

Live Up to Your Privileges

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Ishi Kulingana na Haki Zako

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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

Jifunze jinsi ibada za ukuhani na ahadi za maagano, zitakavyoruhusu nguvu za Mungu kutiririkia katika maisha yako.

Hivi karibuni mume wangu, Greg, alipokea majibu ya uchunguzi kwamba atahitaji upasuaji mkubwa na miezi mingi ya tibakemikali. Kama wengi wenu ambao mmekabiliwa na hali kama hiyo, mara moja tulianza kusali kuomba msaa-da wa mbinguni na nguvu za Mungu. Jumapili iliyofuatia upasuaji wa Greg, sakramenti ililetwa kwenye chumba chetu cha hospitali.

Kwenye tukio hili, mimi nilikuwa mtu pekee niliyepokea sakramenti. Kipande kimoja cha mkate. Kikombe kimoja cha maji. Kanisani, akili yangu hufokasi kwenye mfumo wa kutoa sakramenti—kujiandaa, kubariki, na kupitisha. Lakini mchana huo, nilitafakari kipawa cha nguvu za Mungu kikipatikana kwangu kupitia ibada takatifu zenyewe na ahadi ya agano niliyokuwa nikifanya nikitwaa kipande cha mkate na kile kikombe cha maji. Huu ulikuwa wakati nilihitaji nguvu kutoka mbinguni. Katikati ya mvunjiko mkubwa wa moyo, uchovu, na kukosa uhakika, nilishangaa kuhusu kipawa hiki ambacho kingeniruhusu kuvuta nguvu kutoka Kwake ambazo nilizihitaji sana. Kushiriki sakramenti kungeongeza wenza wangu na Roho wa Bwana, akiniruhusu kuvuta kutoka kwenye kipawa cha nguvu za Mungu, ikijumuisha kuhudumiwa na malaikana nguvu ya Mwokozi iwezeshayo kushinda.

Sidhani kama hapo kabla niliwahi kuwa na utambuzi huu wa wazi kwamba kitu muhimu si tu kuhusu mtu anayehudumu kwenye sakramenti—ni ibada gani na ahadi yetu ya agano huleta pia hustahili fokasi ya usikivu wangu. Ibada za ukuhani na ahadi za maagano humruhusu

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.

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

Mungu kututakasa sisi na kisha kufanya maajabu katika maisha yetu. Lakini hii inatokea je?

Kwanza, ili ibada idhihirishe nguvu ya Mungu katika maisha yetu, lazima ifanyike kwa mamlaka kutoka kwa Mwana wa Mungu. Mfumo wa utolewaji ni muhimu. Baba alimkabidhi Yesu Kristo funguo na mamlaka ili kusimamia utolewaji wa ibada za ukuhani Wake. Chini ya maelekezo Yake, ndani ya utaratibu wa ukuhani Wake, wana wa Mungu wametawazwa ili kusi-mamamahali pa Mwana wa Mungu.

Pili, sisi hatuweki tu ahadi za kimaagano—ni lazima tuyashike. Katika ibada nyingi za injili, sisi tunafanya maagano matakatifu na Mungu; Yeye anaahidi kutubarikitunaposhikamaagano hayo. Je, tunatambua ni muunganiko wa ibada za ukuhani pamoja na kushika ahadi za maagano ndicho huturuhusu kufikia nguvu za Mungu?

Mchana ule nilijiuliza kama mimi, binti wa agano wa Mungu, nilielewa kwa ukamilifu jinsi ya kufikia kipawa cha nguvu ya Mungu kupitia ibada za ukuhani na ikiwa kweli ninatambua jinsi nguvu za Mungu hufanya kazi ndani yangu.

Mnamo 2019 mwaliko wa kinabii ulitolewa kwa wanawake wa Kanisa, ukitufundisha jinsi gani ya kuvuta nguvu za Mwokozi katika maisha yetu. Rais Russell M. Nelson alitualika tujifunze Mafundisho na Maagano 25, ufunuo ulitolewa kwa Emma Smith huko Harmony, Pennsylvania. Kukubali mwaliko huo kumebadilisha maisha yangu.

Mwezi uliopita nilipata fursa nisiyoitarajia ya kutembelea Harmony. Huko, chini ya miti ya maple, ukuhani ulirejeshwa kwa Joseph Smith na Oliver Cowdery. Karibu na miti hiyo ni mlango wa mbele wa nyumba ya Joseph na Emma. Upande wa pili kutoka mahali pa tanuru ya kupasha nyumba joto kuna dirisha. Nilisimama kwenye dirisha lile na kujiuliza jinsi Emma angehisi wakati akiangalia nje kwenye miti.

Mnamo Julai ya mwaka 1830, Emma alikuwa na umri wa miaka 26; alikuwa bado mdogo sana. Alikuwa na miaka mitatu na nusu ndani ya ndoa yake. Alikuwa amepoteza mtoto mchanga wa kiume—wa kwanza. Kaburi lake dogo liko karibu na barabara ya kutoka nyumbani kwake. Nikiwa nimesimama katika dirisha lile, haikuwa vigumu kwangu kufikiria nini kilijaza mawazo yake. Hakika alikuwa na wasiwasi kuhusu kipato chao, kuhusu ongezeko la mateso ambayo yalitishia usalama wao, kuhusu siku zao za baadaye. Na

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 keyshad 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

bado kazi ya Mungu ilikuwa kila mahali kumzunguka. je, alijiuliza pia kuhusu nafasi yake katika mpango, dhumuni lake katika ufalme wa Mungu, na uwezekano wake katika macho ya Mungu?

Nadhani aliwaza hayo.

Upande wa pili tu wa barabara, kipawa cha Mungu cha mamlaka na funguo za ukuhanizili-kuwa zimerejeshwa duniani. Huu ulikuwa wakati ambapo Emma kwa kweli alihitaji nguvu kutoka mbinguni. Katikati ya mvunjiko mkubwa wa moyo, uchovu, na kukosa uhakika, ninavuta taswira ya Emma akijiuliza kuhusu kipawa hiki cha ukuhani wa Mungu ambacho kingeweza kufungua nguvu kutoka kwa Mungu ambazo alizihitaji sana.

Lakini Emma hakuwa tu amesimama kwenye dirisha lile akijiuliza.

Wakati Nabii Joseph alipokuwa akifunzwa juu ya funguo, ofisi, ibada na jinsi ya kusaidia katika huduma za ukuhani, Bwana Mwenyewe, kupitia nabii Wake, alimpatia Emma ufunuo. Si ufunuo kwa rais-Emma wa Muungano wa Usaidizi wa Nauvoo—ufunuo huu ulitolewa kwa Emma akiwa umri wa miaka 26 huko Harmony. Kupitia ufunuo huo, Emma angejifunza kuhusu utakaso wa ndani kwa ndani na muunganiko kupitia agano ambao ungeongeza ufanyaji kazi wa ibada hizo za kikuhani maishani mwake.

Kwanza, Bwana alimkumbusha Emma juu ya mahali pake katika mpango Wake, ikijumuisha yeye alikuwa nani na alikuwa wa nani—binti katika ufalme Wake. Alialikwa “kutembea katika njia za wema,” njia ambayo ilijumuisha ibada ambazo zingefungua nguvu za Mungu kama Emma angeshikilia kwenye maagano yake.

Pili, katika majira Yake ya kuomboleza kwa kina, Bwana alimpa dhumuni lake. Emma siyo tu alikuwa na kiti cha mstari wa mbele katika Urejesho, yeye alikuwa mshiriki muhimu katika kazi iliyokuwa ikifanyika. Angesimikwa “ili kuelezea maandiko, na kushawishi Kanisa.” Muda wake “ungetolewa ili kuandika na kujifunza mengi.” Emma alipewa kazi takatifu ili kusaidia kuwaandaa Watakatifu katika kuabudu; nyimbo zao kwa Bwana zingepokelewa kama sala na “zili-jibiwa kwa baraka juu ya vichwa vyao.”

Mwisho, Bwana alitoa muhtasari wa mchakato wa utakaso wa ndani kwa ndani ambao ungemwandaa Emma kwa ajili ya kuinuliwa. “Isipokuwa umefanya hili,” Bwana alimweleza, “mahali nilipo wewe huwezi kuja.”

Kama tutaisomasehemu ya 25 kwa uangalifu,

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.

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

tunagundua upigaji hatua muhimu ukifanyika. Emma angepiga hatua kutoka kuwa binti katika ufalmehadi “mwanamke mteule” hadi malkia. Ibada za Ukuhani wa Haruni na Melkizedeki zikiunganika na ushikaji ahadi zake za maagano, zingeongeza kwake ushirika wa Roho na malai-ka, zikimpa nguvu kuongoza maisha yake kwa mwongozo wa kiungu. Kupitia nguvu za kiungu, Mungu angeuponya moyo wake, kuongeza uwezo wake, na kumbadilisha kuwa toleo lake bora ambalo Yeye alijua angeweza kuwa. Na kupitia ibada za Ukuhani wa Melkizedeki, “nguvu za uchamungu [zingedhihirika]” kati-ka maisha yake, na Bwana angefungua pazia ili aweze kupokea uelewa kutoka Kwake. Hikindicho kinachoonekana kama nguvu za Bwana kufanya kazi ndani yetu.

Rais Russell M. Nelson alifundisha:

“Kila kitu ambacho kilitokea katika [Harmony] kina uhusiano mkubwa kwenye maishayenu. Urejesho wa ukuhani, pamoja na ushauri wa Bwana kwa Emma, vinaweza kumuongoza na kumbariki kila mmoja wenu. ...

“... Kufikia nguvu za Bwana katika maisha yako kunahitaji vitu sawa na hivyo ambavyo Bwana alimwelekeza Emma na kila mmoja wetu kuvifanya.”

Kulikuwa na mambo muhimu yaliyokuwa yakitokea katika pande zote mbili za dirisha lile huko Harmony, ikijumuisha ufunuo uliotolewa kwa mwanamke mteule ambaye Bwana alimuita—ufunuo ambao ungeimarisha, kutia moyo, na kumwelekeza Emma Smith, binti wa Mungu.

Wakati Isabelle mjukuu wetu wa kike alipopewa jina na kubarikiwa, baba yake alimbariki kuwa na uelewa juu ya ukuhani; kwamba angeendelea kukua na kujifunza kuhusu baraka ambazo zingetwa nao katika maisha yake; na kwamba imani yake katika ukuhani ingekua kadiri alivyoendelea kukua katika uelewa.

Si kawaida kwa msichana mdogo kupewa baraka ya kuelewa ukuhani na kujifunza jinsi gani ibada hizo za ukuhani na ahadi za maagano zitamsaidia yeye kufikia nguvu za Mungu. Lakini nilimkumbuka Emma na kuwaza, Kwa nini isiwe hivyo? Binti huyu mdogo kabisa ana uwezekano wa kuwa mwanamke mteule katika ufalme Wake na hatimaye kuwa malkia. Kupitia ibada za ukuhani Zake na utiifu wa ahadi za ukuhani, nguvu za Mungu zitafanya kazi katika yeye na kupitia yeye ili kushinda chochote kiletwacho na maisha na kuwa mwanamke Mungu ajuaye anaweza

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 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.

kuwa. Hiki ndicho kitu ninachotaka kila msichana katika ufalme aelewe.

“Ishi kulingana na haki zako.”

Jifunze jinsi ibada za ukuhani na ahadi za maagano, vitakavyoruhusu nguvu za Mungu kutiririkia katika maisha yako kwa ufanisi mkubwa, zikifanya kazi ndani yako na kupitia wewe, zikikuwezesha na kukuandaa kufikia dhumuni na uwezekano wako mkamilifu.

Kwa uangalifu jifunze na utafakari juu ya ibada za Ukuhani wa Haruni na Mekizedeki, ahadi za maagano tunayoweka na kila ukuhani na nguvu za Mungu tunazozifikia kupitia ibada hizo.

Kumbuka si muhimu tu kuhusu mtu anayehudumu kwenye ibada; lakini pia kitu ambacho ibada na ahadi ya maagano kinaungua pia kinastahili fokasi ya usikivu wako.

Kula mkate na kunywa maji ni ukumbusho wa kila wiki juu ya nguvu Zake zikifanya kazi ndani yako ili kukusaidia kushinda. Uvaaji wa gamenti ya ukuhani mtakatifu ni ukumbusho wa kila siku juu ya nguvu Zake kufanya kazi ndani yako ili kukusaidia uwe na nguvu.

Sisi sote tunayo njia ya kufikia kipawa cha nguvu za Mungu.

Kila wakati tunaposhiriki sakramenti.

Kila wakati tunapoingia hekaluni.

Hili ni angazio la Sabato yangu. Hii ndiyo kwa nini ninapenda kibali changu cha hekaluni.

“Katika ibada zake, nguvu za uchamungu hudhihirika.”

Juu ya kipawa hiki, ninatoa ushahidi katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.