmper, kan vi også råbe: »Hjælp min vantro!«

At underkaste os Guds vilje

Ældste Neal A. Maxwell sagde engang: »Det eneste helt personlige, som vi kan lægge på Guds alter, er at underordne vores vilje hans.« Det er ikke så mærkeligt, at Kong Benjamin var så ivrig efter, at hans folk skulle blive »som et barn, underdanig, sagtmodig, ydmyg, tålmodig, fuld af kærlighed, villig til at underordne sig alt det, som Herren finder det tjenligt at pålægge os, ligesom et barn underordner sig sin far«.

Som altid viste Frelseren os det fuldkomne eksempel. Med tungt hjerte og bevidst om den smertefulde gerning, han skulle udføre, indordnede han sin egen vilje under sin himmelske Faders, hvorved han fuldførte sin messianske mission og slog dørene op for løftet om evigheden for jer og mig.

Valget om at underkaste vores vilje Guds er en handling i tro, der er hjertet i vores liv som disciple. Når vi foretager dette valg, opdager vi, at vores handlefrihed ikke er formindsket. Den er snarere forstørret og bliver belønnet med Helligåndens tilstedeværelse, som bringer mening, glæde, fred og håb, som vi ikke kan finde andre steder.

For nogle måneder siden besøgte en stavspræsident og jeg en søster i hans stav og hendes voksne søn. Efter at have været væk fra kirken i årevis og vandret på vanskelige og uvenlige stier, var hun vendt tilbage. Under vores besøg spurgte vi hende, hvorfor hun var kommet tilbage.

»Mit liv var blevet noget rod,« sagde hun, »og jeg vidste, hvor jeg havde brug for at være.«

I then asked her what she had learned in her journey.

With some emotion, she shared that she had learned that she needed to attend church long enough to break the habit of not coming and that she needed to stay until it was where she wanted to be. Her return was not easy, but as she exercised faith in the Father's plan, she felt the Spirit return.

And then she added, "I have learned for myself that God is good and that His ways are better than mine."

I bear witness of God, our Eternal Father, who loves us; of His Son, Jesus Christ, who saved us. They know our hurts and challenges. They will never forsake us and know perfectly how to succor us. We can be of good cheer as we trust Them more than anyone or anything else. In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Jeg spurgte hende derefter, hvad hun havde lært af sin rejse.

Hun fortalte følelsesladet, at hun havde lært, at hun havde brug for at komme i kirke længe nok til at bryde vanen med ikke at komme, og at hun havde brug for at blive, indtil det var et sted, hun havde lyst til at være. Hendes tilbagevenden var ikke let, men efterhånden som hun udøvede tro på vor Himmelske Faders plan, følte hun Ånden vende tilbage.

Og så tilføjede hun: »Jeg har lært, at Gud er god, og at hans veje er bedre end mine.«

Jeg bærer vidnesbyrd om Gud, vor evige Fader, som elsker os, og om hans Søn, Jesus Kristus, som frelste os. De kender vores smerter og udfordringer. De vil aldrig svigte os, og de ved til fuldkommenhed, hvordan de skal hjælpe os. Vi kan være ved godt mod, når vi stoler mere på dem end på nogen eller noget andet. I Jesu Kristi hellige navn. Amen.