



Rex Williams <bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com>

Becoming Better

Rex Williams <noreply@churchofjesuschrist.org>
Reply-To: bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com
To: bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com

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Hello my wonderful friend,

You are wonderful. Believe it.

First, because you're reading this email :)

And second, because you are the offspring of Deity. Isn't that wonderful?

You have the opportunity to be exalted with them.

That seems like such a far off destination. And maybe it is, we're talking about eternity here, but it is the reason we're here. We are to learn how to become a higher, exalted being, no matter how long it takes us.

It's quite simple. But not easy. Definitely not easy. We are such earthly, carnal, fallen creatures, with the potential to become very awful, mean, and evil, even animal-like. (But when I say that, I might mean worse than animals, because actually, animals are very nice, they don't know any better when they act according to their instinct.) So, with the potential to be so bad, we must also have the potential to be good. In fact, very good! Yes, of course we can. Father sent Jesus Christ as an example of living the very best, of being God-like.

So, that is our quest. To be the best we can. And if Jesus was the best, then we should become disciples of Jesus Christ. That takes faith to act and become like Him.

That's why I really like Elder Ciro Schmeil's General Conference talk with that title, "[Faith to Act and Become](#)." He helps us learn that through prayer, scripture study, and action, we can unlock the blessings of heaven and become better followers of the Savior Jesus Christ.

He learned from President Nelson that "you are called for what you can become." Sure, that goes for callings in the church, but I think it also means whatever we are 'called' to do on the earth. Whatever position you are in as a human being right now in your life, you are called to be the best version of yourself. And you can become that with help from your omniscient Father in Heaven, and your perfect brother, Jesus Christ.

Elder Schmeil said "Last general conference, President Nelson said: "To do anything well requires effort. Becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ is no exception." President Nelson is inviting us to work hard to become better disciples of Jesus Christ. He told us that to become more like the Savior, we need to strengthen our faith by asking, acting, and studying, among other things."

Those are three key things to do: to ask, act, and study.

By asking, we find out what our Heavenly Father knows about us, and what we need to do specifically to become a better disciple of Jesus Christ. Why did Christ say, " ...ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for he that asketh, receiveth; and unto him that knocketh, it shall be opened."? (3Nephi 27:29) It's because when we humble ourselves enough to not rely on our own wisdom, but seek answers from a divine source, we will receive them. But it takes patience, and faith, to receive His answers in His time frame.

"We need to ask in faith to know the will of the Lord and accept that the Lord knows what is better for us." says Elder Schmeil.

When we act in faith, based on inspiration we have received from asking, or even if we don't quite know what to do, like Nephi when he was trying to retrieve the brass plates, "I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do" (1 Nephi 4:6) we will receive divine guidance, even if we have to struggle a little bit.

We learn about Christ, his perfect life, and the plan of salvation through the scriptures. So, Elder Schmeil says, "Studying is then another essential key to becoming a better disciple of Jesus Christ. Prayer and scripture study go hand in hand.

They work together for our benefit. This is the process that the Lord has established. "Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do." (2Nephi 32:3) How much are we feasting?

It's all here for us. The plan, resources, guidance and support to become better. To progress, and receive the associative joy and happiness that goes along with that progression. Jesus Christ is our exemplar. We are His disciples. It is a lifelong journey, and not a competition. We are to help each other along our own unique paths of faith. And however far we get, Christ makes up the difference, but we have to make our best effort.

I'm thankful for you helping me along my path.

With love,

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- Read, listen, or watch Elder Schmeil's 8 minute conference talk: <https://abn.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2021/10/23schmeil?lang=eng>
- Schedule a time to meet with me for Tithing Settlement: <https://calendly.com/bishoprexawilliams/tithing-settlement-2021>
- 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.
- Mark your calendars, our ward Christmas party will be on December 11th. Always a great event to invite friends to, or those we don't always see at church. More details to follow.

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.