

Faith: A Bond of Trust and Loyalty

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Te fa'aro'o : Hōē natira'a o te ti'aturira'a 'e te ha'avare 'ore

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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?

E ōteo mai te fa'aro'o 'a ti'aturi ai tātou ia Iesu Mesia 'e e 'ua'a 'a ha'apa'o maita'i ai 'e 'a ha'avare 'ore ai tātou iāna.

I te 17ra'a o tō'u matahiti, 'ua rave vau i te hōē parau fa'au 'e tō'u hoa José Luis nō te ha'api'i iāna i te 'au. I te hōē po'ipo'i 'ua rave māua i te taime nō te ha'api'ipi'ira'a. I te otira'a te ha'api'ira'a 'e 'a fa'aru'e ai au i te vai 'aura'a, 'ua fa'aro'o vau i tō'u hoa i te pi'ira'a i te tauturu. Tē paremo rā 'oia i roto i te ha'apuna rahi.

'Ua 'ou'a atu vau i roto i te pape 'e 'ua 'au atu iāna ra ma te pure i te tauturu. 'A haru mai ai au iāna nō te huti iāna i ni'a, nō te tapineva o tō'u hoa 'ua pa'uma mai 'oia i ni'a i tō'u tua 'e 'ua tu'u iāu i roto te 'u'umira'a. Tei roto māua i teienei i te paremora'a. Ma te tāmata i te puhā mai i ni'a mai tā'u e nehenehe, 'ua pure au ma tō'u pūai ato'a nō te hōē temeio a te Atua. I muri iho, ma te marū noa ē tē pāpū rā, 'ua fā mai te mana o te Atua 'a 'ite ai au i te hōē rima i te tūra'ira'a iāu i te vāhi pāpāu, ma te tu'u ia māua i te vāhi pāpūruhia.

'Ua ha'apāpū teie 'ohipa i tupu i te hōē ha'api'ira'a hōhonu 'ō tā te peresideni Russell M. Nelson i ha'api'i i te hōē mahana : « 'Ia fa'ari'i ana'e 'outou i te mana o te Fatu i roto i tō 'outou orara'a, ma te hōē ā pūai o te hōē tāata paremo e haru rā i te tauturu 'e e huti ra i te aho, nō 'outou ia te mana nō 'ō mai ia Iesu Mesia ra ».

Te mau tamari'i 'e te u'i 'āpi ē, i teie mahana tē hina'aro nei au e paraparau ia 'outou i te parau tumu faufa'a roa o te fa'aro'o ia Iesu Mesia.

Te aura'a o te fa'aro'o i te Mesia 'o te ti'aturira'a iāna

E aha te aura'a, 'ia roa'a te fa'aro'o i te Mesia ?

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

Te aura'a o te reirata'e ti'aturi ra ānei tātou iāna'aore rā, tē vai ra ānei tō tātou hōē 'itera'a pāpū ē, e mea mau 'oia ? E ha'amatarā'a paha te reira, 'ua hau atu rā i te reira. 'Ua feruri aē ānei 'outou i te fa'aro'o mai teti'aturirā'a? A feruri i te hōē tāata tā 'outou e ti'aturi rahi nei—pēnei aē hōē melo o te 'utuā-fare 'aore rā hōē hoa. Nō te aha 'outou e ti'aturi ai ia rātou ? Pēnei aē nō te mea 'ua 'ite 'outou i tō rātou here'e tā rātouta uturutā mau.

'Ia roa'a ana'e tō tātou fa'aro'o i te Mesia, e 'ite tātou i tāna mau ha'amaita'ira'a ē e fa'ananea tātou i te hōē aura'a o te ti'aturirā'a ē 'ōna.

I te hōē purera'a nā te ū'i 'āpī 'aita i maoro aē nei, 'ua anihia 'outou « 'ia feruri i te hōē taime o tō orara'a 'a fa'ari'i ai 'outou i te hōē hihi māra-marama nō te ra'i mai » A tāmata i teie 'ohipa !

'A ha'amata ma te ferurirā'a i nī'a i te Mesia ē te 'oa'oa tā tāna tara'ehara ē tāna 'evanelia i hōpoi mai i roto i tō 'outou orara'a. 'A pāpā'i ato'a i te « mau ha'ama'ora'a pae vārua faufa'a roa » tei reira te Atua nō 'outou, nō te feiā tā 'outou i here, ē nō te feiā i roto i te mau pāpā'ira'a mo'a. I teienei, e'ita teie mau 'itera'a pāpū e hōpoi mai i te mana i tō 'outou orara'a e tae roa i te taime e nanāo ai te Vārua i te reira i nī'a i te « papa tāata » o tō 'outou 'ā'au. Nō reira 'a feruri ē 'a pāpā'i i te mau mea ato'a tā te Atua i rave 'ia tupu teie mau temeio i te taime tano maita'i.

I muri iho, 'a fa'āhipa i teie 'ohipa mai te hōē rāve'a nō te ha'afātata atu i te Atua. 'A pure i tō 'outou Metua i te ao ra mai te huru ra 'o te taime mātāmua teie. 'A fa'ā'ite i tō 'outou here ē tō 'outou māuruuru nō tāna mau ha'amaita'ira'a. 'A ani ato'a iāna e aha tāna e putapū nei nō 'outou ē nō te 'āve'i'a tā tō 'outou orara'a e rave nei.

Mai te mea e 'ā'au tae tō 'outou ē te ha'ehā'a, e fa'aro'o 'outou i tāna pāhonora'a ē e ha'amata 'outou i te hōē aura'a tāata hōē ē te hope 'ore ē te Metua i te ao ra ē Iesu Mesia. Hau atu, tā 'outou peu ha'apa'ora'a fa'aro'o e riro mai 'ei aura'a mau ! 'Ei hī'ora'a, e tī'a'i rū 'outou i tā 'outou mau pure, tā 'outou ha'api'ira'a a te tāata iho ē tā 'outou ha'am-orirā'a i te hiero mai te mau rāve'a nō te ha'am-atau ia rāua ē 'ia parahi i pīha'i iho ia rāua.

E 'ua'a mai te fa'aro'o ma te ha'avare 'ore.

'A hī'o nā, e 'ōteo mai te fa'aro'o 'a ti'aturi ai tātou ia Iesu Mesia ē e 'ua'a 'a ha'apa'o maita'i ai ē 'a ha'avare 'ore ai tātou iāna. Mai te peu e hina'aro 'outou i te hōē aura'a mau ē te Mesia, 'a fa'ā'ite

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 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

iāna ma te ravera’a i te mau fafaua’a ‘e te fa’aturara’a i te reira ma te ha’apa’o maita’i ‘e te ha’avare’ore. Te ravera’a i te mau fafaua’a ‘e Iesu Mesia e ha’apūai i te tīa’ira’a. Te fa’aturara’a i te reira e patu i te fa’aro’o.

Vaiiho mai na iā’u ‘ia hōro’a atu i te hōē hi’ora’a nō’u iho : I tō’u tamari’ira’a, ‘ua ‘ite atu vau i tō’u metua vahine i te tā’ira’a ‘oia ana’e i te hōē mahana. I tō’u uira’a iāna nō te aha, ‘ua pāhono marū noa mai ‘oia, « tē hina’aro nei au ‘ia riro ‘oe ‘ei tamaiti maita’i ». Noa atu ‘ua ‘ite au e ‘ere au te tumu nō tōna māuiui, ‘ua here ‘e ‘ua tī’aturi au i tō’u metua vahine ‘aita atu e tāata ‘e ‘ua hina’aro vau ‘ia ‘ōhie noa tōna ‘orara’a. Nō reira, ma te ro-imata tahe ‘e te tura tāāto’a o te hōē tamaiti e iva matahiti, ‘ua parau fafau vau iāna i taua mahana ra ē, e tūtava noa vau ‘ia riro ‘ei tamaiti maita’i a’e ‘e ‘ia te’ote’o ‘oia.

E nehenehe ānei ‘outou e feruri i te mana o teie parau fafau e vai ra—‘e e vai noa ra—i nī’a iā’u ?

Nā teie parau fafau ‘e ‘ōna [tō’u māmā] e arata’i i tō’u orara’a. Hou ‘a rave ai i te mau fa’aotira’a, tē uiui nei au ‘ua au ānei ‘oia [tō’u māmā] i tā’u mau ‘ohipa. Te natira’a o teie parau fafau ‘e te aura’a ‘e tō’u metua vahine, ‘ua riro ‘ei mau tūtau nō tā’u mau peu i te roara’a o tō’u orara’a.

Tau matahiti i muri mai, ‘a ha’api’i mai ai au i te mātau maita’i a’e ia Iesu Mesia, ‘ua ‘ite a’ena vau nāhea ‘ia patu i tō’u fa’aro’o iāna. ‘Ua rave au i te mau fafaua’a ‘e te Fatu, ‘e ‘a tūtava noa ai au i te fa’atura ia rāua, ‘ua fa’āore ‘oia i tā’u mau hara, ‘ua arata’i i tō’u orara’a, ‘e « ‘ua fa’a’i iā’u i tōna aroha » i roto roa i hōhonura’a o tō’u tino. ‘Ua fa’a’o mai te Mesia i roto iā’u i te hōē here, te fa’atura ‘e te ha’avare’ore hōhonu nōna.

Tē tā’a ānei ia ‘outou nō te aha « te fa’aro’o i riro ai ‘ei hōē parau tumu nō te ‘ohipa » ‘e « ‘aita ana’e e fa’aro’o, e ‘ore roa [te Atua] e māuruuru » ?

‘A tāmata ai ‘outou i te rave i te mea e māuruuru ai ‘oia, e parau ‘outou mai ia Iosepha i ‘Aiphiti i te taime ‘a fa’ahemahia ai ‘oia e te vahine a Potiphara, « e aha ho’i au e tī’a ai ‘ia rave i tena na ‘ino rahi, ‘a hara ai i te Atua ? » ‘E ‘ia fa’aruru ana’e i te pāto’ira’a, e parau ‘outou mai ia Iosepha te peropheta ‘āpī ē, « ‘ua ‘ite au i te reira, ‘e ‘ua pāpū ato’a iā’u ē, ‘ua ‘ite te Atua i te reira, ‘e ‘aita e nehenehe iā’u ‘ia huna i te reira ... ‘ua ‘ite au ē ‘ia nā reira vau, e hapa vau i mua i te Atua ».

Nō reira, te fa’aro’o ia Iesu Mesia ‘o te hōē ia natira’a o te tīaturira’a fa’atupuhia i roto i te ha’avare’ore te here. I roto i te tahi atu parau, ‘ei tāpa’o

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

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

nō te ha'amāuruururā nō te here aroha o te Atua (hesed), e fa'aitē tātou i tō tātou here ha'avare 'ore (emunah) nā roto i te ha'apa'ora'a i tāna mau fa'auera'a.

'Ua parau fafau te Mesia, « tei iāna tā'u ra parau 'e 'ua ha'apa'o 'oia i taua parau ra... e herehia mai 'oia e tā'u Metua ra ; 'e e here ho'i au iāna, 'e e fa'aitē atu ho'i au iāna iā'u iho ». Mai te mea e parau fafau 'outou 'ia vai ha'avare 'ore iāna, e fa'aitē mai 'oia i tōna here nō 'outou.

Te fa'aro'o i mua i te 'ati

Nāhea rā 'outou 'ia pāhono i te mau tupura'a fifi mau 'o tē tītauhia i tāna mau temeio ? Mai te mea e'ita e nehenehe e 'ape i te mau tāmatarā'a 'e i te tahi taime e mea ri'ari'a, 'a haere noa ma te itoitōiāna ra, mai te tumu parau o te 'āmuira'a JSF nō 2025 e tītau nei ia 'outou ia : « Hi'o mai iā'u nei i tō mau mana'o ato'a na ; 'eiaha e fe'a'a, 'eiaha e mata'u ».

'A feruri na, e tāata mā'imi 'outou i roto i te hōē fenua 'aita i haerehia a'enei. Nō te upōoti'a i te mau fifi i mua nei, e hina'aro 'outou i te hōē puna o te māmarama. Tō 'outou ha'apa'o maita'i i te Atua 'e tā 'outou 'ohipa-'āmui-rā'a tāmāu 'e 'ōna 'o te hinu ia o tā 'outou lamepa. Nō reira 'ia fa'aruru anāe 'outou i te tupura'a pōiri 'e te ataata, io i te haere mata pō noa i roto, e tūrama 'outou i tā 'outou lamepa tei 'i i te hinu o te fa'aro'o i te Mesia, nō te tūrama i te mau māmarama o te tiā'ira'a i nī'a i te 'ēa pāpū 'ore. E ha'apūai tō 'outou mau 'itera'a i mā'iri i tō 'outou tiā'ira'a ē, e turu mai te Fatu ia 'outou i roto i tō 'outou tere.

Tē hamana'o rā 'outou i tō'u 'āamu i te vai aura'a ? I roto i taua taime hepohepo ra, 'ua tupu te temeio mai tā'u i mana'o, 'aita rā te Atua e ha'apāpū nei e tupu noa te reira mai tā tātou e hina'aro. E ti'a i tō tātou fa'aro'o 'ia fa'atumuhia i nī'a i te Mesia, 'e tō tātou tiā'ira'a i nī'a i tāna mau ha'amaita'ira'a, mai tāna e mā'iti i te 'āfa'i mai i te reira. « 'A tiā'i i te mau temeio », terā rā « e vaiho i te Atua 'ia upōoti'a i roto i tō tātou orara'a ».

Te parau fafau a te Atua i tōna nūna'a ha'apa'o maita'i

E au mau hoa feiā 'āpī, 'ua here roa mātou ia 'outou, 'e tē ti'aturi nei ia 'outou ! Nō te'utuā-fare'outou o te Atua 'e e mau tamari'i nō te fafau-rā'a. 'A fa'aro'o 'e a ti'aturi ia Iesu Mesia. E fa'ati'a 'oia ia 'outou 'iariromau tāna mau pipi.

Tē ani manihini nei au ia 'outou 'ia ha'amata

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

i teie mahana, 'ia fa'a'amu i tō 'outou aurā'a e Iesu Mesia. A rave i te hōē fafaurā'a 'eiahā roa e fa'aru'e iāna.

E tarai tō 'outou ha'avare 'ore, tō 'outou here 'e tō 'outou ti'aturi i te Mesia, i tō 'outou huru 'e tō 'outou ihota'atai tōna. E roa'a ia 'outou te ti'aturira'a 'e te pūai nō te upōōti'a i te mau arora'a a Sātane. 'E 'ia rave ana'e 'outou i te hape, e tītau 'outou i tāna fa'aorera'a hara. I te hope'a, e māramarama mai tō 'outou tia'ira'a nō 'ananahi. E ti'aturi 'oia ia 'outou ma tōna mana nō te fa'atupu i te mau mea ato'a o tāna e hina'aro 'ia rave 'outou, 'oia ato'a te mana nō te ho'i i mua i tōna 'aro.

Tē fa'a'ite pāpū nei au ia 'outou i te 'oāoa 'o te tae mai nā roto i te hīmenera'a i te « hīmene o te here fa'aora » 'e 'ua « ha'a'ati-noa-hia vau ē a muri noa atu e nā rima o tōna ra aroha ». Nā roto i te i'oa mo'a 'o Iesu Mesia, 'āmene.