

THINK ETERNAL NARRATION

What was real to me before became a dream. Now I've just swapped dreams again, it seems. So what is real? Eternity is real. And here in time, I am learning. I am choosing. I am becoming.

We are eternal beings. No beginning. No ending. The world and everything about it is temporary. And we are here to learn, for time is our tutor. This is God's eternal plan, because He loves us. Here, Challenges, sufferings, joys, sorrows, and experiences are passing. They do not determine who we become. They help us learn who we want to always be. So, think eternal.

What is God's plan for me? What can I choose to become eternally? President Dalin Oaks teaches that, quote, our Heavenly Father loves all his children so much that he wants us all to live in a kingdom of glory forever. He wants us to live with him eternally. His plan gives us the teachings and the opportunity to make the choices that will assure us the destiny and the life we choose. All kingdoms have a law given, and the kingdom of glory we receive is determined by the laws we choose to follow in our mortal journey. He will send all of his children to a kingdom of glory according to the desires manifested through their choices.

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Jesus Christ is integral to God's plan for us. Without him, there is no plan. Without him, we could not make choices to determine who and what we desire to be eternally. We would not have the experiences necessary for us to become eternally who we want to be. How he lived his mortal life showed us the way to become like him and our Heavenly Father, if that is our choice.

President Oaks taught that, quote, Jesus Christ is the way to peace in this world and eternal life in the world to come. He knows and loves each of us perfectly. and invites us to walk with Him, abide in Him, and follow His example. We are eternal beings. Our stay in mortality is our choosing ground, and what we are challenged with here is temporary. We discover who we are and who we want to be. To love Christ purely is God's supernal gift to all who choose to have it. And with it, we become one with Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father.

Two questions then define this life for all of us. How near am I to Christ? Am I where I want to be? Think eternal.

Jesus Christ showed us how to become like him through his teachings and the way he lived his mortal life. If our choice is to follow him, We must humbly recognize that we cannot do this on our own. True humility is key to becoming as He is. Humility is necessary for His grace to be sufficient to purify us, and to enable the Holy Ghost to constantly guide and direct us. To become as Jesus Christ We take upon us His name. What does it mean to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ? I give all I have. He does the same. My gift is my life. His is His name.

President D. Todd Christofferson said, quote, acquiring the character of Christ is one of the most important ways we take his name upon us. Christ-like character grows out of a Christ-like heart. We

must possess his motivations, his thoughts, desires, and intents of the heart. Foremost among Christ's motives is charity. His pure love. With this we have compassion, patience, and a willingness to forgive. We take upon us His name by striving to be one with Him so we can know and do His will in all that we think, say, and do.

Here, in our earthly stay, we learn that we are eternal, just like Jesus Christ. As we choose to receive the fullness that defines Him, His grace is sufficient for us, and we are transformed into pure celestial beings. We become perfect in Christ, and holy without spot.