Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz Production
Week 18
Doctrine and covenants 41-44

If you shall ask, (the Lord said in section 42 verse 61) "If thou shalt ask, thou shalt receive revelation upon revelation, knowledge upon knowledge, that thou mayest know the mysteries and peaceable things—that which bringeth joy, that which bringeth life eternal."

This is such an encouraging verse. I mean, who doesn't want joy and eternal life? Who doesn't want to know the mysteries and the peaceable thing of God? It feels like that seemed to be a theme of this last General Conference.

Specifically in the last session of april 2025 conference Elder Pacick Kearon said this: "Our *Heavenly* Father has innumerable gifts of light and truth prepared to shower down on each of us, His treasured children. They flow from our Bounteous Giver like a wellspring in the wilderness from His benevolent heart. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." In our covenant bond with the Father, He is ever the Giver and we the humble recipient."

Then he points out something remarkable, he said: "But we could receive nothing without the greatest of all the Father's gifts, His beloved Lamb, His Son, Jesus Christ. All of our Father's gifts flow from and are activated by the Saviour's willing offering in Gethsemane and on the cross and His triumphant Resurrection. Jesus Christ, our merciful Redeemer, is the supreme gift from our Father of lights. "In the gift of his Son hath God prepared [for us] a more excellent way.""

Have you ever considered this idea before? The greatest of all the Fathers gifts was that of His beloved son. Who willingly laid down His life for our sakes, and by His own power took it up again. If I understand correctly what these scriptures are saying and also what Elder Kearon is saying: God's most precious gift to us was His Son Jesus Christ, and Jesus's Gift to us was the joy and Eternal life that flowed from His eternal sacrifice.

What an eye opening thought that these 2 figures, well, three even if we include the Gift of the Holy Ghost, are constantly and eternally being merciful and gracious to a wicked and unworthy generation such as ourselves.

It really is true. If we step back and look at the eternal perspective. None of us, and I mean None of us are even remotely close to earning or being worthy of God's, Jesus's, or the Holy Ghost's gifts that they so freely give to us.

I saw a post on social media the other day. I'm not sure where it came from but this lady was describing how several times in a row she was pulled over for speeding. And this last police officer kindly let her off with a warning. Even though she deserved the ticket. She describes this event as a show of Mercy. She said what mercy means, not getting what you actually deserve. She totally deserved a speeding ticket, she broke the law and that was the consequence. She escaped the consequence of that law with the gift of mercy. And so do we; we escape the consequence of sin with God's mercy. Think about that, if every time we sin we are immediately punished and giving a consequence this would change our disposition to continuously sin. For example; If every time you were mean or rude to someone, then, immediately something bad would happen to you how quickly would you stop being rude to others? Once you recognized that pattern you would stop for sure. This is mercy. This is God giving us a chance to feel the effects of our sin without the immediate and brutal punishment we deserve.

But Grace; the Grace of God is so much better. The gift of God's Grace is incredible. This is how she describes Grace. Grace is; she gets pulled over and she deserves the ticket. The police officer goes into his wallet, pulls out the money and pays the ticket on her behalf, but he doesn't stop there, the police officer then proceeds to give her everything he has, literally everything he possesses…..Thats Grace. It is so much better than you can imagine. Because it is not just given when you're good and well behaved, It is given when you deserve the exact opposite. And you not only don't get the punishment for your sin, you receive instead something good, and wonderful, that's grace.

When we realize that kind of love that flows from our Father and from our Savior, it changes who we are inside. It changes our hearts.

See, there are some that believe that when bad things happen to them that they are being punished. Otherwise, God would not allow bad things to happen to good people. That could not be farther from the truth. The problem with this perspective is that it is from the devil. The adversary wants you to believe that God is a punishing God that enacts judgment on sinful souls. That is what God's enemy wants you to believe. What is actually true is that God sits at the refiner's fire and carefully, patiently and lovingly shapes you and your life is a way you never would have dreamed.

A great example of this is Paul the apostle. In his letter to the Ephesians chapter 2 he said this:
"God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:4-10)

You would think that by the grateful writings of Paul about a loving and gracious God that he was sitting on a beach somewhere in paradise, sipping a lemonade. But he was actually nowhere close. When Paul wrote these words he was sitting in a cold dark dungeon chained to a prison guard. Can you imagine? Falsely condemned, un-rightly charged, starving, cold, beaten, chained to someone that hates you, and writing:

God, who is rich in mercy, His great love wherewith He loves us.

See, Paul did not view his situation as some punishment for his sin before God. No, Paul viewed it as a blessing, no matter what happened to him in his life he knew God was the architect. That his life was a story not a painting. Paul was not chained to the prison guard, the prison guard was chained to him!

And so it is with you. Embrace every challenge, climb every hill before you, and praise God while you do, For He is making you to be like Him. His Grace has been poured out upon your life. Regardless of your worthiness before Him. He has paid the price, He has won the fight, He has freed your soul and given you all that He has.

Of this great truth I testify, In the sacred name of Him who is Lord, even Jesus Christ, Amen.