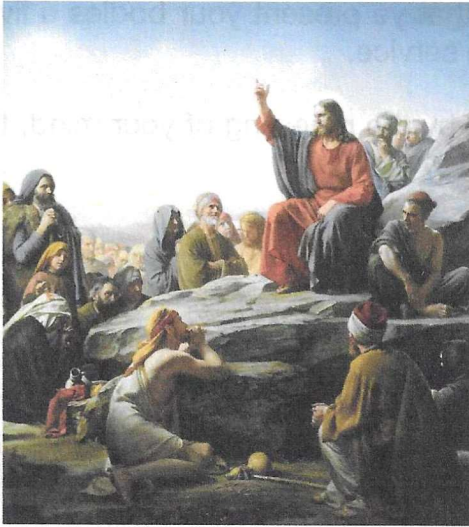


Zionic Principles

the Pure in Heart, the Peacemakers and Our Response when Persecuted

F Henry Edwards tells us in *The Life and Ministry of Jesus* that



The Sermon on the Mount has been called 'the moral law of the kingdom of God'. It bears the same general relation to the New Testament that the Ten Commandments bears to the Old Testament. This is not true in every detail, but it is a parallel.... Since the Ten Commandments were given by God for the guidance of ancient Israel, and the instruction contained in the Sermon on the Mount was also given by Divinity for the guidance of the new Israel, these two are related, being motivated by the same spirit and pointed toward the same end. All that is significant in the Ten Commandments is repeated in the Sermon on the Mount but on a much higher plane.

The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is for spiritually mature men and women.

Oswald Chambers in his book, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount* makes this important distinction.

Beware of placing our Lord as Teacher first instead of Savior. We must know Him first as Savior before His teaching can have any meaning...other than that of an ideal that leads to despair. Fancy coming to men and women with defective lives and defiled hearts...and telling them to be pure in heart! What is the use of giving us an ideal we cannot possibly attain?...But if we know Him first as Savior, we know that He did not come to teach us only: He came to make us what He teaches we should be. The Sermon on the Mount is a statement of the life we will live when the Holy Spirit is having His way within us.



Earl Curry in *The Endowment* p.9

Notwithstanding the boundless power of your great Creator,
He will not, in the very nature of His personality,
ever compel or force you
to choose the higher ways of the Spirit.
He will, however, wondrously reward all
who lovingly and of their deepest selves
choose the lofty concerns and ways of the Holy Spirit.

Who then among you will offer your life and your all to the
Lord of Hosts?

Apostle Russell Ralston stated in a sermon

If we are to build up the kingdom and establish his righteousness we must become intelligently obedient. This goes beyond submission, for it requires of us that we magnify the intelligence he has given us and utilize all of our faculties constructively for his purposes.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.

The revelation given through Israel A Smith in **D&C 140:5c,d** reminds us of how important our personal walk with the Lord is:

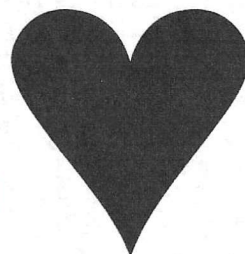
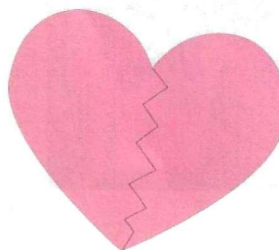
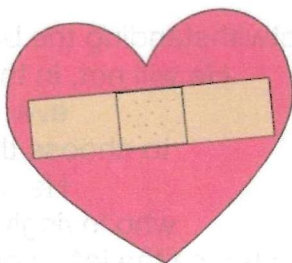
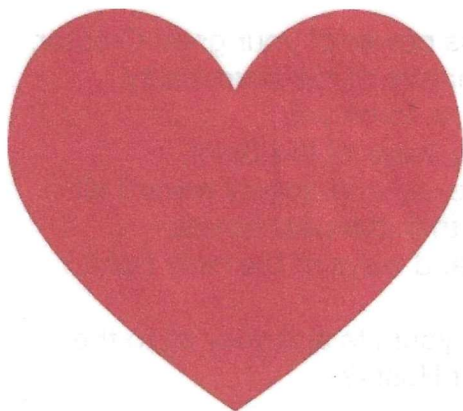
5c The work of preparation and the perfection of my Saints go forward slowly, and Zion conditions are no further away nor any closer than the spiritual condition of my people justifies;

5d but my word shall not fail, neither will my promises, for the foundation of the Lord standeth sure.



What is the condition of our heart?

This is important because the condition of our heart will determine the quality of our life here and in eternity.



A pure heart is not just an exercise in following the law and checking off the list of things we're doing right. It is a thoughtful choice. Its choosing to have **a personal relationship with the Son** and understanding the price. It's taking the time to have an intimate relationship with the Savior which bears fruit in a valiant witness of His redemptive love. Those with a pure heart are right with their Redeemer. Its not about looking good, it's about being good.

A pure heart believes that God is who He says He is and has done what He says He has done and will do what He has promised He will do. A pure heart is a humble heart. Those with a pure heart do not want to sit on God's throne but at His feet.

A pure heart is filled with the Holy Spirit, even to overflowing. The abundant power of the Holy Spirit will transform us into the person God created us to be. Our truest desire is to be in the Will of God. Those with a pure heart find Joy in His presence. For it depends on a steady flow of God's life giving spirit that gives us hope and encourages us to follow Him to higher ground.

In **Matthew 5:10** Jesus says: And blessed are all the pure in heart; for they shall **see God**.



John 1:19

And no man hath seen God at any time, except he hath **borne record of the Son**; for except it is through him no man can be saved.

I John 4:12

No man hath seen God at any time, except **them who believe**.

Genesis 4:10

And in that day Adam blessed God, and **was filled**, and began to prophesy...and in this life I shall have joy, and again, in the flesh I shall see God.

I Nephi 1:7

And **being thus overcome with the Spirit**, he was carried away in a vision, even that he saw the heavens open, and **he thought he saw God sitting upon his throne**, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels in the attitude of singing and praising their God.

D&C 22:8a-9a

8a And now it came to pass, that when Moses had said these words, behold, Satan came tempting him, saying, Moses, son of man, worship me.

8b And it came to pass that Moses looked upon Satan, and said, Who art thou, for behold I am a son of God, in the similitude of his Only Begotten; and where is thy glory, that I should worship thee?

8c For, behold, I could not look upon God except his glory should come upon me, and I were transfigured before him. But I can look upon thee in the natural man. Is it not so surely?

9a Blessed be the name of my God, for his Spirit hath not altogether withdrawn from me; or else where is thy glory, for it is darkness unto me, and I can judge between thee and God;

1) Developing **a pure heart is not just an exercise in following the law and checking off the list of things we're doing right.** It is a thoughtful choice. Its choosing to have **a personal relationship with the Son** and understanding the price. It's taking the time to have an intimate relationship with the Savior which bears fruit in a valiant witness of His redemptive love. Those with a pure heart are right with their Redeemer. Its not about looking good, it's about being good.



Heart disease is the most common cause of death in American Women.

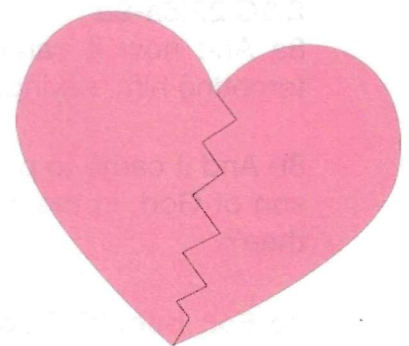
In the United States, almost one in four women dies of heart disease.

2) **A pure heart believes that God is who He says He is** and has done what He says He has done and will do what He has promised He will do. A pure heart is a humble heart. Those with a pure heart do not want to sit on God's throne but at His feet.

Perhaps your heart is healthy but it's broken.

Broken Heart Syndrome is a real medical condition and can happen even if you are healthy. Researchers do not know the exact cause but symptoms are often triggered by extreme stress, such as intense grief, anger or surprise.

Women are more likely than men to experience this condition. Experts think that a surge of stress hormones "stuns" the heart, causing intense, short-lived symptoms that usually don't cause permanent damage to the heart. Most women who experience Broken Heart Syndrome are older, between 58 and 75 years old.



Psalms 147:3 He healeth the **broken in heart**, and bindeth up their wounds.

In the book, *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...* pg 45-46 Apostle Russell Ralston shared how the sudden death of their little daughter left he and his wife broken hearted.

The shock of our little daughter's sudden passing, the weariness of a long summer's work, the immediate sense of our real loss found us weaker than we had expected. Through that first long night we reasoned. Every answer I had ever given to anyone else in such a time came to mind, but all fell short of our need.

For the first time in our lives we were truly broken-hearted. Through the agonizing hours of that night and the following day we came face to face with the reality that within this world there was no source of real help or strength, this in spite of the many thoughtful expressions of wonderful friendship offered by many good people. In this condition we found that there was only one source of strength, and we turned to Him.

He heard our prayers, and in our time of greatest turmoil came our sweetest peace. Such peace is not physical, but by its very nature is spiritual, lifting man above the woes of this life and giving him a taste of blessings yet to come. Such peace can be ours daily if we permit his spirit to transform us. Such peace must be ours if we are truly to assist in the building up of the kingdom of God, for this peace is part of its basic structure.

3 Nephi 5:66

And behold I have given you the **law and the commandments of my Father**, that ye shall **believe in me**, and that ye shall **repent of your sins**, and come unto me with a **broken heart** and a contrite spirit.

DC 59:2e

Thou shalt offer a sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in righteousness; even that of a **broken heart** and a contrite spirit.

Psalms 34:18

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a **broken heart**; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.



John 6:38

For I came down from heaven, not to do **mine own will**, but the will of him that sent me.

1 Nephi 1:65

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father, I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for **I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.**



D&C 18:4a

...I command thee that thou shalt pray **vocally** as well as **in thy heart**; yea, before the world as well as in secret; in public as well as in private.

DC 85:21a (given in December of 1832)

Also, I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall continue in prayer and **fasting** from this time forth.

DC 85:36b

Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing, and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of **fasting**, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God;

2 Nephi 14:4

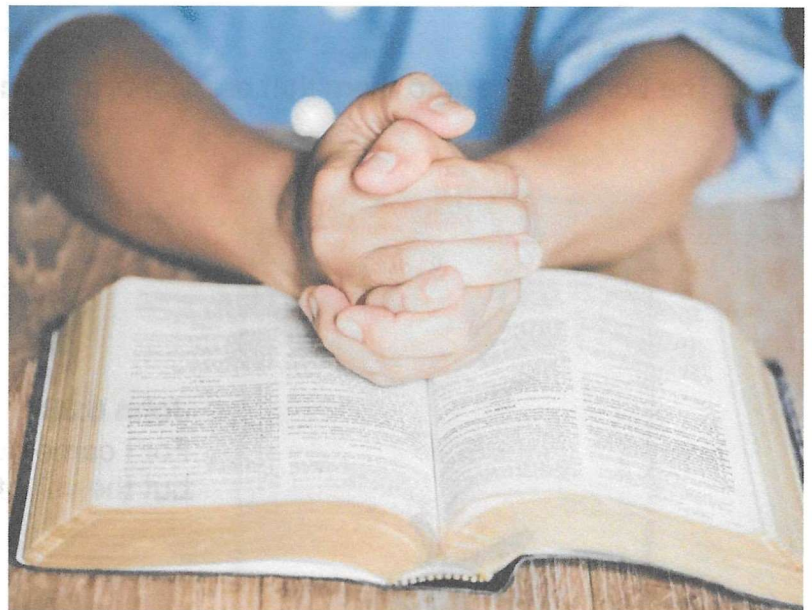
Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

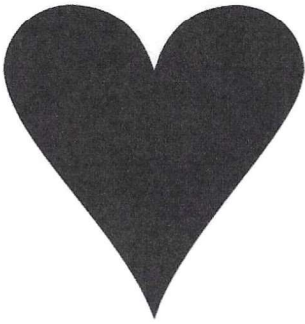
Matthew 24:39

And whoso treasureth up my words, shall not be deceived.



3) **A pure heart is filled with the Holy Spirit**, even to overflowing. The abundant power of the Holy Spirit is able to transform us into the person God created us to be. A pure heart's truest desire is to be in the Will of God. Those with a pure heart find Joy in His presence and are transfigured by His glory. The pure heart can see God because the power of the Holy Spirit resides within. Those with a pure heart depend on a steady flow of God's life giving spirit which gives hope and encouragement to empower them to follow Him to higher ground.

The Hardened Heart



There is a medical term called Stiff Heart Syndrome. A stiff heart occurs when the heart muscle thickens in response to high blood pressure. While initially this thickening helps increase pump function to maintain blood flow to the body, eventually, the pump starts to stiffen and pressure starts to build up in the heart. This can lead to shortness of breath and fluid retention both in the lungs and in the legs.

Mosiah 11:107

And now because of their unbelief, they could not understand the word of God; and their **hearts** were **hardened**.

1 Nephi 5:112

And notwithstanding they being led, the Lord their God, their Redeemer, going before them, leading them by day and giving light unto them by night, and doing all things for them which were expedient for man to receive, they **hardened** their **hearts**, and blinded their minds, and reviled against ... against the true and living God.

Ezekiel 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh;

On September 21, 1823 - just over 200 years ago - Moroni came to Joseph Smith and quoted **Joel 2:28-32** and added that this was not yet fulfilled but soon would be

Joel 2:28-32

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit. 30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. 32 And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered**; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

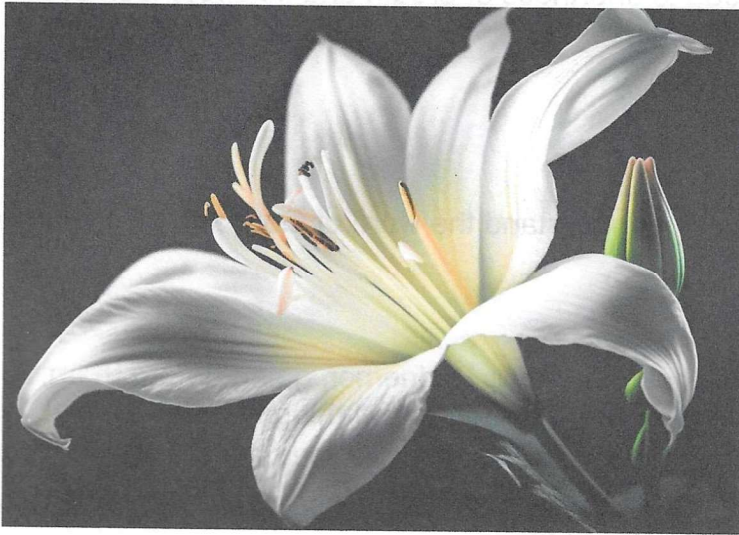
So, as stated by Earl Curry in the Endowment, p8, 14

Can you not see, then, that what is most needed now is...such a generation of men and women, boys and girls, who see these things - **whose hearts are touched by the mighty appeal of what they see an Almighty Father can do through them?** All other things will fall into place as this generation of spiritual stalwarts arises.

...it is a noble association of deeply consecrated, inspired and gifted minds, humble to know the truth, anxious to glorify His high purpose and name, and deeply concerned , as is He, with the achievement of this **His** high purpose for life.

As F Henry Edwards said in *The Life and Ministry of Jesus* pg. 86

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Purity of heart is a living purity. It is not innocence, but is the outcome of conflict and the manifestation of strength. The purity of a lily comes from the nature which enables it to extract from the surrounding filth such food as will nurture its own white beauty.

In a similar way, the purity which Jesus smiled on grows and blossoms in spite of surrounding circumstances because its roots are in the life of God.

*blessed are the
peacemakers; For they shall be called the Children of God*



First, a peacemaker must be able to understand and experience peace personally if they hope to have any influence in bringing peace into the relationships of others.

Isaiah 26:1-2

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.
Trust ye in the Lord forever; for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.

In **Philippians 4:6-7** we are told what is required to obtain a Godly peace.

Be afflicted for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid

John 16:33

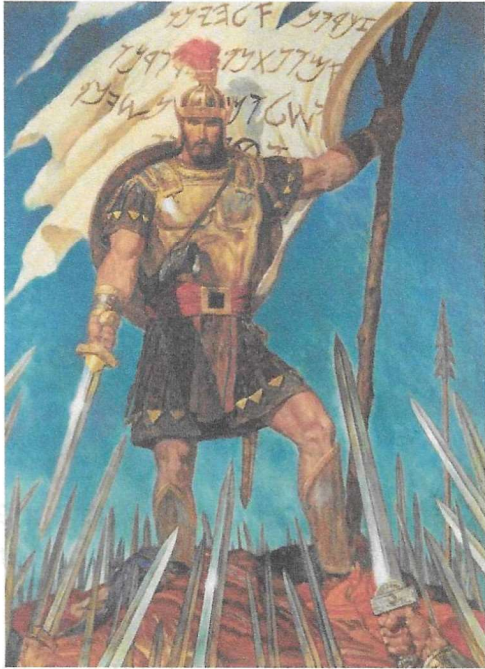
These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Second, a peacemaker is not the same as a peacekeeper.

D&C 42:23a

And if thy brother or sister offend thee, thou shalt take him or her between him or her and thee alone; and if he or she confess, thou shalt be reconciled.

Sometimes peace begins with war.



Alma 21:38-43

38 Yea, we see that Amalickiah, because he was a man of cunning devices, and a man of many flattering words, that he led away the hearts of many people to do wickedly;

39 Yea, and to seek to destroy the church of God, and to destroy the foundation of liberty which God had granted unto them, or which blessing God had sent upon the face of the land, for the righteous' sake.

40 And now it came to pass that when Moroni, who was the chief commander of the armies of the Nephites, had heard of these dissensions, he was angry with Amalickiah.

41 And it came to pass that he rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it, **In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children;** and he fastened it upon the end of a pole thereof.

42 And he fastened on his head-plate, and his breastplate, and his shields, and girded on his armor about his loins; and he took the pole, which had on the end thereof his rent coat (and he called it the title of liberty),

43 And he **bowed himself to the earth, and he prayed mightily unto his God for the blessings of liberty to rest upon his brethren so long as there should be a band of Christians remain to possess the land;**

Third, a peacemaker must be committed to God's truth, not their own truth.

blessed

*are all they
that are persecuted
for my name's sake;
for theirs is
the kingdom of heaven*

F Henry Edwards, *Life and Ministry of Jesus* p87

There is a widely prevalent idea that those who serve God faithfully can count on him for deliverance from pain and sickness. This is not always true. History is replete with evidences of the unfailing love of God toward his people. He frequently saves those who love him from pain and sorrow. But there are times when to deliver his disciples from lesser evils would be to deliver them over to greater evils, and our Heavenly Father does not do this. He did not deliver his Son in Gethsemane, ...and though Paul was saved from the viper he still had to go to Rome a prisoner in order that there he might preach the word of God.

blessed

*are ye when men shall revile you,
and persecute you,
and shall say all manner of evil
against you falsely,
for my sake.*

*For ye shall have great joy,
and be exceeding glad;
for great shall be your reward
in heaven;
for so persecuted they the prophets
which were before you.*

Joseph is a wonderful example on how to respond to persecution.

- 1) He was 17 when he was sold into Egypt by his brothers
- 2) He was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and thrown into prison
- 3) He interpreted the chief Butler's dream but He did not repay Joseph by remembering him to the Pharaoh for 2 years.
- 4) He was 30 when he finally stood before the Pharaoh

"Joseph's original dreams promised greatness; however, the dark days leading up to the fulfillment of the dreams were not revealed to him. Yet, Joseph did not doubt in the dark...what God had revealed in the light. He believed God and held on to his choices....His dreams came true because of his choices."

George Sweeting, *Don't Doubt in the Dark*

Daniel 2:20-22

20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever; for wisdom and might are his;

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding;

22 He revealeth the deep and secret things; **he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.**

F Henry Edwards *For Such a Time* pg91

We must not be afraid of the dark. In the long run the issues of time and eternity are not in our hands. Most certainly they are not in the hands of wicked men. They are in the hands of God. And one of the heartening things about our Heavenly Father is that "he know's what is in the darkness, and **the light dwelleth with him.**"