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Helaman 13**Samuel the Lamanite taught us three things:**

- 1. Whate'er though art, act well thy part**
- 2. We all have daily walls to climb**
- 3. Follow the living prophet**

WHATE'ER THOU ART, ACT WELL THY PART

These words inspired President David O. McKay while serving as a missionary in Scotland. He said:

Peter G. Johnson and I were walking around Stirling Castle in Scotland. I was discouraged, I was just starting my first mission. I had been snubbed that day in tracting. I was homesick, and we walked around the Stirling Castle, really not doing our duty, and as we re-entered the town I saw a building, half-finished, and to my surprise, from the sidewalk I saw an inscription over the lintel of the front door, carved in stone. I said to Brother Johnson, "I want to go over and see what that is." I was not more than half way up the pathway leading to it, when that message struck me, carved there: "What e'er thou art, act well thy part." As I rejoined my companion and told him, do you know what man came into my mind first? The custodian at the University of Utah, from which I was just graduated. I realized that I had as great respect for that man as I had for any professor in whose class I had sat. He acted well his part. I recalled how he helped us with the football suits, how he helped us with some of our lessons, for he was a university graduate himself. Humble, but to this day I hold respect for him. (In conference Report, October 1954, p. 83.)

Samuel teaches us likewise to do our best. His name is a powerful reminder. Samuel humbly refers to himself as Samuel *a* Lamanite (see Helaman 13:5). But other references refer to him as Samuel *the* Lamanite (see Helaman 14:1; 16:1; 3 Nephi 1:5; 23:9). Perhaps he achieved this title prior to his ministry to the Nephites. A great work of conversion had occurred among the Lamanites. Samuel's influence may have been so profound that even among his people he was called Samuel the Lamanite. Perhaps Mormon, in reading through the records, was so impressed with a Lamanite called of God by an angel, fearless and determined to fulfill his calling, worthy of communicating the word of God as it was revealed to his mind and heart, that he titled this prophet Samuel the Lamanite. We do not know, nor is it important. But we can apply the principle in our lives that touched President McKay and elevated Samuel to *the* Lamanite.

Whatever we want to do, or are called to do, we should strive to do the best of our ability. Whether it be "within the walls of our own home" as President Harold B. Lee taught (in Conference Report, April, 1973, p. 130), at our place of employment, pursuing our educational goals, fulfilling a Church calling, or rendering service within the community, Samuel reminds us that we should do our best.

Elder Andrew W. Peterson, *Heroes of the Book of Mormon*, p. 158.

Samuel the Lamanite

2 Samuel the Lamanite was the only Book of Mormon prophet identified as a Lamanite. Apart from his sermon at Zarahemla (Helaman 13-15), no other record of his life or ministry is preserved.

Approximately five years before Jesus' birth, Samuel began to preach repentance in Zarahemla. After the incensed Nephite inhabitants expelled him, the voice of the Lord directed him to return. Climbing to the top of the city wall, he delivered his message unharmed, even though certain citizens sought his life (Helaman 16:2). Thereafter, he fled and "was never heard of more among the Nephites" (Helaman 16:8). (*Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, s.v. "Samuel the Lamanite.")

Helaman 13:6

3 Repentance means more than simply a reformation of behavior. Many men and women in the world demonstrate great will-power and self-discipline in overcoming bad habits and the weaknesses of the flesh. Yet at the same time they give no thought to the Master, sometimes even openly rejecting Him. Such changes in behavior, even if in a positive direction, do not constitute true repentance.

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation upon which sincere and meaningful repentance must be built. If we truly seek to put away sin, we must first look to Him who is the Author of our salvation... repentance involves not just a change of actions, but a change of heart. Ezra Taft Benson, "A Mighty Change of Heart," *Ensign*, October 1989, p.2

4 I fully realize that the Lord has predicted wars and rumors of wars (D&C 45:26). I recognize that only true repentance can stay the destructive forces of war and calamity.
Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 706

Helaman 13:7

5 "*Angel of the Lord*"

Benjamin, Alma, Amulek, and Samuel the Lamanite, saw an "angel of the Lord: (Mosiah 4:1; Mosiah 27:11; Alma 10:7; Helaman 13:7), which may be a euphemism for seeing the Lord Himself (for example, it is difficult to distinguish between the "angel of the Lord" and Jehovah in Genesis 16:7-11; 22:11-15; Exodus 3:2; and Judges 2:1-4). Thus, their teachings and testimonies of Jesus are based on firsthand knowledge and acquaintance.

John W. Welch, *A Book of Mormon Treasury* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2003], 317

Helaman 13:7

6 "*Ye would not receive me...because I am a Lamanite*"

If the Indians had all that was rightfully theirs they would not be where they are and we would not be where we are. Remember that. We are here through the grace of God, and do not forget it. The Lord gave us to share an inheritance with the Indians in this glorious land which is choice above all other lands in all the world. But it is ours only on the condition, as I see it, that

we do our part in seeing that these people come into the Church. What the Lamanite needs is opportunity. The only difference between us and the Indian is opportunity. Give them an opportunity... so that they, too, can enjoy the blessings that you do. And take this message back to your people in the stakes, that they leave off their racial prejudice. Racial prejudice is of the devil. Racial prejudice is of ignorance. There is no place for it in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, ed. by Edward L. Kimball [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988], 237.

Helaman 13:8

7 “Withdraw my spirit”

The Prophet Joseph Smith appeared to Brigham Young following Joseph’s death and instructed his successor as follows: “Tell the people to be humble and faithful, and be sure to keep the Spirit of the Lord and it will lead them right... They can tell the Spirit of the Lord from all other spirits; it will whisper peace and joy to their souls; it will take malice, hatred, strife and all evil from their hearts; and their whole desire will be to do good....

Brigham Young, *Journal History*, 23 Feb. 1847.

8 Joseph Smith visited me a great deal after his death, and taught me many important principles... Among other things, he told me to get the Spirit of God; that all of us needed it... He said, “I want you to teach the people to get the Spirit of God. You cannot build up the Kingdom of God without that.” ...But how is it with the Holy Ghost? The Holy Ghost does not leave me if I do my duty. It does not leave any man who does his duty.

Wilford Woodruff, *Deseret News* [weekly], 7 Nov. 1896.

9 The gift of the Holy Ghost is as important to man as sunshine and water are to the plants. You take them away and the plants would die. You take the Holy Ghost out of this Church, and this Church would not be any different than any other church.

LeGrand Richards, *Ensign*, 1979, p. 76.

10 A newly baptized member told me what she felt when she received that gift [of the Holy Ghost].... She recalled, “I felt the influence of the Holy Ghost settle upon me with greater intensity than I had ever felt before. He was like an old friend who had guided me in the past but now had come to stay.”...

A member once asked me why he felt so good about the talks and music in a sacrament meeting, while a guest he had invited that day apparently experienced no such feeling. This is but one illustration of the contract between one who has the gift of the Holy Ghost and is in tune with his promptings and one who has not or is not...

A family having daily family prayers and seeking to keep the commandments of God and honor his name and speak lovingly to one another will have a spiritual feeling in their home that will be discernible to all who enter it. I know this, because I have felt the presence or absence of that feeling in many LDS homes.

It is important to remember that the illumination and revelation that come to an individual as a result of the gift of the Holy Ghost do not come suddenly or without seeking. President

Spencer W. Kimball taught that the Holy Ghost “comes a little at a time as you merit it. And as your life is in harmony, you gradually receive the Holy Ghost in a great measure” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 114).

The blessings available through the gift of the Holy Ghost are conditioned upon worthiness. Dallin H. Oaks, *Ensign*, Nov. 1996 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1996], 60-61.

Helaman 13:12-14

Prayers of the Righteous Minority

11

There are many upright and faithful who live all the commandments and whose lives and prayers keep the world from destruction.

Spencer W. Kimball, *Ensign*, June, 1971, p. 16

Helaman 13:22

Ingratitude

12

The Prophet Joseph is reported to have said at one time that one of the greatest sins for which the Latter-day Saints would be guilty would be the sin of ingratitude. I presume most of us have not thought of that as a serious sin. There’s a great tendency for us in our prayers—in our pleadings with the Lord –to ask for additional blessings. Sometimes I feel we need to devote more of our prayers to expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving for blessings already received. Of course we need the daily blessings of the Lord. But if we sin in the matter of prayer, I think it is in our lack of the expressions of thanksgiving for daily blessings.

Ezra Taft Benson, “Receive All Things with Thankfulness,” *New Era*, November 1976, p. 4.

Helaman 13:22

Riches and Spirituality

13

Materialism, which gives priority to material needs and objects, is obviously the opposite of spirituality. The Savior taught that we should not lay up “treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal” (Matthew 6:19). We should lay up treasures in heaven: “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21)....

There is nothing inherently evil about money. The Good Samaritan used the same coinage to serve his fellowman that Judas used to betray the Master. It is “the *love of money* [which] is the root of all evil” (1 Timothy 6:10; italics added). The critical difference is the degree of spirituality we exercise in viewing, evaluating, and managing the things of this world and our experiences in it.

If allowed to become an object of worship or priority, money can make us selfish and prideful, “puffed up in the vain things of the world” (Alma 5:37). In contrast, if used for fulfilling our legal obligations and for paying our tithes and offerings, money can demonstrate integrity and develop unselfishness. The spiritually enlightened use of property can help prepare us for the higher law of a celestial glory.

Dallin H. Oaks, in Conference Report, Oct. 1985, 78; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 62-63.

Helaman 13: 25-29**14** *Follow Living Prophet*

We find ourselves often quoting the words of the prophets, and lest there be some doubts as to what a prophet is, we submit that it is one who, under the appointment and inspiration of the Lord God, speaks truth as the spirit moves him, regardless of what the world is thinking and regardless of what men would like to hear.

And, therefore, a prophet is seldom popular, and the cost of being a prophet is always great, for he may be called upon to say those things which are not pleasing, even unto himself, and he may find himself fighting against a tide of mass-misconception, and, as history records, be stoned, crucified, banished, ridiculed, shunned, or rejected. For the truth is not pleasing unto all men, and time has proved that majorities are not always right....

It is not important that a prophet should say those things with which you and I are in full accord. But it is important that you and I should bring ourselves into full accord with those things which a prophet speaks by virtue of his office and calling.

Richard L. Evans, Editorial, *Improvement Era*, 1939, Vol. XXXII, November, 1939, No. 11.

15 Prophets have a way of jarring the carnal mind. Too often the holy prophets are wrongly perceived as harsh and as anxious to make a record in order to say, "I told you so." Those prophets I have known are the most loving of men. It is because of their love and integrity that they cannot modify the Lord's message merely to make people feel comfortable. They are too kind to be so cruel. I am so grateful that prophets do not crave popularity.

Spencer W. Kimball, "Listen to the Prophets," *Ensign*, May 1978, p. 77.

16 When the Church was first organized, in fact, the day on which it was organized, the Lord was speaking to the Church. He didn't mean just the six members that were then the constituted number of the Church: he was speaking about the President of the Church, who was the Prophet Joseph Smith at that time. And this is what he said [cites 21:4-6].

We have some tight places to go before the Lord is through with this church and the world in this dispensation, which is the last dispensation, which shall usher in the coming of the Lord. The gospel was restored to prepare a people ready to receive him. The power of Satan will increase; we see it in evidence on every hand. There will be inroads within the Church. There will be, as President Tanner has said, "Hypocrites, those professing, but secretly are full of dead men's bones. We will see those who profess membership but secretly are plotting and trying to lead people not to follow the leadership that the Lord has set up to preside in this church.

Now the only safety we have as members of this church is to do exactly what the Lord said to the Church in that day when the Church was organized. We must learn to give heed to the words and commandments that the Lord shall give through his prophet, "as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me... as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith." (D&C 21:4-5) There will be some things that take patience and faith. You may not like what comes from the authority of the Church. It may contradict your political views. It may contradict your social views. It may interfere with some of your social life. But if you listen to these things, as if from the mouth of the Lord himself, with patience and faith, the promise is that "the gates of hell shall

not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name's glory." (D&C 21:6)

President Harold B. Lee, Conference Report, October 1970, Afternoon Meeting 152.

17 ...Brother Joseph turned to Brother Brigham Young and said, "Brother Brigham I want you to take the stand and tell us your views with regard to the written oracles and the written word of God." Brother Brigham took the stand, and he took the Bible, and laid it down; he took the Book of Mormon, and laid it down; and he took the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and laid it down before him, and he said: "There is the written word of God to us, concerning the work of God from the beginning of the world, almost, to our day. And now," said he, "when compared with the living oracles those books are nothing to me; those books do not convey the word of God direct to us now, as do the words of a Prophet or a man bearing the Holy Priesthood in our day and generation. I would rather have the living oracles than all the writing in the books." That was the course he pursued. When he was through, Brother Joseph said to the congregation: "Brother Brigham has told you the word of the Lord, and he has told you the truth."

President Wilford Woodruff, Conference Report, October 1897, Afternoon Session.

18 Now, my dear brothers and sisters, please pay attention to those things that the leaders of the Church have taught.... Apply the teachings that will help you and your family. Let all of us, regardless of our family circumstances; bring into our homes the teachings of the prophets and the apostles to strengthen our relationships with each other, with our Father in Heaven, and with the Lord Jesus Christ. I promise you in the name of the Lord that if you will listen not just with your ears but also with your heart, the Holy Ghost will manifest the truth unto you of the messages delivered by [the President of the Church], his counselors, the Apostles, and other leaders of the Church. The Spirit will prompt you to know what you should do as individuals and as families in order to follow our counsel, that your testimonies might be strengthened and that you might have peace and joy.

M. Russell Ballard, in Conference Report, Apr. 2001, 86; or *Ensign*, May 2001, 67.

Helaman 13:21-29

19 *Samuel the Lamanite's Warning*

Samuel the Lamanite strongly reminded the Nephites that they had become casual and neglectful in living basic principles of the gospel. Living prophets of our dispensation have likewise reminded us to be firm and steady in the faith (see Helaman 6:1).

Samuel said, "Ye do not remember the Lord your God in the things with which he hath blessed you" (Helaman 13:22). President John Taylor said, "Do you have prayers in your family? ...And when you do, do you go through the operation like the grinding of a piece of machinery, or do you bow in meekness and with a sincere desire to seek the blessing of God upon you and your household? That is the way that we ought to do, and cultivate a spirit of devotion and trust in God, dedicating ourselves to him, and seeking his blessings." (*The Gospel Kingdom*, sel. G. Homer Durham [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1943], p. 284)

Samuel said, “Ye do always remember your riches” (Helaman 13:22). President Marion G. Romney said, “Tithing is a debt which everyone owes to the Lord for his use of the things that the Lord has made and given to him to use. It is a debt just as literally as the grocery bill or a light bill, or any other duly incurred obligations. As a matter of fact, the Lord, to whom one owes tithing, is in a position or a preferred creditor. If there is not enough to pay all creditors, he should be paid first. Now I am sure you will have a little shock at that, but that is the truth. Other creditors of tithe-payers, however, need to have no cause to worry, for the Lord always blesses the person who has faith enough to pay his tithing so that his ability to pay his other creditors is not thereby reduced.” (Marion G. Romney, *The blessings of an Honest Tithe*, Brigham Young University Speeches of the year [Provo, Utah, 5 November 1968], p. 4).

Samuel said, “Your hearts are not drawn unto the Lord, but they do swell with great pride” (Helaman 13:22). President Ezra Taft Benson said, “Pride is the universal sin, the great vice. ...It was essentially the sin of pride that kept us from establishing Zion in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith. It was the same sin of pride that brought consecration to an end among the Nephites. Pride is the great stumbling block to Zion. I repeat: Pride is the great stumbling block to Zion.”(in Conference Report, April 1989, pp. 6,7; emphasis in original)
Elder Andrew W. Peterson, *Heroes of the Book of Mormon*, p. 160-161.

20 The Lord is the provider, the hand of providence. He wants his children to enjoy the good things of the earth.

The Lord gives different gifts in differing amounts to each of his children. He deliberately does not equally bestow his temporal blessings. He wishes to give each of his children the opportunity voluntarily to share with others who have less of some temporal gift. Sometimes the temporal blessings are given to those who seem to deserve them least. The initial distribution of spiritual blessings also often seems to be unequal and unearned. But any subsequent spiritual blessings must be earned upon the principles of righteousness. In this area of further spiritual blessings, the Lord is immediate, equitable and absolutely just in bestowing his blessings, even as he will be in bestowing physical blessings in the next world.

We lift up our heads in pride as if we were something special among men, supposing that it has been our intelligence and industry which have provided for our desires rather than the Provider. Thus we look down on those whom we consider to be less industrious and less intelligent.

The common way of showing wealth the world over is to wear expensive clothing. Expensive clothing is labor intensive, and wearing it shows that we are able to buy the time and skill of others more than most persons can.

Persecution comes in so many forms that it is impossible to name them all. But standard ways of persecuting are to look down on others, to speak down to them, and to segregate them because of their lack of wealth...

Pride is the root of our evil, the source of our selfishness, the great barrier to our salvation. It is the pride of our hearts from which we need to be saved more than from anything else. Once we are saved from that, then all good things can be added to us. Then we will see as we are seen,

know as we are known, and we will be familiar and free with our substance, treating all men as brothers. Then indeed we will have heaven on earth.

Chauncy Riddle, *Pride & Riches*.

Helaman 13: 33

21 “*Oh that we had remembered...*”

As we pray daily to God for guidance, we should all make the same plea as George Washington did in his prayer for our country...

“In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail.”

N. Eldon Tanner, *Ensign*, May 1976.

Helaman 13:37-38

22 In relation to the Nephites spoken of by Jacob, Alma, Samuel, and others, we should remember that these were once members of the Church who had turned away and denied the truth and fought to destroy it. They were not like the people in the gentile nations who never received the truth. These Nephites had received the light, rebelled, and then attempted to destroy it. After the visitation of our Lord, both Nephites and Lamanites lived in unity in the light of the gospel for nearly two hundred years. The Lord established his Church in all its fullness among them, and when they began to rebel they did it knowingly. This is clearly indicated in the words of Mormon. They had the guidance of the Nephite twelve, and three of them remained until in the extreme wickedness of the people the Lord would not permit them to remain. Samuel’s castigation of these Nephites was fully justified in his accusation and prophecy of their punishment.

“Behold, we are surrounded by demons, yea, we are encircled about by the angels of him who hath sought to destroy our souls. Behold, our iniquities are great. O Lord, canst thou not turn away thine anger from us? And this shall be your language in those days.

“But behold, your days of probation are past; ye have procrastinated the day of your salvation until it is everlastingly too late, and your destruction is made sure; yea, for ye have sought all the days of your lives for that which ye could not obtain; and ye have sought for happiness in doing iniquity, which thing is contrary to the nature of that righteousness which is in our great and Eternal Head.” [Helaman 13:37-38]

And again the words of Mormon:

“And it came to pass that when I, Mormon, saw their lamentation and their mourning and their sorrow before the Lord, my heart did begin to rejoice within me, knowing the mercies and the long-suffering of the Lord, therefore supposing that he would be merciful unto them that they would again become a righteous people.

“But behold this my joy was vain, for their sorrowing was not unto repentance, because of the goodness of God; but it was rather the sorrowing of the damned, because the Lord would not always suffer them to take happiness in sin” (Mormon 2:12-13).

Joseph Fielding Smith, *Answers to Gospel Questions* 1:79.

23 The situation of the spirits that were sent to the earth, when the revolt took place in heaven, when Lucifer, the Son of the Morning, was cast out. Where did he go? He came here, and one-third part of the spirits in heaven came with him. Do you suppose that one third part of all the beings that existed in eternity came with him? No, but one third part of the spirits that were begotten and organized and brought forth to become tenants of fleshly bodies to dwell upon this earth.

Brigham Young, *Journal of discourses* [London: Latter-day Saints' Book Depot, 1856], 3:368-369.

24 Satan, with his angels, will try to capture your thoughts and control what you do. If he can, he will corrupt anything that is good. To him the Internet is just that—a net to ensnare you into a wicked addictions with pornography. Unhappiness will follow.

Boyd K. Packer, in Conference Report, Oct. 2003 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2003], 26.

25 We know that there are good spirits and evil spirits, and neither is to be trifled with for the sake of curiosity...

My companion and I had an unusual experience with evil spirits in the City of Amsterdam. We had held our morning meetings and had gone home to have lunch with a widow and her daughter and son. The daughter and son were members of the Church. The widow was not. After eating we tried to talk to her to see if we could not encourage her to become a member of the Church.... Right at that time the evil spirits came upon her. From the sweet lovely woman that she was she twisted her face and addressing me in the most sneering manner I had ever experienced, she said, "Who are you?" I answered, "I am a servant of the Lord." She replied, "So, you are a servant of the Lord." ... Then she said, "Well, if you are a servant of the Lord, then I have nothing to do here." With that I called my two companions. We administered to her and rebuked the evil spirits. She fell. Limp and we carried her to the bedroom, put her on the bed and gave her cold water. In a short time she was the same sweet woman she had been before these spirits had entered her body....

Her daughter explained that years earlier, before her father died that her father and mother had come to America and had become interested in spiritualism. Since that time the spirits would not leave her mother alone... This was truly an unusual experience for us, and the first we had had of its character.

LeGrand Richards, *Just to Illustrate* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1961], 96-97.

26 Satan is still determined to have his way, and his emissaries have power given them today as they have not had throughout the centuries...

You cannot tamper with the Evil One. Resist temptation, resist the Devil and he will flee from you. (See James 4:7)...

Your weakest point will be the point at which the Devil tries to tempt you... Resist him and you will gain strength. He will tempt you in another point. Resist him and he becomes weaker and you become stronger, until you can say, no matter what your surroundings may be, "Get thee

behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Luke 4:9)...

You are in the midst of temptation, but you, as Christ on the Mount of Temptation, can rise above it.

Teaching of the Presidents of the Church—David O. McKay [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2003], 84-86.

27 However, one does not really need to fear the angels of evil. They are essentially cowardly. They fear light and truth. Darkness and untruth are their native habitat. Their successes always come when the mind of man is darkened by unbelief or unholy practices. A resolute determination to have nothing to do with them drains their strength. They are mortally afraid of the power of the Priesthood.

John A. Widtsoe, *Evidences and reconciliations* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1987], 109.

28 There is a vast number of fallen spirits cast out with him [Satan], here on the earth. They do not die and disappear; they have not bodies only as they enter the tabernacles of men... There are many evil spirits amongst us... There never was a prophet in any age of the world but what the devil was continually at his elbow. This was the case with Jesus himself. The devil followed him continually trying to draw him from his purposes and to prevent him carrying out the great work of God...

He is with the Latter-day Saints; and he or his emissaries are with all men trying to lead them astray...

Where are they?... They are in every city and hamlet wherein the inhabitants of the earth dwell, and especially where there are any Latter-day Saints. And whether there are one hundred or not to every man, woman, and child, there are enough of them, at least, to labor for our overthrow.... They will try to make us do anything and everything that is not right. These devils would be very glad to make me and my brethren think we are great men, smarter than anyone else; to divide us one against the other, and to cause us to seek to confess our brother's sins instead of our own. We should, therefore, watch ourselves well.

The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, ed. by G. Homer Durham [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1946], 238-240

29 All beings who have bodies have power over those who have not. The devil has no power over us only as we permit him; the moment we revolt at anything which comes from God, the devil takes power....

The devil could not compel mankind to do evil; all was voluntary... God would not exert any compulsory means, and the devil could not...

There are three independent principles—the spirit of God, the spirit of man, and the spirit of the devil. All men have power to resist the devil. They who have tabernacles have power over those who have not.

The Teachings of Joseph Smith, ed. by Larry E. Dahl and Donald Q. Cannon [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1997], 184

30 More than once the scriptures speak of angels of the devil—angels persuading us through the same channels that were established in order that we could receive the blessings of the Holy Ghost. Those who subject themselves unto him are those of whom you need to beware. Many of them are outside the church attacking the Church, and some of them within the Church—some who pretend to be members in good standing and yet are always criticizing and tearing down—professors who profess to be right but are wrong, who are betraying that sacred gift of the Holy Ghost.

Boyd K. Packer, “And They Knew It Not,” Utah Valley State College, Satellite Broadcast, 5 Mar. 2000 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2000], 5.

Helaman 13:38

31 *Days of probation are past*

Those who are in serious sin will have a thought delivered to their minds that goes something like this: “Well, if it is that difficult to repent, I might as well go on in sin. Later, when I need forgiveness, I’ll just go through that once.”

That is so unwise. Let me tell you why. First, people who postpone repentance may run out of time. And second, they will find more misery in more sin, not the happiness they hope for but can’t find. Remember, the warning from Samuel the Lamanite: “But behold, your days of probation are past; ye have procrastinated the day of your salvation until it is everlastingly too late, and your destruction is made sure; yea, for ye have sought all the days of your lives for that which ye could not obtain; and ye have sought for happiness in doing iniquity, which thing is contrary to the nature of that righteousness which is in our great and Eternal Head” (Helaman 13:38).

If you’ve avoided serious sin, you may be thinking, “None of this applies to me.” But it does. The choice to be good is the same and is equally necessary for every person. The choice to be good, which is what repentance includes, must be made by all of us.

Henry B. Eyring, *To Draw Closer to God* [Sale Lake City: Deseret Book, 1997], 65.

Helaman 13:38

32 Happiness is the object and design of our existence; and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping all the commandments of God.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 255-56.

33 Years ago, I was asked to perform an operation upon a very wealthy man. A surgical biopsy confirmed that he had an advanced cancer that had spread throughout his body. As I reported this news, his immediate response was to rely upon his wealth. He would go anywhere or do anything to treat his condition. He thought he could buy his way back to health. But he soon passed away. Someone asked, “How much wealth did he leave?” The answer of course, was, “All of it!”

His priorities were set upon things of the world. His ladder of success had been leaning against the wrong wall. I think of him when I read this scripture: “Behold, your days of probation are past; ye have procrastinated the day of your salvation until it is... too late.”
Russell M. Nelson, *Ensign*, May 2005 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2005], 17.

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Have you noticed how Satan works to capture the mind and emotions with flashing images, blaring music, and the stimulation of every physical sense to excess? He diligently strives to fill life with action, entertainment, and stimulation so that one cannot ponder the consequences of his tempting invitations. Think of it. Some are tempted to violate the most basic commandments of God because of seductive actions portrayed as acceptable. They are made to seem attractive, even desirable. There seems to be no serious consequence, but rather apparent lasting joy and happiness. But recognize that those performances are controlled by scripts and actors. The outcome of decisions made is likewise manipulated to be whatever the producer wants.

Life is not that way. Yes, moral agency allows you to choose what you will, but you cannot control the outcome of those choices. Unlike the false creations of man, our Father in Heaven determines the consequences of your choices. Obedience will yield happiness, while violation of His commandments will not.

Richard G. Scott, in Conference Report, Apr. 2004, 105; or *Ensign*, May 2004, 102.