

The Greater Light

The End Time Messenger

“... Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed Repentance and Baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that THE GREATER LIGHT might come to them.”
 Message 53:3

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“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17



The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message
THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND EUROPE

Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God the Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the universe; Ruler and Judge of all; unchangeable and without respect of persons.

2. We believe in Jesus Christ the manifestation of God in flesh, who lived, suffered, and died for all mankind; whom we own as our only Leader, Witness, and Commander.

3. We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, reveals this to come, and is the medium by which we receive the revelation of Jesus Christ.

4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of the atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the Law. For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)

5. We believe that through the atonement of Christ all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel; viz.: Faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination; (b) Blessing of Children: (c) Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17); (d) Healing of the sick.

6. We believe in the literal second coming and millennial reign of Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.

7. We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting Gospel; viz.: The word of wisdom; the word of knowledge; the gift of faith; the gift of healing; working of miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits; divers kinds of tongues; interpretation of tongues.

8. We believe the fruits of the Spirit to be love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

9. We believe that in the Bible is contained the Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is the added witness for Christ; and these contain the "fullness of the gospel."

10. We believe in the principle of continuous revelation; that the canon of scripture is not full, that God inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom He may choose.

11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly baptized members, one of whom is an elder, there the Church exists with full power of Church extension when acting in harmony with the Law of God.

12. We believe that man must be called of God by revelation and ordained by those having authority, to enable him to preach the Gospel and administer the Ordinances thereof.

13. We believe in the same Church organization as existed in the time of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in the Church is that of an apostle, of whom there are twelve, who constitute special witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have the Missionary Supervision and the General Watchcare of all the Churches.

14. The primary function of the General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is missionary and the building up and extension of the Kingdom of God in all

the world.

15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to the Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.

16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends the true brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein the Divine command to "love your neighbor as yourself" is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.

17. We believe that all men are stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of stewardship is not the increase of church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of the common fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy the bounty and gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.

18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of the Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when chosen or appointed by the Church to devote their entire time to missionary work, their families are to be provided for out of the General Church fund. The admonition of Christ that ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but good trusting in God and the people, is applicable.

19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by the general bishopric under the supervision and direction of general conferences of the Church. The temporal affairs of the Local Churches shall be administered by local bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.

20. We believe that marriage is ordained of God, and that the Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of a breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.

21. We believe oppose to war. Men are not justified in taking up of arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.

22. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, and in the restoration of the ten lost tribes.

23. We believe a Temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal Himself and endow His servants whom He chooses with power to preach the Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue, and people, that the promise of God to Israel may be fulfilled.

24. We believe that New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land "unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, (Ether 13:4-8; III Nephi 10:17), which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot."

25. We believe that ministry and membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics, and should not affiliate with any society which administer oaths or covenants in conflict with the Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

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EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR/BUSINESS MANAGER

Reece Johnson, 39602 E. Boswell Rd. Lone Jack, MO. 64070
Send all materials for Publication and Subscription to the
Editor/Business Manager

ASSISTANT EDITOR

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Ruby Draves

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Thresa Ray

YOUNG ADULT DEPARTMENT

Joy Ellen Draves-Dreher

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HEADQUARTERS' OFFICES

P.O. Box 199, Independence, Mo, 64050
Or

14500 East 42nd Street South, Suite 240, Independence, MO. 64055

CHURCH HISTORIAN COMMITTEE

Apostle Jairus Yates & Apostle Reece Johnson

SEND ALL TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE BISHOPS' OFFICE

14500 East 42nd Street South, Suite 240, Independence, MO. 64055

CHURCH GENERAL RECORDER'S OFFICE

14500 East 42nd Street South, Suite 240, Independence, MO. 64055

BOARD OF PUBLICATION: The Twelve

CHAIRMAN OF THE TWELVE

Richard Johnson, 301 South Oak St., Lamoni, IA 50140

SECRETARY OF THE QUORUM OF TWELVE

Jairus Yates, 35994 County Road 150, Preston, MO 65732
Phone: 417-722-9733

WEBSITES

<http://www.johnthebaptist.info>
<http://www.theassuredway.org>
<http://www.ancientofdays.org>

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Message 53.3, "Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them."

Message 53.10, "Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men."

THE GENERAL MISSIONARIES

Every Elder's Duty is Missionary where opportunity permits.

APOSTLES

Ashley Beckham, McKinney, TX ashley@johnthebaptist.info
Ethan Johnson Blue Springs, MO ethan@johnthebaptist.info
Reece Johnson, Lone Jack, MO reece@johnthebaptist.info
Richard Johnson, Lamoni, IA richard@johnthebaptist.info
Meshak Kebasi, Kenya, Africa meshak@johnthebaptist.info
Adam Stokes Beverley, NJ, adam@johnthebaptist.info
Jairus Cree Yates, Preston, MO jairus@johnthebaptist.info

BISHOPS

Alexander Simiyu Wafula Kenya, Africa alex@johnthebaptist.info

**THE QUORUM OF TWELVE
TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Ashley Beckham— Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Mexico. (254-717-4836)

Ethan Johnson— Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Hawaii. (816-510-5453)

Reece Johnson— Missouri, Montana, Idaho, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Eastern Canada (816-366-2038)

Richard Johnson- Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, California, New York, Central Canada, and Western Canada. (641-784-3451)

Adam Stokes- Virginia, West Virginia, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware, Vermont, Massachusetts. (443-487-3374)

Jairus Cree Yates- Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Bahamas. (417-722-9733)

It is the agreement of *The Quorum of Twelve of this Church*, that no Minister is to Ordain any man into *The Ministry* until said candidate has with all his heart and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in *The Articles of Faith and Practice*.

It is each Elder's duty to Seek Guidance from and to keep The Territorial Apostle informed of his works in the region he is laboring.

Secretary For The Twelve

FOREWORD

THE GREATER LIGHT, the official publication of *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of a united people, whose only aim is to promote *The Cause of Christ* by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue and people, *The True Gospel of Christ* that through Obedience to His Laws we might be found worthy of *Eternal Life*.

In this publication, *The Record of The Nephites* is quoted many times. This Book was Revealed and Translated by *The Gift and Power of God*: the year 1829 marked the beginning of *The Restoration of all things*. It is history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The Native Americans. Though it contains a Record of two other groups of people who once lived here, it is for the most part a Record of The People of Nephi.

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work given to him of God; that of Restoring all things (Matthew 17: 11-13). The Angel first came in 1829, and Restored *The Authority of the Son of*

God, that *The Church of Christ* might be Established as in The Days of The Apostles.

In 1927, The Angel Messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us *The Word of The Lord* that *The Church of Christ* might be set in Order, that a people might be Prepared to be *The Bride of Christ*. This is *The Elijah Message* so many have looked for, *The Midnight Cry* has been Proclaimed, *A Warning of Destruction*, but to *The People of The Lord*, a Message that Christ's soon Coming is near at hand. Fear God and give *Glory to His Name*, for *The Hour of His Judgement* has come. Awake those that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of Prayer and Fasting in Humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again Spoken and Revealed *His Will* from Heaven. To this end, we Dedicate *The Greater Light*.

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Thank you.



THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY

To All People

Ninety-First Message

July 15, 1972, I retired a little after midnight. Shortly after I had been in bed, the Messenger of the Lord, the Elias, appeared and gave the following Message. He spoke slowly as I wrote what he said. He was with me about 2 hours.

-W.A. Draves

1. "Behold! Arise and write the Message I will give to you. I come from the Lord's presence, moreover, the Christ who is Lord and God.

2. I am your fellow servant and my name is John. I am resurrected- I was resurrected when Christ arose from the tomb. I am the Elias, the Messenger of the Lord. I am His forerunner. I have come in the past. I have spoken His will and I shall come in the future. I come at His appointing. My Message is one of love to those that heed and obey it.

3. My mission is, that the Church may be fully prepared at the Lord's coming. I come to prepare a people, the Lord's Bride. Yea, let all hear what the Lord has commanded me to say.

4. I have brought the authority of the holy priesthood and reiterated and affirmed it. Will you keep it sacred, that the work of God may be accomplished and salvation comes to the humble, those that are full of love and obey the will of the Lord?

5. Fear not, for this is the Lord's work. I have come to you. I have called other servants to help in this work, though they be few- yet a great work can be done. For

the Lord of the vineyard shall labor also, that the work might be done, for it must go on in haste.

6. My warning Message is: Let all men everywhere come repentant before the Lord, cry mightily unto Him, that they might find deliverance. Except they repent they cannot be redeemed from that awful state. For the way of redemption is prepared that whosoever will, may walk therein and be saved.

7. God worketh not in subtle manners; nor in evil ways, nor in delusions, such as satan and man doeth.

8. I am 'that prophet' of which Moses spoke of saying, the Lord God shall raise up a prophet, him shall you hear in all things, speaking the will and the way of the Lord God.

9. I am not Elijah the former prophet neither was he me. He was a prophet in his day with the power of God upon him. He proved God to be real. Likewise, I shall have the same power upon me and my work and in the words I speak. I speak with the same power, therefore the reason to say, "In the spirit and power of Elias, or Elijah." It meaneth that of God, not of man.

10. I was a prophet in my days on earth. I am not another person, nor any other person is me. Each person is a child of themselves. It is given once for mankind in this life of probation- once to die. In the resurrections all mankind shall be resurrected.

11. I am now a resurrected being in and with the redeemed of the Lord. I am body and flesh and bone. I bear the Spirit of the Lord. I speak His words. It is the Christ's words that shall judge all men—therefore He cannot use man filled with selfishness of his own way. Therefore come out of the ways of sin and self.

12. The ways of sin grows worse and worse. Children will disobey their parents. Parents have and will disown their children and turn aside in sin and evil doings. Gos-

sip and deceit are everywhere- Thus destroying confidence in one another. Sin speaketh sin to cover their evil deeds.

13. Be thou clean that bear the vessels of the Lord. Let your conversation be clean. Let realness of charity rule your lives. Lift up a standard.

14. Man's sins will find him out and be his sorrow. How great a grief they bring.

15. This is the day of the Lord's preparation. Let all mankind prepare to meet their God.

16. Woe be to those that claim they are elected for special callings- when it is the duty of man to be as humble servants not seeking to be great.

17. They that are of God and are humble, seeking the Spirit and find it in righteous acts, showing charity beyond measure, will have the greater power and their works will stand the test.

18. See those that think themselves to be great, seeking prominency, moreover seeking the praise of mankind. Their works do show their nothingness and will not endure the sword of truth and justice.

19. In the past, some have been ordained to the priesthood who have not qualified to work in God's will in this way nor attained to the Holy Spirit. Evils and their planning and plotting, yea, their sins will be seen in their failures.

20. See those who would be vessels of honor but because of pride and seeking praise and high positions, have walked away from this humble work of God—or would not come to it. Therefore, their call of God they heed not, but destroy and deny it by their actions. Save what and all you can, but cast not your pearls before swine

21. Moreover, the Lord is grieved because many that have been called are doing nothing- waiting for a great day to come to shake them loose- when this is a great Message and great day. What have you done now? Where are those that would qualify to

be leaders and be up and doing?

22. Fear not man nor the whisperings of satan, he will deceive, if it were possible the very elect. But the elect shall not be moved. Moreover, they will do all they can in love, humility and the spirit of peace in good works. Joy be to the hearts and souls of the faithful- those that be calm and built upon the rock, the word; they will yet bring forth.

23. Why doeth man feel himself to be great? Come in this way, suffer it to be so- receive this authority and God will multiply your good works.

24. If it be of God and by the Spirit speaketh knowledge it will calm the soul. When man speaketh in an unknown tongue, he that speaketh shall know what he saith- else he speaketh in vain. The vain sputtering and babbling of the lips of man is from the mind of man or satan and seeketh to deceive. It is the spirit of divination though it acteth in pretension for truth, it is deception. Where has it lead them? Has it brought them to this work? Yea, to only be slower to hear the truth when it comes.

25. Take the bitterness out of the heart and be firm, even all, and God will yet use some to speak the word in power in other languages that are real to the people where they need it.

26. Go forth, swing wide the gates, step forward and the way will divide. Though I call the unlearned and the learned, let all learn this way. Some will repent, others will blaspheme in action, word or deed. Be not dismayed, take courage others will come all the way.

27. They that are filled with bitterness and contempt, charity hath no hold on them.

28. Let the tithes come in, that the Churches may stay alive and build themselves up. For great is the call to be ready when men look for standards and find it not elsewhere. Let it be found in The Church of

Christ with the words I bring that God's plan may be understood.

29. Love not mammon, nor the ways of the world. Let your moneys serve instead of master. Seek God and His righteousness and much will be added unto you.

30. Let the work continue far and near and in all parts of the earth.

31. There are necessary trials that have come to all that they might learn patience and the love of God. For charity knoweth nor doeth no evil.

32. I bring a Message of love, of hope of salvation and deliverance. I come from the Lord's presence. I speak the truth. Men shall be judged and stand before the pleasing bar of God.

33. There are ways that seemeth right to mankind but the end thereof separates them from God. They walk in selfishness and not in good will towards all men. Be at peace with all men as much as it lays in your power.

34. The conditions of the world will grow worse and worse until you will think there is no peace anywhere- save in the hearts of the faithful.

35. My work is to bring all Christendom together into one fold, to one shepherd and plan of eternity with God. Let my Message go to the pastors and them that lead and all that seek truth.

36. Let David Temple continue his good works; send him more help in materials and finance. He has planted the seed- let it continue.

37. Let Herbert H. Fillmore know this work is true. The Lord has brought him to know this way and if he will hear the call to higher service with God for mankind, he will bring many to the truth. They shall find deliverance in the words and authority I bring. Let him come into this work and be set apart as an elder, moreover an evangelist. Let him labor among the many that know him, for the Lord has preserved and

reserved him to carry on to this day. Great rejoicing will be his.

38. Let Charles W. Burpo know the Lord has established him. Trials have brought him to grieve much, but God will deliver him. He has preserved and reserved him to carry this work to the heads of the nations and to this nation where the foundation of Zion shall be. Let God be just- man of himself will fail, but in the Lord He is a mighty power. What the Lord doeth He doeth well. 'I will be with him,' saith the Lord, 'and he shall be a servant in My hands to speak justice and truth and this way of deliverance. Let him come into this work and be set apart an apostle.'

39. There are those that have been called to fill the places of vacancy; let them arise and move in the will of the Lord.

40. Let Warren R. Foskett prepare as an evangelist to work among the Spanish, as the way opens and he can arrange his home plans.

41. Let the assembly be conducted in peace and teaching the word. Let all learn this way more perfectly that they may give a reason for the hope in them in defending the words I bring.

42. Let the work among the Indians and colored be of greater interest and bring them to this way in humility, in peace and in the spirit that calms the soul and brings deliverance. Let them likewise carry the Message to their own color and kind.

43. Let Eddie Lee prepare for a greater evangelical work that he may go among his people, even to foreign fields and bring them into this way. Deliverance will come to them and they will find the way of truth and life. Awaken the honest in heart that they will be ready when the Lord comes to claim His jewels. Many shall be among them at that day. Take to them the Gospel of life, hasten as the way opens.

44. Let Omel Harold R. Bogan know the Lord has seen his faith, humility and

efforts to defend this work. He shall have greater peace and power. Let him labor as an evangelist, the Lord will establish him.

45. Let LeRoy Gripe know the Lord has seen his desire and will fill him and open the way for a greater work. Let him labor as an evangelist.

46. Let Mike J. Bogan come into this work for the Lord has given his good works to bring others into this way and bring deliverance to many- for this is the hope of eternity with God.

47. Let Daniel A. Rogers be restored to an evangelist and if he will be humble and turn away from that which causes contention, that is not prompted of the Lord, he will be a great blessing to many.

48. It is the Lord's will that L.M. Thornton take his place as he has done. The greater gifts shall come to him in his faith and good works.

49. The greater gifts and power are on you if you will but qualify and strengthen your faith in actions. I place peace upon you and leave a blessing for all who read these words. Amen."

Articles

The Fruit of the Spirit In Our Life

Ruby Draves

What are the Fruits of the Spirit?

Galatians 5:22-25, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Why are they Important?

The Fruits of Spirit are 9 characteristics that help guide our actions and are the result of the Lord's presence in our lives- manifested through His Spirit. With these in our arsenal, we are more equipped to resist sin, walk and live closer to our Lord and avoid spiritual barrenness.

2 Peter 1:1-10 tells us that these gifts, these promises, are precious and are essential to gain entrance into His Kingdom. "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2. Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3. According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6. And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7. And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9. But he that lacketh these things is

blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

How are the Fruit of the Spirit Defined?

Like with anything if we are to employ a gift, skill, or talent, we must first understand, study, and practice. Let us take some time to examine each.

Love

It is not surprising that Love is the first to be mentioned in Galatians. After all, 1 John 4:7 tells us that “...love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” Message 84:7 states that “God is love...” And 1 Corinthians 13 tells us that love never fails, is kind, is not selfish or prideful. But most importantly, of faith, hope and love, love is the greatest. It is pure, selfless and self-sacrificing. Furthermore, if you have or are able to love, the other characteristics are easier.

Joy

Joy is the feeling of great pleasure and happiness. It is the feeling of contentment, confidence and hope. Joy is the delight that comes with knowing God. Nehemiah 8:10 states that “...the Joy of the Lord is your strength.” Alma 50:22-23 notes that “And those who were faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord were delivered at all times... there never was a happier time among the people of Nephi...”

Peace

Peace is the absence of conflict, the state of tranquility and calmness. Matthew

5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.” Romans 8:6, “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

Long Suffering

Long Suffering is patience in spite of hardships. It means enduring. Message 47:12 says, “They that are patient to keep His words shall be delivered from the hour of temptation.”

Gentleness

Gentleness is being kind, tender or mild mannered. It is a softness in action often associated with humility and compassion. In Ephesians 4:31-32, we are told to “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Goodness

Goodness is godliness. It is the quality of being morally good or virtuous. As God is without sin or malice so should we. Goodness is a reflection of God’s nature. Our actions should be motivated by righteousness and a desire to be a blessing, choosing to be kind, generous and understanding.

Faith

Having faith is demonstrating complete trust and confidence in God. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”- Hebrews 11.1. 2 Corinthians 5:7, “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”

Meekness

Meekness is often misunderstood as being timid or negatively submissive. And in some ways it is but the type of meekness

the Fruit embodies is the trust and controlled strength of putting everything in the hands of God. It means being humble or not easily provoked. Message 37:14 tells us "...Be not proud, heady or high minded, but be humble, meek, wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Use boldness but not overbearance..." Message 47:7, agrees saying, "Teach the doctrine with diligent faith, patience, and boldly, in meekness."

Temperance

Temperance moderate in action, thought or feeling. It is exhibiting restraint or self-control. Proverbs 16:32, notes that "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

How Are the Fruit Manifested in Our Lives?

Message 84:4-7 & 9, "Be wise in works and **humble** in your talk and the Lord will direct in all things.

5. **When the fruit is ripe, then is the time to pluck.** He that gathereth when the harvest is not ripe—it wasteth away and their labor is in vain.

6. Keep the **faith** and **endure** and the sunlight of righteousness shall arise over you, with healing in His wings and ye shall be preserved in the hour when trials are upon you. Deliverance will come. Command **peace** and it will bring you through.

7. God is **love**. My Message is one of love. Keep the **mellowing spirit** in your hearts. Many are moved by the power of God. Many have been touched by the Spirit of the Lord. Many represent Christ and are ready for this work. They that are for us are not against us.

9. Oh, that all mankind would hear my words and **obey**. **Light and life** would come to them for the Christ is the ruler and judge of all."

Message 84 reveals how the Fruit of the

Spirit is present in our lives, the way in which we can utilize them and the result of our actions. Verse 4, tells us to be "humble in your talk and the Lord will direct.." This requires a level of *meekness* in which we must show modesty or a low sense of our own importance. It means putting trust in the Lord that he will lead, direct and provide.

Long suffering and *temperance* are addressed in verse 5. "When the fruit is ripe, **then** (and only then) is the time to pluck." We must have self control and patience in all that we do. If we give into our desire and act too soon, then our efforts are not impactful and rendered void. Message 33:5 warns us of this saying "... Some thought to run before the Lord... This to the discouragement of many and to the driving away of some..." Message 26:10 tells us to "Wait for His direction in all things, lest He reject your work, for the Lord knoweth your needs."

Long suffering has also been addressed in verse 6 along with *faith* and *peace*. To endure is to suffer patiently. It helps build resilience, develops our character and allows for personal and spiritual growth. These things do not come to us overnight but over time. To do this we must have constant faith in God. Why? Because without it, His healing wings will not preserve or deliver us. Psalm 101:6, "Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me..." "And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isaiah 32:18. It is not enough to be a peacekeeper, we must be peacemakers. Command it and stand firm; if we do, peace will be with us and will help us endure (Message 79:21).

When we keep the faith, endure and command peace we can fully experience God's *Love* (verse 7). We see how He works in our lives, how He guides our

thoughts and actions. And once we know that love, it is easier to convey that love. 1 John 4:8 tells us “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” If we cannot love, then we cannot know God. How, then, are we to help others to know and love God? If we do not possess the mellowing spirit of *gentleness* needed to be kind, mild mannered and compassionate, then His Love, Gospel and Message cannot and will not be internalized within us nor conveyed and received by others.

And finally verse 9 addresses *goodness* and *joy*. Knowing and loving God precipitates obedience. When someone is meaningful to us, we have a desire to please them. Mark 10:18 “And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is not good but one, that is, God.” Message 56.8, tells us to ...”Shape your lives by the words I bring and it will be well with you.” “...Man’s mind is continually evil unless he is filled with the Spirit of God.” Message 57:6. Reflecting His goodness in our lives, thoughts and actions are products of obedience and the definition of godliness: the quality or practice of conforming to the laws and wishes of God. “For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy.” Ecclesiastes 2:26. The “light and life” spoken in Message 84:9 is this joy freely given to those who obey and believe. 3 Nephi 15:9, “Behold, I am the law, and the light: Look unto me...” “Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness (joy) for the upright in heart.” Psalm 97:11. “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” Romans 15:13.

Note the last phrase of Romans 15:13, “...*through the power of the Holy Ghost.*” The Fruit of the Spirit are the 9 attributes of a person that is living in accordance with

the Holy Ghost. They are qualities that we all should aspire to cultivate in our lives and are essential to walking daily in the path of Christ. The Lord is clear in His message: “**...Let My Spirit rule your lives. Be ye long suffering. Be not as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. Be filled with charity and let peace rule your minds and your lives. The fire of joy shall burn within you. Yea, the Lord will walk and talk with those that keep His law in fullness. Seek not the praise of men. Be not heady nor high-minded. Seek to do good. A good tree cannot bear corrupt fruit, nor a corrupt tree, good fruit.**” Message 31:9. Which tree are you?

A Message Study

Who is the Angel that Comes?

Message:

2:1, “I am the man sent from God and my name is John. I am the Messenger to prepare the a way...”

11:12, “...I am a prophet and thy fellow servant... I am John that was beheaded...”

18:7, “I am John the Baptist...”

39:4, “I am the Elias which was for to come...”

43:2, “Behold, I come from the Lord your God. I am the Messenger of the Lord...”

47:4, “I am the servant of the Lord sent to bring the last pruning of His Vineyard...”

48:13, “...I am the forerunner of Christ...”

49:23, “...I am the same John that preached repentance in the wilderness.”

50:2, “...I am the Messenger to bring the warning...”

53:2, “...I am the Messenger spoken by

the prophets of old...”

62:1, “...I am he of whom it is written, ‘Mine elect, in whom the Lord delighteth’,...”

66:2, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, the blessed one sent of God...”

73:3, “...I am the Branch...”

76:14, “...I am the elect one, the Ancient of Days...”

80:1, “...I am the servant come to call others to work a Work...”

81:25, “...I am... the Horn...”

82:22, “I am the one to give the instructions of the Lord...”

82:34, “...I am the prudent one...”

83:9, “I am the forerunner of Christ, the proclaimer of the warning, the announcer of His soon coming.”

85:2, “...I am the prophet of the Lord...”

85:31, “I am the Messenger to restore all things...”

85:33, “I am that servant sent to give meat in due season...”

85:34, “I am the one chosen of the Lord, mighty and strong one...”

88:2, “...I am the prophet of the Highest...”

88:11, “...I am ‘that Prophet’...”

89:6, “...I am the one crying in the wilderness. I am a resurrected being...”

91:8-11, “I am ‘that Prophet’ of which Moses spoke of saying, the Lord God shall raise up a prophet, him shall you hear in all things, speaking the Will and the Way of the Lord God. 9. I am not Elijah the former prophet neither was he me. He was a prophet in his day with the Power of God upon him. He proved God to be real. Likewise, I shall have the same Power upon me and my work, and in the words I speak. I speak with the same Power, therefore the reason to say, ‘In the Spirit and Power of Elias, or Elijah.’ It meaneth that of God, and not of man. 10. I was a prophet in my days on earth. I am not another person, nor any other person is me. Each person is a

child of himself... 11. I am now a resurrected being in and with the Redeemed of the Lord. I am body and flesh and bone. I bear the Spirit of the Lord...”

99:12, “...the loud voice the Lord has sent— fulfilling His Word...”

102:5, “I gave the Revelations and the Vision of the Churches to John the Beloved in his day. In its fulfillment, you will see much has passed and much more to come.”

102:26, “I am the Servant of the Household...”

106:13, “...I am... the Messenger of the Covenant, the Promised One to come...”

107:4, “...I am the prophet born from among the brethren like unto Moses...”

110:8, “I am John the Baptist, the Prophet of the Lord that shall bind God’s Work together in the gathering of Israel to their promised land and fully establish in their cleansing their hearts and learning of the Holy One, the Deliverer, the Christ.”

Young Adults

Joy Draves

The Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness

What is faithfulness? I’m going to be honest, dictionaries are absolutely no help here. The Oxford dictionary defines ‘faithfulness’ as the act of being faithful. The Merriam Webster dictionary says ‘faithfulness’ is the observances of duty. Neither definition is too helpful but what does the Bible say about faithfulness? Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

I read in a devotional that said, “As a Christian, it is important to be faithful to God. It is one thing to simply believe in Him, but another to be faithful to Him.” When we are truly faithful to God, this shapes the way we live. For example, we are able to be loyal in our relationships here on Earth and truly love others. Faithfulness requires us to submit our ways to God. It comes from a place of realizing that we are in need of a Savior and that He is in control of our lives. Proverbs 19:21, says, ‘Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.’ We are to be faithful to God because He is faithful to us.”

In the Bible, the story of Abraham demonstrates the importance of faithfulness. Abraham and his wife Sarah struggle to trust God, but learned the value of faithfulness when they submitted to Him. For example, Abraham and Sarah waited many years for God to fulfill His promise of giving them a son. Because of her lack of faith, Sarah insisted upon Hagar, her maid, giving birth to her son. This resulted in pain and conflict. However, when Abraham and Sarah put their faith in God, Sarah was able to give birth to Isaac despite being past childbearing age. Ultimately, the story of Abraham shows how God blesses those who are faithful and trust His plans.

So, how do we grow in our faithfulness? We can grow in our faithfulness by having a personal relationship with Christ. If we are truly faithful to Him and obey His commands, this will be evident in our lives.

Junior

Thresa Ray

Dear Youth,

Did your mother or father ever tell you, “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say

anything at all”? I can remember my mom telling me that many times.

In the Holy Bible, Proverbs 16:24 & 32 says, “Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

32. He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.”

This is telling us that a kind word is nourishment to our soul and to our body. Someone that is slow to anger and can control their spirit and actions, is better than the mighty- someone in a very high position, or mightier than a warrior that can take a city. We need to practice showing kindness in all we say.

Message 91:13 says, “Be thou clean that bear the vessels of the Lord. Let your conversations be clean. Let realness of charity (love) rule your lives. Lift- up a standard.”

Message 93:6, “Be harsh with no one...”

Message 118:7, “Be pleasant at all times and the spirit will guide you in all Truth. As I speak to you, so speak I to all.”

Message 95:10, “...Love is your mission...”

People normally respond well to kindness but not to something said in a hateful or ugly manner.

One verse I heard my father quote many times is Proverbs 15:1, “A soft word turneth away wrath but a harsh stirs up anger.” I have been in many a situation that a kind word or reply changed the attitude of someone else.

Message 99:9. “Be very careful what you say, how you speak, and where you are, so is my Message to all.”

We are accountable for what we say and even how we say our words. The tone in which we say them is very important. We can ruin good words by saying them in an ugly manner. We are also accountable for

where we are. We can put ourselves in some very unnecessary, unpleasant situations that might have been avoided if we were careful about where we go. So, think before you speak and before you act.

Message 84:4, "Be wise in works and humble in your talk and the Lord will direct in all things."

Message 73:7, "Be not contentious. Speak the truth and be firm..."

Message 87:13, "...Be kind to all men and you will win favor with God and man. My mission is one of love."

God hates a liar and hates gossip.

Proverbs 6:16-19, "These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17. A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood.

18. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19. A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

One of the 'Ten Commandments' speaks of lying. Exodus 20:16, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

Proverbs 11:13, "A talebearer (gossiping person) revealeth secrets, but he that is of a faithful spirit, concealeth the matter."

Proverbs 34:13-14, "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. (crafty deceit).

14. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and persue it."

Our words can hurt and hinder someone, even ourselves.

Proverbs 15:4, "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life; but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit."

Proverb 19:9, "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape."

Proverbs 12:19, "The lips of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment."

We must strive to please the Lord in all we do and say.

Message 90:23, "...Let peace rule your lives- watch what you say and do, and where you are."

Remember what your parents have told you, "If you can't say something good, don't say anything at all."

Remember the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Matthew 7:12 (Jesus is speaking), "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

Luke 6:31. "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye to them likewise."

In these two verses, this includes how we speak to others.

Another quote that my father, W.A. Draves, always said was:

I have wept in the night,
For having short sight,
To somebody's need I was blind.
But I never have yet,
Felt a tinge of regret,
For being a little too kind!

If we always are kind and honest in what we say and do, we should have little regrets! May God bless you as you strive to please Him in your words and your actions!

Love in Christ,
Sister Thresa Ray



Primary

Ruby Draves

Abraham, Lot, 3 Visitors, 2 Cities & A Pillar of Salt

Genesis 13:1-18, 18:1-33. & 19:1-26

Abraham, his nephew, Lot, and their families left Egypt with all their belongings and animals and traveled south through the desert before finally settling in an area where their animals could graze. Unfortunately their flocks had grown so large that the land could not hold and support everyone living together. They needed more room for themselves as well as their animals.

One day, an argument broke out between the men that watched over Abraham and Lot's flocks. Abraham came to Lot and said "Let's not argue. There is a lot of land here, we must separate but you get to choose. If you go left, I will go right. If you go right, I will go left." (Genesis 13:7-9). Lot looked around and saw the green grass next to the river and chose to pitch his tent in the east on the river plain near Sodom. Abraham moved westward and settled in the Canaan.

After Lot left and Abraham was settled, the Lord said to Abraham, "Look around. All the land that you see, I will give to you and to your family forever. And I will make your descendants (future family) as many as the pieces of dust on the earth. Abraham believed the Lord. He followed him, moving his tent further into the land where he built an altar unto the Lord. Because of Abraham's faith, God continued to bless Abraham.

One day, the Lord appeared to Abraham and with him 3 visitors. Abraham instantly

recognized them and ran to meet them, asking them to stay and eat with him. They agreed, so Abraham ran to the tent and asked Sarah to prepare a meal for their visitors. Abraham returned with food and drink and visited with the men under a tree. The men asked Abraham where Sarah was to which Abraham responded that she was in the tent. The man responded "I will return soon and Sarah will have a son." (Genesis 18:9).

Sarah overheard this from the tent and started to laugh. The idea of her having a child in her old age- she was 89 yrs old and Abraham was 99- was unheard of. The Lord asked Abraham, "Why does Sarah laugh. Is there any thing too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:13-14) Embarrassed about being caught, Sarah denied laughing. The men insisted that she had and nothing more was said.

As the men prepared to leave, they told Abraham they were headed to Sodom. The men traveled on but the Lord remained with Abraham. Sodom had become so sinful that the Lord was planning on destroying it. Concerned about Lot, Abraham asked "Will you destroy the good with the bad?" (Genesis 18:23). The Lord told Abraham that if He could find 50 people in the whole city that were righteous, He would spare the city. Abraham continued to bargain for the people of Sodom and finally got the Lord to save the city if He could find 10 good people living there.

As the two of the men (angels) arrived at the gates of Sodom, they encountered Lot who ran to greet them. He asked them to come to his home, visit, eat and stay with his family. Before they went to bed, the men of the city came to Lot's house demanding that the visitors come out. Lot went out to talk to the men and to ask them not to hurt his visitors. But the men would not listen to Lot and tried to break in. Lot's visitors opened the door and pulled him

back in the house before the men of the city could harm him. Then they blinded all the men outside.

The visitors told Lot to gather his whole family and leave the city because the Lord had sent them to destroy the city. The people of Sodom and near by city of Gomorrah have become too bad. In the morning, the angel visitors rushed Lot and his family out of the city instructing them to head for the mountains and not to look back toward the city. Lot was concerned that the mountain was too far and that something bad would happen if they traveled there so he asked if they could go to the small city of Zoar. The visitors agreed but hurried them on because they could not destroy the cities until Lot and his family was safely away.

When Lot and his family made it to Zoar, the Lord rained down fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah destroying the cities and all the bad people that lived there. But Lot's wife grew curious about all the noise and commotion that was happening behind them. She looked back at the cities and was instantly turned into a pillar of salt.

Abraham and Lot made two different choices. Abraham chose to trust and follow God staying obedient. Because of this, Abraham was blessed. God gave him and Sarah a child in their old age. Lot, on the other hand, went his own way. The green pastures and activity of Sodom excited him. He thought the land was better than where Abraham lived but quickly found out that he chose wrong. Like Lot, when we choose to be around people who do bad things, we start to think that those things are normal and not bad at all. It makes it easier for us to do bad things too. However, God knows our thoughts and our hearts. He is merciful and will give us a chance to ask for forgiveness and obey His commandments. Lot and his family was saved because of this very thing but when Lot's wife decided

to look back, disobeying God's instructions, she too was punished. There are always consequences for our actions. It is up to us, if the consequences are good or bad.

Every day, we need to choose to be good and to make friends with people who make the same choice. If you don't know what to do or if someone is good or bad, just ask God to help you. And if you make a mistake and do something wrong, God is there to listen- ask for forgiveness. God is the best friend you can ever have, and He loves you.

Craft: Salt "Sand" Art

Materials

1. Cardstock
2. Glue
3. Watercolor paints
4. Paintbrush
5. Water Cup



Instructions

1. Draw a picture or design on a piece of cardstock or thick paper. Cardboard works too.
2. Then trace and fill in the lines and shapes of your drawing with glue.
3. Sprinkle fine salt over the glue.
4. Once covered, gently shake excess salt off over a trash can or tray.
5. Once completely dry, mix your watercolors so that they are watery.
6. Dip in a paintbrush and gently touch it to the salt that you want to color. The salt will soak up the paint.
7. Allow to fully dry before displaying.
8. Alternative- if you do not have water colors, you can water down normal paint until it is watery thin.. Colors may be muted, though.