

Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

Teachings of Presidents of the Church

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Chapter 14

**With God All Things Are Possible**

I have organized my thoughts on the topic of this chapter in three themes. For each of the three themes, I have readings from this chapter and from scriptures, some quotations from those who serve God, and my personal reflections.

1. **[Trusting God and His Wisdom]** Having unshaken trust in God and in His infinite wisdom for determining purpose of our lives, though pathways may not be apparent to us.
2. **[Serving God's Will]** Having utmost importance for our goal of eternal life and for serving God's will. Using our freedom to fully align our will with God's will. Making efforts with joy, love, and dedication for completing our assigned duty.
3. **[Our Abilities Come From God]** Knowing that God gives us the ability to serve Him. Recognizing that we are His instruments and the glory belongs to God.

I. **Trusting God and His Wisdom**

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... unshaken confidence in [God's] assisting power and grace.

... he "knew in whom he trusted" ...

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My trust was in Him who created the seas and defined their bounds. I was on His errand – I knew that I was sent on this mission by the authority He recognizes, ... He was at the helm, and my life was safe in his keeping.

... He felt that it was for him to do **the very best he could and depend upon the Lord.**

Luke 18:17

... **The things that are impossible with men are possible with God.**

President Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

... those **divine attributes** which the **believers in a living God** always ascribe to Him?

Personal Reflections:

We cannot even conceive the range of possibilities that God sees for us.

Learned in my life:

- I do not know what is possible.
- I do not know what is not possible.

II. **Serving God's Will**

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... it was necessary that he should be submissive in all things, and view obedience to the celestial law of the utmost importance. ... that nothing should be held dearer than obedience to the requirements of heaven.

He could not conceive the idea of a person's securing the blessings, enjoyments and privileges of life, and such things that his nature craved, independent of his wealth. But the gospel was of a nature that provided for everything that was necessary to fulfill the wants and requirements of man and make him happy.

But this young man was not willing; it was too great of a sacrifice.

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**I cannot imagine anything that is so vastly important as to work for and obtain one's own individual exaltation and glory.**

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... accomplish the labors for which we have come into this existence.

... determination to do the will of God under all circumstances ...

Question 2: Why do we need to "dislodge" such things from our lives ...?

2 Nephi 10:23 (Page 80)

... and remember that ye are free to act for yourselves – to choose the way of everlasting death or the way of eternal life.

Articles of Faith 1:3

... all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

John 5:36

... for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works I do ...

John 10:17-18

**Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my father.**

President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address

... let us go forth and lead the land we love, asking for His blessings and His help, but knowing that **here on earth God's work must truly be our own.**

President Lyndon B. Johnson's Address to Congress on Voting Rights

God will not favor everything that we do. It is rather our duty to [do] His [divine] will.

President George W. Bush, National Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002

The promise of faith is not the absence of suffering, it is the presence of grace.

### III. **Our Abilities Come From God**

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... his own exertions would never be enough without grace of God ...

... salvation comes through the grace of God.

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Jesus himself could not without divine aid from His Father accomplish His work.

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... comply with these requirements, except the people of God, as they are endowed with power from on high, which could proceed only from the Lord our God.

**We should consider that of ourselves we can do nothing.**

... God enlightens our understanding.

... we forget that we are working for God; ...

... to rid ourselves as far as possible of selfishness.

Jacob 4:7 (Page 124)

... that we may know that it is by His grace, and His great condescensions unto the children of men, that we have power to do these thing. (Condescension – God has communicated with mankind in a way which humans can understand and respond to).

John 8:29

And He that sent me is with me; the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please Him.**

John 5:30

**I can of mine own self do nothing:** as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father that hath sent me.

John 8:28

... **I do nothing of myself,** but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

John 10:37-38

If I do not do the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe me not, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the **Father is in me, and I in Him.**

President Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

... with **firmness** in right as **God gives us to see the right**, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, ...

Personal Reflections:

God generates the love I feel for Him and gives me spiritual clarity.

Dedicating to God what we do in serving His will.

Ideally, giving utmost importance, not to seeking my personal glories in this world (such as through wealth, fame, and power) but to glorifying God through my life, and recognizing that all good comes from Him.

Summary:

1. We should have complete trust in God and his purpose for our life.
2. We should freely serve His will with complete submission.
3. We should glorify God through serving His will and not seek to glorify our own self.

Personal Testimony:

I have fallen short of completely submitting my free will to God, at some times. I have at times not acknowledged Him as the source of all good he has given me in this world. I believe that if I persevere to the end, God may give me eternal life with Him.

In accepting Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said:

I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind. I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the "isness" of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal "oughtness" that forever confronts him.

Hymn 305