



## Show Notes & Transcripts

### Podcast General Description:

Follow Him: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Wednesday.

### Podcast Episode Descriptions

#### Part 1:

What would be your final message to future generations? Dr. Anthony Sweat explores Moroni's many exhortations to the Latter-day Saints. He discusses how the Holy Ghost will manifest after inquiring of the Lord with real intent regarding the integrity of the Book of Mormon.

#### Part 2:

Dr. Anthony Sweat continues to explore Moroni's "Curtain Call" and testify about the power inherent in the Book of Mormon to bring people to Christ and the Father through the temple and temple covenants.

## Timecodes:

### Part 1:

- 00:00 Part II - Dr. Anthony Sweat
- 04:31 Dr. Sweat's bio
- 06:16 Come, Follow Me Manual
- 07:53 Moroni 10: The Breakdown and Exhortations
- 10:49 Title Page Preview and exhortations
- 18:46 Gratitude and tender mercies
- 20:42 Knowing God's character
- 24:44 Moroni 10:3 - Exhortation to remember
- 27:47 The patriarchal blessing we deserve
- 33:02 "Man of Sorrows"
- 34:57 Moroni 10:4 - Exhortation to ask
- 37:40 "Did this point me to Christ?"
- 40:06 Tripod of Truth
- 42:42 Exhortation to recognize the gifts of the Spirit
- 46:08 Moroni 10:9-16 - Gifts of the Spirit
- 50:29 Moroni 10:17 - Manifestation of the gifts
- 55:41 Moroni 10:4 - Intent
- 58:25 Hank's experience praying about Moroni 10:4
- 01:02:51 Moroni 10:19 - Exhortation to remember Three Great Gifts
- 01:07:58 Moroni 7:45 - the effects of charity
- 01:10:59 End of Part 1 - Dr. Anthony Sweat

### Part 2

- 00:00 Part II - Dr. Anthony Sweat
- 01:06 Heaven isn't a location
- 02:53 The terrible triplets
- 07:53 Last two exhortations
- 10:50 Grant Hardy and Moroni's Curtain Call
- 15:58 Joseph Smith was called illiterate
- 19:39 Exhortation to come unto Christ
- 22:33 The sequence is important
- 29:29 How many will make it to the Celestial Kingdom?
- 35:41 Moroni 10:34 - Final words
- 40:15 Where does the Book of Mormon bring us?
- 43:53 Reflections on the last four years
- 46:00 A marvelous work
- 49:30 The power to change lives in this book
- 55:13 End of Part 2 - Dr. Anthony Sweat

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## Biographical Information:



Anthony Sweat is a Professor of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University. He received his bachelor's degree in painting and drawing and his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction. He is the author of several articles and books dealing with the teachings and history of the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His most recent book is *The Holy Covenants: Living our Sacred Temple Promises*. Anthony is a regular speaker at Latter-day Saint events and conferences. As a practicing artist his paintings center on religious themes, including underrepresented events in Church history. He and his wife, Cindy, are the parents of seven children.

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## Moroni 10 Part 1

GUEST: DR. ANTHONY R. SWEAT



- Hank Smith: 00:00:00 Hello my friends. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name is Hank Smith. I'm your host. I am here with my merciful co-host John Bytheway. John, this is a special episode of followHIM because it makes four years of Come, Follow Me episodes. You and I have been studying the scriptures with some of the most brilliant people for four years. What would you say that experience has been like for you?
- John Bytheway: 00:00:33 It's been, how did I end up here? That's what I ask myself. How do I get to sit here and mark up my scriptures? And then Hank, you know this, wherever you go, people grab you. Yesterday, two different people, "Hey, I'm listening to you right now," type of a thing. I always tell them, it's our guests. Our guests are the secret sauce. I know you feel that way too. We've had some amazing scholars.
- Hank Smith: 00:00:56 Aha moments, wow moments, things I'll never forget moments, fills my heart. Well, John, four years ago, we were getting started in a hurry. If you remember, we had just made the decision to start. The incredible Steve Sorensen, our founder, had said, "We got to go." I called a close friend and said, "Can you come on for our very first episode?" And I think it was maybe two days away and he said, "Absolutely." John, just to put the bow on it, he's back for our lesson, this last lesson in The Book of Mormon, [Moroni chapter 10](#), we have Dr. Anthony Sweat back with us. Anthony, welcome, welcome to followHIM.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:01:42 What a joy, what a privilege to be on. I was thinking about it myself when you guys invited me to be on for this Moroni 10, I thought, "I've been so lucky to be friends with you guys both for years and we've done a lot of things together in various avenues and venues and as teachers." I was lucky enough to be episode number one kicking this off with the Doctrine and Covenants and didn't know we were filming and I hadn't shaved for a day or two and I was wearing my little hoodie and didn't even know we were on camera.

John Bytheway: 00:02:10 He had a hoodie on.

Hank Smith: 00:02:11 Yeah.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:02:12 Now, four years later, you've gone through all four books of scripture and we're on the very last chapter of The Book of Mormon and what a blessing and privilege to get back on and close out The Book of Mormon with you. You guys have done, incredible is not the right word. It's been almost miraculous, divinely blessed, wonderful work and I know there's many, many, many countless people that listen, we're so grateful to you and all those on followHIM that make this possible. So I'm just honored to be here and be with my friends that I love you both so much and get to be with people out there who are listening.

Hank Smith: 00:02:47 It's a joy and we feel like a team. We feel like a family. Our listeners as well, John, when I talk to people, they say, "Thank you so much for the podcast." And I say, "Thank you for listening." I honestly do feel like our listeners are our partners in this work. I think everybody would join with us in thanking the Sorensen family for making this possible the last four years. So supportive not only with their resources but frequent texts I get from the entire family talking about what they've been learning and how grateful they are and we remember Steve.

John Bytheway: 00:03:23 We wouldn't be here without him. What a blessing that Steve's vision has been for literally millions. It's hard to fathom.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:03:31 These are the kind of things that there's public faces and then there's behind the scenes' people who make things happen and while the Sorensen family and everybody involved with followHIM, but particularly their family and making this happen to bless so many lives how they've supported and pushed and encouraged, they just want to bless people's lives with, fill them with the spirit of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. I think the Lord has in his mercy given a gift of grace on that effort on this show and it's been beautiful to watch.

Hank Smith: 00:04:07 To the Sorensen family listening today, we love you so, so much. Thanks to that same Sorensen family, we are going to pick up with the Doctrine and Covenants once again next year, different guests for different lessons and different angles.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:04:25 You mean everything hasn't been said and learned that could possibly be learned from these scriptures? Incredible.



Hank Smith: 00:04:31 Incredible that you could look at them again and get even more from them. We're excited that after our Christmas episode next week we will be in the Doctrine and Covenants once again. Such a joy. Everyone come with us on the journey again through the scriptures. John, let's do it again. Give us a bio for our guest this week. Dr. Anthony Sweat.

John Bytheway: 00:04:59 I'll do that. Dr. Anthony R. Sweat, got the initial in there. He received a bachelor's in painting and drawing from the University of Utah and his master's in education and PhD in curriculum and instruction from Utah State. Dr. Sweat's the author of several books and articles. In fact, I've purchased a number of copies of the Holy Invitation and then he followed that up with the Holy Covenants, which are really helpful for my boys as they prepared for the temple before they went on their missions, so I thank you personally for that.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:05:31 I love to hear that. Thank you.

John Bytheway: 00:05:34 Absolutely. His research centers on factors that influence effective religious education. He taught in seminaries and institutes for 13 years. His paintings center on previously underrepresented important aspects of church history to promote visual learning. And Anthony and his wife, Cindy are the parents of seven children. We're just really glad to have you back.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:05:57 I'm just grateful to be with you guys and with all the listeners out there and study the scriptures together and talk about him.

Hank Smith: 00:06:03 Anthony did not ask me to do this, but you can go over and read and learn all about Anthony, his website, Anthony Sweat, S-W-E-A-T. That's right.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:06:13 Just like perspiration.

Hank Smith: 00:06:16 [AnthonySweat.com](http://AnthonySweat.com), go over, learn about the arts, learn about the books. Such great work that Anthony is doing, really. Anthony, let's begin. I'm going to read from the [Come, Follow Me manual](#). John, we should probably thank whoever is putting these manuals together. These are incredible, the opening paragraphs, the questions, the ideas that they offer. Fantastic. Here's how it starts. "Come unto Christ and be perfected in him. Moroni 10. The Book of Mormon opens with Nephi's promise to show us that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen because of their faith. The book closes with a parallel invitation from Moroni. Remember how merciful

the Lord hath been. What examples of the Lord's mercy have you seen in The Book of Mormon?

00:07:06 You might think of the merciful way God led Lehi's family through the wilderness across the waters, the tender mercies he showed to Enos when his soul hungered for forgiveness or the mercy he showed to Alma, an enemy of the church who became one of its fearless defenders or your thoughts might turn to the mercy the resurrected Savior showed to the people when he healed their sick and blessed their children. Perhaps most important, all of this can remind you how merciful the Lord hath been to you, for The Book of Mormon was written to invite each of us to receive God's mercy, an invitation expressed simply in Moroni's farewell words, 'Come unto Christ and be perfected in him.'" So Anthony, what do you want to do? Where are we going to go?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:07:53 I like to look at the big picture structure of the book and in this chapter in particular, even in the original 1830 Book of Mormon, Moroni 10 was its own chapter. The chaptering in the 1830 for the whole book of Moroni is the same as it is in the current chaptering. This is a concluding message by Moroni as he's getting ready to wrap up this great book of his father who's really been our guide through the whole thing. He's wanting to make some last statements, so big picture, I like to break it down and say what is he doing and my breakdown of this is in verse one to two he is doing an introduction like, "Hey, I'm going to seal this up. I'm getting ready to finish this out." He is letting us know. I know he has tried to do that before but he is like, "No, I'm serious this time." Verse 3-7, he's going to give us our invitation to receive and ponder and ask that we'll talk about.

00:08:47 Then I want to connect and talk about we can't disconnect the invitation from the gifts of the Spirit on verses 8-18. That's a logical connection there that I want to talk about with you that I think is important for us to realize. After he gives those gifts of the Spirit, he's going to touch on the three greatest gifts that I want to talk about, faith, hope and charity, without which you and I are nothing. And then he's going to end with his own personal declaration about the truthfulness of his words in verse 27-29 and then give his final exhortation to come unto Christ and be perfected in him and meet us all at the pleasing bar, like this is a powerhouse chapter and I'm excited to look at each of these a little bit more closely.

Hank Smith: 00:09:32 Anthony, it's almost as if Moroni has found his spot up on that hillside in New York and he says, "Oh, this is it." I can see him

creating that cement-like box sitting down and penning these last words knowing that this really is it. He's going to bury this record. I like what you said there, there has to be a connection in his heart to his father and that's why some of the things his father gave him that we've read before in the letters and the sermons, I think that's on his mind.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:10:06 And he's going to bring those right back in. And we don't know this but I like the connection you just made on the title page he says, written to the Lamanites in verse two he says, "I'm going to seal up these records." In the title page he says, "Written and sealed up." In verse 32 of this chapter, he gives us exhortation to come unto Christ. In the title page he says, "It's to convince everybody that Jesus is the Christ." Then in verse 34, he is going to say, to meet you at the pleasing bar of Jehovah. And then in the title page he says that you may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ. There's this connection we don't know when, but he moves very quickly from inscribing Moroni 10 to inscribing the title page of The Book of Mormon. They're directly connected in my mind.

John Bytheway: 00:10:49 When I begin a Book Mormon class, I like to show them the title page and we've all heard that formula of tell them what you're going to tell them then tell them what you've told them. The title page has covenants that they may know, the covenants of the Lord, that Jesus is the Christ. I think on the title page it uses the phrase, "That you may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ." And then you go to the last page in The Book of Mormon and you've got, "That they may know the covenants of the eternal father which he hath made yea come unto Christ." And the last words in verse 33, "That you become holy without spot." Covenants and Christ and how do we become spotless through the atonement of Christ and yeah, they are so connected.

Hank Smith: 00:11:28 And by the way, that's just good writing. I tell my students all the time, "Don't write your first paragraph until you've written your last paragraph until you know what you're going to say."

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:11:36 As Moroni is constructing and concluding this last chapter he says in verse one, "More than 420 years have passed away since the sign was given of the coming of Christ." In verse two, "And I seal up these records after I have spoken a few words by way of exhortation unto you." And that's going to be a thread through this whole chapter is, I want to exhort you on some things. He's going to speak to the Lamanites and then to everyone in verse 24, "But these words of exhortation are for us all." And to exhort means to advise or to encourage. I want to speak some

words of strong advice or encouragement. There's different words but the way it's translated is exhortation. I just went through and I highlighted his exhortations. I found eight of them in this chapter. In verse three he says, "I would exhort you that you remember how merciful the Lord has been." Verse four, "I would exhort you that you would ask God the Eternal Father in the name of Christ if these things are not true." Verse seven, "Exhort you that you deny not the power of God."

00:12:43 Verse eight, "Exhort you my brethren that you deny not the gifts of God." Verse 18, after he lists the gifts, "Exhort you, my beloved brethren that you remember that every good gift cometh of Christ." Verse 19, "Exhort you, my beloved brethren that you remember that he is the same yesterday, today and forever and all these gifts of which I have spoken which are spiritual will never be done away." Verse 27, "Exhort you to remember these things." And in the previous verses they were the things that if the gifts are done away with, there must be no faith. You have to have faith. Verse 30, the last one, "And I would exhort you that you would come unto Christ and lay hold upon every good gift and touch not the evil gift."

00:13:30 You see a thread here of what he's trying to get them and exhorting them to remember. There's a link of, I'm going to exhort you to remember and have these gifts and know who they come from and they come by faith and this will bring you unto Christ to lay hold upon the best gift, the gift of his atoning grace to be perfected in him. Really good writing direct us through this chapter and that could be a fun way to study it at home or in church is to say, "Let's find these exhortations. What have you learned about these or how would you encourage or advise people on these subjects?"

Hank Smith: 00:14:08 The etymology on exhort goes back to thoroughly encourage.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:14:14 I like that. Wow.

Hank Smith: 00:14:17 Sounds like what I do with my children and their chores. "I exhort you."

John Bytheway: 00:14:20 I thoroughly encourage you.

Hank Smith: 00:14:23 I thoroughly encourage you.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:14:23 I'm using that this next Saturday. "Children, I exhort you to actually not put that under your bed." Let's start with the first big exhortation in verse three. I'm going to read these because

these words are so powerful. "Behold, I would exhort you that when you shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that you should read them, that you would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things and ponder it in your hearts. And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you."

00:15:06 Now, I'm going to pause there before we get to the second exhortation. It's curious to me that he's telling us, obviously when you read these things, it's the whole story of The Book of Mormon as you mentioned in the Come, Follow Me manual, but he wants us to reflect and ponder and really let it rest into our hearts how merciful the Lord has been to these people and therefore to us, ponder it in your hearts. It seems to be saying ponder how merciful God has been to his children in the history of the world and in this history of the Nephites in particular.

00:15:44 And then in verse four, "And when ye shall receive these things." Now there's debate on this. It could be read two ways and I want to acknowledge both ways and when you receive these things meaning the whole Book of Mormon or when you receive these things, like when you receive an understanding of how merciful God has been, he wants us to ponder on that, then I want you to ask God in the name of Christ. You can read it as when you get this book, read it and pray about it and God will manifest to you that it's true. But it can also be read, really think about God's tender mercy with his children and let that rest on your soul and when you get that, ask God if that's not true, that he is a merciful and a loving God who is involved in his children's lives and wants to help and direct and guide and bless and lead and ultimately save and redeem and cleanse and purify and perfect.

00:16:44 Let all of that sink in your heart and then ask God about it and you'll get a witness that that is true, that that's the kind of God that we're being led by and that this book testifies of that.

Hank Smith: 00:16:55 I think sometimes we as humans try to simplify things, that can be a good thing, but we may have simplified this what we call Moroni's promise a little too much. It's sometimes taught as read The Book of Mormon, pray about it, God will tell you that it's true. But that's not what Moroni says. There seems to be much more of a recipe to this. Yes, The Book of Mormon, ask God about The Book of Mormon but ponder God's mercy that The Book of Mormon almost leads me to say God is merciful. Let me look at that through all of time, not just in The Book of Mormon.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:17:36 And even when you go back to Nephi, this book is so incredible. In 1 Nephi chapter one, Nephi says, he gives us his thesis statement and it's centered on mercy. "I will show unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he has chosen because of their faith." Nephi from the get-go is wanting to say, "Let me show you how merciful God is." There's something to pondering on that truth that God loves his children and he continually reaches out that he so loves the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son and that he wants to save us and redeem us and exalt us, justify and purify, that seems to be what he wants us to really ponder in our hearts. And as people are listening to this right now, I would invite you up front ponder on that truth, that's when these spiritual gifts will open up, where the Spirit will say that is true. And this book is teaching you that truth of a merciful God who reaches and reaches and reaches and never stops reaching.

John Bytheway: 00:18:46 I had a class from [Daniel Ludlow](#), his sons are also religious educators. He was going through verse three and he asked the question, "Where would you learn how merciful the Lord has been from the creation of Adam even down until the time you receive these things?" And he said, "It sounds to me like you have to read the Bible to learn how merciful God has been since the creation of Adam." Then when you ponder it in your hearts as you're saying, fill you with gratitude for the tender mercies and I've got in my margin, gratitude is the gateway to revelation. Gratitude is kind of a twin of humility, wouldn't you say? Then you realize you have a lot of gracious blessings, some tender mercies that come with that.

00:19:29 I've always loved the idea of gratitude. I feel like gratitude is an answer to so many problems. I love that He wants to get us in that frame of mind like he just said, Anthony, of ponder how merciful God has been. And if we're going to learn how merciful He has been since Adam, it's not just going to be in The Book of Mormon, it's going to be through the records of God's mercies in the Bible, wouldn't you say?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:19:55 Yep. It makes me think to the title page too. You are not cast off forever when you ponder these things, these tender mercies. If everybody who's listening just thought, "Has God reached out to me? When I reach to him, does he reach back? Have I felt his mercy with forgiveness, with love and grace and healing?" Where we can say, "Yeah, I need to ponder that in my heart. I really need to let that rest on my soul." The Book of Mormon seems to be shouting to us, God is ever reaching to you as a child of the covenant you are not ever, ever cast off. It's almost

like Moroni is wanting us to think about that, that concept very deeply.

- Hank Smith: 00:20:42 Anthony, since we have a Joseph Smith expert here in you, wasn't this central teaching of the prophet that you have to know God's character. How can you worship a God you don't understand?
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:20:55 That seems to be central to what [Joseph Smith](#) teaches, that's in the lectures on faith that one of the first principles of faith is to know the true character of God. There is something to what Joseph and every prophet who has come to know God, including Moroni here and his father Mormon, they're all saying every woman and every man who has come to know God get to know his character because once you get to know his character, you can really have faith and you can have hope and you can have charity. I don't want to get ahead of us, but that seems to be where Moroni goes too.
- Hank Smith: 00:21:32 If you look at the time The Book of Mormon comes forward in 1830, what is the view of God in Protestant America?
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:21:42 This is really the height of the most classic one is [Jonathan Edwards](#) sinners in the hands of an angry God. No faith is a monolith. But there definitely is some churches out there who are teaching a very merciful God and there are churches who are teaching God who is upset and angry and wrathful and vengeful. And it almost seems that Joseph himself is trying to figure out which God is true and when he goes to a grove of trees to pray, ponder this in your heart for a second, you're praying out loud and Jonathan Edwards is saying things like God abhors you. That's a direct quote. "God abhors you. You are like a spider that he wants to dangle over the pit of hell. He'll consume you in flames." And then Joseph prays and what comes out of heaven? A pillar of fire.
- 00:22:35 No wonder Joseph says, "At first I was afraid." I'm making assumptions here, but maybe Joseph was thinking, "Oh no, Jonathan Edwards was right, God does abhor us." But the very first words of the Restoration are, "Joseph, my son, thy sins are forgiven," according to the 1832 account. Joseph learns from the beginning that God is just, of course, and God has wrath for the rebellious who reject and fight against him, but his mercy knows no end to bring his children to him and to forgive and to lovingly guide, Joseph learns that from day one in a wooded forest in 1820.

Hank Smith: 00:23:24 I thought when he tells his mother, I've learned for myself that Presbyterianism is not true, that he might be saying, I've learned that God actually loves his children.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:23:33 No, that's an interesting insight. Do you remember when he says... In one of his accounts, he says that after the first vision that his heart was filled with the love of God and for many days I could rejoice and the Lord was with me. He's saying, "I've experienced the tender mercies and the love of God and how real that really is."

Hank Smith: 00:23:56 And how excited the Lord must have been to let the world know this is who I am, actually really.

John Bytheway: 00:24:04 That's exactly what I was going to say. One of the accounts where he said, "My soul was filled with love for many days." It's one thing to know, yep, God exists, but wow, the flood of knowledge after the Restoration was and what kind of being is he, and then we get, "Oh, he's merciful. He's loving, he's kind. He's in relentless pursuit of us. All of those things." And still Satan's spin machine is out there, "No, he'll never forgive you. No, God's mad at you. No, you're not worthy for this. No." We have to keep coming back to where we're learning what God is really like, not just that he exists but what is he really like?

Hank Smith: 00:24:44 What advice would both of you give to someone on how to ponder God's mercy? That's the exhortation in verse three. "Remember how merciful the Lord has been from Adam and Eve to you." That's a lot to think on. Take that into your heart.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:25:00 That's a great question. We probably can't help but reflect in our own lives right now. Even in my own life as a teenage boy, I was way more concerned with being cool than I was with being kind. On my mind was being an all-state basketball player, not an all-state priesthood servant. My seminary teacher called my own mother in my sophomore year and said, "Every time your son enters my class the Spirit leaves." That's true. By the way, that's a true story.

John Bytheway: 00:25:31 It's true that he said that or it's true that the Spirit left? Which one?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:25:35 It's true for both. Ponder both of those in your hearts because they're both true. The Lord, he reached out to me in his tender mercies and led me and helped me and encouraged me and I knew I should serve a mission. My mission was a transforming experience for me where I really came to know the Lord, but



when I got home I felt led into religious education. I got hired to be a full-time seminary teacher after I graduated from college. I went to one of my first meetings and there was that same seminary teacher and he saw me and he just goes, "Tony Sweat is that you?" And I went, "Yep." He's like, "Are you a seminary teacher now?" And I just smiled. He just gave me a big hug and he goes, "The church is true. The church is true."

Hank Smith: 00:26:27

The prodigal has returned.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:26:28

The prodigal has returned. That's just one of a thousand stories that I could tell where I've seen the Lord be beyond merciful to me. And to so many that I love and that I've taught and ministered to and served over the years in different callings, part of pondering it in our hearts is what you and I are doing right now. We're reflecting on it, we're talking about it. I sometimes say to all the young men's, young women's leaders out there, "Quit doing the sweet and sour at the start of your class where you're wasting..." Instead of saying, "Hey, give us a sweet and sour, like something positive, something negative," I changed it to sweet and savors.

00:27:14

I said, "Just tell me something sweet about how you've seen the hand of God in your life." And suddenly people still share it. We still got to know the kids just the same but suddenly now they're centering it on how they've seen the hand of the Lord in their life and they start to reflect on his tender mercies is really what they're doing and they're pondering it in their hearts and you start to see the hand of God. That's why [President Eyring](#) told us to keep a journal and write that down because we'll see God reaching, reaching, reaching all the time.

Hank Smith: 00:27:47

John, I've told you this before that I did not get the patriarchal blessing I deserved. The one I deserved was probably, "Hank, it does not look good. You have a lot of unearned confidence." But the one I got was so uplifting, so kind, so you're going to be this, you're going to be that. You can do these great things. Anthony, I'm the same as you and I think back, man, the Lord has been good, beyond good. We've said this before, John, when you ask the Lord for a fork, he gives you the whole house. He says, "What you want is in there."

John Bytheway: 00:28:30

Well, sometimes it can be more than you bargained for. "Hey, which church should I join?" Oh boy, what happened after that? Right? And now we're all sitting here in the inner mountain west. Get a Book of Mormon, go through it and highlight every time you see the Lord's mercy, be life-changing. But if you're

wondering if he's merciful to you or if you feel like you need that mercy, go get a new copy and go through it and mark it.

- Hank Smith: 00:28:56 When we mean God is merciful, we don't mean that God is going to save you from all pain and all trial because I might be out there thinking, "Well, God hasn't been merciful to me. Look at all the difficulties I've faced." How would you teach that mercy and trial and tribulation come together?
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:29:18 This is a really important distinction to make because sometimes we can confuse God's mercy with life being easy and pain-free. I think number one, just theologically we need to understand we're in a fallen world. Let's never forget Jesus's own teaching. The sun shines and the rain falls on the just and the unjust equally. We are going to experience loss, sorrow, pain, difficulty, trial, simply because we're fallen.
- 00:29:49 Now the tender mercy to me is that in the midst of difficulty and challenge and loss and pain and trial, God reaches out through his Holy Spirit and through his divine Son to say, "I see you. You are of worth. You're my child. You're not cast off forever. I love you. Trust me. My Son will forgive you. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will be by you." It doesn't take away the pain. All of us right now, of all the people listening, there's pain, there's hardship, there is in our three lives right now and that doesn't negate the fact that God reaches out through his Holy Spirit and in essence he whispers, "I love you and I'm with you and I'll help you. Ultimately I will redeem you and I will recompense and I will strengthen," and he gives all the promises through Christ. That's the way we ponder on those mercies even in difficulty.
- Hank Smith: 00:30:59 One of the biggest takeaways for me was our episode this year on Mosiah 18 with [Dr. Melissa Inouye](#) who ended up passing away just weeks after we recorded. Two things she taught, one that the fact that God says you're willing to mourn with those that mourn, comfort those in need of comfort and bear one another's burdens says that there's going to be a lot of people that are in need of those things. There's going to be a lot among us who are mourning, a lot among us who have heavy burdens, a lot among us who need comfort. And do you remember what she said, John? She said, "We stand as witnesses of God to those very people, to let them know that God is still there, that maybe they can't see him in those terrible trials, but the fact that we're standing there, stand as a witness of God still loving them in their mourning, in their heavy burden, in their need of comfort."

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:31:58 That's beautiful. Let's not forget in context, Moroni is writing this after he has seen his people wiped out and his father killed and he's been alone for decades. He is telling us, "Remember how merciful the Lord has been." If anybody can speak to mercy in trial, it's Moroni.

Hank Smith: 00:32:22 That is such a good insight that I had not seen Anthony is look at who's writing this. If he can say that in his circumstances, almost anyone could say that.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:32:36 It's so powerful.

John Bytheway: 00:32:38 It'd kind of be like getting a calling and saying, "Well, I'm tired," and then we look at the President of our church and go, "Oh. Well."

Hank Smith: 00:32:49 I looked the other day and saw that I think eight members of the Quorum of the 12 are younger than President Nelson's oldest child. These are just kids.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:33:00 Oh, man.

John Bytheway: 00:33:02 This reminds me of something [Elder Neal A. Maxwell](#) said once. He said, "Therefore, how can you and I really expect to glide naively through life as if to say, 'Lord, give me experience but not grief, not sorrow, not pain, not opposition, not betrayal and certainly not to be forsaken. Keep from me Lord, all those experiences which made thee what thou art. Then let me come and dwell with thee and fully share thy joy.'" First time I saw that I thought of the words of Isaiah about Jesus, a man of sorrows acquainted with grief and I was like, "Yeah, he's outlining all the stuff the Savior went through." But when we're talking about mercy it doesn't mean life is easy. And our friend Brad Wilcox, I loved what he said, that a God who is asking nothing of us is making nothing of us. To make us into what he wants to make us into, we're going to have adversity.

Hank Smith: 00:33:55 I think you're right on there, John. When I read verse three, how merciful the Lord has been and how we tied that back to 1 Nephi and the manual did that, 1 Nephi where Nephi says, "I will show unto you the tender mercies of the Lord." I think of that talk [Elder Bednar](#), the Tender Mercies of the Lord. Now that talk was very impactful for me because I started to look for those in my life and others' lives and you see the Lord is very active in a one-by-one ministry, working with people and timing his blessings for them, tailored to them. Me personally, I would encourage everyone this week to go listen to Elder Bednar, I

think it was his first full talk in general conference, the tender mercies of the Lord and then keep a tender mercy journal that might be part of pondering God's mercy in your heart is keeping track. Anthony, we've been at it a while now and we've gone through a whole three verses, so let's keep going.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:34:57

Let's go from verse four in Moroni's promise and connect it through the spiritual gifts, which is something that often doesn't happen. If you look in verse four, "And when you shall receive these things," and that could be the book or the stories from Adam, the scriptures down or that could be when you receive the Lord's tender mercy, when you understand how much he loves you, "I would exhort you that you would ask God the Eternal Father in the name of Christ if these things are not true. And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart with real intent," which I've heard some interpret as intent to obey the message that comes with real purpose to follow, "Having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you by the power of the Holy Ghost, and by the power of the Holy Ghost you may know the truth of all things."

00:35:50

These are some of the most oft quoted, oft cited, oft shared, oft promised verses in the whole Book of Mormon. I think we do ourselves a disservice though if we stop there. And we can analyze verse four and five more, but while we're going keep going to six and seven and eight and notice when he says you're going to have something manifest to you by the Holy Ghost and he's going to tell us what that should be. In verse six, "Whatsoever thing is good, is just and true. Wherefore nothing that is good denieth the Christ but acknowledges that he is and ye may know that he is by the power of the Holy Ghost. Wherefore," so back to the point, "I would exhort you that you deny not the power of God for he worketh by power according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow and forever. And again, I would exhort you my brother that you deny not the gifts of God."

00:36:53

Now keep coming with me because you're going to see the connection, "For they're many and they come from the same God and there are different ways that these gifts are administered but it is the same God who worketh all in all. And they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit of God unto men to profit them." Now I'm going to pause here. Make sure you make the connection when we're giving Moroni's promise in verse four that he's going to manifest to you. I would highlight or mark that word in verse four. I would connect it to verse eight that that manifestation is going to come through the

gifts of the Holy Ghost, and in particular the gifts of the Spirit that he's now going to list in verses 9-16.

- 00:37:40 If I'm not being clear enough or if Moroni is not being clear enough, let me just try to say it in my own words. Sometimes we do a disservice when we say, "Get The Book of Mormon, pray about it and then pay attention to how you feel." That is one thing we should do. However, that's not what Moroni is telling us to do here. Moroni is saying, "Get The Book of Mormon, ponder these stories, how merciful God's been. Let that rest in your heart. Ask God if that's not true." And one of the ways you're going to know it's true is that he's going to manifest to you through the gifts of the Spirit, certain things in your life that number one in particular in verse six point you to Christ. Instead of asking, how do I feel? Ask, did this point me to Christ?
- 00:38:31 Did this help me to understand the Savior, his teachings, his ministry, his mercy, his grace better? Did it make me love God? And then the second thing we should start to ask is, and did I start to have certain gifts of the Spirit manifest in my life as I read this book? Now we can go into those gifts, but there are things like, man, have I been filled with knowledge? Have I been filled with wisdom? Have I started to see miracles in my life? Have I started to speak with the tongue of angels? I can speak and understand truth? Have I seen healing come to my soul or my mind or my body through these words? That is a broader way of getting a witness of the truthfulness of these things. Then I prayed about it and I got a really powerful spiritual experience.
- 00:39:25 Now, I want to be very clear here, I'm not undercutting that. There have been too many countless saints and friends of the church and people who have read these potent words, who have kneeled down and like [Parley P. Pratt](#), overnight, they have been so filled with spiritual experiences that they know the book's true. There seems to be a broader thing that he's teaching here, that he's saying, "As you're pondering and reading these things, pay attention to the fruits that are produced in your life, not just a feeling." We can't reduce the Holy Ghost down to feeling.
- 00:40:06 I often give what I like to call the tripod of truth, which the Holy Ghost will speak to our mind and our heart as section eight verse two and three says, but it also produces a certain fruit in our life, mind, heart and fruit. By fruit I mean things that are good, more Christ-like and more kind and more merciful and charitable and loving. We have more divine experiences in our

life, more revelations and miracles and gifts and he seems to be saying, when you see these things manifest in your life, you're going to know that what I've taught you in this book about the mercy of God is true.

- John Bytheway: 00:40:47 I love that you could start with in verse six, did it point me to Christ? Thank you for showing me that. That's so good. I remember reading recently about mission president seminars in the church news and how the first presidency was teaching, the point of missionary work is not to add more members to the church. The point is to bring people to Christ and then we hope down the road they'll join the church, but the point is to bring them to Christ. I really like that.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:41:16 Yeah, that's something where we've done a little bit of a disservice I feel like to the current generation where we say, "The Holy Ghost will speak through your thoughts and your feelings." Then they get millions of thoughts and millions of feelings and they don't know how to discern which is theirs and which is from God. A litmus test is instead of only asking what am I thinking and feeling, ask this central question, how is this leading me to learn about and rely upon and love and follow Jesus Christ and become more like him?
- 00:41:53 If what I'm doing, if what I'm learning, if what I'm thinking, if I lay the premise of is it pointing me to Christ to learn of him and become more like him, then that's when you know the Holy Ghost is working in your life. Rather than only asking, what am I thinking and feeling? Moroni seems to be pointing us right from the get-go, "Did you come unto Christ through this book or through this Spirit and if the answer is yes, then that's a manifestation that it's true because Jesus is the truth." "I am the way, the truth, the life."
- Hank Smith: 00:42:27 Wouldn't you say that, yes, the Holy Ghost can manifest through thoughts and feelings but also experiences?
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:42:36 Yes.
- Hank Smith: 00:42:37 You'll see more miracles, you'll feel more healing.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:42:42 The first time I really sought for my own witness of The Book of Mormon, I remember I was expecting to read through the whole book and come to Moroni 10 and kneel down and pray and have my heart be lit on fire. I had what seemed to be an anticlimactic experience when I came to Moroni 7 about how do you judge if things are good or not? The Spirit whispered to

me, "As you've been reading this book for months, your mind has been enlightened. You have felt repeatedly the influence of the Spirit. You're more full of love, you're more patient, you're more kind, you're more willing to serve. You feel stronger. You have more hope. You don't need to even kneel down and ask me if this is true, you already know. You just had an experience as you pondered all these things in your heart over the last few months." I didn't even need to kneel down when I got to Moroni 10 because I had had an experience where these fruits of the Spirit, these gifts of the Spirit have been made manifest in my life.

Hank Smith: 00:43:50

I have learned for myself, I have seen for myself, I have experienced for myself and I would add, John, a statement we've used before, a person with an experience is never at the mercy of a person with an opinion.

John Bytheway: 00:44:08

And I'm thinking of Sariah. Sariah didn't say, "Now I know because I had a burning in the bosom, now I know because I felt right." She said, "Now I know the Lord hath commanded my husband because her boys came over the hill with the plates of brass." And for her it was an experience. Maybe she had other experiences too. I think that's another thing Anthony, I'm glad you said is that there are some people who have knelt down after reading it, but for a lot of people it might be different. I didn't learn by a feeling I learned by an experience that I had or I went on a mission and I learned in the process of that mission or something like that. The Lord has all sorts of different ways he can communicate with us.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:44:51

And this is why it's so important that acknowledging all of those who do have that immediate experience, but sometimes if we say to people, read this book or these chapters and then pray about it, and then the next day we say, "So, what was..." And if they're like, "Well, nothing yet." Well, let's not let that rattle our faith or don't let that rattle their faith either if we're understanding that the fruits of the Spirit, they take time to grow. Sometimes things take time to manifest in our life, which is why we have to keep exercising faith.

00:45:29

What we need to do is instead of getting disheartened, encourage them to stay in these beautiful powerful words of this Book of Mormon and over process of time, it will swell in their hearts. It will enlighten their minds. It will become sweet and they'll taste and they'll have their own experience where they can say, "Yeah, I do know that this is true." And that's why we have to connect verse Moroni 3 to 5 with the list of spiritual

gifts of pointing to Christ in verse six and the list of spiritual gifts because we're looking for these fruits.

00:46:08 I one time did a summary of the gifts of the Spirit in one of the books that I wrote, and I'm just going to read a quick summary so that people can see what kind of fruits we should be looking for. In verse nine, Moroni says to teach the word of wisdom. This is the spiritual gift to correctly apply knowledge and to understand the proper course of action to take because The Book of Mormon helped what course of action to take. That's wisdom or you might have the gift to teach the word of knowledge. Now, Moroni is adding teach, some of it could be I have the gift to teach these things, but the word of knowledge is in my mind the spiritual gift to study and learn and understand and retain truth. Has The Book of Mormon helped you to understand and retain more truth in your life or verse 11, exceedingly great faith to be healed?

00:47:06 We often think of physical healing, but I would add a definition this way. This is a spiritual gift to deeply trust in the Lord even in the most trying of circumstances resulting in spiritual, emotional, and physical healing. Has The Book of Mormon and its words helped you to learn to trust in the Lord and had His Spirit heal your soul in some way or even a miraculous physical healing? Verse 11, the gift of healing. To me, that's the spiritual gift, to be a conduit to pass on the healing effects of the Holy Ghost to other people who are in spiritual, emotional and physical pain. Has The Book of Mormon helped you ever know what to say or what to share or what to quote or teach that brought healing to somebody else physically, spiritually, or emotionally? Verse 12, the working of mighty miracles. I wrote, this is the spiritual gift to cause the heavens to listen to your voice and bring the seemingly impossible into effect.

00:48:09 Has the words and teachings of The Book of Mormon ever helped bring miraculous things that you did not think were possible into your life or the life of others? Verse 13, the gift to prophesy of all things, the spiritual gift to see into the future catching glimpses of what is yet to come, to prepare you. Has The Book of Mormon or through the spirit of that book, has it helped you to catch a glimpse of what you need to do that's coming in order to prepare or to serve or to live or to be better? Verse 14, beholding of angels and ministering spirits. That's the spiritual gift to part the veil to commune with the divine and to discern what is and is not of God. Has The Book of Mormon helped you to do that where you felt like the ministering of angels and the spirit and the part and the veil has gotten thin when you've been in these potent words?



- 00:49:04 Verse 15, "All kinds of tongues." Now, we often think of this as speaking other languages and I don't want to shortchange it, that's part of it, but broader the spiritual gift to speak in a celestial language, to express heavenly concepts or to clearly communicate gospel truths in a way that's understandable to those that do not speak and understand the way that you do. You can have the gift of tongues English to English or Spanish to Spanish. It doesn't have to be English to Spanish or Spanish to English.
- 00:49:37 Has The Book of Mormon ever given you phrases and ways and words and concepts so that you could communicate in ways that are understandable? And then last, the interpretation of languages and all kinds of tongues in verse 16. I wrote down the spiritual gift to translate, understand and correctly interpret what has been spoken by others as they spoke it under the influence of the Spirit. Have you ever heard these words and gone, "Oh man, I get it"? Those are some, there's diverse ways as the scriptures say that the Spirit can manifest these things. But those are the kind of things that we should be looking for as we've studied these words, to know that God is working and pointing to us to truth in what Moroni and Mormon and Nephi and others have written.
- Hank Smith: 00:50:29 Anthony, that is wonderful. To tie what we call Moroni's promise to the gifts of the Spirit, that's a life-changing insight to me. Now, you can point out all the different ways that the Holy Ghost will manifest instead of pinpointing a certain experience, kind of saying, "This is what will happen." It's more of, "Okay, what happened to you?"
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:50:55 "What happened? How did you see it?" As I was prepping to talk with you guys today, the Spirit led me to connect those two. As I was asking why did Moroni go from his promise to these gifts of the Spirit? I started to see that connection almost like, "Don't pigeonhole me." And it's important in verse 17, all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ and they come unto every man severally according as he will.
- Hank Smith: 00:51:22 Severally.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:51:23 And there's a lot of ways that we can unpack that, meaning there are several gifts, there's several ways that this can be manifest, to use that word, but it will be a manifestation if you're looking for it in some way. And the other thing that I would just as a total side tangent right here. Notice how many times he says, by the Spirit, by the Spirit, by the Spirit. Verse 17, the Spirit of Christ. These are spiritual gifts, meaning they come

by virtue of the Holy Ghost. If somebody out there reads Moroni 10 and goes, "Oh, good, we're going to have a lesson on spiritual gifts." Let's not confuse the gifts that come from the Holy Ghost with our talents that we develop over time and practice.

00:52:08 Now, the Holy Ghost can enhance those, but if you want to litmus test, if something is a gift of the Spirit, ask yourself this question. If I lose the Spirit, do I lose the ability? If the answer is yes, then you know it's a gift of the Spirit and the beauty of that is it means that any of these gifts can be given to anyone. You don't have to have a particular talent set with your fingers to have this gift. God can give these gifts to anybody severally as he will.

Hank Smith: 00:52:42 One of my favorite references to the Holy Ghost is in Doctrine and Covenants 11 verses 12 and 13, easy to remember. 11, 12, 13.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:52:48 11, 12, 13.

Hank Smith: 00:52:51 Where the Lord says, "Put your trust in that Spirit, which leadeth to do good, to do justly," which I think to have integrity, "To walk humbly and to judge righteously." He bookends it with, "This is my Spirit." So here's the Spirit. These few things, this is my Spirit. For a youth, I might be able to maybe simplify this just a little bit and say, "As you've read The Book of Mormon, have you wanted to do more good? Have you wanted to be more honest? Have you wanted to be more humble and teachable?" That could be Anthony, a manifestation of the Spirit.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:53:28 I love that. That is such a great way to put it in a palatable language for somebody. Have you felt to be kinder, more loving, more just? Hank, as you were saying that I had an experience when I was a teenager where I used to have a bad temper, if you can believe that or not. One time I got so mad at my parents over something and I stormed down to my room in the basement and slammed the door, and as I was huffing and puffing, I actually grabbed some stuff and threw it and knocked some things over, and I reached to grab something in anger and I happened to pick up my scriptures. I had enough sense to not throw my scriptures, and so instead I just sat down with them on my bed at the edge of my bed in a huff, and I opened them up and I started reading The Book of Mormon.

00:54:28 Now, it was totally unintentional, but as I read The Book of Mormon, I suddenly got lost in its words. I still to this day remember the Spirit that came over me and the Spirit that came

over me was exactly what you just said. It replaced my angry, wrathful, vengeful spirit, violent spirit that was in me with the spirit to do good. Suddenly I felt calm, I felt repentant, I felt apologetic. I felt a need to be teachable. I remember I went up and apologized, and that was a fruit of The Book of Mormon. Now, that didn't give me my testimony of the book, but that's an example of that's the Spirit, the leads to do good of a manifestation of it.

Hank Smith: 00:55:22 I can hear a missionary or a youth when someone says, "Well, I know Joseph Smith is a sinner," and they say something similar to the blind man. "Well, whether he is a sinner or not, I know not." Here's what I know. I was reading The Book of Mormon and here's what happened.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:55:40 I love it.

Hank Smith: 00:55:41 Anthony, I'd like to go backwards to verse four, the famous verse four. And I'd like to ask you what you think it means when Moroni adds, "Ask if these things are not true, and if you will ask with a sincere heart, with real intent having faith in Christ," that's sometimes missing from our Moroni's challenge. Read it, pray about it, the Holy Ghost will tell you. Well, there's a little bit more. Pray about it with a sincere heart, with real intent having faith in Christ. Any thoughts?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:56:15 It's a little bit like sometimes when we have discussions with students, you can tell the ones that are sincerely wanting to understand and sometimes it's more rare luckily, but the ones who are just trying to dig in their heels or prove a point or that they're not to be moved, they've made up their mind. There's not a real intent to obey the truth, there's an intent to prove their point. I do think there's something here where the Lord has to say, "Hey, when you're exploring the tender mercies of God, you've got to lay every weapon of war down and be willing to accept the truth even if it's contrary to what you had supposed."

00:57:04 Otherwise, I've had those experiences before where I can tell people just want to fight or they just want to prove a point or defend. But if I can sense that somebody doesn't have an intent to understand, then I don't even have the conversation. And on a broader level, I could almost see the Lord going, "You're not in the right spirit of faith or willingness to obey what I'm going to tell you, so I'll have that conversation later when you're ready."

John Bytheway: 00:57:33 I'm reminded of Alma 32, "Have you given place?" You creating a space, could this possibly be true? I would love to know this.

Some people I think have already made up their minds that I don't want to believe this, and so I'll say that I prayed about it. That doesn't sound like a sincere heart with real intent.

- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:57:55 Until you're getting at the point of I will give away all my sins to know thee.
- John Bytheway: 00:57:59 The King Lamoni's father thing.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:58:01 Then the Lord starts to say, "Okay, let me manifest to you then," when you're at that point.
- John Bytheway: 00:58:07 Getting your heart right, we've got the gratitude, how merciful God has been and then getting to this point where I sincerely want to know and I really intend to change if I need to, and here's all the ways the Lord could manifest that to you. I love that.
- Hank Smith: 00:58:25 One of my earliest memories of the profound experience with the Holy Ghost, I was in high school, I think ninth or 10th grade, I was doing what my seminary teacher had taught me to do, which is read The Book of Mormon, ask about it. I would read and then I would kneel down and ask about it, and I was almost giving God his cue. Like, "I'm kneeling down, God, tell me if this is true. Hit it. I am ready. Music, angels, here we go. I'm ready." And nothing would ever happen. I remember once falling asleep and waking up still kneeling down, and I think honestly, I gave up after a while thinking, "Well, I don't know what that's about." Well, then my dad had this odd thing that he would do when I called him for a ride. This is back when the phone was attached to the house.
- 00:59:17 When I say, "Dad, can you come pick me up?" He'd say, "Yep. On my way, start walking." I don't know why he'd say that because I wouldn't cover very much ground, but maybe he just wanted to give me time to walk, I don't know. This one time it was late at night, I said, "Dad, can you come pick me up?" So I started walking. I'm all alone. I wasn't thinking about God, give me an answer, I was more thinking about life. I was looking up at the stars, thinking about life and wondering about what's my place? Do I have a place? Then I received what I was looking for. It was overwhelming, I still remember it.
- 00:59:59 I think the Lord was saying, "Oh now, now it's a sincere heart. Now it's real intent. Don't force me into a moment." I don't know exactly how to explain that, John, but that was a moment for me of sincere heart, real intent, and wow it was real and it

was powerful. I've had many experiences like that since then, but that moment was overwhelming to me. Oh, and I'll tell you this, I got home, went to my bedside and said, "Okay, let's do that again." And nothing, nothing. Like, ah, yep.

John Bytheway: 01:00:38 Well, he'll answer you in his own time. And sometimes it's not until the fourth watch, to use another metaphor, when you don't expect it. But say it again, Hank, you were thinking about life and?

Hank Smith: 01:00:52 Life, my place in it.

John Bytheway: 01:00:53 That's awesome.

Hank Smith: 01:00:55 And I think The Book of Mormon caused me to think about those things more. It had to be sincere. And maybe it was sincere before, but it was also just curious, like a curious heart. Like, "Hey, is this going to work? Right. Am I going to get one of those experiences that everybody talks about?" And I think the Lord's like, "Look, I'm not here to satisfy your curiosity." And I like what both of you said there too. I intend to do everything that comes with the answer I'm seeking.

John Bytheway: 01:01:28 That's an act in faith type of thing.

Hank Smith: 01:01:30 Yeah. Wouldn't you both say, if I don't intend to do what comes with this answer, wouldn't you say it's merciful for the Lord to not give me?

John Bytheway: 01:01:37 To not tell you, because he'd be accountable.

Hank Smith: 01:01:42 Right. He's like, "Oh, you don't intend to do anything or you don't intend to do what would come with this. So I don't think it's wise to give you this answer right now." And maybe that's one thing we need to teach is you need to be ready to do everything that comes with that answer. Think about it. Think, am I ready to do everything that comes with?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:02:03 That willingness, that readiness to respond to the revelation that comes through the gift of the Spirit. I love that Moroni takes a cue here from other great writers like Paul and as the Lord's going to reveal to Joseph in section 46, and he's obviously going to take this from his father. In Moroni 7, he quotes the sermon by his father at the synagogue about faith, hope, and charity. And the greatest gifts as the Apostle Paul says, are faith, hope, and charity. I could have all of these experiences or these gifts, these miraculous divine interventions in my life, but

ultimately if they don't leave me to have faith and hope and charity, then I am nothing.

- 01:02:51 He says in verse 19, "I would exhort you my beloved brethren that you remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away even as long as the world shall stand only according to the belief of the children of men. So wherefore, there must be faith and if there be faith, there must be hope. And if there must be hope, there must also be charity. And except ye have charity, ye can in no wise be saved in the kingdom of God. Neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God if ye have not faith, neither can ye if ye have no hope."
- 01:03:40 I just want to touch on those a little bit because those are the three great gifts Doctrine and Covenants Section four says that those are what qualify us to do the work of the Lord, faith, hope, charity and love with an eye single to the glory of God qualify us for the work. In Ether it says, "Faith, hope, and charity bringeth unto me the fountain of all righteousness." Alma says, "See that ye have faith, hope, and charity and ye will always abound in good works." These are the gifts. Moroni told us quoting his Father Mormon to pray with all of the energy of soul that were filled with these three gifts.
- 01:04:19 Sometimes in being somebody who loves art and usually in Christian art, faith, hope, and charity, they're always portrayed as female. They're usually called the three sisters. I love that because it's trying to teach us something about these three great gifts. My three oldest children are girls and they're all adults now. But when I teach about this, I'll put up a picture of my three girls and I'll say, "These are my three oldest daughters and guess what their names are," and inevitably I just set the students up and they'll go, "Faith, Hope and Charity?" And I'll go, "No, Lauren, Reagan and Jane. But if you want to name your girls Faith, Hope, and Charity, you go right ahead."
- 01:05:04 I show them that because I'm like, "Do you see how my three daughters are each unique, but you can tell they're related in the same way the gifts of faith, hope, and charity are related?" If you have faith, it will produce hope. If you have hope, then you'll experience charity. They're different gifts, but they're related. I like to define faith as trust-based action in Christ. Hope is a personal assurance that God will fulfill his promises to us through Christ. Charity is having a loving relationship with God through the grace of Christ. They're all centered in Christ, but one of them is trust, one of them leads to hope in the promises, and one of them leads to love. I give the analogy of

jumping off the edge of the pool to your parent. When you place a little kid on the edge of the pool and you say, jump to me, and you create that little gap so they're a little bit nervous and they don't want to drown and be dropped, and you encourage and encourage and encourage, but you leave a little bit of that discomfort.

01:06:26 Faith is to have such confidence and trust that you will leap. You will take that step into the unknown because you trust the person and you trust Christ. In this analogy, he's the father in the water. And then hope is when you are caught, you know that he is good for his promises, you know he will support and deliver what he's promised. That's the gift of hope. Charity is feeling that loving embrace, that hug that I love you, you're my child. If you have those three, you will do the work of the Lord, you will always abound in good works and it will lead you to the fountain of all righteousness. Now, that's why he says, if you don't, in verse 22, you're going to be in despair. If you're not having faith, hope and charity, it's only because of wickedness. You're not willing to trust God, you're not willing to act. You're not willing to take those steps because otherwise you would know of his promises and of his love.

Hank Smith: 01:07:34 Don't the scriptures say that charity is the greatest of all? So I think your three daughters are going to ask you after this, "Which one am I?" Anthony, I remember you telling me once it was years ago, you said, the difference between faith and hope to you was Christ can save everyone. That's faith.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:07:56 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 01:07:56 Hope, do you remember?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:07:58 Yeah, it's Christ will save me. Faith says God answers prayers. Hope says God answers my prayers. It's personal. This is the tree of life. I step onto the path in trust. I grab onto the rod of these promises and I eat of that fruit, that love of God. We don't often say it that way, but Lehi ate charity and it filled his soul with love. The reason why we sometimes confuse charity with loving other people and doing charitable actions is because the moment Lehi ate the love of God, what did he want to do? He inherently wanted to share it.

01:08:44 Moroni 7:45 is giving us the effects of charity that when you taste the love of God, then you'll suffer long and be kind and envy not, and be not puffed up, and you won't be selfish and you won't be easily provoked. That's not saying try with a lot of mental energy to do those things. He seems to be saying, taste

of the love of God, taste of the fruit of the tree of life. And if you get that in your soul back to fruits of the Spirit, the greatest fruit will be charity and you'll find yourself full of patience and long-suffering and gentleness and meekness and love unfeigned.

- Hank Smith: 01:09:29 Both of you remember the Challenge to Become one of the most quoted talks from [President Oaks](#) back in 2000. He quotes Moroni here, the reason charity never fails, and the reason charity is greater than even the most significant acts of goodness, is that charity, the pure love of Christ is not an act, but a condition or state of being. Charity is something one becomes.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:09:58 Yes. Amen. That's spot on.



## Moroni 10 Part 2

GUEST: DR. ANTHONY R. SWEAT



- Hank Smith: 00:01 Welcome to part two of Dr. Anthony Sweat, Moroni 10.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:06 The Bible Dictionary has a really interesting entry on charity where it says, "The scriptures never describe charity as acts of alms giving towards others. It's a condition." Charity, as [President Oaks](#) said there, it is the state of being. The root word, as some have heard before, is agape, which that's been used in different ways, but the definition of it literally is the fatherly love of God toward His children and their love for Him in return.
- 00:36 The reason why I believe charity is the greatest of all the gifts of God is because charity is the greatest gift that changes us to become like God. When we dwell in this condition of love with God, it refines our souls. It sanctifies and purifies and changes us into being more Christlike. That's why at the last day, whoever has charity, it will be well with her or him because you will be more Christlike. You'll be dwelling in their love.
- 01:06 Heaven isn't so much a location as it is an ability or heaven is a capacity more than a locality. If we're going to live God's life, we have to be like God. We have to have become or become endowed with His characteristics, His qualities. The reason why you and I are going to be in despair, as Moroni is saying here, is if you don't have faith, you won't have hope, and if you don't have hope, you won't have charity, and then without charity, you cannot become like God, therefore you can't be in His kingdom. That seems to be the logic of what he's trying to teach us here.
- 01:45 Faith, hope and charity have been a real defining thing in my life because the opposite of faith, in my view, is fear. Faith impels us to act and trust. Fear causes us to freeze and not act. The opposite of hope is doubt, and by doubt, I don't mean I don't understand or I have questions or this bothers me. Doubt is I'm doubting God and specifically, I'm doubting the Son of God and His promises that He's made to the world, and let's never confuse that Jesus Himself said, "Look unto me in every

thought, doubt not, fear not." He's telling us to not fear and to not doubt.

02:35 And then the third, the opposite of charity is pride. Faith, hope and charity will lead me and you unto the fountain of all righteousness, to the tree of life. Fear, doubt and pride will lead us right into the filthy waters of hell and the great and spacious building. And a litmus test for me, I ask myself constantly because if I'm being honest, I feel fear in my life sometimes. Fearful narratives start to take hold and I start to wonder and sometimes I start to question and doubt enters in and I start to lose hope.

03:15 Then sometimes frankly, I'm very prideful and I'm very selfish and I worry about my glory and my way and my will. When I catch myself in those moments, what I ask myself often is I literally pray and I say, "Help me to have faith here and not be led by fear. Help me to have hope. Bless me with gifts of your divine promises and to not listen to any doubts. Help me to have charity and not be filled with pride." That has been a great litmus test for me to try to keep me on the right path.

03:58 And one of the reasons why I know the Book of Mormon is true is because the Book of Mormon is a story. Really, the whole book is people having faith, acting in faith, receiving promises in hope, and then what's the pinnacle of the Book of Mormon? Jesus coming and them tasting the love of God and charity. The whole book is faith, hope, and charity. When I study the Book of Mormon, it fills me with faith, hope and charity. That is a manifestation to me that this book is true.

Hank Smith: 04:33 Can you imagine if you made this list? You put them in three different columns, faith, hope, and charity, then go through the Book of Mormon. List how many times you see those manifested by any person in the Book of Mormon. It'd be an unending list. So you're right. I mean, the book is filled with faith, hope and charity.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 04:52 It really is. My wife one time said that to me. She said, "This book is actually a story of faith, hope and charity." The whole book is. Sometimes when I try to work not only with myself but when I work with others, I'll often ask them, "What are you afraid of with this?" because that actually gets to the root of what's getting in the way of their faith, and then I'll ask, "Tell me what promises of Christ we could rely on right now with what's bothering you." With charity, I'll say something like, "What would a loving God say about this rather than our prideful selves say about this?" And that helps to push towards the great

gifts rather than being blinded and distracted by the terrible triplets of fear, doubt and pride.

- Hank Smith: 05:50 The terrible triplets.
- John Bytheway: 05:51 The terrible triplets.
- Hank Smith: 05:54 If you have three daughters, don't name them.
- John Bytheway: 05:56 Don't name them Fear, Doubt and Pride, "This is my daughter Pride."
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 06:03 In 24, 25, 26, that's why he goes off a little bit on, "Let me speak to all the ends of the earth. If the day cometh that the power and gifts of God," these things that he's just talked about, "are done away with, it's because of unbelief." Let me give an Anthony Sweat translation. If these things aren't happening, it's because you're not trusting and you're not acting in faith and you're not knowing the promises and you're not accepting the love of God, and if that's happening, it's because in 25, you're not doing any good because if you were doing good in faith, you would experience these powerful gifts, and if you're not doing any good in verse 26 and trusting Christ, then you're going to die in your sins and you can't be saved in the kingdom of God because you are not following this pattern and receiving this power and these gifts. And I'm not lying to you. I love in verse 26, "And I lie not." This is the gospel verity truth.
- Hank Smith: 07:08 "I lie not."
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 07:08 When he gets done, he's like, "You guys, I promise you this is true, and if these things have been done away, it's because you've lost faith and you've lost hope and you've lost charity and you're not having a sincere heart with faith in Christ or not having real intent, and if that's the case, then you're going to die in your sins." This is a warning right here by Moroni.
- Hank Smith: 07:35 And it's not a threat, it's a, "Please don't," right? It's a, "Oh, you don't want this."
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 07:42 Yeah, that's a better way to say it, Hank. Yeah, it's not a threat. It's just like, "Please."
- Hank Smith: 07:48 "I know how this movie ends."
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 07:51 "I've seen this movie."

Hank Smith:	07:53	Anthony, it looks to me like of the exhortations you showed us, we've got two left, 27 and 30. Are we ready for those?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	08:03	Let's exhort the last two times.
Hank Smith:	08:07	Let's do some exhorting.
John Bytheway:	08:09	We haven't exhausted our exhortations.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	08:13	27, he says, "And I exhort you to remember these things." It's almost like everything that I've just taught you, remember them, and then he's going to turn it personal, "For the time speedily cometh that ye shall know that I lie not for ye shall see me at the bar of God and the Lord God will say unto you, 'Did I not declare my words unto you?' which were written by this man like as one crying from the dead. Yea even as one speaking out of the dust," did something really interesting here. He turned to personal to say, "I'm not lying to you. Trust me," and then he's going to do something really cool that he is going to in essence say, "Don't just trust me. Trust every one of the writers and the prophets, my people in this book who have been teaching you these same things."
John Bytheway:	09:09	It struck me one day reading this, "Did I not declare my words unto you?" He's talking to people who have had a chance to read the Book of Mormon because some have never seen these words. He's talking to us and everybody who has had a chance, "Didn't I tell you? Didn't I declare my words unto you which were written by this man?" And there's Moroni standing there with his author's copy going, "I told you to read it." President Benson next to him with his newly autographed copy, right? "I did. I told you to read it." I've always thought that's interesting. This is people who have had a chance to read it that you would not ask that question unless they'd had a chance to read it.
Hank Smith:	09:50	And you wonder how many copies of the Book of Mormon are in the spirit world.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	09:54	Martin Harris is off still looking for the lost 116 pages in the spirit world. That's what he's doing.
Hank Smith:	09:59	He's walking around each person he knew, "Come on. I know you had something to do with it."
John Bytheway:	10:03	Oh, that is so funny. I've never thought of that. He's looking around up there, "Who had it last? Who did it? Who did it? Lucy, fess up. Tell me."

Hank Smith: 10:11 "Come here." Anthony, I think you're more than right on there that he starts calling back previous prophets because what you just read, verse 27, that is a direct quote from the last sermon of Nephi, one of the very last things that Nephi wrote, 2 Nephi 33:13, "I speak unto you as the voice of one crying from the dust." That is on purpose. That is not a, "Wow, he just happened to use the same words."

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 10:50 Yeah, and this is one of the brilliant contributions that we should acknowledge from [Grant Hardy](#) in his classic book on the Book of Mormon. This is sometimes called the curtain call where Moroni seems to be doing something that is really brilliant writing here, where he's going to now bring in and say, "I'm going to subtly quote all these other major prophets in the Book of Mormon," beginning there with that direct quote from Nephi.

Hank Smith: 11:20 You get another one in verse 29, "And God shall show unto you that which I have written is true." Little bit further down, "Lay hold upon every good gift that is right from his own Father." [Moroni 7:25](#), "Lay hold upon every good thing," then skip to Moroni 7:35, "God will show unto you with power and great glory at the last day that they are true." Isn't this incredible and I can't tell you how many times before I read this from Dr. Hardy. I've read Moroni 10, never saw it.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 11:57 I never saw it either until I read his book. This is incredible, particularly when you bear in mind that Joseph would've translated Moroni 10, then gone around the horn. He's not going to finish the translation on Moroni 10. He's then going to go back and say, "What do we do with the lost pages?" and then he'll translate from the small plate of Nephi, which Moroni 10 is quoting, so he's quoting things before they were translated.

Hank Smith: 12:27 Yeah. He translates 1 Nephi, 2 Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jarom, Omni after Moroni 10.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 12:34 So if Joseph is making this up, Joseph is going to go, "I've got a brilliant idea. I'm going to end Moroni 10 with a bunch of different phrases and then I'm going to remember those phrases, and as I write 1 Nephi 1 through Omni, I'm going to subtly weave those in with different authors all the way through." That'll be brilliant.

Hank Smith: 12:52 Yeah, and right at the end of their writings, "Oh, I got to save it for the end-

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 12:57 For the end.

Hank Smith: 12:58 If you don't mind it, I'm going to keep going. Moroni 10:31, "Awake and arise from the dust." Now, if you've read 2 Nephi, which a lot of us have, you know who that is. That's right at the very end of Lehi's life. He's speaking to Laman and Lemuel. 2 Nephi 1:14, "Awake and arise from the dust." I'm having too much fun here. I'm going to keep taking these right after what we just quoted there with Lehi, "O Jerusalem, put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion, and strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever." He doubles up on that one. He's quoting Isaiah and Jesus quoting Isaiah. That's straight out of 3 Nephi 22:2, "Enlarge the place of thy tent, stretch forth thy curtains, lengthen the cords and strengthen thy stakes." Man, this is incredible.

13:58 Verse 32 of Moroni 10, "come unto Christ," and that's actually not from Omni, who I think calls himself a wicked man. It's in the book of Omni, but it's from Amaleki who gives the plates to King Benjamin. If you're not already amazed, there's two more. Go down to verse 34, Moroni's last verse. He says, "Now I bid unto all farewell." Hold that one for a minute. He says, "I soon go to rest in the paradise of God." Go right back to Enos, right at the very end of Enos' writing verse 27, "I soon go to the place of rest which is with my Redeemer," and then going backwards, the first line of verse 34, "And now I bid unto all farewell," skip down, "I am brought forth triumphant through the air to meet you before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah." That is Jacob 6, again, right at the end of the writing of Jacob. Jacob 6:13, "Finally, I bid you farewell until I should meet you before the pleasing bar of God."

15:08 I mean, it's overwhelming. It is so good to see that and that how well written, Anthony, you said this is that he would go back at the very end and quote these small plate prophets, Jesus, Isaiah and his own father.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 15:29 I almost picture Moroni having this flash of inspiration going, "How should I finish this out? Man, you know what I should do? Lehi, pop in one more line. Nephi, pop in one more line. Enos, pop in one more line. Isaiah and Jesus, quoting you one more line. Jacob, come on in one more line." It's brilliant. That's why I like that it's been called the curtain call because it's bringing out these great major players that have testified of these things. You get to see Moroni going, "This would be a great way to wrap up." It's really brilliant, beautiful writing.

- 16:05 When you sit down and think of writing and construction and how things are put together, whether somebody does or doesn't accept the Book of Mormon as the word of God, these people today are going, "Joseph Smith is a genius," even if they're not willing to accept him as a prophet because if Joseph is the author of this, that's really good writing from somebody who, by the way, when Jonathan Hadley printed his discussion with Joseph when Joseph asked him to print the Book of Mormon, Jonathan Hadley didn't realize he was bearing his testimony when he criticized him because he wrote, "It seems unlikely that Smith, very illiterate."
- 16:47 That's a contemporary 1829. How many people have you met in your life that the way you summarize them was very illiterate? The new neighbors move in, you're like, "Have you met the Johnsons?" "Oh, yeah, that super illiterate guy," and then all of a sudden a book like this comes out and suddenly they're like, "Oh, okay. This isn't very illiterate. This is really beautiful, powerful writing," and obviously, you and I and millions of others know that this book is from God and is true, but at minimum, I think those who are taking the Book of Mormon more seriously are going, "This book has levels and layers and construction and purpose that's beyond the random ramblings and writings of an illiterate man."
- Hank Smith: 17:36 I think that's what the Lord said to him. Didn't he say, "Joseph," kind of a mean thing to say, but he said, "I chose you so everyone would know it was me," right? "We're all in the same boat, and I chose you so everyone would know it was me." I don't love the idea of basing my testimony or anyone basing their testimony on, "Oh, well Joseph Smith couldn't have done this," because that might convince you, but it doesn't convert you, the words convert you. This is impossible to not at least recognize.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 18:10 Our good friend John Hilton III often says something like, "Now, I wouldn't base my testimony on this," but it can strengthen. It's empowering to go, "Man, that's really fascinating." Our testimonies are based on things more profound than the construction of a chapter, but when you see a construction like that that's deliberate and purposeful, it can really reinforce what the Lord's already taught you that this is really being written by somebody who has a deep purpose to bring you to Christ.
- Hank Smith: 18:41 You can tell he loves the small plates like his father did. He's been reading the letters of his father. You can get some insights into his life. I think [President Eyring](#) said the more you read the

scriptures, the more they become part of you, your vocabulary, the way you think, the way you see the world.

- John Bytheway: 19:00 I wouldn't base my testimony on this, but if you can go from I doubt to I wonder, that is such a huge step in gaining a sincere heart, going from I don't believe it to will I doubt it and then go to maybe I wonder and that's maybe giving place and then you can say, "Could this possibly be true?" And then if you can know more than desire to believe, I like to say a testimony is like a dimmer switch where it keeps coming up a little bit. You go to I wonder and then I desire to believe, as Alma said. If I could just stop in a couple of verses because you know I love Isaiah, but in verse 31, okay, you guys, this is my age. My mission call was over the signature of Spencer W. Kimball. So we're going back, right?
- Hank Smith: 19:48 Right.
- John Bytheway: 19:49 President Kimball used to talk about the threefold mission of the church. Does that ring a bell?
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 19:54 Oh, yeah, of course.
- John Bytheway: 19:55 Which is proclaim the gospel, perfect the saints, redeem the dead. Look at Isaiah's threefold mission of the church here, put on thy beautiful garments, a salvation for the dead in holy places, right? Strengthen thy stakes, that's another way of saying perfect the saints. Enlarge thy borders is another way of saying proclaim the gospel.
- Hank Smith: 20:17 Proclaim the gospel, wow.
- John Bytheway: 20:20 It's participate in the mission of the church. He's exhorting us. It's another exhort maybe, right? Now, President Monson added later care for the poor and needy and the latest handbook speaks of the works of salvation with four words. It's really nice the way they've done it now, live, care, invite, unite. Live the gospel of Jesus Christ, care for those in need and I like in need instead of just the poor and needy, but it's because sometimes you're not in need that way, but you're in need another way. Invite all to come unto Christ, there's the proclaim the gospel missionary part, and unite families for eternity. That's a lot nicer way than saying redeem the dead, unite families for eternity.
- 21:06 The work of salvation is there, which I think is kind of cool that he would say that. And then another thing I was going to



mention, every year the youth have a new scriptural theme. This year, it's I'm a disciple of Jesus Christ. Just for fun using the search engine that your library app has, how many times did the scriptures actually say, "Come unto Christ"? You guys, there weren't as many as I thought. There was, I want to say four. There might've been five, but come unto me where Jesus was talking himself or being quoted, there were 28, but what I thought was really wonderful was [Elder David A. Bednar](#) said once, "The central and recurring theme of the Book of Mormon is the invitation to come unto Christ and be perfected in him."

21:50 Well, of the 28 come unto me references that I found, guess how many were in the Book of Mormon? 25, 25 of the 28. Elder Bednar's right. The central and recurring theme is the invitation to come unto Christ, and if you've read lots of Elder Bednar, you know he's going to talk about invitations to act. That Book of Mormon thumps you and says, "I'm talking to you and I'm inviting you," and here we are. Three verses from the end, it's inviting us again.

Hank Smith: 22:22 John, if you don't mind, I've heard you talk about this many times. Come unto Christ and be perfected in Him and you've talked about getting the order right.

John Bytheway: 22:33 Imagine you remembering that. There's a sequence here. It's so important with young people. I show them some examples of bad sequences like ready, fire, aim or open, shake well or rinse, repeat, lather, right? No, no, no. That's the wrong order, right? Hank, if you've seen me, you know I show this football player who quarterback was telegraphing his pass and this linebacker saw it and he intercepted the ball, took it to the end zone, and just before he got into the end zone, he dropped the ball so he could do his celebration and the referees just stood there and watched the ball roll out of bounds and called a touchback and gave it back to the other team.

23:18 So the sequence is super important and all of that is so that I could say, "Look at the sequence. Come unto Christ right now." This is a come as you are invitation and be perfected in him. It is not be perfect because you're not worthy to come yet. That's the wrong sequence. It's come unto Christ, come as you are, come wherever you are. It's not about distance, it's about direction. Just come wherever you are and the perfection process is only possible because of him and let him start to work in you.

Hank Smith: 23:54 That is just critical, John.

John Bytheway:	23:57	Yeah.
Hank Smith:	23:57	Anthony has said this before when he's taught. If we get just one thing, if we get just this.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	24:04	If we can just take that one thing, our time will have been well spent.
Hank Smith:	24:08	Right. Come unto Christ, that's first. Be perfected, that's second. Way too often it's, "Okay. As soon as I'm perfect, I'm going to come."
John Bytheway:	24:20	"Then I'll come."
Hank Smith:	24:20	"Then I'll come."
John Bytheway:	24:21	"I'm not good enough to come to church right now," right?
Hank Smith:	24:23	And you're never going to get there. That's a satanic sequence.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	24:27	So good. I would link verse 32 with Doctrine and Covenants section 76 verse 69, where the Lord's speaking of those who are celestial. It says, "They are just men and women made perfect in Christ." You can read that two ways, just men like they're really, really good people or you could read it as they're just regular people. They're merely-
Hank Smith:	24:54	They're just men and women.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	24:56	They're just men. They're just people who have been made perfect in Christ. Speaking of celestial souls there, if I like to do a little celestial math with them where I say, "What's one plus infinity?" and they're all like, "Infinity." "What's three plus? What's five plus?" I'm like, "Okay. Good." It's always infinity. It's interesting to me that the Lord will give so many parables that are, whether you have one talent or two talents or five talents or whether you have thirtyfold, sixtyfold or a hundredfold or whether you're a first hour or a third hour or a ninth hour laborer. I don't know how many parables and teachings he needs to give before we realize that it doesn't matter really if we're the one, three, five or seven. What matters is the plus in the equation, which to me are covenants. That's what binds us to Christ and then the infinity is Christ and the equals is perfection.
	26:01	Me and you plus covenant bound to the Savior, Jesus Christ, that's what perfects us. That's what sanctifies and exalts us. You

and I aren't trying to qualify ourselves for heaven because we're not going to meet that qualification. We're trying to qualify ourselves for Christ and Christ is going to take us to heaven. It's this covenant relationship that's often been said and talked about so much where because I've joined myself with Jesus, His goodness is my goodness, His perfection is my perfection, and I'm not going on my merits, I'm going in on the merits of the Holy Messiah who is full of justice and truth and equity.

26:57 Now, as I link myself and as He works with me, He's going to refine me. Hopefully one day, He'll take me from just being a man or as a just man, and in that sequence as I've come unto Him, He'll refine me and make me fit for the kingdom and I know He will, and in that way I can in no wise deny the power of God as this verse says. Let's never forget that we are coming unto Him as just regular people who bind ourselves by covenant and He is the one who perfects and saves and exalts and sanctifies.

27:34 I know we say that, but at some point, that has got to get in each of our souls so that we can sit always rejoicing as King Benjamin said, always retaining a remission of our sins because we have covenant confidence in His perfection, not our own.

John Bytheway: 27:54 What I love that you put in there in your answer, Anthony, was a covenant relationship. I feel like sometimes we say, "Oh, yeah, covenant's a two-way promise and it sounds like you sign here, I sign here and we stick that on the shelf." It's a covenant relationship. When I don't feel like I'm courageous enough, I have access to Christ and I'm bound with Him by a covenant and He can give me courage, He can help me be more merciful, He can help me be more forgiving because I have a covenant relationship with Him, that takes it beyond this contract, this two-way agreement is that, no, He can take just men and make us perfect, and now I have access to that because I'm in a covenant relationship.

28:39 And then you use that phrase covenant confidence too. What a great thing to teach. I can have confidence in that covenant and when in section 45, which sounds like a script for the judgment right at the beginning, here's Jesus not saying, "Well, here's this guy. He made a lot of mistakes." He doesn't even talk about what you did. He talks about what He did. He's the advocate with the Father who says, "Behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin in whom thou was well pleased. Wherefore, spare these, my brethren, who believe on my name." Oh, my goodness, I love that verse.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 29:16 I do too.

John Bytheway: 29:17 He's saying, "I'm an advocate." How cool is that that that's His nickname for us, an advocate? When I've looked it up, it's like an attorney for the defense.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 29:29 I love in some evangelical Protestant faiths, if I grabbed a group of a hundred of them and said, "How many of you guys are confident that you're going to go to heaven with God?" they'll give an amen and a hallelujah. They have such confidence in their Savior. Now, on the flip side, if I grab a hundred Latter-day Saints and say, "How many of you guys are confident?" using our language, "that you're going to go to the celestial kingdom?" you get a lot more hems and haws, typically, and I know this because I've actually surveyed Latter-day Saints for youth and young adults.

30:08 But my point of it is I'm not sure that pleases the Lord when we are His covenant saints and we say that we trust Him and we love Him and then we say, "Are you going to go to heaven?" and we're like, "No, I'm not sure. It depends on the day," because it means we're kind of pointing at ourselves when, I mean, could we say, "Well, I'm not sure if I love the Lord through covenant today," and if our answer is, "I love the Lord and I have dedicated my life to Him by a covenant and I'm going to be loyal to that covenant," if that's our mindset and if that's our life's path, then if someone says, "Do you think you're going to go to the celestial kingdom?" let's respond with confidence in Christ, not in ourselves.

John Bytheway: 30:59 Right, exactly. Yeah.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 31:00 Confidence in Christ where we say, "I have a sure hope born of the spirit that I will go to the celestial realms on high because I have faith in Jesus Christ and I am one of His people and I have made a covenant with Him and I know He will take me to heaven."

Hank Smith: 31:23 2 Nephi 2, "I know that thou art redeemed because of the righteousness of your redeemer."

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 31:36 Amen.

John Bytheway: 31:36 Not because of your own, because of His.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 31:38 It's not about us. Sometimes it makes me wonder what our Lord thinks when we're like, "I'm just not really sure." "Do you not

trust me? I can and I will deliver you, so live in confidence in me. Quit wondering."

- John Bytheway: 31:59 "Have you even read the scriptures?"
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 32:00 "Have you even read the scriptures?"
- John Bytheway: 32:04 "And let your soul be at rest. Come unto me and let your soul be at rest and I'll perfect you." It almost seems that that's what He's trying to say. And the fact that we know that we're not perfect and that we're flawed and that we're short, that when we are sanctified and taken to heaven's home when God says, "Yes, because of your advocate who mediated, who you look to, nowise denied the power of God," and we will say, "How great is the power of the Lamb." That's what he seems to be saying there. You can in nowise deny his power if you understand that.
- Hank Smith: 32:44 Moroni 10:32, His grace is sufficient. We've had [Brother Wilcox](#) on here on our show many times, his BYU speech, his grace is sufficient, has been widely read in the church, one or two quotes. "Too many give up on the church because they're tired of constantly feeling like they're falling short. They've tried and tried, but they just feel like they're never going to be good enough. They don't understand grace." He gives this funny example. "In the past, I had a picture in my mind of what final judgment would be like. It went something like this. Jesus standing there with a clipboard, Brad standing on the other side of the room looking nervously at Jesus. Jesus checks his clipboard and says, 'Oh, Brad, you missed it by just two points.' Brad begs Jesus, 'Check the essay question one more time. There has to be two points you can squeeze out of that essay.'
- 33:50 But the older I get and the more I understand this wonderful plan of redemption, the more I realize that in the final judgment, it will not be the unrepented sinner begging Jesus, 'Let me stay.' Knowing Christ's character, I believe that if anyone is going to be begging on that occasion, it would probably be Jesus begging the unrepentant sinner, 'Please choose to stay. Please use my Atonement not just to be cleansed, but to be changed so that you want to stay.' In a way, you might say that the gospel is not me earning my way to heaven. Living the gospel changes me so that I choose heaven when it's offered to me."
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 34:35 That's brilliant. They're timeless. That makes me wonder if Brad must have been getting cliff notes in the pre-mortal life from Moroni on grace is sufficient because what he teaches there is just so potent, so true.

John Bytheway: 34:49 He put that into a one-liner too, "We're not earning heaven, we're learning heaven."

Hank Smith: 34:54 And how many times does Moroni say in these verses, perfect in Christ.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 34:59 In Christ.

Hank Smith: 35:00 He never talks about perfection without attaching it to Christ.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 35:04 Yeah, so we can mark those. It's the second line of verse 32, "Be perfected in Him." Right in the middle of verse 32, "Be perfect in Christ," and again, second to last line of 32, "Perfect in Christ." Second line of verse 33, "Perfect in Christ."

Hank Smith: 35:25 I wonder if he's trying to get something across.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 35:26 I wonder if he's trying to tell us something and even 33, he doesn't use perfect, but he says sanctified in Christ in the middle of 33. He's like, "I hope you're getting it. I said it four times," and we're like, "I still don't get it."

Hank Smith: 35:41 John, you've done such a great job reading this year. Would you read verse 34, Moroni 10:34?

John Bytheway: 35:51 "And now I bid unto all farewell. I soon go to rest in the paradise of God until my spirit and body shall again reunite, and I am brought forth triumphant through the air to meet you before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah, the eternal judge of both quick and dead. Amen."

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 36:10 Amen.

Hank Smith: 36:11 Anthony, what comes to mind when you read verse 34?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 36:15 First of all, what great imagery he evokes there, "I am brought forth triumphant through the air." I don't know about you, but my visual mind pictures this resurrected being being brought forth by the gift and power of Christ through the air before this pleasing judgment bar. We use that word, but it's almost more like this reunion, this moment. It's so pleasing. I love that word. It evokes beautiful imagery in my mind of the way that's so beautifully phrased.

Hank Smith: 36:56 Anthony, didn't Joseph Smith relate this or relate at least Moroni to the Book of Revelation? This is Revelation 14:6, "I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven." "I am brought

triumphant through the air." In fact, I think on the Nauvoo temple, Moroni wasn't standing straight up.

- John Bytheway: 37:19 He's a weather vane.
- Hank Smith: 37:20 He's flying.
- John Bytheway: 37:22 He's horizontal.
- Hank Smith: 37:23 He's horizontal.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 37:23 I just love that imagery. Hank, since you connected it to the Book of Revelation that he sees this angel fly through the midst of heaven with a book, it's interesting that he would say, "I soon go to rest until my spirit and body shall again reunite." Well, apparently, they did reunite because in the midnight hours in upstate New York in a small little family cabin on September 21st of 1823, this same Moroni who sealed up this book is going to speak to a young 17-year-old young man named Joseph Smith and tell him about it and talk to him and say, "There is a book deposited a few miles away. It's your job to bring it forward."
- 38:17 His spirit and his body have been reunited, first of all, in triumphant glory. Joseph said of Moroni, he had never looked upon something so brilliant, and I just love that idea of somebody who labored for Christ like Moroni putting this book and sealing up. What is it? 1400-ish years later? He's still laboring for Christ, only now he is triumphant. In the air, he appeared and brought them forward.
- 38:47 And maybe this is a good segue to say this is where your Doctrine and Covenants starts. Joseph will write about this in his history. This is section two. It ends up becoming section two of the Doctrine and Covenants of Moroni's message to Joseph Smith, him beginning to instruct the young prophet to bring forward the book, to receive priesthood, to organize a church onto the restoration. And in just two weeks after this episode airs, we'll get to be in the Doctrine and Covenants studying these sections and these revelations.
- 39:23 By the way, when Moroni appears to Joseph as a 17-year-old, he starts to quote the Old Testament to him, which is always a dangerous thing to do to quote Old Testament passages to a teenager in the middle of the night, which is why I joke that he had to repeat it four times over the next 24 hours.

- 39:41 The first thing Moroni does though is he teaches him a lot of things, but one of the things he does is, for example, he points him to Elijah and he quotes it a little bit different. "I will send unto you, Elijah." This is Moroni to 17-year-old Joseph, "I will reveal unto you the priesthood by the hand of Elijah, the prophet, and he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers and the hearts of the children will turn to the fathers lest the earth be utterly wasted at his coming."
- 40:15 I don't want to jump too far ahead, but this is a great Moroni segue here between the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants. The Book of Mormon brings us, in my opinion, I think I've shared it before but I'll say it again, the Book of Mormon is the book that brings us to Jesus Christ and His restored church, and the Doctrine and Covenants is the book that will bring us to the Father and the covenants of the Father in the Holy Temple.
- 40:45 The Book of Mormon is this witness of Christ to get us into the gate. It's the gate. We even say it's the keystone. Well, the keystone is over a doorway. When we get in that doorway, when we get into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we then want to take people to the house of the Lord and the thrust of the Doctrine and Covenants pushes everybody towards the house of the Lord and the Holy Temple. I like to call the Book of Mormon the Book of Salvation through Christ and I like to call the Doctrine and Covenants the Book of Exaltation through Christ's house in the Holy Temple.
- 41:20 I hope as people are closing this book, this book of books, there is no end to the depths of this masterwork of the Book of Mormon that when we read that word the end in Moroni 10 that we say, "Well, this is just the beginning where now I roll into the restored revelations of the mighty prophet of the restoration with Joseph Smith, and now I'm going to let Joseph Smith and the Lord work through me to take me right to the house of the Lord so that I can receive the covenants of exaltation," which is where the Doctrine and Covenants next year, it's going to push us right to the house of the Lord from the beginning to the end and Moroni points Joseph right to that.
- 42:08 That's what Elijah is going to do, sealing promises of exaltation, the fathers, Adam, the mothers, Eve, promises planted in your hearts lest the whole earth. That's the whole point of the earth, seal and bind up the family of God through the power of the holy priesthood to progress forever and become like God. Oh, my goodness gracious. I hope everybody is just giddy to study



the Doctrine and Covenants this next year, and I've loved studying the Book of Mormon this year and I love this book, and I'm really excited to read its companion, it's missionary companion, which is the Doctrine and Covenants.

- Hank Smith: 42:47 You can almost see Moroni beckoning us forward, "Come on, there's more. Let me show you." We know that resurrected beings can weep, and I have to think when Joseph is uncovering the plates for the first time, that Moroni's eyes are getting big, and then some tears come down as he watches that same book, how long did you say, Anthony? 14?
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 43:12 Yeah, roughly 1400 years.
- Hank Smith: 43:15 Come out from where he placed it. Just a beautiful, beautiful story.
- John Bytheway: 43:22 I love this idea of Moroni as such an author doing this curtain call at the end. Remember this and remember this. You just know that the work that went into these last 10 verses here, I don't think he had a dry erase board or a scratch pad. How did he do that? We've said this before, Hank. It's as deep as it is wide. You could go as deep as you want, and I hope people will be thrilled to see that at the end of this and Moroni's last words.
- Hank Smith: 43:53 Anthony, John, it seems fitting that we are ending our four years of study almost where we started four years ago here with uniting the Book of Mormon to the Restoration. I can see why [Elder Maxwell](#) said about the Book of Mormon, "My tour," he says of the Book of Mormon, "is never completed." He says, "I have rooms yet to enter, flaming fireplaces waiting to warm me, rooms I haven't even glimpsed with rich detail, panels inlaid with insight and design dating back to Eden. Yet we as church members sometimes behave like hurried tourists, scarcely venturing beyond the entry hall. He said but those of us who spend a lot of time in the Book of Mormon, the whisperings awaken us individually to a life of discipleship as never before." I think that's happened for me.
- 44:56 Anthony, thank you for being here. John, four years in the books. I remember when we finished that first episode with Anthony, John, I said, "John, our first episode is in the books," and now, John, I can say our first four years are in the books. Tell me how you're feeling.

John Bytheway: 45:16 I'm so excited to start again because I feel like, as in your Elder Maxwell quote, there's so many new things to discover and I'm afraid I've forgotten way too much of what we've learned. I guess that's why the Lord wants us to repeat certain things and stay with it, so I'm excited to go back through again not just to learn the information, but to be strengthened in here and to be able to help and strengthen others hopefully as we all do this together.

Hank Smith: 45:43 For anyone listening, come on to YouTube for this episode. If you have any notes for Anthony or anyone on our team, we would love to hear from you. You can also go to our website, [followhim.co](http://followhim.co) and contact us there because we would love to hear from you.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 46:00 It's interesting to me that as we get ready to study the Doctrine and Covenants in a few weeks, when you read section four, section six, section 11, section 12, section 14 and section 18, they all have a similar phrase where they say a marvelous work is about to appear. What's interesting is after June of 1829, that phrase is not found in the revelations. What's completed by June of 1829 is the translation of the Book of Mormon.

46:31 The Lord calls it a marvelous work because some synonyms for marvelous are things like fantastic. I pulled these up, remarkable, awesome, breathtaking, fabulous, wonderful. An unusual work is about to appear phenomenal, strange, wondrous, unbelievable, inconceivable. We had to go Princess Bride there for a second. Incomprehensible, unimaginable, surprising, difficult to believe, stupendous, improbable, phenomenal awe-inspiring, these and many more. Could you imagine the Lord saying, "A phenomenal work is about to appear amongst the children of men, a fantastic work"?

47:18 And I just bear my testimony, if I could say in other words leave my witness that the Book of Mormon is a marvel and a wonder, that's what [Emma Smith](#) called it. She said she watched her own husband translate. She scribed for him. She watched this happen and at the end of her life she says, "I have not the slightest doubt that that book is true. It is a marvel and a wonder to me as much as to me as to anyone else." I'd add my witness to that as well that we have concluded studying a book that is a marvel and a wonder and such a gift from God, and I'm so grateful that we have it.

John Bytheway: 47:59 Hank, Anthony, sometimes when I begin a class on the Book of Mormon, I like to tell my class, "We have a special guest. Sister Lucy Mack Smith will be coming out today," and I've never been

able to make it happen, really, but imagine her coming out and saying something like, "Do you know what it cost my family to bring you this book?" and this is my plea to not be a casual reader, but a serious student of the Book of Mormon. A casual reader will go by it too fast, but a serious student will find treasure and help and hope and healing in this book.

48:36 I want to thank the Smith family for the sacrifices they went through to bring this book to us. That's what I think Lucy Mack Smith might say, "It cost my family dearly. My sons are gone. My family's been through a lot," but they were chosen to be the ones to bring it forth, and I'm grateful for them. Grateful that my dad picked one up, was dragged off his bunk on an aircraft carrier to go to the church services. Then I watched him every morning for a half an hour study the Book of Mormon for his whole life. Such a good student of the Book of Mormon, and that really is a bedrock of my testimony is I watched what it did for my dad. He grew and changed and refined, and I'm really thankful for the power of the Book of Mormon and the witness of the Savior that it has.

Hank Smith: 49:30 I had an experience this last summer, my friends Steve and Kristen Samuel, and we were at the publication site of the Book of Mormon in Palmyra. Steve and Kristen had brought with them an original copy of the Book of Mormon. They said, "We wanted to bring it back into this building." It hadn't been there in 194 years. They let me sit on the bench there and hold it and thumb through it. That was such a moving experience for me, but I just sat there with this book going, just this individual copy, "Where have you been? Who has read from these pages? How many lives have you changed and touched, this book."

50:22 You can see why [Elder Holland](#) said, "I want it absolutely clear when I stand before the judgment bar of God that I declared to the world in the most straightforward language I could summon, the Book of Mormon is true." It came forth the way Joseph said it came forth and it was given to bring happiness and hope to the faithful in the travail of the latter days.

50:49 John and Anthony, I'm sure you both agree it has done that for us. Well, with that, we want to thank Dr. Anthony Sweat for being with us. Thank you, Anthony.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 51:03 Man, thanks you guys again for, not to wax too nostalgic, but man, what a blessing, privilege that I've got to be on from show one to show now. I express my brotherly love to both of you. I love you like my own flesh and blood and brothers because you are, and I'm so grateful to be engaged in this work and so

grateful to every listener out there that is part of this with us. Grateful to be with you in spirit and via podcast and via video, and we're just engaged in this great work that the Lord is doing, and I love you guys and grateful for what you're doing. I wish you the best as you keep doing it.

- Hank Smith: 51:42 We love you. We are fans of Anthony Sweat. We need to thank our executive producer, Shannon Sorensen. Shannon, we love you.
- John Bytheway: 51:54 Yeah, we love you. We're so thankful to you. This experience has taught me, but it's changed me and it's changed my family to be involved in this, so thank you, Shannon. Thank you Steve.
- Hank Smith: 52:07 To Shannon, your children, your grandchildren, we love you. We need to thank David and Verla Sorensen. Verla is 90 plus years old, still reading her scriptures every day. Verla, we know you're listening and we adore you and thank you. I remember that first phone call, John. It was December of 2020. My friend Steve, Steve Sorensen called me, said, "Brother Hank, call me back. I got an idea." My life changed there and I am certain that Steve would love what's happened over these last four years. So Steve, we know you're listening. We love you.
- 52:57 We hope you'll join us. Next week, we're going to have our Christmas episode with Brother and Sister Meredith from the great city of Rexburg, Idaho, leaders at Brigham Young University there in Idaho, and then join us the week after that for our next four years of followHIM.
- 53:17 Before you skip to the next episode, I have some important information. This episode's transcript and show notes are available on our website, followhim.co. That's followhim.co. On our website, you'll also find our two free books, Finding Jesus Christ in the Old Testament and Finding Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Both books are full of short and powerful quotes and insights from all our episodes from the Old and New Testaments. The digital copies of these books are absolutely free. You can watch the podcast on YouTube. Also, our Facebook and Instagram accounts have videos and extras you won't find anywhere else.
- 53:51 If you'd like to know how you can help us, if you could subscribe too, rate, review and comment on the podcast, that will make us easier to find. Of course, none of this could happen without our incredible production crew, David Perry, Lisa Spice, Jamie Neilson, Will Stockton, Krystal Roberts, Ariel Cuadra, and Annabelle Sorensen.

President Russell M. Nelson: 54:12

Whatever questions or problems you have, the answer is always found in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Turn to Him. Follow Him.

## WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS WITH MY BOOK?



- Hank Smith: 00:02 Hello, everyone. Welcome to followHIM Favorites. This is where John and I are sharing a single story to go with each week's lesson. John, we're almost done with the Book of Mormon. Our lesson this week is in Moroni 10, the last chapter in-
- John Bytheway: 00:16 The last chapter.
- Hank Smith: 00:17 ... the Book of Mormon. We've made it quite a ways. And I have a story for you. It has to do with Moroni 10:4. Most people know Moroni's promise, right? Something that comes up a lot. Sometimes we say, "Oh, you just need to read the Book of Mormon, pray about it, and God will tell you if it's true." And it seems there's a lot more to it than that. We look at God's mercy, ponder God's mercy, and then Moroni makes this statement. "Ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if you will ask with a sincere heart, with real intent". I have a story for you. It doesn't turn out as well as you'd hope, but it actually does, I hope, teach this lesson.
- 01:01 Way back when I taught seminary at Copper Hills High School, if anybody knows where that is, go Grizzlies, I was there for quite a few years. In this one year, we had a foreign exchange student come in from Denmark. Her name is Bella. And because Bella's host family, the daughter that was in the host family, about the same age as Bella, she took seminary. So, Bella took seminary. I knew up front, this wasn't a matter of, "Let's try to convert this girl." So, this particular seminary class, of which she was a part of, they adored her John. She spoke in kind of broken English, she was really fun. They said, "Bella, have you ever had an Oreo milkshake?" And she says, "What is that?" Well, we got to get her an Oreo milkshake, right?
- John Bytheway: 01:48 Absolutely.
- Hank Smith: 01:50 "Have you ever had Sour Patch Kids?" They're basically giving her diabetes. Everyone bought her a treat every time. Her friend

in her host family, she would explain to her, what is a bishop? What is a deacon? So, there was a lot of that going on. And in fact, when the next semester came and her host family, their daughter, when she switched her schedule around, Bella decided to take seminary again. And this time she wasn't with her friend. The class just loved her. They ended up giving her a set of scriptures with her name on it. Really beautiful experience.

02:25 And I told them, up front, "Look, this is not about trying to convert Bella, or asking her to be baptized. We can do none of that. She's 17, she's going to go home to Denmark. It's not allowed, and it's not really okay to do that without her family around." Towards the end of the year, she came into my office and she said, "Brother Smith, can I ask you a question?" I said, "Sure, Bella, what's up?" And she said, "I've been praying about the Book of Mormon." And I, of course, said, "Oh, Bella, I don't know if that's something that you should even be interested in, or talking or thinking about." And she said, "Oh, don't worry, I've talked to my mom. She's okay with me praying about the Book of Mormon." I said, "Okay, okay, what's going on?"

03:06 And she said, "I kneel down to pray and nothing happened." I said, "Okay, what's happening?" And she said, "I kneel down, I say, 'Heavenly Father, is the Book of Mormon true?' And nothing happened. Am I broken? What's wrong?" And I said, "Yes, Bella, you are." No, just kidding, I didn't say that. We went through Moroni's promise. We got to this part about "if you shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent". John, I think she had a sincere heart. I think she really wanted to know. I think she loved these friends that she had made.

John Bytheway: 03:43 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 03:44 Now, this "real intent" is a little bit different. I think it was the Holy Ghost. I hope it was the Holy Ghost. I said, "Bella, if you get your answer that you are after here, what do you intend to do? Do you intend to follow up with everything that comes with that answer?"

John Bytheway: 04:03 That is the question.

Hank Smith: 04:05 It's a lot. She hadn't thought of that. She said, "No, like what?" And I said, "You're going to go home to Denmark, and the nearest chapel is 45 minutes from your house, and you're going to have to tell your friends you joined this church." And she loved having coffee with her friends. And I said, "That's probably something you're going to have to have a conversation

about." There was just a lot. We kind of listed all the things that are awesome, would be really good for her, but are significant. Those are significant changes. She kind of looked sad and disappointed, and she said, "Brother Smith, I don't want to do those things, but I do want to know if the Book of Mormon is true." I think she was sincere. I think it's merciful that the Lord would not give her that answer at that time, don't you think?

- John Bytheway: 04:54 Yeah, maybe she wasn't ready for that. And that real intent, that's something you might have to work up to. "I really intend to follow what I'm told." Thankfully, there's stories of so many others who get to that point, "I really intend to do what I'm told." And sometimes it involves some pretty huge-
- Hank Smith: 05:13 Serious, yeah.
- John Bytheway: 05:15 ... changes in their lives, yeah.
- Hank Smith: 05:16 This girl was wonderful, John, just a wonderful sweetheart. I do think she was sincere. We would ask anyone who is going to pray about the Book of Mormon to, I think, think about that question, right, John? Okay, if I get this answer, what's expected?
- John Bytheway: 05:32 What am I going to do? Yeah.
- Hank Smith: 05:34 Yeah. Do I intend to follow through on all of that?
- John Bytheway: 05:39 With everything that means?
- Hank Smith: 05:40 I hope that was a little bit of an insight. Of course, I wished that she would've joined the church. That's still maybe yet to happen.
- John Bytheway: 05:49 Yeah, I think He will suit His mercies and maybe even His answers according to our conditions at the time.
- Hank Smith: 05:54 Conditions.
- John Bytheway: 05:55 Yeah.
- Hank Smith: 05:56 Yeah. We hope you'll join us on our full podcast, it's called followHIM. You can get it wherever you get your podcasts. We're with Dr. Anthony Sweat this week, and John, he changes this chapter almost entirely for us.
- John Bytheway: 06:08 Yeah.



Hank Smith:

06:09

It's awesome. Come join us there, and then come back next week, we'll do another followHIM Favorites.