

Compensating Blessings

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Ireo fitahiana mifono fanonerana

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April 2025 general conference

While many circumstances in life may be beyond our control, none of us is beyond the reach of the Lord's infinite blessings.

Serving in the Presiding Bishopric, I have had the privilege of meeting Latter-day Saints around the world in a variety of places and cultures. I have been continually inspired by your abiding faith and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet I have also been moved by the diverse and often difficult circumstances many of you face—challenges such as illness, disability, limited resources, fewer opportunities for marriage or education, abuse by others, and other limitations or constraints. At times, these trials may seem to hinder your progress and challenge your genuine efforts to live the gospel fully, making it more difficult to serve, worship, and fulfill sacred duties.

My dear friends, if you ever feel limited or disadvantaged by the circumstances of your life, I want you to know this: The Lord loves you personally. He knows your circumstances, and the door to His blessings remains wide open to you no matter the challenges you face.

I have learned this truth through a personal experience that, though seemingly insignificant, left a lasting impression on me. At the age of 22, while serving in the French Air Force in Paris, I

Na dia maro aza ireo toe-javatra eo amin'ny fiainantsika izay tsy voafehintsika dia tsy misy amintsika izay lavitra tanteraka ireo fitahiana tsy manam-petra atolotry ny Tompo.

Raha nanompo tao amin'ny Episkôpa Mpiahy aho dia nanana tombontsoa lehibe nihaona tamin'ireo Olomasin'ny Andro Farany manerana izao tontolo izao tamina toerana sy avy amina kolontsaina maro samihafa. Nentanim-panahy lalandava aho noho ny finoana sy ny fanoloran-tena maharitra asehonareo an'i Jesoa Kristy Tompo. Mampihetsi-po ahy ihany koa anefa ireo toe-javatra maro samihafa izay matetika toa sarotra atrehin'ny maro aminareo—fanamby tahaka ny aretina, fahasembanana, loharanom-pitaovana voafetra, fahafahana voafetra hanambady na hianatra, fanararaotana ataon'ny hafa ary sakana sy faneriterena hafa. Indraindray ireo fitsapana ireo dia mety toa manakantsakana ny fivoaranao ary manasarotra ny ezaka amin-kitsim-po ataonao mba hiainana tanteraka ny filazantsara ka mahatonga ny fanompoana sy ny fitsaohana ary ny fanatanterahana ireo adidy masina ho sarotra kokoa.

Ry namako malala, raha sendra mahatsiaro ho voafetra na tsy mahazo tombontsoa noho ireo toe-javatra eo amin'ny fiainanareo ianareo dia tiako ho fantatrareo izao: Tia anareo manokana ny Tompo. Fantany ireo toe-javatra iainanareo ary midanadana ho anareo hatrany ireo varavarany fitahiany na inona na inona ireo olana atrehanareo.

Nianarako avy tamin'ny zavatra niainako manokana izany fahamarinana izany, izay lasa nisy fiantraikany maharitra teo amiko na dia toa tsy misy dikany aza. Fony aho 22 taona raha nanao

was thrilled to learn that Elder Neal A. Maxwell, an Apostle of the Lord, would be speaking at a conference on the Champs-Élysées. However, just before the event, I received orders to drive a senior officer to the airport at the exact time the conference was set to take place.

I was disappointed. But determined to attend, I dropped the officer off and rushed to the conference. After finding a parking spot, I sprinted down the Champs-Élysées to the meeting place and arrived breathless with only five minutes left before the meeting ended. Just as I entered, I heard Elder Maxwell say, “I will now give you an apostolic blessing.” In that instant, I had a beautiful, unforgettable spiritual experience. I was overcome by the Spirit, and the words of the blessing seemed to penetrate every fiber of my soul as though they were meant just for me.

What I experienced that day was a small yet powerful manifestation of a comforting aspect of God’s plan for His children: When circumstances beyond our control prevent us from fulfilling the righteous desires of our hearts, the Lord will compensate in ways that allow us to receive His promised blessings.

This reassuring truth is grounded in three key principles found in the restored gospel of Jesus Christ:

God loves each of us perfectly. “He inviteth [us] all to come unto him and partake of his goodness.” His plan of redemption ensures that everyone, without exception, will be granted a just opportunity to one day receive the blessings of salvation and exaltation.

Because God is both just and merciful and His plan is perfect, He will not hold us accountable for things beyond our control. Elder Neal A. Maxwell explained that “God ... takes into mer-

asa fanompoana tao amin’ny tafika an’habakabaka Frantsay tao Paris dia nientanentana aho raha nahafantatra fa handaha-teny mandritra ny fihaonambe iray tao Champs-Élysées ny Loholona Neal A. Maxwell, izay Apôstôlin’ny Tompo. Kanefa, taloha kelin’ily hetsika dia naharay baiko aho mba hitondra miaramila manamboninahitra iray tany amin’ny seranam-piaramanidina izay nifanitsaka tamin’ny ora tsy diso tokony hanombohan’ily fihaonambe.

Diso fanantenana aho. Nateriko ilay miaramila manamboninahitra ary satria aho anefa tapa-kevitra ny hanatrika ilay fotoana, dia niolomay nanenjika ilay fihaonambe aho. Rehefa avy nahita toeram-piantsonan’ny fiara aho dia nihazakazaka nanaraka ny Champs-Élysées nankao amin’ily toeram-pivoriana ary dia tonga tanatin’ny fahasemporana be, dimy minitra tsy hiafaran’ily fivoriana. Vantany vao niditra iny aho no nandre ny Loholona Maxwell nilaza hoe: “Izao aho dia hanome anareo tsodrano amin’ny maha-apôstôly ahy.” Tamin’izay fotoana izay aho dia niaina traikefa ara-panahy mahafinaritra sy tsy hay hadinoina. Heniky ny Fanahy aho ary dia toa nipaka tany amin’ny tsiratsiraky ny fanahiko ireo teny tao anatin’ily tsodrano toy ireny hoe natao ho ahy irery ireny izany.

Ny zavatra niainako tamin’io andro io dia fanehoana tamin’ny fomba kely nefa mahery vaika ny lafiny mitondra fampiononana an’ny drafitr’ Andriamanitra ho an’ireo zanany: rehefa manakana antsika tsy hanatanteraka ireo faniriana ara-drariny rehetra ao am-pontsika ireo toe-javatra tsy voafehintsika dia hanonitra izany amin’ny fomba izay mamela antsika handray ireo fitahiana nampanantenainy ny Tompo.

Izany fahamarinana mampitony izany dia miorim-paka amina fitsipika fototra telo izay hita ao amin’ny filazantsaran’i Jesoa Kristy naverina tamin’ny laoniny:

Tia tanteraka antsika tsirairay Andriamanitra. “Manainga [antsika] rehetra Izy hanatona Azy sy hanana anjara amin’ny hatsaram-pony.” Ny drafiny ho an’ny fanavotana dia manome antoka fa ny olon-drehetra tsy misy an-kanavaka dia homena fahafahana mitovy handray ireo fitahiana avy amin’ny famonjena sy ny fisandratana indray andro any.

Tsy hitana antsika ho tompon’andraikitra amin’ireo zavatra tsy voafehintsika Andriamanitrasatria sady marina no be famindram-po Izy, ary ny drafiny dia tonga lafatra. Nanazava ny Lo-

ciful account not only our desires and our performance, but also the degrees of difficulty which our varied circumstances impose upon us.”

Through Jesus Christ and His Atonement, we can find the strength to endure and ultimately overcome all of life’s challenges. As Alma taught, the Savior took upon Himself not only the sins of the repentant but also “the pains and the sicknesses of his people” and “their infirmities.” Thus, beyond redeeming us from our mistakes, the Lord’s mercy and grace sustain us through injustices, deficiencies, and limitations imposed by our mortal experience.

Receiving these compensating blessings comes with certain conditions. The Lord asks us to do “all we can” and to “offer [our] whole souls as an offering unto him.” This requires a deep desire, a sincere and faithful heart, and our utmost diligence in keeping His commandments and aligning our will with His.

When our earnest efforts fall short of our aspirations due to circumstances beyond our control, the Lord still accepts the desires of our hearts as a worthy offering. President Dallin H. Oaks taught, “We will be blessed for the righteous desires of our hearts even though some outside circumstance has made it impossible for us to carry those desires into action.”

As the Prophet Joseph Smith worried about his brother Alvin, who had died without receiving essential gospel ordinances, he received this comforting revelation: “All that shall die henceforth without a knowledge of [the gospel], who would have received it with all their hearts, shall be heirs of [the celestial kingdom of God].” The Lord then added, “For I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts.”

What matters to the Lord is not merely whether we are able but whether we are willing to

holona Neal A. Maxwell fa “Andriamanitra ... dia mihevitra amin’ny fomba feno famindram-po, tsy vitan’ny hoe ireo fanirantsika sy ny zava-bitantsika fotsiny ihany fa ireo ambaratongam-pahasarotana izay ampitondrain’ireo toe-javatra maro samihafa misy antsika iainantsika ihany koa.”

Afaka mahazo ny hery haharetana sy hاندresena ireo fanambin’ny fiainana rehetra isika amin’ny farany amin’ny alalan’i Jesoa Kristy sy ny Sorompanavotany. Araka ny nampianarin’i Almà hoe tsy vitan’ny hoe nitondra teo Aminy ny fahotan’ny olona mibebaka fotsiny ihany ny Mpamonjy fa “ny fanaintainana sy ny aretin’ny olony” ary ireo “rofiny” ihany koa.” Noho izany, ankoatra ny fanavotana antsika amin’ny fahadisoana ataontsika dia manohana antsika ny famindram-po sy ny fahasovan’ny Tompo manoloana ny tsy rariny sy ny tsy fahampiana ary ireo famerana izay teren’ny fiainantsika eto an-tany mba hiainantsika.

Misy fepetra vitsivitsy takina amin’ny fandraisana ireo fitahiana mitondra fanonerana ireo. Mangataka antsika ny Tompo mba hanao ny “zavatra rehetra azontsika atao” sy “[hanolotra] ho toy ny fanatitra ho Azy ny fanahintsika manontolo.” Izany dia mitaky faniriana lalina sy fo mahitsy sy mahatoky ary ny fahazotoantsika lehibe indrindra amin’ny fitandremana ireo didiny sy ny fampifanarahana ny sitrapontsika amin’ny Azy.

Rehefa tsy mifanaraka amin’ireo tanjona apetratsika ireo ezaka amin-kitsim-po ataontsika noho ireo toe-java-misy tsy voafehintsika dia mbola manaiky hatrany ny fanirian’ny fantsika ho fanatitra mendrika ny Tompo. Nampianatra ny Filoha Dallin H. Oaks hoe: “Ho voatahy isika noho ireo faniriana mendrika ao am-pontsika na dia tsy mamela antsika hamadika azy ireo ho lasa asa aza ny toe-javatra manodidina antsika.”

Raha nanahy momba an’i Alvin rahalahiny ny Mpaminany Joseph Smith, izay maty kanefa tsy nandray ireo ôrdônansin’ny filazantsara tena ilaina dia naharay ity fanambarana mifono fam-piononana ity izy: “Ary koa ireo rehetra izay ho faty tsy manana izany fahalalana [ny filazantsara] izany hatramin’izao, izay ho nandray izany tamin’ny fony manontolo, dia ho mpandova [ny fanjakana selestialin’ Andriamanitra].” Nampian’ny Tompo izany avy eo hoe: “Fa Izaho Tompo dia hitsara ny olon-drehetra araka ny asany, araka ny fanirian’ny fony.”

Tsy ny hoemahavitave isika na tsia fotsiny ihany no manan-danja amin’ny Tompo fa ny

do all we can to follow Him as our Savior.

A friend once comforted a young missionary grieving over his early release due to health reasons, despite his sincere prayers and earnest desire to serve. This friend shared a scripture in which the Lord declared that when His children “go with all their might” and “cease not their diligence” to fulfill His commandments, “and their enemies [which may include adverse circumstances in our lives] hinder them from performing that work, behold, it behooveth me to require that work no more at the hands of those [people], but to accept of their offerings.”

My friend testified to this young man that God knew he had given his very best in answering the call to serve. He assured him that the Lord had accepted his offering and that the blessings promised to all faithful missionaries would not be withheld.

The Lord’s compensating blessings often come through the kindness and service of others who help us accomplish what we cannot do on our own. I remember a time when, living far from one of our daughters in France, we felt helpless to assist her after a difficult delivery. That same week our ward in Utah sought help for a mother who had just given birth to twins. My wife, Valérie, volunteered to bring a meal for her, with a prayer in her heart for both this new mother and our daughter in need. Soon after, we learned that the sisters in our daughter’s ward in France had organized to provide meals for her family. To us, God had answered our prayers, sending His angels to bring comfort when we couldn’t.

When facing limitations and challenges, may we recognize our own blessings—our gifts, resources, and time—and use them to serve

hoevononave isika sa tsia ny hanao izay rehetra vitantsika mba hanarahana Azy amin’ny maha Mpamonjy antsika Azy.

Nisy namana iray indray mandeha nampionona misiônera tanora iray izay nalahelo noho ny fisaorana azy aloha loatra tamin’ny antsony noho ny antony ara-pahasalamana na dia teo aza ireo vavaka amin-kitsim-po izay nataony sy ny faniriany lehibe hanompo. Nizara soratra masina iray io namana io izay nanambaran’ny Tompo fa rehefa “mandeha amin’ny heriny rehetra” ireo zanany ary “tsy mitsahatra ny fahazotoany” mba hitandrina ireo didiny ka “misakana azy ireo tsy hahatontosa izany asa izany ... ireo fahavalony [tafiditra ao anatin’izany ireo toe-javatra sarotra eo amin’ny fiainantsika] ... dia indro, mety Amiko ny tsy mitaky intsony izany asa izany eo an-tanan’ireo [olona] ireo, fa ny manaiky kosa ny fanatiny.”

Nijoro ho vavolombelona tamin’io zatovolahy io ilay namako fa fantatr’ Andriamanitra fa efa nanome ny tsara indrindra avy aminy izy rehefa namaly ilay antso mba hanompo. Nanome toky azy izy fa efa nanaiky ny fanatiny ny Tompo ary tsy hazoniny ireo fitahiana nampanantenaina ireo misiônera mahatoky.

Matetika ireo fitahiana mitondra valisoa omen’ny Tompo no tonga amin’ny alalan’ny hatsaram-panahy sy ny fanompoan’ny hafa izay manampy antsika hanatanteraka ireo zavatra tsy vitantsika irery. Tsaroako ny fotoana iray raha nipetraka lavitry ny iray amin’ireo zanakay vavy any Frantsa izahay ka nahatsapa ho tsy afaka nanampy azy taorian’ny fiterahana nananosa-rotra natrehiny. Tamin’io herinandro io ihany dia nikatsaka fanampiana ho ana reny izay vao avy niteraka kambana ny paroasy nisy anay tao Utah. Nanolo-tena mba hanatitra sakafo ho azy i Valérie vadiko, niaraka tamin’ny vavaka tao am-pony ho an’io vehivavy vao sambany lasa renim-pianakaviana io sy ho an’ily zanakay vavy izay nila fanampiana. Fotoana fohy taorian’izay dia naheno izahay fa nifandamina mba hikarakara sakafo ho an’ny fianakavian’ily zanakay vavy ireo rahavavy tao amin’ny paroasy nisy azy tao Frantsa. Ho anay dia namaly ireo vavaka nataonay Andriamanitra ka nandefa ireo anjeliny mba hitondra fampiononana tao anatin’ny fotoana tsy nahafahanay nanao izany.

Rehefa miatrika sakantsakana sy fanamby isika dia enga anie isika hamantatra ireo fitahiana nomena antsikamanokana—ireo fanomezam-pa-

those in need. In doing so, we will not only bless others but invite healing and compensation into our own lives.

One of the most powerful ways we may contribute to God's compensating blessings is through the vicarious work we do for our ancestors in the house of the Lord. As we perform ordinances on their behalf, we actively participate in the Lord's great work of salvation, using our gifts and abilities to provide blessings to those who did not have the opportunity to receive them during their mortal lives.

The loving service we offer in holy temples reminds us that the Savior's grace extends beyond this life. In the life to come, we may be given new opportunities to accomplish what we could not do in this mortal life. Speaking to sisters who had not yet found an eternal companion, President Lorenzo Snow lovingly said: "There is no Latter-day Saint who dies after having lived a faithful life who will lose anything because of having failed to do certain things when opportunities were not furnished him or her. ... They will have all the blessings, exaltation and glory that any man or woman will have who had this opportunity."

This message of hope and comfort is for all of us, children of God. None of us can escape the challenges and limitations of mortality. After all, we are all born with an inherent incapacity to save ourselves. Yet we have a loving Savior, and "we know that it is by [His] grace that we are saved, after all we can do."

I testify that while many circumstances in life may be beyond our control, none of us is beyond the reach of the Lord's infinite blessings. Through His atoning sacrifice, the Savior will compensate for every inability and injustice if we offer our whole souls to Him. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

hasoavana, loharanom-pitaovana sy fotoana—ka ampiasa azy ireny mba hanompoana ireo izay mila fanampiana. Tsy vitan'ny hoe hitahy ny hafa fotsiny ihany isika eo am-panaovana izany fa hanao izay hahatongavan'ny fanasitrana sy ny valisoa eo amin'ny fiainantsika manokana.

Iray amin'ireo fomba mahery vaika indrindra ahafahantsika mitondra ny anjara birikintsika amin'ireo fitahiana mifono fanonerana avy amin' Andriamanitra ny fanaovantsika asa isoana tena ho an'ireo razambentsika ao amin'ny tranon'ny Tompo. Rehefa manatanteraka ôrdônansy ho azy ireo isika dia mandray anjara amim-pahazotoana amin'ny asa lehiben'ny Tompo ho an'ny famonjena ka mampiasa ireo fanomezam-pahasoavana sy fahaiza-manao mba hitahiana ireo izay tsy nanana fahafahana handray izany nandritra ny fiainany an-tany.

Ny fanompoana amim-pitiavana atolotsika ao amin'ireo tempoly masina dia mampahatsiahy antsika fa ny fahasovan'ny Mpamonjy dia mihitatra hatrany ankoatry ny fiainana an-tany. Mety hanana fahafahana vaovao hanatanteraka ireo zavatra tsy vitantsika teto amin'ity fiainana an-tany ity isika any amin'ny fiainan-ko avy. Raha niresaka tamin'ireo rahavavy izay tsy mbola nahita vady mandrakizay ny Filoha Lorenzo Snow dia hoy izy tamim-pitiavana: "Tsy misy Olomasin'ny Andro Farany izay maty taorian'ny niainany fiainana feno fahatokiana ka hamoy zavatra satria tsy nahavita nanao zavatra vitsivitsy noho ny tsy nananan'izy ireo fahafahana hanao izany. ... Hahazo ireo fitahiana rehetra sy ny fisandratan'ny ary ny voninahitra ho azon'ny lehilahy na ny vehivavy izay afaka nanao izany izy ireo."

Ity hafatra mifono fanantenana sy fampionona ity dia natao ho antsika rehetra zanak' Andriamanitra. Tsy misy afa-bela amin'ireo olana sy famerana entin'ny fiainana an-tany isika. Raha ny marina dia samy teraka niaraka tamin'ny tsy fahafahana voajanahary hamonjy ny tenantsika isika. Manana Mpamonjy be fitiavana anefa isika ary "fantatsika fa noho ny fahasovan'ny hamonjena antsika rehefa ataontsika ny zavatra rehetra azontsika atao."

Mijoro ho vavolombelona aho fa na dia maro aza ireo toe-javatra eo amin'ny fiainantsika izay tsy voafehintsika dia tsy misy amintsika izay lavitra tanteraka ireo fitahina tsy manam-petra atolotry ny Tompo. Amin'ny alalan'ny sorona fanavotana nataony dia hanonitra ny tsy fahafahana manao zavatra sy ny tsy rariny rehetra ny

Mpamonjy raha atolotsika ho Azy ny fanahintsika manontolo. Amin'ny anaran'i Jesoa Kristy, amena.