

June 16–22: Doctrine and Covenants 64–66 “The Lord Requireth the Heart and a Willing Mind”

Forgiveness

Section 64 is directed to a company of brethren who had been commanded to journey from Ohio to Missouri and making preparations to leave

D&C 64:2-4

2 For verily I say unto you, I will that ye should overcome the world; wherefore I will have compassion upon you.

3 There are those among you who have sinned; but verily I say, for this once, for mine own glory, and for the salvation of souls, I have forgiven you your sins.

4 I will be merciful unto you, for I have given unto you the kingdom.

What does it mean to “overcome the world” and what does the Lord promise us if we strive to do it?

(I will have compassion upon you
for the salvation of souls
I will be merciful unto you)

Russell M. Nelson

“My message to you today is that because Jesus Christ overcame this fallen world, and because He atoned for each of us, you too can overcome this sin-saturated, self-centered, and often exhausting world.

“Because the Savior, through His infinite Atonement, redeemed each of us from weakness, mistakes, and sin, and because He experienced every pain, worry, and burden you have ever had, then as you truly repent and seek His help, you can rise above this present precarious world.

“You can overcome the spiritually and emotionally exhausting plagues of the world, including arrogance, pride, anger, immorality, hatred, greed, jealousy, and fear. Despite the distractions and distortions that swirl around us, you can find true rest—meaning relief and peace—even amid your most vexing problems.” (CR, Oct. 2022)

The Lord reminds us that we need to forgive one another

D&C 64:8-11

8 My disciples, in days of old, sought occasion against one another and forgave not one another in their hearts; and for this evil they were afflicted and sorely chastened.

9 Wherefore, I say unto you, that ye ought to forgive one another; for he that forgiveth not his brother his trespasses standeth condemned before the Lord; for there remaineth in him the greater sin.

10 I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive

all men.

11 And ye ought to say in your hearts—let God judge between me and thee, and reward thee according to thy deeds.

What blessings can we expect when we strive to forgive those who may have offended us?

David E. Sorensen

“It can be very difficult to forgive someone the harm they’ve done us, but when we do, we open ourselves up to a better future. No longer does someone else’s wrongdoing control our course. When we forgive others, it frees us to choose how we will live our own lives. Forgiveness means that problems of the past no longer dictate our destinies, and we can focus on the future with God’s love in our hearts.” (CR, April 2003)

N. Eldon Tanner

“Let us always remember that the one who carries a grudge or ill feelings toward a neighbor and does not forgive is the one who is uncomfortable and unhappy and ill at ease, and continuing in this course will canker his soul, and in him will remain the greater sin.” (CR, April 1974)

D&C 64:12-14

12 And him that repenteth not of his sins, and confesseth them not, ye shall bring before the church, and do with him as the scripture saith unto you, either by commandment or by revelation.

13 And this ye shall do that God may be glorified—not because ye forgive not, having not compassion, but that ye may be justified in the eyes of the law, that ye may not offend him who is your lawgiver—

14 Verily I say, for this cause ye shall do these things.

What do these verses teach us about God’s law of justification?

(him that repenteth not... ye shall bring before the church
that ye may be justified in the eyes of the law, that ye may not offend him
who is your lawgiver)

Richard G. Scott

“Forgive the offender even when you are innocent.... Such forgiveness is most difficult, but it is the sure path to peace and healing. If there is discipline required for a serious transgression against you, leave that to the Church and civil authorities. Don’t burden your own life with thoughts of retribution.... In the Lord’s economy, no one will escape the consequences of unresolved violation of His laws. In His time and in His way full payment will be required for unrepented evil acts.” (CR, Oct. 2004)

Establishing Zion

Isaac Morley owned a large farm in Kirtland, Ohio. He invited many Church members, including Joseph Smith, to live on the property.

D&C 64:20

20 And again, I say unto you, that my servant Isaac Morley may not be tempted above that which he is able to bear, and counsel wrongfully to your hurt, I gave commandment that his farm should be sold.

What blessing did the Lord promise to Isaac Morley if he headed to the Lord's commandment to sell his farm?

(not be tempted above that which he [was] able to bear)

What principle does this promise teach us about avoiding temptation?

Isaac Morley followed the Lord's commandment to sell his farm. Most of the money from the sale of his farm was used to buy land for other Church members in Independence, Missouri. He was one of the first Saints to settle in Independence where he sought to establish Zion. He served the Lord faithfully throughout his life.

On the other hand, Frederick G. Williams was given a different commandment regarding his farm in Kirtland.

D&C 64:21-22

21 I will not that my servant Frederick G. Williams should sell his farm, for I, the Lord, will to retain a strong hold in the land of Kirtland, for the space of five years, in the which I will not overthrow the wicked, that thereby I may save some.

22 And after that day, I, the Lord, will not hold any guilty that shall go with an open heart up to the land of Zion; for I, the Lord, require the hearts of the children of men.

Why was it important to the Lord that Frederick G. Williams NOT sell his farm?

(retain a strong hold in the land of Kirtland, for the space of five years)

George A. Smith

“To make Kirtland a strong hold for the space of five years... the Prophet said, purchase lands in the vicinity of Kirtland; men were induced to buy farms, and to go to work and build houses, to quarry rock, and haul them on the ground, to build a Temple....

“When the Temple was completed there was a great manifestation of power.... President Frederick G. Williams, one of the Council of the Prophet, and who occupied the upper pulpit, bore testimony that the Savior, dressed in his vesture without seam, came into the stand and accepted of the

dedication of the house, that he saw him, and gave a description of his clothing and all things pertaining to it.” (JD, 11:1)

It is important that we labor in His kingdom while we can

D&C 64:23-25

23 Behold, now it is called today until the coming of the Son of Man, and verily it is a day of sacrifice, and a day for the tithing of my people; for he that is tithed shall not be burned at his coming.

24 For after today cometh the burning—this is speaking after the manner of the Lord—for verily I say, tomorrow all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble; and I will burn them up, for I am the Lord of Hosts; and I will not spare any that remain in Babylon.

25 Wherefore, if ye believe me, ye will labor while it is called today.

What does the Lord say that makes it clear that we should “labor while it is called today”?

(Today... is a day of sacrifice
For after today cometh the burning
tomorrow... I will burn them up
I will not spare any that remain in Babylon)

Marion G. Romney

“The Lord makes clear three things: First, the meaning of the word today as used in the text; second, certain things which his people should do today; and third, some events which will come to pass tomorrow.... I have in my heart a desire to emphasize the importance of doing the will of God now while today lasts....

“It would seem to be wisdom on the part of every soul who has been taught the gospel, to here and now make a daily conscious and sincere effort to live it. And this effort should continue to the end of mortal life. Failing to make such an effort, a person identifies himself as one who does not believe the Lord, for, said he, ‘... if ye believe me, ye will labor while it is called today’ (D&C 64:25).” (CR, April 1954)

D&C 64:31-34

31 And behold, I, the Lord, declare unto you, and my words are sure and shall not fail, that they shall obtain it.

32 But all things must come to pass in their time.

33 Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.

34 Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days.

What does the Lord need from us in order to be part of His “great work”?

(be not weary in well-doing
out of small things proceedeth that which is great
the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

“Throughout history He has always used the small and weak things of the world to bring about His glorious purposes. Jeremiah believed he was too young to be a prophet. Moses doubted himself because he was ‘slow of speech.’ Enoch felt inadequate to preach repentance because, in his words, ‘all the people hate me’!

“The Lord often accomplishes the most with those who feel the least accomplished.... Perhaps, at times, we see ourselves as a little less than we are. Unworthy. Untalented. Nothing special. Lacking the heart, mind, resources, charisma, or stature to be of much use to God. ... Well, welcome to the club! You may be just the person God is looking for.... These wonderful, ordinary people accomplish great things not because of who they are but because of who God is!... God does not need people who are flawless. He seeks those who will offer their ‘heart and a willing mind,’ and He will make them ‘perfect in Christ.’” (“Five Messages That All of God’s Children Need to Hear,” BYU Devotional, Aug. 17, 2021)

In the last days, Zion will be established in all nations where people obey the Lord with their hearts and willing minds.

D&C 64:41-43

41 For, behold, I say unto you that Zion shall flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be upon her;

42 And she shall be an ensign unto the people, and there shall come unto her out of every nation under heaven.

43 And the day shall come when the nations of the earth shall tremble because of her, and shall fear because of her terrible ones. The Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

William R. Bradford

“Fear in the hearts and minds of men and women can be turned to peace only by replacing that fear with an understanding of God’s plan of happiness and the knowledge that they are doing all they can to become righteous and worthy to qualify for eternal salvation.

“As the forces of good and evil polarize more and more, those who have not prescribed a moral consequence to their actions will find their lives in such chaos that their style of life will be unbearable to them....

“When that day comes, the righteous Saints of God will be the only well-governed people unto whom the world can turn. It will be there and there only that they will find stability and steadfastness.” (CR, Oct. 1999)

William E. McLellin sometimes acted as scribe to Joseph Smith and he stated that Section 65 was, “A revelation of Joseph the Seer 30 October 1831 on the 6th Matthew 10 verse” (William E. McLellin copy of Revelation, Oct. 30, 1831 [D&C 65], in William E. McLellin Papers, 1831–1878, Church History Library).

Matthew 6:10 contains part of the Lord’s prayer.

D&C 65:2-6

2 The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.

3 Yea, a voice crying—Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the supper of the Lamb, make ready for the Bridegroom.

4 Pray unto the Lord, call upon his holy name, make known his wonderful works among the people.

5 Call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of Man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth.

6 Wherefore, may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, mayest be glorified in heaven so on earth, that thine enemies may be subdued; for thine is the honor, power and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

According to these verses, what should we pray for as we prepare for the Second Coming?

(make known his wonderful works among the people
that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth
that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared)

N. Eldon Tanner

“As we think, ‘Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven’ we must realize there is only one way by which this can be accomplished, and that is by our accepting him as our God and by living his commandments and helping to build his kingdom here upon the earth. His church and kingdom has been established here upon the earth today, and it can be built up only as we accept his teachings, live them, and teach them to the world.” (CR, April 1974)

Section 66 contains specific counsel regarding William E. McLellin’s spiritual standing, his calling to preach the gospel, and his potential to receive great blessings.

D&C 66:1-2,11-12

1 Behold, thus saith the Lord unto my servant William E. McLellin—Blessed are you, inasmuch as you have turned away from your iniquities, and have received my truths, saith the Lord your Redeemer, the Savior of the world, even of as many as

believe on my name.

2 Verily I say unto you, blessed are you for receiving mine everlasting covenant, even the fulness of my gospel, sent forth unto the children of men, that they might have life and be made partakers of the glories which are to be revealed in the last days, as it was written by the prophets and apostles in days of old.

11 Keep these sayings, for they are true and faithful; and thou shalt magnify thine office, and push many people to Zion with songs of everlasting joy upon their heads.

12 Continue in these things even unto the end, and you shall have a crown of eternal life at the right hand of my Father, who is full of grace and truth

What are some of the blessing promised to William E. McLellin if he continues to keep the covenants that he has made?