

Trusting Our Father

By Elder David P. Homer
Of the Seventy

Te ti'aturira'a i tō tātou Metua

Nā Elder David P. Homer
Nō te Hitu 'Ahuru

October 2024 general conference

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

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.

Tē ti'aturi nei te Atua ia tātou nō te rave i te mau fa'aotira'a faufaa rahi 'e i roto i te mau mea ato'a, tē ani mai nei 'oia ia tātou 'ia ti'aturi iāna.

I te 1 nō Tiunu 1843, 'ua fa'aru'e Addison Pratt i Nauvoo, Illinois, nō te poro i te 'evanelia i te mau ta'amotu nō Hawaii, ma te vaiiho mai i tana vahine fa'aipoipo, 'o Louisa Barnes Pratt, nō te ha'apa'o i tō rāua 'utuāfare 'āpī.

'A rahi noa ai te mau hāmani-'ino-ra'a i Nauvoo, i te fa'ahēpora'a i te feiā mo'a 'ia haere 'ē, 'e i muri a'e i Winter Quarters 'a fa'aineine ai rātou i te tere atu i te 'Āfa'a nō Roto Miti, 'ua fa'aruru Louisa i te fa'aotira'a e rātere ānei 'aore rā 'aita. E mea 'ōhie a'e 'ia fa'aea mai 'e 'ia tia'i 'ia ho'i mai Addison, i te rātere 'ōna ana'e.

I nā taime e piti, 'ua 'imi 'oia i te arata'ira'a a te peropheta Brigham Young, tei fa'aitoito iāna 'ia haere. Noa atu te fifi rahi 'e tōna iho taiā, 'ua manuia tōna tere i te mau taime ato'a.

I te ha'amatarā'a, 'aita Louisa i 'oāoa roa i te rātere. Teie rā, 'ua 'oi'oi roa 'oia i te pōpou i te 'aihere matie, te mau vāhi matie, te mau tiare 'ōviri 'ū rau, 'e te tuha'a fenua i te roara'a o te hiti 'ānāvai. « 'Ua mo'e marū noa te fa'aturumara'a i roto i tō'u ferurira'a », 'ua pāpā'i 'oia, « 'e 'aita roa e vahine 'oāoa a'e i roto i te pupu tāāto'a ».

'Ua fa'auru mau te 'āamu o Louisa iā'u. Tē fa'ahiahia nei au i tōna hina'aro e tu'u i te hiti i tōna iho mau hina'aro, tōna 'aravihi 'ia ti'aturi i te Atua 'e nāhea te fa'āohipara'a i tōna fa'aro'o i te tauturu iāna 'ia hi'o tā'a 'ē i te tupura'a.

'Ua fa'aha'amana'o mai 'oia iā'u e Metua i te ao ra here tō tātou 'o tē aupuru maita'i nei ia tātou i te mau vāhi ato'a tei reira tātou, 'e e nehenehe tātou e ti'aturi iāna hau atu i te tahi atu tā'ata 'aore

rā 'ohipa.

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 guid-

Te puna o te parau mau

Tē ti'aturi nei te Atua ia tātou nō te rave e rave rahi fa'aotira'a faufa'a rahi, 'e i roto i te mau mea ato'a tē ani mai nei 'oia ia tātou 'ia ti'aturi iāna. E mea fifi roa te reira 'ia tāa 'ē ana'ē tō tātou mana'o 'aore rā tō te tāata, i tōna [te Atua] hi-na'aro nō tāna mau tamari'i.

Tē mana'o nei te tahi mau tāata ē, e ti'a ia tātou 'ia pāpā'i fa'ahou i te mau 'ōti'a i rotopū i te maita'i 'ē te 'ino, nō te mea tē parau nei rātou ē e tau'i noa te parau mau, te 'ohipa mau e ha'apa'o noa te tāata iāna iho, 'aore rā nō te maita'i rahi o te Atua, 'aita 'oia e ha'ape'ape'a mau nei i te mea tā tātou e rave nei.

'A 'imi ai tātou 'ia hāro'aro'a 'ē 'ia fāri'i i te hi-na'aro o te Atua, e mea faufa'a 'ia ha'amana'o tātou ē e 'ere nā tātou e fa'ata'a i te mau 'ōti'a i rotopū i te maita'i 'ē te 'ino. 'Ua ha'ama'u te Atua iho i teie mau 'ōti'a, ma te niuhia i ni'a i te mau parau mau mure 'ore, nō tō tātou maita'i 'ē tō tātou ha'amaita'ira'a.

E 'āamu roa roa te hina'arora'a e tau'i i te parau mau mure 'ore a te Atua. 'Ua ha'amata te reira hou te poietera'a o te ao nei, i te taime 'a pāto'i ai Sātane i te fa'anahora'a a te Atua, ma te 'imi-pīpīri-ra'a e ha'amou i te ti'amāra'a o te tāata. Te pēra'a i teie hōho'a, 'ua parau te mau tāata mai ia Serema, Nehora 'ē Korihora e mea ma'ama'a te fa'aro'o, e mea faufa'a 'ore te heheura'a, 'ē e mea ti'a te mau mea ato'a tā tātou e hina'aro e rave. Te mea pēape'a ra, pinepine roa teie mau fāriu-ē-ra'a i te parau mau a te Atua i te arata'i atu i te 'oto rahi.

Mai te peu e nehenehe te tahi mau mea e tano i taua taime ra, e 'ere ia nō te mau mea ato'a. 'Ua ha'api'i tāmāu noa te peresideni Russell M. Nelson ē, e mea hope 'ore te mau parau mau fa'aora a te Atua, e mea ti'amā, 'ē 'ua fa'ata'ahia e te Atua iho.

Tā tātou mā'itira'a

'O vai noa atu tā tātou e mā'iti i te ti'aturi 'o te hō'ē ia o te mau fa'aotira'a faufa'a roa a'e o te orara'a. 'Ua ha'api'i te ari'i Beniamina i tōna nūna'a, « 'a ti'aturi i te Atua ; 'a ti'aturi ē tē vai ra 'oia [...] 'a ti'aturi ē tei iāna te pa'ari ē hope noa a'e [...] 'a ti'aturi ē 'aita e ti'a i te tāata 'ia māmarama i te mau mea mai tā te Fatu i māmarama ».

'Auāe rā, tē vai nei ia tātou te mau pāpā'ira'a

ance 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 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.

mo'a è te arata'ira'a a te mau peropheta ora nō te tauturu ia tātou 'ia māramarama i te parau mau a te Atua. Mai te mea e tītauhia te ha'apāpūrā'a hau atu i tei roa'a ia tātou, e hōro'a mai te Atua i te reira nā roto i tāna mau peropheta. 'E e pāhono 'oia i tā tātou mau pure 'ā'au tae nā roto i te Vārua Maita'i, 'a 'imi ai tātou 'ia māramarama i te mau parau mau 'aita ā tātou i māramarama hope roa.

'Ua ha'api'i Elder Neil L. Andersen i te hōē mahana ē, 'eiaha tātou e māere « mai te mea i te tahi taime i te ha'amatarā'a, 'aita tō [tātou] iho huru hi'ora'a e tū'ati roa i te mau ha'api'ira'a a te peropheta a te Fatu. Teie te mau taime nō te ha'api'ira'a mai », 'ua parau 'oia, « i te fa'ahaehā'a, 'ia tūturi ana'e tātou i roto i te pure. Tē haere ra 'ia tātou i mua ma te fa'aro'o, ma te ti'aturira'a i te Atua, ma te 'itera'a ē i roto i te tau e fāri'i hau atu ā tātou i te māramarama nō 'ō mai i tō tātou Metua i te ao ra ».

I te mau taime ato'a, e mea maita'i 'ia ha'ama-na'o i te ha'api'ira'a a Alama ē, e hōro'a te Atua i tāna parau 'ia au i te ha'apa'ora'a ē te tauto'ora'a tā tātou e hōro'a nō te reira. Mai te mea e ha'apāo tātou i te parau a te Atua, e rahi atu ā tā tātou e fāri'i ; mai te mea e tāu'a 'ore tātou i tāna a'o, e fāri'i iti 'ia tātou ē e iti noa atu ā e tae roa 'aita fa'ahou tā tātou. Teie 'erera'a i te 'ite e 'ere te aura'a ē, 'ua hape te parau mau ; tē fa'a'ite nei rā te reira ē 'ua 'ere tātou i te 'aravihi nō te hāro'aro'a i te reira.

'A hi'o i te Fa'aora

I Kapere-naumi, 'ua ha'api'i te Fa'aora nō ni'a i tōna ihota'a ē tāna misiōni. E rave rahi tei mana'o e mea fifi roa 'ia fa'aro'o i tāna mau parau, 'o tei arata'i atu ia rātou 'ia huri tua mai ē « 'eiaha e haere fa'ahou iāna ra ».

Nō te aha rātou i haere 'ē ai ?

Nō te mea 'aita rātou i au i te mea tāna e parau ra. Nō reira, ma te ti'aturira'a i tō rātou iho mana'o, 'ua haere 'ē atu rātou, ma te fa'aere ia rātou iho i te mau ha'amaita'ira'a 'o tē tae mai 'āhani rātou i fa'aea mai.

E mea 'ōhie roa nō tō tātou te'ote'o 'ia haere mai nā rōpū ia tātou ē te parau mau mure 'ore. 'Ia 'ore ana'e tātou e tā'a, e nehenehe tātou e fa'afā'aea ri'i, e tāmārū i tō tātou mau nino'a mana'o, 'e i muri iho e mā'iti nāhea 'ia pāhono atu. 'Ua ani mai te Fa'aora ia tātou 'ia « hi'o [iāna] i tō mau mana'o ato'a na ; 'eiaha e fē'a'a, 'eiaha e mata'u ». 'Ia fa'atumu ana'e tātou i ni'a i te Fa'aora, e nehenehe tō tātou fa'aro'o e ha'amata i te upōoti'a i ni'a i tō

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, 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

tātou mau māna’ona’ora’a.

Mai tā Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf i fa’aitoito ia tātou ’ia rave : « ’A fē’a’a nā mua roa i tō ’outou mau fē’a’ara’a hou ’a fē’a’a ai i tō ’outou fa’aro’o. ’Ei-aha roa tātou e vaiho i te fē’a’a ’ia tāpē’a ia tātou ’e ’ia fa’aātea ia tātou i te here hanahana, te hau, ’e te mau hōro’a ’o tē tae mai nā roto i te fa’aro’o i te Fatu ia Iesu Mesia ».

E tae mai te mau ha’amaita’ira’a i te feiā e fa’aea mai

’A fa’aātea ’ē ai te mau pipi i te Fa’aora i taua mahana ra, ’ua ani ihora ’oia i te nā ’Ahuru ma Piti, « e haere ato’a ānei ’outou ? »

’Ua pāhono atu ra Petero :

« E te Fatu, e haere ti’a ia mātou ’ia vai ra ? tei ia ’oe ho’i te parau o te ora mure ’ore ra.

« ’Ua fa’aro’o a’enei ho’i mātou ’e ’ua ’ite ho’i ē ’o ’oe te Mesia, te Tamaiti a te Atua ora ra ».

Teie ia, ’ua ora te mau ’āpōsetolo i roto i te hōē ā ao ’e ’ua fa’aruru rātou i te hōē ā mau fa’atei-mahara’a tōtiare i tā te mau pipi i haere ’ē atu. Nō reira i taua taime ra, ’ua mā’iti rātou i tō rātou fa’aro’o ’e ’ua ti’aturi i te Atua, ma te fa’aherehere i te mau ha’amaita’ira’a ’o tā te Atua e hōro’a i te feiā e fa’aea mai.

Penei a’e ’outou mai iā’u ato’a, i te tahi taime e ’ite ’outou ia ’outou iho i nā pae e piti o teie fa’aotirā’a. ’Ia ’ite ana’e tātou e mea fifi ’ia māra-marama ’aore rā ’ia fāri’i i te hina’aro o te Atua, e mea māhanahana ’ia ha’amana’o ē ’ua here ’oia ia tātou ’ia au i tō tātou iho huru, ’e i te vāhi tei reira tātou. ’E tē vai nei tāna te tahi mea maita’i a’e nō tātou. Mai te mea e fa’atoro atu tātou te rima iāna, e tauturu mai ’oia ia tātou.

Noa atu e mea fifi paha ’ia fa’atoro i te rima i te Atua, mai tā te Fa’aora i parau i te metua tāne ’o tē ’imi ra i te fa’aorara’a nō tāna tamaiti, « e ti’a te mau mea ato’a nei i te ta’ata i fa’aro’o ». I roto i tō tātou mau taime ’arora’a, e nehenehe ato’a tātou e tu’o, « e turu mai ’oe i [tā’u] fa’aro’o paruparu nei ».

Te aurarora’a i tō tātou hina’aro i tōna

’Ua ha’api’i Elder Neal A. Maxwell i te hōē mahana ē « ’ua riro te aurarora’a i tōna hina’aro ’ei ’ohipa hōē roa ’e nō te ta’ata iho ’o tā tātou e tu’u atu i ni’a i te fata a te Atua ». E’ita ia e mea māere e hina’aro rahi tō te ari’i Beniamina ’ia riro tōna nūna’a « mai te hōē tamari’i ra i te auraro, te marū, te ha’eha’a, te fa’a’oroma’i, te ’i i te aroha, te

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 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.

hina’aro ’ia auraro i te mau mea ato’a tā te Fatu e hina’aro ’ia tu’u mai i ni’a iāna, mai te hōē tamari’i e auraro i tōna ra metua tāne »

Mai te mau taime ato’a, ’ua fa’a’ite mai te Fa’aora ia tātou te hi’ora’a maita’i roa. Ma te ’āu teimaha ’e te ’itera’a i te ’ohipa māuiui tāna e ti’a e rave, ’ua auraro ’oia i te hina’aro a tōna Metua, ma te rave fa’aotira’a i tāna misiōni mesia ’e te ’iritira’a i te parau fafau o te tau mure ’ore ia ’outou ’e ’iāu nei.

’Ua riro te mā’itira’a ’ia auraro i tō tātou hina’aro i tō te Atua ’ei ’ohipa nō te fa’aroō, e vai ra i roto i te ’āu o tō tātou aupipira’a. Ma te rave-ra’a i te reira mā’itira’a, e ’ite tātou ē aita tō tātou ti’amāra’a i fa’aitihia ; aita ia, ’ua ha’amaita’ihia ra ’e ’ua fa’aho’onahia e te vaira’a mai te Vārua Maitai, ’o tē ’āfa’i mai i te hōē fā, te ’oāoa, te hau ’e te ti’a’ira’a ’o tā tātou e ’ore e ’ite mai i te tahi ē atu vāhi.

E rave rahi ’āva’e i mā’iri, ’ua haere atu vau ’e te hōē peresideni titi e fārerei i te hōē tuahine nō tāna titi ’e tāna tamaiti feiā ’āpi pa’ari. I muri a’e e rave rahi matahiti i te ātea-ē-ra’a i te ’Ēkālēsia, te haerera’a nā te mau ’ē’a fifi ’e te au ’ore, ’ua ho’i fa’ahou mai te tuahine. I roto i tā māua fārereira’a, ’ua ui atu māua iāna i te tumu ’oia i ho’i mai ai.

« ’Ua fa’a’ino vau i tō’u orara’a », ’ua parau ’oia, « ’e ’ua ’ite au i tei hea vāhi e ti’a iāu ’ia haere ».

I reira ’ua ani atu vau iāna i te mea tāna i ha’api’i mai i roto i tōna tere.

Ma te tahi horuhorura’a, ’ua fa’a’ite mai ’oia ē ’ua ha’api’i mai ’oia ’e e ti’a iāna ’ia haere maoro mai ā i te purera’a nō te fa’a’ore i te peu ’eiaha e haere mai, ’e e ti’a iāna ’ia fa’aea mai e tae roa ’o te reira te vāhi tāna e hina’aro e vai ai. Aita roa tōna ho’ira’a mai i te mea ’ohie, nā roto rā i tōna fa’āohipara’a i te fa’aroō i roto i te fa’anahora’a a te Metua, ’ua putapū ’oia i te Vārua i te ho’i-fa’ahou-ra’a mai.

’Ua parau fa’ahou mai ’oia i muri iho, « ’ua ha’api’i mai au nā roto iāu iho e mea maita’i te Atua ’e e mea maita’i a’e tōna mau haere’a i tō’u ».

Tē fa’a’ite pāpū nei au nō te Atua, tō tātou Metua mure ’ore, tei here ia tātou ; nō tāna Tamaiti, ’o Iesu Mesia, ’o tei fa’aora ia tātou. ’Ua ’ite rāua i tō tātou mau pēpē ’e mau tāmatarā’a. E’ita roa rāua e fa’aru’e ia tātou ’e ’ua ’ite pāpū maita’i nāhea ’ia fa’aora ia tātou. E nehenehe tātou e fa’a’ite i te mata ’oāoa ’a ti’aturi ai tātou ia rāua hau atu i te tahi atu tāata aore rā te tahi atu mau mea. Nā roto i te iōa mo’a o Iesu Mesia, ’āmene.