

Our Father in Heaven



President Luke

What a great blessing to know that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us. It is also a great blessing to have scriptures that teach us about our Heavenly Father.

Alma in the Book of Mormon said in Alma 30:44 “The scriptures are laid before thee, yea, and all things denote there is a God.” God the Father is the supreme being in whom we believe and whom we worship.

We can surely see the work of God in the heavens and here on earth. The beautiful plants, the many different kinds of animals, the rivers, the lakes, the mountains, the rain and the snow. All testify to us that there is a God.

Our first article of faith reads, “We believe in God the Eternal Father, and in his Son, Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost.”

D&C 20:17 : By these things we know that there is a God in heaven, who is infinite and eternal, from everlasting to everlasting the same unchangeable God, the framer of heaven and earth, and all things which are in them. God is the almighty ruler of the universe. Through his Son, Jesus Christ he created the heaven and the earth and all things that are in them.

Moses 2:1 : And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto Moses, saying: Behold, I reveal unto you concerning this heaven, and this earth; write the words which I speak. I am the Beginning

and the End, the Almighty God; by mine Only Begotten I created these things; yea, in the beginning I created the heaven, and the earth upon which thou standest. He made the moon, the stars and the sun. He made all living things including man. He (God) made man in his own image to be ruler over his other creations.

Genesis 1:26 : ... Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...

Genesis 1:27 : So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

I am a Child of God, and he has sent me here, has given me an earthly home with parents kind and dear. I am a Child of God, rich blessings are in store, If I but learn to do his will, I'll live with him once more.

Because we know we are children of God, we can find strength, peace, comfort and hope here on this earth. Because we know we are children of God, we must also know that God is our Father.

Because we are created in his image, we know that God has a body that looks like ours. His eternal spirit is housed in a body of flesh and bones. D&C 130:22 : The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also. God's body however is perfected and glorified.

God is perfect. He is a God of love, mercy, charity, truth, faith and knowledge. He has all power, he knows all things and he is full of goodness.

All good things come from God. Everything he does is to help us become like him. Moses 1:39 : For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. Our Heavenly Father is the author of the great plan of salvation. He wants us to live with him again someday.

John 17:3 : And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. It is important for each one of us to know Heavenly Father.

The first and great commandment found in Matt 22:37 is "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart."

The more we know God, the more we love him and keep his commandments.

How then can we know God? How can you and I really get to know our Heavenly Father better? We all have testimonies that include love for our Heavenly Father.

First we must believe that he exists and that he loves us. Mosiah 4:9 : Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth; believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; believe that man doth not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend. First we must believe that he exists and he loves us.

John 3:16 : For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. God loves us, all of us, all of his children. I can personally testify that he loves me and my family. I believe he loves you also.

Second, study the scriptures and the words of the Latter Day prophets. The scriptures teach us about our Heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ. Christ teaches what his Father wants him to teach. John 8:29 : And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. John 5:30 : I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. You can also come to know your Father by learning about his Son and applying the gospel in your life.

The Savior taught in John 14: "If ye had known me, ye should have known my father also. He that hath seen me hath seen the father."

Third, pray to him. Are we not commanded to pray to our Father which art in heaven?

As a father and grandfather I get much joy in my children and grandchildren as they call home and come back home. Don't you think our Heavenly Father has similar feelings?

James 1:5 : If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. Draw near to him in prayer, sincere prayers offered in humility are heard and answered.

President Hinkley Quote, "God our eternal Father lives. I know that. I don't understand the wonder of his majesty. I can't comprehend the glory of the Godhead, but I know that He is my father and that I can speak with Him in prayer and that He will hear and listen. I know that."

Does God answer prayers? You bet he does. Read the scriptures. Read Enos 1 in the Book of Mormon.

If you really want to know God get on bended knee and in humility open your heart and soul in prayer to our Father in heaven.

Fourth, way to know God. "Obey his commandments the best you can. As we follow Gods will and live as he would, we become like him and his son. We become like him which prepares us to someday return to his presence.

As we obey and start becoming like him, we will not only act differently but we will treat others differently.

Quote Elder Henry B Eyring, "Everything belongs to God, so there is not much you can give him, after you have given him a repentant heart. But you can give kindness to his children. If you were my earthly friend, you would win my heart by being kind to my children. God loves

his children more than any earthly parent, so think what your kindness to his children means to him." Kindness is powerful. Love your neighbor, love your enemies, love one another.

To know God brother and sister we must

- 1) Believe that he exists and that he loves us
- 2) Study the scriptures
- 3) Pray to him
- 4) Obey all of his commandments the best we can

It is my testimony that we do have a loving Heavenly Father who loves and knows each one of us and that he and his beloved son appeared to Joseph Smith in Palmyra many years ago. Oh how grateful I am for a kind, merciful and loving Heavenly Father.