

EPISODE 26 • PART II

Dr. C. Robert Line



D&C 67-70

- John Bytheway: 00:02 Welcome to part two of this week's podcast. With what we've been talking about... if we could go back to section 67 verse 13 to complete this whole thing we've been talking about, let's see, Hank, would you like to read that verse, verse 13?
- Hank Smith: 00:19 Yeah. 67:13, "You're not able to abide the presence of God now, neither the ministering of angels, wherefore continue inpatients until you are perfected."
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 00:29 Isn't that beautiful with all we've been talking about? God's admonition, not only to us individually, but the church too, and the restoration, right? Again, this infallibility narrative that we sometimes fall into, I think we need to be careful individually, and even as a church... speaking of patients, continue in patients, you know what I'm hearing from a lot of people with all the changes the church has been making? And there's been a lot in the last couple of years.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 01:03 I'm hearing minister teach to some older people in my ward and I have acquaintances in ward, and these are really, really good, wonderful people. I mean, salt of the earth people, former bishops, former state Presidents, some of them are very concerned, not only about what's going on in society, but how rapidly a lot of the changes in the church are happening.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 01:32 Yeah. When I teach Institute in BYU classes, a lot of my very faithful, young, single adult students, sometimes they don't think the changes are happening quick enough. Do you see the tension between those two groups? And one of my thoughts is, boy, I'm so glad I'm not in the Quorum of the Twelve trying to hold onto this group and that generation, and this group over here and that generation. I mean, but continue in patience until you're perfect.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 02:00 All of us, we need to continue, we need to be patient. The brethren bless their heart, I see so many wonderful things going on in the church and yet so many groups, "Oh, there's too much of this." No, there's too little of that.

Hank Smith: 02:17 Yeah. I love that. I think I am... John we've talked about this before my patience problems. And the idea that... don't laugh at that. Sometimes in my prayers, I say, "I'm ready for bigger miracles. I'm ready for the angels and visions." And I think the Lord is, "All right easy. You are not able to abide the presence of God now, neither of the ministering of angels, continue in patients."

Hank Smith: 02:52 And it's very a parenting moment of, "I feel like I'm ready." And the Lord is saying, "I know that you're not ready. So just slow down and keep doing what you've been asked to do." Because I'm one who jumps the gun, let's move forward fast.

John Bytheway: 03:11 I just wanted to tell you something I underlined in verse 14, I just thought, wow, look at that first phrase, "Let not your minds turn back." As everything we've been talking about, I put my margin... and this is an application of that, not necessarily what exactly tied to the context and the people, but I'm looking at that going, "Don't dwell on the past. Let, not your minds turn back." Everything we've talked about in repentance and moving forward. I just like that that phrase.

Hank Smith: 03:47 Yeah. That's a great phrase John.

John Bytheway: 03:48 Regret focuses on the past, worry focuses on the future, but focusing on what's right in front of us, my favorite golf quotation is, "The only thing that matters in golf is the next shot." So, what do I do today? The next shot. What do I do today? "Let not your minds turn back." Yeah, you got the bogey, but what's right in front of you right now?

Dr. C. Robert L...: 04:14 And you see this in the gospel like you said, it's verse 14, "Let not your minds turn back." What did Christ say in the New Testament? He says, "No man having put his hand to the plow and looking back is worthy of the kingdom." But then He says, on the other hand, in the sermon on the Mount, "Take no thought for the Morrow."

Hank Smith: 04:33 For the morrow. Right.

John Bytheway: 04:35 Morrow. If I could add something, because I went right to it before you said it, I went to the last verse of Matthew 6, in the sermon on the mount, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself." Well, in our King James, the take no thought, if you look down below, it's spoken earlier in Matthew 6 and it says, "Anxious concern."

John Bytheway: 04:58 So, I was reading a book years ago called How to Stop Worrying And Start Living, because I'm an expert in worry. I'm really good at it. And the Dale Carnegie dude wrote this book and he pointed out something that I have verified since that, in the King James translation, it says, "Take therefore no thought for the Morrow." But take the NIV, the American Standard, take a bunch of the other reputable New Testament translations, the word is not thought, it's worry.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 05:29 Worry. Yeah.

John Bytheway: 05:30 And our Bible changes it to anxious concern. Of course, you think about tomorrow, that's very President Markson.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 05:36 You make plans and goals, you have to.

Hank Smith: 05:39 There's a great verse in 1 Nephi 16, as Michael Wilcox pointed out to me once where the daughters of Ishmael, their father dies and their mourning exceedingly, which is okay, that's in front of you, that's present, the morning exceedingly. And then Nephi adds, "And they get upset because of all the sufferings they've had in the wilderness." And because they're bringing up all their past problems, and now all their present problems, they start to predict the future.

Hank Smith: 06:06 It's 1 Nephi 16 they say, "And we must perish in the wilderness with hunger," which never happens. They're now suffering for future trials that are never going to happen. This is 1 Nephi 16:35.

John Bytheway: 06:24 Good point. Really good point.

Hank Smith: 06:25 "Our father is dead, we have wandered much in the wilderness, we have suffered much affliction, hunger, thirst, and fatigue. And after all these sufferings, we must perish in the wilderness with hunger." So now I'm suffering for future trials that are never going to happen. And I find myself doing that too. What if this goes wrong? What if this? What if? yeah.

John Bytheway: 06:45 Good point. And you know Hank, that I love Moroni. And in Mormon 8, the poor guy takes over, "My father has been killed in battle, this was his life's work." The book of Mormon. "I have no family, I am alone, all my kindred are gone and the Nephi are like this." And he gets to this point where his whole tone of voice changes, if you read Mormon 8, and all of a sudden, he just says, "I make an end of speaking concerning this people. I

am a Moroni, I am a son of Mormon, and I'm going to finish this record."

- John Bytheway: 07:24 And it's really... I'm paraphrasing a little bit, but read it, it's really cool how he says, "Okay, I'm done with the past and my problems. I'm going to finish my father's record." And I don't know how long it took him to write Mormon 8, but watch for that moment, it's pretty inspiring to me.
- Hank Smith: 07:42 Yeah.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 07:43 Well, if I could add one more thing, guys, going back to the story I told about my student, that he said he finally owned it. I think that's what we're talking about. He thought where peace and happiness finally came to him, he had to quit dwelling in the past and what had happened, and once he finally owned it, it was that step from the past sins to a step into the present now and being there and being there with God. So, Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 08:11 Well, this is great. We're never going to finish the Doctrine and Covenants, if we don't...
- Hank Smith: 08:16 Okay.
- John Bytheway: 08:17 Let's jump into 68, Robe, tell us about it. What do you see there?
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 08:23 Yeah. So, just quickly, revelation given through Joseph Smith in response to prayer that the mind of the Lord had been known, and it mentions four individuals, Orson Hyde, Luke Johnson, Lyman Johnson, and, oh, there he is again, William E. McLellin. One of the things real quick before we jump into section 68, here now, if you look at 66, 67, 68 and 75, you got four revelations that deal with this guy, William E. McClellin, who not only becomes an anti-Mormon critic, but he leaves the church and never does come back.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 08:57 And in full disclosure, I wrote a paper once on William E. McLellin and that's why I love to talk about this history so much. And I think one of the takeaways from this, again, this is a microcosm and maybe off the beaten path here, but I think God not only works with imperfect people and people that ultimately leave his kingdom, but there are things we can learn from these incidents, from these people and from these histories. And so, I think that's significant, do I want to glorify and glamorize? No, no, no, I'm not doing that.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 09:34 But boy, what are the lessons God is trying to teach me through other people? Through incidents that I might think are insignificant? You have a bad day and you're like, "Oh, I'm so glad I got through that day and passed it, and now I can get on with life." Wait, wait, you might've missed, again, this comes back to living in the present. I mean, you might have missed something in that boring sacrament meeting or that unwanted trial, I think, it reminds me of what Elder Maxwell said one time. He said, "We not only need to go through our trials, but we need to let our trials go through us."

Dr. C. Robert L...: 10:13 And how often do we just dismiss things, because it's not a Nephi, Moroni big home run moment? And maybe some of the most powerful lessons God is trying to teach us are coming through the small and simple things.

Hank Smith: 10:29 That's interesting. These are four guys, two of them are going to... I think, correct me if I'm wrong here, two of them are going to die in the faith, Orson Hyde is going to go on to... he was just 22 years old when he's baptized, he's going to be the first missionary in the holy land.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 10:46 Right. In fact, correct me if I'm wrong Hank, I think he dedicates the holy land-

Hank Smith: 10:51 He dedicates the holy land.

John Bytheway: 10:52 Yeah. There's a monument there.

Hank Smith: 10:55 I often complained because, when we go to the holy land, it takes a good 24 hours of traveling to get there. 22 hours of traveling. I think it took him six months of traveling to finally get to the holy land. Luke Johnson is going to die faithful, he's going to leave the church for a bit and return. Lyman Johnson, if I remember right, Lyman Johnson is going to leave the church and then say to the 12 about a year later, "I have never seen a happy moment since." It's such a heartbreaking story where he says, "I have not seen a happy moment since I disaffected."

John Bytheway: 11:42 And these two Johnson's, I mean, there's a billion Johnson's in the world, but these two, are they not John Johnson's sons of Elsa Johnson whose arm was healed by Joseph Smith? Yeah.

Hank Smith: 11:55 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 11:56 So they're living in Hiram, Ohio with their John Johnson farm.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 11:59 Well, and the other thing about these four, all four of them, all original members of the Quorum of the Twelve. At the time of their calling, and I said, little addendum, I said age 24, it was 23, even younger. So Lyman Johnson was 23 when he went into the Quorum, Lucas Johnson, 27, William E. McLellin age 29, goes into Quorum of the Twelve 1835, and Orson Hyde, age 30, all four of them, original members of the Quorum of the Twelve.

John Bytheway: 12:32 And this Orson Hyde, did I get that right? Is 20...

Hank Smith: 12:36 He's born January of 1805. So.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 12:39 Would have been about 26.

Hank Smith: 12:41 Yeah. All right. So let's get into 68, Rob.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 12:44 Yeah. Some cool versus I don't know if we want to spend a whole lot of time, but let's just read verse 3 and 4, if we could real quick. John, if you want to do verse 3, Hank, verse 4.

John Bytheway: 12:54 "And this is the ensample unto them, that they shall speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost."

Dr. C. Robert L...: 13:00 John, could you give us an ensample of what it's been spoken of in verse 3. What do we-

John Bytheway: 13:11 An ensample, they give out free ensamples at Costco. And they have had a free ensample.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 13:17 Yes. I love those ensamples. They're very good.

John Bytheway: 13:19 Yeah. This spaghetti sauce can be yours. Ensample is just an old way of saying example.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 13:28 There you go. Okay. Verse 4, Hank.

Hank Smith: 13:30 "And whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost, shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God until salvation."

Dr. C. Robert L...: 13:42 How should we interpret verse 4? Maybe a better question is, how might we misinterpret verse 4?

Hank Smith: 13:50 Oh goodness. Yeah. I think our definitions, we have to be careful with the definition of scripture, what is binding scripture. But there have been times where I've had conversations with John

or other friends, with my wife, of course, where the conversations have been full of the spirit and it's been so uplifting that it is like reading scripture. It just feels so powerful and uplifting like we're opening the doors of heaven.

- Hank Smith: 14:25 I don't think we should be recorded, printed and handed out in the enzyme, but... or not, it's Liahona. Sorry. But it has the same feel to it as scripture.
- John Bytheway: 14:40 Yeah. Scripture is that which is written. I think that was the definition in Joseph Smith's day. And I think we were on the right track here as I understand it, that there is scripture that is binding on the whole church that is the Canon. There are other things President Benson called patriarchal blessings personal scripture, but those aren't published to the world and they're not binding on the whole church.
- John Bytheway: 15:06 So, something I may have said to someone as a missionary, hopefully I was moved upon by the Holy Ghost, but for that setting in that place, maybe reached out level. But yeah, so I think we're not saying anything anybody ever says under the inspiration is scripture on par with the book of Mormon or the Doctrine and Covenants, I don't think we're saying no.
- Hank Smith: 15:32 Can you imagine our scripture sets we'd have volume 907, I need to get that out. So. what do you think Rob?
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 15:42 Going back to Joseph Fielding McConkie, I remember one time he gave an in-service to us and he bore the most interesting testimony at the conclusion of this one en service that he gave. And he said, he goes, "And I want to bear you my testimony that all those things that I spoke by the power of the Holy Ghost are true." And he said, "And those things which were not spoken by the Holy Ghost do with those, what you want."
- Hank Smith: 16:04 Do with those what you want.
- John Bytheway: 16:06 Dude is awesome. One of my great moments in life is when I submitted a paper, a Joseph Fielding McConkie in my master's program, and he returned it not with a letter grade, but with a check plus smiley face.
- Hank Smith: 16:23 That's pretty good.
- John Bytheway: 16:25 Yeah. It's framed on my wall. So yeah.

Hank Smith: 16:27 I really like verse 6. When I first got started as a scripture reader when I was a teenager, and I used to really tried to take it seriously, I would oftentimes for me reading the scriptures was like finding those just really powerful chunks, I didn't really understand the setting, I didn't understand who the Lord was talking to like I do now, but at those times, these little verses that I would find really stood out to me, and this was one of them, verse 6, "Wherefore, be of good cheer and do not fear, for I the Lord am with you, I will stand by you, you shall bear record of me, even Jesus Christ, that I am the Son of the living God, that I was, that I am, and that I am to come."

Hank Smith: 17:14 That can stand on its own as to my little ninth grade heart as the Lord bearing testimony to me.

John Bytheway: 17:23 Right. Absolutely. Let's go down to verse 25. "And again, in as much as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized," how many stakes were they? He was forward looking here. "Or in any of their stakes which are organized and teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands, when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents."

Dr. C. Robert L...: 17:53 John, could we have a prayer right now for all of those parents that have very sinful children because those parents are in trouble at the final judgment. That's a lot of sin to be heaped upon their heads.

Hank Smith: 18:05 Goodness.

John Bytheway: 18:06 Yeah. And is sin a word that can be plural and singular?

Dr. C. Robert L...: 18:12 Yeah. I mean, obviously, I mean, this can't be talking about the sins, plural of the children are upon the heads of the parents. So John, I mean, what could we take away and say, what sin is this that's upon the heads of the parents?

John Bytheway: 18:27 Yeah. The sin wasn't teaching them to understand. And I appreciate that it doesn't say, teaching them or forcing them to accept, but at least you're teaching them to understand there's going to come a time where it's going to be a very individual thing for each of us, I think. But teach them to understand the doctrine of repentance of faith in Christ. And if you don't even make that effort, if you don't try to teach them to understand that sin is upon the head of the parents, that's how I read it.

- Hank Smith: 18:58 Yeah. There's a difference between teaching and teaching to understand. To me, that's a different way of teaching. I had a wonderful teacher in my doctorate program by the name of Sterling Hilton, he's an incredible statistics mind, and I was lost in statistics. And I remember when he would try to teach me, and I say, try. He would try to teach me statistics, and he would listen so closely to me because he wanted to see what I understood.
- Hank Smith: 19:37 He could just teach statistics and I would be sitting there lost, or he could teach me to understand. And I learned that probably from any teacher, mostly from him on really trying to focus on the student or the child on what they understand and then build from there, instead of just teaching. That little phrase, teach them not to understand the doctrine, but the Lord doesn't say, that teach them not the doctrine, that little phrase to understand has helped me focus more on the learner and where they are individually.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 20:21 What is it that we can hope or what would be good for all of us to do as members of the church, as we read the scriptures, what care should we take?
- Hank Smith: 20:30 Yeah. See, I like what we're doing here, because I think what the Lord, if I was going to say, what the author's intent here is, with Joseph and the Lord, I would guess the author's intent is make teaching your children a very high priority, because this is very important to me. It's so important to me that it'll come up at judgment. What I think could be dangerous is someone who is a grandparent now reading this verse and just feeling ashamed because their children are not on the path.
- Hank Smith: 21:11 I think that would be the wrong approach to take this, because the Lord does not mean it, I would say, as something to flog yourself with, but as a motivation to what you're dealing with right now, whether it be children or even grandchildren or even great grandchildren, that you can start today, if you've never done so before, or even better to teach these basic principles of the gospel. John is quick to point out that when the Lord wants things taught, it always comes back to these four-
- John Bytheway: 21:49 First principals. I love it. And I think too, of this idea, I love that the Stripling warriors did not say, "We know it's true." They said, "We knew our mothers knew it." And sometimes with my kids, I'm not sure where they're at, but I want them to know that I know, and there will come a point where they'll get older and they'll want to get that same testimony, but here I'm going

to teach them, this is what I believe, this is what I know, and then they're going to do something with that.

- John Bytheway: [22:26](#) And an agency can be very painful, but did I strive? Did I try to teach them if even imperfectly, that I have faith in Christ, that I believe that He forgives, that I can repent?
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [22:39](#) John, I love that idea. Sometimes I think downplay, but that's a gift of the spirit, I mean, one gift to the spirit is to know in and out of yourself that Jesus is the Christ, right?
- John Bytheway: [22:52](#) And another is to believe on their words.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [22:54](#) And the other is to believe on the words. And I wonder if we downplay, I hear people sometimes say, "You can't live on borrowed life." And I think we understand that to an extent, I mean, we don't want to stay there, as George Buchanan said, "Do you want to develop more spiritual gifts?" When I hear that, I think, as you said, the Stripling warriors, that is a gift to the spirit that I think we need to respect.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [23:17](#) If I could real quick, can we flip over to section 58? There's a verse that I love in section 58, it's in section 58, verse 59. And I've shared this with people before, because sometimes I think there's a culture in our church when we give testimony that we have to say I know, I know this, I know that. And this is a tricky thing because President Packer, you remember that quote that he gave one time, The Candle of The Lord, remember that beautiful talk?
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [23:50](#) And he said that, "The gaining of a testimony is found in the bearing of it." And I think that's a true principle. But I also think that maybe we need to be careful and maybe we need to teach our children. And again, this is sensitive of how do you bear testimony? Again, there's cultural things we have in the church, like infallibility, there's cultural things that aren't correct. And do we bear testimony of things that we know are true? Absolutely. But look at this first verse 59, "Let no man return from this land," this is the Lord speaking to Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, Sidney Rigdon and other missionaries.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [24:29](#) He says, "Let no man return from this land except he bear record by the way of, two things, that which he knows and most assuredly believes." And I thought, isn't that beautiful? And I wish we had a culture sometimes in the church where maybe we can stand and say, "I don't know this, I'm growing, I'm progressing. But oh, I absolutely believe in this." And I think that

goes to Alma 32, when it says that, "Once you start to feel those movements and those swellings is your knowledge perfect?" No, it's not. But you do know that you have felt those swellings and those movements in continues.

- Dr. C. Robert L...: 25:15 And so, I love that idea of bearing testimony, not only of that which I know, but that which I most assuredly believe. And again, I think that could be a sensitive topic because the gaining of a testimony is found in the bearing of it. Hey, one more thought, and then let's go on to section 69 and 70, back to 68 and verse 25, parents teaching children when eight years old. And so, we're supposed to teach them those principles by eight years old. But now going down to verse 27.
- Hank Smith: 25:54 "And their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when they're eight years old, and receive the laying on of the hands."
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 26:01 Let me get some thoughts from you, because eight is the age, it's the specific age the Lord has designated... Yeah. I've had students and even parents before ask me, "Why do we baptize at age eight." It doesn't say that in the scriptures. And it's like, "Yeah, it does."
- John Bytheway: 26:19 No, it does.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 26:22 But anyhow. But then you get a scripture like DNC 137, if I could read this verse 10. And I think this is in one other place, it's a similar thing in section 29, but it says, "I also be held at children who die before they arrive." And it doesn't say age eight. It says, "Before they arrive at the years," plural, "Years of accountability are saved." Any thoughts, Hank or John about the difference age eight specific arbitrary time when the Lord reveals we baptized. But I mean, does any child, when you look at all children that are so different, do they automatically become all of a sudden accountable right on their eighth birthday?
- John Bytheway: 27:10 I think the Lord chose the year, but I think He knows when people are fully accountable and when they're not, and they chose the year and I really love number symbols. Eight is a symbol of new beginnings throughout the scriptures. And so, I can see eight were saved on the Ark. And so, I think they chose a year, but ultimately the Lord knows when people are really accountable. And that's why I like the one verse that says, "They begin to become accountable."

Dr. C. Robert L...: 27:40 Right. I don't know about you guys, but I've known some kids at age six and a half or seven are really gallus spiritually.

John Bytheway: 27:49 Yeah. And others are 15 and they're not getting this.

Hank Smith: 27:53 I like how John is talking here, that the Lord has common sense. Yes we needed to choose an age, but any age would probably, would be the same, it would be, well, that's too late, oh, that's too early there. Because everybody is different. So the Lord knows each individual. I think that's a beautiful idea, that we're going to choose an age here, but "I know you all individually." I think that's a beautiful idea. Before we go on, unless you two have thoughts, I wanted to just grab verse 28.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 28:26 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 28:26 Actually I have two thoughts. One I wanted to share, because verse 25 can be, like we just talked about. Can be a difficult verse for people who feel like, "Oh, I should have done more. We should have had more family prayer. We should have had more scripture study. I should have taken advantage of... this is my fault." And I remember, Elder Bruce Hyphen said once, he quoted David O. McKay, that, "No other success can compensate for failure in the home."

Hank Smith: 28:57 And he talked about how President McKay was talking about, give your best efforts to your family, don't leave them with the leftovers. He said, but President McKay was not saying that if somehow your children stray off the gospel path, that you don't deserve any other success, that's what we've turned it into, that if your children stray off the gospel path you should have no happiness anywhere ever. We've turned it from an encouraging quote to a flogging quote where we beat people with it.

Hank Smith: 29:34 And then Elder Hyphen said this, he said, "There is a success that will compensate for failure in the home, it is the atonement of Jesus Christ, it can compensate for any failure in the home or without, so go to Him." I just remember that, you almost could feel the size of almost the relief of parents throughout who read that quote and can go, "Yes, there is."

John Bytheway: 30:02 Included Lehi and Sariah for crying out loud. And what's the old story? Was it probably Lehi? I can't remember. Hey, the Jones's are having trouble with their kids. Yeah, and Heavenly Father is having trouble with some of His too.

Hank Smith: [30:17](#) Right. And you can look forward. My parents weren't perfect, but my father who recently passed away just last month, he really tried with all of his grandchildren to teach them these principles to his last days. He was really trying to teach these principles because it was forward looking to him. I can't fix what the mistakes I've made in the past but I've got these grandkids in front of me, I'm going to try to teach them these principles.

Hank Smith: [30:57](#) And then this other story I wanted to bring up Rob, just real quick is section 68:28, "Teach their children to pray. Teach their children to pray." And it immediately came to mind a story from President Henry B Eyring. He talks about a time his father taught him to pray. This is from the 2003 enzyme. 2003, let's see what month is it? November 2003.

Hank Smith: [31:32](#) "The afternoon my mother died, we went to the family home from the hospital, we sat quietly in the darkened living room for a while, dad excused himself and went up to his bedroom. He was gone for a few minutes, when he walked back into the living room, there was a smile on his face. He said that he'd been concerned for mother. During the time he had gathered her things from the hospital room and thank the staff for being so kind to her, he thought of her going into the spirit world just minutes after her death, he was afraid."

Hank Smith: [32:07](#) Oh, sorry. "He was afraid she would be lonely if there was no one there to meet her. He had gone to his bedroom to ask his Heavenly Father to have someone greet Mildred, his wife and my mother. He said that he had been told in answer to his prayer that his mother had met his sweetheart. I smiled at that too." President Eyring says, "Grandma Eyring was not very tall. I had a clear picture of her rushing through the crowd, her short legs moving rapidly on her mission to meet my mother."

Hank Smith: [32:41](#) And then he says this, "Dad surely didn't intend at that moment to teach me about prayer, but he did. I can't remember a sermon from my mother or my father about prayer, they prayed when times were hard and when they were good and they reported in matter of fact ways, how kind God was, how powerful and how close."

Dr. C. Robert L...: [33:05](#) That's awesome.

Hank Smith: [33:06](#) Yeah. That story has always just stood out to me when I read that phrase, "Teach their children to pray."

Dr. C. Robert L...: 33:14 "Teach your children to pray." Teach your children how to pray. I know you're probably both familiar with this, but when I think of teaching children to pray, not just to pray, but maybe how to pray. I think that phrase could be interpreted both ways. I think you're both familiar with that definition in the Bible dictionary under prayer, for the listeners that we have here that are not familiar with this, and the Bible dictionary under the heading prayer.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 33:44 And this is in the entry on prayer and it's, oh, let's see it's about probably seven or eight paragraphs down. It says, "Prayer is the act by which the will of the father and the will of the child are brought in correspondence with each other. The object of prayer is not to change the will of God, but to secure for ourselves and for others blessings that God is already willing to grant, but make conditional on our asking for them."

Dr. C. Robert L...: 34:14 And I love that idea. When we work with investigators and even with children the first time when we teach them to pray, we do the, "Heavenly Father, we ask the, we thank the," the four step thing. But wouldn't that be wonderful thing for parents to teach children that you're not just asking for things, that might be where we start, but we want to come in correspondence with God's will and prayer is a reverential act, it's a form of worship.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 34:47 And what are those scriptures? There's a couple of scriptures that says, "And it shall be giving you what you shall pray for." Remember the disciples Nephi, God said, "Hey, I'm going to give you whatever you'll ask, because I know you will not ask a miss." And when I get in the proper framework of prayer, I'm not really praying for what I want, it's almost this worship revealed form that happens where God reveals to me what to pray for. Does that make sense?

John Bytheway: 35:24 Oh, yeah.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 35:24 I think that's a more advanced concept, but-

Hank Smith: 35:27 An alignment.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 35:28 An alignment. That's right. Hopefully we're teaching children, not just to pray, but how to pray and how to get... those first four steps that we do with investigators, that's probably a good place to start, but hopefully as we teach children to pray, we migrate over to this higher form of worship where we commune with God. And we don't just get through the prayer.

John Bytheway: 35:53 Looking at verse 25, I think of Elder Lawrence Corbridge talk called, Stand Forever, and how he talked about primary questions versus secondary questions. And sister Joy D Jones in page 109 of the Come Follow Me manual said this, "A key to helping children become sin resistant is to begin at very early ages to lovingly infuse them with the basic gospel doctrines and principles from the scriptures, the articles of faith, the four the strength of youth booklet, primary songs, hymns, and our own personal testimonies that will lead children to the savior."

John Bytheway: 36:32 And when she says basic gospel doctrines, I look at 25 that's it, faith in Christ, the doctrine of repentance, which Elder Holland said is the most hopeful, encouraging word in the Christian vocabulary. Repentance is the gift of the Holy Ghost and then how we use that moving forward in our daily life. So, I appreciate whenever we get, there are so many different things we could talk about. I love it when the scriptures come back to, "Okay, let's go back to first principles once again and mention those."

Hank Smith: 37:09 Yeah. That was in the manual John?

John Bytheway: 37:13 Yeah. In the Come Follow Me manual page 109.

Hank Smith: 37:16 Are we ready to keep going here Rob?

Dr. C. Robert L...: 37:19 Yeah. Let's go to section 69. A shorter section. These are revelations all coming in November of 1831, all centering around the printing of the book of commandments. Verse 6, "For the land of Zion shall be a seat and a place to receive and do all things." Back in section 57, and I'm sure you guys have already talked about this, Jackson county, that's the place that's appointed. And when you get a verse like this, that seems to be pretty definitive, the land design shall be a seat and a place to receive and do all these things.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 37:56 A question that often comes up from some of my students is, is Zion the new Jerusalem? Is this still the seat? Is it still the center place? Is it still the gathering place for the saints as it says in the doctrine and covenants? And let me just read maybe a quote or two, "There's not a whole lot we have that is current about this." Brethren haven't said a whole lot, but there are a few things that have been said, first of all, let me back up and just read something. Oh, this is from President Joseph Fielding Smith and doctrines of salvation.

- Dr. C. Robert L...: 38:35 He says, "The center place where the city of the new Jerusalem is to be built is Jackson county, Missouri, it was never the intent to substitute Utah or any other place for Jackson county." So, interesting, right? 2003, here's two of the most recent statements we have on Zion, the new Jerusalem still being the center place, not Utah. This is President Dallin, H Oaks, October conference, 2003, and I love the state.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 39:00 And he says this, "Many of us, or our descendants will doubtless participate in the fulfilling of the prophecies of the building of the city of the new Jerusalem, but in this matter, the timing is the Lord's not ours. We will not be approved or blessed in clearing the ground or pouring the footings for that great project until the Lord has said that it is time. In this, as in so many other things, the Lord will proceed in His own time and in His own way."
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 39:32 Yeah. I often tell students that bring up that question, I'll read them that quote. And they're like, "Why aren't they talking more about Zion, the new Jerusalem?" And I'm like, "Here's your answer right here. The Lord proceeds in his own time." And isn't it interesting, some of the questions we have are often... students have, all direct their attention back. "Well, what are the prophets saying?" If they're not commenting on certain things that's probably the answer, right there. It's not that it's not a doctrine, but there's not a whole lot more to say.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 39:59 Here's the most recent thing that's been said on Zion, the new Jerusalem. And this is October conference 2008. And this is Elder D Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve. And I would love if any of you listeners, Hank and John, or if you guys have more current stuff, I have a whole PowerPoint deck that I do on this, both in education week and BYU class, I'd love it.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 40:23 But this is the most current thing that I have, Elder Christofferson said this, "Zion is both a place and the people God has called for the elders of his church to be sent forth across the world to accomplish this gathering, commencing an effort that continues in full vigor today in our families and in our states and districts, let us seek to build up Zion through unity, Godliness, and charity, preparing for that great day when Zion, the new Jerusalem will arise."
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 40:55 So, as late as 2008, you have Elder Christofferson saying, yeah, the place will rise one day. That's going to happen, but right now, let's build up Zion through unity, Godliness, and charity. I love that focus on not Zion, the place, but Zion the people, the condition of the heart.

- John Bytheway: [41:13](#) I think that's one of the fun things going through these sections has been noticing that Zion is a place and Zion is a people, and even Zion is a state of unity, of oneness. And it seems to be going in and out of that, I know Hank takes church history tours back there, I mean, you go to Adam on Dayana, pretty much just nothing there except for a farm or whatever. And you try to imagine what is going to happen here? And it's usually so hot, I'm like, "Get back on the bus."
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [41:48](#) John Whitmer has quite a bit to do and quite a few specific things. Let's look at those things again. I think there's a lesson in this preaching, expounding, writing, coping, selecting, obtaining. Let me read to you, you're both familiar with one of my favorite teachers, we've talked about Robert Millet, you know him. And let me read to you something that he says about those things, all those specific activities in the context of preaching the gospel.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [42:20](#) This is one of my favorite all-time quotes. He says, "The word of God is sufficiently powerful that gospel teachers or preachers do not need to assume the burden of converting their listeners. There is sufficient for the gospel teacher to do by way of reading, studying, preparing, praying, organizing, and presenting that here she need not fill the obligation to create a spiritual experience. We need not use up the role of the Holy Ghost. Ultimately He is the teacher, He is the converter, He is the member of the eternal Godhead charged with carrying the word of truth into the hearts and minds of the children and men. He is the agent of the new birth who sanctifies and empowered human beings."
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [43:05](#) I think that is so, so wise to look at that verse, there's so many things that God wants us to do and that we can do, but what He doesn't want us to do is use up the role of the Holy Ghost. And I wonder if sometimes we violate that a few ways. One in which I know I've done before is where I try to create a spiritual experience, I hate to even say this, but maybe I try to get too weepy sometimes I think tears can come naturally. Maybe I tell an overly sensational story, rather than just doing the simple things, like what we're doing today, just going through in teaching the basic principles.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [43:50](#) John, like you said, with the first four principles and we sprinkle a little humor in there along the way. I wonder for parents, maybe parents get too worried sometimes that they didn't... like we said before, that they didn't do enough with their home evening lessons and with their fireside chats and whatnot. And to trust, let's trust Heavenly Father, you don't need to do that

mom and dad and grandma and grandpa, that never was your assignment to be the Holy Ghost to convert them. You weren't supposed to convert them, the Holy Ghost did, you had enough to do by way of training, raising, changing diapers and reading scripture and living the gospel, let's stay in our lane and do our stuff and trust that God will do His stuff.

- Hank Smith: 44:43 Yeah. There's a great moment in the old Testament where Joseph is told to go out and battle an army, and what is the prophet telling him? "The battle is not yours, but God's" "This is not your fight, this is my fight." And we can say that with children. These are the Lord's children, not yours. In real this is His fight.
- John Bytheway: 45:04 I love what Robert Millett said about that, the scriptures themselves have sufficient power, just read them. Just read them and share them and people will sense these words are beyond an object lesson or something, these words themselves have power. I like it. Rob, what's going on in section 70? Can you give us the backstory and then we'll jump in.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 45:33 Yeah. In fact, if you look in the heading there, this is another, Hiram, Ohio revelation, November 12th 1831. The profits history states that for special conferences were held from the first to the 12th of November inclusive. And the last of these assemblies, the great importance of the revelations that would later be published as the book of commandments and then the doctrine and covenants would be considered.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 45:58 This revelation was given after the conference voted that the revelations were "Worth to the church, the riches of the whole earth." I love that. I want to come back to that. It then says Joseph's history refers to the revelations as, "The foundation of the church in these last days and benefit to the world, showing that the keys of the mysteries of the kingdom of our savior are again entrusted to men." Can I read a statement from President Benson about the doctrine and covenants that I think goes perfectly along with this and the context of section 70.

NOTE – A portion of the podcast was inadvertently edited out, but it is now on the audio recording. Dr. Line shared a quote from President Benson: "Excluding the witnesses to the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants is by far the greatest external witness and evidence which we have from the Lord that the Book of Mormon is true...The Book of Mormon brings men to Christ. The Doctrine and Covenants brings men to Christ's kingdom,...The Book of Mormon is the "keystone" of our religion, and the Doctrine and Covenants is the capstone, with continuing latter-day revelation. The Lord

has placed His stamp of approval on both the keystone and the capstone...God bless us all to use all the scriptures, but in particular the instrument He designed to bring us to Christ—the Book of Mormon, the keystone of our religion—along with its companion volume, the capstone, the Doctrine and Covenants, the instrument to bring us to Christ's kingdom, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." Reference: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1987/04/the-book-of-mormon-and-the-doctrine-and-covenants?lang=eng>

- Hank Smith: [46:36](#) And I went and looked at section one, and this is where it would fall chronologically.
- John Bytheway: [46:42](#) That's right.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [46:42](#) Right.
- Hank Smith: [46:43](#) So to anyone who has yet to go back, we would encourage anyone go back if you can this week, go listen to our very first episode with Dr. Tony Sweat, because it would fall in line right here, November of 1831, when they wrote the preface that we talked about then. And I'll tell you from that first episode until this one, this book has changed for me, absolutely changed.
- John Bytheway: [47:08](#) Oh, yes.
- Hank Smith: [47:09](#) I'm only halfway through and it has absolutely changed the way I view the history of the church and these revelations, because I had a little bit of knowledge about them before, but talking to people who have studied them, like you Rob, has really changed my view on them and they have become more of a companion than just out there script.
- John Bytheway: [47:34](#) Yeah. It reminds me of a, I think a Hugh Nibley statement that the scriptures will wear you out before you wear them out type of a thing. Just the idea that there are levels of meaning that you may have never even seen there before. And that's why we don't ever say, "Oh, I've already read that book." It's read it again, read it again, read it again, because there will be new levels of meaning that the Lord will inspire in you that you never thought of before.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: [48:04](#) It's the Liahona isn't it? There was a new writing on it from time to time. And if you go into the scriptures and sometimes there's a new... I mean, the words are the same, but there's a new writing, a new spiritual writing from time to time.

Hank Smith: 48:19 I've definitely had that experience doing this podcast John, I know you have too.

John Bytheway: 48:23 Me too.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 48:23 Yeah. Good stuff.

John Bytheway: 48:25 We had a comment that came in from somewhere Hank, where someone said, "I love to see you guys taking notes, you're all learning this too." And I thought, oh boy, am I ever?

Hank Smith: 48:36 And in fact, John, I think the exact quote was, "It's fun that old people are still learning too." I really-

John Bytheway: 48:44 Clear that was me not you Hank, that had to be about me.

Hank Smith: 48:46 No, I really liked that quote. Don't you love how the Lord finishes the sections?

Dr. C. Robert L...: 48:53 With his mercy, right?

Hank Smith: 48:54 Yeah. There's so many times where John has pointed this out to me that, the Lord gives him a parting thought that is usually just so, just uplifting and a shot in the arm like, "You're doing great, behold I the Lord am merciful and will bless them and they shall enter into the joy of these things." I mean, I love how the Lord chooses to speak to these people. They're not perfect and He could point that out.

Hank Smith: 49:25 My patriarchal blessing could have been, "Hank, it doesn't look good." But it was a positive message. And what the Lord could have said versus what the Lord chooses to say is an important lesson to me, that we can choose to speak this way, to speak hopefully, and encouragingly. Rabbi, we have a last question for you. I think our listeners would love to hear your personal thoughts on Joseph Smith, the restoration and what it has done for you in your life.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 50:02 Well, thanks. And that's a great question. And thanks again for having me on. And I'm honored to be able to do that. I think everyone's journey is a journey, it evolves. One of the things that I often do is I have... in fact, your listeners can't see this, but this is my old ninth grade high school seminary copy of the scriptures. I still keep it.

Dr. C. Robert L...: 50:41 And the reason I keep it is every now and then I need a little bit of humor to go back and read what I wrote. And there's some

truth to that, it's interesting to see... sometimes we laugh at ourselves where we were, I don't know if you two have ever had this before, but I go back and I look at some of the lesson plans that I had 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago, and I have a pretty good laugh sometimes and I'm like, "Oh my goodness, what was I doing?"

- Dr. C. Robert L...: 51:10 And I hope your listeners, if one thing that maybe... and Hank, you mentioned this earlier, one of the things we've really focused on today is God's love, His love, His compassion. And I love God's love, I love that He's merciful to us in our weakness, I love that He's merciful to Joseph. Some people might say this is wrong, or they might not understand what I'm going to say, but I think we need to be so careful with Joseph, with trying to deify him and trying to make him into something that he isn't.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 51:53 I think Joseph didn't take himself that seriously. And now I don't want to downplay Joseph, section 135, boy, Joseph's done more saved. Some people misinterpret that. I wish we could add a little thing in 135, the savior has done way more than Joseph. But Joseph has done a lot with the restoration. And I think what I would say about Joseph and the restoration and my journey, I'm so grateful for God's grace, His mercy, and that He allows us to change.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 52:30 I will be completely honest with you guys and your listeners, there are so many things that I have an absolute rock solid testimony up in this gospel, truth of the gospel. I will freely admit too that there are some things that I haven't fully resolved and I don't know if some of those things I'll ever fully resolve. But I'm so grateful for God's mercy, His patience, His love, and that He invites us to do the same, He says, "Go and do that likewise." I want to share with the listeners something that has become a big part of who I am and what I teach to my students.
- Dr. C. Robert L...: 53:18 But often when I get students that get perplexed and they're like, "Oh, I got to leave the church over this or that, or the other." I'll often say this to them. I'll say, "Let me give you two lists." Okay. Two lists. And this is what I'd end on today. Lists number one is this, book of Mormon translated with Syrah stones. Garden of Eden is in Jackson County, Missouri, don't date until you're 16. I mean, we can keep going with that list. Here's list number two, patients, love, charity, kindness, Godliness. You see the difference between those two lists. Don't you?

Dr. C. Robert L...:	<u>54:01</u>	I always tell my students, don't become overwhelmed with becoming a scholar of lists one, but be a disciple of lists number two. If you want to find something over which to leave this church, you'll find it, but there are too many beautiful things, and so many things I see in the church and in the restored gospel that we not only do well, we do better. Like Elder Ballard said five, six years ago in conference, "Where else are you going to go?"
Dr. C. Robert L...:	<u>54:45</u>	I worry about saying that the church is perfect. I think it's better said the gospel of Jesus Christ is perfect. But the people in the church, hopefully we can repent, hopefully God allows change to happen. I know He's allowed change to happen with me. And I'd like to think that He has mercy and compassion and love for His church leaders, Joseph included, and that changes can be made. Does that mean I need to go out and be overtly critical of the brother? No. Is it okay to have a healthy understanding that sometimes mistakes are made and sometimes course corrections are made? Yeah. That's good.
Dr. C. Robert L...:	<u>55:37</u>	But I don't want to give up what I have, because I know that those truths of the gospel, which have been revealed to me, I do know, I don't just believe anymore, I know those are true. There are some things I believe, there's somethings I don't know about, but those are very, very few. But I'm so grateful, I'm grateful for Jesus Christ in His restored gospel. I'll leave that with you in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.
Hank Smith:	<u>56:05</u>	Amen.
John Bytheway:	<u>56:06</u>	Amen.
Hank Smith:	<u>56:06</u>	Thank you so much. We want to thank Dr. Robert Line for being with us today. John, isn't that just another awesome episode of Follow Him? And it's not because of us, it's because of our awesome guests that we have.
John Bytheway:	<u>56:21</u>	Absolutely.
Hank Smith:	<u>56:23</u>	We want to thank, of course our listeners, none of this would happen if it weren't for you. We're grateful for your support, we're especially grateful for our executive producers, Steve and Shannon Sorenson. And then we have an amazing production crew, we want to mention them. David Perry, Lisa Spice, Jamie Nelson, Kyle Nielson, Will Stockton and Maria Hilton. We hope that you will all join us again on the next episode of Follow Him.

