

Alma 15:6-12**1** *If thou believest thou can'st be healed*

Miracles are the fruit of faith. Signs follow those who believe. If there is faith, there will be miracles; if there are no miracles, there is no faith. The two are inseparably intertwined with each other; they cannot be separated, and there cannot be one without the other. Faith and miracles go together, always and everlastingly. And faith precedes the miracle.

Bruce R. McConkie, *Mortal Messiah*, 2:286-87

2 As to the healing of the sick, He has clearly said, "And again, it shall come to pass that he that hath faith in me to be healed, *and is not appointed unto death*, shall be healed" (D&C 42:48; italics added). All too often we overlook the qualifying phrase "and is not appointed unto death" ("or," we might add, "unto sickness or handicap"). Please do not despair when fervent prayers have been offered and priesthood blessings performed and your loved one makes no improvement or even passes from mortality.... That your child did not recover in spite of all that was done in his behalf can and should be the basis for peace and reassurance to all who love him! *The Lord who inspires the blessings and who hears every earnest prayer, called him home nonetheless*. All the experiences of prayer, fasting, and faith may well have been more for our benefit than for his.

Lance B. Wickman in Conference Report, Oct. 2002 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2002], 32

3 I have on my wall a painting that was given to me by a woman here in Hong Kong. On the back it says, "To Elder Gordon B. Hinckley, with gratitude for the restoration of my eyesight," and then her name is signed. I did not restore here eyesight; the Lord did. But she says that that administration saved her eyesight, and the doctors could not believe what happened to her. She was going blind, and they told her she would be blind in a matter of a few months. It was faith in the power of the priesthood and, most important of all, the good of the Lord which made possible that miracle.

President Jay Quealy, whom some of you may know, was seriously injured while he was presiding here. One morning he went over to see the missionaries on the island. He... rode on a scooter, which they were permitted to do in those days. He was on a road where there was some pea gravel and skidded right into a police van.... He was thrown right over the hood and into the windshield. He broke both legs, an arm, and some ribs. I came over here to look after the mission for a time. He says... that when I administered to him I said that he would walk again on his natural legs and be unimpaired in his work. The doctors said he had gangrene in his legs and they would have to take them off. He said, "No, I won't let you take them off. I was given a promise by a servant of the Lord that I would walk again with my natural legs." The nurses, wonderful Chinese nurses, massaged his legs, and the gangrene miraculously cleared, and until the time of his death he walked on his natural legs. I have seen miracles here by the power of this priesthood,... and by the power of faith.

Discourses of President Gordon B. Hinckley, 1995-99 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2004], 1:407-408

4 We can... access His healing power through prayer. I'll never forget an experience that Sister Nelson and I had about three decades ago with President Spencer W. Kimball and his beloved Camilla. We were in Hamilton, New Zealand, for a large conference with the Saints...

A Saturday evening cultural program had been prepared for this conference by local youth of the Church. Unfortunately, President and Sister Kimball both became very ill, each with a high fever. After receiving priesthood blessings, they rested at the nearby home of the president of the New Zealand Temple. President Kimball asked his counselor, President N. Eldon Tanner, to preside at the cultural event and to excuse President and Sister Kimball.

Sister Nelson went with President and Sister Tanner and other leaders to the event, while President Kimball's secretary, Brother D. Arthur Haycock, and I watched over our feverish friends.

While President Kimball was sleeping, I was quietly reading in his room. Suddenly President Kimball was awakened. He asked, "Brother Nelson, what time was this evening's program to begin?"

"At seven o'clock, President Kimball."

"What time is it now?"

"It's almost seven," I replied.

President Kimball quickly said, "Tell Sister Kimball we are going!"

I checked President Kimball's temperature. It was normal! I took Sister Kimball's temperature. It was also normal!

They quickly dressed and got into an automobile. We were driven to the stadium of the Church College of New Zealand. As the car entered the arena, there was a very loud shout that erupted spontaneously. It was most unusual! After we took our seats, I asked Sister Nelson about the sudden sound. She said that when President Tanner began the meeting, he dutifully excused President and Sister Kimball because of illness. Then one of the young New Zealanders was called upon to pray.

With great faith, he gave what Sister Nelson described as a rather lengthy but powerful prayer. He so prayed: "We are 3,000 New Zealand youth. We are assembled here, having prepared for six months to sing and dance for Thy prophet. Wilt Thou heal him and deliver him here!" After the "amen" was pronounced, the car carrying President and Sister Kimball entered the stadium. They were identified immediately, and instantly everyone shouted for joy!"

I had witnessed the healing power of the Lord!...

I recognized that, on occasion, some of our most fervent prayers may seem to go unanswered. We wonder, "Why?" I know that feeling! I know the fears and tears of such moments. But I also know that our prayers are never ignored. Our faith is never unappreciated. I know that an all-wise Heavenly Father's perspective is much broader than ours. While we know of our mortal problems and pain, He knows of our immortal progress and potential. If we pray to know His will and submit ourselves to it with patience and courage, heavenly healing can take place in His own way and time.

Russell M. Nelson, *Ensign*, Nov. 2005 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2005], 85-86.

5 Alma 15:12

Zeezrom's Conversion

Zeezrom repented and obtained forgiveness for his many sins but not until his spirit suffered great torment. In discussing the relationship between peace of mind and physical well-being, Elder Boyd K. Packer has said:

"I recently asked a doctor of family medicine how much of his time was devoted purely to correcting physical disorders. He has a large practice, and after thoughtfully considering, he answered, 'Not more than 20 percent. The rest of the time I seem to be working on problems that very much affect the physical well-being of my patients but do not originate in the body.

"These physical disorders,' the doctor concluded, 'are merely symptoms of some other kind of trouble.'..."

"There is another part of us, not so tangible, but quite as real as our physical body. This intangible part of us is described as mind, emotion, intellect, temperament, and many other things. Very seldom is it described as spiritual.

"But there is a *spirit* in man; to ignore it is to ignore reality. There are spiritual disorders, too, and spiritual diseases that can cause intense suffering.

"The body and the spirit of man are bound together. Often, very often, when there are disorders, it is very difficult to tell which is which."

The Balm of Gilead, *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, p. 59

6 Alma 15:13

Priests & Teachers

In our day we would say "ordained priests and teachers." Literally, to consecrate is to "set apart," or to "make holy." We note that both the priests and the teachers were given the authority to baptize. As we have discussed

earlier in this work, so far as we know there was no Aaronic Priesthood among the Nephites (because there were no Levites), at least until the coming of the resurrected Lord to them in the meridian of time. Thus priests and teachers among the Nephites held the Melchizedek Priesthood, and the words *priests and teachers* described their ministerial duties, not the offices to which they were ordained. (See Commentary 1:31, 225.)

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, 4 vols. [Salt Lake City; Bookcraft, 1987-1992], 3:117

7 Alma 15:15

Profession of Nehor

This was the cult that arose following the death of the apostate Nehor and embraced his heresy. "Though Nehor's shameful life was ... ended, unfortunately his doctrine did not die with him. It was too pleasant to those who desired to gain heaven by a life of sin. Consequently it spread widely through the teachings of his followers. In later years the traitorous Amlicites, the apostate Amalekites, the blood-thirsty Amulonites and Ammonihahites, were all believers in his soul-destroying doctrines. The bloodshed, the misery produced, the treasure expended through the wickedness and folly of these base creatures cannot be computed." (Reynolds, *Dictionary of the Book of Mormon*, 230).

Who's Who – A Book of Mormon Ready Reference, Hoyt W. Brewster, Jr. P. 152.

8 Alma 15:16

Rejection and loss

The word of truth is as sharp and powerful as a two-edged sword. It is no respecter of persons, nor does its cutting power stop short of tender and dear relations... Surely no one wants families to be forever, joined and united, more than Jesus. No one wants father and mother, brother and sister, parents and children—families—to be close and at peace more than the Christ. And yet the Lord... highlights a less than pleasant point—that gospel living costs something, even occasionally the loss of family and friends. It may well result in division and variance.

Robert L. Millett, *An Eye Single to the Glory of God*, p. 86.

9 "The Gospel of Salvation is perfectly calculated to cause division."

Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses* 1:235

10

Men and Women who turn their lives over to God will find out that he can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He will deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, strengthen their muscles, lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, raise up friends and pour out peace. Whoever will lose his life to God will find he has eternal life.

Ezra Taft Benson

11

A few brave disciples, in rare circumstances, are permitted to seal their testimonies with their blood. All of us, however, can witness, though less dramatically, by both how well we live and how well we die. By enduring well any deprivations and sufferings we can quietly but firmly seal our testimonies using the wax in our spiritual submissiveness.

Neal A. Maxwell

12

Nine days after Heber [J. Grant] was born, his father died of a combination of typhoid and pneumonia.

For much of his childhood, Heber and his widowed mother struggled to survive financially. They endured "blustery nights with no fire in the hearth, months with no shoes, never more than a single homemade outfit of homespun at a time, and except for an adequate supply of bread, a meager fare which allowed only several pounds of butter and sugar for an entire year."

Rachel was determined to support herself and her young son. She worked as a seamstress and took in boarders. Her brothers offered to give her a life of ease if she would leave the Church, but she remained true to her faith. This devotion and sacrifice made a lasting impression on Heber, who later recalled:

“My mother’s brothers who were well-to-do financially offered to settle an annuity upon her for life if she would renounce her religion. One of her brothers said to her: ‘Rachel, you have disgraced the name of Ivins. We never want to see you again if you stay with those awful Mormons,’—this was when she was leaving for Utah—‘but,’ he continued, ‘come back in five years, come back in ten or twenty years, and no matter when you come back, the latchstring will be out, and affluence and ease will be your portion.’

“Later, when poverty became her lot, if she actually had not known that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that the gospel was true, all she needed to do was to return east and let her brothers take care of her. But rather than return to her wealthy relatives in the east where she would have been amply provided for, with no struggle for herself or her child, she preferred to make her way among those to whom she was more strongly attached than her kindred who were not believers in her faith.”

Teachings of President of the Church—Heber J. Grant, 2002 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2002], xi-xii.

13

I wish to tell you one story coming out of London.... One night, one cold, rainy winter night, there came a knock on the door. I went to the door and let a young man in. I knew him. He was soaking wet. I invited him to come over to the fire.... He put his soggy hat down and sat down by the fire, and I said, “What’s the matter? You’re in trouble. What is the problem?”....

He said, “I’m licked. I don’t know where to turn. I don’t know what to do. When I joined the Church, my father told me to leave home and never come back as long as I was a Mormon. Then the athletic club of which I was a member, when they learned I was a Mormon, told me I was no longer welcome. And not long after that my boss fired me.” And he said, “Last night the girl I love told me that she would never marry me because of my religion.”

I said, “If this has cost you so much, why don’t you leave? Why don’t you go back to your father’s home? Why don’t you go back to your athletic club? Why don’t you ask your boss for your old job? Why don’t you marry that girl?”

He put his head down in his hands and sobbed and sobbed and sobbed. Finally he stood up, picked up his soggy old hat, looked me in the eye, and said, “I couldn’t do that. I couldn’t do it. I know it’s true, and whatever it costs I’ll know it’s true.”

He walked to the door. I walked behind him. He opened the door and stepped out into the rain. I watched him as he walked out under the gas lights and faded into the darkness. And I said to myself, “There is the strength of this Church. Not in buildings, not in the BYU campus, not in Temple Square, but in the hearts of the people, in the conviction that says it’s true. It’s true, come what may. It’s true.”

Discourses of President Gordon B. Hinckley, 1995-99 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2004], 1:365-366.