

The Love of God

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Ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra

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Ao amin'ny Fitopololahy

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I joyfully witness that the Savior Jesus Christ is the love of God. His love for us is perfect, personal, and perpetual.

One summer while traveling in a remote area, our family spent an evening sleeping outdoors under a cloudless sky. Clearly visible above us was the magnificent Milky Way, filled with innumerable stars and the occasional shooting star. While we marveled at the majesty of God's creation, we felt a reverent connection to Him. Our young children, who had grown up in Hong Kong, had never experienced anything like this before. They innocently asked if we lived under the same sky back home. I tried to explain to them that it was the same sky, but air and light pollution where we lived prevented us from seeing these stars even though they were there.

The scriptures teach us that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” While disorienting distractions and terrestrial temptations cloud our spiritual vision, when we exercise faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ, we receive clear assurance of Their reality and of Their concern for us.

In the Book of Mormon, the prophet Lehi saw “a tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy” and was the “most sweet, above all.”

Mijoro ho vavolombelona amim-pifaliana aho fa i Jesoa Kristy Mpamonjy no fitiavan' Andriamanitra. Ny fitiavany antsika dia tonga lafatra, miantefa manokana amintsika ary maharitra mandrakizay.

Indray fahavaratra raha nanao dia nankany amin'ny toerana lavitra iray, dia natory ankalamanjana tamin'ny alina iray teo ambany lanitra tsy nahitan-drahona ny fianakavianay. Hita naza-teo amboninay ny Vahindanitra (Voie Lactée) nahatalanjona, feno kintana tsy tambo isaina ary kintana mitsoraka tsindraindray. Raha tolagaga tamin'ny halehiben'ny faharian' Andriamanitra izahay dia nahatsapa fifandraisana feno fanajana lalina Taminy. Ireo zanaka kelinay, izay lehibe tany Hong Kong, dia tsy mbola niaina zavatra toy izany teo aloha. Tamin'ny naha-zaza azy ireo no nanontaniany hoe io lanitra io ihany ve no ilay lanitra any an-tranonay. Niezaka nanazava tamin'izy ireo aho fa lanitra iray ihany izany, saingy ny loton'ny rivotra sy ny hazavana tany amin'ny toerana nonenanay no nanakana anay tsy hahita ireo kintana ireo na dia teo aza izy ireo.

Mampianatra antsika ny soratra masina fa “ny finoana dia fahatokiana ny zavatra antenaina, fanehoana ny zavatra tsy hita.” Raha toa ka manalokaloka ny fahitantsika ara-panahy ireo fandrebirebena mampisahotaka sy ireo fakam-panahy ety an-tany, rehefa mampihatra finoana an' Andriamanitra sy ny Zanany Jesoa Kristy isika dia mandray toky mazava ny amin'ny maha-tena misy Azy Ireo sy ny fiahiahian' Izy Ireo ny momba antsika.

Ao amin'ny Bokin'i Môrmôna ny mpaminany Lehia dia nahatazana “hazo iray, izay mampilendalenda ny voany ka mahasambatra ny olona”

When he tasted the fruit, his soul was filled with great joy, and he wanted his family to taste it also. We learn that this tree represents “the love of God,” and like Lehi, we too can receive a joyful witness of God when we invite Him into our lives.

Jesus Christ embodies Heavenly Father’s love for us. Through His atoning sacrifice, He took upon Himself our sins and was bruised for our iniquities. He has personally borne our griefs, carried our sorrows, and taken upon Himself our pains and sicknesses. He sends the Holy Ghost to comfort us, and the fruits of the Spirit include joy, peace, and faith, which fill us with hope and love.

While the love of God is accessible to all, many search earnestly for it, while others desire to feel God’s love but do not believe that they deserve it. Some others are desperately trying to hang on to it. The scriptures and the Lord’s prophet teach us that we can consistently experience God’s love when, through the grace of Jesus Christ, we repeatedly repent, frankly forgive, strive to keep His commandments, and selflessly serve others. We feel God’s love when we do things that draw us closer to Him, such as conversing with Him daily through prayer and scripture study, and stop doing things that distance us from Him, such as being prideful, contentious, and rebellious.

President Russell M. Nelson has invited us to “remove, with the Savior’s help, the old debris in our lives” and to “lay aside bitterness.” He has encouraged us to “bolster our spiritual foundations” through “centering our lives on [the Savior] and on the ordinances and covenants of His temple.” He promised that “as we keep our temple covenants, we gain greater access to the Lord’s strengthening power. ... We experience the pure love of Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father in great abundance!”

ary “tena mamy izany, manaoatra noho [ny] rehetra.” Rehefa nihinana tamin’ny voany izy dia feno fifaliana mitafotafo tokoa ny fanahiny; koa dia nanomboka nangetaheta izy ny mba hihinanan’ny ankohonany amin’izany koa. Ianaran-tsika fa io hazo io dia maneho “ny fitiavan’ Andriamanitra,” ary tahaka an’i Lehia, isika koa dia afaka mandray fijoroana ho vavolombelona feno fifaliana momba an’ Andriamanitra rehefa manasa Azy ho eo amin’ny fiainantsika.

Maneho ny fitiavan’ny Ray any An-danitra antsika i Jesoa Kristy. Tamin’ny alalan’ny sorompanavotana nataony dia noraisiny teo Aminy ny fahotantsika ary notorotoroina Izy noho ny helotsika. Noentiny manokana ny fahoriantika, nivesatra ny alahelontsika Izy, ary nitondra teo Aminy ny fanaintainantsika sy ny aretintsika. Mandefa ny Fanahy Masina Izy hampahery antsika, ary anisan’ny vokatry ny Fanahy ny fifaliana, fiadanana, ary finoana, izay mameny antsika amin’ny fanantenana sy fitiavana.

Na eo aza ny hoe ho an’ny rehetra ny fitiavan’ Andriamanitra, dia maro no mikatsaka izany fatratra, ary ny hafa kosa dia maniry ny hahatsapa ny fitiavan’ Andriamanitra saingy tsy mino fa mendrika izany. Ny hafa dia miezaka mifikitra mafy aminy. Mampianatra antsika ny soratra masina sy ny mpaminanin’ny Tompo fa afaka miaina tsy tapaka ny fitiavan’ Andriamanitra isika rehefa, amin’ny alalan’ny fahasoavan’i Jesoa Kristy, mibebaka hatrany, mamela heloka an-kitsim-po, miezaka mitandrana ireo didiny, ary manompo tsy amim-pitiavan-tena ny hafa. Mahatsapa ny fitiavan’ Andriamanitra isika rehefa manao ireo zavatra izay mampanatona antsika Azy bebe kokoa, toy ny miresaka Aminy isan’andro amin’ny alalan’ny vavaka sy ny fandalinana ny soratra masina, ary mitsahatra amin’ny fanaovana ireo zavatra izay mampanalavitra antsika Aminy, toy ny fieboeboana, ny fifandirana, ary ny fikomiana.

Nanasa antsika ny Filoha Russell M. Nelson mba “[h]anaisotra miaraka amin’ny fanampian’ny Mpamonjy, ireo poti-javatra tranainy eo amin’ny fiainantsika” ary “[hanaisotra] ny lolom-po.” Namporisika antsika izy “hanamafy orina ireo fototra ara-panahintsika amin’ny alalan’ny fampifantohana ny fiainantsika amin’ny Mpamonjy sy amin’ireo ôrdônansy sy fanekem-pihavanan’ny tempoliny.” Nampanantena izy fa “rehefa mitandrana ny fanekem-pihavanantsika tany amin’ny tempoly isika, dia mahazo misimisy

I have a friend who was blessed with a beautiful family and a promising career. This changed when an illness left him unable to work, which was followed by a divorce. The years since have been difficult, but his love for his children and the covenants he has made with God have sustained him. One day he learned that his former spouse had remarried and had requested a cancellation of their temple sealing. He was troubled and confused. He sought peace and understanding in the house of the Lord. The day after his visit, I received the following message from him:

“I had an amazing experience in the temple last night. I think it was obvious that I still held quite a bit of resentment. ... I knew that I must change, and I have been praying all week to do so. ... Last night in the temple I literally felt the Spirit remove the resentment from my heart. ... It was such a relief to be freed from it. ... An ominous physical burden bearing down on me has been lifted.”

While he still has his challenges, my friend treasures that experience in the house of the Lord, where the liberating power of the love of God has helped him to feel closer to God, more optimistic about life, and less anxious about his future.

When we experience the love of God, we can bear up our burdens with ease and submit patiently and cheerfully to His will. We have confidence that God will remember His covenants with us, visit us in our afflictions, and deliver us from bondage. We will also desire to share the joy we feel with our family and loved ones. As with Lehi's family, each person has agency to choose whether to partake of the fruit or not, but our opportunity is to love, share, and invite in such a way that those we love can feel the love of God.

kokoa amin'ny hery mampatanjaky ny Tompo. ... Mahatsapa be dia be ny fitiavana madiôn'i Jesoa Kristy sy ny an'ny Raintsika any An-danitra isika!”

Manana namana iray aho izay nanana fianakaviana nahafinaritra sy asa naha velom-bolo. Niova izany rehefa tsy afaka niasa intsony izy noho ny aretina iray, izay narahin'ny fisaraham-panambadiana. Sarotra ireo taona maro taorian'izay, saingy ny fitiavany ireo zanany sy ny fanekempihavanana nataony tamin' Andriamanitra dia nanohana azy. Indray andro dia nahare izy fa nanambady indray ny vadiny taloha ary nangataka ny hanafoanana ny famehezana azy ireo tany amin'ny tempoly. Sahiran-tsaina sy very hevitra izy. Nikatsaka fiadanana sy fahatakarana tao an-tranon'ny Tompo izy. Ny ampitson'ny fitsidihany dia naharay ity hafatra manaraka ity avy taminy aho:

“Niaina zavatra tena nahavariana tao amin'ny tempoly aho omaly hariva. Heveriko fa niharihary hoe mbola nitana lolompo aho. ... Fantatro fa tsy maintsy miova aho, ary nivavaka nandritra ny herinandro aho mba hanaovana izany... Omaly hariva tao amin'ny tempoly dia nahatsapa ara-bakiteny ny Fanahy nanaisotra ny lolompo tao am-poko aho. ... Tena fahamaivamaivanana ny fahafahana tamin'izany. ... Nesorina ny entamavesatra ara-batana goavana iray nampahory ahy.”

Na dia mbola manana ireo olany aza izy, dia ankamamian'ilay namako izany zavatra niainany tao amin'ny tranon'ny Tompo izany, izay nampian'ny hery manafaka avy amin'ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra azy hahatsapa ho akaiky kokoa an' Andriamanitra sy hanana fanantenana bebe kokoa momba ny fiainana ary tsy hanahy momba ny hoaviny.

Rehefa mahatsapa ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra isika dia afaka mitondra mora foana ireo entamavesatsika ary manoa amim-paharetana sy amim-piravoana ny sitrapony. Manana fahatoki-ana isika fa hahatsiaro ny fanekempihavanana nataony tamintsika Andriamanitra, sy hamangy antsika ao anatin'ny fahoriantika ary hanafaka antsika amin'ny fanandevozana. Haniry hizara ny fifaliana tsapantsika amin'ny fianakaviantika sy ireo olona akaikin'ny fontsika ihany koa isika. Tahaka ny fianakavian'i Lehia, ny olona tsirairay dia manana fahafahana misafidy na hihinana na tsia amin'ilay voankazo, saingy ny fahafahana eo anoloantsika dia ny mitia sy mizara ary manasa

To help others feel God's love, we need to cultivate in ourselves Christlike attributes such as humility, charity, compassion, and patience and help turn others towards the Savior through following the two great commandments of loving God and loving our fellow men.

One of our sons struggled with fitting in and self-esteem during his teenage years. My wife and I prayed to know how to help him, and we were willing to do whatever the Lord would have us do. One day I felt prompted to ask my elders quorum president if he knew of anyone in need who I could visit together with my son. After some thought, he asked us to visit a woman with significant health challenges and, with permission from the branch president, to bring the sacrament to her each week. I was elated but also concerned about how my son would react to this weekly commitment.

On our first visit, our hearts ached for this dear woman, as she was in constant pain. She was very grateful for the sacrament, and we enjoyed visiting with her and her husband. After a few visits, one Sunday I was away and could not accompany my son, but I reminded him of our assignment. When I got home, I couldn't wait to hear how the visit went. My son replied that he didn't think his classmates got to do cool things like this. And he elaborated by saying that he brought his brother with him to help and that the sacrament went smoothly, but this dear sister had been sad during the week because she had invited friends to her home to watch movies, but her video player would not work. My son said he searched online, found the problem, and fixed it for her on the spot. He felt useful, happy, and trusted to do something that brightened her day. He felt God's love for him.

amin'ny fomba izay hahafahan'ireo olona lalain-tsika hahatsapa ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra.

Mba hanampiana ny hafa hahatsapa ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra dia ilaintsika ny mikolokolo ao anatintsika ireo toetra araka an'i Kristy toy ny fanetrentena, ny fiantrana, ny fangorahana, ary ny faharetana, ary manampy ny hafa hitodika amin'ny Mpamonjy amin'ny alalan'ny fanarahana ireo didy roa lehibe dia ny fitiavana an' Andriamanitra sy ny fitiavana ny mpiara-belona amin-tsika.

Nandritra ireo taona naha-zatovo azy dia sarotra tamin'ny iray amin'ny zanakay lahy ny fiarahana tamin'ny hafa sy ny fananana fahatoki-an-tena. Nivavaka izahay mivady mba hahafantarana ny fomba hanampiana azy, ary vonona ny hanao izay rehetra tian'ny Tompo hataonay izahay. Indray andro dia nahatsapa ho voatari-ka hanontany ny filohan'ny kôlejin'ny loholona aho raha toa ka mahafantatra olona sahirana azoko tsidihina miaraka amin'ny zanako lahy izy. Rehefa avy nieritreritra kely izy dia nangataka anay hitsidika vehivavy iray nanana olona ara-pahasalamana goavana, sy hitondra ny fanasan'ny Tompo ho azy isan-kerinandro rehefa nahazo lalana avy tamin'ny filohan'ny sampana. Faly be aho nefa nanahy ihany koa ny amin'ny ho fihetsiky ny zanako lahy amin'io fanoloran-tena isan-kerinandro io.

Tamin'ny fitsidihanay voalohany dia nalahe-lo io vehivavy malala io ny fonay, satria tanaty fanaintainana tsy tapaka izy. Tena feno fankasitrahana noho ny fanasan'ny Tompo izy ary nahafinaritra anay ny nitsidika azy sy ny vadiny. Taorian'ny fitsidihana vitsivitsy, indray alahady, dia tsy teo an-toerana aho ary tsy afaka niaraka tamin'ny zanako lahy saingy nampahatsiahiviko azy ny asa nanendrena anay. Tsy andriko ny handre ny fandehan'ilay fitsidihana rehefa tonga tao an-trano. Namaly ilay zanako hoe tsy mba afaka manao zavatra mahafinaritra tahaka izany ny mpiara-mianatra aminy. Dia novelabelariny izany tamin'ny filazana fa nentiny niaraka taminy ny rahalahiny mba hanampy azy, ary nandeha tsara ny fanasan'ny Tompo, saingy nalahelo ity rahavavy malala ity nandritra ny herinandro satria nanasa namana ho any an-tranony izy mba hijery sarimihetsika saingy tsy nety nandeha ny fandefasana horonan-tsariny. Nilaza ny zanako lahy fa nikaroka tao amin'ny internet izy, ka nahita ilay olona, ary nanamboatra izany teo no ho eo ihany. Nahatsapa izy hoe nilaina sy faly ary

If despite your best efforts life is overcast, if you feel that your prayers are not heard, or if you can't feel God's love, please know that your every effort matters and, as certain as the stars above us, that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ know, hear, and love you.

On one occasion, when His disciples were in a boat being "tossed [by the] waves," the Savior walked towards them on the water and assured them, saying, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." When Peter wanted to walk to the Savior on the water, Jesus beckoned to him, saying, "Come." And when Peter lost his focus and began to sink, the Savior immediately reached out His hand to catch him and led him to safety while saying, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

When the winds are against us in our lives, are we willing to be cheerful and courageous? How can we remember that the Savior does not forsake us and that He is near us, perhaps in ways we don't yet recognize? Are we willing to go to Him in faith, especially when the path before us seems impossible? And in what ways does He lift us to safety when we flounder? How can we faithfully look unto Him in every thought, without doubt or fear?

If you would like to feel the love of God more abundantly in your life, may I invite you to consider the following:

First, pause frequently to remember that you are a child of God and think of the things you are grateful for.

Second, pray daily, asking Heavenly Father to help you know who around you needs to feel His love.

Third, ask sincerely what you can do to help that individual to feel the love of God.

natokisana hanao zavatra izay nitondra fifaliana ho an'ny tontolo andron'ilay vehivavy. Nahatsapa ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra ho azy izy.

Raha toa ka manjombona ny fiainana, na dia eo aza ny ezaka tsara indrindra vitanao, na raha tsapanao fa tsy nohenoina ny vavaka nataonao, na tsy mahatsapa ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra ianao, dia aoka ho fantatrao fa ny ezaka rehetra ataonao dia manan-danja ary tahaka ny maha-tena misy ireo kintana eo ambonintsika, ny Ray any An-danitra sy i Jesoa Kristy dia mahafantatra sy mihaino ary tia anao.

Indray mandeha, rehefa tao anaty sambokely "natopatopan'ny alon-drano" ny mpianany, dia nandeha nanatona azy ireo teny ambony rano ny Mpamonjy ary nanome toky azy ireo nanao hoe: "Matokia, fa Izaho ihany, aza matahotra." Rehefa naniry ny handeha ho any amin'ny Mpamonjy teo ambonin'ny rano i Petera, dia niantso Azy i Jesoa nanao hoe: "Avia." Ary rehefa tsy nifantoka intsony i Petera ka nanomboka nilentika, dia naninjitra ny tanany avy hatrany ny Mpamonjy hisambotra azy ary nitondra azy ho any amin'ny toerana azo antoka sady niteny hoe: "Ry kely finoana, nahoana no niahanahana ianao?"

Rehefa manohitra antsika ny rivotra eo amin'ny fiainantsika, moa ve isika vonona ny hahatoky sy ho be herim-po? Ahoana no ahafahantsika mahatsiaro fa tsy mahafoy antsika ny Mpamonjy ary eo akaikintsika Izy, angamba amin'ny fomba izay tsy mbola tsikaritsika? Moa ve isika vonona ny hanatona Azy amim-pinoana, indrindra rehefa toa mikatona tanteraka ny lalana eo anoloantsika? Ary amin'ny fomba ahoana avy no hanandratany antsika ho amin'ny toerana azo antoka rehefa mivembena isika? Ahoana no ahafahantsika mibanjina Azy amin'ny eritreritra rehetra; tsy hiroanàhana, tsy hatahotra?

Raha te hahatsapa bebe kokoa ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra eo amin'ny fiainanao ianao dia manasa anao aho handinika ireto manaraka ireto:

Voalohany, miatoa matetikamba hahatsiarovana fa zanak' Andriamanitra ianao ary eritrereto ireo zavatra maha-feno fankasitrahana anao.

Faharoa, mivavaha isan'andro, mangataha amin'ny Ray any An-danitra mba hanampy anao hahafantatra hoe iza manodidina anao no mila mahatsapa ny fitiavany.

Fahatelo, anontanio amin-kitsim-pony zavatra azonao atao mba hanampiana io olona io hahatsapa ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra.

And fourth, act promptly on the inspiration you receive.

If we consistently pray and ask on the behalf of others, God will show us the people we can help. And if we act promptly, we can become the means through which He answers their prayers. By doing so, in time, we will receive answers to our prayers and we will feel God's love in our own lives.

A few months ago while traveling in Vietnam, my wife and I were on a flight that took off in a heavy storm. The turbulence was severe, and dark clouds, heavy rain, and lightning could be seen from our window. After a long and volatile ascent, our airplane finally rose above the storm clouds and emerged to this glorious vista. We were reminded once again of our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and felt Their great love for us.

Dear friends, as one who has experienced God's love, I joyfully witness that the Savior Jesus Christ is the love of God. His love for us is perfect, personal, and perpetual. As we faithfully follow Him, may we be filled with His love and may we be a lighthouse that guides others to His love. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Ary fahefatra, manaova asa haingana araka ny fitaomam-panahy azonao.

Raha mivavaka tsy tapaka sy mangataka ho an'ny hafa isika, dia hampiseho amintsika izay olona azontsika ampiana Andriamanitra. Ary raha manao asa haingana isika dia afaka ny ho lasa fitaovana hamaliany ny vavak'izy ireo. Rehefa ataontsika izany, rehefa mandeha ny fotoana, dia hahazo valin'ireo vavaka ataontsika isika ary hahatsapa ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra eo amin'ny fiainantsika manokana.

Volana vitsivitsy lasa izay raha nandeha tany Vietnam izaho sy ny vadiko, dia nandeha fiaramanidina izay niainga tao anatin'ny tafio-drivotra mahery izahay. Mafy ny fisahotakotahana, ary tazana teo am-baravarankely ny rahona maizina sy ny orana mivatratra ary ny tselatra. Taorian'ny fiakarana lavabe sy tsy nampahazo aina, dia tafiakatra teo ambonin'ny rahon'ny tafio-drivotra ihany ilay fiaramanidinay ary dia tojo amin'ny fitazanana izato zavatra mahatalanjona izahay. Nampahatsiahivina indray izahay ny amin'ny Raintsika any Andanitra sy i Jesoa Kristy ka nahatsapa ny fitiavan'Izy Ireo anay.

Ry namana malala, amin'ny maha-olona efa niaina ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra ahy, dia mijoro ho vavolombelona amim-pifaliana aho fa i Jesoa Kristy Mpamonjy no fitiavan' Andriamanitra. Ny fitiavany antsika dia tonga lafatra, miantefa manokana amintsika ary maharitra mandrakizay. Rehefa manaraka Azy amim-pahatokiana isika, dia enga anie isika ho heniky ny fitiavany ary enga anie isika ho fanilo izay mitarika ny hafa ho amin'ny fitiavany. Amin'ny anaran'i Jesoa Kristy, amena.