

Chapter 6

Embracing Your Savior

"Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." — Galatians 3:26

A DISCIPLESHIP CHORUS

*[The Reception]:
I have tasted the Light,
Grace of the Living Son of God,
And my heart is full, my heart is full.*

*[The Transformation]:
His truth rises in me like the morning sun,
And it calls me to move,
Oh, it calls me to move.*

*[The Consecration]:
I will dance before the Lord
With all the life He's given me.
I'll use these hands to bear His light.*

*[The Testimony]:
Now I'm reborn,
Now I'm free.*

You Have Come This Far on The Journey

You have searched in plainness. You have asked honest questions about the purpose of your existence. You have considered the limits of human knowledge and opened yourself to the possibility of something more. You

have learned to pray—to speak to God and listen for His voice. You have planted the seed in yourself.

And now? Has the seed begun to swell within you? Have you tasted something sweet—a warmth in your heart, a clarity in your mind, a peace you cannot quite explain? Do you stand at the threshold, willing to believe but not yet certain, hoping that what you have heard is true?

I have tasted the Light, Grace of the Living Son of God, and my heart is full.

Then you are ready for what comes next. This chapter is not about convincing you to search. You are already searching. It is about what faith in Jesus Christ actually is—and what it does to those who embrace it.

More Than Belief

Faith is not mere belief. The scriptures are clear on this point: "The devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19). Satan and his servants know that God exists. They know Jesus is the Christ. Satan's knowledge is perfect—and it brings him only misery.

Then, what separates saving faith from the belief of devils? Surrender. Trust. Willingness to be changed by the power of God. Belief says, "I acknowledge this is true." Faith says, "I will stake my life on it. I will let it reshape me. I will follow where it leads."

The scriptures define faith as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It is hope for things "which are not seen, which are true" (Alma 32:21)—emphasis on true. Faith is not believing whatever we wish were real. It is trusting in what is real before we have full proof of it. And we "receive no witness until after the trial of [our] faith" (Ether 12:6)—the evidence comes to those who step forward, not to those who demand proof before they will move.

Faith is not passive. It is the principle of action—the force that moves us from knowing to becoming. Joseph Smith taught that faith is "the moving cause of all action" and "the principle of power also, in all intelligent beings, whether in heaven or on earth" (Lectures on Faith 1:13, 15). When we exercise faith, though imperfectly, we take hold of that same principle of power that called light out of darkness, that formed the Earth and life upon it. Faith is the same principle of power that caused "the blind [to] receive

their sight, and the lame [to] walk, the lepers [to be] cleansed, and the deaf [to] hear, the dead [to be] raised up" (Matthew 11:5).

And here is the beautiful paradox: faith begins as we reach toward God, but it becomes His gift to us as He reaches back. We extend a particle of hope; He returns it multiplied into knowledge. We offer a desire to believe; He transforms it into testimony. Faith is both our effort and His grace, woven together until we cannot tell where one ends and the other begins. Faith is one's relationship with God.

His truth rises in me like the morning sun, and it calls me to move.

Born Again

Jesus taught that unless we are born again, we cannot see the kingdom of God. This is not just a metaphor. It is the Good Physician's prescription for Salvation.

Those who have experienced the promised "rebirth" speak of a mighty change of heart—not self-improvement by one's own will and works—but a transformation of the whole soul by the miraculous power of God. Not to personal perfection, but providing a glimpse of God's perfect love for us. The weight of past failures lifts. Guilt releases its grip. Something fresh floods in where heaviness once lived. The world is still the same, but you are different, and so you see all of creation through new eyes.

For some, the new birth arrives like lightning—sudden, unmistakable, unforgettable. For others, it comes like dawn—so gradual they cannot name the moment the light became unmistakable. Both are real. God works differently with different souls. What matters is whether the tree is growing, not how dramatically the seed first sprouted.

Remember that Alma compared the word of God to a seed (see Alma 32:28–43)? This soul-enriching transformation is what the seed becomes when it takes root. He promised: the word would "enlarge your soul" and "enlighten your understanding" and become "delicious" to you. That swelling, that light, that sweetness—this is the new birth beginning. It is Christ entering your life not as a concept but as a presence.

We cannot spiritually birth ourselves. We can only say yes to the One who offers to make us new. And when His Spirit moves through our spirit, when

we feel the old self falling away, we understand why Jesus used the language of birth. It is profound. It is real.

Now I'm reborn. Now I'm free.

Surrender as Strength

The world teaches that surrender is weakness. To yield is to lose. To submit is to be conquered.

But surrender to Christ is victory. It is the only true freedom. The chains we thought were holding us together were actually holding us down. The control we thought was protecting us was imprisoning us. When we let go and fall into His arms, we discover He was not waiting to diminish us but to enlarge us—to fill us with His light, His love, and His own life.

This is why those who have surrendered speak not of loss but of gain. Not of bondage but of liberation. The joy of serving Him is not a grim duty fulfilled. It is the delight of a heart that has found its home, hands that have found their purpose, feet that cannot be still.

I will dance before the Lord with all the life He's given me.

Grace and Our Response

Are we saved by what God does for us? Or are we saved by what we do for God? The answer to both questions is yes.

Grace is God reaching toward us—unearned, undeserved, freely offered. It completes what we cannot complete ourselves. But grace that is truly received changes us. It does not leave us where it found us. When God's love enters a heart, that heart beats differently. Hands that were closed begin to open. Feet that were still begin to move.

This is not payment for salvation. It is the fruit of salvation, the fruits of the Spirit. A tree that has been made alive will bear fruit—not to prove it deserves sunlight, but because that is what living trees do with light.

We do not believe that reaching perfection in this mortal lifetime is required, though it is commanded that we be perfect. Perfection is the direction of the journey, not the price of admission. Christ commands us to aim at the Father's own wholeness; grace carries us forward when we fall short. The consistent direction of growth matters far more than any level of

attainment. But genuine faith produces genuine change. If nothing is growing, we might ask whether the seed was ever truly planted, protected, nourished...

I'll use these hands to bear His light.

Fellowship with Disciples

Faith in Christ is personal, but it is not private. From the beginning, the Lord has gathered His followers into communities of covenant and care. He calls us not only to Himself but to one another.

There are things that can only be learned in fellowship. Patience is forged when we must bear with one another's weaknesses. Forgiveness is practiced when brothers and sisters disappoint us—as we disappoint them. Love is perfected not in solitude but in the daily friction and grace of life together.

The early Christians "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). They understood that discipleship is communal. We need teachers to instruct us, elders to guide us, peers to walk beside us, and younger souls to serve. We need the sacraments that can only be administered in gathered worship. We need the correction that comes from those who know us well enough to speak truth in love.

Do not attempt to follow Christ alone. Find His people. Join them. Bear their burdens as they bear yours. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name," Jesus promised, "there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). His presence is found in the fellowship as surely as in the private closet of prayer.

The body of Christ is not a metaphor. It is a description of how His work is done in the world—through hands and feet and voices joined together in His service.

Be wary of seeking a congregation that offers only pleasing doctrines and affirmation without accountability. The body of Christ is a family, and families speak truth to one another—sometimes uncomfortable truth. If no one in your fellowship ever challenges you, you may have found an audience, not a family.

Bearing Testimony

Faith that remains hidden is faith that remains incomplete. The natural response to encountering the living Christ is to speak of Him—to bear testimony.

Consider the woman at the well. She had lived a complicated life—five husbands, and the man she was with was not her husband. Yet when she encountered Christ, she did not wait until her life was in order to speak of Him. She left her waterpot and ran to the city: "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29). Her testimony was simple, honest, and immediate. And many believed because of her word. She did not argue theology. She simply said, "Come and see." That is testimony.

A testimony is not an argument. It is not proof designed to compel agreement. It is witness: a personal declaration of what you have experienced, what you have come to know, what has changed in you because of Him. "I was blind, but now I see." "I was lost, but He found me." "I planted the seed, and it grew." No one can argue with your experience. They can only hear it and feel the Spirit confirm or deny its truth to their own hearts. We are not the Savior; we cannot change others by force of will or with compelling arguments and proofs.

But testimony is borne in more than words. It is borne in how you live—in the kindness you show, the integrity you keep, the peace you carry into anxious rooms. Every act of Christlike love is testimony. Every choice to forgive when the world says retaliate is testimony. The life you live preaches a sermon that never ends.

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). This is testimony in action—light borne into darkness, not for your own glory but for His.

Do not wait until your faith is perfect to share it. Testimony grows stronger in the telling. As you speak what you know—however small it seems—the Spirit confirms it to you even as it reaches toward others. The seed you plant in another's heart waters the tree in your own.

When Faith Is Tested

There will be seasons when the light dims. The world grows loud. Hardship obscures what once seemed clear. Doubt creeps in where certainty lived.

Know this: doubt is not the opposite of faith. Fear and despair is. Doubt that keeps seeking is faith wearing different clothes.

The Lord counseled a struggling disciple: "Cast your mind upon the night that you cried unto me in your heart. Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?" (D&C 6:22-23).

You have felt it before. The seed has swelled. The light has tasted sweet. Return to that memory. Let it anchor you until the sun rises again within you. Faith is both gift and choice—God gives the witness; we choose whether to remember it. Return to the wellspring of living waters often.

The Invitation

This is what faith offers: a heart made full, a life made new, a purpose that outlasts death.

This is what faith asks: surrender, trust, willingness to be changed and to let that change overflow into how you live and love and serve.

This is what faith becomes: testimony borne in word and deed, fellowship with fellow disciples, light carried into every room you enter, joy that cannot be contained.

Come unto Him.

Learn of Him.

Believe in Him.

Follow Him.

Remember Him.

We promise you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that if you do these things your faith will be made unshakable by the power of the Spirit of God. "Then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God" (D&C 121:45). You will know—not merely believe, but know—that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of all who receive Him, and that embracing Him is not loss

but gain, not bondage but freedom, not the end of your journey but its true beginning.

Now I'm reborn. Now I'm free.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.