

Funeral Talk - Plan of Salvation

Lewis Carroll - Alice in Wonderland

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there."

Fortunately our HF has a plan for us. We call it the Plan of Happiness.

This plan answers the questions:

- **Where did we come from?**
- **Why are we here?**
- **Where do we go after this life?**

These are questions we all ask in life. Fortunately our HF has provided the answers.

Where did we come from and why?

The Prophet JS wrote our 1st AofF - We believe in God, JC, HG.

- We know before we came to earth our Spirits lived with HF who created us. We knew Him and He knew and loved all of us. It was a happy time, where we learned about this Plan of Happiness.
- But, just as we must leave our homes and parents when we grow up, God knew we needed to do the same. For us to progress we needed to leave His presence for a time. So he allowed us to come to earth to experience the JOY and the PAIN of a physical body.

One thing that makes life so hard, is we are out of our HF's physical presence. Not only that, but when we are born we have forgotten everything about our pre-earth life - Which means we have to Operate by FAITH, NOT SIGHT.

God never said it would be easy, but he did promise us the Holy Ghost would be there when we needed him.

God does have a plan for you:

- It is simple, He wants you to have JOY and to become more like Him.
- Doesn't expect perfection, he knows we will make mistakes.
- Does expect that when we make mistakes we learn from them.
- Making bad choices leads to unhappiness, sometimes immediately and sometimes later.
- Choosing the right eventually leads to happiness and helps us become more like our HF.

By coming to earth we receive our PHYSICAL BODY:

- Just as God created the earth as a place for us to gain experience, He too created **you**. Gave us a body in His own likeness.
- In the Old Testament God said, *"Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness"* ([Genesis 1:26](#)). Jacob declared that he had seen God *"face to face"* ([Genesis 32:30](#)). Moses also spoke with God *"face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend"* ([Exodus 33:11](#)). In the New Testament, when the resurrected Christ appeared to His

Apostles, He told them, “Handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have” (Luke 24:39).

Here upon the earth we have Choices - Those started with Adam and Eve

- Adam and Eve lived in their garden paradise. It sounds like a wonderful place, but without sadness and pain, they truly couldn't know joy.
- They disobeyed God and fell to Satan's temptation to partake of the forbidden fruit. Because of this they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden - but because of this, they were then able to progress - and thus become more like our HF.
- Their choice to disobey had consequences. They had to live a life of hardship and sorrow, but they were then able to know joy and to have children.

How did they find Joy? - The Secret to Happiness - Following our Savior

- A few years ago we all went through the Great Recession. Before that, many of us were caught up in the buying spree. We wanted more and more, leveraged our homes, bought nicer cars, did all we could to keep up with the Joneses. As the financial house of cards fell it's become clear to many of us those shiny new cars, beauty makeovers and big houses don't bring happiness. It's knowing you are on the path. Knowing your life is following the Savior.
- We all want to be able to look in the mirror and be at peace. Be at peace knowing we are walking the path back to our HF.

Even if you are on the path, bad things happen.

- We lose jobs, we get sick, Spouses die. This doesn't mean that our HF doesn't love us. In fact, we are here to learn and grow and unfortunately - we grow most when we are tested and given trials.

We can be comforted to know that Christ suffered through all things. He's been there and understands our pains. God has promised that if we endure well here, he will reward us beyond our ability to comprehend in the afterlife.

He provided a Savior -

Because our HF knew we would make mistakes he provided a Savior for us. One that would pay the price for our sins. The Savior tells us, “*For behold, I . . . have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer . . . even as I.*”

- Without our Savior we would have to pay the price for our sins ourselves.
- He truly made it possible for us to return to live with our HF.
- He will pay the price for our sins if we:
 - Exercise faith in Him.
 - Repent.
 - Be baptized.
 - Receive the Holy Ghost.

- Choose to follow His teachings for the rest of your life.

But even if we do that, What happens when we die?

Picture a hand inside of a glove. Just as a hand gives life to the glove, taking it out strips the glove of any movement. This is an easy way to visualize the relationship between our spirits and our bodies. Without our Spirit, our body simply goes back to becoming a part of the earth.

- But our Spirit lives forever.
- Physical death isn't the end, but a step forward in our HF's plan.

When someone close to us dies, the pain we feel being left behind is very real.

- But we can eventually find comfort and peace knowing we will be with _____ again. We will see them again.
- Because of Christ's death and Resurrection, all of our spirits and bodies will be reunited again - made perfect never to be separated again.

Immortality -

Because our spirits and bodies are never to be separated we will be immortal. Anyone given Aladdin's lamp would most likely wish to live forever, and yet it will happen to all of us. But first we must shed this physical body and ultimately be reunited with a perfect resurrected body.

- Christ was the first person to be resurrected, as He forged the path for all of us to follow.

These are precepts that _____ not only believed, but also taught and lived. He was an ordained High Priest in our church.

_____ believed in our Savior's plan and held fast until the end of his/her life.

I love Don and Diane and am grateful for the part they have played in my life.

And I look forward to the day when I will be able to put my arms around him again as friends.

Testimony -

I leave my testimony that I too know these precepts to be true. I know that our Savior made it possible for us to live with our HF again. I know that the restored gospel is on the earth again and his Priesthood power provides the ordinances to return to Him.

