

Faith: A Bond of Trust and Loyalty

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Faatuatua: O Se Sootaga Mafana o le Faatuatua ma le Lotonuu

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O Le Fitugafulu

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Faith sprouts as we trust in Jesus Christ and blooms as we are faithful and loyal to Him.

When I was 17, I made an agreement with my friend José Luis to teach him how to swim. So one morning we dedicated time to practice. When our lesson was over and I was leaving the pool, I heard my friend shouting for help. He was drowning in the deep end of the pool.

I threw myself into the water and swam toward him while praying for help. As I grabbed his hand to pull him to the surface, my desperate friend climbed onto my back and put me in a choke hold. Now we were both drowning. Trying my best to reach the surface, I prayed with all my might for a miracle from God. Then, slowly but steadily, the power of God was manifest as I felt a hand propelling me toward the shallow end of the pool, bringing us to safety.

This experience confirmed a profound lesson President Russell M. Nelson once taught: “When you reach up for the Lord’s power in your life with the same intensity that a drowning person has when grasping and gasping for air, power from Jesus Christ will be yours.”

Dear children and young people, today I want to talk to you about the essential principle of faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith in Christ Means Trusting Him

What does it mean to have faith in Christ? Does it mean we believe in Him or have a testi-

E oso tatupu o le faatuatua a o tatou talitonu ia Iesu Keriso ma fuga mai a o tatou faamaoni ma lotonuu ia te Ia.

Ina ua 17 o’u tausaga, sa ou faia se maliega ma la’u uo o José Luis e aoao o ia e ‘a’au. I se tasi la taeao, sa tuuto ai so ma taimi e faataitai ai. Ina ua mae’a le ma lesona, ma a’o ou tuua le vaitaele, sa ou faalogoina la’u uo o taumanu’o mo se fesoasoani. O la ua amata ona malemo i le pito loloto o le vaitaele.

Sa ou puna ifo i le vai ma ‘a’au agai atu ia te ia a’o ou tatalo mo se fesoasoani. Sa ou tago atu i lona lima ma toso mai i luga, ma sa pe’a mai la’u uo atuatuvaile i lo’u papatua ua mau i lo’u ua ma puni ai la’u mātāva. Lea la ua ma tau fai malele-mo uma. I lo’u faia o le mea sili ia ou ea i luga, sa ou tatalo ai ma lo’u malosi atoa mo se vavega mai le Atua. Ona, faaalia mālie ai lea ma le mautinoa, o le mana o le Atua a’o ou faalogoina se lima o tulleia a’u agai i le itu papa’u o le vaitaele, ma aumaia ai i ma’ua i le saogalemu.

O lea aafiaga na faamautu ai se lesona maoae a Peresitene Russell M. Nelson na ia aoao mai: “Pe a e aapa atu i luga mo le mana o le Alii i lou olaga i le malosi atoa e tutusa ma se tagata o loo malemo ma tau’āā pea mo le ea, o le a avea le mana mai ia Iesu Keriso ma ou mana.”

Le fanau ma le autalavou pele, o le asō ou te fia talanoa atu ai ia te outou e uiga i le mataupu faavae e tata ai o le faatuatua ia Iesu Keriso.

O Le Faatuatua ia Keriso o Lona Uiga o le Talitonuina o Ia

O le a le uiga o le faatuatua ia Keriso? Pe o le uiga ea tatou tetaitonu ia te Ia pe ia i ai se moli-

mony that He is real? That may be a start, but it's more than that. Have you ever thought of faith astrust? Think of the person you trust the most—perhaps a family member or a friend. Why do you trust them? It is probably because you have seen their constant love and help.

When we have faith in Christ, we recognize His blessings and develop a relationship of trust with Him.

In a recent youth devotional, you were invited to meditate on a time in your life when you received a ray of heavenly light. Try this exercise!

Start by meditating about Christ and the happiness His Atonement and gospel bring to your life. Also, make a record of the “spiritually defining memories” where God has been there for you, for your loved ones, and for the people in the scriptures. Now, these testimonies will not bring power to your life until the Spirit etches them in the “fleshy tables” of your heart. So ponder and record all God set in motion for these miracles to come at just the right time.

Next, use this exercise as an opportunity to get closer to God. Pray to your Heavenly Father as if it were the first time. Express your love and gratitude for His blessings. Even ask Him how He feels about you and about the direction your life is taking.

If you are sincere and humble, you will hear His answer and begin a personal and lasting relationship with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Not only that, but your religious habits will become meaningful! For instance, you will look forward to your prayers, personal study, and temple worship as opportunities to get to know Them and be with Them.

Faith Flourishes with Loyalty

Notice that faith sprouts as we trust in Jesus Christ and blooms as we are faithful and loyal to Him. If you want a true relationship with Christ, show Him by making covenants and honoring them with faithfulness and loyalty. Making covenants with Jesus Christ builds hope. Honoring them builds faith.

Let me use a personal example: When I was a child, I found my mother crying alone one day. When I asked her why, she gently said, “I need

mau e moni o Ia? E mafai ona avea lena o se am- ataga, ae e tele atu i le na o lena. Pe ua e mafaufau ea i se taimi i le faatuatua o letalitonu? Mafaufau i le tagata e sili ona e talitonuina—atonu o se tagata o le aiga po o se uo. Aisea e te talitonuina ai i latou? Atonu ona ua e vaaia le faifaiepa o lo latou alofama lefesoasoani.

A tatou faatuatua ia Keriso, tatou te iloina Ana faamanuiaga ma atinae se sootaga ma Ia o le faatuatua.

I se faigalotu talu ai nei a le autalavou, sa valaaulia ai outou e mafaufau filemu i se taimi o lou olaga na e maua ai se ‘ave o le malamalama faalelagi. Faataitai le gaoioiga lenei!

Amata i le mafaufau filemu e uiga ia Keriso ma le fiafiaga ua aumaia e Lana Togiola ma le talalelei i lou olaga. E le gata i lea, tusifaamau-mau “manatuaga musuia faaleagaga” o mea sa i ai le Atua iina mo oe, mo e pele ia te oe, ma mo tagata i tusitusiga paia. Ia, o nei molimau o le a le aumaia ai le mana i lou olaga, seia vagana ua uuna’ia e le Agaga i “papatusi aano” o lou loto. O lea la ia manatunatu loloto ma tusifaamaumau mea uma e fuafua ma tapena e le Atua ina ia tino mai ai nei vavega i le taimi tonu e tatau ai.

O le isi, faaoga lenei gaoioiga o se avanoa e latalata atili ai i le Atua. Tatalo i lou Tama Faalelagi e faapei o le uluai taimi lea. Faaali atu lou alofa ma le lotofaafetai mo Ana faamanuiaga. Fesili foi ia te Ia pe o le a Sona lagona e uiga ia te oe ma le itu o agai i ai lou olaga.

Afai e te faamaoni ma lotomau alalo, o le a e faalogo i Lana tali ma amata se sootaga patino ma le tumau ma le Tama Faalelagi ma Iesu Keriso. E le gata i lena, ae o le a ‘anoa ou mausa faalelotu! Mo se faataitaiga, o le a e sagisagi atu i au tatalo, suesuega a oe lava ia, ma le tapuai i le malumalu o ni avanoa e iloa ai i La’ua ma mafuta ma i La’ua.

E Lauusiusi le Faatuatua i le Lotonuu

Matau e oso tatupu o le faatuatua a o tatou faalagolago ia Iesu Keriso ma fuga mai a o tatou faamaoni ma lotonuu ia te Ia. A e manao i se sootaga moni ma Keriso, faaali atu ia te Ia e ala i le osia o feagaiga ma faamamaluina ma le faamaoni ma le lotonuu. O le osia o feagaiga ma Iesu Keriso e fausia ai le faamoemoe. O le faamamaluina o na feagaiga e fausia ai le faatuatua.

Se’i ou faaogaina se faataitaiga patino: A o ou laitiiti, sa ou maua lo’u tina o tagi na o ia i se tasi aso. Ina ua ou fesili i ai pe aisea, sa ia fai

you to be a good boy.” Even though I knew that I was not the cause of her distress, I loved and trusted my mother like no one else and wanted to make her life less difficult. So, with tears in my eyes and with all the solemnity that a nine-year-old can have, I promised her that day I would always strive to be the best son and make her proud.

Can you imagine the power that promise had—and still has—on me?

That promise with her would guide my life. Before making decisions, I would consider whether my actions would please her. The bond of this promise and the relationship with my mother were the anchors for my conduct throughout my life.

Years later, as I came to know Jesus Christ better, I already knew how to base my faith in Him. I made covenants with the Lord, and as I have sought to honor them, He has forgiven my sins, guided my life, and “filled me with his love” to the very core of my being. Christ has instilled in me a deep love, respect, and loyalty for Him.

Do you understand why “faith is a principle of action” and that “without faith it is impossible to please [God]”?

As you try to do what pleases Him, you will say, like Joseph in Egypt when he was tempted by Potiphar’s wife, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” And when faced with opposition, you will say, like the young Prophet Joseph, “I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it; ... I knew that by so doing I would offend God.”

So faith in Jesus Christ is a bond of trust forged in loyalty and love. In other words, in gratitude for God’s merciful love (hesed), we show our loyal love (emunah) by keeping His commandments.

Christ promises, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them ... shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” If you commit to being loyal to Him, He will manifest His love for you.

Faith in the Face of Adversity

mai lemu, “Ou te manaomia oe ia e tama lelei.” E ui ina sa ou iloa e le o le mafuaaga lena o lona faanoanoa, ae sa ou alofa ma talitonuina lo’u tina faapei e leai lava ma se isi, ma sa ou manao ia tuuititia le faigata o lona olaga. O lea, faatasi ai ma loimata ma le faamaoni a’ia’i uma sa mafai e se iva-tausaga ona maua, sa ou folafola atu ai ia te ia i lena aso, o le a ou tauivi i taimi uma e avea ma atalii aupito sili e mitamita ai o ia.

E mafai ona outou iloa le mamana na i ai lena folafolaga—ma o loo i ai pea—ia te au?

O lena folafolaga ia te ia o le a taiala ai lo’u olaga. A o lei faia ni faaiuga, ou te mafaufau lava pe o le a faafiafiaina o ia i mea ou te faia. O le sootaga mafana o lea folafolaga ma le sootaga ma lo’u tina, o taula ia o la’u amio i lo’u olaga atoa.

I tausaga mulimuli ane, ina ua oo ina ou iloa lelei Iesu Keriso, ua uma ona ou iloa le ala e faavae ai lo’u faatuatua ia te Ia. Sa ou osia feagaiga ma le Alii, ma ina ua ou saili e faamamaluina na feagaiga, sa Ia faamagalo a’u agasala, taiala lo’u olaga, ma “sa faatumuina a’u i Lona alofa” e oo i o’u o’o’oga. Sa ūlūlu malie e Keriso ia te au se alofa loloto, faaaloalo, ma le lotonuu mo Ia.

Pe tou te malamalama i le mafuaaga ua avea ai le “faatuatua o se mataupu faavae o le faatinoga” ma “a aunoa foi ma le faatuatua e le mafai ona faamalieina le [Atua]”?

A o e taumafai e fai mea e faamalieina ai o Ia, o le a faapea atu pei o Iosefa i Aikupito, ina ua faaosoosoina o ia e le avā a Potifara, “Pe faapefea ona ou faia lenei mea leaga tele ma ou agasala ai i le Atua?” Ma afai tatou te feagai ma lenei faafeagai, o le a e faapea atu e pei o le Perofeta talavou o Iosefa, “Sa ou iloa lena mea, ma sa ou iloa sa silafia e le Atua lena mea, ma e lē mafai ona ou faafitia lena mea; ... sa ou iloa lava o le faia o lea mea o le a ou faatausuai ai i le Atua.”

O le faatuatua la ia Iesu Keriso o se sootaga mafana o le faatuatua o loo fauina i totonu o le lotonuu ma le alofa. I se isi faaupuga, i le lotofaafetai mo le alofa mutimutivale o le Atua (hesed), tatou te faaalua ai lo tatou alofa lotonuu (emunah) i le tausiga o Ana poloaiga.

Ua folafola mai Keriso, “O le ua ia te ia a’u poloaiga ma tautua i ai, ... e alofaina o ia e lo’u Tama, ou te alofa foi ia te ia, ma ou faaali ia te ia.” Afai e te tuuto i lou lotonuu ia te Ia, o le a faaalua Lona alofa ia te oe.

Faatuatua i le Feagai ai ma Puapuaga

But how should you respond to such adverse situations that require His miracles? While challenges are inevitable and sometimes frightening, simply walk undaunted toward Him, just as the 2025 FSY conference theme invites: “Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.”

Imagine that you are an explorer in uncharted territory. To overcome the obstacles ahead, you need a source of light. Your faithfulness to God and your constant interactions with Him are the fuel for your lantern. So when you encounter dark and perilous situations, instead of walking toward them blindly, you will turn on your lamp filled with the oil of faith in Christ to shed glimmers of hope on the uncertain path. Your past experiences will increase your hope that the Lord will sustain you on your journey.

Remember my story at the pool? In that moment of despair, the miracle came in the way I had expected, but God does not guarantee that it will always be according to our will. Our faith must be centered in Christ and our hope in His blessings, as He chooses to send them. “Expect miracles,” but “let God prevail in our lives.”

God’s Promises to His Faithful People

My young friends, how much we love and trust you! You belong to the family of God and are children of the covenant. Believe and trust in Jesus Christ. He will enable you to truly become His disciples.

I invite you to begin today to nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ. Make a commitment to never forsake Him.

Your loyalty, love, and trust in Christ will shape your character and identity after His. You will gain confidence and strength to overcome Satan’s attacks. And when you make mistakes, you will yearn for His forgiveness. Finally, your hope for the future will be bright. He will trust you with His power to accomplish anything He expects of you, even the power to return to His presence.

I testify to you of the joy that comes from singing “the song of redeeming love” and being “encircled about eternally in the arms of his

Ae faapefea ona e tali atu i na ituaiga o tulaga faafeagai e moomia ai Ana vavega? E ui ina le maalofia luitau ma o nisi foi taimi e taufaafea, tau lava ina savali ma le le fefeagai atu ia te Ia, pei ona valaaulia ai e le autu o le FSY 2025: “Vaai mai ia te a’u i mafauauga uma; aua le masalosalo, aua le fefefe.”

Mafauau faapea o oe o se tagata sailiili meafou i se itulagi e le tapasāina. Ina ia ‘alofia faalavefau o i luma, e te manaomia se faapogai o le malamalama. O lou faatuatua i le Atua ma au fegalegaleaiga faifaiepa ma Ia, o le suauu lena o lau lamepa. A oulua fetaiai la ma tulaga pogisa ma matautia, nai lo lou savali tauaso la i ai, o le a e kiina lau lamepa ua faatumuina i le suauu o le faatuatua i a Keriso e aumaia ai aloiafi o le faamoemoe i luga o se ala lēmautinoa. O ou aafia-ga ua mavae o le a faateleina ai lou faamoemoe o le a lagolagoina oe e le Alii i lau malaga.

Manatua la’u tala i le vaitaele? I lena taimi o le lemautonu, na oo mai le vavega i le ala sa ou faamoemoeina, ae e le faamautinoa maia e le Atua faapea o le a faia pea e tusa ma o tatou manao. E tataua ona totonugalemu lo tatou faatuatua ia Keriso, ma lo tatou faamoemoe i Ana faamanuiaga, a o Ia filifili e auina mai. “Faamoemoe e tutupu vavega,” ae “tuu ia manumalo le Atua i o tatou olaga.”

O Folafolaga a le Atua i Ona Tagata Faatuatua

A’u uo talavou e, matou te alolofa tele ma faatuatuaina outou! O outou oni ōo le aiga o le Atua ma o fanau o le feagaiga. Talitouna faalagolago ia Iesu Keriso. O le a Ia faia ia outou mafai ona aveamoni o Ona soo.

Ou te valaaulia outou ia amata i le asō ona faafailele la outou sootaga ma Iesu Keriso. Fai se tautinoga e te le lafoa’ia lava o Ia.

O lou lotonuu, alofa, ma le talitonu ia Keriso, o le a mamanu ai lou tagata ma lou faasinomaga pei o Lona. O le a e maua le talitonuga mautinoa ma le malosi e faatoilalo ai osofaiga a Satani. Ma a e faia ni mea sese, o le a e faanaunau atu mo Lana faamagaloga. Ma le mea mulimuli, o le a susulu lou faamoemoe mo le lumanai. O le a Ia tuuina atu ia te oe Lona mana e faataunuu ai soo se mea ua Ia faamoemoeina mai ia te oe, e oo lava i le mana e tofoi atu ai i Lona afioaga.

Ou te molimau atu ia te outou i le olioli e maua mai i le usuina “o le pese o le alofa togioa” - ma le “siosiomia e faavavau i aao o lona alofa.” I le

love.”In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen. suafo paia o Iesu Keriso, amene.