

# Trusting Our Father

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## Meie Isa usaldamine

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

*Jumal usaldab paljude tähtsate otsuste langetamise meie hoolde ja palub, et me usaldaksime Teda kõigis küsimustes.*

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.

1. juunil 1843 lahkus Addison Pratt Illinoisi osariigist Nauvoost, et jutlustada evangeeliumi Havai saartel, jättes oma naise Louisa Barnes Pratti nende noore pere eest hoolitsema.

Kui tagakiusamine Nauvoos ägenes ja pühad olid sunnitud sealt lahkuma ning kui nad hiljem Winter Quartersis Soolajärve orgu rändamiseks valmistusid, pidi Louisa langetama otsuse, kas seda rännakut ette võtta. Kergem oluks jääda ja Addisoni naasmist oodata, kui üksi rännata.

Mõlemal juhul otsis ta juhatust prohvet Brigham Youngilt, kes julgustas teda teele asuma. Tõsiste raskuste ja omaenda vastumeelsuse kiuste õnnestus tal mõlemal korral rännak lõpetada.

Esialgu polnud Louisa rännaku üle kuigi õnelik. Kuid peagi hakkas ta rohelisest preeriast, värvilistest looduslilledest ja maalappidest jõekaldal rõõmu tundma. „Mu sünge meeleolu haihtus vaikselt,” kirjutas ta, „ja minust rõõmsamat naist kogu seltskonnas polnud.”

Louisa lugu on minu jaoks sügavalt inspireeriv. Imetlen tema nõusolekut isiklikud eelistused kõrvale lükata, ta võimet Jumalat usaldada, ja seda, kuidas usu rakendamine aitas tal näha seda olukorda teisiti.

Ta on tuletanud mulle meelde, et meil on armastav Taevaisa, kes hoolib meist kõikjal, kus me ka poleks, ja et me võime Teda usaldada rohkem kui kedagi või midagi muud.

## 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 the teachings of the Lord's prophet. These are moments of learning," he said, "of humility, when

## Tõe allikas

Jumal usaldab paljude tähtsate otsuste langesamise meie hoolde ja palub, et me usaldaksime Teda kõigis küsimustes. See on eriti raske, kui meie arusaam või avalik arvamus erineb Tema tahtest seoses Ta lastega.

Mõni on soovitanud õige ja vale vahelisi piire kohandada, kuna tõde on nende sõnul suhteline, igaüks määrab ise, mis on reaalsus, või Jumal on nii helde, et Ta ei hooli tegelikult sellest, mida me teeme.

Kui me püüame mõista ja omaks võtta Jumala tahet, on hea meeles pidada, et piirid õige ja vale vahel pole meie määrata. Jumal on kehtestanud need piirid ise meie kasuks ja õnnistuseks igaveste tõdede põhjal.

Jumala igavese tõe muutmise soov on pika ajalooga. See algas enne maailma algust, kui Saatan hakkas vastu Jumala plaanile ja püüdis isekalt inimese valikuvabadust hävitada. Sama mustri järgi on ka Seremi, Nehori ja Korihori sarnased inimesed väitnud, et usk on rumal, ilmutus pole oluline ja kõik, mida me teha soovime, on õige. Kahjuks on need Jumala tõest kõrvalekalduks põhjustanud liigagi sageli suurt kurbust.

Kuigi osa asju võib sõltuda kontekstist, pole see alati nii. President Russell M. Nelson on järjekindlalt õpetanud, et Jumala päästvad tõed on absoluutsed, sõltumatud ja Jumala enda määratud."

## Meie valik

Üks tähtsamaid valikuid elus on see, keda me otsustame usaldada. Kuningas Benjamin õpetas oma rahvast: „Uskuge Jumalasse; uskuge, et ta on ..; uskuge, et tal on kõik tarkus ..; uskuge, et inimene ei mõista kõiki asju, mida Issand võib mõista!"

Õnneks aitavad meil Jumala tõde mõista pühakirjad ja elavate prohvetite juhised. Kui me vajame rohkem selgitust kui see, mis meil on olemas, annab Jumal seda oma prohvetite kaudu. Ja Ta vastab meie siirastele palvetele Püha Vaimu kaudu, kui me mõnda tõde veel täielikult ei tunista, kuid siiski mõista püüame.

Vanem Neil L. Andersen on õpetanud, et me ei tohiks olla üllatunud, „kui [meie] isiklik vaatenurk ei ühti aeg-ajalt Issanda prohveti õpetustega." Ta ütles, et „need on õpi- ja alandlikkuse hetked, mil laskuda põlvili ja palvetada. Läheme

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.”

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,

edasi usus, usaldades Jumalat, teades, et saame aja jooksul Taevaselt Isalt vaimuseligust.”

Alati on hea pidada meeles Alma õpetust, et Jumal annab oma sõna vastavalt sellele, kui palju tähelepanu ja jõupingutusi me sellele pühendame. Kui me võtame kuulda Jumala sõna, antakse meile veel, kui me Ta nõu eirame, saame üha vähem, kuni meil pole enam midagi. Teadmistest ilmajäämine ei tähenda, et tõde oli vale, pigem näitab see, et me oleme kaotanud võime sellest aru saada.

## Vaadake Päästja poole

Päästja õpetas Kapernaumas oma identiteedist ja missioonist. Paljude arvates oli Ta sõnu raske kuulda ning nad pöörasid Talle selja ega „kõndinud enam temaga”.

Miks nad minema läksid?

Sest neile ei meeldinud, mida Ta ütles. Seega, usaldades omaenda arvamust, läksid nad minema ja keelasid endale õnnistused, mis oleksid tulnud, kui nad oleksid jäänud.

Uhkus on kerge tulema meie ja igavese tõe vahele. Kui me ei mõista, võime aja maha võtta, lasta oma tunnetel rahuneda ja siis otsustada, kuidas reageerida. Päästja õhutas meid „vaa[tama Tema] poole igas oma mõttes; ärge kahelge, ärge kartke”. Päästjale keskendudes saab meie usk hakata meie muresid seljatama.

Nagu president Dieter F. Uchtdorf on meid julgustanud: „Palun kahelge esmalt oma kahtlustes, enne kui oma usus kahtlema lööte. Me ei tohi iial lasta kahtlusel end vangistada ning hoida meid eemal jumalikust armastusest, rahust ja andidest, mis tulevad usu kaudu Issandasse Jeesusesse Kristusesse.”

## Õnnistused tulevad neile, kes jäävad

Kui jüngrid tol päeval Päästja juurest ära läksid, küsis Ta kaheteistkümnelt: „Kas ka teie tahate ära minna?”

Peetrus vastas:

„Issand, kelle juurde me läheme? Sinul on igavese elu sõnad,

ja me oleme uskunud ja tundnud, et sina oled [Kristus, elava] Jumala [Poeg]!”

Apostlid elasid samas maailmas ja olid sama ühiskondliku surve all nagu minema läinud jüngridki. Ometi valisid nad tol hetkel usu ja usaldasid Jumalat, säilitades seeläbi õnnistused,

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."

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

mida Jumal annab jääjatele.

Ehk leiate ka teie end minu sarnaselt vahel selle otsuse kummaltki küljelt. Kui Jumala tahte mõistmine või sellega nõustumine tunduvad rasked, on lohutav meeles pidada, et Ta armastab meid just sellisena, nagu me oleme, ükskõik kus me ka poleks. Ja Tal on meie jaoks midagi paremat. Kui me käe Tema poole sirutame, tuleb Ta meile appi.

Kui Talle käe sirutamine tundub raske, võime ka meie kuulda Päästjalt, nagu oma pojale tervenemist palunud isa, et „kõik on võimalik sellele, kes usub”. Ja oma raskusehetkel võime ka meie hüüda: „Aita mu uskmatust!”

### Oma tahte allutamine Temale

Vanem Neal A. Maxwell on õpetanud, et „oma tahte allutamine on tegelikult ainus uniikaalselt isiklik asi, mis me saame Jumala altarile panna”. Pole ime, et kuningas Benjamin soovis nii innukalt, et ta rahvas saaks „lapse sarnaseks – alistuvaks, tasaseks, alandlikuks, kannatlikuks, täis armastust, tahtlikuks alluda kõigile asjadele, mida Issand näeb sobivaks talle määrata, just nagu laps allub oma isale”.

Nagu alati, näitas Päästja meile täiuslikku eeskuju. Teades, millist valusat tööd Tal teha tuleb, alistus Ta raske südamega oma Isa tahtele ning viis täide oma messiaanliku missiooni ja avas meile teiega igaviku lubaduse.

Oma tahte Jumalale allutamine on usku täis otsus, mis on meie jüngriks olemise keskmeks. Me avastame, et meie valikuvabadus seda otsust langetades ei kahane, vaid pigem kasvab ning selle tasuks on Püha Vaimu kohalolek, kes annab meile eesmärgi ning toob rõõmu, rahu ja lootust, mida me ei leia kuskilt mujalt.

Mõned kuud tagasi külastasin ma koos ühe vaiajuhatajaga tema vaia elavat öde ja ta noorest täiskasvanust poega. Pärast aastatepikkust Kirikust eemalolekut ning keerulistel ja ebasõbralikel radadel ekslemist, oli see naine nüüd tagasi tulnud. Küsisime oma külaskäigu ajal, miks ta tagasi tuli.

„Ma olin oma elu tuksi keeranud,” ütles ta, „ja teadsin, kus ma pean olema.”

Seejärel küsisin ma, mida ta oma rännakul õppis.

Ta jagas tundeliselt õppetundi, et ta peab käima kirikus piisavalt kaua, et tulemata jätmise harjumust murda, ja et ta peab olema seal nii

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.

kaua, kuni tunneb, et just seal ta olla tahab. Naas-ta polnud kerge, kuid kui ta rakendas usku Isa plaani, tundis ta, kuidas Vaim tagasi tuli.

Ta lisas seejärel: „Ma olen iseenda jaoks teada saanud, et Jumal on hea ja et Tema meetmed on paremad kui minu omad.”

Ma tunnistan Jumalast, meie Igavesest Isast, kes meid armastab, Tema Pojast Jeesusest Kristusest, kes meid päästis. Nad teavad meie valu ja väljakutseid. Nad ei hülga meid iial ja teavad täiuslikult, kuidas meid aidata. Me võime olla julged, kui me neid kõigist ja kõigest muust rohkem usaldame. Jeesuse Kristuse pühal nimel, aamen.