

Confidence in the Presence of God

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Kujiamini Katika Uwepo wa Mungu

Na Rais Russell M. Nelson

Rais wa Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho

April 2025 general conference

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.

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

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Wapendwa wangu akina kaka na akina dada, nina shukrani kuzungumza nanyi leo kwenye mkutano huu mkuu muhimu. Macho yangu yanazidi kuzeeka. Asanteni kwa uelewa wenu wakati ninapotoa ujumbe wangu.

Tunaishi kwenye siku yenye kasi kuu ya ukuaji wa Kanisa la Yesu Kristo la Watakatifu wa Siku za Mwisho. Ninajazwa na shangwe wakati nionapo maendeleo katika maeneo mengi.

Ninavutiwa hasa na vijana. Wanatoa huduma kwa idadi kubwa. Wanawatafuta mababu zao na kufanya ibada hekaluni. Vijana wetu wa kiume na wa kike wanawasilisha maombi kwa ajili ya huduma ya umisionari kwa idadi kubwa. Kizazi chipukizikinainukakama wafuasi imara wa Yesu Kristo.

Hivi karibuni nilikutana na kitukuu wangu mpya wa kike. Ninapotafakari changamoto atakazopitia maishani mwake, ninahisi hamu kubwa ya kumsaidia kujenga imani yake katika Yesu Kristo. Kuishi injili ya Yesu Kristo ni muhimu kwa ajili ya furaha yake ya baadae.

Kitukuu wangu, kama kila mmoja wetu, atakutana na changamoto. Tutapitia magonjwa, kukata tamaa, majaribu na hasara. Changamoto hizi zinaweza kupoteza kujiamini kwetu binafsi. Hata hivyo, wafuasi wa Yesu Kristo wana uwezo wa kufikia aina tofauti ya kujiamini.

Wakati tunapofanya maagano na Mungu na kuyashika, tunaweza kupata kujiamini kunakoza-liwa kwa roho. Bwana alimwambia Nabii Joseph Smith kwamba kujiamini kwetu tunaweza “kuwa imara mbele za Mungu.” Fikiria faraja ya kuwa na

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 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.

kujiamini mbele za Mungu!

Wakati ninapoongelea kuhusu kuwa na kujiamini mbele za Mungu, ninarejelea kuwa na kujiamini kumwendea Mungusasa hivi! Ninarejelea kwenye kusali kwa kujiamini kwamba Baba wa Mbinguni hutusikia, kwamba Yeye huelewa mahitaji yetu vyema zaidi kuliko sisi. Ninarejelea kwenye kuwa na kujiamini kwamba Yeye hutupenda zaidi ya tunavyoweza kuelewa, kwamba Yeye hutuma malaika kuwa pamoja nasi na wale tuwapendao. Ninarejelea kuwa na kujiamini kwamba Yeye anatamani kumsaidia kila mmoja wetu kufikia uwezekano wetu wa juu zaidi wa jinsi tunavyoweza kuwa.

Sasa, tunapataje kujiamini huko? Bwana anajibu swali hilo kwa maneno haya: “Na moyo wako ... ujae hisani kwa wanadamu wote, ... na wema uyapambe mawazo yako bila kukoma; ndipokujiamini kwako kutakuwa imara katika uwepo wa Mungu.”

Huu ndio ufunguo! Katika maneno ya Bwana mwenyewe, hisani na wema hufungua njia ya kuwa na kujiamini katika uwepo wa Mungu! Akina kaka na akina dada, tunaweza kufanya vitu hivi! Kujiamini kwetu kweli kunaweza kuwa imara katika uwepo wa Mungu, sasa hivi!

Acha tutafakari vyote viwili hisani na wema.

Kwanza, hisani. Miaka miwili iliyopita, niliwaalika, kama wanafunzi wa agano wa Yesu Kristo, kuwa wapatanishi. Ninarudia nilichokisema wakati ule: “Hasira kamwe haishawishi. Uhasama haumjengi yeyote yule. Ubishi kamwe hauleti suluhisho lenye mwongozo.

Hisani ya kweli kwa watu wote ni kielelezo cha wapatanishi! Ni muhimu sana kwamba tuwe na hisani kwenye mazungumzo yetu, kote kwenye umma na binafsi. Ninawashukuru wale kati yenu ambao mliweka ushauri wangu uliopita mioyoni mwenu. Lakini bado tunaweza kufanya vizuri zaidi.

Uhasama uliopo sasa kwenye mazungumzo ya umma na mitandao ya kijamii ni wa kuashiria hatari. Maneno ya chuki ni silaha za maangamizi. Mabishano humzuia Roho Mtakatifu kuwa mwenza wetu daima.

Kama wafuasi wa Yesu Kristo, tunapaswa kuonyesha njia kama wapatanishi. Wakati hisani inapokuwa sehemu ya asili yetu, tutaepuka ushawishi wa kuwadhalilisha wengine. Tutaacha kuwahukumu wengine. Tutakuwa na hisani kwa wote wenye hali tofauti tofauti. Hisani kwa watu wote ni muhimu kwa ajili ya ukuaji wetu. Hisani

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.

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:

ni msingi wa sifa ya uungu.

Acha tumsihi Baba yetu wa Mbinguni atujaze mioyo yetu na hisani kuu—hasa kwa wale ambao ni vigumu kuwapenda.—kwani hisani ni zawadi kutoka kwa Baba yetu wa Mbinguni kwa wafuasi wa kweli wa Yesu Kristo. Mwokozi ni Mwana Mfalme wa Amani. Tunapaswa kuwa vyombo Vyake kwa ajili ya amani.

Sasa, acha tuongee kuhusu wema. Bwana anatuambia tuyapambe mawazo yetu kwa wema daima. Fikiria msaada utakaoupokea kwa ajili ya wazo lolote chanya unapolikuza kwa wema. Wema hufanya kila kitu kuwa kizuri zaidi na cha furaha zaidi! Kwa upande mwingine, fikiria nini kitatokea wakati unapoongeza wema kwenye wazo lisilo jema, wazo la kikatili, au wazo la kuleta huzuni. Wema utayaondoa mawazohayo. Wema utakufanya huru dhidi ya mawazo ya hofu na ya kutatiza.

Akina kaka na akina dada, wakati uovu unaongezeka zaidi ulimwenguni, tunahitaji kuongezeka kwenye wema. Mawazo yetu, maneno na matendo yanahitajika kuwa na wema usiashindwa na kujazwa na upendo msafi wa Kristo kwa wanadamu wote. Fursa kuu mbele yetu ni ya kuwa watu ambao Mungu anatumia tuwe.

Kuabudu mara kwa mara kwenye nyumba ya Bwana huongeza uwezo wa vyote hisani na wema. Hivyo, wasaa hekaluni huongeza kujiamini kwetu katika uwepo wa Bwana. Wasaa zaidi ndani ya nyumba ya Bwana utatusaidia kujian-daa kwa ajili ya Ujio wa Pili wa Mwokozi, Yesu Kristo. Hatujui siku au saa ya ujio Wake. Lakini ninajua kwamba Bwana ananipa msukumo kutusihia tuwe tayari kwa ajili ya siku ile “iliyo kuu na ya kuogofya.”

Wakati kwa bidii tunapotafuta kuwa na hisani na wema kujaza maisha yetu, kujiamini kwetu kwenye kusonga karibu na Mungu kutaongezeka. Ninawaalika kuchukua hatua za makusudi za kukua katika kujiamini kwetu katika uwepo wa Bwana. Kisha, tunapokwenda kwa Baba yetu wa Mbinguni tukiwa na ongezeko la kujiamini, tutajazwa kwa shangwe zaidi, na imani yenu katika Yesu Kristo itaongezeka. Tutaanza kupata uzoefu wa nguvu ya kiroho ambayo huzidi matumaini yetu makuu.

Tunamshukuru Bwana kwa ongezeko la ujenzi wa mahekalu katika miaka ya hivi karibuni. Kupitia mwongozo Wake, leo tunatangaza mipango ya kujenga hekalu kwenye kila moja ya

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, amen.

maeneo haya 15:

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Ninashuhudia kwamba Yesu Kristo, Mkombozi wa Israeli, huongoza hili Kanisa, Kanisa Lake. Anajiandaa kurudi tena. Na iwe vivyo hivyo kwetu kujiandaa kumpokea. Juu ya hilo ninasali katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.