

Live Up to Your Privileges

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Elage teile antud eesõiguste vääriliselt

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Learn how priesthood ordinances and covenant promises will allow God's power to flow into your life.

Recently my husband, Greg, received a diagnosis that would require an intensive surgery and months of chemotherapy. Like many of you who have faced a similar situation, we immediately began praying for heaven's help and God's power. The Sunday following Greg's surgery, the sacrament was delivered to our hospital room.

On this occasion, I was the only one taking the sacrament. One piece of bread. One cup of water. At church, my mind often focuses on the delivery system of the sacrament—the preparing, the blessing, and the passing. But on that afternoon, I pondered the gift of God's power available to me through the sacred ordinance itself and the covenant promise I was making as I took that piece of bread and that cup of water. This was a time when I needed power from heaven. In the midst of great heartache, exhaustion, and uncertainty, I wondered about this gift that would allow me to draw upon the power from Him that I so desperately needed. Partaking of the sacrament would increase my companionship with the Spirit of the Lord, allowing me to draw upon the gift of God's power, including the ministering of angels and the Savior's enabling strength to overcome.

I don't think I had ever realized with this much clarity before that it's not only who officiates in the ordinance that matters—what the ordinance and our covenant promise unlock also deserves the focus of our attention. Priesthood ordinances and covenant promises allow God to sanctify us and then work wonders in our lives.

Õppige, kuidas preesterluse talitused ja lepingulubadused võimaldavad Jumala väel tõhusamalt teie ellu voolata.

Hiljuti sai mu abikaasa Greg diagnoosi, mis nõudis ulatuslikku operatsiooni ja kuudepikkust keemiaravi. Nii nagu paljud teist, kes on olnud sarnases olukorras, hakkasime ka meie kohe palvetama ning taeva abi ja Jumala väge paluma. Gregi operatsioonile järgnenud pühapäeval toodi sakrament meie haiglapalatisse.

Seekord olin ma ainuke sakramendivõtja. Üks leivatükk. Üks topsitais vett. Kirikus kesken-
dub mu meel sageli sakramendi ettevalmistamise, õnnistamise ja jagamise edastusahelale. Kuid tol pärastlõunal mõtisklesin Jumala väe anni üle, mis on mulle kättesaadav selle püha talituse ja lepingulubaduse kaudu, mille andsin, kui võtsin selle leivatüki ja selle topsi vett. See oli aeg, mil ma taevast väge vajasin. Keset suurt südamevalu, kurnatust ja kindlusetust mõtlesin sellele annile, mis võimaldas mul ammutada Temalt seda väge, mida ma nii meeletult vajasin. Sakramendi võtmine muudab mu kaasluse Issanda Vaimuga tugevamaks, võimaldades mul ammutada Jumala väe andi, sealhulgas inglite teenimistja Päästja väestavat jõudu, et olukorrast võitu saada.

Ma polnud vist kunagi varem nii selgelt mõistnud, et tähtis pole vaid see, kes talitust läbi viib. See, mida see talitus ja meie lepingulubadus valla päästab, väärrib samuti meie jäägitut tähelepanu. Preesterluse talitused ja lepingulubadused võimaldavad Jumalal meid pühitseda ja seejärel meie elus imesid teha. Kuid kuidas see toimub?

But how does this happen?

First, in order for an ordinance to manifest the power of God in our lives, it must be done with authority from the Son of God. The delivery system is important. The Father entrusted Jesus Christ with the keys and authority to oversee the delivery of His priesthood ordinances. Under His direction, within the order of His priesthood, the sons of God have been ordained to stand in place of the Son of God.

Second, we don't just make covenant promises—we must keep them. In many gospel ordinances, we make sacred covenants with God; He promises to bless us as we keep those covenants. Do we realize it is the combination of priesthood ordinances along with the keeping of covenant promises that allows us to draw upon God's power?

That afternoon I wondered if I, a covenant daughter of God, fully understood how to access the gift of God's power through priesthood ordinances and if I truly recognized how God's power works within me.

In 2019 a prophetic invitation was extended to the women of the Church, teaching us how to draw the Savior's power into our lives. President Russell M. Nelson invited us to study Doctrine and Covenants 25, a revelation given to Emma Smith in Harmony, Pennsylvania. Accepting that invitation changed my life.

Last month I had an unexpected opportunity to visit Harmony. There, under the maple trees, the priesthood was restored to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. Close to those trees is the front door of Joseph and Emma's home. Across from the fireplace in that home there is a window. I stood at that window and wondered what Emma might have thought as she looked out across the trees.

In July of 1830, Emma was 26 years old; she was so young. She was three and a half years into her marriage. She had lost a baby boy—her first. His little grave is just down the lane from her home. As I stood at that window, it was not hard for me to imagine what might have filled her thoughts. Surely she worried about their finances, about the increasing persecution that threatened their safety, about their future. And yet the work of God was everywhere around her. Did she also wonder about her place in the plan, her purpose in His kingdom, and her potential in the eyes of God?

Esiteks, selleks et talitus saaks avaldada meie elus jumalikkuse väge, tuleb seda teha Jumala Poja volitusega. Edastusahel on oluline. Isa usaldas Jeesusale Kristusele võtmed ja volituse oma preesterluse talituste läbiviimist juhtida. Tema juhatuse all Ta preesterluse korra kohaselt on Jumala pojad pühitsetud seisma Jumala Poja asemel.

Teiseks, me lihtsalt ei anna lepingulubadusi: me peame neist ka kinni pidama. Paljudes evangeliumitalitustes sõlmime me Jumalaga pühi lepinguid; Ta lubab meid õnnistada, kui me neid lepinguid täidame. Kas mõistame, et Jumala väge võimaldab meil ammutada see, kui siduda preesterluse talitused lepingulubaduste pidamisega.

Mõtisklesin tol pärastlõunal, kas ma mõistan Jumala lepingutütrena täielikult, kuidas sellele Jumala väe annile preesterluse talituste kaudu ligi pääseda, ja kas ma tõesti märkan, kuidas Jumala vägi minu sees toimib.

2019. aastal esitati Kiriku naistele prohvetlik kutse, õpetades, kuidas me saame Päästja väge oma ellu tuua. President Russell M. Nelson kutsus meid uurima Õpetuse ja Lepingute 25. osa ehk ilmutust, mis anti Emma Smithile Pennsylvania osariigis Harmony. Selle kutse vastuvõtmine muutis mu elu.

Möödunud kuul tekkis mul ootamatult võimalus Harmonys käia. Seal, vahtrapuude all, taastati preesterlus Joseph Smithile ja Oliver Cowderyle. Nende puude lähedal asub Josephi ja Emma kodu välisuks. Majas asub kamina vastasseinas aken. Seisin selle akna ääres ja mõtisklesin, mida küll võis Emma mõelda, kui ta välja nende puude poole vaatas.

1830. aasta juulis oli Emma vaid 26-aastane, ta oli nii noor. Ta oli olnud kolm ja pool aastat abielus. Ta oli kaotanud pisipoja – oma esimese lapse. Poja pisike hauake asub kodu lähedal tee-ära ääres. Akna ääres seistes kujutasin ette, mis võis tal mõttes olla. Kindlasti muretses ta nende rahaasjade, nende turvalisusele üha suurenevaks ohuks olnud tagakiusamise, nende tuleviku pärast. Ja ometi oli ta kõigiti ümbritsetud Jumala tööst. Kas ta vaagis ka oma kohta selles plaanis, oma eesmärki Jumala kuningriigis ja oma võimekust Tema silmis?

I think she may have.

Just across the way, the gift of God's priesthood authority and keys had been restored to the earth. This was a time when Emma actually needed power from heaven. In the midst of great heartache, exhaustion, and uncertainty, I imagine Emma wondered about this gift of God's priesthood that could unlock the power from Him that she so desperately needed.

But Emma didn't just stand at that window and wonder.

While the Prophet Joseph was being tutored in keys, offices, ordinances, and how to assist in the service of the priesthood, the Lord Himself, through His prophet, gave a revelation to Emma. Not Nauvoo-Relief-Society-president Emma—this revelation was given to 26-year-old Emma in Harmony. Through revelation, Emma would learn about the inward sanctification and covenant connection that would increase the ability of those priesthood ordinances to work in her life.

First, the Lord reminded Emma of her place in His plan, including who she was and whose she was—a daughter in His kingdom. She was invited to “walk in the paths of virtue,” a path that included ordinances that would unlock God's power if Emma held on to her covenants.

Second, in her season of deep mourning, the Lord gave her purpose. Emma didn't just have a front-row seat to the Restoration; she was an essential participant in the work taking place. She would be set apart “to expound scriptures, and to exhort the church.” Her time would “be given to writing, and to learning much.” Emma was given a sacred role to help prepare the Saints to worship; their songs unto the Lord would be received as prayers and “answered with a blessing upon their heads.”

Last, the Lord outlined a process of inward sanctification that would prepare Emma for exaltation. “Except thou do this,” the Lord explained to her, “where I am you cannot come.”

If we read section 25 carefully, we discover an important progression taking place. Emma would go from being a daughter in the kingdom to “elect lady” to queen. Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood ordinances, combined with the keeping of her covenant promises, would increase her companionship with the Spirit and with angels, empowering her to navigate her life with divine guidance. Through His divine power, God

Ma arvan, et see võis nii olla.

Vaid üle tee asus koht, kus Jumala preesterluse volituse ja võtmete andtaastati maa peale. See oli aeg, mil Emma tööpoolest taevast väge vajas. Kujutan ette, et keset suurt südamevalu, kurnatust ja kindlusetust mõtles Emma sellele Jumala preesterluse annile, mis võis keerata lukust lahti Jumala väe, mida ta nii meeleheitlikult vajas.

Kuid Emma lihtsalt ei seisnud seal akna ääres ega mõtisklenud.

Kui prohvet Josephit juhendati võtmete, ametite ja talituste osas ning selles, kuidas preesterluse teenimisele kaasa aidata, andis Issand ise oma prohveti kaudu Emmale ilmutuse. Mitte sellele Emmale, kes oli Nauvoo Abiühingu juhataja – see ilmutus anti 26-aastasele Emmale Harmonys. Ilmutuse kaudu sai Emma teada seesmisest pühitsemisest ja lepingusidemest, mis annaks neile preesterluse talitustele suurema võime tema elus toimida.

Esmalt meenutas Issand Emmale tema kohta Jumala plaanis, sealhulgas seda, kes Emma on ja kelle oma ta on: ta on tütar Jumala kuningriigis. Teda kutsuti „kõn[dima] .. vooruslikkuse radadel” ehk rajal, mis hõlmas ka Jumala väge valla päästvaid talitusi, kui Emma oma lepingutest kinni peab.

Teiseks andis Issand talle sügaval leinaajal eesmärgi. Emma lihtsalt ei istunud taastamisajal esireas, vaid oli toimunud töös oluline osaline. Ta asetatakse „lahti seletama pühakirju ja manitsema kirikut”. Ta hakkab „pühendama oma aega kirjutamiseks ja rohkeks õppimiseks”. Emma sai püha ülesande aidata pühadel kummardamiseks valmistuda; nende laule Issandale peetakse palveks ja neile „vastatakse õnnistusega nende peade peale”.

Lõpuks andis Issand ülevaate seesmise pühitsemise protsessist, mis Emmat ülenduseks valmistas. „Kui sa seda ei tee,” selgitas Issand talle, „ei saa sa tulla sinna, kus mina olen.”

25. osahoolikal lugemisel näeme me olulist arengut. Emmast kui tütrest kuningriigis saab „äravalitud leedi” ja siis kuninganna. Aaroni ja Melkisedeki preesterluse talitused koos lepingulubaduste pidamisega võimaldavad tal olla rohkem koos Vaimu ja inglitega, andes talle väge juhtida oma elu jumaliku juhatusega. Oma jumaliku väega tervendab Jumal ta südant, teeb ta võimekamaks ja muudab ta just selliseks naiseks,

would heal her heart, enlarge her capacity, and transform her into the version of herself He knew she could become. And through the ordinances of the Melchizedek Priesthood, “the power of godliness [would be] manifest” in her life, and the Lord would part the veil so she could receive understanding from Him. This is what it looks like for God’s power to work within us.

President Russell M. Nelson taught:

“Everything that happened in [Harmony] has profound implications for your lives. The restoration of the priesthood, along with the Lord’s counsel to Emma, can guide and bless each of you. ...

“... Accessing the power of God in your life requires the same things that the Lord instructed Emma and each of [us] to do.”

There were important things happening on both sides of that window in Harmony, including the revelation given to the elect lady whom the Lord had called—a revelation that would strengthen, encourage, and instruct Emma Smith, God’s daughter.

When our granddaughter Isabelle was given a name and a blessing, her father blessed her with an understanding of the priesthood; that she would continue to grow in and learn about the blessing it would provide in her life; and that her faith in the priesthood would grow as she continued to grow in understanding.

It is not often a little girl is blessed to understand the priesthood and to learn how those priesthood ordinances and covenant promises will help her to access God’s power. But I remembered Emma and thought to myself, Why not? This tiny daughter has the potential to become an elect lady in His kingdom and eventually a queen. Through His priesthood ordinances and the keeping of her covenant promises, God’s power will work in and through her to help her overcome whatever life brings and become the woman God knows she can become. This is something I want each girl in the kingdom to understand.

“Live up to your privileges.”

Learn how priesthood ordinances and covenant promises will allow God’s power to flow into your life with greater efficacy, working in and through you, empowering and equipping you to reach your full purpose and potential.

Carefully study and ponder the Aaronic and the Melchizedek Priesthood ordinances, the cov-

kes temast Jumalale teadaolevalt võib saada. Ja Melkisedeki preesterluse talituste kaudu „avaldub [ta elus] jumalikkuse vägi” ning Issand paotab eesriiet, et ta võiks saada Temalt arusaamist. Nii näeb see välja, kui Jumala vägi meie sees toimib.

President Russell M. Nelson on õpetanud:

„Kõigselles piirkonnas toimunud onteieelus sügavad tagajärjed. Preesterluse taastamisest ning Issandalt Emmale antud nõuandest võib igaüks teist saada juhatust ja õnnistusi. ..

Ligipääs Jumala väele nõuab teie elus sama, mida Issand juhatab Emmat ja igaühte [meist] tegema.”

Harmonys toimusid kummalgi pool akent olulised sündmused, nagu ilmutus äravalitud leedile, kelle Issand oli kutsunud. See ilmutus tegi Jumala tüdart Emma Smithi tugevamaks ning julgustas ja juhendas teda.

Kui meie lapselaps Isabelle sai nime ja õnnistuse, õnnistas ta isa teda preesterlusest arusaamisega, et ta kasvaks jätkuvalt selle õnnistuse sees ja õpiks õnnistusest, mida preesterlus ta ellu toob, ning et ta usk preesterlusse kasvaks, kui ta arusaamine üha suureneb.

Seda ei juhtu sageli, et väikest tüdrukut õnnistatakse preesterlust mõistma ning õppima, kuidas need preesterluse talitused ja lepingulubadused aitavad tal ligi pääseda Jumala väele. Kuid mulle meenus Emma ja ma mõtlesin endamisi, et miks mitte? Sel pisitütrele on potentsiaal saada Jumala kuningriigis äravalitud leediks ja lõpuks kuningannaks. Jumala preesterluse talituste kaudu, ja kui ta oma lepingulubadusi peab, toimetab Jumala vägi temas ja tema kaudu, et aidata tal seljatada kõike, mis eluga kaasas käib, ja saada just selliseks naiseks, kelleks ta Jumalale teadaolevalt võib saada. Ma tahan, et iga tüdruk kuningriigis mõistaks seda.

„Elage teile antud eesõiguste vääriliselt.”

Õppige, kuidas preesterluse talitused ja lepingulubadused võimaldavad Jumala väel tõhusalt teie ellu voolata ning teie sees ja teie kaudu toimida, teid väestada ja varustada, et te võiksite saavutada kogu oma eesmärgi ja võimekuse.

Uurige ja vaagige hoolikalt Aaroni ja Melkisedeki preesterluse talitusi, iga talitusega antud

enant promises we make with each, and the power of God we access through those ordinances.

Remember, it's not only who officiates in the ordinance that matters; what the ordinance and your covenant promise unlock also deserves the focus of your attention.

Partaking of the bread and water is a weekly reminder of His power working in you to help you overcome. Wearing the garment of the holy priesthood is a daily reminder of the gift of His power working in you to help you become.

We all have access to the gift of God's power.

Every time we partake of the sacrament.

Every time we cross the threshold of a temple.

This is the highlight of my Sabbath. This is why I cherish my temple recommend.

"In the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest."

Of this gift I bear witness in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

lepingulubadusi ja Jumala väge, milleni me nende talituste kaudu pääsime.

Pidage meeles, et tähtis pole vaid see, kes talitust läbi viib. See, mida see talitus ja teie lepingulubadus valla päästab, väärib samuti teie jäägitut tähelepanu.

Leiva ja vee võtmine tuletab teile iganädalaselt meelde, et Ta vägi toimib teis, et aidata teil võitu saada. Püha preesterluse riiete kandmine tuletab teile igapäevaselt meelde, et Tema väe and toimib teis, et aidata teil võimekamaks saada.

Meil kõigil on ligipääs Jumala väe annile.

Iga kord, kui me võtame sakramenti.

Iga kord, kui astume üle templi läve.

See on minu hingamispäeva tipp hetk. Seetõttu pean ma oma templisoovitust kalliks.

„Selle talitustes [avaldu] jumalikkuse vägi.”

Ma tunnistan sellest annist Jeesuse Kristuse nimel, aamen.