



“His Sacrifice Shall Be More Sacred Unto Me Than His Increase”

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 Sunday.

Podcast Episode Descriptions:

Part 1:

Does the Lord care about the name of His Church? Join Dr. Franz Belot as we discuss the importance of names, the command to build a temple in Far West, Missouri, and how gathering strengthens the Saints. Like today, we wonder if the Church is getting stronger or weaker, and the Lord reminds us that we will “rise again.”

Part 2:

How is paying tithing like the movie *Frozen*? In Part II, we learn how tithing and sacrifice allow us to “let go” of the less important matters and also, how there are no small acts in the kingdom. The Lord magnifies our efforts to enact miracles.

Timecodes:

Part 1

- 00:00 Welcome to follow HIM with Hank Smith and John Bytheway
- 01:54 Introduction of Dr. Franz Belot
- 5:09 Backgrounds to Section 115-120
- 12:52 The Lord addresses the Saints' confusion over the name of His Church
- 16:55 President Nelson's address regarding the name of the Church
- 21:40 The importance of a living prophet
- 22:19 The name is a kind of reset for the Saints
- 25:03 The Lord establishes a pattern of endowing His Saints with power
- 27:32 Dr. Belot shares what he has learned as new member of stake presidency
- 32:38 The Lord confirms Joseph is still chosen
- 35:55 Brigham Young and Theodore Turley ensure Joseph's Far West prophecy is fulfilled
- 39:04 Background to Section 116 and Adam-ondi-Ahman
- 46:20 The Standard of Truth
- 47:22 Background to Section 117--a short-lived peace in Northern Missouri
- 50:49 Reminders about who owns all things
- 53:01: End of Part I

Part 2:

- 00:00 Welcome to Part II
- 00:07 The Lord says to let go of material things
- 01:22 Dr. Belot shares personal story of growing up in Haiti and Montreal
- 04:37 *Come, Follow Me* lesson plan idea about using the image of a jug of water
- 05:20 Elder Eyring talk about being busy in our callings
- 06:11 Who are the Nicolaitans
- 11:59 The Lord has high expectations for His people
- 13:14 The story of Oliver Granger
- 18:41 Dr. Belot shares personal story of a time of difficulty and a bishop's inspiration
- 22:29 The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles is reorganized
- 26:03 Mary Ann Young is an example of faith and fortitude
- 30:53 Story of Dr. Belot falling asleep in his driveway
- 32:10 The Lord's law of tithing
- 40:12 Tithing is like the Sea of Galilee
- 48:00 The Church's financial stewardship and "The Challenge to Become"
- 52:24 Dr. Belot shares his testimony of the Savior and his thoughts about the Restoration
- 59:14 End of Part II

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Biographical Information:



Frantz Belot, Ph.D., is co-founder of Tyfoom, a mobile-first platform that documents and improves communication, productivity and training. He is also a co-founder of Tech Trep Academy, a tuition-free, public school program tailored to the unique needs of each student. From 2011 to 2015, he worked with Imagine Learning, which provides a complete suite of adaptive digital curriculum and assessment solutions for PreK-8 in language development. As one of the executives, he was instrumental in helping the company to a successful acquisition. Belot is a native of Haiti and was raised in Montreal, Quebec. Belot obtained his

Ph.D. from BYU in educational leadership with an emphasis in organizational behavior. His entrepreneurial spirit permeates all aspects of his life. He's passionate about helping people access education and training so they can positively impact their lives, businesses and communities for good. Belot and his wife, Brandi, are joyfully raising five sons.

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EPISODE 42 • PART I



Dr. Frantz Belot

D&C 115-120



Hank Smith:	00:01	Welcome to followHIM, a weekly podcast dedicated to helping individuals and families with their <i>Come, Follow Me</i> study. I'm Hank Smith.
John Bytheway:	00:09	And I'm John Bytheway.
Hank Smith:	00:11	We love to learn.
John Bytheway:	00:11	We love to laugh.
Hank Smith:	00:13	We want to learn and laugh with you.
John Bytheway:	00:15	As together, we followHIM.
Hank Smith:	00:20	Hello, everyone. Welcome to another episode of FollowHIM. My name is Hank Smith, and I am here with my faithful cohort, John Bytheway. Hi, John.
John Bytheway:	00:30	Hi, Hank.
Hank Smith:	00:31	You're ever-faithful, John Bytheway.
John Bytheway:	00:32	Thanks.
Hank Smith:	00:33	Hey, we want to remind everybody that you can find the podcast on social media. We have an Instagram page. We have a Facebook page. Our wonderful Jamie Neilson runs those. So, come on over and check out all the extras that we have there. If you want to watch the podcast, rather than listen to it, you can find it on YouTube or OurTurtleHouse app. And if you want to go to our website, followhim.co, followhim.co. And please take time to rate and review the podcast, that really helps us out.
John Bytheway:	01:05	Hank, just last night, I was talking to somebody, who did not know that on the followhim.co website, not only does it have

something called show notes with a list of references, but it has an entire transcript. And they're like, "What?" People didn't know. Maybe this thing is going to be a book when we're done. There's a transcript, if there's something you missed, you want some extra details, go get that transcript. And I need to review them because I forget half of what we talk about. And it's so nice to have that resource there. So, I just wanted to throw that in.

- Hank Smith: 01:39 Okay, good. Thanks, John. Now, we are moving right along in the Doctrine and Covenants. We're getting towards the end or in the triple digits on these sections. And we have a wonderful guest with us today. John, who's with us?
- John Bytheway: 01:54 Yes. Hank, thank you. Today, we have Dr. Frantz Belot. Dr. Belot was born in Haiti. He was raised in Montreal. He served a mission in Birmingham, Alabama. And he married Brandy Goodson, and they have five boys. That sounds like a lot of fun. And he's the co-founder of Tyfoom, a mobile-first platform that documents and improves safety, communication, productivity, and training.
- John Bytheway: 02:23 And from 2011 to 2015, he worked with Imagine Learning, which provides a complete suite of adaptive digital curriculum and assessment solutions for pre-K through eighth in language development.
- John Bytheway: 02:38 Dr. Belot obtained his PhD from BYU in educational leadership with an emphasis in organizational behavior. And his educational passion permeates all aspects of his life. He's passionate about helping people, access education and training, so they can decrease skill gaps and positively impact lives, businesses and communities for good. And Hank, you have a personal connection. Why don't you explain that?
- Hank Smith: 03:03 Well, yeah. He's now President Belot in my stake presidency. And this happened after I asked him to be on the podcast. Because honestly, John, if he would have been President Belot in my stake presidency, I don't think I would have had the guts to ask him to come onto the podcast.
- Hank Smith: 03:20 But yeah, I first met Bishop Belot when I was a member of the high council and I was able to work with him, and his word, just so impressed. I've always told him, if we could nominate apostles, this is who I would nominate. And he always says, "No, no, no." Anyone who knows he and his wife, would know these are pretty incredible people. So, welcome, Frantz.

Dr. Frantz Belot:	03:44	Thank you.
Hank Smith:	03:45	Welcome to our podcast. Yeah. We're excited to have you here.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	03:47	It's a pleasure?
Hank Smith:	03:49	What was the mission in Birmingham, Alabama like?
Dr. Frantz Belot:	03:52	Oh, that's a good question. I came from Montreal, where there was a lot of... it's a melting pot. It's a lot like New York City, but it's French. Right? And so, when I went to Birmingham, Alabama, I was surprised by the segregation, to be honest with you. So, that took me a little bit by surprise. But then after this, the more you get to know the people, the more you realize that we were all the same, just trying to make the best out of life with the knowledge that we have.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	04:23	I came to love the people of Alabama. And I'd go again, like people say, because it was such a wonderful place to be. A very warm culture. There's a reason it's called the Bible Belt. They do believe in God. And that was always great to be speaking with them.
Hank Smith:	04:41	Right. Oh, that's awesome. I didn't know you served your mission there. So yeah, I bet you have some good stories.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	04:48	Yeah.
Hank Smith:	04:49	Hey, let's jump into our lesson this week. We are covering a bunch of sections, right? 115 through 120, the sections of the Doctrine and Covenants. So, Dr. Belot Frantz, how far back do we need to go? What do we need to understand before we jump into 115?
Dr. Frantz Belot:	05:09	Great. So, I always try to understand a little bit of the context that we're jumping into when we read the scriptures. So, I read a few things in <i>Revelations in Context</i> that I'd like to share to give us an idea of what's going on when we jump into Section 115 through 120. So, if that's okay with you, I'd like to just share a few things that are happening here.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	05:38	One of the things is that during the final months of 1837, apostasy began to affect the Church in Kirtland, right? And many Latter-day Saints were disillusioned by the financial losses. And there were heavy financial losses as a result of the Kirtland Safety Society. And they also began to reject because of that, they began to question the leadership and the prophetic

mantle of the Prophet Joseph Smith, because temporarily things had been very difficult. And also, they were seeing a lot of people losing their faith for multiple reasons.

- Dr. Frantz Belot: 06:19 So, and what made it even more challenging, you had dissenters that were members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the Seventies, and as well as the Three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon. So, you're looking at this situation and it's a brand new church, and you look at this and you're like, "Okay, what's going on here?" Some of the apostles are apostatizing. The Three Witnesses or disillusioned as well. And it's a very tenuous time for the Saints at this moment in time. And I would dare say for the Prophet Joseph as well, he must have been spending a lot of time on his knees.
- Hank Smith: 07:02 I can't imagine. John, what would it be like to see the leadership of the Church start falling off?
- John Bytheway: 07:10 You would need this kind of steadying voice. You would need revelation to let you know, "Hey, this isn't Joseph's Church, this is mine. I got this." And yeah, this would be a shaky time. And you're constantly seemingly on the move. Now, we'll build here. Now, we'll build here. Now, we'll build here.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 07:28 I think that's a good point that you just brought there, John, that was causing a lot of... The contention was so difficult that they did have to move. So, and some of my notes, I also noted that in 1838, so the apostasy had become so widespread, as well as the threats of violence towards the Prophet Joseph Smith, that Sidney Rigdon and himself received divine instruction to abandon their labors in Kirtland, and to flee to Far West. So, another move, right? Like you were saying, John, there's another move.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 08:07 And so, once they were in Missouri, it says here that the Lord, in the revelation pronounced Joseph's labors finished in this way. Leaving Kirtland meant parting, not only from their homes, but from the Church's largest stake and it's first and only temple. So, you're looking at a group of people that have sacrificed so much to build the Kirtland temple. And the Lord is saying, "This is time to go." And he says, "Arise and get yourselves onto a land, which I shall show unto you, even the land flowing with milk and honey." So, this is the context that we're getting into in the Sections 115 through 120, that we'll be talking about.
- Hank Smith: 08:59 Can you imagine leaving that behind? I mean, Joseph Smith is coming off the best year of his life with 1836, and everything goes sour in 1837 and 1838. And he has to move to Missouri.

Far West is a city that was basically, it's almost brand new. It was created when the saints were driven out of Jackson County and they were spending those years in Clay County. It's Alexander Doniphan, who, their lawyer, helps them create a county for them to live in. And they built this city of Far West. I mean, good thing, we did that, because Joseph has got somewhere to go. Well, this is a brand new city for Latter-day Saints. And here Joseph needs somewhere to flee to, and he has it, and all the Saints in Kirtland need somewhere to flee to.

- John Bytheway: 09:52 And I just think of the name of the place, no, this is not just west. This is Far West. I mean, we are going way out there. And for all of us, we're going, "Hey, you're going to be going a lot farther west pretty much." And finally, they're just going to go so far that nobody can bug them for a while.
- Hank Smith: 10:15 But so Joseph, I think, arrived in Far West in the beginning of 1838, and now he's receiving revelation.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 10:27 Yeah. So, this is again the resilience of those individuals, right? I mean, we talk a lot about the prophet and the revelations that he's been receiving, but we also have to think about the men here. It's not easy to leave a home and then to go somewhere else. Plus, he had a wife and children and so on. And then all of a sudden he has to rebuild a lot of things.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 10:57 So, here I've learned that they were making plans for a new temple. So that's, again, speaking of resilience. "Okay. We left Kirtland, we got to make a new temple." They also were able to call new apostles, right? Which again is a testament that the Lord does not just let people stop his work. He inspired Joseph to call some of the greatest apostles and future prophets of the church, such as John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, who would later become President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 11:37 So, you see there that the Lord is still in control, like John was saying that we got this. I mean, this is difficult. They're making decisions not to pursue and remain faithful to the covenants they've made, but the Lord has already prepared additional men, and I would say women to pick up the baton and to move forward. And now we jump into those sections and see what the Lord is saying to those great men.
- Hank Smith: 12:04 Yeah. Both of these, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, I mean, these are huge names in our history and they come into the Quorum [of the Twelve] because of this apostasy. That's a great point.

Dr. Frantz Belot:	12:15	From the comment that you say, Hank, it again, reminds me that difficult things many times, especially if we follow the Savior, turns out for our good. So, it's more than just a saying on a sticker, it's actually reality. And I've experienced this in my life as well. So, I just wanted to add that part.
John Bytheway:	12:37	Yeah. Often the most difficult part of our lives are what I think President Woodruff called them, the Lord can turn them into stepping stones to future opportunity. All right. Let's jump into 115. Tell us what you want to do here.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	12:52	So, the heading tells us a little bit about what's happening, right? It's on April 26th, 1838. So, the Saints are wanting to know what to do. There seems to be a little confusion as to what should be the name of the Church. Does that remind you of something in the last few years? But there's a little bit of confusion that's happening there. And the Lord is also stating the purposes of stakes, right? Because at this moment in time the new stakes are being... There's one in Kirtland, obviously, but there are new stakes, many members are moving in Far West. So, there are new stakes that need to be established.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	13:37	So, the Lord is providing some additional instructions on what's happening there. A few things in verse 3 in Section 115, it says, "And also unto my faithful servants who are on the high council of my church in Zion, for thus it shall be called and unto all the elders, and people of my Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints scattered abroad in all the world." And then the Lord makes a statement here, "For thus shall my church be called in the last days, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." I think it's a powerful statement coming from the mouth of the Lord himself, while through the Prophet Joseph Smith. But it's a revelation that the Lord gives the Prophet Joseph Smith, stating exactly what the Church should be called.
Hank Smith:	14:27	Yeah. And I really like this. I remember not knowing this for a long time that we had different names. And then, all of a sudden I realized for a while we were the Church of Christ, and then we were The Church of the Latter-day Saints. And then we become The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And I like that. I like that we went from, yes, this Church is about him. It's also about us. And now, it's about all of us. I really like the progression of almost a line upon line knowledge there, when it just comes to the three names we've had, The Church of Christ, The Church of the Latter-day Saints, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I think that's wonderful. And then he says now, "Arise and shine forth." That's a great moment there.

He announces the name of the Church and says, "Arise, shine forth, be a light to the world."

- John Bytheway: 15:27 And I think this is a great, very affirming from the law. People are feeling very shaky and Lord comes out and says as Frantz said, "We got this. I've got this. And this is what you're going to call the Church." I mean, that's a message of we're moving forward.
- John Bytheway: 15:46 And I did in my Book of Mormon class, I researched what is the name of the Church in the Book of Mormon? And I have a PowerPoint slide of them. I can't remember all of them, but the one that was the most used was The Church of God. It's like 31 times in the Book of Mormon. But here the Lord names that I don't think any of us would have picked a name this long. But I think like you said, Hank, it's... I underlined in verse three and in verse four, I love that Jesus calls it, "My Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." I was like, wow, listen, he's owning it, "This is My Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," in verse three.
- John Bytheway: 16:29 And like you said, Hank, it's also our Church. It's The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It's ours too. And would it be okay if I read a paragraph from President Nelson, in his talk when he gave us that. I love the way he said it. This was a strong voice of a prophet. This is the third paragraph of that talk called, "The Correct Name of the Church."
- John Bytheway: 16:55 And President Nelson said, "Some weeks ago, I released a statement regarding a course correction for the name of the Church. I did this because the Lord impressed upon my mind the importance of the name he decreed for His Church, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As you would expect responses to this statement and to the revised style guide had been mixed. Many members immediately corrected the name of the Church on their blogs and social media pages. Others wondered why, with all that's going on in the world, it was necessary to emphasize something so inconsequential." That's in quotes. "And some said it couldn't be done. So, why even try?"
- John Bytheway: 17:36 "Let me explain why we care so deeply about the issue. But first, let me state what this effort is not. And there are five bullet points. It is not a name change. It is not rebranding. It is not cosmetic. It is not a whim. And it is not inconsequential. Instead, it is a correction. It is the command of the Lord. Joseph Smith did not name the Church, restored through him, neither did Mormon. It was the Savior himself who said, "For thou shall my Church be called in the last days, even The Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints." I loved how strong that was. This is a rebranding. This isn't cosmetic. It's not a whim.

- Hank Smith: 18:20 I love it. That's a beautiful thing. For me, it changed, I don't even remember who showed this to me once, but there is a call to be better in the name of the Church, right? It's The Church of Jesus Christ and you need to be a Saint. And for me, it's The Church of Jesus Christ, I really want to be a Latter-day Saint. Right? I really do. I'm trying. Right?
- John Bytheway: 18:46 It's a name that we aspire to.
- Hank Smith: 18:48 Yeah. I really want to be a Latter-day Saint. I really do.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 18:53 I love that, Hank. I do too. I mean, wherever I go, I'm like, I just want to be better. I just want to be gooder, if that's the word, right?
- Hank Smith: 19:02 I want to be Sainter.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 19:07 Exactly. So, and you want to be around people that are doing their best because life is so difficult at times. So yeah, I want to be a Latter-day Saint. And if I could go back to one of the comments that you made Hank, is the part that is in verse 5, where he says, "Verily I say to you all: Arise and shine forth." Well, you can think of this also that the Lord wants His Church to shine.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 19:35 And with what John said, quoting President Nelson, "The Lord wants people to know that he does have a Church here on this earth." And if I can go back to that talk, John, because I did some highlights there too. At one point, President Nelson says, "Consider this from his perspective, the perspective of the Savior." He says, "Pre-mortally, he was Jehovah, God of the Old Testament. Under the direction of his Father, he was the Creator of this and other worlds. He chose to submit to the will of the Father and to do something for all of God's children, that no one else could do, condescending to come to the earth as the Only Begotten of the Father and in the flesh."
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 20:22 And then he says, "After all that He had endured and after all He had done for humankind, I realized with profound regret that we have unwittingly acquiesced and the Lord's Restored Church being called by other names, each of which, expunges the sacred name of Jesus Christ."

Dr. Frantz Belot:	20:42	And then he continues, "When we omit His name from His Church, we are inadvertently removing Him as the central focus of our lives." And that is a powerful statement. For me personally, that was the part that woke me up. Because at first I'm listening to this thought, I'm like, "Well, that's nice. You just want to focus on the Church and so forth, and give it the proper name." But it's when President Nelson said that if we omit Him as the central part of the Church and I'm like, "Well, that is one thing I do not want to be guilty of. I want people to know it's The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." And that really touched me when I heard that, and especially that scripture when he says, "Thus shall my church be called."
Hank Smith:	21:38	Nice.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	21:38	I thought that was very interesting.
Hank Smith:	21:40	I love it. And the reason we have a modern prophet, I try to teach this to my students at BYU is, we have this because we need revelation adapted to our circumstances. Someone might say, "Oh, is President Monson wrong when he said, dare to be a Mormon?" Or President Hinckley, was he wrong? No, they weren't wrong. The Lord said, "Look, circumstances have changed. We have revelation according to the circumstances, that's why we have a living prophet."
Hank Smith:	22:06	So, I was, "Yeah, I think the Lord is saying, "Yeah, it's time to make a course correction because things are going to change. Your circumstances are changing, and this is going to be a needful thing."
Hank Smith:	22:19	No, I would just say, one more thing is, I love that they have gone through probably 1838, I think '37 and '38 is going to be a dark, dark time for the Church. And I think this is almost like a reset for them. I think this is great that the Lord has given them a chance to have a new slate and said, "Hey, a new name, will give you a fresh start. He does that for us. Right? When we get baptized, we get a new name. When we go to the temple, we get a new name. And the idea is, it's a fresh start. You're a brand new person. So, I think that this, you've gone through a really dark time. And here's a moment of, all right, a new name, fresh start, new apostles, like you said. Let's get going. Let's continue forward. So I think it's a little maybe a shot in the arm of energy. What were you going to add there, John?"
John Bytheway:	23:13	Yeah. I just, I totally agree. I remember I was listening to a post-game show after a basketball game, and I think it might be a common saying in sports, but the coach said, "Well, my team

lost today because they played for the name on the back of their jerseys instead of the name on the front." And I thought about the idea that when we take upon ourselves the name of Christ, we become members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. So, we try to be that light to the world mentioned in verse five. And so, I've always loved that idea.

- John Bytheway: 23:51 And another thing I was going to mention is that we don't want the world to be confused about who we are. And I've heard this story. I don't know if it's apocryphal or not, but you may have heard it too. I'd love a source if somebody out there has it. But that was during Hurricane Katrina a few years back and we've just had a hurricane recently, but that somebody said, "That the only organizations that came to help us were the Mormons and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." I'd love the source on that. But yeah, we're confusing the world, who are we? And we want to make sure that they know. It was one of those when President Nelson gave the talk that inside, I kept saying, "Of course, of course, of course, that's the revelation. This is what Jesus said to call the Church."
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 24:42 And another part of the Section 115 that's interesting is, and I think that Hank, you're the one who said that, it's a new beginning, right? So, the Lord again, in verse eight says, "Therefore, I command you to build a house unto me, for the gathering together of my saints, that they may worship me."
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 25:03 At this moment in time in 1838, there was approximately the population of about 4,900 people with, it says, about 150 homes. So, there was a lot going on. And the Lord wanted to make sure that the people would be able to be endowed with power, just like the experienced in Kirtland. He wanted them to follow the pattern that He had given them.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 25:32 So, in verse 14, if you look, it says, "But let the house be built onto my name, according to the pattern which I will show unto them." So again, the Lord has taken control, right? Of wanting to make sure that the Saints know what are the priorities here? For me, when I read that scripture, I know the priorities. We were missing apostles. The Lord calls apostles, right? And we left the place where the temple was. The Lord says we need to build another temple. So, it gives you a sense of the prophetic priorities in that revelation.
- John Bytheway: 26:08 That same phrase is in Section 97, verse 10. I thought we've heard that before. And yeah, the footnote to 14 there, D&C, Doctrine and Covenants 97:10, "According to the pattern." The Lord has a pattern. And help me out here, Hank. So, there is a

temple in Kirtland. Did they find a site in Jackson County or is this only the second time they'd been commanded to build the temple?

- Hank Smith: 26:34 No, they did find a site in Jackson County. If you remember, they dedicated the site on the hill, but never started it.
- John Bytheway: 26:42 It never happened.
- Hank Smith: 26:42 Never started it.
- John Bytheway: 26:43 So, this is the third time. Okay. This is the third time to build a house.
- Hank Smith: 26:48 And in this temple area, they actually dig out the foundation for it. And that area is still there. It's that gated area, if you go out in the northern part of Missouri.
- John Bytheway: 27:02 And there's four stones. There's hardly anything else there. It's beautiful rolling hills. Right? And this gated area with four stones and a restroom.
- Hank Smith: 27:12 Yeah. It's interesting that there used to be a town of what? What did the President [Belot] say right there? Frantz said it is a town of almost 5,000 people.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 27:21 Exactly.
- Hank Smith: 27:22 In Far West. And there's nothing there today.
- John Bytheway: 27:24 Yeah. You'd think there would be some cabins leftover. But it just looks like beautiful rolling Hills.
- Hank Smith: 27:32 That's a plowed through field. I have a question for you Frantz, that he talks about how a stake can be a defense and a refuge. And you just were put into the stake presidency in Mapleton, Utah. Have you learned anything about this idea of a stake being a defense and a refuge from the storm? Of course, I have a bias, but I love the stake you and I are in. I do see it as a refuge from the storm. Right? I'm surrounded by friends. And so, have you learned anything about how a stake can be a protection for the people? What have you learned, I guess?
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 28:19 A very good question, Hank. I have to say that in my last three weeks, right? Because it's only been three weeks. I'm sure there's so much more to learn. But I can share with you that we've been spending a lot of time in meetings and extending

calls, and so forth. And when we do so, there's a lot of prayers that goes into this, and asking ourselves, "How will this benefit this individual for this calling?" But at the same time asking, "How it will benefit other people, too."

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| Dr. Frantz Belot: | 28:54 | So, the thought is always, how will, whatever we do bring souls unto Christ, right? Or help them with their exaltation and salvation, or keeping them on the covenant path. However you want to say it. It's always with that intent that we administer in a stake. And I would assume in all the stakes, that's some similar thoughts that are going. |
| Dr. Frantz Belot: | 29:19 | But when you go to the Lord with this intent, you are creating some type of a refuge. You are preparing like Captain Moroni, the right defenses that are needed, the tower that you need to build. You hear from the members and from the bishops, and from the high counselors, and the great sisters what is going on and you pray and ask the Lord, how do we help in those areas? So, it becomes a very proactive work. And also to foresee, especially as we listen to the prophets and the apostles, to foresee the type of calamities that may be coming our way and to put in place the right defense, so defenses. Anyway, that's a great question, but that's what I've observed in the last three weeks. |
| Hank Smith: | 30:08 | I love that. I just love the idea of this group, this area of the Church being its own little refuge. I just think that is so, and of course, at the time we had a couple of stakes, where today, John, I don't even know, you might know how many stakes there are. Thousands of these refuges, right? These defenses for people to go to and have that protection. I love the idea that the world is dotted with thousands of these. |
| John Bytheway: | 30:41 | Just last night, I attended a ward picnic. And seeing all those happy smiling faces, knowing that each one of them are having trials, medical trials, family trials, everything else. And just being gathered with them felt like a refuge. We are all in the same boat and we are pressing forward. And we're happy and we're eating food, and everything. |
| John Bytheway: | 31:10 | But as a former Bishop of that ward, I knew a little bit about what some were going through. And what a refuge, just to be able to meet with each other. And so, maybe that's another way to think of it, is just, as you said, President, how will this call help others? And to be able to look around and say, "I'm so glad they're here. I'm so glad they're faithful. It strengthens my faith to see us all in this together." |

Hank Smith:	31:36	Yeah. The Lord mentions that twice, John, and that the gathering together upon the land of Zion, that's for six. And then again, in verse eight, the gathering together, the building of the temple, they gathered together, their strength coming together.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	31:49	Can I say something on verse 19? It buttons up Section 115, when the Lord reveals again through the Prophet Joseph Smith, "For behold, will be with him," speaking about the Prophet Joseph, there were, as you know, by April 1838, both... Let me just make sure that I don't misspeak here. But both Whitmer and Cowdery were excommunicated by early April, 1838. And I can only imagine that those were the friends of the prophet, right? And close associates. They had seen and felt, they had heard the voice of God. They knew. They knew.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	32:38	And like you were saying in the beginning, Hank, this is a very difficult time for the Prophet Joseph Smith. And we need to remember that this, with all of his great abilities and qualities, those are not easy moments for the man himself, right? Those are not easy moments.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	32:58	And I love the fact that in verse 19, the Lord recognizes the Prophet Joseph Smith. And he strengthens the fact that he is the Lord's prophet, regardless of his weaknesses. He has been called. And the Lord says again, "For behold, I will be with him, and I will sanctify him before the people." That already tells you that, of course Joseph needed some work, but so do I, so do all the millions of people that are in the Church and outside of the Church.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	33:34	So, the Lord says again, "I will sanctify him before the people; for unto him have I given the keys of this kingdom and ministry. Even so." And then the Lord says, amen. So, I feel the spirit of this, of the Lord sustaining himself, his prophet, knowing that he's been going through a very difficult time, and asserting or confirming to the people that, "This is my prophet. He does have the keys. I have given him those keys." So, I love the way that this section ends. It really is, it boils me up and I'm like, "Way to go with Joseph, way to go."
Hank Smith:	34:19	That's fantastic and so positive. And I like what you said there. I wrote it down. "The Lord sustains his prophet," gives him a... He's still who he is, despite what anybody else is doing, even Oliver Cowdery or David Whitmer, "I am with him. I will sanctify him."

John Bytheway:	34:36	It's like, "This is my Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And he is my prophet. I will be with him. I will sanctify him. I have given him the keys." I'm really glad you called that verse out. And Hank wasn't you, who mentioned before, how nicely some of these sections end, is just, the Lord leaves everybody with a [inaudible 00:34:57].
John Bytheway:	35:00	I really want to apply that to me. I want the Lord to say, "I will be with him. I will sanctify." Oh, that just sounds, for Joseph must have been nice. Like you said, Frantz, "I will sanctify him." It's like, "Yeah, he's got some more work to do." "But that's what I do. I remake people. I make the creatures. So, I love it.
Hank Smith:	35:27	I love it too. I have to mention one thing before we leave the section. One of my favorite stories from church history, actually, if you look at verse 11, the Lord says, "In one year from this day, let them re-commence the laying of the foundation of my house." And in one year from this day is going to be April of 1839.
John Bytheway:	35:52	There isn't a miss on their calendars, right?
Hank Smith:	35:55	They're supposed to be in Far West in one year's time, April of 1839. But the problem is over the next year, they get driven out of the State of Missouri. So, you've got Brigham Young over in Illinois saying, "Well, we're supposed to be in Far West on this day, this April 26th, 1838."
Hank Smith:	36:15	And I shouldn't act like I know all this. I'm getting it all from Alex Baugh. So Alex, if you're listening, another shout out to you. He's the one who taught me this. That there were some who said, "No, Brigham, you don't need to go. You don't need to be there." He said, "The will is the deed." Meaning, the Lord understands you want to be there, but if we go back into Missouri of this April '39, you could put your life in danger by going back. But there's Brigham Young saying, "No, this has to happen."
Hank Smith:	36:49	In fact, there's a man, an apostate member of the Church named Isaac Russell, who says that is a prophecy that will not get fulfilled, right? He just absolutely says it, it will not get fulfilled because they've been driven out of the state. But Brigham Young takes some members of the Twelve. They sneak in, in the middle of the night. They are there.
John Bytheway:	37:13	It's a great story.

Hank Smith:	37:15	As midnight turns over, they are there. A year later on April of '39, they put the cornerstones in place. They set apart Wilford Woodruff as an apostle. And they sneak back out. They sneak back out into Illinois.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	37:33	I didn't know that.
Hank Smith:	37:35	Oh, this is a great story.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	37:37	This is an awesome story.
Hank Smith:	37:39	There's a man named Theodore Turley, who was with him, and he just can't leave without telling Isaac Russell that they fulfilled the prophecy. So, as they're going back into Illinois, he actually stops at Isaac Russell's house, the apostate knocks on the door. Sister Russell opens the door and says, "It's Brother Turley." And Isaac Russell comes out, "What? It can't be Brother Turley." And Brother Turley said something to the effect of, "We've just been over to the temple site with the Twelve. And we're heading back to Illinois." Almost like, "Ha! Well, we fulfilled the prophecy." An Aha Moment. It's a great moment.
John Bytheway:	38:22	Yeah. The theological term for that is "neener, neener," I think. No, this idea of, we want to make sure this prophecy happens, that ought to be a movie. That's a fun little story.
Hank Smith:	38:35	Yeah. They sneak over. I just think it's a classic moment, in the middle of the night. But Brigham Young, I think he was the one who said, "Joseph made a prophecy and I worked to fulfill it." Right? "That's my job." And again, I got to thank Alex Baugh for that. He's the one that told me that story. I don't know if it's well-known, but it is with Alex, because he knows everything as you know. All right. Well, are we ready to move on, Frantz? What do you want to do next?
Dr. Frantz Belot:	39:04	Yeah. Section 116. I mean, it's such a short section. A little bit of the background on this that I've learned is that they came to a prominent knoll or little hill mount, if you will, called Spring Hill. And on this strip, Joseph received the revelation known today as the Doctrine and Covenants Section 116, which again, identifies the region, Adam-ondi-Ahman, because he said, it is the place where Adam shall come to visit his people or the Ancient of Days shall sit, as spoken of by Daniel the Prophet.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	39:44	I mean, it's a needed section, right? I've asked myself, okay, it's only one verse, right? It's a revelation given to the Prophet Joseph Smith. But again, it talks about prophecies, right? Hank.

The Lord says that Adam shall come to visit his people there, just like Daniel prophesied. And the Lord wants us to be aware that Adam himself will meet there with the Saints to instruct them. And I think that's really a powerful verse.

- Hank Smith: 40:16 Yeah. We're looking forward to this. John, who was it? I think it was Dr. Mike Wilcox, who said, part of partaking of the sacrament is just looking backward at the Savior's life and Atonement, but also looking forward to this future feast.
- John Bytheway: 40:42 To this huge sacrament meeting, we're going to have some of it.
- Hank Smith: 40:42 Yeah. This future sacrament meeting. Section 27, where the list of the people who will be part of this, Elijah.
- John Bytheway: 40:49 And with Moroni.
- Hank Smith: 40:52 John.
- John Bytheway: 40:52 Oh, I love that.
- Hank Smith: 40:53 Joseph, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham. I mean, these are the fathers. And of course, their spouses, right? Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, just Peter, Jame,s and John. I mean we look forward to this-
- John Bytheway: 41:07 To a big sacrament meeting some day.
- Hank Smith: 41:09 Right. Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 41:12 There's a statement that Sister Susan Easton Black made in her book. She's got a book called *400 Questions and Answers About the Doctrine and Covenants*. And she said, Section 116 is the first mention of Adam-ondi-Ahman in holy writ. However, the name Adam-ondi-Ahman was familiar to Latter-day Saints before the revelation was received by Joseph Smith on May 19th, 1838.
- John Bytheway: 41:36 For example, the hymn, Adam-ondi-Ahman by W.W Phelps was sung at the Kirtland Temple dDedication in March of 1836. So, I didn't know that the hymn was written before this revelation. So, somehow that phrase Adam-ondi-Ahman was known before.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 41:53 The importance of that section to me is the fact that the Lord is really connecting the spiritual history of that place of Adam. It tells you that once upon a time he was there, and also the spiritual future of what will take place there. So, when it

seemed that the Church was on the brink of collapsing, I think this revelation reminds us that, it reminded Joseph and the Saints that there's something sacred that will take place in the Church and for all of our Father in Heaven's children. That's a remarkable revelation, given the context of seeing everything that's going on with the apostasy.

- Dr. Frantz Belot: 42:41 And the Lord said, "Adam will come and many of the prophets of old will be there too." So, I don't know if it sounded like, "Are you kidding me? Is this really going to happen?" Especially given the current situation. But it will, the Lord said it.
- John Bytheway: 43:04 Speaking of just the broad view the Lord has, in fact in the last section, Section 115, He said, "That thy light may be a standard for the nations." He's not just thinking of Kirtland or Far West, or Jackson, but a real future view that we're going to take this gospel to the nations.
- Hank Smith: 43:26 Yeah. That's great. Both of you, I'd never seen that section in that way. But I think you're right on their Frantz, the idea that they may be a little shaken by what's happened over the last year, and the Lord saying, "No, no, no. The future is still in place." Almost like a little patriarchal blessing reassurance for the Church, right? It's still well on its way to what it needs to become. And there's probably times where all of us need to have that reassurance, that the Church is well on its way to its destiny. What is the Standard of Truth? "No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing." Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 44:03 Now, I like the one, "A man might as well put forth his puny arm and stop the Missouri and its course, than to stop the revelation from coming." That's coming up later on.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 44:16 And then, to talk a little bit about this in our context today in 2021, you sometimes hear a lot of people trying to be sensational about, "Oh, members are leaving the Church in droves. And what's going to happen to the Church?" Or, "We don't like what President Nelson in the First Presidency sent us pertaining to vaccines and the masks. And we don't like what Elder Holland just said at Brigham Young University." And then there's so many different things that you hear. And then sometimes people fear in their hearts that, "Oh, what's happening to the Church? And is it going to still be there? Is it going to be solid or are we going to have a bunch of members leaving?"
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 45:07 And to your point, Hank, the Lord as already, we know the end of this saga. There's no surprises, right? It's been written in the

holy scriptures. It's been prophesied. We know the end of the saga. We know that the Lord comes. There is a Second Coming. We know that when He comes back, He will find His Church healthy. The people who will keep their covenants, will keep their covenants. Sure, and between those, there are going to be ups and downs, disappointments, heartaches, but a lot of joy too, a lot of laughter, just like what you were saying, John, when you went to the ward picnic. There's a lot of laughter, even though there's some difficulties.

- Dr. Frantz Belot: 45:51 But my testimony in all of this has been strengthened to know that the Lord will find his Church the way that he said. It will be a standard. And this will be because of the good men and women, and children who would have kept our covenants or who are keeping their covenants. So, it's really a powerful reminder that things are moving forward, although there will be bumps in the road.
- Hank Smith: 46:20 Yeah. I think it'd be a great time. I want to read this. I know both of you know it. And it's, our producer, Steve and Shannon Sorenson, it's maybe their most beloved saying of the prophet, "The standard of truth has been erected; no unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent until it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country and sounded in every year, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished. And the great Jehovah shall say, 'The work is done.'"
- Hank Smith: 47:07 It's been written. The end has been written. And the Church as well on its way to that end. Wow. I love that. That came out of Section 116, this small little six lines of scripture.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 47:22 To give some more insights here, when we read revelations in context, and during Section 117, we learned that throughout the summer of 1838, the Saints continued together to Far West and Adam-ondi-Ahman, and other Mormon settlements in Northern Missouri. And I use the word Mormon, but I should say The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints settlements, right?
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 47:51 In accordance with the commitment to build Far West, the cornerstones were laid for a temple in that community. And soon a site had also been selected for a temple in that location.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 48:03 Now, the interesting thing about this is that the peace and abundance the Saints were enjoying in Northern Missouri was

short-lived. There was mistrust and suspicion between the Missourians and the Latter-day Saints. And then violence erupted in August of 1838, and a series of armed conflicts known as, it was called as "The Missouri Mormon War" culminated with the imprisonment of Joseph and the expulsion of the Latter-day Saints from Missouri.

- Dr. Frantz Belot: 48:35 So, a lot of things are happening. There's a short-lived rejoicing. And yet, you find that the Saints are continuing to move forward. And Section 117 the Lord, there's some great verses I want to highlight there, but the Lord tells them to keep at it, even if they seem that they're not winning this battle.
- Hank Smith: 49:03 I think that that's exactly right. They're going to have this little moment of peace, almost the eye of the storm, and then it's going to pick back up again. And that's life, isn't it? I mean, I would love to say, the Lord, we go through this difficulty and he says, "Okay, you're done for a while. Just have a good solid ten years of peace." And it's not to be. It's a good solid ten days of peace. And then the storm picks back up again. And that is mortality, isn't it? That's life, which is, it's hard. It's really hard.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 49:46 Although things are very difficult, I should say, He's still instructing his Saints to be good. Right? In verse 4 in Section 117, He says to the people, He says, "Let them repent of all their sins and all of their covetous desires, before me, saith the Lord." And I love that statement. "For what is property on to me," saith the Lord.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 50:14 So, there is a little bit of mistrust. People are coveting their property. They're wondering, "Okay, this is mine." And then the Lord is saying, "Hey, guys, we could do better. We could be better." And to know that we're building the kingdom of God and we're not building you, well, yes, we're building you in a way, but we're also building the kingdom of God.
- Hank Smith: 50:37 Right. We're not building the kingdom of Smith here.
- Dr. Frantz Belot: 50:40 That's exactly right.
- Hank Smith: 50:41 I like that question, "For what is property under me?"
- John Bytheway: 50:49 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. He's got it all ready. And I like too, that as he continues in verse 6, it's kind of the all flushes in mine hands, but it's a little longer version of that. "I made the fowls of heaven, the fish of the sea, the beasts

of the mountains. Have I not made the earth? Do I not hold the destinies?" It's like, "I haven't lost my power."

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| Hank Smith: | 51:16 | My son and I like to look at nice trucks. We'd like to look at nice trucks. So, when they drive by, he's like, "Dad, look at that truck." And I'm like, "Oh, that's a great truck." Right. I think there's a little covetous desire there, right? And I can hear the Lord saying, "What is a Ford F-150 unto me?" Right? "Come on. It's a toy, Hank. Stop." "Repent of all their sins and all their covetous desires." Wow. That's a reality check, isn't it? |
| Dr. Frantz Belot: | 51:50 | Yeah. It really is a reality check. And I was laughing hard at the Ford F-150, because I love cars. Right? And sometimes, unfortunately I find myself coveting about some cars, but the reality check that you said is really true. When I read those verses or particularly, that part of that verse, it just reminds me really, that if we focus on the Lord, the promise is that everything that He has will be ours. If it's something that is consuming our thoughts of what will I get, what the Lord tells us, "That everything that's mine will be yours." Meanwhile, focus on what's important, helping My children find their path, helping them return back, and supporting them when they go through difficult times." It just reminds you that we, His children, are really the central part of His mission to bring our immortality and eternal life. |
| Hank Smith: | 53:01 | Please join us for Part II of this podcast. |

EPISODE 42 • PART II



Dr. Frantz Belot

D&C 115-120



John Bytheway:	00:03	Welcome to Part II of this week's podcast.
Hank Smith:	00:07	If you look at verse five, he just has three little words here that Princess Elsa made famous, but he just says, "Let them go." Right?
John Bytheway:	00:17	"Let it go."
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	00:18	Yes.
Hank Smith:	00:18	Let it go. Just stop. And our lives can become consumed with things.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	00:25	Yes.
Hank Smith:	00:25	Stuff, right? I've got to have the latest and greatest. And I think the Lord would say that to all of us. Just let it go. Stop worrying about stuff and toys and things. It's all mine. Look what he says. "The fowls of the heaven, the fish of the sea, the beast of the earth. I made everything. Focus on me, all that other stuff, let that go. I can bring..." Look at what does he say in verse seven? "I can make the solitary places bud, blossom, and bring forth in abundance." Now, that is a good little check for someone like me. I know neither of you are covetous, but that sometimes happens to me.
John Bytheway:	01:05	Well, if you get the Ford F-150 can I borrow it? That's-
Hank Smith:	01:12	It won't be any fun because then we won't be looking. I think part of the fun is just, that's a good one. We should get that one. No, I want red. No, I want black.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	01:22	So if I could be a little bit personal here, because this is really touching my heart, as I'm thinking about this. In the beginning, John mentioned that I was born in Haiti, right, which is known as the third poorest country. Sorry, not the third, but the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, and still continues

		to be. And there's so many difficult things that have happened with political unrests, and-
Hank Smith:	01:48	Storms, and hurricanes-
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	01:49	And diseases and so forth, and hurricanes, natural disasters. But I was reading about how the saints are finding strength amidst those difficult moments, and amidst those trials, and how the temple, being able to go to the temple. And remembering that this is, like it says in verse eight, that this is but a drop for the Lord, some of the things that sometimes may seem to be very important, and not to neglect the more weighty matters. I just love that. So in my personal life, when we came to Montreal, after a little while, my parents were divorced and my mom was raising five children in a foreign country.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	02:46	So, she was always a good example. And we weren't members of the Church at that time, but she was always a good example to focus on what mattered. Growing up, we couldn't afford the fancy shoes, or the fancy pair of pants, or whatever it is. And she would remind us, but what we have helped sustains us, we do have food. It may not be the best food, but we have food. We have a roof over our heads, and it may not have been the nicest place. We were always renting, and it was usually in the basement or the lower floor of where it was a little bit more affordable.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	03:25	You think about this, and then decades have passed, and the Lord has kept his promise. He's blossomed us. And he's... Because of the sacrifice of my mom and also my dad. He's provided for us. And I can testify that the Lord does make dry places blossom. And I can also testify that when we focus on what matters most, according to the eyes of the Lord, he takes care of the rest. That's been my experience. And I'm not talking about that we're becoming. That people become rich, and they have everything that they need, but they do have sufficient for their needs. And they do have hope of a better day, and those are priceless. Those are treasures.
Hank Smith:	04:18	Yeah, that was beautiful. I mean look what the Lord himself says in verse eight, "What is all this stuff? Is there's not enough room on the whole planet that I can give you, that you should covet that which is but the drop."
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	04:37	Yeah.

John Bytheway:	04:37	Such an interesting phrase. This might be a good time to mention the <i>Come, Follow Me Manual</i> has a little, ideas for Family Home Evening or family scripture study. It says, "Your family could compare a drop with something more weighty, like a jug of water. This could lead to a discussion about less important things in our lives that might prevent us from receiving God's abundant blessings." And I think with so many things, I think that's a challenge a lot of us have, is not between good and evil, but between so many good things, and how do I choose the best things? The more weightier matters. And let the drops go by, I guess.
Hank Smith:	05:17	Right, the idea of good, better, best, right?
John Bytheway:	05:20	Yeah. President Oaks' talk about that. What is the best use of my time? Because there's a lot of good causes out there, but what would the Lord... President Eyring blessed me a lot when he gave a talk and he said, "You might have a heavy calling, whatever, and you might even complain." And that was a prophecy about me. "You may realize, I can't do it all." And then, ah, this was such a blessing to me. He said, "So instead of wondering, 'Lord, how do I do it?' I'll just ask, 'What do I do next?'"
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	05:59	Oh, I love that.
John Bytheway:	06:00	That was so helpful to me, because I... Yeah, Lord, I can't do it all. Period. So what do I do next? And maybe that helps us distinguish the drop from the weightier matters.
Hank Smith:	06:11	Yeah. I have to say something about verse 11, because we are big fans of Newel K. Whitney, at the followHIM Podcast. And it says, "Let my servant, Newell K. Whitney, be ashamed of the Nicolaitane band and of all their secret abominations, and his littleness of soul before me, saith the Lord." He says, "Come up to the land of Adam-ondi-Ahman and be a bishop." Wow. That's a Peter-like rebuke that the Lord just gave to Newel K. Whitney. John, you know a little bit more about this Nicolaitane band than I do, tell me about it.
John Bytheway:	06:52	Yeah, I read about it in Sister Susan Easton Black's book. And she said, "In the New Testament era, Nicolaitanes were followers of Nicholas, one of seven disciples appointed to supervise the distribution of food and goods to the poor. See Acts 6:5. Christian tradition suggests that Nicholas failed to fulfill his appointment, and apostatized. Tradition further suggests that Nicholas established a religious sect with followers known as Nicolaitanes. Nicolaitanes held that it was

lawful to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication in direct opposition to the decrees of God. See Acts 15:20 and 29. False beliefs and immoral actions spawned by such beliefs led to impurities within early Christianity. Elder Bruce R. McConkie equated Nicolaitanes with members of the Church who are trying to maintain their church standing, while continuing to live after the manner of the world."

Hank Smith:	07:51	Wow.
John Bytheway:	07:52	So that's a... And I just wondered, did Newel K. Whitney, did he mark this verse in his Doctrine and Covenants? I mean, that is really hard to have that in there. And I'd love what the Lord said. "Be a bishop unto my people, not in name, but in deed." It's be a nominal member, or are you a member in your deeds? Not just in a title, but in your deeds. And that's... And haven't we noticed this? Hank confronts with a lot of people in the Doctrine and Covenants that, to have this... I mean, and Joseph himself... to have it published how many times the Lord has to forgive him of his sins?
Hank Smith:	08:33	Yes.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	08:34	Yes.
John Bytheway:	08:34	And it softens my heart about all of them, to think boy, they were just folks like us, just trying to do the best they can.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	08:43	Yes. You know, John and Hank, what I really like about this also is, the Lord doesn't mince words on this one. Yeesh.
John Bytheway:	08:52	No.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	08:54	I tell you what, he did not mince his words in this one. But then after this he says, "Okay, be a bishop unto my people." He could have said, "Okay, I'm going to find someone else that has a bigger soul than you do."
John Bytheway:	09:10	He could have said, "You are hereby released," but he didn't.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	09:12	That's exactly right. But the Lord, and we're talking about that he was not, he was upset against their secret combinations. And I don't know what that means exactly. But the Lord says, "Hey, be a bishop unto my people." It's like, he put it behind him. He says, "You showed a lot of littleness of soul before me, but just be a bishop in deed."

John Bytheway:	09:39	There probably isn't a bishop out there who doesn't feel inadequate at times. And it gives hope to them as well, to say, "Keep going and just be a bishop. And you're forgiven, but be a bishop." Maybe that could give some hope to them.
Hank Smith:	10:00	It tells me also that the Lord's love includes high standards. He will, right? Sometimes we think, "Oh, if someone loves me, then they don't have expectations for me," right? "They'll let me be whoever I am. It's who I am. It's how I was born, right?" Instead, the Lord says, "No, I have high standards for you because I love you. Now, let's get back on track."
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	10:24	Yes. Thank you, Hank, for saying that. Thank you for saying that.
Hank Smith:	10:27	Yeah. And Bishop Whitney dies faithful in the Church. So even though the Lord called him out publicly in the Doctrine and Covenants, he stuck around, right?
John Bytheway:	10:37	Yeah. "You and your secret abominations and littleness of soul." Ugh! Ouch.
Hank Smith:	10:45	It reminds me of in the New Testament where Peter goes to rebuke the Lord, right? And to tell him, "No, you're not going to die. You're not going to suffer." And he says, "Get behind me, Satan."
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	10:57	Yes.
Hank Smith:	10:58	Wow.
John Bytheway:	10:59	Let's see, which insult could be worse?
Hank Smith:	11:03	Yeah. I was going to say, of all the names you don't want Jesus to call you. That's got to be in the top few.
John Bytheway:	11:07	I think Peter was constantly getting corrected and that's because the Lord loved him. It just... And you're going to lead the Church, and I'm just going to keep letting you know what's right. But Peter was amazing.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	11:22	And John that's the message for me in all this, and I think Hank said it too. The Lord loves us enough to correct us, and he doesn't mince words. But when we listen by the power of the spirit, we can feel where we're coming short a little. And then the Lord won't just say, "Okay, you're you have littleness of soul," and leave it at that. He'll actually say, "Now be a bishop in

deed." So he gives them an instruction on how to overcome that weakness, I think. So it's very instructive.

- Hank Smith: 11:59 Yeah. It is. And for all the teenagers listening, who have parents who have high expectations, it's a form of love. I'm hoping my kids are listening to this. High expectations are a form of love. And so is forgiveness, and an understanding. Because he seems to be understanding, like, "Yes, this is something that you're struggling with. I'm going to help you through it. Get back up."
- John Bytheway: 12:24 And I think, Hank, if I can add to that, it's not, "Why can't you be more like Edward Carter?" And I, with teenagers in particular, I love to tell my kids, "The Lord wants you to be the very best version of you that you can be, and he'll help you be that. You don't have to look sideways at your friends, even your siblings, why can't I be more like them? And we're not going to say that to you. But be the best version of yourself." I love that's what patriarchal blessings invite us all to do, is here's your gifts, your talents, and rise up and be the best version of yourself, and the Lord's going to be there and help you do that.
- Hank Smith: 13:06 Yeah, that's beautiful.
- Dr. Frantz Belo...: 13:07 Yeah. I love that. One of the highlights for me beside verse 11 is verse 12.
- Hank Smith: 13:14 Oliver Granger. a slightly different message.
- Dr. Frantz Belo...: 13:18 Oh, it's a very different message.
- Hank Smith: 13:19 Than Newel K. Whitney.
- Dr. Frantz Belo...: 13:21 Yes, I know. And again, I love what he says. And again, I say unto you, I remember my servant Oliver Granger. Behold verily, I say unto him that his name shall be had in sacred remembrance from generation to generation, forever and ever, saith the Lord." And then in verse 13, "Therefore, let him contend earnestly for the redemption of the First Presidency of my Church, saith the Lord; and when he falls, he shall rise again, for his sacrifice shall be more sacred unto me than his increase, saith the Lord." So that was such a impactful verse to me. And I remembered when I was studying this, that in October 2004, President Boyd K. Packer gave a talk, titled "The Least of These." And in that talk, he says, "Today, this prophecy has been fulfilled. The prophecy of Oliver Granger, his name would be in remembrance from generation to generation."

Dr. Frantz Belo...:	14:33	<p>He says, "Today, this prophecy has been fulfilled." So let me share with you a little bit of that talk, if that's okay. He says, President Packard says, quote, "Let no one underestimate the power of faith in the ordinary Latter-day Saints. There is a message for Latter-day Saints in a seldom-quoted revelation given to the prophet Joseph Smith in 1838. 'I remember my servant Oliver Granger. Behold, verily I say unto him that his name shall be held in sacred remembrance from generation to generation, forever and ever, saith the Lord.' Oliver Granger," President Packard said, "was a very ordinary man. He was mostly blind, having lost his sight by cold and exposure. The First Presidency described him as a man of the most strict integrity and moral virtue, and in fine to be a man of God. When the Saints were driven from Kirtland, Ohio, in a scene that would be repeated in Independence, Far West, and in Nauvoo, Oliver was left behind to sell their properties for what little he could.</p>
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	15:41	<p>There was not much chance that he could succeed, and really he did not succeed. But the Lord said, 'Let him continuously for the redemption of the First Presidency of my Church, said the Lord; and when he falls, he shall rise again, for his sacrifice shall be more sacred unto me than his increase, said the Lord.' What did Oliver Granger do that his name should be held in sacred remembrance? Nothing much really. It was not so much what he did, as what he was." Oh my goodness. This really touched me. Oliver Granger had become Christ-like. He failed in his assignment, but he had become like unto Christ. And now, today, 2021, we're remembering him. We are talking about this man, and right now, and hoping that we're learning from this normal man with significant physical ailments, having become like Christ, and the Lord dedicating two verses to this wonderful man.</p>
John Bytheway:	16:58	<p>Do you know, you used two words there. You used the word become twice, what he has become. And I think a talk that has blessed me so much was I think then-Elder Dallin H. Oaks in October of 2000. Do you remember that talk, "The Challenge to Become?" And I think we all have a lot of maybe some Law of Moses in our spiritual DNA. And we're wondering about our check marks are good, or bad check marks about what we do. And the emphasis here that you just gave, Frantz, is what had he become? And that was Elder Oaks' whole talk. It's not enough just to know what to do, or even to do what we know, it's are you becoming what we're supposed to become? Which is a beautiful thought. And Oliver had become, Oliver Granger had become Christlike, as you said, and that's the goal. Are we becoming more like the savior? That's the hard question, too.</p>

Hank Smith:	17:55	And the Lord, I think, teaches a wonderful principle in verse 13, that I can take a failure and make it sacred, right? Like a lot of us, I have friends and family members who have had long marriages end in divorce, and you can almost hear the Lord saying this in verse 13, "When he falls, he will rise again for his sacrifice, or his failure there, will be more sacred unto me than his increase." I just hear a wonderful principle of, it's not a failure to me, because you're becoming something which I wanted you to become. So I just think that man, that's a beautiful idea.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	18:41	And Hank, back in the day, over a decade ago, I remember going through some very difficult times. And I remember sitting down during a sacrament meeting, and feeling that I was useless. I felt that I was having difficulties making ends meet for my family. We had five kids. I wasn't feeling successful at work. I felt alone. I didn't feel that I had a lot of friends. And I remember sitting in sacrament meeting and just saying, "What's my purpose here? What am I doing here?" And I was trying to keep the commandments of the Lord, but I was failing miserably in a lot of aspects of my life, and it was very difficult for me. I remember stepping out of that third hour, walking out, and my bishop stopped me in the hall. And bless, bless, bless this bishop for who he is. But he stopped me in the hall and he said... Sorry.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	20:08	He said, "How are you?" I told him I felt useless, didn't matter too much. And he said, "Brother Belot, the Lord has given you many, many talents. Hang in there. Things will get better." I was grateful for that. The moment was perfect. The Lord was aware of this man who felt lost, who felt that he didn't have a purpose, who felt that he was not measuring up, that he was failing. And the Lord simply said through his bishop, "I have given you many talents, just keep at it." And now I see those days and I feel humble. Things have changed significantly in my life, but I remember those days where the Lord supported me. And to your point, Hank, I felt that a little bit that my sacrifices had become sacred to him, although I was failing. So forgive me for being personal, but this brought a memory to me.
Hank Smith:	21:37	No, that's beautiful. I haven't even seen those verses in that light before, and I love it. John?
John Bytheway:	21:44	I'm glad you shared that, because sometimes we think that, well, if you have the church and the gospel, then there's no reason to ever feel worthless. But even those of us who are serving sometimes feel that way. And there are probably many people who could relate to that feeling, that have been blessed by what you just said. That even when we know we're in the

Lord's church, and we're where we're supposed to be, and trying to do what we supposed to be doing, sometimes we wonder if we matter. So thank you for sharing that, because I think a lot of people will benefit from, you just keep going. The Lord has given you talents, and you press forward.

Hank Smith: 22:29 It's such a good moment. I don't want to pass it by, but I do want to keep going here into Section 118. We get to talk about our Twelve Apostles.

Dr. Frantz Belo...: 22:37 Section 118 is so positive. And we know that that took place because of the apostasy, and the apostles that left the Church, and the new ones. And the Lord is talking to them, talking to those men who are coming to the apostleship. I don't know if they were bewildered, if they were surprised, but he's giving them instructions, he's talking to them directly. In verse one, if we could start, it says, "Verily, doth saith the Lord: Let a conference be held immediately; and let the Twelve be organized; and let men be appointed to supply the place of those who are fallen." And nowhere in that scripture, do I see, "And let perfect men be appointed to supply the place of those who are fallen."

Hank Smith: 23:36 We looked, but we couldn't find any.

Dr. Frantz Belo...: 23:39 That's exactly right. He said, "Let them be appointed," and He gives them instruction. And I love verse three, "Let the residue continue to preach from that hour, and if they will do this in all lowliness of heart, in meekness and humility, and long-suffering, I, the Lord give unto them a promise that I will provide for their families; and an effectual door shall be opened for them, from henceforth."

Hank Smith: 24:08 Can you imagine getting that kind of call? Verse five, "Let them take leave of my saints in the city of Far West, on the 26th day of April next." That goes back to what we talked about earlier with the story of Brigham Young, and Isaac Russell, and Theodore Turley. This is where the Lord says, "You're going to leave for your mission from Far West next year." And this is where Brigham comes back and says, "We got to fulfill that prophecy."

Hank Smith: 24:37 And you said this earlier, Frantz, but we should say it again, that the amazing names that come out of, that get added to the Twelve because of the apostasy. John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff, Willard Richards is going to be in Carthage Jail with the prophet. These are some incredible names who come out of such a terrible time, such a dark, terrible time for the Church. I

think that that is... I think that's crucial to understand, that the Lord can turn something so dark and difficult into something... an opportunity, future opportunity and happiness. John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff I don't know if you guys know, but they have some impact on the future of the Church.

John Bytheway: 25:26

Those names seem to ring a bell to me, yeah.

Hank Smith: 25:30

I just think it's an absolutely beautiful idea. Because we have a lot of listeners, I'm sure, who are going through difficult, hard times as we just talked about. And the message, I think, of this, is the work moves forward, and I can actually bring some future, what, opportunity? Understanding? Future happiness? Through who comes in to replace those who have fallen. So I just think it's a very hopeful section.

John Bytheway: 26:02

Frantz?

Dr. Frantz Belo...: 26:03

Yes, I think so too. And I love you saying this, because it's also about families, right? We know that these men that were called, were called to go and preach the gospel, and they were leaving behind them their wives and their children. And it's not that they had a fat bank account that could take care of those women. So after the Young family's arrival, Joseph received an unpublished revelation instructing Brigham that he was to leave his family again. And then in Section 118, the Lord is reminding Brigham and the other apostles that he'll provide. But then notice this. It says, "During those nine months provided proof to be anything but restful, when the apostles were gone." The Saints in Missouri were driven from their homes, right? Once again, Brigham Young was in danger as one of the most wanted Church leaders. The Young family fled together, but they traveled short distances and then waited while Brigham went back to assist other destitute Saints.

Dr. Frantz Belo...: 27:14

Mary Anne recalled that by... the wife of Brigham Young... recalled that by the time they reached safety on the other side of the Mississippi River in Illinois, she had kept house in 11 different places within three months. She was also pregnant. So the history talks a lot about the great apostles, their faith and so on, but they were supported by the Mary Annes of the world, right? They had wonderful women that had faith, and those women worked physically to exhaustion. They were not only carrying babies at this moment, just like Mary Anne, but they were moving from house to house, carrying their things while their husband was preaching the gospel. I mean, this is the rich history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It's the story of sacrifices of women that have given so much to allow

their husband, at least on the Quorum of the Twelve, to do what they needed to do to build a kingdom. And then meanwhile, they were taking the bulk of raising the children and providing for them. Hence, the Lord says, "I will provide for your family." I mean, it's significant.

- John Bytheway: 28:37 Did you say 11 different houses in three months?
- Dr. Frantz Belo...: 28:41 That is correct. Yeah. That's what the *Revelations in Context*, historically, that's what happened.
- Hank Smith: 28:49 Wow. And that's, I mean... And when it comes to missionary work and Brigham Young is going to be... It's going to be hard to match, right? Brigham is crossing over to England over the next couple of years, he's going to spend a lot of time on the East Coast of the United States. So I love that. We need to talk about the Mary Annes of the Church. Very much Brigham's equal in sacrifice and work.
- John Bytheway: 29:22 It's just, it's humbling. I just keep thinking of, I think it was President Harold B. Lee that said, "Today, we have the test of gold. We have abundance. It gives us whole new ideas of things to complain about." And there, the physical trials that they're doing. Like you said, Frantz, so she had to move her children across the river.
- Dr. Frantz Belo...: 29:47 Yes.
- John Bytheway: 29:47 Without a husband there.
- Dr. Frantz Belo...: 29:49 That's exactly right.
- John Bytheway: 29:50 Yeah. These women were awesome.
- Hank Smith: 29:54 One of my good friends, his name is Lynn. It seems like he spent his entire life on this stand. I think he got home off a mission, and they made him a General Authority pretty much in my mind. And you talk to his wife, Haley, and that is not an easy thing to do to. To never sit by your husband at Church, to have a husband gone a lot on Sunday, and Tuesday night, and Saturday morning. And that is a rough spot to be in. So the Mary Annes and the Haleys out there, yeah. We want to recognize that.
- John Bytheway: 30:33 I used to say to my wife, when I left for stuff when I was Bishop, "Bye everybody, I'm going to talk to others about the importance of families." And somebody said once, "We're married for eternity, but separated for life."

Hank Smith:	30:53	John, you probably remember me telling you about the bishop who fell asleep in his driveway, and his wife had to come knock on his window to wake him up at midnight.
John Bytheway:	31:05	I have an appointment.
Hank Smith:	31:06	Yep. Yep. Yep. That's Frantz Belot.
John Bytheway:	31:08	Really?
Hank Smith:	31:09	That is Frantz Belot. That's him.
John Bytheway:	31:09	Wow.
Hank Smith:	31:12	Yeah, I've told this story before. And he said, "You know, I am never tired of his work, but I am sure tired in his work." Do you remember telling me that?
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	31:21	Yes. Yes.
Hank Smith:	31:21	You fell asleep in your driveway.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	31:23	Yes, I did.
Hank Smith:	31:23	You said, "I just got home from being bishop. I put the car in park. Just decided to close my eyes, just for a minute."
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	31:32	Yeah. And then I fell asleep.
Hank Smith:	31:32	Right? And then Brandy's knocking on the door. He fell asleep. It was like midnight. "Are you coming inside?" "Sorry, sorry. I just closed my eyes for a second, and it turned into hours."
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	31:44	For a second, yeah.
Hank Smith:	31:45	But you said, "I get tired in his work. I don't get tired of his work."
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	31:51	Yes. That's correct, that's what I said.
Hank Smith:	31:52	And then today, it's like that day of rest thing. A day of rest, "Nah, not exactly." But resting from worldly things, yes.
John Bytheway:	32:01	Yeah.
Hank Smith:	32:02	But a different kind of day of rest. That's a great story. I have a Branch Office here in my driveway, so.

Dr. Frantz Belo...:	32:10	So Section 119, this is the tithing section, right? This is the Lord wanting to get the work done, and he's requiring Saints to contribute. And he doesn't want them to be in debt anymore. And he's promising them that there will be blessings. But it's a wonderful section in understanding, I call this the "Economy of the Lord," which mathematically doesn't work at times, but spiritually, oh my goodness, yields all of the blessings that he says that it will yield. So I love that section. The beginning is very, again, the first verse, "Verily doth saith the Lord, I require all their surplus property to be put into the hands of the bishop of my church in Zion." Now we have to understand a little bit of what's happening here. It was not a common thing. I mean sure, in different religions, they would pass the whatever it is, so that you can collect. Exactly, pass the plate. But this one is saying any surplus that you have, you need to put it in the hands of the bishop.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	33:36	So it was a new revelation obviously, but it was also sobering to think that I am going to give, and I'd like to use my surplus to do other things, but now I'm giving that to the Church to build the kingdom. The Lord says, "For the building in mine house and for the laying of the foundation of Zion and for the priesthood," in verse two, "and for the debts of the Presidency of my Church." And I could see some members saying, "Well, they're the one who got into debts. I didn't. So why do I have to provide for that?" So I can see people seeing this, and maybe I'd be wanting to say something like this and hopefully repent quickly. But the Lord is asking them to be very selfless, to provide in the tithing, but again, like anything else, whatever the Lord asks, there are blessings that are attached to that. And I think that's what we learn in that section. Not only the request that may have been difficult for some, but also the blessings that come from that.
Hank Smith:	34:47	Yeah. I keep coming back to, John, do you remember when it was Dr. Farnes, almost-Dr. Farnes, Sherilyn Farnes, who's finishing up her PhD. She quoted Edward Partridge, and this has not left me. I've repeated it in my mind a lot since then, when he said, quote, "I am willing to spend and be spent in the cause of my Master." And tithing, I think, is part of that. I am willing to spend and be spent in the cause of my Master. Both of you have served as bishop. Being on the intimate side of this, this is not an easy law to keep for some. For some people it's an easy law to keep, right. For my wife, it's easy. That's why she does it. Not because-
John Bytheway:	35:38	Yeah. And I wish all of the commandments were this easy and mathematical, this easy to keep.

Hank Smith:	35:45	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	35:45	But I think that something that was very time-consuming, but was really a refuge from the storm for me, was tithing settlement. Where faithful members who simply did their duty, and kept moving forward, and some of them, it was the only time I saw them annually, because they were just out there faithfully doing their duty. Tithing settlement was just an enriching, refuge from the storm, we're in this together type experience. And to have people... It just said something about their testimony of Jesus Christ and everything else when tithing was... they were a full-tithed pair. I knew that so many other things were okay. How do I say that? Am I saying that okay?
Hank Smith:	36:39	Yeah, I think so.
John Bytheway:	36:40	And so a lot of times I was meeting with folks with a lot of problems, and that's part of why you're there, you're there to help be... to heal, and to encourage, and so forth. And so tithing settlement was a real fun thing to meet with everybody, and how you doing, and how's your family, and I'm so glad you're firm in the faith, and keep going. So I don't know, when I think of that as a bishop, I think of tithing settlement and how wonderful that was. And things have changed structurally, dramatically, since tithing went online.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	37:16	And John, thank you for sharing that. Those were some of my most precious times, it was to be at the tithing settlement. I do remember a singular experience I had with a sister that was in the early seventies. And I said, Sister So-and-so, and she was a widow. And I said, "Sister So-and-so, why is it that you're paying your tithing? Why is it that you've been faithful all through those years?" And then she says, "Bishop, the Lord has given me everything." That's all she said to me. "The Lord has given me everything." And I was touched by that. That deep understanding that the earth belongs to the Lord.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	38:10	He provides us with breath. He provides us with opportunities, with health, and in return, not even in return, he's asking us to give 10% of our increase, to do what? To bless other people. As if he really needs the money, right? It's but a drop. It's insignificant to the Lord. But it's to bless others and also to bless us. And if I can share with you something from David Bednar, from General Conference, October 2013, I think he says it more eloquently, like usual, than I can. But he says, "As we live the law of tithing, we often receive significant but subtle blessings that are not always what we expect, and easily can be overlooked. The family," speaking of his family, "had not

received any sudden or obvious additions to the household income. Instead, a loving Heavenly Father had bestowed simple blessings, in seemingly ordinary ways."

- Dr. Frantz Belo...: 39:21 "Often," Elder Bednar continues, "As we teach and testify about the Law of Tithing, we emphasize the immediate, dramatic, and readily recognizable temporal blessings that we receive, and surely such blessings do occur. Yet some of the diverse blessings we obtain as we are obedient to this commandment are significant, but subtle. Such blessings can be discerned only if we are both spiritually attentive and observant." The Law of Tithing has helped me personally, have more compassion towards my brothers and sisters. I'm talking about not only the ones that are destitute, but also the ones that have riches. I've learned through the Law of Tithing to be more compassionate towards people. That was a spiritual blessing I received.
- Hank Smith: 40:12 As I've been teaching tithing through the years and trying to help my students understand the blessings of tithing, I ran into a little analogy that I just love. So John, you've done tours of the Holy Land, so have I, and this is something I share when we get out there and we see both the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. We visit both of them, and people get to see the difference, right? And there is a big difference between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Now they're both beautiful, but one is more lush and green, and has life in it, and the other is pretty dead. So this was, I think, a pastor who made this analogy. He said, "The Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea are made of the same water. It flows down clean and cool from the heights of Hermon and the roots of the Cedars of Lebanon.
- Hank Smith: 41:18 "The Sea of Galilee makes beauty of that water, because it has an outlet. It gets to give. It gathers in its riches, that it may pour them out again to fertilize the Jordan plain. But the Dead Sea, with the same water makes horror, for the Dead Sea does not give. It has no outlet. It gets to keep." And I just liked that idea that paying your tithing will make your life richer, more beautiful, right? And like you said, Frantz, this isn't about an amount of money. This is about, I don't know, the beauty of giving, right? And the Lord wants us to experience the beauty of giving. And for me personally, I, and I know neither of you are this way, but I need a check very frequently, at least once a month or once a year, saying, "Do you love me more than money, Hank? Let's check this one more time. Do you love me more than money?"
- Hank Smith: 42:19 "Yes, I do." "Okay. Prove it. Do you love me more than money?" I don't think the Lord needs my money, but I need that check. I

need that, I don't know, that warning in place, because for me, the love of money can become very important. And so the Lord says, "I'm going to put a little system in place to make sure that never overtakes things." Because money's important, right? Money is crucial to us and our survival. But man, if it becomes our love, if it becomes more important than the Lord, it really will destroy lives, destroy marriages, destroy families. And so the Lord has kept this, I don't know. I think the Lord put tithing in place for me... Yeah. A moment where the Lord just says, "I'm going to let you decide every month and every year if you love me more than money." And I have a wife who helps me love the Lord more than money, right? Because she,

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| John Bytheway: | 43:16 | More than Ford F-150s. |
| Hank Smith: | 43:20 | Oh, don't bring it up. John. |
| John Bytheway: | 43:23 | My natural man comes out because when I've been at tithing settlement, I remember once saying it is 10%, I wish it was more, but it's 10%. But my dad wrote me a letter when I was on my mission in the Philippines, and he joined the Church when he was 24. And the missionaries, I guess, they had read Malachi to him. This idea of, "I will open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it," which is an amazing promise and a poetic promise. |
| John Bytheway: | 43:58 | And my dad started paying tithing as an investigator, to kind of test the principle. And I didn't know that until I got this letter, but he was paying tithing while investigating the church to see if it would work. And it did. We never had a Ford F-150, but... And I want to go back to what Frantz said about this woman who said, "The Lord has given me everything." I just had a reference, Genesis 28:22, "This stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that thou shalt give unto me, I will surely give the tenth unto thee." |
| Dr. Frantz Belo...: | 44:39 | I think that's beautiful. Another thing that's coming to mind is, as a member of the Church, I asked myself, "What does the Lord do with the tithing," right? I mean, there's millions and millions of members, and they faithfully contribute the tithes, because much like we've heard in the last five, 10 minutes or so, the blessings of tithing are bounteous, really. It could be physical, it could be... But it sanctifies us. So during the talk of Elder Bednar, he helped me understand a little bit more. And I think that it'd be good for some of the audience to understand, well, what... from an apostle... what is that? So if I can quote this, he says, "I remember and think of each of you," speaking of the members who are faithful and paying their tithe. |

Dr. Frantz Belo...:	45:39	He says, "Each time I participate in the council on the disposition of the tithes." And then he says, "The leaders of the Lord's church feel a tremendous responsibility to care appropriately for the consecrated offerings of church members. We are keenly aware of the sacred nature of the widow's mite." And then he says, "I know from firsthand experience that the council of the disposition of the tithes is vigilant and caring for the widow's mite. I express appreciation to President Thomas S. Monson," who was a prophet then, "and his counselor, for their effective leadership in discharging this holy stewardship. And I acknowledge the voice and hand of the Lord that sustained his ordained servants in fulfilling the duty to represent him." So in that council, Elder Bednar expresses that there's a lot of discussion. Where do we put the money that the members have worked so hard, to build the kingdom of God? Because that's the purpose of it.
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	46:51	And then you think of the many temples that we have, of the many buildings, and to maintain those buildings and so on. So we all participate, in a way, and for the temporal affairs of the church, but also the spiritual growth. Because since the members have been paying their tithing, the Lord says it will be a standing law forever, in the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 119, right? He says, "And this shall be a standing law unto them forever, saith the Lord." So in verse four. Well, the tithing is what blesses and even enables us to have this discussion today, because of the Church continuing to provide. And so I'm very grateful to understand that this is really well managed, and it's for the welfare of the members, and definitely to build the kingdom of God.
Hank Smith:	47:52	Frantz, I think the council that you just talked about, that is created in Section 120, right?
Dr. Frantz Belo...:	47:59	Oh, yes.
Hank Smith:	48:00	"It shall be disposed by a council ,composed of the First Presidency of my Church, and of the bishop and his council, and by my high council; and by my own voice unto them." So that very council that Elder Bednar was a part of, that he said he was a part of, has been a part of, I should say, and probably still is, is created here in Section 120. So it seems that the Lord is very careful. He wants the Church to be very careful with the widow's mite. John, what were you going to add?
John Bytheway:	48:28	Thank you for, I'm so glad you brought that up. I can only imagine the burden that council must feel. And I seem to remember President Hinckley, in a conference talk, mentioning

that he kept a widow's mite on his desk to remind him of that. And you know, Frantz, as a bishop, how you felt about the fast offerings, and when somebody would come and need some help. And you were very prayerful about how do I do this and how much do I do, and I want to be so careful with these sacred funds, you know? And I felt that, I'm sure you felt that. And I'm so grateful that I feel like, once I've written my check, or made my online deposit or whatever, I know that there's a council that is praying over this. What do we do with this? And that they are thinking of not just me, but the widow's mite. That's such a comfort. I-

- Hank Smith: 49:23 I wanted to, if you guys don't mind, I want to take a look just quickly at verse six. Someone might say, "Well, what's the problem with, I don't want to pay my tithing. I want to keep my money. What's the problem?" I think the Lord gives a great explanation. He says, "If my people observed not this law," tithing, "to keep it holy, and by this law, sanctify the land of Zion unto me." So I think tithing first is sanctifying. It will cleanse you. And it does that for me. "That my statutes and my judgments may be kept thereon, that it may be most holy." So again, I think tithing creates a holy person, a sanctified person. He says, "If you don't do these things, if you're not sanctified, and you're not holy, it shall not be a land of Zion unto you."
- Hank Smith: 50:11 Isn't this interesting that this is about who we are. You both brought up the talk, "The Challenge to Become" from Elder Oaks, then-Elder Oaks, right? And I think tithing is a major portion of what do you want to be? And I don't want to be a covetous, money centered individual. And if I am a covetous, money centered individual, when I get to Zion, it won't be Zion to me, right? It won't be Zion to me because I won't be a Zion person. So I think I would say, if tithing... Paying tithing is a way to create Zion in yourself.
- John Bytheway: 50:59 And to me, it helped a lot to watch my parents, like everybody, struggle to make ends meet. Both my mom and my dad worked, but tithing was such a... It was never a decision. It was a decision made once, and it was easy after that. And that was a great example to me.
- Hank Smith: 51:23 Yeah. I remember once-
- John Bytheway: 51:25 It was an indicator of what mattered, you know?
- Hank Smith: 51:28 I remember once President Hinckley talking about how, when we went through a recession, the tithes actually went up, and he was just profoundly touched by that. And in tears, he said,

"There's one word for that brothers and sisters, faith." That is faith, right? That during a time when people's incomes went down, the tithes of the Church went up.

John Bytheway: 51:54

Hank and Frantz, I was just thinking, having gone through this pandemic, and it's still going, President Hinckley talked about that recession. How many have had their income effected by this significantly, and kept paying their tithing? And I bet many testimonies have been strengthened of tithing, that the Lord's promises are sure and he's taken care of us. Mine has. My testimony of it has been strengthened, that we had what we needed to keep going.

Hank Smith: 52:24

Frantz, let me ask you a kind of a final question here. You've done just incredibly well with, I mean, this was a lot of sections. This is one of those lessons that just flies from topic to topic, and you just, I've learned so much. I want to hear how you feel personally, as just a member of the Church, studying the restoration. You have a doctorate degree. You have a very solid educational background, and yet here you are faithful to the Church. I think our listeners would love to know more about how you feel about the Restoration.

Dr. Frantz Belo...: 53:02

Oh, thank you, Hank. I appreciate the question. The Restoration means everything for me. And maybe a little bit of background. I became a member when I was 15-years-old. Three, four months later, I would turn 16, but I was 15 when I became a member. And I remember distinctly one night, after having hung out with friends, I came home and I laid on my bed, and we, as I shared in the beginning, we didn't have a lot of means. So I was lucky enough that day to be on my bed alone, because there were three of us that slept on that bed. But I was looking at the ceiling and I thought to myself, "Is that what this is about?" I just, I was 15, and I had that moment of maturity, which was rare, but I thought, "Is that what this is about? Just going to play with friends, going to school, wake up in the morning, eat and go to bed?"

Dr. Frantz Belo...: 54:07

I'm like, "There has to be more than this." And that was a question that stayed with me until my uncle introduced us to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the rest is history. So I've been a member now for 37 years, and I'm grateful for the so many documents that have been left behind, historically speaking. Not only the scriptures, but *Revelations in Context*, the church history, *Saints*, the volumes of Saints. And when I consider this, I'm like, there's no way that the Church should have survived. Well, no, seriously. When I read about the Saints and what's happened to the Prophet Joseph Smith, I'm

like, there's no way that this thing should have survived. And it would only have to be that the hand of the Almighty God was in the details, the important details, of growing His Church in these latter days with a bunch of imperfect individuals, which includes me, right?

Dr. Frantz Belo...: 55:14

With a bunch of imperfect people trying to do their very, very best. So the Restoration has meant for me that I have my family. I have five boys that we're trying to teach to be good citizens, that we're trying to teach to be good contributors around them. It's helped me understand that divorce is really not an option for us, that we're going to work through things. It's helped me have hope that I can have the relationship that I have with my wife for eternity. It's helped me understand that look, you have a lot of bad habits, and you have a lot of weaknesses, but with the Lord, every day, you can become better. And that's comforting to me. It's helped me understand that I have a relationship with my brothers and sisters, regardless of their colors, the color of their skins, their religious affiliation, or their sexual orientation.

Dr. Frantz Belo...: 56:12

It's helped me understand that I can still find commonality that we're all sons and daughters of God. So, that understanding helps me have peace in this life. Not that my life is peaceful, but it helps me have peace in life. As I go through those different circumstances or situations. It's blessed me so much, but I'll tell you, Hank and John, the greatest blessing I've received, bar none, is understanding that I have a God, that I have a Father in Heaven, and understanding that he has sent his Only Begotten Son to bless me. And that Jesus has loved me so much that he's paid for my sins, and that he continues to work with me. I can't tell you how significant that knowledge is for me personally. If that's all I knew in this life, it would have been sufficient, and I'm grateful for that.

Hank Smith: 57:22

John, another episode of followHIM is in the books, and it has been so much fun. This has just been a light to me today. I just feel really uplifted and edified.

John Bytheway: 57:34

I think our listeners love all of our guests, and I hear that all the time. And I think Frantz, coming from Haiti, joining the Church later, at 15, and your perspective has been wonderful. People are going to love hearing your perspective on this, and thank you for sharing this time. And some very personal things about growing up, and ah, it's going to be, bless a lot of people who may find themselves in a similar situation.

Hank Smith:

58:09

Yeah, absolutely wonderful. We want to thank Dr. Frantz Belot for being with us today. We want to thank all of you for listening. We couldn't do this without you. We're thankful to our executive producers, Steve and Shannon Sorenson and our production crew, Jamie Neilson, Lisa Spice, David Perry, Kyle Nelson, and Will Stoughton. And we hope that all of you will join us on our next episode of followHIM.



Hank Smith:	00:00	Hello, everyone. Welcome to FollowHIM Favorites. My name is Hank Smith. I'm here with John Bytheway, and Dr. Frantz Belot. Welcome, my friends.
John Bytheway:	00:11	Thank you.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	00:11	Thank you.
Hank Smith:	00:12	Yeah, we are here. We have a podcast called FollowHIM. We would love for you to join us on the full podcast, but this little clip is what we do, FollowHIM Favorites. For those of you who just say, "Hey, I got five minutes for you guys, give me your FollowHIM Favorites." So John and Frantz, the lesson this week is on sections 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, and 120 of the Doctrine & Covenants. So John, we'll start with you, what's your FollowHIM Favorite?
John Bytheway:	00:42	Well, I'm looking at section 115 verse five, which was actually a youth theme a few years ago, and I wrote a talk that takes an hour on this verse because there's so much in there, but we won't use the hour today. Just one of the things that is my favorite in this, is when the Savior says, well, the whole verse is, "Verily, I say unto you all arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations". And oh, I'd love to tell you the whole thing.
John Bytheway:	01:13	But thy light made me just go, wait a minute. I thought Jesus said when he came to the righteous in the new world, and I thought Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" in the book of John, but here He says your light and in the sermon on the Mount in Matthew, I'd love this, that Jesus lets us share a nickname with him.
John Bytheway:	01:35	Because he says, "I am the Light of the world." But then he says, in Matthew, "Ye are the light of the world." And this says, let thy light be, oh, that gives us all something to aspire to. That we can be a light to others. And in third ne fight connects them

both. "I am the light, which ye shall hold up, that which ye have seen me do." So we're trying to be like Jesus so that his light can be reflected in us and that our can be a standard for the nation. So I love that idea.

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| Hank Smith: | 02:08 | That's a beautiful idea, John. Have you ever been out on a full moon and the light is pretty bright, right? And all that moon is doing is reflecting the light of the sun. That's all it's doing. It has no light in itself, but man, if it's really full out there you can see quite a bit. I think that that reflection of light that can come off of us when we fully face the Savior can really bless lives. That's awesome, John. |
| John Bytheway: | 02:33 | Yeah. It's I think another way to put that, Helen Keller who you know is blind and deaf and everything, very famous. If you don't know who Helen Keller is, ask your folks, but she said, "When you face the sun, the shadows of discouragement fall behind you." And I love to change S-U-N to S-O-N. When you face the Son, the Son of God, the shadows fall behind you. |
| Hank Smith: | 02:57 | That's great. Okay. My FollowHIM Favorite is Doctrine & Covenants section 117, verse 11. This is actually a pretty brutal verse to a Bishop, the second Bishop in the church, Newell K. Whitney. The Lord says that he wants him to repent of his secret abominations, his littleness of soul, and he says to stand up and be a Bishop, not just in name, but in deed. |
| Hank Smith: | 03:31 | It's hard to sometimes tell people that loving someone can mean that you have high expectations for them. And the Lord loves Bishop Whitney. And so he has high expectations for him, and he doesn't give up on him. If you notice, he doesn't say, "Bishop Whitney, because of your abominations and your littleness of soul, you're out, we're done with you." The Lord won't give up on you. If you're willing to repent and try again, the Lord won't give up on you. |
| Hank Smith: | 04:03 | But just remember when you think, man, we have a Savior with high expectations. That is a form of love. And so when your parents or when your church leaders, anyone has a high expectation for you. Remember that it's probably because they love you. And they just don't want you to do things in name. They want you to do them indeed. Let's actually become what we are meant to become. |
| John Bytheway: | 04:32 | And can you imagine how awful it would be if the Lord had low expectations of you? |

Hank Smith:	04:37	Right. He's like, "I love you. I love you. Do whatever you want." Yeah.
John Bytheway:	04:42	"You're not much and you're not going to be much. So whatever."
Hank Smith:	04:44	Yeah, this is so much better. Yeah. Yeah. I do love that. John. Yeah. His high expectation says something about us.
John Bytheway:	04:52	It's affirming to us. Yeah.
Hank Smith:	04:55	Dr. Belot, tell us what your FollowHIM Favorite is.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	04:58	So mine is found in Doctrine & Covenants section 117, it's the verse right after yours, Hank. It's verse 12 or verses, verse 12 and 13, it says, "And again, I sound to you, I remember my servant Oliver Granger. Behold Verily I sound to him that his name shall be had in sacred remembrance from generation to generation forever and ever," said the Lord.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	05:21	Now I asked myself, why would this man be remembered? So in verse 13, "Therefore let him contend earnestly for the redemption of the first presidency." So he was helping the first presidency accomplish a few things, "Said the Lord. And when he falls," so the Lord already knows that Oliver Granger will fall. Because he didn't say, "And if" he says, "And when he falls," and I love this, "He shall rise again, for his sacrifice shall be more sacred unto me than his increase," said the Lord.
Dr. Frantz Belot:	05:54	And that's meaningful to me because not everything we do in life will bring about success or that will feel successful. But becoming the type of person that the Lord wants us to become, like Christ, is what success is, is who we're becoming. Are we more patient? Are we are loving? Are we more accepting? Are we more willing to work in the kingdom of God? And again, the Lord says that the sacrifice is more sacred to Him than his increase. So I love this section and those two verses.
Hank Smith:	06:34	Yeah. I really like that too. The idea of the Lord can sanctify your failures. That not everything is going to be successful, but it's about what you're becoming along the way.
John Bytheway:	06:44	Wow. That's really nice.
Hank Smith:	06:46	Well, we want to thank both John and Dr. Belot for being here and we hope that you'll join us on our full podcast. You can get

it wherever you get your podcast. But if not, we hope you'll join us next week for another FollowHIM Favorite.