



*Waldo Avenue*  
*Restoration Branch*

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## Why do we Meet?

From Jacob Roberts sermon January 12, 2025

- ⇒ Worship God
- ⇒ Having our hearts knit together
- ⇒ Practice virtue and holiness
- ⇒ Speak about the welfare of our souls
- ⇒ Sacrament
- ⇒ Fast and pray for the welfare of those who know not God
- ⇒ Hear the word of the Lord (3N8, DC46:1)

## A Recipes for a Healthy Church

From a book of the same title, author unknown, published by Zion Bound Press.

### **Suggested for Basics** (Tools Needed):

- ⇒ A well selected shepherd.
- ⇒ Heavily seasoned with dedicated people.
- ⇒ Dash of Holy Spirit.
- ⇒ Mix together with a healing portion of God's love.
- ⇒ Use building large enough to show anticipated growth.

### **Congregation Hash**

- ⇒ Combine all God's people.
- ⇒ Add all that will respond.
- ⇒ Provide plenty of tasks that will bring out the flavor of each one.
- ⇒ Salt of the earth guided by God's holy plan.
- ⇒ Mix all these things till it is one in purpose.#

## Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is never an easy topic to discuss, but we can no longer avoid the information available, even though it may be painful to consume. The following details the horrors of human trafficking and provide insight into the ever-increasing online presence that modern day traffickers are utilizing to groom and recruit victims.

Psalm 10:17-18 says—*You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.*

This article is intended to bring light to the darkness by uncovering the facts of human trafficking and how it is weaving it's way into every city across the US.A. and every country across the globe. The reality is that the human trafficking crisis is far too large for us to ignore. But now that we know, this should awaken us to the need for Zionic living now..

During lockdowns (ie. Covid), online recruitment increased 22% while other forms of recruitment tactics decreased (ie. foster care by 70%, strip clubs by 46% and schools by 38%). In 2020, there was a 125% increase in Facebook and a 95% increase in Instagram recruitments over the previous year.

The proportion of victims recruited by family members increased by 21% in 2019 to 31% in 2020—a 47% increase. In 2020, 42% of all victims reported being brought into trafficking by their own family.

Continued on page -4-

***Be willing to remove all barriers and hindrances to the achievement of Zion. You must become one. This would include the groups and associations you have formed and the responsibilities that you carry.*** ...Kirtland, 2022

## **Absolute Surrender**

Continued from last months newsletter. One of the characteristics of surrendering our wills to the Lord and His infinite wisdom is

### **Patience**

which is *enduring without complaint*.

God is a God of Patience (Rm. 15:5). Patience brings freedom from fear (Luke 21:13). The present state of man requires patience (Heb. 10:36). Patience is necessary. The manifold inconveniences of impatience is a strong motivation (John 4, Ps. 56:3&4, Alma 1:36 and 14:111).

**Examples of patience** are found in Hebrews 12:2, 6:12, and, of course, Job—what did he do in the face of adversity? He worshipped!

To be patient we must resolve that all our trials will end in triumph (James 5:7-8, Rm. 2:7, Mos. 11:23).

Patience is the very nature and essence of God in us (Rm. 2:4, Mos. 2:9, Alma 7:40).

Patience has nothing to do with *self will* or *bravery* or *fortitude*. It comes into practice by Divine will, God's truth and scriptural teaching.

What provocations did Joseph receive from his brothers and yet he didn't mention the crime, but was eager to

announce the pardon.

David says in Ps.109:3-4 *They compassed me about; they spoke against me also, with works of hatred, and fought against me without a cause. And not withstanding my love, they are my adversaries, yet I will continue to pray for them.*

Ps 35:11-13 says that Afflictions (pain, distress, grief...) come to exercise our patience not only in consequence of the Divine blessing, but by the natural operation of things. By saying *it was so trying, who could help it*, this justifies impatience when God meant it to build patience.

### **Some Promises of Patience**

are found in James 5:7-8, 1:2-4, 1Pet 2:20, Gal. 6:9, Heb. 10:23, 6:12, 10:36, Matt. 24:13, and Rm. 5:13-14.

### ***Keep your eyes upon Jesus,***

*Look full in His wonderful face.*

*And the things of earth will grow  
strangely dim,*

*in the light of His glory and grace.*

### **Standing on the Promises of God**

***I the Lord am bound when ye do what I say, but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.*** DC 81:3b

# Absolute Surrender

## Keep My Commandments

This message is throughout all three books of scriptures.

In the Kirtland message of Sept. 2022 we are admonished:

*I say unto you, **listen to Me**. There are two stewardships that will ensure success if you will do them.*

*One—as the five wise virgins did in the parable of the last days, Gather and sanctify your oil, before the cry at midnight. Prepare yourself through scripture, prayer, fasting, and humble service. You must take the Holy spirit as a guide in all things that you do in your life.*

*And two—be willing to remove all barriers and hindrances to the achievement of Zion. You must become one. This would include the groups and associations you have formed, and the responsibilities that you carry.*

*Needful things will be restored...*

### Promises

**Obedience to the Father** reaps many blessings, a few of these promises are listed below. All scripture references are KJV:

- O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear Me, and **keep all my commandments** always, *that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!* (Deut. 5:29).
- Therefore **whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; *and it fell not*; for it was founded upon a rock (Matt.7:24-25).
- **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love**; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love (John 15:19).
- *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him*, because we **keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight** (1John 3:22).
- For **whosoever shall do the will of My Father**

which is in heaven, *the same is my brother, and sister, and mother* (Matt. 12:50).

- And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but **he that doeth the will of God abideth forever** (1John 2:17).
- And being made perfect, He became the author of *eternal salvation* **unto all them that obey Him**; (Heb. 5:9).
- Verily, verily, I say unto you, **If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death** (John 8:51).
- ...the resurrection of all the prophets and all those that have believed in their words, or all those that have **kept the commandments of God**, *these shall come forth in the first resurrection...*(Mos.8:56).
- ...What have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord as a witness before Him that ye have entered into a covenant with Him that ye will serve Him and **keep His commandments, that He may pour out His Spirit more abundantly upon you?** (Mos.9:41).

There are really only two basic or foundational commandments, they are

⇒ *To love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.*

And the other is to

⇒ *Love thy neighbor as ourself.*

**There is none other commandment greater than these** (Mark 12:35-36).

Live by all that you know, and *the way you should go will I show you each step of the way*; be my people today, work and study and pray. For you must be endowed for this day. Consecrate now your all, and **give heed to my call to obey all my laws and commands...**(Shirley Mason hymn 358).#

It's not rocket science! It's pretty plain and simple, absolute surrender. What is absolute surrender? "...when I give a commandment to any of the sons of men, to do a work unto my name, and those sons of men go with all their might, and with all they have, to perform that work, and cease not their diligence,.. (DC107:15a).#

# Human Trafficking

Continued from page –1-

1 in 6 children ages 9 to 12 have had romantic or sexual conversations with an online-only contact. 1 in 8 kids ages 9 to 12 have shared a nude image with an online-only connection.

In a study analyzing the trading of Child Sexual Abuse Material (SCAM), data found that cases with prepubescent victims—roughly ages 3-12 are more likely to be traded than infant/toddler or pubescent material. Findings show that SCAM images depicting younger children and more egregious content—such as bestiality or sadism are more likely to involve familial offenders and more likely to be actively traded. Roughly 59% of all SCAM created of infants and toddlers being traded involved a familial relationship. Infant and toddler SCAM is the most likely to be actively traded. YouTube is the number one platform where minors have shared their own Self-Generated-SCAM at 78%.

In 2016, an estimated 40.3 million people were victims of modern slavery. From 2011-2016, 89 million people experienced some form of modern slavery for periods of time ranging from a few days to five years or beyond. Within the US, 83% of victims in confirmed sex-trafficking incidents were identified as U.S. citizens. One out of every 130 women worldwide is a victim of human trafficking. Children represent one to 4 victims of human trafficking world wide.

54% of minors believe online grooming is a common experience for kids their age. 1 in 7 minors are asked for nudes by a stranger online daily or weekly.

40% of minors have reported they felt uncomfortable online because they were asked for personal information. 1/3 of all minors have become uncomfortable after experiencing someone online try to become close with them too quickly or contacting them too often. Even so, 23% of minors reported staying in contact with someone they only

know online even after they made them feel uncomfortable. Only 6% of 9 to 17 year olds turned to a trusted adult-parent-caregiver after being sent a nude by someone they thought was an adult.

Human trafficking continues to grow at alarming rates as traffickers begin to increase online grooming tactics. It's important for caregivers to be aware of the necessity for online safety. Minors are growing numb to sharing nudes, connecting with strangers, and not reporting uncomfortable circumstances online. As caregivers, it is imperative that we not only know what apps and games are being used, but that we are actively involved in the lives of those we care for and provide a safe place where our children can come when they make mistakes to receive help and support.

The following are apps and games used by minors, mentioned in several studies conducted by Thorn pertaining to online grooming, self-generated child sexual abuse material, and responding to online threats. Not all of these are inherently bad, but caregivers should be invested in their child's online life.

Amino, Among Us, Bumble, Byte, Call of Duty, Discord, Facebook, Fortnite, Google Hangouts/Meet, Grand Theft Auto, Grindr, Houseparty, Instagram, Kik Live, Marco Polo, Messenger, Minecraft, Monkey, Nintendo Switch, OnlyFans, Pinterest, Reddit, Roblox, Signal, Slack, Slither.io, Snapchat, Tagged, Telegram, TikTok, Tinder, Triller, Tumblr, Twitch, Twitter, VSCO, WhatsApp, Whisper, WickrMe, Wink, Wishbone, YouNow, and YouTube.

This information came from [Eight Days of Hope](http://www.eightdaysofhope.com), P.O. Box 3208, Tupelo, Ms. 38803—  
[#](http://www.eightdaysofhope.com)

**There is a difference between -**

- ⇒ ***Knowing God's will***
- ⇒ ***Doing God's will and***
- ⇒ ***Doing God's will God's way.***

# Oh My Children

Message given at Oak Grove, Oct. 2024 through Aaron Norman and confirmed by Vim Horn

*Oh, My children, I am calling you out of Babylon this one last time. For too long you have allowed yourselves to be held captive by the distractions and cares of the world. Put aside the yoke of sin and bondage, come out of the world, repent and return to Me. Do not be discouraged by the turmoil of the world around you. I will shake the very foundations of the earth and the wicked designs of man shall fail but those who are stayed in Me and founded on My rock shall not be moved.*

*Look to Me and I will deliver you. I will lead you from captivity and bondage by My mighty hand. Even as I led the children of Israel so will I lead you. I will be your cloud by day and a pillar by night. Do not fear for I am with you. My love is great and I will gather you in the shadow of My winds, even so Amen.#*

## Pray for the City of Independence

In January, 2024 there was a message inviting us to uphold our community in prayer, taking a part of the city (our stewardship) and praying for that particular area of the city. Are you still doing this?

Below are some suggestions for upholding our community—our stewardship in prayer (all scripture references are KJV):

### Lift up praise and worship over the city

- ◆ *Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, Zion. He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you Ps.(147:12-13).*
- ◆ Declare His Lordship in your community (2K19:19, Ps. 50:23).
- ◆ Read psalms of praise to displace any voices of darkness (Ps. 33,35, 65 and 67).

- ◆ Declare your home and community to be a dwelling place for God's presence.
- ◆ Celebrate the light of His presence which brings strength and favor (Ps. 89:15-17).
- ◆ Praise Him for His presence which disarms the enemy (Ps. 31:20, Ex. 33:14).
- ◆ Thank God for His presence which prevents any deception or falsehood from taking hold (Ps. 101:7).
- ◆ Pray that the hearts of leaders would be drawn together by a oneness of spirit (Eph.4:16, Gal.3:26-28).
- ◆ Pray that doctrinal differences would give way to demonstrating the power of the gospel (2Chron.30:12, 1 Cor.1:10).
- ◆ Pray that a unified voice would arise from the city, reflecting the Father's heart and will (Rm. 15:5-6).
- ◆ Pray that believers would be drawn together in the power of covenant community (Acts 18:9-10).
- ◆ Pray that communications of the enemy would be confused and canceled (Jere.20:11-12, Ps.55:9-10).
- ◆ Counter negative words or curses spoken with the promises of God. (Ps.109:26-31, 2Cor.10:2-6).
- ◆ Declare that the light of truth will dispel any darkness and expose the lies. (Ps.36:9).
- ◆ Pray for boldness to declare the truth of the gospel (Acts 4:29-31, Phil. 1:14).
- ◆ Declare the favor of God on those who preach and teach the word of God (Acts 17:16-17, 32).
- ◆ Thank God for His delivering power in defeating all His enemies 1John 4:4).

As we continue to uphold our stewardship let's be even more diligent in our prayers as circumstances and situations increase all around us, remembering that with God, All things are possible for He truly is the God of Possibilities.#

# Zion Waits

The following is from [Zionworks News](#), Dec. 27th, 2024 and used by permission.

***In life, what you really want will never come easy.***  
(Benjamin Franklin —BF).

Bringing to pass the Kingdom requires a lot of work. Don't be misled into thinking otherwise.

We are told: *Wherefore ye must bow down before Him, and worship Him with all your might, mind and strength, and your whole soul, and if ye do this, ye shall in no wise be cast out.*

As my friend, Dave Atkins says, *Whatever you're supposed to do, get after it!*

For some of us, the opportunity to do our responsibilities may be past as we have procrastinated the day of our repentance. The remorse in our remaining days and the remorse to be experienced at the judgement bar are agonizing. Life cannot be fulfilling without living it with gusto in our obedience to our callings and responsibilities.

***The journey doesn't get easier, we get stronger.***  
(BF)

Each one of us must come to the powerful realization that our Creator has placed in our hands the power of the universe (because He is the power of the universe) to be the person He has created us to be and to perform all tasks He has given us. Knowing this, you cannot be intimidated by other's opinions of you or your present opinion of yourself. You cannot be restrained by anyone's attempt to impose a wrong identity upon you. You can't be restrained by social, cultural or churchy pressure, not even by your family and friends. You were created to be free, to be confident. The path is prepared and cleared for your full expression and your fulfillment in purpose. Zion suffers because we don't realize as well as we should that, with Jesus, we're unstoppable. When we gather together, support each other as dedicated friends and work cooperatively, Zion becomes the reality and the world will see it. The world will see the

kingdom and see God's will being done on earth as it is in Heaven. They will see an entire society thriving outside the failure of Babylon. We have to ***get after it***. Yes, lots of work—and infinitely more happiness. The scriptures describing Zion are true.

***Confidence unlocks every opportunity in life.***(BF)

The Kingdom really depends on us. The scriptures don't say that God will drop down and do our work and diligence for us. He is looking for a willing people, pure in heart. To a great and living extent, there is a group of people that have gathered together to live by and for Kingdom purposes. As we have discovered, God has delivered on His promises. We must keep growing and keep growing each other. As His promises unfold, we are able to better understand and experience prophecy, miracles, progress and the growth of love. This work together has shown progress in becoming independent of Babylon, and it has a long way to go, under Christ's plan and guidance.

There are limitless opportunities for types of fellowship to be experienced and enjoyed. ..

- testimonies,
- dreams,
- personal envisioning of ideal fellowship and cooperative efforts,
- fellowship just for the enjoyment of it,
- helping each other to grow,
- classes,
- helping each other in our daily lives,
- hearing out and sharing deep personal pains and struggles,
- help with chores, etc.

Zion should be enjoyed as well as employed. We would like to see the Zionic experience bear the full spectrum of fulfilled life through trials, and joys. Of course, the only way that can happen is by full commitment and surrender to Christ.

***Winners are not people who never fail, but people who never quit.*** (BF)#