

GROW UP IN THEE NARRATION

“That they may grow up in thee, and receive a fulness of the Holy Ghost, and...be prepared to obtain every needful thing.”

This extraordinary passage from the dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple in 1836, is a singular statement that defines the purpose for our mortal sojourn and our eternal potential.

The French philosopher, René Descartes wrote, “I think... therefore, I am.” But there is more to that truth than what he said. “I have agency, therefore, I am eternal.” We are no beginning, no ending entities, and no event, circumstance, condition, person, or power determines for us who we choose to be eternally. “We will become... who we choose to be.”

If first I'll seek the truth in me,
then I'll find truth where ere it be.

To know and understand and become is a course that is unique to each of us, and the answers to the questions that define who we want to be, literally are found within us. Everything is about growing up. And who we are growing up to be is the choice we are here on this earth to make. Jesus Christ, through his infinite sacrifice, love, example, and grace has made it possible for us to become as He is.

If that is our choice

Growing up, of course, is, by definition often difficult. It is a “becoming” process. It comes line upon line, precept upon precept, and here a little and there a little.

We grow up in Jesus Christ, we become as He is, by following Him. He has shown us by the way he lived His life how we do it. And He gives us sufficient grace...so it is doable.

How do we become like Him?

WE ACT

No matter what the forces be,
I'll have self-control,
for thus I learn to overcome—
to possess my soul.

Jesus Christ is completely free, because His choices are always His... and not determined by any external condition, circumstance, or other person. He acts and is not acted upon. Understanding that every experience we have here is temporary and cannot control us if we do not allow it to, lets us use our experiences and circumstances to learn and grow up in Him. And we are free.

WE LOVE

To love with Christ's pure love,
We first love Him purely.

We call that Charity.

Love explains Jesus Christ, for God is love. Love defines His work and glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

Desire to lift and bless another is its root and purpose. **Service**—mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual—is how it is manifest. How do we love Christ and our Heavenly Father with all our heart, soul, and mind so we can be as They are?

We choose to make ourselves an integral part of Their plan of love. Their Great Plan of Happiness. Our focus on Jesus Christ and our love for Him enables us to love everyone with His love. To see with His eyes. Hear with His ears. And feel with His heart. We grow up in Him.

WE LIVE HIS LAWS

Law does not constrain.

Law gives freedom to attain.

Who we choose to be eternally is determined by the transcendent laws we desire to live. To be as Jesus Christ, we covenant with Him to abide those laws which bring to us His fulness of light and truth. Those covenants are made as we receive ordinances administered in His temples, the keeping of which empowers us to become as He is.

These are His laws.

We OBEY by always following what He directs us to do.

We SACRIFICE by offering our broken hearts and contrite spirits to lift and bless and bring peace to our brothers and sisters.

We LIVE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST by repenting, having faith in Him, receiving the ordinances of the priesthood, and enduring and learning to the end.

We are CHASTE by letting virtue garnish our thoughts always.

And we CONSECRATE our time, talents and all that God has entrusted to us to Him and to His church here upon the earth.

As we abide His laws, His image is in our countenance. We are growing up in Him.

WE ARE HUMBLE

When I think that it is me,
I find my glint is hard to see.
As I lose myself in Him,
His Beam bursts forth
where e'er I Am

A fulness of light and truth is made possible by recognizing our innate weakness or “nothingness” when we focus on ourselves, ...and our infinite potential when we offer our whole souls to Jesus Christ. To be humble is to grow up in Him.

WE ARE ONE

To be one with Thee,
We seek unity.

The word that defines relationships that bring a fulness of Light and Truth is ONE. Jesus said, “I pray...for all those who shall believe...in me, that I may be in them as thou, Father art in me, that we may be one.” (3 Nephi 19:23) We symbolically and actually come to that end by sincerely taking upon ourselves the name of Jesus Christ. We become one with Him.

By choosing to follow Jesus Christ, His grace gives us the strength to succeed. His example and teachings and directives show us the way. His atonement transforms us into pure, celestial beings, and we can become “perfect in (Him)” and “holy without spot.”

We become as He is, because...

We choose... to grow up in Him.