

Faith: A Bond of Trust and Loyalty

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Imani: Mapatano ya Kuaminiana na Uaminifu

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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

Imani huchipuka wakati tunapomtumaini Yesu Kristo na huchanua wakati tunapokuwa waaminifu Kwake.

Nilipokuwa na umri wa miaka 17, nilifanya makubaliano na rafiki yangu José Luis kumfundisha jinsi ya kuogelea. Hivyo asubuhi moja tulitenga muda wa kufanya mazoezi. Wakati somo letu lilipomalizika na nilipokuwa nikitoka kwenye bwawa la kuogelea, nilimsikia rafiki yangu akipiga kelele kuomba msaada. Alikuwa akizama kwenye eneo lenye kina kirefu cha bwawa hilo la kuogelea.

Nilijirusha majini na kuogelea kuelekea aliko yeye huku nikisali kuomba msaada. Nilipoushika mkono wake kumvuta ili kumleta nje ya maji, rafiki yangu aliyekata tamaa alipanda mgongoni mwangu na kunishika kabari. Sasa wote tulikuwa tukizama. Nikijaribu kwa kadiri niwezavyo kutoka nje ya maji, nilisali kwa jitihada zangu zote kwa ajili ya muujiza kutoka kwa Mungu. Kisha, taratibu lakini kwa uthabiti nguvu ya Mungu ilijidhihirisha wakati nilipohisi mkono ukini-sukuma kuelekea sehemu yenye kina kifupi cha bwawa la kuogelea, ukituleta kwenye usalama.

Uzoefu huu unathibitisha somo kuu ambalo Rais Russell M. Nelson aliwahi kulifundisha: “Unapotafuta nguvu za Bwana katika maisha yako kwa nguvu sawa na zile ambazo mtu anayezama anakuwa nazo wakati akitapatapa na kutafuta hewa, nguvu kutoka kwa Yesu Kristo zitakuwa zako.”

Watoto na vijana wapendwa, leo ninataka kuzungumza nanyi kuhusu kanuni muhimu ya imani katika Yesu Kristo.

Imani katika Kristo Humaanisha Kum-

What does it mean to have faith in Christ? Does it mean we believe in Him or have a testimony that He is real? That may be a start, but it's more than that. Have you ever thought of faith as trust? 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 cov-

wamini Yeye

Je, humaanisha nini kuwa na imani katika Kristo? Je, humaanisha kwambata unamwamini Yeye au kuwa na ushuhuda kwamba kweli ni Yeye? Huo unaweza kuwa ni mwanzo, lakini ni zaidi ya hilo. Je umewahi kuifikiria imani kuwa kamakumwamini? Fikira kuhusu mtu ambaye unamwamini sana—pengine mwanafamilia au rafiki Je, ni kwa nini unawaamini? Inawezekana ni kwa sababu umehisi upendo na msaadathabiti.

Wakati tunapokuwa na imani katika Kristo, tunatambua baraka Zake na kukuza uhusiano wa kuaminiana na Yeye.

Katika ibada ya hivi karibuni ya vijana, mlialikwa kutafakari juu ya wakati katika maisha yako ambapo ulipokea mwale wa mwangaza wa mbinguni. Jaribu zoezi hili!

Anza kwa kutafakari kuhusu Kristo na furaha ambayo huletwa maishani mwako na Upatanisho Wake na injili Yake. Pia, weka kumbukumbu ya “nyakati za kiroho” ambapo Mungu amekuwa pale kwa ajili yako, kwa ajili ya wapendwa wako na watu katika maandiko matakatifu. Sasa, shuhuda hizi hazitaleta nguvu maishani mwako mpaka Roho atakapozichora kwenye “mbao za nyama” za moyo wako. Kwa hiyo tafakari na weka kumbukumbu ya yote ambayo Mungu ameyaweka katika mwendo kwa ajili ya miujiza hii kuja tu kwa wakati sahihi.

Kisha, tumia zoezi hili kama fursa ya kusonga karibu zaidi na Mungu. Sali kwa Baba yako wa Mbinguni kama vile ilikuwa ndio mara ya kwanza. Elezea upendo na shukrani kwa sababu ya baraka Zake. Hata muulize Yeye namna Yeye anavyojisikia kuhusu wewe na kuhusu mwelekeo wa maisha yako.

Kama ukiwa mwaminifu na mnyenyekevu, utasikia jibu Lake na kuanza uhusiano binafsi na wa kudumu na Baba wa Mbinguni na Yesu Kristo. Si hivyo tu, lakini pia tabia zako za kidini zitakuwa zenye maana. Kwa mfano, utatazamia sala zako, kujifunza binafsi na kuabudu hekaluni kama fursa za kupata kuwajua Wao na kuwa pamoja Nao.

Imani Inastawi kwa Uaminifu

Tambua kwamba imani huchipuka wakati tunapomwamini Yesu Kristo na huchanua wakati tunapokuwa waaminifu Kwake. Kama unataka uhusiano wa kweli na Kristo, muonyeshe Yeye kwa kufanya maagano na kuyashika kwa uamin-

enants 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 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 man-

ifu na ukweli. Kufanya maagano na Yesu Kristo hujenga tumaini. Kuyaheshimu kunajenga imani.

Acha nitumie mfano binafsi: Wakati nilipokuwa mtoto, siku moja nilimkuta mama yangu akilia pekee yake. Nilipomuuliza kwa nini, alisema kwa upole, “ninahitaji uwe mvulana mwema.” Japokuwa nilijua kwamba sikuwa chanzo cha majonzi yake, nilimpenda na kumuamini mama yangu kuliko mtu mwingine ye yote na nilitaka kufanya maisha yake kuwa mepesi. Hivyo, nikiwa na machozi machoni mwangu na nikiwa na dhamiri ya dhati ya kijana wa miaka tisa, nilim-uahidi siku hiyo kwamba daima ningejitahidi kuwa kijana mwema na kumfanya ajivunie.

Unaweza kufikiria nguvu ambayo ahadi hiyo ilikuwa nayo—na bado inayo—kwangu mimi?

Ahadi hiyo kwake ingeongoza maisha yangu. Kabla ya kufanya maamuzi, ningefikiria kama matendo yangu yangemfurahisha. Mapatano ya ahadi hii na uhusiano na mama yangu vilikuwa nanga kwa ajili ya mwenendo wangu maisha yangu yote.

Miaka mingi baadaye, wakati nilipokuja kumjua Yesu Kristo vyema zaidi, nilikuwa tayari nikijua namna ya kuweka imani yangu Kwake. Niliweka maagano na Bwana, na kadiri nilivyotafuta kuyaheshimu, amesamehe dhambi zangu, ameongoza maisha yangu na “kunijaza upendo Wake” kwa kina nafsini mwangu. Kristo alianzisha kwangu upendo wa kina, heshima, na uaminifu Kwake.

Je, mnaelewa kwa nini “imani ni kanuni ya matendo” na kwamba “pasipo imani haiwezekani kumpendeza [Mungu]”?

Wakati unapojaribu kufanya kinachompempeza Yeye, utasema kama Yusufu wa Misri wakati alipojaribiwa na mke wa Potifa, “Ninawezaje basi kutenda uovu huu mkuu na nimkosee Mungu?” Na unapokumbana na upinzani, utasema kama kijana Nabii Joseph, “Nilijua hivyo, nami nilijua kwamba Mungu alijua, na sikuweza kukataa: ... nilijua kwamba kwa kufanya hivyo ningemuudhi Mungu.”

Basi imani katika Yesu Kristo ni mapatano ya kuaminiana yanayojengwa katika uaminifu na upendo. Kwa maneno mengine, kuwa na shukrani kwa sababu ya upendo wa Mungu wenye rehema (hesed), tunaonyesha upendo wetu wa uaminifu (emunah) kwa kutii amri Zake.

Kristo anaahidi, “Yeye aliye na amri zangu, na kuzishika ... atapendwa na Baba yangu, nami nitampenda, na kujidhirihisha kwake.” Kama

ifest myself to him.”If you commit to being loyal to Him, He will manifest His love for you.

Faith in the Face of Adversity

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 FSJ 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

utaweka nia ya dhati ya kuwa mwaminifu Kwake, Yeye atadhihirisha upendo Wake kwa ajili yako

Imani kwenye Kukabiliana na Dhiki

Lakini ni kwa namna ipi tunapaswa kuitikia hali hiyo ya kujaribiwa ambayo inahitaji miujiza Yake? Wakati changamoto haziepukiki na wakati mwingine zinaogopesha, kiurahisi tembea pasipo shakakuelekea Kwake, kama dhima ya KNV ya 2025 inavyoalika: “Nitegemeeni katika kila wazo; msitie shaka, msilogope.”

Fikiria kwamba wewe ni mchunguzi kwenye himaya usio ijua. Ili kushinda vikwazo mbele yako, unahitaji chanzo cha mwanga. Uaminifu wako kwa Mungu na mwingiliano wako endelevu na Yeye ni mafuta kwa ajili ya taa yako. Hivyo wakati unapokutana na giza na nyakati za kuogofya, badala ya kutembea kuzielekea bila kuwa na uoni, utawasha taa yako iliyojaa mafuta ya imani katika Kristo ili kumwaga mwanga wa matumaini angavu kwenye njia isiyo na uhakika. Uzoefu wako wa awali utaongeza tumaini lako kwamba Bwana atakusaidia kwenye safari yako.

Mnakumbuka hadithi yangu ya kwenye bwawa la kuogelea? Katika wakati huo wa kukata tamaa, muujiza ulikuja katika njia niliyoitegemea, lakini Mungu hatoi hakikisho kwamba mara zote itakuwa kulingana na mapenzi yetu. Imani yetu lazima ijikite katika Kristo na tumaini letu katika baraka Zake, kwa kadiri anavyoamua kuzitoa. “Tazamieni miujiza,” lakini “mwacheni Mungu ashinde katika maisha yetu.”

Ahadi za Mungu kwa Watu Wake Waminifu

Marafiki zangu wadogo, ni kwa kiasi gani tunawaamini na kuwapenda! Ninyini sehemu ya familia ya Mungu na ni watoto wa agano. Sadikina amini katika Yesu Kristo. Yeye atawaweze sha ninyikuwawanafunzi Wake wa kweli.

Ninawaalika kuanzia leo kulea uhusiano wenu na Yesu Kristo. Weka ahadi ya kamwe kuto muacha Yeye.

Uaminifu wenu, upendo, kumwamini Kristo vitatengeneza sifa yenu na utambulisho kama ule wa Kwake. Mtapata ujasiri na nguvu za kushinda mashambulizi ya Shetani. Na wakati mnapofanya makosa, mtatamani msamaha Wake. Hatimaye, tumaini lenu kwa ajili ya siku za mbeleni litakuwa angavu. Yeye atawaamini kwa kuwapa nguvu Zake kukamilisha kitu cho chote Anachotege-

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 love.” In the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

mea mkikamilishe, hata nguvu za kurudi kwenye uwepo Wake.

Ninawashuhudia juu ya shangwe ambayo huja kutokana na kuimba “wimbo wa upendo wa ukombozi” na “kuzungukwa milele na mikono yenye upendo wake.” Katika jina takatifu la Yesu Kristo, amina.