
Live the Adventure for Joy

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Hello, my friend,

Do you like to travel? Did you travel to some interesting places this summer? Some people really get into traveling and have been all over the United States or the world. There are a lot of interesting places to see.

I like it enough, but haven't done it a whole lot. (It can be kind of expensive.) I'd say I'm more of an explorer. I do like going to new places I haven't been before. But that can mean just going to a new restaurant, or going on a hike, or taking a different path when I walk around the neighborhood. So, I wouldn't call that 'traveling'. Maybe it's the same purpose, just on a much smaller scale. It's still exploring. Or journeying to experience or see something I haven't seen before. I think that's fun.

You know, life is like a journey. Every day we are experiencing something we haven't experienced before. Even if you think you do the same thing every day, there is something different about it. There's someone different you might see, there's some different news you might hear, the weather might be different, and at the very least, it's a different day and you're one day older :)

But sometimes, it's very different.

You might have an experience that changes how you react to things. You might learn something that changes your perception of the world. Or, you might experience something truly joyful or extremely sad. Some might describe life more like a roller coaster, with ups and downs, and quick turns that changes your view of everything.

And that is like exploring. You don't really have to travel far to experience something new. Sometimes all you have to do is wake up, and your day will give you an adventure.

If you see it that way.

The key is to know and understand the bigger picture. What's it all for anyway?

We are given a clue in 2 Nephi 2:22-25:

"And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. And they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy."

So, the purpose is to have joy. But the only way we can have joy, is to experience sadness, and all kinds of other things in between. We have to experience change.

Adam and Eve were in a state where there was no change. And therefore, no progression.

But because they had agency, the power to choose, they put the whole plan in motion, so that we all could progress, which means being put in situations where there is great possibility for joy and also a great potential for sorrow and pain.

Life is an incredible journey, an adventure, a fantastic expedition where we are learning new things and having new experiences all the time.

And if you see life this way, you'll know that when you're at the bottom of the roller coaster, and having the most difficult and saddest time ever, that means that you've had or can have the most exquisite joy.

Alma the Younger describes this dynamic to his son about his conversion:

"And oh, what joy, and what marvelous light I did behold; yea, my soul was filled with joy as exceeding as was my pain! Yea, I say unto you, my son, that there could be nothing so exquisite and so bitter as were my pains. Yea, and again I say unto you, my son, that on the other hand, there can be nothing so exquisite and sweet as was my joy." (Alma 36:20-21)

And what caused this switch to joy in Alma?

The thought of Jesus Christ and His power to save us.

The God of the Universe wants us to be like him, to be exalted, to have complete divine joy, love, glory, power, and happiness. So he has given us some clues about how to do that. We must use our agency to follow Jesus Christ and keep his commandments.

That doesn't mean we won't experience pain and sorrow and extreme sadness, that is part of this world's experience, but we will have more joy, peace, and happiness as we follow the "wisdom of him who knoweth all things."

The whole purpose is for us to have the most joy possible, and in the end, when we return to Him, to have perfect, Godlike, glorious joy. But to do that, we need to experience sorrow too.

You are precious, and have the potential to be like God. That is your purpose.

It's all of ours.

Join us, and help us along our journey, this great expedition of life, the ultimate travel experience :)

It is fun.

Take care.

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- Sunday, Sept. 19, 7:00 pm: Stake Youth Devotional. Along with great talks and refreshments, we will have videos of our awesome time at Youth Conference, Young Women Camp and Young Men Camp. At the Stake Center. All youth are invited.
- Cynthia LeBaron's funeral service will be on Monday, Sept. 20th, at 12:00 noon at the Stake Center. If you'd like the Zoom link, let me know.
- Saturday - 9/25, 8:00am, bring your family and come clean our building. This needs your attention. Please sustain Brother Rigby and Sister Hue in their callings as building cleaning coordinators by showing up.
- Stake Conference is Sept. 25-26. Elder John C. Pingree Jr, General Authority Seventy, will be presiding. He will be accompanied by Elder David C. Clark, Area Seventy. All sessions will be held at the Stake Center and broadcast live. A new Stake Presidency will be organized.
 - Saturday 9/25, 4:00pm Leadership meeting
 - Saturday 9/25, 7:00pm, Adult session
 - Sunday 9/26, 10:00am, General Session.
- Oct. 2-3, General Conference
- Oct. 10, Fast Sunday

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