

Live Up to Your Privileges

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Manàna fiainana mendrika ireo tombontsoa natao ho anao

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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.

Ianaro ny fomba hamelan'ireo ôrdônansin'ny fisoronana sy ireo fampanantenan'ny fanekempihavanana ny herin' Andriamanitra hikoriana eo amin'ny fiainanao.

Vao haingana i Greg vadiko no nanao fiza-ham-pahasalamana ka nahitana fa mila fandidi-ana goavana sy chimiothérapie izy mandritra ny volana maromaro. Tahaka ny maro aminareo izay niatrika toe-javatra nitovitovy tamin'izany, avy hatrany izahay dia nanomboka nivavaka mba hahazo ny fanampian'ny lanitra sy ny herin' Andriamanitra. Ny alahady taorian'ny fandidiana an'i Greg, dia nanaterana ny fanasan'ny Tompo tany amin'ny efitranon'ny hôpitaly nisy anay izahay.

Tamin'izay dia izaho ihany no nandray ny fanasan'ny Tompo. Sombi-mofo anankiray. Kaopin-drano anankiray. Rehefa any am-piangonana dia matetika ny saiko no mifantoka amin'ny fomba fanatanterahana ny fanasan'ny Tompo, ny fanomanana, ny fitsofan-drano ary ny fizarana. Saingy tamin'io tolakandro io aho dia nisaint-saina ny fanomezan'ny herin' Andriamanitra izay mitolotra amiko amin'ny alalan'ilay ôrdônansy masina mihitsy sy ny fampanantenan'ny fanekempihavanana izay nataoko rehefa nandray iny sombi-mofo sy kaopin-drano iny aho. Io no fotoana nilako hery avy any an-danitra. Teo anivon'ny ratram-po lehibe sy ny fahatrotrahana ary ny tsy fahalalana izay ho avy, dia nanontany tena aho ny amin'io fanomezana izay hamela ahy hanovo amin'ny hery avy Aminy izay tena nilaiko fatratra io. Ny fandraisako ny fanasan'ny Tompo dia nampitombo ny fananako ny Fanahin'ny Tompo niaraka tamiko, izay namela ahy nanovo avy tamin'ny fanomezana ny herin' Andriamanitra, anisan'izany ny fanompoan'ny anjely ary ny

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. 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.

hery enti-mandresy izay omen'ny Mpamonjy.

Toa tsy mbola nahatakatra mazava tsara toy izao aho taloha fa tsy ilay olona manatanteraka ny ôrdônansy ihany no manan-danja, fa mendrika ny hifantohantsika ihany koa ny zavatra atolotr'ilay ôrdônansy sy ny fampanantenan'ny fanekempihavanantsika. Mamela an' Andriamanitra hanamasina antsika sy hanatanteraka fahagagana eo amin'ny fiainantsika ireo ôrdônansin'ny fisoronana sy ireo fampanantenan'ny fanekempihavanana. Fa ahoana no hitrangan'izany?

Voalohany, mba hahatonga ny ôrdônansy iray hampiharihary ny herin' Andriamanitra eo amin'ny fiainantsika, dia mila tanterahina amin'ny fahefana avy amin'ny Zanak' Andriamanitra izany. Manan-danja ny fomba fanatanterahana azy. Nomen'ny Ray andraikitra hihazona ireo fanalahidy sy fahefana i Jesoa Kristy mba hanara-maso ny fanatanterahana ireo ôrdônansin'ny fisoronany. Eo ambany fitarihany, araka ny lamin'ny fisoronany, dia notendrena ireo zanakalahin' Andriamanitra mba hijoro eo amin'ny toeran'ny Zanak' Andriamanitra.

Faharoa, tsy manao fampanantenan'ny fanekempihavanana fotsiny isika, fa tsy maintsy tandremantsika koa izy ireny. Amin'ny ôrdônansin'ny filazantsara maro, dia manao fanekempihavanana masina amin' Andriamanitra isika; mampanantena antsika Izy fa hitahy antsika rehefamtandrinaireo fanekempihavanana ireo isika. Takatsika ve fa ny fitambaran'ny ôrdônansin'ny fisoronana sy ny fitandremana ireo fampanantenan'ny fanekempihavanana no mamela antsika hanovo amin'ny herin' Andriamanitra?

Tamin'io tolakandro io aho dia nanontany tena hoe moa ve aho, izay zanakavavin' Andriamanitra ao anatin'ny fanekempihavanana, mahatakatra feno ny fomba hahazoako ny fanomezana ny herin' Andriamanitra amin'ny alalan'ny ôrdônansin'ny fisoronana sy hoe raha toa aho ka nahalala marina ny fomba iasan'ny herin' Andriamanitra ao anatiko.

Nandray fanasana avy amin'ny mpaminany isika vehivavy ato amin'ny Fiangonana tamin'ny taona 2019, izay nampianatra antsika ny fomba hanovozana ny herin'ny Mpamonjy eo amin'ny fiainantsika. Nanasa antsika ny Filoha Russell M. Nelson mba handalina ny Fotopampianarana sy Fanekempihavanana 25, izay fanambarana nomena an'i Emma Smith tao Harmony, Pennsylvania. Nanova ny fiainako ny fanekena izany fanasana izany.

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?

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.

Nanana fahafahana hitsidika an'i Harmony aho tamin'ny volana lasa teo. Teo ambanin'ireo hazo erabla no namerenana tamin'ny laoniny ny fisoronana tamin'i Joseph Smith sy i Oliver Cowdery. Tsy lavitra an'ireo hazo ireo ny varavarana miditra ao amin'ny tranon'i Joseph sy i Emma. Misy varavarankely mifanandrify amin'ny fatana ao amin'io trano io. Nijoro teo amin'io varavarankely io aho ary nanontany tena hoe inona no mety noeritreretin'i Emma rehefa nijery tany ivelany tany amin'ireo hazo izy.

Ny jolay 1830, i Emma dia 26 taona; mbola tanora tokoa izy. Telo taona sy tapany nanambadiana izy tamin'izany. Namoy ny zananilahy izy, ilay voalohan-terany. Ny fasan'izy io dia eo amin'ny lalana tsy lavitry ny tranony. Rehefa nijoro teo amin'io varavarankely io aho, dia tsy sarotra tamiko ny naka sary an-tsaina ny mety ho nameno ny eritreriny. Azo antoka fa niahiahy ny amin'ny ara-bola izy, ny amin'ireo fanenjehana tsy nitsaha-nitombo izay niteraka loza nanambana azy ireo, ny amin'ny hoavin'izy ireo. Kanefa dia nandroso ny asan' Andriamanitra nanodidina azy. Moa ve izy nanontany tena ihany koa ny amin'ny toerany ao amin'ilay drafitra sy ny tanjony ao amin'ny fanjakany ary ny zavatra mety ho vitany eo imason' Andriamanitra?

Mino aho fa mety ho nanontany tena toy izany izy.

Tetsy ankilany, ny fanomezana ny fahefana sy ny fanalahidin'ny fisoronan' Andriamanitra-dia naverina tamin'ny laoniny tetỳ an-tany. Io no vanim-potoana tena nilan'i Emma hery avy any an-danitra tokoa. Teo anivon'ny ratram-po lehibe, sy fahatrotrahana, ary ny tsy fahalalana izay ho avy, dia azoko an-tsaina hoe nanontany tena i Emma ny amin'io fanomezana ny fisoronan' Andriamanitra io izay afaka ny hamaha ny hery avy any Aminy izay tena nilainy fatratra.

Saingy tsy nijoro fotsiny sy velom-panontaniana teo amin'io varavarankely io i Emma.

Nandritra ny fotoana nampianarana ny Mpaminany Joseph ny amin'ireo fanalahidy, ny anjara fanompoana, ny ôrdônansy sy ny fomba fanampiana amin'ny asa fanompoana ataon'ny fisoronana, dia ny Tompo mihitsy no nanome fanambarana ho an'i Emma tamin'ny alalan'ny mpaminaniny. Tsy ilay Emma filohan'ny Fikambanana Ifanampiana tao Nauvoo no nomena io fanambarana io fa i Emma 26 taona tao Harmony. Tamin'ny alalan'ny fanambarana no nianaran'i Emma ny momba ny fanamasinana ny ao anaty

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 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.

sy ny fifandraisana ara-panekempihavanana izay hampitombo ny fahafahan’ireo ôrdônansin’ny fisoronana ireo hiasa eo amin’ny fiainany.

Voalohany, nampahatsiahivin’ny Tompo an’i Emma ny toerany ao amin’ny drafiny, anisan’izany ny hoe iza izy ary an’iza izy, izay tsy iza fa zanakavavin’ny fanjakany izany. Nasaina izy mba “handeha amin’ny lalan’ny hatsaran-toetra”, lalana izay ahitana ireo ôrdônansy izay hamaha ny herin’ Andriamanitra raha toa i Emma ka mifikitra amin’ireo fanekempihavanana nataony.

Faharoa, tao anatin’ny vanim-potoanan’ny fisaonany lalina, dia nanome tanjona ho azy ny Tompo. Tsy mpitazana akaiky fotsiny ny Famerenana amin’ny laoniny i Emma, fa mpandray anjara manan-danja tao amin’ily asa nitranga izy. Hatokana izy mba “hamelabelatra ny soratra masina sy hanentana ny fiangonana.” Ny fotoanany dia “[holaniana] amin’ny fanoratana sy ny fianarana betsaka.” Nomena anjara asa masina i Emma mba hanampy amin’ny fanomanana ireo Olomasina hitsaoka; ny hira ataon’izy ireo ho an’ny Tompo dia horaisina ho toy ny vavaka ary “valiana amin’ny fitahiana eo ambony lohany.”

Farany, notsindrian’ny Tompo ny dingana arahina amin’ny fanamasinana ny ao anaty izay hanomana an’i Emma ho amin’ny fisandratana. “Raha tsy manao izany ianao,” hoy ny Tompo nanazava taminy, “dia tsy afaka mankany amin’izay misy Ahy.”

Raha vakintsika tsara ny fizarana faha-25, dia ho hitantsika fa misy fivoarana manan-danja miseho ao. I Emma dia niainga avy tamin’ny naha-zanakavavin’ny fanjakana azyho amin’ny “vehivavy nofinidy” ary lasa mpanjakavavy. Ireo ôrdônansin’ny Fisoronana Aharôna sy Melkizedeka omban’ny fitandreman’ny ireo fampanantenan’ny fanekempiavanany dia hampitombo ny fananany ny Fanahy miaraka aminy sy ny fanatrehan’ireo anjely azy, mba hanome hery azy hamakivaky ny fiainany omban’ny fitarihana avy amin’ Andriamanitra. Amin’ny alalan’ny heriny masina, Andriamanitra dia hanasitrana ny fony sy hampitombo ny fahaiza-manaony ary hampiova azy ho lasa ilay olona izay fantany fa azony hahatongavana. Ary amin’ny alalan’ireo ôrdônansin’ny Fisoronana Melkizedeka, dia “[h]iharihary [...] ny herin’ny toetra araka an’ Andriamanitra” eo amin’ny fiainany ary ny Tompo dia hanaisotra ny voaly mba hahazoany mandray fahatakarana avy Aminy. Toy izany no fomba fiasan’ny herin’ Andriamanitra ao anatintsika.

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

Nampianatra toy izao ny Filoha Russell M. Nelson:

“Nyzavatra rehetraizay nitranga tao [Harmony] dia misy fiantraikany lalina eo amin’ny fiainanao. Ny famerenana ny fisoronana amin’ny laoniny miaraka amin’ny torohevitra ny Tompo ho an’i Emma dia afaka mitarika sy mitahy anareo tsirairay. ...

“... Ny fahazoana ny herin’ Andriamanitra eo amin’ny fiainanareo dia mitaky zavatra mitovy tamin’ireo izay nasain’ny Tompo hataon’i Emma sy ny tsirairay [amintsika].”

Nisy zava-manan-danja maro nitranga teo amin’ny lafy roan’io varavarankely tao Harmony io, anisan’izany ny fanambarana nomena ilay vehivavy nofinidy izay nantsoin’ny Tompo, dia fanambarana izay hampatanjaka sy hankahery ary hanoro lalana an’i Emma Smith, zanakavavin’ Andriamanitra.

Rehefa nomena anarana sy notsofina rano i Isabelle zafikelinay vavy, dia nitso-drano azy ny rainy mba hananany fahatakarana ny fisoronana; ny mba hitomboany ao anatin’ny fitahiana omen’izany eo amin’ny fiainany sy hianarany momba izany; ary ny mba hitomboan’ny finoany ny fisoronana rehefa manohy mitombo fahatakarana izy.

Tsy fahita matetika ny zazavikely tsofina rano mba hahatakatra ny fisoronana sy hianatra ny fomba hanampian’ireo ôrdônansin’ny fisoronana sy ireo fampanantenan’ny fanekempihavanana azy mba hahazoany ny herin’ Andriamanitra. Kanefa nahatsiaro an’i Emma aho ary hoy aho an’eritreritra hoe: Maninona tokoa moa? Io zanakavavy bitika io dia manana fahafahana ho lasa vehivavy nofinidy ao amin’ny fanjakany ary any am-parany dia ho lasa mpanjakavavy. Amin’ny alalan’ireo ôrdônansin’ny fisoronany sy amin’ny fitandremana ireo fampanantenan’ny fanekempihavanana, ny herin’ Andriamanitra dia hiasa ao aminy sy amin’ny alalany mba hana-mpy azy handresy na inona na inona hitranga eo amin’ny fiainana ary hahatonga azy ho ilay vehivavy izay fantatr’ Andriamanitra fa azony hahatongavana. Izany dia tiako ho takatry ny zazavavy tsirairay ato amin’ny fanjakana.

“Manàna fiainana mendrika ireo tombontsoa natao ho anao.”

Ianaro hoe ahoana ny fomba hamelan’ireo ôrdônansin’ny fisoronana sy ireo fampanantenan’ny fanekempihavanana ny herin’ Andriamanitra hikoriana eo amin’ny fiainanao amin’ny

reach your full purpose and potential.

Carefully study and ponder the Aaronic and the Melchizedek Priesthood ordinances, the covenant 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.

fomba mahomby kokoa, ary miasa ao aminao sy amin'ny alalanao, ary manome hery sy fampitao-vana anao mba hahatratra ny tanjonao feno sy izay mety hahatongavanao.

Halalino sy saintsaino tsara ireo ôrdônansin'ny Fisoronana Aharôna sy Melkizedeka, sy ireo fampanantenan'ny fanekempihavanana izay ataontsika ao amin'ny tsirairay avy amin'izy ireo, ary ny herin' Andriamanitra izay azontsika amin'ny alalan'ireo ôrdônansy ireo.

Tsarovy fa tsy ireo izay manatanteraka ny ôrdônansy ihany no manan-danja, fa mendrika ny fifantohanao ihany koa ny zavatra atolotr'ilay ôrdônansy sy ny fampanantenan'ny fanekempihavanana nataonao.

Ny fandraisana ny mofo sy ny rano dia fampahatsiahivana isan-kerinandro ny heriny izay miasa ao aminao mba hanampy anao handresy. Ny fanaovana ny garmentan'ny fisoronana masina dia fampahatsiahivana isan'andro ny fanomezana ny heriny izay miasa ao aminao mba hanampy anao ho tonga tahaka an' Andriamanitra.

Afaka mahazo ny fanomezana ny herin' Andriamanitra avokoa isika rehetra.

Isaky ny mandray ny fanasan'ny Tompo isika.

Isaky ny mandingana ny tokonam-baravarany tempoly isika.

Izany no fotoana manan-danja indrindra amin'ny Sabatako. Izany no antony ankamamian'ny fahazoan-dalana hidirana ny tempoly izay hazoniko.

"Koa miharihary ao amin'ny ôrdônansiny ny herin'ny toetra araka an' Andriamanitra."

Mijoro ho vavolombelona ny amin'izany fanomezana izany aho amin'ny anaran'i Jesoa Kristy, amena.