

Monday 4/8/2024

Brian Mundy asked for two prayers to start the session. Brother Mundy then shared his testimony regarding the agenda for the Conference. The word “hearken” kept coming to him. To hearken means to listen with the intent to obey. What do we need to hearken to? D&C 1 became the focus for the week, each day a portion of the Section.

This session is our response. Our response to the question of stewardship presented in our last session and our response to the Lord’s Spirit from the prayer service this morning. Brian then asked if the quorums had anything they wanted to share.

Members quorum – Isaiah 55 – Lord’s ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts higher than our thoughts. Personal preparation emphasized. Are we prepared to keep the Great Commission.

Aaronic Priesthood – Communion – who can partake. They plan to discuss further. Brian mentioned he would like to see the Elders take this question up as well.

Elders Quorum 1 – Discussed two thoughts that came from prayers during the morning prayer service – 1. Help me to climb the mountain and the mountain is me. 2. I am the Pharisee. What are the barriers and obstacles to overcome individually. Also what can we do collectively to break down barriers? We must be able to reason with one another through difficult conversations.

Elders Quorum 2 – God is the potter, we are the vessels. We are to be filled with the Lord’s Spirit if we are to accomplish the work He sets before us. We need the love of Christ to be reflected in our lives. What can we do in Branches to bring others into the Church?

Elders Quorum 3 – Takeaway from prayer service – we need to have an outward focus. There is power available to us when we reach outside of ourselves. Part of that is also the needed healing within the Church. What is the role of this Conference in accomplishing this.

Brian reminded the gathering that everyone was asked to come to Conference without agendas. And to remember that none of us have 100% of the light available but only a sliver.

Brian asked - Is the agenda for this week acceptable or is there something else that God wants? Where do we go from here? What is your response?

Some responses to Brian’s questions:

- Pray for the temple, leadership, House of Israel
- Make sure we stay on the strait and narrow path as found in the Scriptures. While not leaving this path we also need to change, to think outside the box, and not continue doing the same things we have been doing. We have done many good things but they have not taken us to where we want to be.
- Time to get out of Babylon and get our families out of Babylon.
- We often serve beneath the level of our calling. We have facilities and abilities that the Apostles of the early Church as found in the New Testament never had regarding travel and communication. We need to reassess where we are. We have the authority, the ability, the resources. We are left without excuse.

- Priesthood function when have an assignment up front but not so much the rest of the time. The membership live worldly lives and repent before Sacrament. These things must change.

Brian asked whether the foundation of our decisions will be based on scripture-The Inspired Version of the Bible, Book of Mormon, and D&C. The Conference agreed by raised hand that this would be the basis for making decisions.

How do we become an outward-focused Church, a Great Commission Church?

- The principle of inviting others to come unto Christ through faith and repentance. Inviting to come unto Christ gives them a reference and us a reference to work with. The call is to come to Christ first, then as circumstances permit to share the nuances of the Church and invite to share in fellowship with the Church.
- We need the Holy Spirit in greater abundance so that we can reach out to the hurting in the world.
- We need to be a repentant people.
- Prayer walks through neighborhood asking for opportunities to pray for someone and/or share Christ.
- Many aid organizations are already doing good work in our communities. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. We can assist with the work they are already doing.
- Home ministry is outreach outside the Church. A stronger emphasis on home visiting.
- Invite people to Wednesday night prayer service. Let them hear what the Lord is doing in the lives of the Saints. This may be a more effective way to get people to come Sunday morning.
- Be valiant in testimony – just do it.
- We have become satisfied staying at the foot of the mountain. We are surviving rather than growing as we wait for the Lord to do a mighty work that we can then join. Our responsibility is not to be satisfied but to be continually growing in Christ. We need to encourage and cultivate righteousness in the Branches. Only by obedience and action do we get the experiences we say we long for.
- Love God and love each other

Each of us can implement one or two of these things. If we do, and encourage one or two others to do the same, what growth and blessings we would see in the Church.

The Lord is calling us to a deeper relationship with Him. To weep with Him over Zion.

- Give me your time and I will give you more of me. Come with no agenda but to worship Me.
- Carry the seed of the Kingdom. Be it unto me according to Thy Word. We need to cry out for the Kingdom.

Closed the session with three prayers. That we would be able to implement those things discussed today.