

CHAPTER 1

♥ Turning Our Hearts



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In bringing to pass the second part of God's work, *eternal life of mankind*, we are in a partnership with the Lord in becoming Saviors on Mount Zion, all committed to the great plan of offering salvation to untold numbers of spirits.

"And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming." (D&C 2:2-3)

"Touch the Hearts of Thy People..."



Gordon B. Hinckley
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"...Touch the hearts of Thy Saints that they may work with outreaching love in this holy edifice in behalf of their forebears. May they seek after their kindred dead, and do for them what must be done if they are to be released from the bondage in which they have been kept for so long. Touch the hearts of thy people with the spirit of the Prophet Elijah that the hearts of the fathers may be turned to the children and the hearts of the

children may be turned to the fathers, that the purposes of the earth may not be frustrated, but may be fulfilled." (Gordon B. Hinckley, Mt Timpanogos Utah Temple Dedicatory Prayer, Oct 13, 1996)

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Suggested Activities

1. Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit regarding turning your heart to your fathers
2. Attend the temple regularly
3. Nourish your love for your own ancestors and contemplate the *promises* you made to your forefathers.

Turning Our Hearts



“This is My Work and My Glory”

Heavenly Father has an absolutely awesome job! The Lord himself declared, *“Behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.”* (Moses 1:39).

Notice that there are two parts to His work.

The first part – *immortality of all mankind* – has already been assured by the Atonement and the resurrection of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

- I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. (John 11:25)

- As in Adam all die, even so in Christ, shall all be made alive. (1st Cor. 15:22,25-26)



“Jesus Christ”
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- Christ both died, and rose...that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. (Rom. 14:9)

The second remaining part, *eternal life*, means to become like the Father and to live in families in happiness and joy forever. The Lord Jesus Christ told us what eternal

life is worth: *“If you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God”* (D&C 14:7).

However, *‘bringing to pass the eternal life of man’* is going to take some time and loving care. And each of us is privileged to assist in this remaining work!

For example, parents are partners with God in bringing to pass His eternal purposes with reference to His children. However, this second part of God’s work involves *more* than just being parents to His children. In the beginning, we also went into a partnership with the Lord in becoming *saviors on Mount Zion*, all committed to the great plan of offering salvation to untold numbers of His children.

A Plan of Salvation for All the Sons and Daughters of God

As we know, Heavenly Father’s plan was to provide a Savior for us to pay for our sins and to teach us how to return to Him. But He knew that not all of His children would have the opportunity to avail themselves of the Savior’s atonement through their life’s journey on earth. There are uncounted millions who have walked the earth and who have never had the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Shall they be denied the blessings of the Atonement of the Lord and the ordinances necessary for exaltation?

In His wisdom, Heavenly Father formulated an ingenious strategy as part of His plan...a plan for which all of the full benefits of the Atonement wrought by our beloved Savior might be available to all the sons and daughters of God of all generations of time.



Joseph Smith
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The Prophet Joseph Smith declared that God, *“before [the earth] rolled into existence... contemplated the whole of the events connected with the earth... [God] knew... the depth of iniquity that would be connected with the human family, their weakness and strength, ... the situation of all nations and... their*

destiny,... and [He] has made ample provision for [mankind’s] redemption.” (Ensign, Nov. 2002, p. 18) (History of the Church, 4:597)

Life is a Homeward Journey



Elder Boyd K. Packer
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Modern-day leaders have continued to remind us of this important concept. Elder Boyd K. Packer said:

“...Life is a homeward journey for all of us, back to the presence of God in his celestial kingdom. Ordinances and covenants become our credentials for admission into His presence. To

worthily receive them is the quest of a lifetime; to keep them thereafter is the challenge of mortality. Once we have received them for ourselves and for our families, we are obligated to provide these ordinances vicariously for our kindred dead, indeed for the whole human family” (“Covenants,” Ensign, May 1987, 24).

His Plan Touches Our Hearts

This part of Heavenly Father’s plan is so brilliant, so simple, yet so powerful. By design, it touches our very hearts. Heavenly Father’s plan to share the full benefits of the Savior’s Atonement to all of His children of all generations of time is entitled by Him:

“Turn the Hearts of the Children to the Fathers”



What does this profound statement mean? Can it really be that simple? And exactly how does it work? Let’s start with some background information.

The Savior Provided Additional Scripture

When the prophet Lehi and Sariah and their family left Jerusalem in about 600 B.C. as they were commanded, they took with them the *Brass Plates of Laban*, which was in wisdom for them. But Heavenly Father knew that the Brass Plates contained incomplete information, meaning that it only contained information up to that period of time in history. After all, it was 600 B.C. and there were other records and prophecies yet to be written that Heavenly Father wanted them to have. Among other things, the Brass Plates of Laban did not include the Books of Malachi or Matthew for these prophets were not even born when Lehi left Jerusalem.

When the Savior visited Lehi and Sariah’s descendants in the new world after His resurrection, He ministered unto them for three days, and taught them many things. And He showed himself unto them often. Mormon said that he could not write *“even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus*



“Behold Your Little Ones”
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