

# Humble is the Way

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*Entering into the Joy of our Lord*

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# Humble is the Way

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*And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart; if so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart; And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity*

*Moroni 7:49-50*

In the twenty-second chapter of Matthew, one of the Pharisees tempted Jesus Christ by asking Him which was the greatest commandment in the law. Jesus responded by saying, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.<sup>1</sup>” In other words, if we could love God with our whole self, then we would keep all the commandments [this will be covered in more detail in **Chapter Twenty-One**].

The love that Christ called us to have for God, for our neighbors, and for ourselves, was not a worldly love like the one we might have for a car, a video game, a movie, clothes, or other material items, but a pure love or charity. The Book of Mormon describes charity as the pure love of Jesus Christ, which is the greatest love of all and endures forever. Please read the following from Moroni 7:51:

**7:51** And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth.

Usually when we hear the word charity, we tend to think of a charity organization such as the Salvation Army. The charity mentioned above however is much deeper than that. It is much more than simply giving some of our time and money to help support a good cause, and especially more than being charitable just because we like the way it makes us feel afterwards. The charity or pure love of Jesus Christ is to give our whole heart, soul, and mind, not a just a portion; and it is not given because of what we might receive in return, but because we have love in our heart. Christ told His disciples, “This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.<sup>2</sup>”

Jesus gave us the perfect example of charity by taking on the sins of the world and suffering death on the cross and rising again that the whole world might have everlasting life if we believe on Him and

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 22:35-39

<sup>2</sup> John 15:12-13

follow His commandments. He did not do this because He was looking for a reward, but because He is love. Paul exhorted the Romans, writing, “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves...For even Christ pleased not himself.<sup>3</sup>” For the greatest example of charity and pure love, read the following from Philippians 2:5-11:

**2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; **2:6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it **not robbery to be equal with God**; **2:7** But made himself of **no reputation**, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; **2:8** And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **2:9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name; **2:10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **2:11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Can the reader imagine a greater love than this? We know that God is love because He “gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life.<sup>4</sup>” God, knowing that mankind is disobedient and that there is nothing that they could do themselves to enter back into his presence, sent Jesus Christ to be the atonement for our sins. “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins.<sup>5</sup>”

The New Testament and the Book of Mormon both explain that we are only saved by grace, which is another example of that pure love. In order for this grace to apply to us however, we must have faith in Jesus Christ and to love even as He loved us, which He did with all His heart, soul, might, mind, and strength. He did not lay down His life because of what we could do for Him, but because of what He could do for us. Please read from Ephesians 2:8 and Alma 13:46:

**2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**; but it is the gift of God; **13:46** And since man had fallen, he could not merit anything of himself; but the sufferings and death of Christ atoneth for their sins, through faith and repentance, etc.

For this grace and pure love of Jesus Christ to apply, we are called to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. Nonetheless, how can we love without humility? The very act of love, as Jesus taught through the example of His life, is to esteem others above ourselves. Paul wrote, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.<sup>6</sup>” How can we truly love and serve another person if we do not put their happiness and prosperity above our own? Likewise, how can we have the pure love of Jesus Christ in our heart, if we do not serve the Lord in absolute

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<sup>3</sup> Romans 15:1-3

<sup>4</sup> John 3:16

<sup>5</sup> 1 John 4:9-10

<sup>6</sup> Philippians 2:3-4

humility, not for our own pleasure, but for the glory of God? Jesus did not give His life in order for His own name to be glorified, but rather He gave His life so “that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ; to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”<sup>7</sup>

## Pride and Humility

It is imperative that we understand that not one person is greater than another, because we are all sinners, and there is only one way that we can enter into the Kingdom of God. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”<sup>8</sup> It is not by any merit or deed of mankind, but rather because of the grace and mercy of God that we all can have the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord<sup>9</sup> if we repent, believe on His name, and keep His commandments. Without Jesus, we can do nothing. Please read John 15:1-5:

**15:1** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. **15:2** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. **15:3** Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. **15:4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no ***more can ye, except ye abide in me.*** **15:5** I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; ***for without me ye can do nothing.***

Throughout the Book of Mormon, we read that without the atonement of Jesus Christ we could never enter in to the presence of God. For because of the transgression of mankind, we became fallen and cut off from the presence of the Lord, and this because no unclean thing can dwell with God. We learn that this transgression caused that all men should experience both a spiritual and temporal death, as Paul wrote, “It is appointed unto men once to die.”<sup>10</sup> Therefore, because God is a God of justice, the only way to reclaim mankind was through the mercy and resurrection of the Son of God. Please read the following Scriptures from 2 Nephi 6:11-30:

**6:11** For as death has passed upon all men, to fulfill the ***merciful plan*** of the great Creator, there must needs be a power of resurrection, **6:12** And the resurrection must needs come unto man by reason of the fall; **6:13** And the fall came by reason of transgression; **6:14** And because man became fallen, they were cut off from the presence of the Lord; **6:15** Wherefore, it must needs be an ***infinite atonement***; **6:16** Save it should be an infinite atonement, this corruption could not put on incorruption.

**6:17** Wherefore, the first judgment which came upon man, must needs have remained to an endless duration. **6:18** And if so, this flesh must have lain down to rot and to crumble to its mother earth, to rise no more. **6:19** O the wisdom of God! his mercy and grace! **6:20** For behold, if the flesh should rise no more, our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more. **6:21** And our

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<sup>7</sup> 1 Peter 4:11

<sup>8</sup> John 14:6

<sup>9</sup> Romans 6:23

<sup>10</sup> Hebrews 9:27

spirits must have become like unto him, and we become devils, angels to a devil, to be shut out from the presence of our God, and to remain with the father of lies, *in misery*, like unto himself; **6:22** Yea, to that being who beguiled our first parents; **6:23** Who transformeth himself nigh unto an angel of light, and stirreth up the children of men unto secret combinations of murder, and all manner of secret works of darkness.

**6:24** O how great the goodness of our God, *who prepareth a way for our escape* from the grasp of this awful monster; **6:25** Yea, that monster, death and hell, which I call the death of the body, and also the death of the spirit. **6:26** And because of the way of deliverance of our God the Holy One of Israel, this death, of which I have spoken, which is the temporal, shall deliver up its dead, which death is the grave. **6:30** And it is by the power of the resurrection of the Holy One of Israel.

The way that God has prepared for the children of men is only through Jesus Christ. “And now...I have told you this, that ye may learn wisdom, that ye may learn of me that there is no other way nor means whereby man can be saved, only in and through Christ. Behold, he is the life and the light of the world. Behold, he is the word of truth and righteousness.<sup>11</sup>” After coming to the understanding “that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the holy Messiah,<sup>12</sup>” what pride should we have in anything? Instead, we should always pour out our heart in thanksgiving to God, for though we are unworthy, we know that Jesus died for us. The following Scripture is from the Book of Mormon, Mosiah 2:8-23:

**2:8** For behold, if the knowledge of the goodness of God at this time, has *awakened* you to a sense of your nothingness, and your worthless and fallen state; **2:9** I say unto you, if ye have come to a knowledge of the goodness of God, and his matchless power, and his wisdom, and his patience, and his long suffering towards the children of men, **2:10** And also, the atonement which has been prepared from the foundation of the world, that thereby salvation might come to him that should **put his trust in the Lord**, and should be diligent in keeping his commandments, and continue in the faith even unto the end of his life; I mean the life of the mortal body; **2:11** I say, that *this is the man who receiveth salvation*, through the atonement which was prepared from the foundation of the world, for all mankind, which ever were, ever since the fall of Adam, or who are or who ever shall be, even unto the end of the world; and this is the means whereby salvation cometh.

**2:12** And there is *none other salvation*, save this which hath been spoken of; neither are there any conditions whereby man can be saved, except the conditions which I have told you. **2:13** Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things both in heaven and in earth; **2:14** Believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; **2:15** Believe that man doth not comprehend all things which the Lord can comprehend. **2:16** And again: Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and *humble* yourselves before God;

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<sup>11</sup> Alma 18:6

<sup>12</sup> 2 Nephi 1:73

and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you: **2:17** And now, if you believe all these things, see that ye do them.

**2:18** And again I say unto you as I have said before, that as ye have come to the knowledge of the glory of God, **2:19** Or if ye have known of his goodness, and have tasted of his love, and have received a remission of your sins, which causeth such exceeding great joy in your souls, **2:20** Even so I would that ye should remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness, and his goodness and long suffering towards you unworthy creatures, **2:21** And humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come, which was spoken by the mouth of the angel; **2:22** And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins; **2:23** And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true.

Nevertheless, we learn from the Book of Mormon that there must be an opposition in all things, “even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter.”<sup>13</sup> Thus we know that there must be an opposite to humility, which is pride. Whereas Jesus is the perfect example of humility, we learn in the third chapter of Genesis that Satan is the perfect example of pride. Please read the following account of Satan’s rebellion against God from Genesis 3:1-5:

**3:1** And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying, That Satan whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning; **3:2** And he came before me, saying, **Behold I**, send me, **I will** be thy Son, and **I will** redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely **I will** do it; wherefore, **give me thine honor**. **3:3** But behold, my beloved Son, which was my beloved and chosen from the beginning, said unto me: Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.

**3:4** Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan. **3:5** Yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.

In the Scripture above, we read that Satan’s proposal to redeem all mankind was to force all of mankind into it without a choice, which went against the design and will of God, who desires us to love Him because we love Him, and not because we have no other choice. It is important to also notice how Satan desired all the glory for himself, and this he did seemingly without any regard for God, who had created all things, including Lucifer. When Moses asked God why He made all of creation, the Lord God responded by saying, “For mine own purpose have I made these things. Here is wisdom, and it remaineth in me. And by the word of my power have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth. And worlds without number have I created, and I also created them for

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<sup>13</sup> 2 Nephi 1:98

mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them...for behold there are many worlds which have passed away by the word of my power; and there are many also which now stand, and numberless are they unto man; but all things are numbered unto me; for they are mine, and I know them.<sup>14</sup>

If the reader can imagine, Satan essentially told God, “I will redeem the creation that you have made with your own hands, I will do it with mine own power and not yours, I will do it in mine own way, and I will take all the glory.” Such a statement might be equivalent to a son saying to his father, “I will take everything that you possess, your house, your car, your money, everything that you have worked so long and hard to build and to obtain, and I will do with them as I please without thought or consideration.” As we can see, this type of statement is completely contrary to the pure love of Jesus Christ, which calls us to lay down our life for others.

Pride is a difficult subject in many regards. The world often tells us to take pride in ourselves, to take pride in our country, in our work, in our children, etc. However, this is contrary to what God asks of us. The 1828 Webster’s Dictionary defines pride as “inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one’s own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office.” In opposition to the pride of the world, God calls on us to humble ourselves even to the dust, and to be meek and lowly in heart. Without meekness and lowliness of heart, we cannot have faith, hope, or charity as we read in Moroni 7:49-50:

**7:49** And again, behold I say unto you, that he can not have faith and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart; if so, his faith and hope are vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly of heart; **7:50** And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity.

Jesus said, “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased of him and he that humble himself shall be exalted of him.”<sup>15</sup> In other words, why should we take pride in ourselves or in the things of the world? God will not exalt the prideful, no matter what. Why should we be proud of the United States? The U.S. did not become a great nation because of people, but because God raised it up for His righteous purposes. In the Doctrine and Covenants, Section Ninety-Eight, the Lord said, “And for this purpose have I established the constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men *whom I raised up* unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood.”<sup>16</sup>

Why should we take pride in work or talents? Who gave us those talents, and who allowed us to have the jobs that we have? Why should we take pride in our children? Who has blessed us with our children? It is important to notice that this type of thinking is no different from that of Lucifer’s, for he desired to redeem all mankind and to receive all the glory, yet he himself was created by God. “And now I ask, Can ye say aught of yourselves? I answer you, Nay. Ye can not say that ye are even as much

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<sup>14</sup> DC 22:21

<sup>15</sup> Matthew 23:9

<sup>16</sup> DC 98:h



as the dust of the earth: yet ye were created of the dust of the earth: but behold, it belongeth to him who created you.<sup>17</sup>”

Everything that we have received, even our body, has come from God. Through this plain and precious truth we can further witness the love of God. Jesus told the disciples, “Behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? How much more will he not feed you? Wherefore take no thought for these things, but keep my commandments wherewith I have commanded you. For which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature.”<sup>18</sup> Similar to how God expresses His love through the hope of eternal life, He also expresses His love through our lives on this earth. Please read the following Scriptures from Mosiah 1:53-59:

**1:53** I say unto you, that if ye should serve him who has created you from the beginning, and art preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move, and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another; **1:54** I say, if ye should serve him with all your whole soul, yet ye would be unprofitable servants. **1:55** And behold, all that he requires of you, is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments, ye should prosper in the land; **1:56** And he never doth vary from that which he hath said; therefore, if ye do keep his commandments, he doth bless you, and prosper you.

**1:57** And now, in the first place, he hath created you, and granted unto you your lives, for which ye are indebted unto him. **1:58** And secondly: he doth require that ye should do as he hath commanded you, for which if ye do, he doth immediately bless you; and therefore, he hath paid you. **1:59** And ye are still indebted unto him; and are, and will be, for ever and ever; therefore, of what have ye to boast?

From the Scripture passage above, we learn that we do not have rights to ourselves, except those which have been given by God, and that we were not created to please ourselves but to please God. Hence, the true miracle is not that there is God, but that He created us. If we would but humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, we have the promise that God will lift us up at the last day. Please read from James 4:6-10, and 1 Peter 5:5-7:

**4:6** But he giveth **more grace**. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but **giveth grace** unto the humble. **4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded...**4:10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

**5:5** Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the

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<sup>17</sup> Mosiah 1:60-61

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 6:29-31

humble. **5:6** Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. **5:7** Casting all your care upon him; ***for he careth for you.***

## Sin and Pride

The Scriptures often define darkness as the lack of knowledge of Jesus Christ, and it is this darkness which destroys mankind from the presence of God. The Lord spoke to the prophet Hosea, saying, “My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge; because thou has rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee.<sup>19</sup>” In particular, the darkness is a representation of the temptations of the devil and the enticings of the world that blind our eyes and harden our hearts. It is important to understand that one aspect, or portion, of that darkness is founded on pride, which is in opposition to the love God. Unfortunately, pride is not always straightforward and easy to witness in ourselves, but is subtle and cunning.

For an example, we would ask the reader what is sin? Is it lying, stealing, committing murder, etc., or is sin more than just those types of things? In the second chapter of Mosiah, we read, “And finally, I can not tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin: for there are *divers ways and means*, even so many, that I *can not* number them.<sup>20</sup>” However, a perfect definition of sin can be found in the Book of Mormon, please read the following passage from 3 Nephi 3:20:

**3:20** Now they did not sin *ignorantly*, for they *knew* the will of God concerning them, for it had been taught unto them; therefore they did *willfully rebel* against God.

Sin is to know both the will and the commandments of God and to willfully rebel against them. In other words, we essentially tell the Lord that we want to do what we want to do, to go where we want to go, and neither God nor man will tell us differently. In essence, we are saying that our own will and desires are more important than our Heavenly Father’s, as Cain said in Genesis, “Who is the Lord, that I should know him?<sup>21</sup>” It is important to understand that pride is founded on the lack of love for God, which is the foundation of all our sin, for Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.<sup>22</sup>” Therefore, “This much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. And now, O man, *remember, and perish not.*<sup>23</sup>”

If we are not vigilant, pride can creep into our hearts without us even noticing it. For example, has the reader ever driven down the highway and gotten angry with a another driver because they cut in front of them, because they were speeding, or because they did not use their turn signal? Has the reader considered that this is actually a form of pride? Are we more important than the other drivers on the road? Are we a better human being than they are because we use our turn signal? Perhaps we utilize

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<sup>19</sup> Hosea 4:6

<sup>20</sup> Mosiah 2:48

<sup>21</sup> Genesis 5:4

<sup>22</sup> John 14:15

<sup>23</sup> Mosiah 2:49-50

our turn signals more than others do, or we obey the traffic laws more extensively, however, do we sin any less? “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”<sup>24</sup>

In the first book of Nephi, chapter two, we read Lehi’s vision of the Tree of Life, which is a representation of the pure love of God and the gift of eternal life. The vision is an allegory of our walk in this life, and the things we must do in order to receive the gift of eternal life, such as holding fast to the Scriptures and feasting on the words of the Lord, having our own testimony of Jesus Christ, loving others as we love ourselves, and of course, being humble.

The vision also shares with us some of the pitfalls that we will see and experience from day to day, including the temptations of Satan and the world. Lehi’s vision explained that perhaps one of the biggest dangers that we will face is the pride of the world, which is the absence of the love of God and the cause of the fall of the world. Please read the following passages from 1 Nephi 2:71-75 and 1 Nephi 3:93-95:

**2:71** And I also cast my eyes round about, and beheld on the other side of the river of water a great and spacious building; **2:72** And it stood as it were in the air, high above the earth; **2:73** And it was filled with people, both old and young, both male and female; **2:74** And their manner of dress was exceeding fine; **2:75** And they were in the attitude of mocking and pointing their fingers towards those who had come at, and were partaking of the fruit.<sup>25</sup>

**3:93** And it came to pass that I saw and bear record, that the great and spacious building was the pride of the world; **3:94** And it fell; and the fall thereof was exceeding great. **3:95** And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying, **Thus shall be the destruction of all nations,** kindreds, tongues and people, that shall fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

It is critical to understand that although the great and spacious building was a representation of the pride of the world, the building itself is founded upon the absence of the love for God. In other words, it is founded upon the sand and when “the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it.”<sup>26</sup> “Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”<sup>27</sup> Though it is true that all have fallen short of the glory of God, this is not where He desires for us to remain. Instead, God said, “There is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.”<sup>28</sup>

## The Way to Everlasting Joy

Truly the works of God are joyful and marvelous, which are available for all mankind to witness and experience. One way in which we can witness of the infinite goodness of God is by reading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for in the Scriptures we are able to study the great plan of redemption that was given to

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<sup>24</sup> Romans 3:23

<sup>25</sup> Those partaking of the fruit of the Tree of Life

<sup>26</sup> Matthew 7:35

<sup>27</sup> Romans 13:12

<sup>28</sup> DC 22:23b

all mankind for those that believe in the Only Begotten Son of God and keep His commandments. John wrote it plainly, saying, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. But if any man sin and repent, we have *an advocate* with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the *propitiation* for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.<sup>29</sup>”

As we read previously, the greatest commandment in the law is to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and if we keep this commandment, we have the promise that we shall fulfill the whole law. Paul wrote in Romans, chapter thirteen, “Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.<sup>30</sup>” While this commandment is easy to understand, it can be very difficult for us to apply [read **Chapter Twenty-One**]. Thankfully however, we have a God of justice, mercy, and love, and because He is our Heavenly Father and Creator, He knows all of our shortcomings and weaknesses as Nephi wrote, “But the Lord knoweth all things from the beginning; wherefore, *he prepareth a way* to accomplish all his works among the children of men; for behold he hath all power unto the fulfilling of all his words. And thus it is. Amen.<sup>31</sup>”

The Scriptures explain that God gives no commandment unless He prepares a way for us to accomplish it, even a commandment to love Him with our whole soul. Since God both knows and understands that we struggle to not only love Him, but also ourselves and one another, He gave mankind an ensign of His eternal love through Jesus Christ, so that we might grow to love Him “because he first loved us.<sup>32</sup>” Apostle Arthur Oakman once said, “Have you ever considered that by the power of the His word the worlds were created, and yet He sent His only Begotten Son in order to change a selfish heart into a loving one.”

As we read in **Chapter One**, the atonement of Jesus was made from the very foundation of the world, and yet God has not ceased to demonstrate His love for mankind. As if giving His Only Son was not enough, God has continued to bless His people so that they might open their eyes and soften their hearts to the mighty power of His love. Although we are unworthy, the Lord continues to hear our prayers, to nourish us, to comfort us, and to strengthen us in order that one day we might wake up and finally realize that God is love, and that everything which He has done was for the eternal welfare of His creation. “He [God] doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life, that he may draw all men unto him.<sup>33</sup>” Please read the following from the Parable of the Vineyard, which is an allegory concerning the world from the beginning to the end thereof, as it is found in Jacob 3:89; 101-102:

**3:89** And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard *wept*, and said unto the servant, **What could I have done more for my vineyard?** **3:101** Have I slackened my hand, that I have not nourished it? **3:102** Nay; I have nourished it, and have I digged about it, and I have pruned it,

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<sup>29</sup> 1 John 2:1-3

<sup>30</sup> Romans 13:10

<sup>31</sup> 1 Nephi 2:100-102

<sup>32</sup> 1 John 4:19

<sup>33</sup> 2 Nephi 11:96

and I have dunged it; and I have stretched forth mine hand almost all the day long; and the end draweth nigh.

As we will cover in **Chapter Twelve**, the Lord has given everything for the sake of His sons and daughters, and despite our transgressions and shortcomings, Jesus Christ pleaded before the Father to take upon Him the form of a servant, to humble Himself even until death that we might have atonement for our sins. It is because He rose again on the third day that we trust that we too will be resurrected. “I protest unto you the resurrection of the dead; and this is my *rejoicing* which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord daily, though I die.<sup>34</sup>” Through the resurrection we have the promise that we will stand before God to be judged according to our works and to receive the precious gift of eternal life if we will keep His commandments and love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind.

Humility is the way to everlasting joy, for true spiritual joy is understanding “that if you should render all the thanks and praise which your whole souls have power to possess, to that God who has created you, and has kept and preserved you, and has caused that ye should rejoice, and has granted that ye should live in peace one with another; I say unto you, that if ye should serve him who has created you from the beginning, and art preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move, and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another; I say, if ye should serve him with all your whole soul, yet ye would be unprofitable servants. And behold, all that he requires of you, is to keep his commandments.<sup>35</sup>” Even though we will always be indebted to God, He has given His everything, even the life of Jesus in order to purchase us from everlasting woe, and this He has done simply because He loves you.

## Conclusion

In order to become humble we must first recognize that even before the beginning, the way was prepared for us to receive eternal life despite our own disobedience. It is important therefore to always retain a knowledge of our own nothingness and unworthiness, and that every man who enters into the Kingdom of God must do so by the same way, which is through Christ Jesus. Thus, we learn that we are all beggars before God, for all have a need to repent. Please read for Mosiah 2:32-35:

**2:32** For behold, *are we not all beggars?* Do we not all depend upon the same being, even God, for all the substance which we have for both food, and raiment, and for gold, and for silver, and for all the riches which we have of every kind? **2:33** And behold, even at this time, ye have been calling on his name, and begging for a remission of your sins. **2:34** And has he suffered that ye have begged in vain? **2:35** **Nay; he has poured out his Spirit upon you**, and has caused that your hearts should be filled with joy, and has caused that your mouths should be stopped, that ye could not find utterance, so *exceeding great was your joy*.

“Behold, this is joy which none receiveth save it be the truly penitent and humble seeker of happiness.<sup>36</sup>” Now that we understand that true joy is knowing that Jesus Christ died and rose again for

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<sup>34</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:31

<sup>35</sup> Mosiah 1:52-55

<sup>36</sup> Alma 15:18

all mankind regardless of our unworthiness, it is more than past time that we humble ourselves even as the dust, repent, and live unto God through Jesus. In so doing, we will receive the indescribable happiness that comes with a remission of sins. If the lack of love and the presence of pride are the foundation of sin, then humility and love are the way and the foundation of righteousness and eternal life. Thank you and God bless.