



A Desire to Serve the Lord

Doctrine and Covenants 11-12



"Blessed is my servant Hyrum Smith; for I, the Lord, love him because of the integrity of his heart, and because he loveth that which is right before me, saith the Lord."

D. & C. 124:15



A Desire to Serve

May 1829



Joseph Knight and Hyrum Smith visited the Prophet Joseph Smith in Harmony, Pennsylvania.

Both men expressed their desire to serve God and assist in the Restoration of the gospel.



Hyrum Smith--Recap

He was born on February 9, 1800, at Tunbridge, Orange County, Vermont

He was the older brother of Joseph Smith Jr.

He married Jerusha Barden, in 1826

He was baptized by Joseph in June 1829

On April 6, 1830 he became one of the six original members of the church

He moved to Kirtland Ohio where he became an elder and later a high priest

He served an extended mission in 1831 to Ohio and Missouri

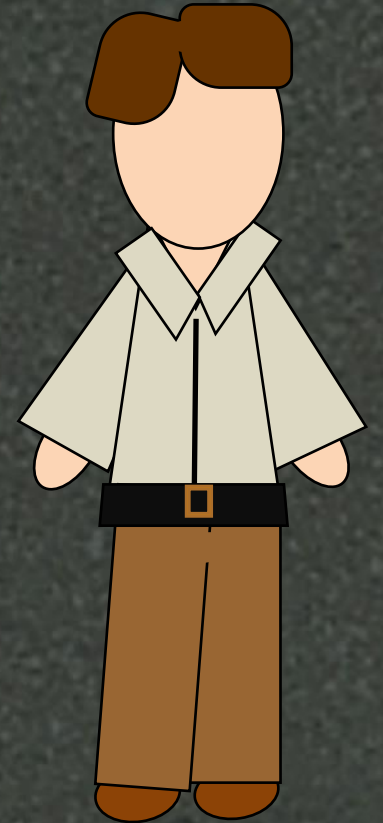
In 1836-37 he was given higher priesthood duties, serving on the high council and as Second Counselor in the First Presidency (D&C 112:17)

In November 1838 until April 1839 he was imprisoned along with Joseph and others in the Liberty Jail

He later settled in Nauvoo and was called a patriarch to the Church by a revelation on January 19, 1841 (D&C 124:91)

He, along with Joseph Smith Jr. were martyred on June 27, 1844 at Carthage, Hancock County, Illinois

His son, Joseph F. Smith received the revelation concerning the glorious ongoing work of salvation in the spirit realm. (D&C 138:53)



Lord's Counsel to Hyrum



Hyrum Smith wanted to know how he could help Joseph in the Lord's work. Joseph inquired of the Lord and received this revelation.

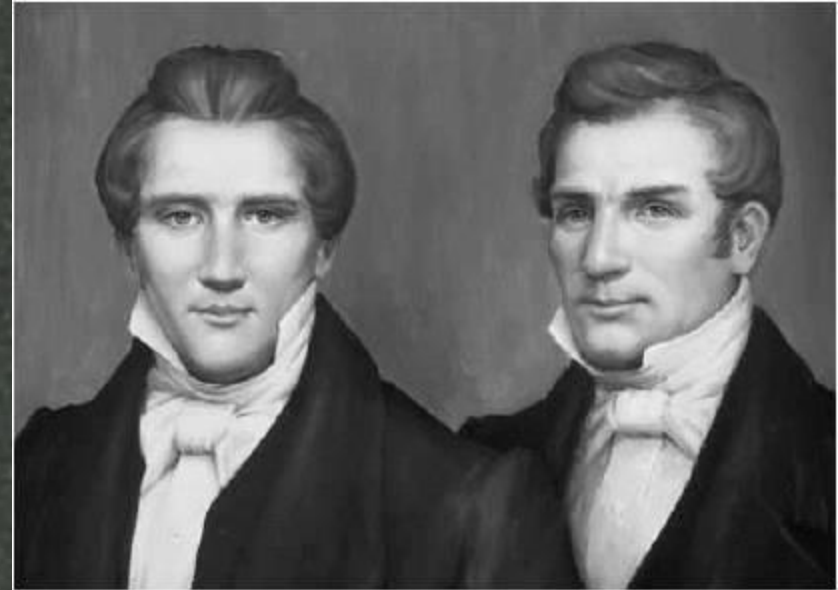
This counsel can be applied to all

Pray for guidance
Keep the Commandments
Establish Zion—spread the word of the gospel
Seek for wisdom, not riches
Call those to repentance

Joseph's Words to Hyrum

“Brother Hyrum, what a faithful heart you have got! Oh, may the Eternal Jehovah crown eternal blessings upon your head, as a reward for the care you have had for my soul! O how many are the sorrows we have shared together and again we find ourselves shackled with the unrelenting band of oppression. Hyrum, thy name shall be written in the Book of the Law of the Lord.: for those who come after thee to look upon, that they may pattern after thy works.”

History of the Church



Hyrum's Gift

“The Lord declared that Hyrum Smith had a gift. The great gift which he possessed was that of a tender, sympathetic heart; a merciful spirit.

The Lord on a later occasion said: ‘Blessed is my servant Hyrum Smith; for I, the Lord, love him because of the integrity of his heart, and because he loveth that which is right before me, saith the Lord.’ (D. & C., 124:15.)

This great gift was manifest in his jealous watch care over the Prophet lest some harm come to him.”

President Joseph Fielding Smith



Hyrum's Patriarchal Blessing

Given to him by his father Joseph Smith Sr.
on December 18, 1833 in Kirtland, Ohio

"I now ask my heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ, to bless thee with the same blessing with which Jacob blessed his son Joseph, for thou art his true descendant, and thy posterity shall be numbered with house of Ephraim, and with them thou shalt stand up to crown the tribes of Israel, when they come shouting to Zion, ...The Lord will multiply His choice blessings upon thee and thy seed after thee, and thou with them shalt have an inheritance in Zion, and they shall possess it from generation to generation, and thy name shall never be blotted out from among the just, for the righteous shall rise up, and also thy children after thee, and say thy memory is just, that thou wert a just man and perfect in thy day."

Hyrum M. Smith



Desire, Desires, and Desireth

desireth to reap—Hyrum had a **desire** to engage in public speaking.

if you desire—You will do much good for this work

desire of me in faith—One must have faith in Christ to serve

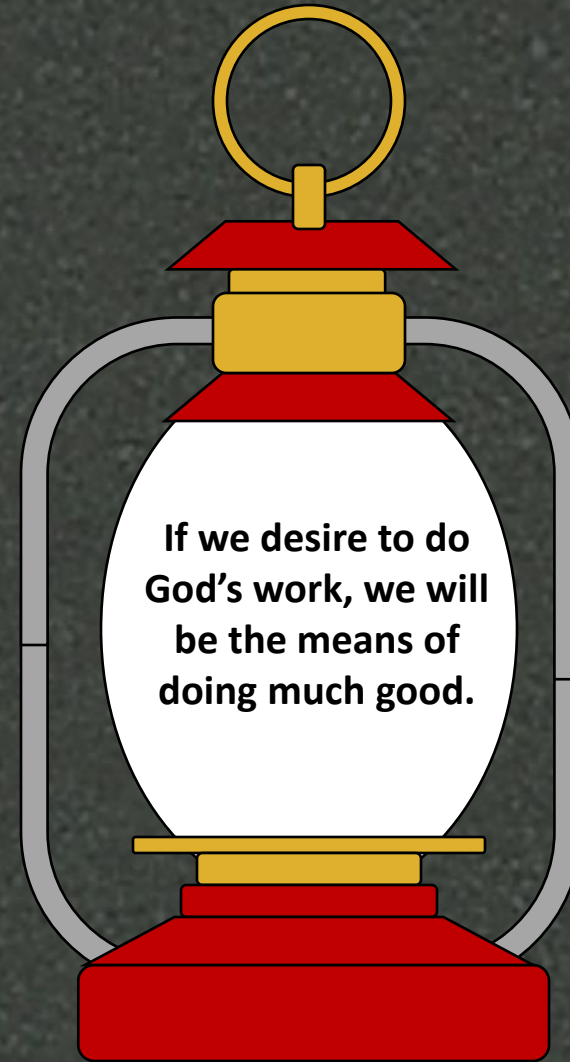
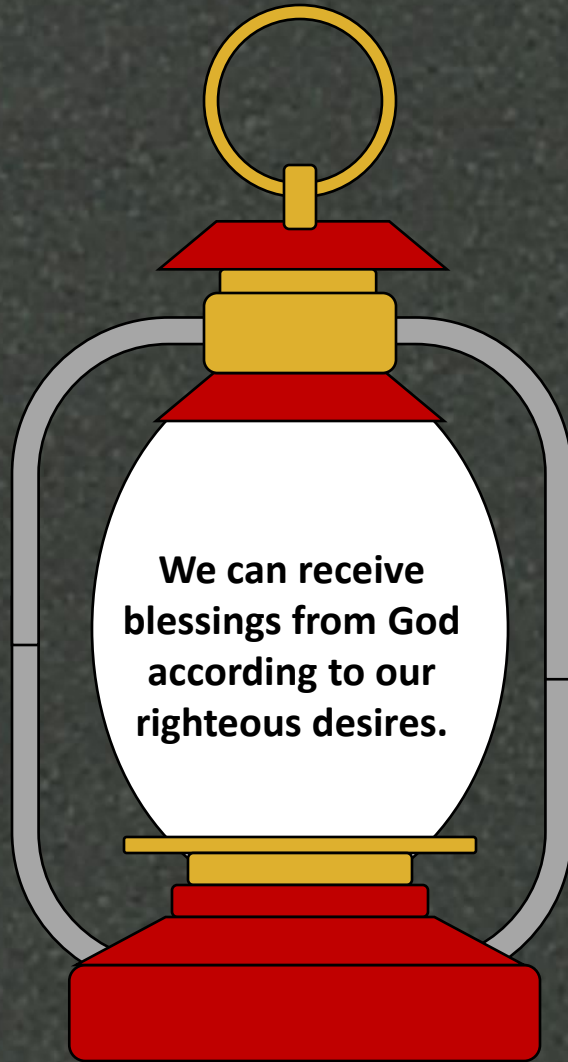
shall you know, all things whatsoever you desire of me—
The Holy Spirit will make it known to you

according to your desires—You will receive that which you **desire** in your heart

if you desire, you shall have my Spirit and my word—You
will have the Holy Spirit to help in converting many unto
the true gospel

***All who have good desires, and
have thrust in their sickle to reap.***

The Truth Is:



“My Spirit...Shall Enlighten Your Mind”

“There is a way by which persons can keep their consciences clear before God and man, and that is to preserve within them the spirit of God, which is the spirit of revelation to every man and woman. It will reveal to them, even in the simplest of matters, what they shall do, by making suggestions to them.

We should try to learn the nature of this spirit, that we may understand its suggestions, and then we will always be able to do right. This is the grand privilege of every Latter-day Saint. We know that it is our right to have the manifestations of the spirit every day of our lives. ...

From the time we receive the Gospel, go down into the waters of baptism and have hands laid upon us afterwards for the gift of the Holy Ghost, we have a friend, if we do not drive it from us by doing wrong. That friend is the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, which partakes of the things of God and shows them unto us.

This is a grand means that the Lord has provided for us, that we may know the light, and not be groveling continually in the dark.”

President Lorenzo Snow



Preparing to Serve

“The Lord ... teaches Hyrum Smith several steps to be followed in preparing for a mission:

Desire to serve the Lord

Live worthily to receive the Spirit of the Lord so it can ‘enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy.’

Keep the commandments of the Lord, assisting in the work of the Lord in any way that you might be asked

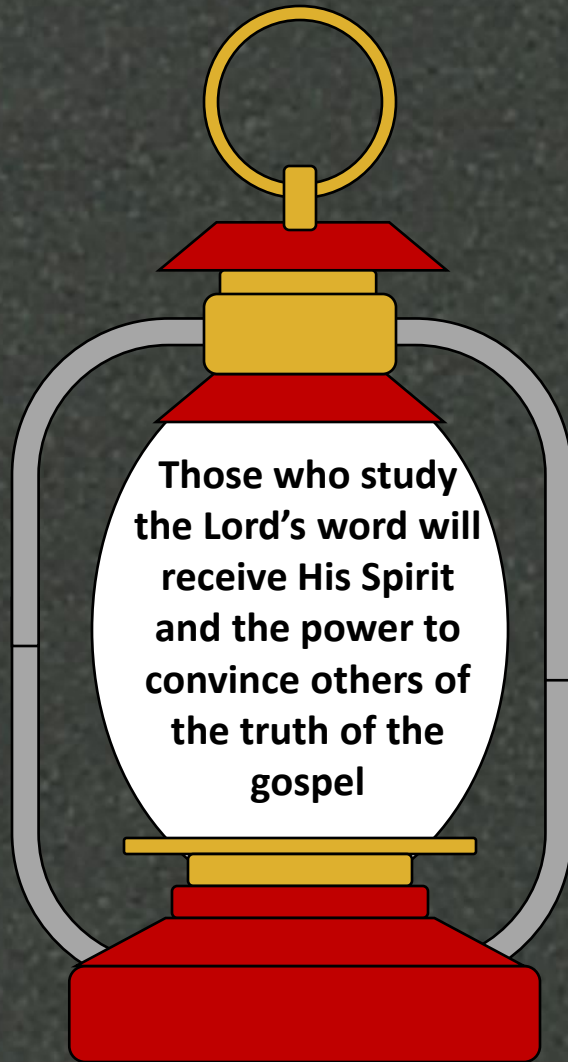
Seek to obtain the word of the Lord through (a) studying the word of the Lord that had already gone forth—the Bible—and (b) studying the word of the Lord that was then being translated—the Book of Mormon

Build upon the gospel, denying not either the spirit of revelation nor the spirit of prophecy

“The Lord indicates further that these suggestions are for ‘all who have good desires’ to serve.” (Ludlow, *Companion*, 1:108–9.)



Hyrum Receives the Call



Hyrum eventually received the call to preach, exhort, and strengthen the Church

This indicates that his desires to assist in the Lord's work were sincere and that he followed the Lord's instructions to prepare himself.

"Behold, I speak unto you, Hyrum, a few words; for thou also art under no condemnation, and thy heart is opened, and thy tongue loosed; and thy calling is to exhortation, and to strengthen the church continually. Wherefore thy duty is unto the church forever, and this because of thy family. Amen."
D&C 23:3

Joseph Knight Sr.

He was born November 3, 1772 at Oakham, Worcester County, Massachusetts

He operated a farm and gristmill at Colesville, New York and hired Joseph Smith to work for him

He married Polly Peck and had 7 children

He learned from Joseph Smith about the Restoration of the gospel and allowed Joseph to use his horse and carriage to transport the plates when they were turned over to him by Moroni

Section 12 in the Doctrine and Covenants is a revelation given to Joseph Smith counseling him

He gave encouragement and financial support to the prophet, Joseph Smith

His second son, Newel, was baptized in May 1830 and later Joseph Knight was baptized on June 28, 1830 by Oliver Cowdery in Colesville, New York

He and his family moved to Ohio and then to Jackson County, Missouri, then finally relocating to Nauvoo in 1839

He became ill and died on February 2, 1847, at Mount Pisgah, Harrison County, Iowa

He remained strong and faithful in the gospel



Joseph's Words of Joseph Knight Sr.



22 August 1842

“For fifteen years he has been faithful and true, and even-handed and exemplary, and virtuous and kind, never deviating to the right hand or to the left. Behold he is a righteous man ... and it shall be said of him, by the sons of Zion, while there is one of them remaining, that this man was a faithful man in Israel; therefore his name shall never be forgotten.”

History of the Church



The Call for Joseph Knight Sr.

“And no one can assist in this work except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things, whatsoever shall be entrusted to his care.”



“Joseph Knight Sr. had shown a generous willingness to sacrifice both his means and his time, and his assistance was gratefully accepted. But he needed instruction. The Lord, therefore, told him that those who would assist in the furtherance of His work must be humble, full of love, faith, hope, and charity, and be temperate in all things—in eating and drinking, and all the enjoyments of life. All temporal blessings are to be enjoyed in moderation, for indulgence may become a hindrance to effectual work in the service of God.”

Hyrum M. Smith



I Am The Light

“Behold, I am the light and the life of the world, that speak these words, therefore give heed with your might, and then you are called. Amen.”

“It is our Lord who is speaking. He calls Himself the Light and the Life of the World.”

Hyrum M. Smith



“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

John 1:4

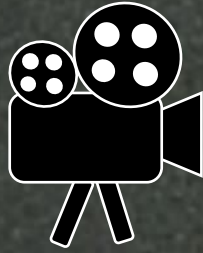


“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 14:6

Sources:

Video: **Gordon Hinckley: Lessons I Learned as a Boy** (4:03)
Our Work Is to Keep the Commandments (1:28)



Who's Who in the Doctrine and Covenants by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pgs. 84-85, 135-137 and Ensign Oct 1978

History of the Church Vol. V pp. 107-8

President Joseph Fielding Smith (*Church History and Modern Revelation*, 1:57.)

Journal of Discourses, Vol. XI p. 8 D.H.C. 1:354

President Lorenzo Snow (In Conference Report, Apr. 1899, p. 52.)

(Ludlow, *Companion*, 1:108–9.) Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual Religion 324-325 pg. 25

Doctrine and Covenants Commentary Hyrum M. Smith pgs. 23, 67

(*History of the Church*, 5:124–25.)

<https://www.lds.org/ensign/1978/10/the-joseph-knight-family?lang=eng>

Before Joseph Knight Sr.'s Baptism:

In December 1827, however, Joseph and Emma relocated to Harmony. As the work of translation progressed, Joseph Knight occasionally visited them and gave them supplies. In late March 1830, Knight took Smith to Manchester and witnessed the organization of the church (IV.A. I. JOSEPH KNIGHT, SR., REMINISCENCE, CIRCA 1835-1847, 6-7). Knight's son Newel was the first in the family to receive baptism during a visit to Fayette in May 1830. Other family members, including Joseph Knight, Sr., were baptized at a special meeting held in Colesville on 28 June (I.A. 15, JOSEPH SMITH HISTORY, 1839, 43; IV.A.3, NEWEL KNIGHT AUTOBIOGRAPHY, CIRCA 1846, 55). The Knight family, together with brother-in-law Hezekiah Peck's family, formed the nucleus of a small branch of the church in Colesville. Regarding this event, Richard L. Bushman has noted: "Altogether twenty-eight people came into the church through the Knight-Peck connection in the first few months. ... The Knights and the other families [in Colesville] accounted for sixty baptisms in the first nine months" (Bushman 1984, 151).

Resistance to the emergence of Mormonism in the Colesville area was headed by the Presbyterians. On the day before the June 1830 baptismal meeting, the Reverend John Sherer attempted to abduct young Emily Colburn in order to prevent her baptism, but was intercepted by her sister Sally (Colburn) Knight, wife of Newell Knight, and others. The following morning, Emily's brother-in-law arrived with a power of attorney ordering her immediate return to Sandford, Broome County, New York (IV.D.7, EMILY [COLBURN] AUSTIN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 1882, 38-48; I.A.1 5, JOSEPH SMITH HISTORY, 1839,42-43; IV.C. I.JOHN SHERER TO ABSALOM PETERS, 18 NOV 1830). Presbyterians Abram W. Benton, Nathan Boynton, and Cyrus McMaster were responsible for Joseph Smith's further legal difficulties in Colesville. On 30 June 1830, Smith was arrested there for being a "disorderly person" and taken before Justice Joseph Chamberlin of South Bainbridge the following day (I.A. 15, JOSEPH SMITH HISTORY, 1839, 44-45; IV.F.5, EBENEZER HATCH BILL OF COSTS, 4 JUL 1830; IV.F.4, JOSEPH CHAMBERLIN BILL OF COSTS, 1 JUL 1830; I.B.5, LUCY SMITH HISTORY, 1845, MS:114, 1853:157; IV.A.I, JOSEPH KNIGHT, SR., REMINISCENCE, CIRCA 1835-1847, 8; IV.A.5, JOSEPH KNIGHT, JR., HISTORY, 1862, 215; IV.A.3, NEWEL KNIGHT AUTOBIOGRAPHY, CIRCA 1846, 55-56; IV.B.2, MARTHA CAMPBELL TO JOSEPH SMITH, 19 DEC 1843; IV.C.2, ABRAM W. BENTON REMINISCENCE, MAR 1831). Smith was acquitted but was immediately served with another warrant for trial in Colesville. The following day, 2 July, Smith appeared before Justice Joel K. Noble on the same charge but was eventually acquitted (I.A.15, JOSEPH SMITH HISTORY, 1839, 44-45; I.B.5, LUCY SMITH HISTORY, 1845, MS: Frag. 6, 1853:157; IV.A.3, NEWEL KNIGHT AUTOBIOGRAPHY, CIRCA 1846, 55-56; IV.C.6, JOHN S. REED REMINISCENCE, 1844; IV.D.I, JOHN S. REED TO BRIGHAM YOUNG, 6 DEC 1861; IV.F.5, EBENEZER HATCH BILL OF COSTS, 4 JUL 1830). Legally frustrated, Smith's enemies came to mob him, but he escaped and fled back to Harmony.

<http://signaturebooks.com/2010/12/excerpt-early-mormon-documents-vol-4/>

Minister, the Desire of Hyrum Smith:

"It was necessary to correct certain prevalent errors concerning preaching, for the benefit of the little circle of friends who, under divine guidance, now were laying the foundations of the Church.

One of these errors was the assumption that a minister can prove that he has divine authority, by quoting the commission of our Lord to His first Apostles. The Lord therefore instructs His servant not to suppose that he is sent to preach until he is actually called, as were the Twelve. On the other hand, one who is so called must not refuse to obey. This was illustrated in the case of Lemam Copley, who was tried before the High Council in Kirtland in 1833, for having neglected to go on a mission when called."

Journal of Discourses Vol. XI p. 8 D.H.C. 1:354