

Aligning Our Will with His

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Panangitunos iti Pagayatantayo iti Pagayatanna

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Following the Lord's will in our life will enable us to find the most precious pearl in the world—the kingdom of heaven.

On a certain occasion, the Savior spoke of a merchant man who was searching for “goodly pearls.” During the merchant man’s search, he found one “of great price.” However, in order to acquire the magnificent pearl, this man had to sell all his possessions, which he promptly and joyfully did.

Through this short and thoughtful parable, the Savior beautifully taught that the kingdom of heaven is likened unto a priceless pearl, truly the most precious treasure that should be desired over all else. The fact that the merchant instantly sold all his possessions to obtain that valuable pearl clearly indicates that we should align our mind and desires with the will of the Lord and willingly do everything we can during our mortal journey to attain the eternal blessings of God’s kingdom.

To be worthy of this great reward, we certainly need, among other things, to give our best effort to set aside all self-centered pursuits and abandon any entanglement that holds us back from full commitment to the Lord and His higher and holier ways. The Apostle Paul refers to these sanctifying pursuits as “hav[ing] the mind of Christ.” As exemplified by Jesus Christ, this means “[doing] always those things that please [the Lord]” in our lives, or as some people say nowadays, this is “doing what works for the Lord.”

Ti panangsurat iti pagayatan ti Apo iti biagtayo ti mangpabalín kadatayo a makasarak iti kapatgan a perlas iti lubong—ti pagarian ti langit.

Iti maysa a gundaway, nagsao ti Mangisalakán maipapan iti maysa a komersiante a lalaki a mangsapsapul iti “nasayaat a perlas.” Bayat ti panagbirok ti komersiante, nakasarak iti maysa a “naindaklan ti gatadna.” Nupay kasta, tapno magun-odna ti napintas a perlas masapul nga ilakona ti amin a sanikuana, a dagus ken siraragsak nga inaramidna.

Babaen iti daytoy ababa ken naimpanunotan a pangngarig, napintas ti panangisuro ti Mangisalakán a ti pagarian ti langitket mayarig iti di magatadan a perlas, pudno a ti kapatgan a gameng ti rumbeng a tarigagayan iti amin. Ti kinapudno a dagus nga inlako ti komersiante ti sanikuana tapno maalana dayta napateg a perlas ket ipakitana a rumbeng nga itunostayo ti panunot ken tarigagaytayo iti pagayatan ti Apoken situtulok nga aramiden ti amin a kabaellantayo bayat ti mortal a panagdaliasattayotapno magun-od dagiti bendision iti pagarian ti Dios.

Tapno maikari iti daytoy a naindaklan a gungguna, kasapulan a, malaksid iti dadduma pay a banag, ikagumaantayo nga ikkaten ti amin a managimbubukod a gannuat ken tallikudan ti aniaman a mangsimbalud a manglapped kadaytoy manipud iti naan-anay a panagkumit iti Apo ken kadagiti nangatngato ken nasansantuan a dalanna. Ibasar ni Apostol Pablo dagitoy a mangpasanto a pananggun-od kas “[kaadda kadatayo] ti kapanunotan ni Cristo.” Kas impakita ni Jesucristo, kayatna a sawen daytoy ket ti “[panangaramid] a kanayon ti bambanag a makaay-ayo [iti Apo]” iti biagtayo, wenna kas kuna ti dadduma a

In a gospel sense, “[doing] always those things that please [the Lord]” relates to submitting our will to His will. The Savior thoughtfully taught the importance of this principle while instructing His disciples:

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

“And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

The Savior achieved a perfect and divine level of submission to the Father by allowing His will to be swallowed up in the Father’s will. He once said, “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.” In teaching the Prophet Joseph Smith about the anguish and agonies of the Atonement, the Savior said:

“For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent; ...

“Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—

“Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men.”

During our sojourn in mortality, we often wrestle with what we think we know, what we think is best, and what we assume works for us, as opposed to comprehending what Heavenly Father actually knows, what is eternally best, and what absolutely works for children within His plan. This great wrestle can become very complex, especially considering the prophecies contained in the scriptures for our day: “This know also, that in the last days ... men shall be lovers of their own selves, ... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.”

tattao ita a tiempo, ti “panangaramid iti no ania ti naimbag para iti Apo.”

Iti pakainaiganna iti ebangelio, “ti agtrabaho para iti Apo” ket agpasakuptayo iti pagayatan-na. Insuro ti Mangisalakana ti kinapateg daytoy a prinsipio bayat ti panangisurona kadagiti disipulona:

“Ta bimmabaak manipud langit, a diak aramiden ti pagayatak, no di ti pagayatan ti nangibaon kaniak.

“Ket daytoy ti pagayatan ti Ama a nangibaon kaniak, nga iti amin nga intedna kaniak awan ti mapukawko, no di ket ibangonko manen iti maudi nga aldaw.

“Ket daytoy ti pagayatan ti nangibaon kaniak, a tunggal maysa a makakita iti Anak, ken mamati kenkuana, maaddaan iti biag nga agnanayon: ket isu ibangonkonto iti maudi nga aldaw.”

Nagun-od ti Mangisalakana ti naan-anay ken nadosan a tukad ti panagpasakup iti Ama babaen ti panagitulokna a maipamaysanto ti pagayatanna iti pagayatan ti Ama. Kinunana iti naminsan, “Kaduak ti nangibaon kaniak. Saanak a binaybay-an nga agmaymaysa, agsipud ta kanayon nga aramidek ti makaparagsak kenkuana.” Iti panangisurona ken ni Propeta Joseph Smith maipapan iti panagleddaang ken panagsagaba ti Pannubbot, kinuna ti Mangisalakana:

“Ta adtoy, siak, a Dios, sinagabak dagitoy a banag para iti amin, tapno saanda koma nga agsagaba no agbabawida; ...

“A dayta a panagsagaba nangipaay kaniak, uray pay Dios, a kaindaklan iti amin, nga aggar-igenggen gapu iti saem, ken agdara iti tunggal teterreman, ken agsagaba nga agpada ti bagi ken ti espiritu—ket kayatko a saanak koma nga uminum iti napait a kopa, ken kumsen—

“Nupay kasta, madaydayaw koma ti Ama, ket nakiranudak ken lineppasko ti panangisaganak kadagiti annak ti tattao.”

Bayat ti panagbiagtayo iti daga, masansan a makirangettayo iti no ania ti pagarupentayo nga ammotayo, no ania ti pagarupentayo a kasayaatan, ken no ania ti ipapantayo a maibagay unay kadatayo, a maisupadi iti pannakaawat no ania ti aktual nga ammo ti Nailangitan nga Ama, no ania ti agnanayon a kasayaatan, ken no ania ti kasayaatan para iti annak ti Dios iti planona. Agbalin a komplikado daytoy a pannakiranget, nangnangruna no panunoten dagiti padto a linaon dagiti nasantuan a kasuratan para iti kaaldawantayo: “Ammuem met daytoy, nga iti maudi

One sign that indicates fulfillment of this prophecy is the current growing trend in the world, adopted by so many, of people becoming consumed with themselves and constantly proclaiming, “No matter what, I live my own truth or I do what works for me.” As Paul the Apostle said, they “seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s.” This way of thinking is often justified as being “authentic” by those who indulge in self-centered pursuits, focus on personal preferences, or want to justify certain types of behavior that frequently don’t match God’s loving plan and His will for them. If we let our heart and mind embrace this way of thinking, we can create significant stumbling blocks for ourselves in acquiring the most priceless pearl that God has lovingly prepared for His children—eternal life.

While it is true that each of us travels an individualized discipleship journey on the covenant path, striving to keep our hearts and minds centered on Christ Jesus, we need to be careful and constantly vigilant to not be tempted to adopt this type of worldly philosophy in our life. Elder Quentin L. Cook said that “being sincerely Christlike is an even more important goal than being authentic.”

My dear friends, when we choose to let God be the most powerful influence in our life over our self-serving pursuits, we can make progress in our discipleship and increase our capacity to unite our mind and heart with the Savior. On the other hand, when we don’t allow God’s way to prevail in our life, we are left to ourselves, and without the Lord’s inspiring guidance, we can justify almost anything we do or don’t do. We can also make excuses for ourselves by doing things our own way, saying in effect, “I am just doing things my way.”

On one occasion, while the Savior was declaring His doctrine, some people, particularly self-righteous Pharisees, rejected His message and boldly declared that they were children of Abraham, implying that their lineage would grant them special privileges in the sight of God.

nga al-aldaw ... ti tattao agbalinto a managayat iti bukodda a bagi, ... managayat iti ragragsak ngem iti Dios.”

Maysa a pagilasinan a maitungpalen daytoy a padto ket ti agdama a dumakdakkel nga uso iti lubong, nga inawat ti nakaad-adu, a dagiti tattao nakapokusda iti bagbagida ken kanayon a mangiwarwaragawag nga, “Uray ania, agbiagak iti bukodko a kinapudno wenno aramidek no ania ti naimbag para kaniak.” Kas kinuna ni Pablo nga Apostol, “birokenda ti bukodda, saan a dagiti banag a kukua ni Jesucristo.” Masansan a maikalinteg daytoy a wagas ti pampanunot kas “autentiko” dagiti agpennek kadagiti bukodda a preperensia, wenno kayatda nga ikalinteg ti sumagmamano a kita ti kababalin a masansan a saan a maitunos iti naayat a plano ken pagayatan ti Dios kadakuada. No umawattayo iti daytoy a wagas ti panagpampanunot, makapataudtayo iti pakaitibkolan iti bagbagitayo a manggun-od iti di magatadan a perlas nga insagana ti Dios para kadagiti annakna —ti biag nga agnanayon.

Pudno a tunggal maysa kadatayo ket addaan iti bukod a panagdaliasat iti kinadisipulo iti dana ti katulagan, nga ikagkagumaantayo a pagtali-naeden a naisentro ti puso ken panunottayo ken Cristo a Jesus, masapul nga agannad ken nasiput-tayo koma tapno ditay masulisognga awaten daytoy a pilosopia iti biagtayo. Kinuna ni Elder Quentin L. Cook a “ti panagbalin a napasnek a kas ken Cristo ket napatpateg pay a gandat ngem ti panagbalin nga autentiko.”

Ay-ayatek a gagayyemko, no pilientayo a bay-an ti Dios nga agbalin a kabibilgan nga impluensia iti biagtayo ngem iti panagserbitayo iti bagitayo, makaaramidtayo iti panagrang-ay iti kinadisipulotayo ken mapaadutayo ti kapasidad-tayo a mamagkaykaysa iti panunot ken pusotayo iti Mangisalak. Iti sabali a bangir, no ditayo ipalubos nga agballigi ti wagas ti Dios iti biagtayo, mabaybay-antayo iti bagitayo, ket no awan ti panangiwanwan ti Apo, maikalintegantayo ti aniaman nga aramiden wenno di aramiden. Ag-pambartayo pay babaen ti panangaramidtayo iti bamanag iti bukodtayo a wagas, ket kunaentayo, “Ar-aramidek laeng ti bamanag iti wagasko.”

Iti maysa a gundaway, bayat nga ideklara ti Mangisalak ti doktrinana, inlaksid ti sumagmamano a tattao, nangnangruna dagiti agkunkuna a nalinteg a Fariseo, ti mensahena ket impakdaarda nga annak ida ni Abraham, a ti kapuonanda ket mangted kadakuada kadagiti

That mentality led them to lean unto their own understanding and to disbelieve what the Savior was teaching. The Pharisees' reaction to Jesus was clear evidence that their presumptuous attitude left no place in their hearts for the Savior's words and God's way. In response, Jesus wisely and courageously declared that if they were true covenant children of Abraham, they would do the works of Abraham, especially considering that the God of Abraham was standing before them and teaching them the truth at that very moment.

Brothers and sisters, as you can see, acting on these mental gymnastics of "what works for me" versus doing "what always pleases the Lord" is not a new trend that is unique to our day. It is an age-old mentality that has crossed the centuries and often blinds the wise-in-their-own-eyes and confuses and exhausts many of God's children. This mentality is, in fact, an old trick of the adversary; it is a deceptive path that carefully leads God's children away from the true and faithful covenant path. While personal circumstances such as genetics, geography, and physical and mental challenges do influence our journey, in things that truly matter, there is an inner space where we are free to choose whether or not we will decide to follow the pattern the Lord has prepared for our life. Truly, "He marked the path and led the way, and ev'ry point [defined]."

As Christ's disciples, we desire to walk the path He marked for us during His mortal ministry. We not only desire to do His will and all that will please Him but also seek to emulate Him. As we strive to be true to every covenant we have entered into and live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," we will be protected against falling victim to the sins and errors of the world—errors of philosophy and doctrine that would lead us away from those most precious pearls.

I have been personally inspired by how such spiritual submissiveness to God has impacted the lives of faithful disciples of Christ as they choose to do those things that work for and are pleasing

pribilehio iti imatang ti Dios. Dayta a mentalidad ti nagpannurrayan iti bukodda a pannakaawat ken ti di panamati iti isursuro ti Mangisalakán. Ti reaksion dagiti Fariseo ken ni Jesus ket nalawag a pammaneknek nga awan ti imbatí ti natangsit a kababalinda iti pusoda para kadagiti sasao ti Mangisalakán ken ti wagas ti Dios. Kas sungbat, nainsiriban ken situtured nga impakdaar ni Jesus a no pudno nga annak iti katulagan ida ni Abraham, aramidenda dagiti aramid ni Abraham, ket panunotenda a ti "Dios ni Abraham" ket agtaktakder iti sangoda ken isurona kadakuada ti kinapudno iti dayta a mismo a kanito.

Kakabsat, kas makitayo, ti panagtignay kadagitoy a mental gymnastics iti "no ania ti naimbag para kaniak" kontra iti panangaramid iti "no ania ti makaparagsak iti Apo" ket saan a baro nga uso iti naisangsangayan a kaaldawantayo. Maysa daytoy a daanen a mentalidad a naglasatan dagiti siglo ken masansan a mangbulsek kadagiti masirib-iti-bukodda-a-mataken manggriro ken mangbannog iti annak ti Dios. Daytoy a mentalidad ket daan a pangloko ti kabusor; maysa a makaallilaw a dana a mangiturong iti annak ti Dios nga umadayo iti pudno ken napudno a dana ti katulagan. Bayat a ti personal a kasasaad a kas iti genetics, heograpia, ken pisikal ken mental a karit ket talaga nga impluensiaanda ti panagdaliasattayo, kadagiti bamanag a pudno a napateg, adda makin-uneg nga espasio a nawayatayo a mangpilino ikeddengtayo wenno di surotan ti pagtuladan nga insagana ti Apo iti biag tayo. Pudno, "Isu ti nangmarka iti dana ken indauluanna ti dalan, ket tunggal punto [nade-pinan]."

Kas disipulo ni Cristo, tarigagayantayo ti magna iti dana a minarkaanna para kadatayo bayat ti mortal a panagministrana. Saantayo laeng a tarigagayan nga aramiden ti pagayatanna ken amin a makaay-ayo Kenkuana no di ket tuladentayo Isuna. Bayat ti panangikagumaantayo nga agbalin a napudno iti tunggal katulagan a simrekantayo ken agbiag babaen ti "tunggal sao nga agtaud iti ngiwat ti Dios," masalaknibantayo manipud iti pannakabiktima kadagiti basol ken biddut ti lubong—dagiti biddut ti pilosopia ken doktrina a mangyadayo kadatayo kadagidiay kapatgan a perlas.

Naparegtaak a mismo no kasano a ti kasta a naespirituan a panagpasakup iti Dios ket nangapekto iti biag dagiti napudno a disipulo ni Cristo, bayat ti panangpilida nga agaramid iti bamanag

in the sight of the Lord. I know a young man who was unsettled about going on a mission but felt inspired to go and serve the Lord when he listened to a senior leader of the Church sharing his own personal testimony and sacred experience of serving as a missionary.

In his own words, this young man, now a returned missionary, said: “As I listened to the testimony of an Apostle of the Savior Jesus Christ, I was able to feel of God’s love for me, and I desired to share that love with others. At that moment I knew that I should serve a mission despite my fears, doubts, and concerns. I felt totally confident in the blessings and promises of God for His children. Today, I am a new person; I have a testimony that this gospel is true and that the Church of Jesus Christ has been restored on earth.” This young man chose the Lord’s way and became an example of a true disciple in every aspect.

A faithful young woman decided not to compromise her standards when she was asked to dress immodestly to fit into the business division of the fashion company where she worked. Understanding that her body is a sacred gift from our Heavenly Father and a place where the Spirit can dwell, she was moved to live by a standard higher than the world’s. She not only gained the confidence of those who saw her living by the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ but also preserved her job, which for a moment was in jeopardy. Her willingness to do what was pleasing in the sight of the Lord, rather than what worked for the world, gave her covenant confidence amidst difficult choices.

Brothers and sisters, we are constantly confronted by similar decisions in our daily journey. It takes a courageous and a willing heart to pause and pursue an honest and meek introspection to acknowledge the presence of weaknesses of the flesh in our life that may impede our ability to submit ourselves to God, and ultimately decide to adopt His way rather than our own. The ultimate test of our discipleship is found in our willingness to give up and lose our old self and submit our heart and our whole soul to God so that His will becomes ours.

a naimbag ken makaay-ayo iti Apo. Am-ammok ti maysa nga agtutubo a lalaki a di natalged a mapan iti mision ket nariknana ti inspirasion a mapan agserbi iti Apo idi dimngeg iti nangato a lider ti Simbaan a nangibinglay iti bukodna a pammaneknek ken sagrado a padas iti panagserbina kas misionario.

Iti bukodna a balikas, daytoy agtutubo, a nagsubli itan a misionariro, kinunana: “Bayat ti panagdengngegko iti pammaneknek ti maysa nga Apostol ti Mangisalakana a ni Jesucristo, nariknak ti ayat ti Dios kaniak, ket kayatko nga ibinglay dayta nga ayat iti dadduma. Iti dayta a kanito ammok a rumbeng nga agserbiak iti mision iti laksid ti buteng, panagduadua, ken pakaseknak. Naan-anay a panagtalek ti nariknak kadagiti bendision ken kari ti Dios para kadagiti annakna. Ita, baroak a tao; adda pammaneknekko a pudno daytoy nga ebanghelio ken naisubli ti Simbaan ni Jesucristo ditoy daga.” Pinili daytoy nga agtutubo ti dalan ti Apo ket nagbalin a pagwadan ti pudno a disipulo iti tunggal aspeto.

Inkeddeng ti maysa a matalek nga agtutubo a babai a dina ikompromiso dagiti pagalagadanna idi naidawat kenkuana nga agkawes iti di naemma tapno maibagay iti benneg ti negosio ti kompania a pagtrabahuanna. Iti pannakaawatna a ti bagina ket sagrado a sagut manipud iti Nailangitan nga Amatayo ken maysa a lugar a mabalin a pagnaedan ti Espiritu, natignay nga agbiag babaen ti pagalagadan a nangatangto ngem ti lubong. Dina laeng a nagun-od ti panagtalek dagidiay nakakita kenkuana nga agbibig babaen ti kinapudno ti ebanghelio ni Jesucristo ngem tinaginayonna pay ti trabahona, nga iti apagbiit ket adda iti peggad. Ti kinatulokna nga agaramid iti makaay-ayo iti Apo, imbes a ti no ania ti nasayaat para iti lubong, ti nangted kenkuana iti panagtalek iti katulagan iti tengnga dagiti narigat a panagpili.

Kakabsat, kanayon a maipasangotayo kadagiti umasping a pangngeddeng iti inaldaw a panagdaliasattayo. Kasapulan ti natured ken natulok a puso nga agsardeng ken mangsurot iti napudno ken naemma a panagsukimat iti bagi tapno bigbigen dagiti pagkapuyan ti lasag iti biagtayo a mabalin a manglapped iti kabaelantayo nga agpasakup iti Dios, ken kamaudiananna anamongan ti wagasna imbes a ti bukodtayo. Masarakan ti ultimo a pannubok ti kinadisipulotayo iti kinatuloktayo a sumuko ken mapukaw ti daan a bagitayo ken ipasakup ti puso ken sibubukel a

One of the most glorious moments of mortality occurs when we discover the joy that comes when doing always those things that “work for and please the Lord” and “what works for us” become one and the same! To decisively and unquestioningly make the Lord’s will our own requires majestic and heroic discipleship! At that sublime moment, we become consecrated to the Lord, and we totally yield our wills to Him. Such spiritual submissiveness, so to speak, is beautiful, powerful, and transformational.

I testify to you that following the Lord’s will in our life will enable us to find the most precious pearl in the world—the kingdom of heaven. I pray that each of us, in our time and turn, will be able to declare, with covenant confidence, to our Heavenly Father and Savior Jesus Christ that “what works for Thee works for me.” I say these things in the sacred name of the Savior Jesus Christ, amen.

kararuatayo iti Dios tapno agbalin a kukuatayo ti pagayatanna.

Maysa kadagiti nadayag unay a kanito ti mortalidad ket mapasamak no matakuantantayo ti rag-o nga umay no dagiti banag a “naimbag ken makaay-ayo iti Apo” ken “no ania ti naimbag para kadatayo” ket agbalin a maymaysa ken agpadpada! Tapno di agbaliw ken di pagduaduan a pagbalinen a bukodtayo ti pagayatan ti Apo kasapulan ti nadayag ken nabannuan a kinadisipulo! Iti dayta a natan-ok a kanito, agbalintayo a nakonsagrar iti Apo, ket itedtayo dagiti pagayatantayo Kenkuana. Ti kasta a naespirituan a panagpasakup, no ar-arigen, ket napintas, nabileg, ken makabalbaliw.

Paneknekak kadakayo a ti panangsurot iti pagayatan ti Apo iti biagtayo ti mangpabalina kadatayo a makasarak iti kapatgan a perlas iti lubong—ti pagarian ti langit. Ikararagko a tunggal maysa kadatayo, iti panawen ken batangtayo, ket kabaelantayo nga ideklara, buyogen ti panagtalek iti katulagan, iti Nailangitan nga Ama ken Mangisalakantayo a ni Jesucristo a “no ania ti naimbag para Kenka, naimbag para kaniak.” Sawek dagitoy a banag iti sagrado a nagan ni Jesucristo, amen.