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The Power of God in Great Glory

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Hello my good friend,

You are good. And I do consider you my friend. Now, if we haven't met yet, I know that's quite a stretch, but I think we could be friends, no matter how different we are. Haven't you had friends like that? People who are completely different from you, but you still love them and enjoy their company? We are all just humans, children of the same Heavenly Father, so we always have something in common.

I think we experienced some good friendship last night at our Penny Creek Ward Halloween Social. If we weren't different enough, we even dressed up as someone else, to make us more different, and yet we still had fun together :) It was so good to see you along with so many friends and family that you may have invited. It's fun to have fun together and meet new people. Thank you for coming. And thank you if you helped in any way, with food, decorations, or just letting your kids participate.

Friends are fun. I always like to have more. So, if we haven't met in person yet, or even over Zoom, I would really like to meet you. Really! In fact, I'm trying to meet with everyone in the ward before the end of the year. (Crazy, I know.) So, to start, I've scheduled 10 minute meetings over the next three weeks on Sundays. As those fill up, I'll schedule some more.

In addition to just meeting with everyone and seeing how you and your family are doing, we also try to do a few other things during that meeting. One is to check your church records and make sure all your information is correct, another is to check your donation records and make sure we have recorded all your donations correctly, and the final thing is for us to talk about tithing, what it is, the blessings promised, and how you're doing with it.

Since it is such a sacred and confidential time, I'd like to meet you in my office at the church. But if that won't work for you, let me know and we'll arrange some other way. First, just pick a time available on my calendar here: <https://calendly.com/bishoprexwilliams/tithing-settlement-2021>

If there are no times left that work for you, let me or Brother Ron Telford know, and we'll schedule some more. Thanks.

Tomorrow is a 5th Sunday, so for our second hour of church we do something a little unique. All the adults will meet together for a lesson from the Bishopric. All the youth will meet together for a lesson from Brother LeBaron (awesome), and the Primary Children will meet together as usual.

So, in preparation for our lesson for the adults, I'd like you to read Elder Bednar's General Conference Talk, "[With The Power of God in Great Glory.](#)"

He talks about how the work of salvation and exaltation in our latter days was ushered in by an angel who visited Joseph Smith. That angel was Moroni, who was the last person to write on the gold plates of the Book of Mormon before he buried them for Joseph Smith to find many years later.

When Moroni visited Joseph Smith he taught him about the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and also quoted from Malachi in the Old Testament with a little variation in the words,

"Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

... And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming." (Joseph Smith History 1:38-39)

That is a reference to our great efforts in researching our ancestors and doing family history work. We are concerned with the salvation and exaltation of all people who have ever lived on the earth.

So from Elder Bednar's talk he teaches us, "In summary, Moroni's teachings in September of 1823 about the Book of Mormon and the mission of Elijah established the doctrinal foundation for the work of salvation and exaltation on both

sides of the veil."

And what is the 'work of salvation and exaltation'? We are 'saved and exalted' when we make covenants with the Lord. As we promise to follow Jesus Christ and live as He lived, God promises to bless us "with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory." (1 Nephi 14:14)

From Elder Bednar, "The phrase "armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory" is not simply a nice idea or an example of beautiful scriptural language. Rather, these blessings are readily evident in the lives of countless latter-day disciples of the Lord."

I see that in you. It is evident. You have the "power of God in great glory" because of your faithfulness to sacred covenants and ordinances.

And that is our work, to help everyone experience that same power of God in great glory through sacred covenants and ordinances.

The Savior said: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:29-30)

Elder Bednar reminds us, "We take the Savior's yoke upon us as we learn about, worthily receive, and honor sacred covenants and ordinances. We are bound securely to and with the Savior as we faithfully remember and do our best to live in accordance with the obligations we have accepted. And that bond with Him is the source of spiritual strength in every season of our lives."

I promise that you will receive spiritual strength as you bind yourself to the Savior. His yoke is really easier than anything else. He is our best friend.

Friends help and care for each other. I am very grateful to have so many friends.

Thank you for being my good friend.

Take care.

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- Read or listen to Elder Bednar's General Conference Talk: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2021/10/22bednar?lang=eng>
- Schedule a time to meet with me for Tithing Settlement: <https://calendly.com/bishoprexawilliams/tithing-settlement-2021>
- "SERVING ONE WHILE SERVING MANY": Join us for our annual Stake Relief Society service project, Saturday, November 13th, from 10 am to 12 pm at the Everett Stake Center. Following a keynote speaker, we will make and fill birthday bags for students at Sequoia High School. Light refreshments at the conclusion. Bring a friend!
- There will be a blood drive held at the Everett Stake center on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, from 9 am to 2 pm. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: LDSEverett to schedule an appointment.

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.