

Confidence in the Presence of God

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Fahatokian-tena eo anatrehan' Andriamanitra

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Filohan' Ny Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy ho an'ny Olomasin'ny Andro Farany

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As we diligently seek to have charity and virtue fill our lives, our confidence in approaching God will increase.

My dear brothers and sisters, I am grateful to speak to you today in this important general conference. My eyes continue to get older. Thank you for your understanding as I deliver my message.

We live in a day of great momentum in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am filled with joy as I see progress in so many areas.

I am especially inspired by our youth. They are giving service in large numbers. They are seeking their ancestors and performing ordinances in the temple. Our young men and women are submitting applications for missionary service in record numbers. The rising generation is rising up as stalwart followers of Jesus Christ.

Recently I met a new great-granddaughter. When I contemplate the challenges she will experience in her life, I feel a great desire to help her build faith in Jesus Christ. Living His gospel is essential for her future happiness.

She, like each of us, will face challenges. We all will experience illness, disappointment, temptation, and loss. These challenges can knock our self-confidence. However, disciples of Jesus Christ have access to a different kind of confidence.

Rehefa mikatsaka amim-pahazotoana ny hame-no ny fiainantsika amin'ny fiantrana sy ny hatsaram-panahy isika dia hitombo ny fahatokian-tenantsika hanatona an' Andriamanitra.

Ry rahalahy sy anabavy malalako, fifaliana ho ahy ny miresaka aminareo androany, amin'ity fihaonambe maneran-tany manan-danja ity. Mihaantitra hatrany ny masoko. Misaotra anareo noho ny fahatakaranareo raha hizara ny hafatro aho.

Miaina amin'ny fotoana izay mampiroborobo be Ny Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy ho an'ny Olomasin'ny Andro Farany isika izao. Feno hafaliana aho mahita fandrosoana amin'ny sehatra marobe.

Mampientam-panahy ahy manokana ny zatovontsika. Maro be izy ireo no manolotra fanompoana. Mikaroka ny razambeny izy ireo ary manatanteraka ôrdônansy any amin'ny tempoly. Betsaka tsy misy toa azy ireo zatovolahy sy zatovovavintsika mandefa fangatahana hanao asa fitoriana. Ny taranaka vao misondrotra diamamaly ny antsoho mpanara-dia mahatoky an'i Jesoa Kristy.

Vao tsy ela aho no nihaona tamina zafin-dohalika vao teraka iray. Rehefa mieritreritra ireo fanamby holalovany eo amin'ny fiainany aho dia manana faniriana lehibe hanampy azy hanorina finoana an'i Jesoa Kristy. Zava-dehibe ho an'ny fahasambarany amin'ny hoavy ny fiainana ny filazantsarany.

Hiatrika fanamby izy, tahaka antsika tsirairay avy. Samy handalo tsy fahasalamana sy fahadisoam-panantenana, fakam-panahy, ary famoizan-javatra na olona avokoa isika rehetra. Hisy fiantraikany amin'ny fahatokian-tenantsika ireo fanamby ireo. Fa ny mpianatr'i Jesoa Kristy anefa

When we make and keep covenants with God, we can have confidence that is born of the Spirit. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that our confidence can “wax strong in the presence of God.” Imagine the comfort of having confidence in the presence of God!

When I speak of having confidence before God, I am referring to having confidence in approaching God right now! I am referring to praying with confidence that Heavenly Father hears us, that He understands our needs better than we do. I am referring to having confidence that He loves us more than we can comprehend, that He sends angels to be with us and with those we love. I am referring to having confidence that He yearns to help each of us reach our highest potential.

Now, how do we gain such confidence? The Lord answers this question with these words: “Let thy bowels ... be full of charity towards all men, ... and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God.”

There’s the key! In the Lord’s own words, charity and virtue open the way to having confidence before God! Brothers and sisters, we can do this! Our confidence can truly wax strong in the presence of God, right now!

Let’s consider both charity and virtue.

First, charity. Two years ago, I called upon us, as covenant followers of Jesus Christ, to be peacemakers. I repeat what I said then: “Anger never persuades. Hostility builds no one. Contention never leads to inspired solutions.”

True charity towards all men is the hallmark of peacemakers! It is imperative that we have

dia manana karazana fahatokian-tena hafa.

Rehefa manao fanekempihavanana amin’ Andriamanitra sy mitandrina izany isika dia afaka manana fahatokiana fa ateraky ny Fanahy. Nilaza tamin’ny mpaminany Joseph Smith ny Tompo fa ny fahatokian-tenantsika dia afaka ny “hihamahery ... eo anatrehan’ Andriamanitra.” Alaovy sary an-tsaina ange ny fampiononana entin’ny fahatokian-tena eo anatrehan’ Andriamanitra e!

Ny tiako holazaina amin’ny hoe fahatokian-tena eo anatrehan’ Andriamanitra dia ny fananana fahatokian-tena amin’ny fanatonana an’ Andriamanitra izao! Vavaka amim-pahatokiana ny mba handrenesan’ny Ray any An-danitra antsika no tiako holazaina, mba hahatakarany kokoa ny zavatra ilaintsika mihoatra ny fahatakarantsika izany. Ny fananana fahatokiana Azy ho tia antsika mihoatra an’izay mety ho fahatakarantsika azy no tiako holazaina, hoe mandefa anjely hiaraka amintsika sy ireo olona ankamamiansika Izy. Ny fananana fahatokiana Azy ho maniry mafy ny hanampy antsika ho tonga amin’izay ambony indrindra tokony hahatongavantsika no tiako holazaina.

Ahoana ary no hahazoantsika fahatokiana toy izany? Valian’ny Tompo amin’ireto teny ireto izany fanontaniana izany: “Aoka ny kibonao ... ho feno fiantrana ny olon-drehetra ... ary aoka handravaka tsy an-kijanona ny eritreritrao ny hatsaram-panahy; diahihamahery ny fahatoki-an-tenanao eo anatrehan’ Andriamanitra.”

Izay no fanalahidiny! Amin’ny tenin’ny Tompo mihitsy dia ny fiantrana sy ny hatsaram-panahy no fomba hahazoana fahatokiana eo anatrehan’ Andriamanitra. Ry rahalahy sy anabavy, vitantsika izany! Afaka mihamahery izao dia izao tokoa ny fahatokian-tenantsika eo anatrehan’ Andriamanitra.

Andeha hojerentsika ny fiantrana sy ny hatsaram-panahy.

Voalohany, fiantrana. Roa taona lasa izay dia niantso antsika aho mba ho mpanara-dia an’i Jesoa Kristy mpanao sy mpitandrina fanekempihavanana, sy ho mpampihavana. Averiko indray ny zavatra nolazaiko tamin’izany: “Tsy mitondra faharesen-dahatra velively ny hatezerana. Ny fankahalana dia tsy manatsara toetran’olona. Tsy mitondra velively any amin’ny vahaolana maha-soa ny fifandirana.

Ny fiantrana marina ny olon-drehetra no mariky ny mpampihavana! Tsy azo ihodivirana

charity in our discourse, both public and private. I thank those of you who took my previous counsel to heart. But we can still do better.

The present hostility in public dialogue and on social media is alarming. Hateful words are deadly weapons. Contention prevents the Holy Ghost from being our constant companion.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we should lead the way as peacemakers. As charity becomes part of our nature, we will lose the impulse to demean others. We will stop judging others. We will have charity for those from all walks of life. Charity towards all men is essential to our progress. Charity is the foundation of a godly character.

Let us plead with our Heavenly Father to fill our hearts with greater charity—especially for those who are difficult to love—for charity is a gift from our Heavenly Father for true followers of Jesus Christ. The Savior is the Prince of Peace. We are to be His instruments for peace.

Now, let us speak of virtue. The Lord tells us to garnish our thoughts unceasingly with virtue. Imagine the boost you will receive to any positive thought when you enhance it with virtue. Virtue makes everything better and happier! On the other hand, imagine what will happen when you add virtue to an impure thought, a cruel thought, or a depressing thought. Virtue will drive away those thoughts. Virtue will free you from anxious, troublesome thoughts.

Brothers and sisters, as the world grows more wicked, we need to grow increasingly pure. Our thoughts, words, and actions need to be unfailingly virtuous and filled with the pure love of Jesus Christ towards all men. The great opportunity before us is to become the people God needs us to be.

ny tokony hananantsika fiantrana rehefa mire-saka, na ampahibemaso izany na manokana. Isaorako ianareo izay nandray am-po ny toro-hevitro teo aloha. Saingy afaka manao tsaratsara kokoa isika.

Mampatahotra ny fankahalana misy amin'izao fotoana izao ao amin'ny resaka ifanaovan'ny olona ampahibemaso sy eny amin'ny tabajotran-tserasera. Fitaovam-piadiana mahafaty ny teny feno fankahalana. Manakana ny Fanahy Masina tsy ho namantsika lalandava ny fifandirana.

Amin'ny maha-mpanara-dia an'i Jesoa Kristy antsika dia tokony ho mpitari-dalana mpampihavana isika. Rehefa tafiditra ao amin'ny toetrantsika ny fiantrana dia tsy hanana faniriana hanambany ny hafa intsony isika. Tsy hitsaratsara ny hafa intsony isika. Hanana fiantrana ny olona avy amin'ny lafim-piainana rehetra isika. Zava-dehibe amin'ny fivoarantsika ny fiantrana ny olon-drehetra. Ny fiantrana no fototry ny toetra maha-andriamanitra.

Aoka isika hitalaho amin'ny Raintsika any An-danitra mba hameno ny fontsika amin'ny fiantrana lehibe kokoa—indrindra fa ho an'ireo izay sarotra ny hitia azy—satria fanomezana avy amin'ny Raintsika any An-danitra ho an'ireo mpanara-dia marina an'i Jesoa Kristy ny fiantrana. Ny Mpamonjy no Andrian'ny Fiadanana. Natao ho fitaovany isika hitondra fiadanana.

Andao ary isika izao hiresaka momba ny hatsaram-panahy. Miteny antsika ny Tompo mba handravakatsy an-kijanonany eritreritsika amin'ny hatsaram-panahy. Alaovy sary an-tsaina ny fison-drotana ho azonao, amin'ny eritreritra tsara rehetra, rehefa fenoinao hatsaram-panahy izany. Mahatonga ny zavatra rehetra ho tsaratsara kokoa sy ho falifaly kokoa ny hatsaram-panahy! Etsy andanin'izany dia alaovy sary an-tsaina ny zavatra hitranga rehefa ampianao hatsaram-panahy ny eritreritra maloto, na ny eritreritra feno haratsiana, na ny eritreritra mahakivy. Hoesorin'ny hatsaram-panahy ireo eritreritra ireo. Hanafaka anao amin'ny eritreritra feno tahotra sy manahirana ny hatsaram-panahy.

Ry rahalahy sy ranabavy, satria mitombo faharatsiana izao tontolo izao dia mila mitombo fahadiovana hatrany isika. Tokony ho feno hatsaram-panahy tsy tapaka sy feno ny fitiavana madion'i Jesoa Kristy ho an'ny olon-drehetra ny eritreritsika sy ny tenintsika ary ny asantsika. Ny fahafahana lehibe eo anoloantsika dia ny ho lasa

Regular worship in the house of the Lord increases our capacity for both virtue and charity. Thus, time in the temple increases our confidence before the Lord. Increased time in the temple will help us prepare for the Second Coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We do not know the day or the hour of His coming. But I do know that the Lord is prompting me to urge us to get ready for that “great and dreadful day.”

As we diligently seek to have charity and virtue fill our lives, our confidence in approaching God will increase. I invite you to take intentional steps to grow in your confidence before the Lord. Then, as we go to our Heavenly Father with increasing confidence, we will be filled with more joy, and your faith in Jesus Christ will increase. We will begin to experience spiritual power that exceeds our greatest hopes.

We are grateful to the Lord for the acceleration of temple-building in recent years. Under His direction, today we announce plans to construct a temple in each of these 15 locations:

Reynosa, Mexico
Chorrillos, Peru
Rivera, Uruguay
Campo Grande, Brazil
Porto, Portugal
Uyo, Nigeria
San Jose del Monte, Philippines
Nouméa, New Caledonia
Liverpool, Australia
Caldwell, Idaho
Flagstaff, Arizona
Rapid City, South Dakota
Greenville, South Carolina
Norfolk, Virginia
Spanish Fork, Utah

I testify that Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of Israel, leads this, His Church. He is preparing to come again. May we likewise prepare to receive Him. For this I pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

ireo olona ilain’ Andriamanitra hahatongavantsika.

Ny fitsaohana tsy tapaka any amin’ny tranon’ny Tompo dia mampitombo ny fahafahantsika manana ny hatsaram-panahy sy ny fiantrana. Noho izany, ny fotoana maha-ao amin’ny tempoly antsika dia mampitombo ny fahatokian-tenantsika eo anatrehan’ny Tompo. Ny fandaniana fotoana bebe kokoa ao amin’ny tempoly dia hanampy antsika hiomana amin’ny Fiavian’i Jesoa Kristy Mpamonjintsika Fanindroany. Tsy fantatsika ny andro sy ny ora hahatongavany. Saingy fantatro fa mamporisika ahy ny Tompo mba hanentana antsika ho vonona amin’izany “andro lehibe sy mahatahotra” izany.”

Rehefa mikatsaka amim-pahazotoana ny hameno ny fiainantsika amin’ny fiantrana sy ny hatsaram-panahy isika dia hitombo ny fahatokian-tenantsika hanatona an’ Andriamanitra. Manasa anao aho hitozo hanao ireo dingana mba hitomboan’ny fahatokian-tenanao eo anatrehan’ny Tompo. Ka rehefa mankany amin’ny Raintsika any An-danitra miaraka amin’ny fahatokiana bebe kokoa isika dia ho feno fifaliana bebe kokoa ary hitombo ny finoanao an’i Jesoa Kristy. Hanomboka hiaina hery ara-panahy mihoatra lavitra ny fanantenantsika lehibe indrindra isika.

Feno fankasitrahana ny Tompo isika noho ny fanafainganana ny fanorenana tempoly tao anatin’ireo taona vitsivitsy. Eo ambany fitarihany, dia manambara ny drafitra hananganana tempoly amin’ny tsirairay amin’ireto toerana 15 ireto izahay anio:

Reynosa, Mexique
Chorrillos, Pérou
Rivera, Uruguay
Campo Grande, Brésil
Porto, Portugal
Uyo, Nigéria
San Jose del Monte, Philippines
Nouméa, Nouvelle Calédonie
Liverpool, Australie
Caldwell, Idaho
Flagstaff, Arizona
Rapid City, Dakota du Sud
Greenville, Caroline du Sud
Norfolk, Virginie
Spanish Fork, Utah

Mijoro ho vavolombelona aho fa i Jesoa Kristy, ilay Mpanavotra an’i Isiraely, no mitarika ity, dia ny Fiangonany izany. Miomana ny hiverina indray Izy. Enga anie isika mba hiomana toy

amen.

izany koa handray Azy. Izany no vavaka ataoko
amin'ny anaran'i Jesoa Kristy, amena.