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A Light in the Darkness

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Penny Creek Ward

Hello friend,

Picture this, you set out on a long backpacking hike by yourself, on a trail you've never been before, and it's towards the evening. Your plan was to set up your tent just before it got dark, but as it became darker you realize that there is nowhere to set up a tent because you are on a thin trail on the side of a thick forest mountain where it is steep on both sides of the trail, no flat ground. So, you pull out your trusty headlamp flashlight and continue hiking. Even though it is pitch dark and maybe even a little scary all around you, with your bright headlamp you can see the trail just fine.

Sometimes life can be a little like that.

You can feel like you're headed into an unknown future that is dark and scary. The world and its darkness can be overwhelming. Uncertainty and tragedy can fill us with despair and anxiety. But know that there is a light brighter than all the darkness the world can gather. It is the light of our Savior, Jesus Christ, His gospel and love. He can lead you through the darkness in safety.

With a new season of change ahead of us, such as school, Fall, or other changes, we can be assured that the Savior will light the way for us. His light will help us focus on the trail or the path that will lead us to our most joyous destination, Eternal Life with Him and our Father in Heaven. It's a covenant path where we promise to take a step, and He promises to light the way just a little further. It consists of ordinances that teach us about spiritual realities and provides joy along the way.

That doesn't mean it's easy. Everyone chooses what they put in their backpack to carry, things that can help them along the way, or maybe some things which aren't necessary, so that can make your pack a bit heavy. What we don't choose is what's on the path. There might be steep rocks to climb where you don't know where to step or hold on to, or there might be logs you have to crawl under. The trail might be very steep at times or have paths that look like the trail but lead nowhere.

In each of our lives, many different trials exist that we don't choose. The Lord puts them in front of us to make us stronger and see how we'll respond. You have a unique path, it's yours alone. You choose how you will experience it. Will you let the light of the gospel illuminate your path with peace and love, or will you choose to let it be dark and difficult, filled with fear?

This hiking experience was mine this weekend. I learned so much from Heavenly Father through this difficult but fulfilling trek. There are spiritual analogies everywhere if you look for them. I only shared a few.

The view from the top of the mountain was glorious. Totally worth the effort. There's a reason why prophets were taken to 'an exceedingly high mountain' to receive revelation. There's something divine about a place you can only get to through a difficult journey. Our Father in Heaven wants us to join Him in His glorious place. He has shown us the path. He'll light the way.

Have faith in Jesus Christ, no matter what appears in your path!

With love,

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- See the attached letter from our Stake Presidency for the scripture passages we should study before stake conference on Sept. 24/25th.
 - Sept. 11, 18 at 4:00pm - Stake Choir Practice at the Stake Center
 - [Hope and Comfort in Christ](#) - A wonderful, related message by Elder Rasband
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Stake Conference - September 2022.pdf

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