

Embrace the Lord's Gift of Repentance

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Of the Seventy

Arakupem ti Sagut ti Apo a Panagbabawi

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Ti Pitupulo

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Let us not wait for things to get hard before turning to God. Let us not wait until the end of our mortal lives to truly repent.

I testify of a loving Heavenly Father. In the April 2019 general conference, moments after I was sustained in my new responsibility as a General Authority Seventy, the choir sang a rendition of “I Stand All Amazed” that pierced my heart and soul.

I marvel that he would descend from his throne divine
To rescue a soul so rebellious and proud as mine,
That he should extend his great love unto such as I,
Sufficient to own, to redeem, and to justify.

As I heard those words, I was all amazed. I felt that despite my inadequacies and flaws, the Lord blessed me to know that “in his strength I can do all things.”

The common feeling of inadequacy, weakness, or even unworthiness is something with which many of us sometimes struggle. I still struggle with this; I felt it the day I was called. I have felt it many times, and I still feel it right now speaking to you. However, I have learned that I am not alone with these feelings. In fact, there are many accounts in the scriptures of those who seem to have felt similar feelings. For example, we remember Nephi as a faithful and valiant servant of the Lord. At times, even he struggled with feelings of unworthiness, weakness, and

Ditayo koma urayen a rumigat dagiti bambanag sakbay nga umasidegtayo iti Dios. Ditayo koma urayen agingga iti gibus ti mortal a biagtayo tapno pudno nga agbabawi.

Paneknekak maipapan iti managayat a Nailangitan nga Ama. Iti Abril 2019 sapasap a komperensia, apagkanito kalpasan a nakanunonganak iti baro a responsibilidadko kas General Authority Seventy, inkanta ti koro ti rendision ti “I Stand All Amazed” a simmamay iti puso ken kararuak.

Dayawek ti ibababana iti nadosan a tronona

Nga ispalen ti nasukir ken natangig a kararuak,
Ta nasken nga ipaayna ti naindaklan nga ayatna kaniak,

Umdasen a tagikuaen, subboten, ken ikalintegan.”

Idi nangngegko dagidiay a balikas, nasdaawak. Nariknak nga iti laksid dagiti kinakapuyko ken pagkurangak, binendisionannak ti Apo a mangammo nga, “iti pigsana maaramidko ti amin a banag.”

Ti gagangay a rikna ti kinakurang, kinakapuy, wenna uray pay di maikari ket maysa a banag nga adu kadatayo ti pagrigrigatan no dadduma. Marigatanak pay laeng iti daytoy; nariknak dayta iti aldaw a pannakaawagko. Naminadu a nariknak dayta ken mariknak pay laeng ita nga agsasao kadakayo. Nupay kasta, naammuak a saanak nga agmaymaysa kadagitoy a rikna. Kinapudnona, adu ti salaysay kadagiti nasantuan a kasuratan dagidiay kasla nakarikna iti umasping a rikna. Kas pagarigan, laglagipentayo ni Nephi a kas maysa a napudno ken maingel nga adipen

inadequacy.

He said: “Notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, in showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth: O wretched man that I am! Yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh; my soul grieveth because of mine iniquities.”

The Prophet Joseph Smith spoke of often feeling “condemned,” in his youth, “for [his] weakness and imperfections.” But Joseph’s feelings of inadequacy and worry were part of what led him to ponder, study, learn, and pray. As you may remember, he went to pray in the grove near his home to find truth, peace, and forgiveness. He heard the Lord say: “Joseph, my son, thy sins are forgiven thee. Go thy way, walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments. Behold, I am the Lord of Glory. I was crucified for the world that all those who believe on my name may have eternal life.”

Joseph’s sincere desire to repent and seek the salvation of his soul helped him come to Jesus Christ and receive forgiveness of his sins. This continuous effort opened the door to the continuing Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This remarkable experience of the Prophet Joseph Smith illustrates how feelings of weakness and inadequacy can help us recognize our fallen nature. If we are humble, this will help us come to recognize our dependence upon Jesus Christ and stir within our hearts a sincere desire to turn to the Savior and repent of our sins.

My friends, repentance is joy! Sweet repentance is part of a daily process through which, “line upon line, precept upon precept,” the Lord teaches us to live a life centered in His teachings. Like Joseph and Nephi, we can “cry unto [God] for mercy; for he is mighty to save.” He can fulfill any righteous desire or longing and can heal any wound in our lives.

In the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ, you and I can find countless ac-

ti Apo. No dadduma, uray isu ket nakiranget kadagiti rikna ti kinaawan maikari, kinakapuy, ken kinakurang

Kinunana: “Iti laksid ti naindaklan a kinaimbag ti Apo, impakitana kaniak dagiti naindaklan ken nakaskasdaaw nga aramidna, inyikkis ti pusok: O nakakaasiak a tao! Wen, lumdaang ti pusok gapu iti lasagko; agladingit ti kaunggak gapu iti kinamanagbasolko.”

Dinakamat ti Propeta ti masansan a panna-karikhana a “nakondena,” idi agtutubo pay, “gapu [iti] kinakapuy ken kinaimperpektona.” Ngem ti rikna ni Joseph’s a kinakurang ken panagdanag ket paset ti nangiturong kenkuana nga ag-ponder, agadal, agsursuro, ken agkararag. Kas malagipyo, napan nagkararag iti kabakiran iti asideg ti pagtaenganna tapno maamuan ti pudno, talna, ken pammakawan. Nangngegna ti Apo a kinunana: “Joseph, anakko, napakawankan kadagiti basolmo. Inka, surotlenyo ti paglintegak, ket tungpalem dagiti bilinko. Adtoy, siak ti Apo ti Dayag. Nailansaak iti krus para iti lubong, tapno maaddaan iti agnanayon a biag ti amin a mamati iti naganko.”

Ti napudno a tarigagay ni Joseph nga agbabawi ken agsapul iti pannakaisalakan ti kararua ti nakatulong kenkuana nga umay ken ni Jesucristo ken umawat iti pammakawan kadagiti basolna. Daytoy agtultuloy a panagkagumaan ti naglukat iti dalan iti agtultuloy a Pannakaisubli ti ebangelio ni Jesucristo.

Iladawan kadatayo ti nakaskasdaaw a padas ni Propeta Joseph Smith no kasano a makatulong kadatayo ti rikna ti kinakapuy ken kinakurang tapno mabigbigtayo ti managbasol a kinataotayo. No napakumbabatayo, daytoyto ti mangtulong kadatayo a mangbigbig iti panagpannuratayo ken ni Jesucristo ket, matignay iti puspusotayo ti napasnek a tarigagay nga agsubli iti Manangisalakken ken agbabawi kadagiti basoltayo.

Gagayyemko, ragsak ti panagbabawi! Ti nasam-it a panagbabawi ket paset ti inaldaw a proseso a, “lbinatog iti tunggal binatog, alagaden iti tunggal alagaden,” isuronatayo ti Apo nga isentro iti biagtayo kadagiti pannursurona. Kas kada Joseph ken Nephi, mabalintayo ti “agpa-kaasi iti [Dios] para iti asi; agsipud ta nabileg isuna a mangisalakken.” Tungpalenna ti aniaman a nalinteg a tarigagay wenna iliw ken agasana iti aniaman a sugat iti biagtayo.

Iti Libro ni Mormon: Maysa Pay a Pammaneknek ken ni Jesucristo, makasarakkayo ken

counts of individuals who learned how to come unto Christ through sincere repentance.

I'd like to share with you an example of the tender mercies of the Lord through an experience that occurred in my beloved home island of Puerto Rico.

It was in my hometown of Ponce that a sister in the Church, Célia Cruz Ayala, decided that she was going to give a Book of Mormon to a friend. She wrapped it and went to deliver this gift, more precious to her than diamonds or rubies, she said. On her way, a thief approached her, grabbed her purse, and ran away with the special gift inside.

When she told this story at church, her friend said, "Who knows? Maybe this was your opportunity to share the gospel!"

Well, a few days later, do you know what happened? Célia received a letter. I hold that letter, which Célia shared with me, in my hand today. It says:

"Mrs. Cruz:

"Forgive me, forgive me. You will never know how sorry I am for attacking you. But because of it, my life has changed and will continue to change.

"That book [the Book of Mormon] has helped me in my life. The dream of that man of God has shaken me. ... I am returning your five [dollars,] for I can't spend them. I want you to know that you seemed to have a radiance about you. That light seemed to stop me [from harming you, so] I ran away instead.

"I want you to know that you will see me again, but when you do, you won't recognize me, for I will be your brother. ... Here, where I live, I have to find the Lord and go to the church you belong to.

"The message you wrote in that book brought tears to my eyes. Since Wednesday night I have not been able to stop reading it. I have prayed and asked God to forgive me [and] I ask you to forgive me. ... I thought your wrapped gift was something I could sell. [Instead,] it has made me want to [change] my life. ... Forgive me, forgive me, I beg you.

"Your absent friend."

siak iti di mabilang a salaysay maipapan kadagiti indibidual a nakasursuro no kasano ti umasideg ken ni Cristo babaen ti napudno a panagbabawi.

Kayatko nga ibinglay kadakayo ti pagarigan ti nadungngo nga asi ti Apo babaen ti maysa a padas a napasamak iti ay-ayatek nga isla ti Puerto Rico.

Iti ilik a Ponce, inkeddeng ti maysa a kabsat a babai iti Simbaan, ni Celia Cruz Ayala, nga itedna ti Libro ni Mormon iti maysa a gayyemna. Inbalkotna daytoy ket napanna intulod daytoy a sagut, a napatpateg kenkuana ngem kadagiti diamante wenno rubi, kinunana. Iti dalanna, immasideg ti maysa a mannanakaw, inagawna ti pitakana, ket intarayna ti naisangsangayan a sagut nga adda iti unegna.

Idi inestoriana daytoy iti simbaan, kinuna ti gayyemna, "Siasino ti makaamo? Mabalin a daytoy ti gundawayyo a mangibinglay iti ebanghelio!"

Bueno, sumagmamano nga aldaw kalpasanna, ammoyo kadi ti napasamak? Nakaawat ni Celia iti surat. Iggemko dayta a surat, nga inranud kaniak ni Célia, iti imak ita nga aldaw. Kunana:

"Mrs. Cruz:

"Pakawanennak, pakawanennak. Dimo pulos ammo no kasano ti panagladingitko iti panangdarupko kenka. Ngem gapu iti dayta, nagbaliwen ti biagko ken agtultuloyto nga agbaliw.

"Nakatulong kaniak dayta a libro [ti Libro ni Mormon] iti biagko. Ti tagtagainep dayta a tao ti Dios ti namagpigerger kaniak. ... Isublikon ti lima a [doliarmo,] ta diak magastos daytoy. Kayatko a maammuam a kasla adda raniag kenka. Kasla lapdannak dayta a lawag [a mangdangran kenka, isu a] nagtarayak ketdi.

"Kayatko a maammuam a makitanakto manen, ngem inton makitanak, saannakton a mabigbig, ta siakton ti kabsatmo. ... Ditoy, a pag-naedak, masapul a birokek ti Apo ken mapanak iti simbaan a nakaikamengam.

"Napaluaak iti mensahe nga insuratmo iti dayta a libro. Manipud idi rabii ti Miercoles diak pay naisardeng a basaen dayta. Nagkararagag ken kiniddawko iti Dios a pakawanennak, [ken] idawatko kenka a pakawanennak. ... Impagarupko a ti nabalkot a sagutmo ket mabalinko nga ilako. [Imbes ketdi,] daytoy ti nangtignay kaniak a mangbalbaliw iti biagko. ... Pakawanennak, pakawanennak, agpakaasiak kenka.

"Ti absent a gayyemmo.

Brothers and sisters, the light of the Savior can reach us all, no matter our circumstances. “It is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ’s Atonement shines,” said President Jeffrey R. Holland.

As for the unintended recipient of Célia’s gift, the Book of Mormon, this brother went on to witness more of the Lord’s mercy. Although it took time for this brother to forgive himself, he found joy in repentance. What a miracle! One faithful sister, one Book of Mormon, sincere repentance, and the Savior’s power led to the enjoyment of the fulness of blessings of the gospel and sacred covenants in the house of the Lord. Other family members followed and accepted sacred responsibilities in the Lord’s vineyard, including full-time missionary service.

As we come unto Jesus Christ, our path of sincere repentance will eventually lead us to the Savior’s holy temple.

What a righteous motive to strive to be clean—to be worthy of the fulness of the blessings made possible by our Heavenly Father and His Son through sacred temple covenants! Serving regularly in the house of the Lord and striving to keep the sacred covenants we make there will increase both our desire and our ability to experience the change of heart, might, mind, and soul necessary for us to become more like our Savior. President Russell M. Nelson has testified: “Nothing will open the heavens more [than worshipping in the temple]. Nothing!”

My dear friends, do you feel inadequate? Do you feel unworthy? Are you second-guessing yourself? Perhaps you might worry and ask: Do I measure up? Is it too late for me? Why do I keep failing when I am trying my absolute best?

Brothers and sisters, surely we will make mistakes in our lives along the way. But please remember that, as Elder Gerrit W. Gong has taught: “Our Savior’s Atonement is infinite and eternal. Each of us strays and falls short. We may, for a time, lose our way. God lovingly assures us [that] no matter where we are or what we have

Kakabsat, madanontayo amin ti lawag ti Mangisalakán, ania man ti kasasaadtayo. “Saan a posible a lumnedkayo iti nababbaba ngem ti agsilnag ti awan patinggana a lawag ti Pannubbot ni Cristo,” kinuna ni Presidente Jeffrey R. Holland.

No maipapan iti di nairanta a nakaawat iti sagut ni Celia, ti Libro ni Mormon, nagtultuloy daytoy a kabsat a lalaki a nangsaksi iti ad-adu pay nga asi ti Apo. Nupay nabayag sakbay a napakawan daytoy a kabsat a lalaki ti bagina, nasarakanna ti rag-o iti panagbabawi. Naindaklan a milagro! Maysa a napudno a kabsat a babai, may-sa a Libro ni Mormon, napudno a panagbabawi, ken bileg ti Mangisalakán ti nangiturong iti panangtagiragsak iti pakabuklan dagiti bendision ti ebanghelio ken dagiti sagrado a katulagan iti balay ti Apo. Simmurot ken inawat dagiti dadduma a miembro ti pamilya dagiti sagrado a pagreb-bengan iti bangkag ti Apo, agraman ti full-time missionary service.

Bayat ti yaasidegtayo ken ni Jesucristo, ti dalan ti panagbabawi iti kamaudiananna iturongnatayto iti nasantuan a templo ti Manangisalakán.

Anian a nalinteg a panggep aa panangkagumaan nga agbalin a nadalus— tapno maikari iti pakabuklan dagiti bendision nga aramiden a posible ti Nailangitan nga Amatayo ken ti Anakna babaen kadagiti sagrado a katulagan iti templo! Ti regular a panagserbi iti balay ti Apo ken ti panangikagumaan a mangtungpal kadagiti sagrado a katulagan nga aramidentayo sadiay ket mangpadakkel iti tarigagaytayo ken kabaeltantayo a mangpadas iti panagbalbaliw ti puso, pigsá, panunot, ken kararua a kasapulan tapno agbalintayo a kas iti Manangisalakantayo. Pinanekekan ni Presidente Russell M. Nelson: “Awanto ti manglukat kadagiti langit ngaad-adda pay [ngem ti panagdaydayaw iti templo]. Awan!”

Patpatgek a gagayyemko, mariknayo kadi nga agkurangkayo? Mariknayo kadi a dikayo maikari? Agduaduakayo kadi iti bagiyo? Nalabit madanagankayo ket isaludsodyo: Maikariak ngata? Naladaw kadin para kaniak? Apay nga agtultuloy a mapaayak no ikarkarigatak ti amin a kabaeltak?

Kakabsat, sigurado nga agbidduttayo bayat ti panagbiagtayo. Ngem laglagipenyo koma, kas insuro ni Elder Gerrit W. Gong: “Awan patinggana ken agnanayon ti Pannubbot ti Mangisalakantayo. Tunggal maysa kadatayo ket maiwawa ken agkurang. Mabalin, iti apagbiit, mapukawtayo ti dalantayo. Siaayat nga ipasigurado kadatayo ti

done, there is no point of no return. He waits ready to embrace us.”

As my dear wife, Cari Lu, has also taught me, we all need to repent, rewind, and reset the time to “zero o'clock” every single day.

Obstacles will come. Let us not wait for things to get hard before turning to God. Let us not wait until the end of our mortal lives to truly repent. Instead, let us now, no matter which part of the covenant path we are on, focus on the redemptive power of Jesus Christ and on Heavenly Father’s desire for us to return to Him.

The Lord’s house, His holy scriptures, His holy prophets and apostles inspire us to strive towards personal holiness through the doctrine of Christ.

And Nephi said: “And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man [and woman] can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

Our process of “at-one-ment” with God may feel challenging. But you and I can pause, be still, look to the Savior, and seek to find and act on what He would have us change. If we do so with full intent, we will witness His healing. And think of how our posterity will be blessed as we embrace the Lord’s gift of repentance!

The Master Potter, taught my dad, will mold and refine us, which can be difficult. Nonetheless, the Master Healer will also cleanse us. I have experienced and continue to experience that healing power. I testify that it comes through faith in Jesus Christ and daily repentance.

Oh, it is wonderful that he should care for me

Enough to die for me!

I testify of God’s love and of the infinite power of His Son’s Atonement. We can feel it profoundly as we sincerely and wholeheartedly

Dios [nga] uray sadino ti ayantayo wenno ania ti inaramidatayo, awan ti punto a madi ti agsubli. Agur-uray a nakasagana Isuna a mangarakup kadatayo.”

Kas insuro met kaniak ti patpatgek nga asawa a ni Cari Lu, kasapulantayo amin ti agbabawi, ag-rewind, ken i-reset ti oras iti “zero o'clock” iti tunggal maysa nga aldaw.

Umayto dagiti tubeng. Ditayo koma urayen a rumigat dagiti bambanag sakbay nga uma-sidegtayo iti Dios. Ditayo koma urayen agingga iti gibus ti mortal a biagtayo tapno pudno nga agbabawi. Ngem ketdi, aniaman ti paset ti dana ti katulagan a pagnaantayo, ipukostayo koma itan ti pangsubbot a pannakabalin ni Jesucristo ken iti tarigagay ti Nailangitan nga Amatayo nga agsublitayo Kenkuana.

Ti balay ti Apo, dagiti nasantuan a kasur-atan, dagiti nasantuan a propeta ken apostolna ti mangparegta kadatayo a mangikagumaan nga agturong iti bukod a kinasanto babaen ti doktrina ni Cristo.

ket kinuna ni Nephi: “Ket ita, adtoy, ay-ayatek a kakabsatko, daytoy ti dalan; ket awan ti sabali a dalan wenno nagan a naited iti sirok ti langit a pakaisalakanan ti lalaki [ken babai] iti pagarian ti Dios. Ket ita, adtoy, daytoy ti doktrina ni Cristo, ken ti kakaisuna ken pudno a doktrina ti Ama, ken ti Anak, ken ti Espiritu Santo.”

Mabalin a mariknatayo a mapannubok ti prosesotayo nga “pannubbot” iti Dios. Ngem mabalintayo ti agsardeng, agtalna, kumita iti Mangisalakana, ken agkalikagum nga angsapul ken agtignay iti no ania ti kayatna a balbaliwantayo. No aramidentayo nga addaan iti naan-anay a panggep, masaksiantayto ti panangpaimbag-na. Ket panunoten no kasano a mabendisionan dagiti kaputotantayo bayat ti panangarakuptayo iti sagut ti Apo a panagbabawi!

Ti Maestro nga Agdamdamili, nga insuro ni tatangko, ti mangmuli ken mangpapino kadatayo. Nupay kasta, ti Maestro a Mangngagas ti mangdalusto pay kadatayo. Napadasak ken agtul-tuloy a mapaspasarak dayta a makaagas a bileg. Umay daytoy babaen ti pammati ken ni Jesucristo ken inaldaw a panagbabawi.

O, nagtan-oken panangipategna

Umdasen a matay gapu kaniak!

Paneknekak ti ayat ti Dios ken ti awan pat-inggana a bileg ti Pannubbot ti Anakna. Mari-knatayo dayta iti nauneg bayat ti napasnek ken

repent.

My friends, I am a witness of the glorious Restoration of the gospel through the Prophet Joseph Smith and the current divine guidance of the Savior through His prophet and mouthpiece, President Russell M. Nelson. I know Jesus Christ lives and that He is the Master Healer of our souls. I know and I testify that these things are true, in the holy name of Jesus Christ, amen.

naimpusuan a panagbabawitayo.

Gagayyemko, maysaak a saksi iti nadayag a Pannakaisubli ti ebangelio babaen ken ni Propeta Joseph Smith ken ti agdama a nadio-san a panangiwawan ti Mangisalakan babaen ti propetana, ni Presidente Russell M. Nelson. Ammok a sibibiag ni Jesucristo ken Isu ti Apo a Mangngagas dagiti kararuatayo. Ammok ken paneknekak a pudno dagitoy a banag, iti nas-antuan a nagan ni Jesucristo, amen.