



KEEPING OUR HOUSES FULL

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

In the 12th chapter of the Gospel of John, Mary was singled out because she anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. John 12:3 states, "Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment." The writer, the Apostle John, was specific that the entire house was filled with the smell of the ointment.

As we reflect on this event, we are sure that each of us would remember if a meal, candle or even a powerful fragrance filled our entire dwelling place and not just a room or a floor with a specific smell. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are each home to the Holy Spirit as is written in I Corinthians 3:16, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" Our temple or house is where the Lord's Spirit resides while we work out our soul's salvation before Him during our life on earth. Therefore, given that we house the Lord's Spirit, two interesting questions are worth our attention:

1) What is filling our personal spiritual house? and 2) Is our natural dwelling place a receptive location for God's Holy Spirit to fill the house?

The Holy Scriptures remind each of us of our responsibility to continually check to make sure we are filling our personal temple with the things of God. While we have important activities to focus on such as family events, school, work, etc., we also have many other items that fill up our minds and our time such as social media, sports, entertainment, etc. Some of these items may not be in accord with God's plan for righteous living and the Lord strives to remind us to seek after good gifts and not the evil gift as is written in Moroni 10:30, "and lay hold upon every good gift, and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing."

Given the continuous challenges of life, it is very important that we fill our spiritual homes daily with the things of God to nourish our souls. It is written in Proverbs 8:32-34, "Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children; for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors." If we hearken to the Lord's ways there is a direct promise of our spiritual and natural houses being full of blessings as clearly stated in 2nd Nephi 1:20, "And he hath said that: Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land; but inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from my presence."

If our spiritual house is full of the things of God then our lives will reflect Christ and all that we encounter will know that we follow Christ. If our spiritual home is not full of keeping God's commandments then we open ourselves up to be led away by the enemy of our souls and we suffer, but also, we cause others to suffer that we influence as well as those who care for us. A great litmus test on



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whether your spiritual home is full of the Spirit of God is found in Alma 5:26, “And now behold, I say unto you, my brethren, if ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can ye feel so now?”

We are also encouraged by the pleasing word of God to make our natural homes a dwelling place for the Spirit of God. It is written that we are part of the household of God in Ephesians 2:19, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God”. As the saints and followers of Jesus Christ, it is critical that our households provide a reflection of our personal relationship with God. We want our homes to be known as households of God similar to how the Apostle Paul in his letters to the early Church would often say to ‘salute’ or greet certain of the saint’s household. It is evident that those saints made a great impression of their house being filled with the good things of God enough that their names are forever in the holy scriptures because their natural house matched their spiritual house.

In 2018, many of us and our fellow neighbors have great natural blessings in our homes. While we must thank God for these blessings, it is also good to pause and make sure our home reflects a Godly home so that when the Lord visits, He would feel welcome. We are sure that many have seen saints whose spiritual walk with Christ was so strong that just upon entering their house YOU felt the spirit of God. Our hope is that when saints, neighborhood friends or family come to visit your natural home they ALL may be able to feel the blessings and PEACE of God that is in your home as it is written in Isaiah 32:18, “And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places”.

In closing we urge each of us to make sure our spiritual temples are full of God’s spirit so that His Goodness may fill our house. Our hope is that soon we will all be as the house of Joshua when he stated many centuries ago the following definition of his house in Joshua 24:15, “but as for me and my HOUSE, we will serve the Lord.” We pray your houses are full of the goodness and blessings of God.

In the Love of God,
The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

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