

# LOVE

- **LOVE** is the heart of the gospel
- It is **LOVE** that brings us back to the Father through the Son
- **LOVE** in English takes on all forms of speech: noun, verb, adverb, adjective, etc.
- **LOVE** is the prime moving characteristic of God.
- Our path to God is to **LOVE** as He **LOVES**.

**JOHN THE BELOVED** (1 John 4:18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

**MORMON** (Moroni 8:16-17)... Behold, I speak with boldness, having authority from God; and I fear not what man can do; for perfect love casteth out all fear. And I am filled with charity, which is everlasting love

## **JOSEPH SMITH, Jr.**

Until we have perfect love we are liable to fall and when we have a testimony that our names are sealed in the Lamb's book of life we have perfect love and then it is impossible for false Christs to deceive us. . . .—Far West Record, p. 16. (Oct. 25, 1831.)

Joseph Smith, *Discourses of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, compiled by Alma P. Burton [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1977], 209.)

## **BRIGHAM YOUNG:**

- 1) ‘Until we have perfect love we are liable to fall.’ [said the Prophet Joseph] This awareness of our universal weakness is basic to an understanding of how to deal with the enemy: There are no persons without evil passions to embitter their lives. Mankind are revengeful, passionate, hateful, and devilish in their dispositions. This we inherit through the fall, and the grace of God is designed to enable us to overcome it. The grace of God is bestowed upon all . . . to overcome the evil that is in them, and to save all.
- 2) Nothing can frustrate the operation of the grace of God like self-righteousness:
- 3) Until we have perfect love we are liable to fall. . . . That God had often sealed up the heavens because of covetousness in the Church. . . . And except the Church receive the fulness of the Scriptures, . . . they would yet fail.

Hugh Nibley, *Brother Brigham Challenges the Saints*,

**Immaculée Ilibagiza** in her book *Left to Tell* (Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust) learned three extremely important lessons for the latter-days:

- Keep fear, doubt, hate, and worry out of your lives; these are Satan’s tools and are not of God.
- Pray every waking moment; the power of prayer is beyond our comprehension. He is always there for us, if we will but reach out to Him. Through Him we have power over Satan and his minions.
- We need to forgive and love everyone – especially our enemies. The Lord will teach us, as we ask, how to love this intently, and by this love and forgiveness Immaculée gained power over her enemies under horrendous circumstances.



# LOVE

**L**ife's journey is learning to love. For God so loves us that He gave us His only Begotten Son, who was and is and ever will be the perfect example of the Father's love – perfectly doing the will of the Father and working out the infinite and perfect atonement. We learn to love as He loves, as we come unto Him – asking, seeking, and knocking. He will fill our hearts with His perfect love – casting out all fear and bringing us peace, joy, and the fruits of the Spirit. We will have the joy of receiving, finding, and having opened to us the truths of eternity, the mysteries of godliness, of learning and knowing that we are doing the will of the Father for our personal missions. (John 3:16; Matthew 7:7-8)

**O**vercoming all things through His infinite atonement, He opened the door for us to overcome all things. “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.” (Hebrews 8:12) Our greatest opportunity is to develop our faith in Him, to repent of every sin (even the favorite ones), and to do all things whatsoever the Lord our God commands. Come unto Him and learn of Him for He desires to carry our burdens that they may be light. As we forgive all that we may be forgiven of all, He will make us free, and then we are “free indeed.” Without Him we can do nothing. (Matt. 11:28-30; John 8:31-36; John 15:1-12)

**V**ictory over the grave is His great gift of a glorious resurrection granted to all of Father's children. Christ's perfect atonement perfectly overcame the Fall of Adam. Sin and death are conquered in Christ. The degree of glory of our resurrection is our choice. He has the power to “change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body...” – to make it Celestial (Philippians 3:21; 1 Cor. 15). But for those less faithful, there are also “bodies terrestrial” and telestial. Even so, the lowest of the three heavens provides a glorious resurrection. If we reject Him, then there is no glory and not heaven, but outer darkness. Believing Christ truly conquers the fear of death.

**E**ternal Life is the greatest of all the gifts of God. As we press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. ...feasting upon the word of Christ, ...enduring to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life (the greatest of all the gifts of God). (2 Ne. 31:20) Nothing has higher priority; this is the principal purpose of our mortal journey. In the infinite love of our Heavenly Father, everything He does is designed to help us find our way back to our true home. He has given us His Son to this end. Christ is the way, the truth, and the life (Eternal Life – a fullness of joy with Him and with our loved ones).