

2025-11-22 15-02-01

[Raphaella] (0:04 - 4:38)

Just a minute. I think I can do it now. Very good.

Hello, dear friends. It is always a pleasure and a pleasure to conduct this study of our meetings. I hope everyone feels at ease, happy to participate and contribute with comments, answering the questions that will be asked throughout the study.

These questions favor obtaining a good understanding of the content, so it is very important that everyone participates. I also remember that it is necessary to correctly configure the subtitles of your Zoom app. The spoken language and translation options must be adjusted to your own language.

If someone is speaking with the subtitle unconfigured, I will ask for permission, but I will interrupt. And until the adjustment is made, I will pass the speaking time to the next person. I also ask you to leave the cameras on, those who can, of course.

And that you keep the reverence and respect that our meetings demand and deserve. As for the answers to the questions, try to be objective in your answers, avoid repetitions and keep the focus on the questions presented. May we all have an excellent meeting of studies, but before we start reading this excellent study produced by Herman Balk, I must remind everyone that we have a short period of time to prepare for the conference.

Only eight months. Eight months go by very quickly. So, get ready, keep the focus, keep the enthusiasm, good things will come, great promises are to come.

Now, let's go to our study for today. Our meeting today will have, at the end of the lesson, a speech presented by the First Counsellor of the Presidency of the United Orders, Brother Steve Woodby, who is here with us at the table today. So, the speech will be done live.

I ask everyone to wait for the study to end, as we will have a quick two-minute break so that everything is properly prepared so that Brother Steve can cover this study with his words and his message. Now, let's go to today's study, which is November 22, 2025, and was written by dear Herman Balk, Vierda Schatzmann. I don't know if I said this last name correctly, I apologize.

The theme of the study is Get Up and Shine. As most of you, I believe that all of you received the study in advance, did your homework and are ready for this moment. So let's go with the reading of paragraph 1.

We learn about the importance of light throughout the Scriptures. There are different types of light. Forgive me, I think I suffer from anxiety here.

We didn't call and we didn't do the first prayer. It's just that I'm really looking forward to this study by Herman Balk, which is excellent. Sorry.

So I'm going to ask Brother Tyler. I can't see it here. Brother Tyler can do it.

It's the first present I see here. Brother Tyler can do it for us to call. And as the first prayer, I'm going to ask Brother Aaron to do the first prayer.

[Tyler] (4:40 - 4:55)

Yes. I greet you, O elect class, and sign in remembrance that our leader is only one, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Amen.

[Aaron] (4:57 - 6:13)

Let's pray. Dear gracious Father in heaven, we hearken unto you and pray for thy Holy Spirit to be with us during this study. We thank you to have this opportunity, and we thank you for all that thou has blessed and redeemed us with, and pray that thou wilt bless us with everything that it is that we do need, both spiritual and temporal, to accomplish the things wherewith thou has commanded us.

And our hearts go up unto thee, dear Lord, and pray that thou wilt guide us and inspire us and to live by every word that proceedeth forth from thy mouth. And we thank you and pray these things and pray that thou wilt bless all those around us, especially those who are in dire need of thy care. And pray that through each and every individual and their respective callings that we all come together as one and be one in thee, dear God.

And may the honor and glory be thine in thy Son's holy name. We thank you and pray, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Raphaella] (6:15 - 8:56)

Thank you, Brother Carly. Thank you, Aaron. Sorry, folks.

Sorry. Sometimes I'm in accelerated mode. Today is one of those days.

Okay. Now, yes. Paragraph 1, very calmly, very little, we will start our study.

So, paragraph 1 again. We learn about the importance of light throughout the Scriptures. There are different types of light.

There is light that comes from a physical source and there is light that comes from a spiritual source. So, let's see some of these types of light. We know from the Bible that God created light, as it is written in Genesis, chapter 1, verses 5 to 7.

And here I will speak the version of the translation of Joseph Smith, which says the following, open quotation marks. And my spirit hovered over the face of the waters, because I am God. And I, God, said, there is light, and there was light.

And I, God, saw the light, and behold, the light was good. And I, God, separated the light from the darkness. Therefore, since the beginning of God's creation, the light was an important aspect, because it was created on the first day.

In the book of John, chapter 1, verses 1 to 4, also version of Joseph Smith, we read about the principle, open quotation marks. In the beginning, the gospel was preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word, and the word was with the Son.

And the Son was with God. And the Son was of God. He was at the beginning with God.

All things were made through him. And without him, nothing of what was done was done. In him was the gospel, and the gospel was life, and life was the light of men.

Close quotation marks. With this text, we have today's first question. What makes there be light in men?

To start the answers in today's study, the first person I'm going to call is Brother Bill Smith. Correct?

[Bill Smith] (9:12 - 9:52)

But also, the word of God, some of which we have and some of which we don't have, is also the light of men. Okay? So that answers the question, the gospel.

And it is mentioned a couple of times. And as far as the light is concerned, I saw it. And whether anybody wants to believe it or not, there was no big bang.

I saw the whole thing. And I don't have time at this point to share it with you. But I have shared what I have shared.

Thank you.

[Raphaela] (9:56 - 10:03)

Thank you, brother. Thank you. I will now pass the time to the McLellan family.

[Brian] (10:04 - 10:04)

Yes.

[Raphaela] (10:05 - 10:06)

Brian.

[Brian] (10:08 - 11:28)

Yes. Obrigado, Bonoich.

I feel in answer to this question, and the wonderful lesson that Sister Belke has done, because light and darkness is ever constant around us. But the question is, what causes that there is light in man? And that is, of course, the spirit of God, the joy, the presence of the Lord with you.

And that is something that dispels all darkness, and it can be felt and can be observed and can be part of every person that allows the spirit of the Lord to be with them. And it brings a joy. And this is something that I'm sure we're going to all share at the conference when we meet with each other and we share that same light and that same joy which we have been privileged to be a part of.

So that's my answer, and I thank you. Good.

[Raphaela] (11:58 - 14:39)

that other people have this same feeling. Which I know is a feeling of affection. Such dear people, the McLellan family is very dear to all of us and always transmits a feeling of complete dedication to their faith.

And it is an example for all of us. So I take this moment to thank the three members of the McLellan family for always being with us and contributing so much light that you have. Thank you.

Let's read the second paragraph. We literally need light to see. Otherwise, we are in darkness.

In the scriptures we find some examples of literal darkness. In the book of Exodus, Exodus in the Bible, in chapter 10, verses 21 to 23, we read, open quotes. And the LORD said to Moses, Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness upon the land of Egypt.

Darkness so dark that it can be felt. And Moses stretched out his hand to heaven. And there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days.

They did not see each other. And no one rose from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Close quotation marks. Another example is in the book of Third Nephi, which is in the book of Mormon, chapter 8, verses 20 to 21 and opens quotation marks. And it came to pass that there was thick darkness upon the whole strip of the earth.

So that all the inhabitants who had not fallen could feel the steam of darkness. And because of the darkness there could be no light, nor candles, nor torches. Neither could they make fire with their thin and extremely dry wood.

So that no light was possible to be. Close quotation marks. With this reading, we go to question 2.

What were the reasons in these scriptures for the darkness to come upon earth? A question to make us reflect. Very good.

I will pass the time, then, to brother Sidney Amorim.

[Sidney] (14:42 - 16:28)

Good evening, Mom Paela. Good evening to all. Here you talk about two different situations, as the question.

What were the reasons for the darkness to have come on earth? In case, in the book of Exodus, it was the hand of Moses, I believe it was priesthood. And in item 2, it was that time before the coming of Christ, where people were not keeping the commandments, and those who were, were being persecuted.

Then I believe it was the very judgment of the Lord, which preceded the prophecy that darkness would come upon the earth, before the coming of Christ in the Americas. Then I believe that these two situations were. Different reasons, but of all sorts, in relation to the iniquity of the people.

And one thing that caught my attention, to conclude, is this word feel. It is in the two scriptures. The Lord asks Moses that the darkness be so dark that it can be felt.

And third, Nephi says that all the inhabitants who had not fallen could feel the mist of darkness. So, I took this insight from feeling, the importance of feeling. Thank you, good night.

[Raphaela] (16:30 - 17:03)

Thank you very much, Sidney. I'll pass... I'll skip Brother Johnny to Brother John, and then I'll come back with Brother Johnny.

I believe Brother John is having trouble opening the audio.

[João] (17:03 - 17:07)

I didn't understand that it was Johnny first. I waited.

[Raphaela] (17:07 - 17:14)

I decided to put Johnny on hold and call you instead.

[João] (17:15 - 18:52)

Perfect. I find these two passages interesting. Because, if you stop to think well, both show the proof of God, the darkness proving the power of God.

In the sense that both Moses showing to the people of Egypt where was the power of God, who was God, also there the Nephites, because they had rejected the prophets, rejected Christ, a prophecy was made about this darkness. So that darkness appearing there was the fulfillment of this prophecy. That is, also showing that it was the power of God.

And I analyze in a way that shows that God is light. And the absence of this light is this complete darkness. So, what do we have to think?

That in the same way that these darkness were so palpable and they came because of people's unbelief, ultimately that is it. God can give birth or He can remove the light. And this darkness is so strong that man cannot make any kind of light by himself.

So, this shows the power of God to give light to people and at the same time take away that light if people do not value it.

[Raphaella] (18:56 - 19:03)

Very good. Thank you, Brother John. Thank you.

Brother Joni, the time is yours.

[Joni] (19:06 - 19:50)

Thank you, president Rafaela. I will only comment that the passage of Third Nephi there, the darkness came because of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. So, they were in that three-day period in full darkness because of the crucifixion of Him, perhaps symbolically, because He was also preaching to the spirits, those who were captives, and He took possession of the key of this prison, finally being able to open, then, a bridge of liberation for those who were there.

That's it, otherwise I'll be wet with the answer. Thank you.

[Raphaella] (19:52 - 19:56)

Thank you, Brother Joni. I'll pass the time now to Brother Mauricio.

[Mauricio] (20:00 - 22:29)

It is important to analyze both texts. The text of Exodus says that it was a darkness that could be felt physically. And the text of Third Nephi speaks of a vapor of darkness.

We have to seek a scientific point for this and at the same time bring this analogy to the Gospel of Christ. Obviously, they could not light any candle, they could not light any torch, no light, because there was a steam, there was a gas of darkness. Perhaps this can be explained when there is a strong breeze and we cannot light anything, but there was something physical that it was possible to feel and nothing could illuminate the environment, because maybe there was a ash in space, in the sky, in the air, which prevented from lighting any light.

We have to think that the physical light, as Sister Bauke put it in paragraph 1, is real and can be felt. If we light a lamp and get close to it, we feel the heat. There is physical energy.

The sunlight is visible and brightens everything around us, but it is also felt. We feel, it is physical, its heat warming us. Such is the light of the gospel.

It has to be felt in our hearts, whereas if we allow apostasy to enter into the precincts of the gospel, that is, darkness, then there is no strength, there is no light that can clear the environment. Because it is as real as the heat of light. And it suffocates the light.

So that there is light, we cannot or cannot allow apostasy to seep into our midst. It's dangerous, it's a mist of darkness, it's a poisonous gas. And we're going to be there for a long time in the darkness if it comes in.

[Raphaela] (22:35 - 25:24)

Very good. Thank you, Brother Maurice, for that. Let's read paragraph 3.

There is opposition in all things. Virtue and vice, righteousness and injustice, truth and falsehood, holiness and sin. Darkness is the opposite of light.

In the scriptures, darkness and light also refer respectively to evil and good. Or falsehood and truth. In the book of John, chapter 8, verse 12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Joseph Smith taught, "We believe that God has made man mentally capable of receiving teachings and with a capacity that can be magnified in proportion to the care and diligence given to the light of heaven that communicates to the intellect. And that the more man approaches perfection, the clearer his thoughts become and greater is his joy until he can overcome all the bad things in life and lose all the will to sin."

In Doctrine and Covenants, section 93, verse 29, we have the following text, "Man was also at the beginning with God. Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created nor made. Nor can it be."

We learn here that the light is communicated from heaven and that if we pay attention to it, it expands our understanding and teaches us to cling to darkness. For this, we need a level of

intelligence that we can expand. Therefore, the more intelligence or light of truth we receive or gather, the more we will be able to know God and his mysteries.

This is an important task. With that, we have the third question today. What are some ways to receive more light?

I don't see any hand raised. Now we have participants. I'll pass the time, then, to Brother Sabala.

[Sabala] (25:28 - 27:23)

Thank you, Sister Rafaela. Good morning, everyone.

Let me share my ideas about light. I want you to know that there are two lights that the Lord, or God, has given us. The first is our conscience, which is also written by Moroni in chapter 7 in the LDS book, chapters 16-18.

So that we can know between good and evil, the Lord sent us and give us the light of Christ with conscience. And therefore, because of this conscience that was given to all of us, the Lord has promised in chapter 2, verse 13, that we must act, or to be acted upon. Without the light of Christ, we cannot know between good and evil.

And that's why, in the Sealed Book of Moses, chapter 5, verse 31, because of this light, another light that was given to us is the light which is the Holy Ghost. When the Lord Jesus Christ, prior to his death, he told his apostles in John 14:26, I will send you the Holy Ghost which is another light and he shall teach you all things and bring all things to our remembrance. That is why, in Moses chapter 5, verse 31, in the Sealed Book, the fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, peace, harmony, good feelings.

All these lights that come from the Holy Ghost will bless us with pure knowledge and mysteries of God. However, the light of Christ which is this conscience that was given to all only if we know between good and evil. So, these are two gifts that have been given to us in order for us to be blessed while we are sojourning on earth.

Thank you very much, Sister Rafaela.

[Raphaella] (27:26 - 28:10)

Brother Sabala, I've found someone who can speak faster than me. Thank you very much, Brother Sabala. Your comments are very good and are always with many scriptures quoted.

That's very good. It comes from someone who studies the scriptures and can relate one text to another. And it is possible to reach this result only that person who seeks to study the scriptures with diligence and constancy.

So, thank you very much. I'll pass the time now to Brother Leonardo.

[Leonardo] (28:15 - 29:38)

Good night. Answering the question and even using the example that Brother Maurício said, what are the ways of receiving more light, say spiritually speaking, bringing the gospel as if it were the sun, then the closer I go to the sun, the more light I will receive. So, the more I attend meetings and participate actively, studying, meditating, participating in the Sabbath meetings, the meetings we have, going to the conference, listening, receiving, having instruction and having humility to learn, the more light I receive.

So, bringing this also to our reality of secular studies from day to day, our brain is a muscle, right? So, we have to exercise. So, more and more we exercise, the stronger we receive and the stronger we become, the more light we can be able to receive.

So, these are the ways that we have to do. And nothing escapes doing something difficult, it's always doing the basics.

[Raphaella] (29:44 - 30:09)

Thank you very much, Leonardo. Very well pointed out the relevance that you brought from the constancy of doing and persisting and that not everything is complex, it's simple. Just do one thing at a time and you get an excellent result.

I will pass on to the author of today's study, Sister Baukje.

[Baukje (30:13 - 31:07)

Hello everybody. Boa noite. Harm says hello, he's a little tired but he sends his love.

And I also wanted to say, to receive more light, you can share the light that you have. Because if you lift someone up, it's really enlightening. Yes, people...

It's infectious if someone is radiant. People can ask about the joy that is in you and you can respond with a good answer. Thank you so much, brothers and sisters.

[Raphaella] (31:28 - 32:34)

Paragraph number 4. The sealed book of Moses, chapter 3, verse 54, says, quotes open, behold you, my servant Moses, are well aware of this agitation in your mind and know how difficult it is to recognize the feelings of light amid this stupor of emotions that comes from darkness, that which tends to prevent the children of men from identifying feelings originating in light and truth. A short text, but very important, brings a lot of information.

And the question number 4 is, how can feelings influence the brightness of our light? Let me see who raised his hand here first, brother Joni Batista.

[Joni] (32:39 - 33:21)

Then, the feelings that come from darkness will certainly overshadow our light, because it is the bad feelings, such as fear, anger, grudge, envy, and many others, pride, perhaps, also, for sure. So, they tend to cover up that divine light in us. They tend to overshadow the good feelings we have, and also override the knowledge that we have and overshadow everything that is good, all this divine spark that is in us.

That's my comment. Thank you.

[Raphaela] (33:23 - 33:35)

Very good, brother Joni. Thank you very much. I'll go to Leonardo again.

Today Leonardo is excited. I like when you speak.

[Leonardo] (33:38 - 34:44)

I usually say that feelings, as I said in the text above, there has to be opposition in all things. And one ends up nullifying the other. Then, when I have faith, doubt comes out.

But when I come with doubt, faith comes out. So, the question regarding feelings, how they can influence the brightness of our light, is exactly what Johnny said, brother Johnny said. Then, when we have a huge faith, this light will shine through.

But if we begin to have doubts, it will create a mist there and we end up decreasing until we reach a point where it no longer exists. It gradually becomes more and more depleted. So, we have to have this control. Very strong daily routine.

We sleep and wake up having to control it.

[Raphaela] (34:47 - 34:55)

Thank you very much, Leonardo. Good to hear from you always. I'll pass the time now to brother Samuel Gold.

[Samuel] (35:07 - 39:19)

So, if you have been around a campfire at night and you see the embers. If you take one of those hot burning embers and lay it aside, separate from the body, what happens to it? It loses its fire, and it becomes dark and dead. When the embers are together, when we are unified as one, the embers, the heat from each other or the light from each other, it brightens the light of others, and it makes the fire to burn brighter, the fire of God.

So, when you think about Jesus, when he was resurrected and walking the Damascus Road with a couple of brothers and expounding the scriptures to them, when he left, they said, didn't we burn with him? That the fire of God emanated from Jesus and it caused their bosoms to burn. And so that is like two embers and the fire being next to each other that they bring the light of God forward and causes the whole thing in unity to flame up and give light.

Now, when the darkness falls over the land like a blanket, what it's in the time of the Nephites, there was a vapor, a gas that could be felt itself, and you could not light a match, you could not light a candle, you could not light anything. And the reason being that fire requires oxygen, that fire requires fuel, heat and oxygen. If that oxygen gets below 16%, that fire will not burn, that fire will go out.

Now humans can sit in that same darkness and still breathe. They only require 12% oxygen, but at 12% oxygen, their thought and their cognitive processes begin to diminish. And so, we receive what Moses has written, a stupor of thought.

And if we continue in that and get down to 10%, before long, we will pass out and succumb. In the story we have from the Nephites, there were those who were overcome by that darkness. They were overcome.

And the reason they were overcome is oxygen is not as heavy as some of the other elements in the gas. And so when they got down there, they got below 10%. And so they passed out and succumbed.

And so, the darkness that has spread itself over all this world, as Satan stands with his great chain, is to envelope every mind in a matrix. And that matrix, they will succumb and they will die unless we be as Jesus and spread our light that causes the light of God to burn within your bosom and causes your brother to stand up and stand with you in unity, that we might be one before God, that we might expel the darkness that is within us and around us, that we might be purified even as he is pure. I thank you for being patient with me and allowing me to spend a few moments of your time.

God bless you.

[Raphaela] (39:23 - 41:49)

Thank you, Brother Sam, for your words. You are always welcome and it is always a joy to hear you. Thank you very much for your comment and your expression.

This brings us reflections about the situations and the history of the scriptures. Thank you very much. Ok, we don't have anyone else with their hands up, so we will proceed to the reading of our study, which is in paragraph number 5, which says So that we can discern the light of darkness, all people are blessed with the spirit of Christ.

So that we can distinguish the good from the evil and have a perfect discernment to separate the darkness from the light that fills our hearts. And so choose to follow the path of clarity through the teachings of your Gospel. In Moroni, chapter 7, verse 16 says the following, for behold, the spirit of Christ is granted to all men, so that they may distinguish the good from the evil.

Therefore, I show you the way of judging, for all that impairs the practice of good and persuades to believe in Christ is sent by the power and gift of Christ. Therefore, you can

know with perfect knowledge that it is of God. And it continues, what is of God is light, and he who receives light and perseveres in God receives more light, and this light becomes brighter and brighter until the perfect day.

That said, question number 5. What do we need to discern the darkness of light and how can we identify our light? Ah, finally, let's hear from Zachary.

I was worried that I hadn't heard you yet.

[Zachary] (42:03 - 43:22)

We are all made in the image of God and God gives us the ability to discern good, bad, evil, and good, and so forth. But with us being born into a sinful world, those ideas, that sort of gets warped by the society that we lived in. And so, in order to discern from darkness from light, we must diligently study the scriptures.

We must understand God's word. And the only way to keep our light bright is by inviting the Holy Spirit into our hearts through charity. People can be good people and not have the Holy Spirit, and they won't have that sort of light in them.

But in order to have the light that God desires of us, we must understand the scriptures, invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts, and understand his will, and do what God would want us to do. Thank you.

[Raphaela] (43:26 - 43:33)

Thank you very much, Zechariah. Before making a comment, I will pass to President Tyler.

[Tyler] (43:36 - 44:37)

Thank you, and good evening, everyone. I really like the answer that is found in this sixth chapter of Acts of the Three Nephites. Just a few verses before verse 15 that's quoted in the lesson.

It says, every feeling that persuades men to do good among their brothers and impels them to love proceeds from the hand of God. And every sentiment which is opposed to these, though it seems to be beneficial, if it does not meet the needs of its fellow men in love, then it proceeds from the evil. And so it seems that love is a big part of discerning and understanding what action is taking place in our own hearts.

It will allow us to discern whether we have the light of Christ and whether that is the feeling that we're sharing with others. Thank you.

[Raphaela] (44:40 - 49:42)

Thank you very much, Brother Tyler. What I wanted to comment on what Zechariah said, and Brother Tyler also mentioned, is that we are talking here about the light of Christ, and that there is no other place to find this light of Christ, because we are talking about the light of Christ, because it is our faith, it is what we believe, if it is not in the Scriptures, if it is not

in the Iron Bar. Because it is precisely a magnificent material that God provided for man to have knowledge, to study, to learn, to evolve, to acquire wisdom and to be aware of what is correct and what is not correct, and what commandments and behaviors it is necessary for man to obtain and fulfill, so that he can obtain the full light of Christ and know and understand the mysteries of God.

That is why our studies are always based on the Scriptures, because the Scriptures are manuals for man on earth, so that in the midst of darkness we have the light of the Scriptures, knowledge, wisdom, to guide us. There is a quote in the study made by Sister Balki, by Joseph, in which Joseph says that we all have the capacity, the consciousness to evolve. So it demonstrates that we are all equal to God, because we all have the capacity to evolve in knowledge, equal among all of us, in the same way.

It is enough to read the Scriptures, because it is accessible to everyone, but it only obtains more light, the one who seeks the light. And then yes, there are different moments for each person, because each person behaves, acts in a way that she or he will obtain more light, because she is diligent in the study, or a person will not have so much light, because she ignores the need to study and understand the Scriptures. I was just going to make a comment and it was long.

Sorry for that. Let's go back to the reading of paragraph number 6, which says the following, that we were called to be light for the world, as we read in Matthew chapter 5, verse 16. For this we need to receive, that is, to be open to light so that we can shine.

We learn in these Scriptures that if we are not open to new knowledge or light, we can also lose the knowledge we already have. A hardened heart cannot receive more light. There are several Scriptures that speak about this.

And Joseph Smith taught, quote, A superior intelligence is granted to those who obey the gospel with the full purpose of heart. And sinning against this intelligence, the apostate is deprived and destitute of the Spirit of God, and will certainly go on to blaspheme and curse, and his fate will be that of being burned. When the light that they used to have is taken away from them, they become as full of darkness as they were previously full of light.

Quote. With the advent of the Book of Mormon, we can share more knowledge of light with the world. And as saints of the last days, we were called to bring light to all the hidden things of darkness in what we know, and which are really manifested from heaven.

Question number 6. What are some aspects of the Book of Mormon that have broadened your understanding? This is a personal question, and it will be very interesting to hear the answers if someone raises their hand.

Someone? Someone get ready, I see the hand of Brother Sidney.

[Sidney] (49:46 - 50:44)

There is a passage that I really like, which is about Alma, when he secretly went out among the people to preach the Word of God, and that expanded my knowledge and understanding, especially of the veracity of the Book of Mormon. Because the Book of Mormon speaks of the story of Alma, and the sealed book complements that knowledge and even speaks of the United Order, which is where the United Order began. So, it is a type of knowledge that expands our mind, our spirit, so that we can have more affection and feeling for the sealed Book of Mormon.

This passage awakened me a lot at the time, and I wanted to share it with you. Thank you.

[Raphaela] (50:46 - 50:52)

Thank you very much, Sidney Amorim. I will now pass the time to Brother Diego Ferreira.

[Diego] (50:54 - 51:55)

Good evening, everyone. There are many passages that, when I met in 2021, caught my attention. The first was the three Nephites.

It was something that I always had in my mind, and when I saw that, it was one of the testimonies. Another passage is about the B.I. family, because it makes a link with the Bible, about Elijah and all that matter. It also raises questions or gives more details about the sacrament, on the correct day of the sacraments, about the rest of the world and such.

And it also gives more details about the story of Cain and Abel, which are also things that caught my attention. And there are many more things that it contains and it is still sealed. So, I am grateful for the value of the seal, and every time we read it, we can learn even more.

[Raphaela] (51:59 - 52:47)

Very good. Thank you very much, Brother Diego. I believe that most people who belong to the LDS are encouraged when they know that the sealed book has a book, which is called The Act of the Three Nephites, because the story of the three Nephites is always a story that the Book of Mormon tells, and that generates a lot of speculation and curiosity about these three characters, these three men.

When Brother Diego spoke about the three Nephites, I thought about it. It is something that every LDS always thinks about. And that finally clarifies his story.

[Sidney] (52:47 - 52:54)

I'm sorry, my camera was off, I was mistaken, I closed the camera, I apologize to everyone.

[Raphaela] (52:55 - 53:55)

No problem, Sidney. Thank you for letting me know. We have someone else who has the desire to share about the sealed book, the aspects of what he read, and had a feeling and changed his thinking, his way of seeing the Gospel, or changed something in himself that he wants to share.

As Leonardo spoke a lot today, hang in there, Leonardo. If the other is soon, I will call you. I will pass and apologize to the other apostles, I will call them, yes, I want to hear them all, but I will pass the time to Cassio, who has been with us recently, he is not a member yet, but as you can see, I have not used the word yet.

Cassio, the time is yours.

[Cassio] (53:57 - 55:12)

Hello everyone, good evening. Excuse me, I have read a lot of the sealed book since last week that I had been in Palhoça when I commented with my brother Steve, an absurd desire to really understand more, a very positive feeling, very happy, an unconditional love internally, something I had never felt in my life. There is no explanation for this, it is a light that really comes from within.

And I am very happy to be able to share this, simply feel and be able to transfer this type of feeling that I felt, and the desire that other people can also share the same feeling and experience that I felt. If I'm not mistaken, I got home on Friday or Saturday, I don't remember exactly the day, and on the same day I gave a jump to a third of the sealed book. So, the feeling was very strong, and I thank you immensely for the opportunity, and I wish everyone who can feel this in their time, everything makes a lot of sense to me, I thank you for the opportunity and a great weekend for everyone too.

[Raphaella] (55:16 - 56:27)

Thank you very much, Cassio, for that. Very good, these words are very good to hear. And as you said, each one in their time, each one in their moment, each one has their reasons, and each passage of the book finds a receptive heart for that moment, because it is a particularity of each researcher, that person who is looking for something, they know, and God knows what he will fill, but only finds the one who can and dedicates himself to the scriptures, and is open to it, as you have shown.

Thank you very much, it was really a pleasure to have you here, it was wonderful days, productive conversations, reflexive conversations, provocative, and it was very good. You are always welcome and you know that. All of you, of course, always welcome to be here with us.

Brother Bento, Brother Paulo, are you willing to share with us about the sealed book?

[Bento] (56:30 - 56:32)

It can be in the same order.

[Raphaella] (56:36 - 56:59)

Let's go, one at a time. Use the hand icon for me to check the order here. 1, 2, 3 and go.

Brother Paulo Pereira appears here with the hand icon raised, and then Brother Bento will be able to speak.

[Paulo] (57:02 - 58:47)

Hello, good evening, everyone, it is a privilege to be here with you. There is an affirmation of Moroni, Moroni 2, right at the beginning of the book, which really demonstrates what happens to us when we read Moroni's book. It is as if we were starting to see the scriptures through a completely different prism, which gives us a depth of the scriptures that we did not have until then.

That is, he says here, and from your eyes will fall the chambers of darkness, which prevent you from seeing in all its fullness the truth sent from heaven. And that is literally what happens with Moroni's book. It gives us, effectively, a vision of the scriptures, a depth that we did not have until then.

It touches our hearts, brings us closer to God, and allows us to really solidify our faith, our understanding of the Gospel, gives us a completely new perspective about the Gospel, which really allows us to have the deep desire to speak of the Gospel with joy, with will, with a true commitment that comes from the depth of our hearts. Moroni's book, Moroni's bookshelf, really has that capacity, that characteristic, that blessing associated with its reading. This is what I would like to share with you.

Thank you.

[Raphaela] (58:49 - 59:15)

Thank you very much, Brother Paulo. I could feel your enthusiasm when talking about this, the affection and love for the scriptures, and for living this moment of more light, more wisdom. I will then move on to Brother Paulo's land, Brother Bento da Almeida, who still wishes to share with us.

[Bento] (59:16 - 1:02:00)

Okay, thank you. Long live to everyone. Well, about the relationship with the subject of this class, I found in Acts of the Nephites, 6, from 15 to 19, this most practical expansion of the teaching of the Gospel and of the Light of Christ, with this supplication from Jonas.

Therefore, I beg you, brothers and friends, to remain together in the Church of Christ, as one body, and to seek diligently to distinguish between the darkness of the devil and the light of Christ, in his way of feeling, and to put aside all the harmful things to his way of life. From the point of view of the perception of the importance of the sealed book, as a testimony, it is difficult. I would say that the sealed book is an inexhaustible source of great value.

It is something extremely precious. I would say, in the simplest way, that it is an immense joy to know that God lives, that God cares, and that God spoke again, began again the communication with humanity, to lead us to a spiritual progression in the direction of the Light, to the knowledge of his Gospel and of the Celestial Laws. And it is extremely significant to be able to remember that the sealed book contains the very words of Jesus Christ, in the explanation, for example, of the parable of Oliveira, which no one could explain, except Jacob, in the Book of Mormon.

So, it is extraordinary. The first time I read it, I soon understood that the Lord was calling me to go out of the South Church, of Utah, to be able to qualify myself to rescue my brothers and sisters who were inside. So, I remember writing in big words, in my appointment book, to rescue my brothers and sisters.

It is amazing. This is the joy of missionary work, the joy of the power of God's work, and it is a joy to be able to live in the times in which the Lord called a faithful and prudent servant, Mauricio Berger. A shepherd, And I am very grateful for living these days. Thank you.

[Raphaela] (1:02:08 - 1:02:27)

Thank you very much, Brother Bento, for the comment. I remember seeing Brother Bob Keckler with his hand up to answer. If Brother Bob, Bishop Keckler, wishes to speak, we will love to hear him.

[Bob] (1:02:28 - 1:02:32)

No, everything has been said that I was going to say. Thank you.

[Raphaela] (1:02:36 - 1:08:18)

Thank you, Brother Bob. Brother Steve, do you want to say something? You want to?

Okay, I want to say, but I won't take long, I like how the sealed book has a very simple language; however, the sealed book shows both a continuity of the stories of the Scriptures, but conclusions of some stories that throughout the Scriptures were told from time to time. The biggest aspect of the sealed book that I can highlight is the respect for feelings, which is the central message of the sealed book, because knowing that God is, is the feelings of love, this changes the way we relate to God, and we begin to understand how we maintain proximity with God. It is through something that happens within us, but to reach this excellence it is necessary to preserve the study of the Scriptures, the perfect knowledge of the doctrine of the Gospel, how it must be understood since before the foundation of the world, because that is what the Scriptures exist for, but that through the Scriptures I can understand the commandments, and by fulfilling them and observing my feelings, I raise my light to the point of starting a full understanding of the mysteries of God.

And here I would highlight the Scripture that is in the Act of the Three Nephites, chapter 1, verse 1, which even this Scripture is on the back cover of the sealed book, which says that when we try to understand God's procedures about a human perspective, all the rest of the story that is told to us seems like a fable, unless God grants the sons of men, and here our action, our part, is that according to the attention and our diligence that we dedicate to know their mysteries. And the sealed book then shows that everything is within our reach, it depends on us and on our feelings.

For me, this is the most important aspect that the book brought. Let's continue our reading and let's go to the end of the study with the last paragraph, which is the paragraph number 7. So, throughout our journey of discovery of the mysteries of God, we acquire more knowledge and with it more light.

And through this, we become more enthusiastic about the wonderful plan of God. Enthusiasm is one of the names or gifts of God and it is a power that we can use in our missionary work, because many people lost enthusiasm in this world of darkness. We must be able to illuminate every environment we enter so that people are interested in the hope that is in us and that must radiate in our semblance.

In 1 Peter, chapter 3, verse 15, we read the following, quote, but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be always prepared to answer each man who asks you for the reason of the hope that is in you with manliness and fear. In Isaiah, chapter 60, verses 1 to 3, we read, quote, rise and shine because your light has come and the glory of the Lord shines over you because the darkness will cover the earth and darkens the people. The Lord, however, will rise over you and his glory will be seen over you and the gentiles will come to your light and the kings to the brightness of your rising.

Quote. Last question of today, how do you share the light of your understanding with the people you meet? Does anyone want to answer the last question of today?

I will repeat it, how do you share the light of your understanding with the people you meet? Remembering that we must share, we cannot stop doing it. I will move on to brother Leonardo, one day I will see Joaquim speaking, but for now, I will be content with brother Leonardo, with Silvapai.

Don't be sad, it was a joke.

[Leonardo] (1:08:18 - 1:11:19)

No, quite the opposite, me too, it will be my greatest pleasure to hear you share. This week, it even happened, we had opportunities to share, but I think the best to share is not theory, it is practice, it is our example, it is our action. When people look at us and try to look at us as the Leo of the past, but there is the Leo of today, who has improved, who has become someone better, so my cousins called me to talk, and we were in a bar, and I started to share with them some things that happened, and I started to share about the sealed book, about the Bible, and that was so cool that we started to talk, and I have this tone of voice, I start to speak loudly, the owner of the bar sat down, and we started to talk, a normal conversation, and my cousin, my oldest cousin, he said, wow, Leo, if I were you in your situation, I would have done a lot of things, and I said, exactly, this is the difference, because I learned that the gospel of Christ does not enslave anyone, in fact, it frees, especially in relation to feelings, so when you can free your feelings, you don't have addictions, or you can free yourself from these addictions, this is the true gospel of Christ. So, the way I share is sharing what I witnessed and what changed in my life.

Years, I lived more than 20 years with depression, and panic syndrome, suicide, suicide attempts, but today I am here, I overcome every day, so this is what makes people see that it is a living, pulsating gospel, and when we share this, it is not just in theory, the person sees the evolution, this is what Brother Walke said, the more light we receive, the more desire we want to share, the more we want to share, but we don't keep it to ourselves, we want others to feel the same thing, and this is what we have to understand, because no matter the place,

every place, we will have the opportunity to share about the sealed book, about the revelations, about prophecies that happened, and we can share this.

[Raphaela] (1:11:24 - 1:13:08)

Thank you very much, Leonardo, you talked about the desire to share that has this enthusiasm, and I think I can attribute to what Cassius felt, because it is a feeling that floods us, that fills us, that overflows us, that we need to expose, and if we lose this enthusiasm for the gospel, then it is because we get lost in the path of the gospel, and it is necessary to recalculate the route and return to the right course, because it is impossible not to get lost and feel love, enthusiasm, and when you are studying the scriptures, understanding the gospel, understanding the doctrine as it should be, and not wanting other people to hear about it, and I know that brother Steve has these feelings, because all the people he meets, he talks about the second invitation, and then I imagine the conversations that brother Steve and brother Cassius had in these days that Cassius was here, they are feelings that connect, we can feel the feelings of other people, and this ends up creating an energy like brother Sam said about the fire, that the fire needs to stay all together to continue, the fire continues to be heated. I will pass to brother Jude Sabala, Ariel Sabala, I don't know who you are, sorry.

[Sabala] (1:13:09 - 1:15:29)

Thank you sister Rafaela, I would like to share my feelings as well as my experience about what we are learning today, because I believe brethren and sisters that there are two kinds the spirit will give us, first as I said a while ago, the spirit will give us the light and truth which comes from our humbleness, broken heart and spirit, and that is found in section 84 of LDS, verse 46 to 47, that as we try to humble ourselves and seek the spirit, we will have the mysteries of God to be upon us.

As a former missionary when I was a young man, I always relied through the promptings and dictation of the spirit, and that is the reason why we were successful in teaching the gospel and helping people to understand the gospel of Jesus Christ, because of the spirit. Without the spirit, we will not be able to help people understand the truth. That is why I know that the book of Mormon is the word of God because of the spirit.

That is why I know that the sealed book of Mormon, which was translated by Brother Berger, it is true because of the spirit, and that is why as we seek the spirit, the Lord promised us that if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much advantage in this world. So brethren, I know for myself that the book of Mormon is the word of God as well as the sealed book which was translated by Brother Mauricio is the word of God. So this is what I saw through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you Sister Rafaela.

[Wife of Sabala] (1:15:30 - 1:19:04)

I want to share. Wow. Sister Rafaela, I want to share too.

Is it okay? I want to share. In 3rd Nephi 12, verse 16, it says there, your question is how can we maintain the spirit of Christ within us?

Of course, as the Church of Christ members and all the others who received the first invitation of Jesus Christ, they knew about this already. The question there is how about those who are not able to understand about those things that we already learned? Or even those people who already learned it but they didn't practice about this in their lives.

So it's stated in the book of Mormon of 3rd Nephi 12, verse 16. It says there that we should we should be an example or the light of Christ be within us. We should be doing missionary work so we can maintain that light.

And of course, not just only doing or sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ to others but also first, apply it in ourselves before we can be able to share that light to others. Because others could feel how we are sincere knowing about the gospel and by applying it they can feel it too through our countenances. And even the spirits will tell it to them as well.

And of course, having that light of Christ within us those people who are honestly seeking the truth we may be able to touch them because they see good works from us as stated in 3rd Nephi 12, verse 16. And by doing so, of course, the God of heaven and earth will not of course shut up the heavens for them to learn and to know the truthfulness of the gospel that you are sharing because the spirit itself bears witness for them. So, I knew with the serenity of my heart that I knew that the same book is true.

I would like to share it to others especially first to my family and of course friends and others who are seeking for the truth of Christ. So, I knew that prophet Mauricio is a prophet called in our day and that I would like to share that to others as well. That light that Christ is giving to us and I would like to know and I would like you to share that we are actually inherited the divine natures of God.

So, God himself loves us and those divine qualities he has actually wanted us he wanted us to have it and like what you said brother Rafaela we have those lights within us that to know and to that light we have those lights actually but if we don't develop our faithfulness towards studying scriptures and keeping the commandments of God that light diminish. So, we need to nourish that and we need to keep on doing what is good towards the side of God or to all men as well. This is my feeling that I would like to share with you and that's a testimony.

Thank you and good morning to all.

[Raphaella] (1:19:07 - 1:19:20)

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for the couple's with a lot of enthusiasm and it's very good to hear that.

And I would like to hear from sister Renée who has her hand raised.

[Renee] (1:19:48 - 1:21:13)

That's always sharing the light. Okay, but I want to talk about sister Baukje real quick. We talk every once in a while, and she has a business card that she passes out with her contact information and it says a few things about the sealed book and so she has an opportunity for people to call her back and at the time when she hands it to them she'll say a little bit about it.

I love that but also she has been writing lessons and sharing her life with these lessons lately and I really appreciate that so much that she's been so enthusiastic about that and I know there's other women here who have so much light that they need to share with us all and we haven't heard from them yet but we are wanting to hear from them with all of our hearts and so don't be shy don't anybody feel intimidated you'll be sharing your light just like this lesson is teaching us today it's another way to share your light and I want to be honest with you we need you we need you to share your light with us so that's all I wanted to say.

[Raphaela] (1:21:17 - 1:22:00)

Thank you, Sister Renee thank you for your words and for reminding us of women and it's something I also want to hear more often the contribution of women and their strength their feminine nature and the strength they have. Well, we've finished our study our lesson for today however we'll take a short break so that brother Steve can get ready to speak to us just one or two minutes and we'll be right back don't leave unless you want to get some water or go to the bathroom wait for us.

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[Raphaela] (1:26:32 - 1:27:05)

So, we're back properly prepared to listen to president Steve and I'll pass the time to brother Steve but first I want to ask for sister McClelland sister McClelland to do for us the closing prayer so as soon as brother Steve finishes his speech, I ask that if possible, sister Joan McClelland do for us the closing prayer? thank you.

Brother Steve take your time

[Steve Woodby] (1:27:06 - 1:34:18)

Good evening brothers and sisters, I'll try to go slow that the translation is not lost I have been having enjoying myself and having a great fellowship down here eating good food and have new Apple translators so it's been an experience much more connected than before.

While here I had a chance to visit Agudo and visit briefly with brother Beto and his family brother Zanella and his wife who treated us to a fantastic fish dinner I also became reacquainted with the refuge's roosters at 5 o'clock in the morning and they were welcoming me back. I wish you all could be here and experience the great expanses of farming and the clean fresh air and the familiar feeling of God's hand and purpose upon this people and this place.

Cassio and I spent a week together in Palhoça and enjoyed several late-night deep discussions since his return to Agudo he's climbed Mount Agudo with two of his friends and seen the orbs of light and I think he has finished the sealed book at this point and I just want to say good work Castio.

Now I want to briefly focus this talk on a more weighty subject, legality. After returning to Palhoça I was made aware of some of the events that have been going on and happening over the last few weeks to brother Mauricio and his family and it saddened my heart greatly. Our dear brother understands these attacks to be the slaps of the devil as he's struggling with the higher realms to minimize the consequences of our most recent episodes of giving legality to the darkness. I asked, "What can I do, how can I help. How can we put a stop to these legal opportunities for darkness to enter into our midst, invited." Now to mortalize some of these legalities may seem benign or unintended but are they not from the lower sentiments and resonances and by the dark manipulation according to the desires of our hearts.

I have to look at myself and ask how close is my heart to the Lord. Yes we may follow the commandments, renew our covenants, pray and fast, but how much room is in our hearts that is still distracted by the selfishness of the world, I'm not anyone to give advice and I very likely have more scars than most but I can't help hearing those faithful words of scripture. "They draw close with their lips but their hearts are far away."

Are we doing all we can do at this critical point of bringing back the restoration from obscurity and preparing ourselves for the expected darts of the adversary. Are we putting on the full armor of God or are we at times just going through the motions. How can we draw nearer in our hearts, what else can we do?

I'd like to share an experience. In November of 1991 I took part in my first ever group guided meditation. I didn't really believe in such things, but was obligated. So I laid down on the mat and began to follow the voice of the facilitator. I didn't expect much, but after about 15 or 20 minutes I became aware of an angel over me. I was dumbfounded. I knew this spirit as a deceased father whom I never met. A close friend of mine, who was losing his battle with alcoholism. So, over the years since that experience and through several different types of meditation, some seeking Christ consciousness, the higher light many others, I've experienced what I believe the ancient descendants of Nephi and Hagoth called walking upon the way. Where they saw their ancient grandfathers, family members and even walked with Jesus Christ. It feels like being taken into another reality where feelings seem to communicate.

Some say that prayer is talking to God while meditation is listening to him. Do we assume by doing all the right mortal observances we are doing our best? One fact remains, as mortals we don't know what we don't know. How much more filled can our hearts be what measure of happiness is still unclaimed? What peace and joy awaits our call? I challenge each and every one in our group to experiment with this spiritual exercise. We each have our own path let us feel that space in our hearts that longs to be in the presence of Christ, and leave no foothold for the enemy and legality.

Brothers and sisters, though I be an undeserving servant, it is the deepest desire of my heart that we and our families will proceed and succeed on July 4th. That this little remnant family shall someday stand shoulder to shoulder in righteousness within the Lord's kingdom of Zion in Christ's name. May God bless us as we strive to draw closer to his celestial glory.

Amen

[Joan] (1:34:34 – 1:35:32)

Dear Heavenly Father. Thank you, God, for your love to us, and your guidance daily. We know that we try to do things our way. But we must ask you for guidance. We thank you, Lord for our lesson today. And we pray that will might be able to learn to help people and show them our light and our joy in the Second Invitation. And we pray Lord that you will be

with us as we journey towards our reunion next year, that we want to be a people ready to accept, to live with you Lord. And we ask all of this in Jesus' precious name, Amen.