

The Influence of a Faithful Woman

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How does God see women?

Her Unique Capacities -



- Your eternal intelligence, completely unique
- Then clothed in spirit, as woman with divine responsibilities, capacities, roles, stewardships
- In Her divine image
- “The Mother of all Living” before she ever bore children



- “Motherhood is the greatest potential influence... The mother’s image is the first that stamps itself on the unwritten page of the young child’s mind. It is her caress that first awakens a sense of security, her kiss, the first realization of affection; her sympathy and tenderness, the first assurance that there is love in the world.” (President David O. McKay)
- It is through women that souls journey to mortality and gain their agency...it is through the nurturing of women that the light of Christ is awakened within each soul. Even Christ our Lord was escorted to mortality and veiled in flesh through the gift of a woman, fed at his mother’s breast, awakened to all that is good and sweet in the world. (Valerie Hudson)

Influence...Power...Social Fabric

- “**No one can duplicate the influence of a mother.** ... Anytime I use the word ‘mother,’ I am not talking only about women who have given birth or adopted children in this life. ... **Every woman is a mother by virtue of her eternal divine destiny.**” –President Russell M. Nelson
- “Women have been **at the center of our Heavenly Father’s plan** from the beginning ... they have changed lives! –President Russell M. Nelson
- “There is **nothing** in this world as personal, as nurturing, or as life changing as the **influence of a righteous woman.**” – M. Russell Ballard
- “Women bring with them into the world a certain virtue, a divine **gift that makes them adept** at instilling such qualities as faith, courage, empathy, and refinement in relationships and in cultures.” —President D. Todd Christofferson
- “Sisters, please **never underestimate** the extraordinary power within you to influence others for good. ... If the world should ever lose the moral rectitude of its women, the world would never recover.” — President Russell M. Nelson
- As a covenant daughter of God, you have ... **an enhanced moral compass** that gives you the capacity to receive personal revelation and discern truth from error.” –President Russell M. Nelson
- “As a righteous, endowed Latter-day Saint woman, you **speak and teach with power and authority** from God.” – President Russell M. Nelson
- “From age immemorial, societies **have relied on the moral force of women.**” – Elder D. Todd Christofferson

“Behold the new woman as the old man!”

We have been called to something entirely different.
We were born for it.
Grounded in what is true.



- Her choice seems to have been between the **safety and security of the garden** and the **goodness, beauty, and wisdom** that come at the price – and only at the price – of **painful lived experience**. What courage and initiative!
- To maximize the capacity for joy - the immortality and eternal life of man.
- The Joy of our Redemption



“If vulnerability
and pain are the
price of love, then
joy is its reward.”

The New and Everlasting Covenant



Development
happens from
within a deeply
bonded
relationship.

“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything.” – Timothy J. Keller



“Mother and Child” J. Kirk Richards



- When you and I enter that path, **we create a relationship** with God that allows Him to bless and change us. If we let God prevail in our lives, that covenant will lead us closer and closer to Him. All covenants are intended to be binding. They **create a relationship** with everlasting ties...
- The covenant path is a path of love—that incredible *hesed*, that compassionate **caring for and reaching out to each other**. The greatest joy you will ever experience is when you are consumed with love for God and for all His children.
- The covenant path is **all about our relationship with God**—our *hesed* relationship with Him.

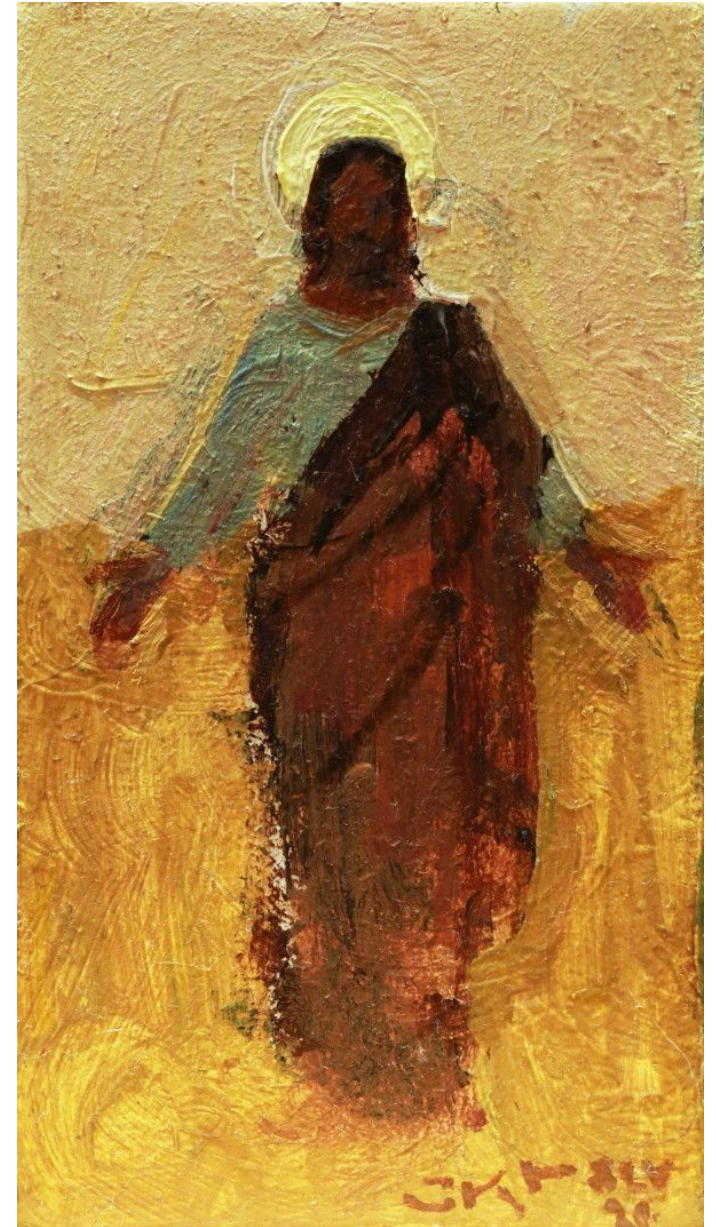


- God yearns to be in relationship with us – more than we can imagine. He loves us more deeply than we are capable of comprehending. Nor can we understand how much He cares about our relationship with Him.
- Because of His great love, He desperately wants to bless us. **The greatest blessings we receive all focus on strengthening our relationship with Him...** –Kerry Muhlestein

THE ABRAHAM & SARAH COVENANT

- God wants to have a different relationship with His children than they are capable of when they are both in and of this world. He wants us to **take a step away from the world and towards Him.** Because of this desire, He willingly binds Himself to us if we are only willing to bind ourselves to Him.

- This binding happens through an ordinance administered covenant, which allows **His sanctifying power to enter us and change us into beings that are capable of being closer to Him, and which ties us to Him in an intimate and empowering relationship....**-Kerry Muhlestein





Learning the
ways of the
Great Ox, even
as He pulls the
load.

What am I going to do with His
offer of covenant grace & power?



- We go on running helter-skelter, anxious and restless, never fully satisfied...trying to prove that we are worth something, and have earned the love we so desire. This is the compulsiveness that keeps us going and busy, but at the same time makes us wonder whether we are getting anywhere in the long run. This is the way to spiritual death... - Henry Nouwen

Time is Crushing.

...the thought of what I haven't done, what I haven't become, what I don't have, what we haven't become, what is not resolved...

I try to prove that I am
sufficient myself, that I can
do it on my own, that I am
enough.

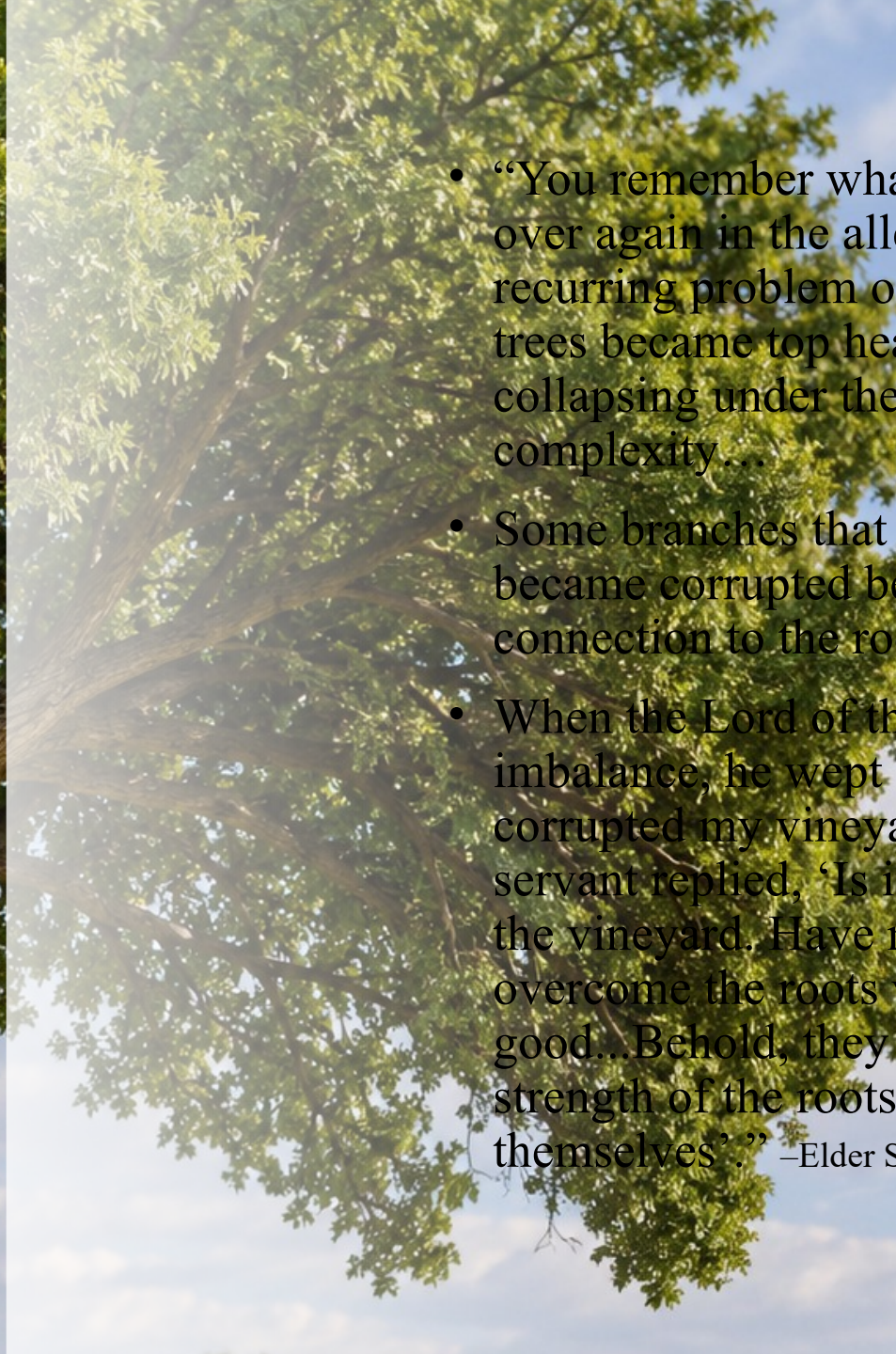
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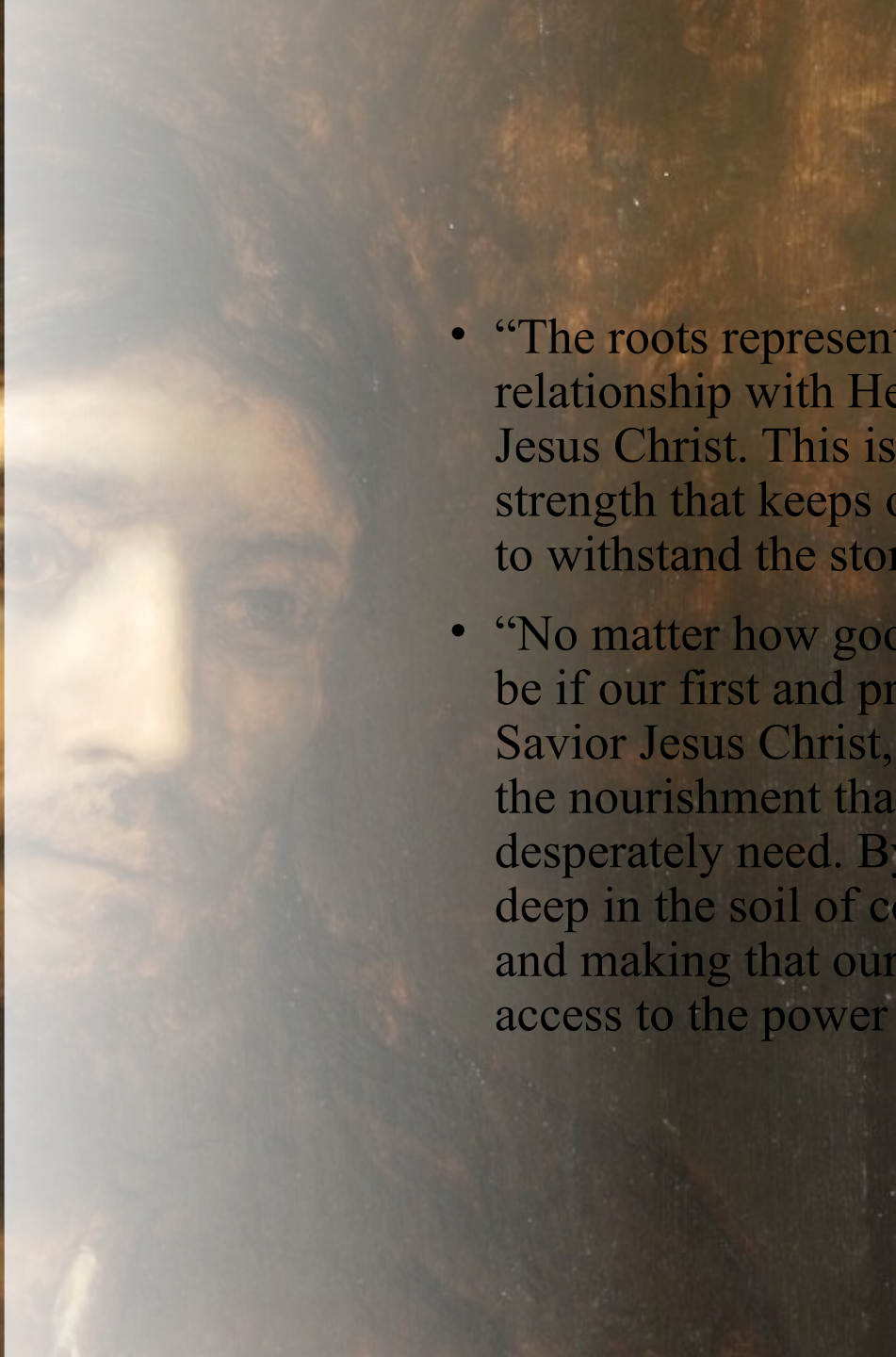
I surrender to His grace, His
love, receive and trust it and
join Him in doing good.





- “You remember what happened over and over again in the allegory with the recurring problem of imbalance...The trees became top heavy and root poor; collapsing under the weight of their own complexity...
- Some branches that were once fruitful became corrupted because they lost their connection to the roots...
- When the Lord of the vineyard saw the imbalance, he wept and asked, ‘Who has corrupted my vineyard?’ To which the servant replied, ‘Is it not the loftiness of the vineyard. Have not the branches overcome the roots which are good...Behold, they grew faster than the strength of the roots, taking strength unto themselves’.” –Elder Steven Shumway



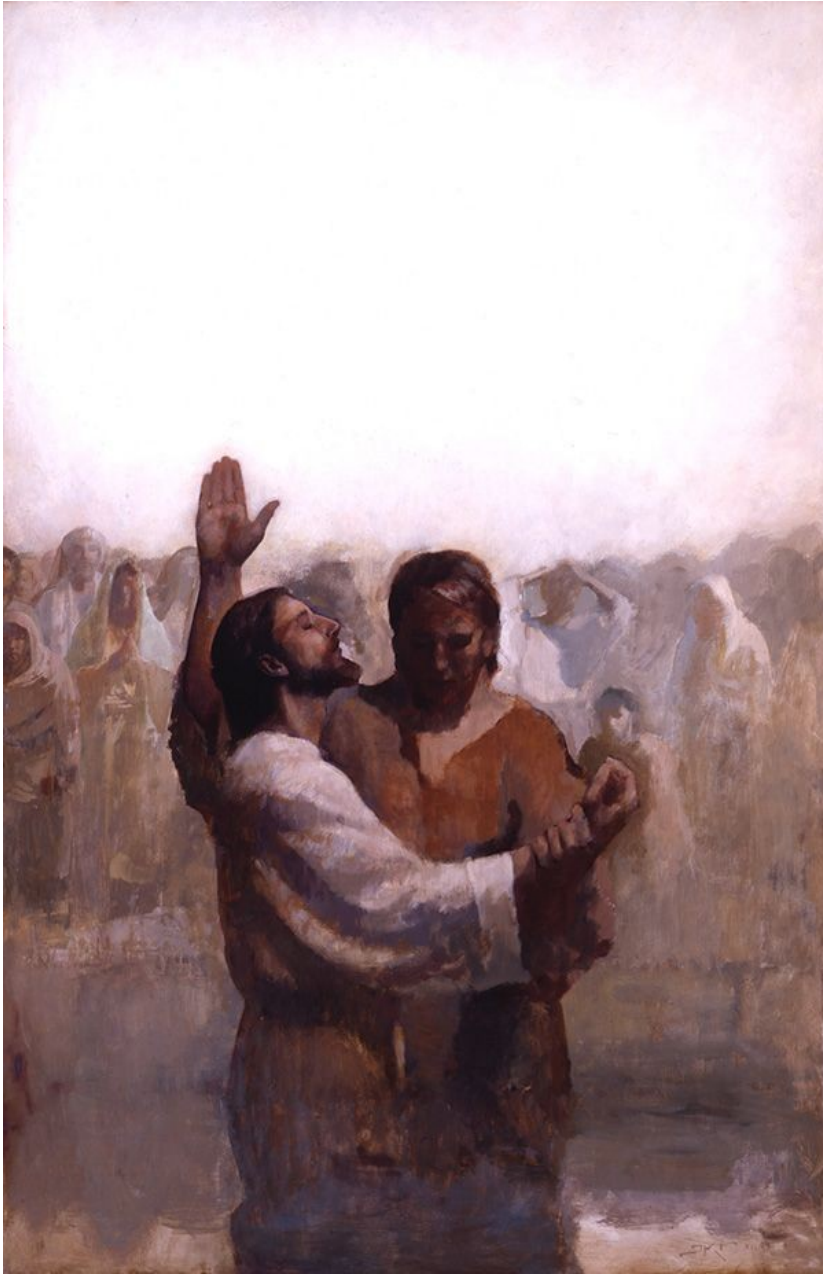


- “The roots represent our covenant relationship with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. This is the source of our strength that keeps our tree alive and stable to withstand the storms of life.”
- “No matter how good other endeavors may be if our first and primary focus is not the Savior Jesus Christ, we will lose access to the nourishment that our roots so desperately need. By planting our roots deep in the soil of covenant relationship and making that our priority we will have access to the power that we need.”

And what of my children?

- This child is Theirs first.
- They are loved and known perfectly.
- He already has a wonderful plan worked out for their lives. He knows all of the choices they will make and has everything worked out for them to receive the greatest opportunities for learning and growth, and ultimately for their exaltation.
- He is at the helm. He is in control and will care for them beyond what we as their earthly parents could ever do. Allow Him to be in control.
- Our role is to strengthen our relationship with Him, and with them, and we will be guided in our role in their lives.
- Help me to know how to strengthen “our” daughter?

Covenant Power



- “The moral and spiritual power that our people need right now and for the days ahead is the power of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. We gain access to Their power by making and keeping covenants with Them.” -President Russell M. Nelson

“Baptism II” J. Kirk Richards

- And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory. — 1 Nephi 14: 14

We have been endowed
with Priesthood Power

- “**Every woman and every man** who makes covenants with God and keeps those covenants, and who participates worthily in priesthood ordinances, **has direct access** to the power of God. Those who are endowed in the house of the Lord **receive a gift of God’s priesthood power by virtue of their covenant**, along with a gift of knowledge to know how to draw upon that power.”[\[25\]](#)
- “**From those covenants flows an endowment of His priesthood power upon you.**”[\[50\]](#)
—President Russell M. Nelson



Priesthood:

To open access to the grace of
Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice
for yourself and your posterity.

What does priesthood power offer us?

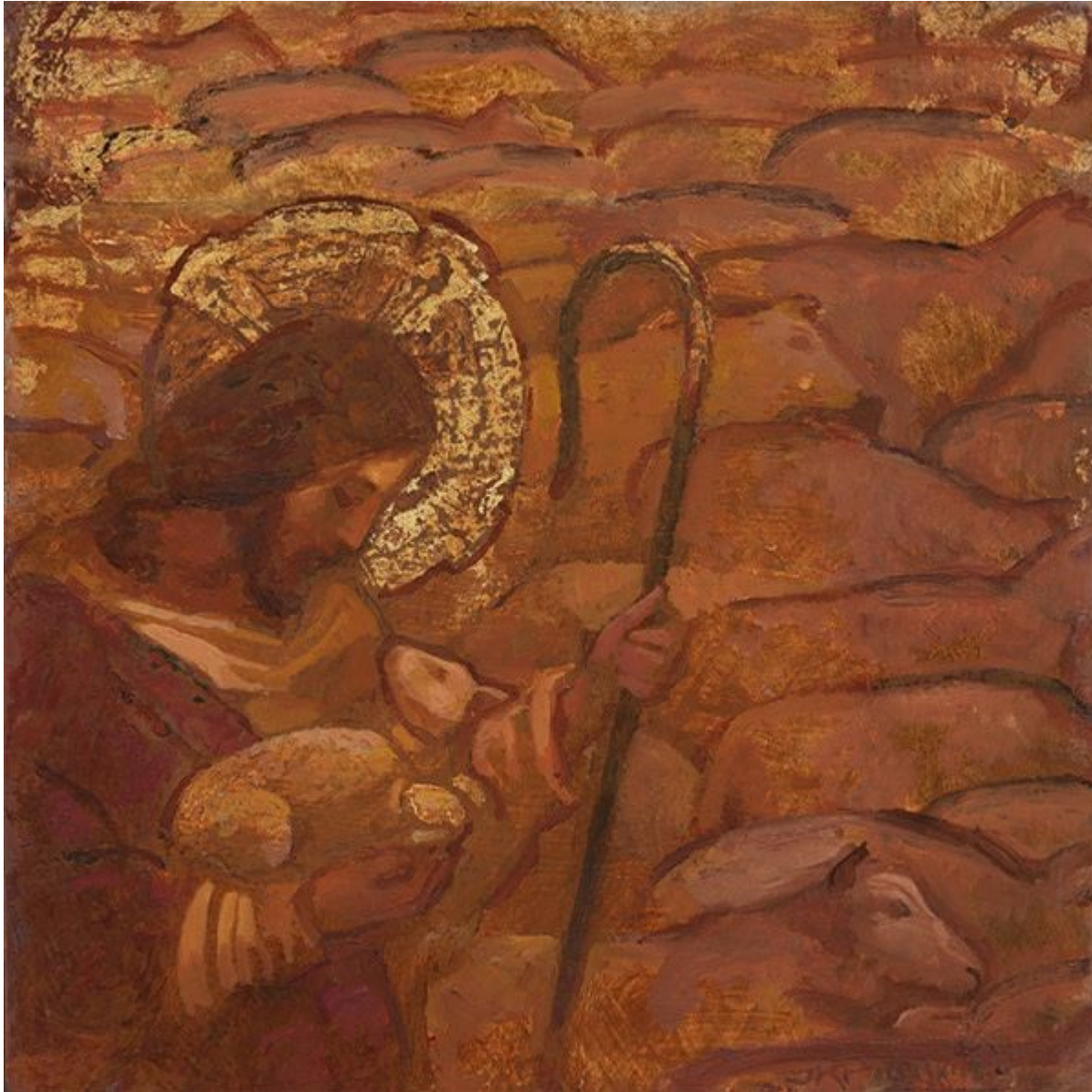
- The key to the knowledge of God
- The power of godliness
- The veil is rent in our behalf
- Clothed in the garment of the Holy Priesthood
- Clothed in the robes of the Holy Priesthood

- Sister Dennis:** In covenant, and the symbol of the garment, I put on Christ, an armor of light. He will protect me from evil, give me power and increased capacity, and be my light and guide through the darkness and difficulties...
- Elder Soares:** Covenant Confidence – fortifies our ability to love and serve others, strengthens our souls, empowers us to overcome seeds of doubt and despair, fear and frustration, heartache and hopelessness...
- President Eyring:** All will be well because of the temple. There can come a dimension of spirituality and a feeling of peace. We will grasp the meaning of the words of the Savior...
- Elder Bednar:** Striving faithfully to become covenant people of the Lord brings an inner spiritual stillness of the soul that enables us to know that God is our Father, we are His children, and Jesus Christ is our Savior.
- Elder Andersen:** A covenant people, eagerly awaiting His return, who stand in holy settings and are not moved out of their place. He has promised to strengthen and bless His covenant saints. Armed with power; His name upon us; Angels with us; A fulness of the Holy Ghost; Eternal promises – “shall see my face and know that I am...”

It is actually
through the
opposition

A portal...

- Precisely because the circumstances remain unresolved, opposition is the invitation and **gateway to a more personal and sacred relationship with God.**
- Relief and solace begin to come about because of the relationship itself, even when nothing changes or things get worse.
- Because of our ever-increasing emotional bond with and greater knowledge of the divine, we begin to experience God's "blessings . . . through raindrops," and "healing . . . through tears." We come to know that "a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know [God is] near" and **the "trials of this life [become his] mercies in disguise."**



- “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is **light**.”

“How Beautiful upon the Mountains” J. Kirk Richards

During “opposition” the planet appears at its largest and brightest.

Its entire surface reflects the sun’s light.

The opposition generates more reflected light and love.



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