



"Ye are the Body of Christ"

Show Notes & Transcripts

Podcast General Description:

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

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

Podcast Episode Descriptions:

Part 1:

Are we sensitive to others' challenges within our congregations? Dr. Mary Jane Woodger examines Paul's letter to the Corinthians and their difficulties with intellectualism, being inappropriate, immorality, indiscretion, and insecurity.

Part 2:

Dr. Woodger continues to explore spiritual gifts, administrative challenges, and cultural customs of Paul's days and how they differ from today.

Timecodes:

Part 1

- 00:00 Part 1–Dr. Mary Jane Woodger
- 03:07 Introduction of Dr. Mary Jane Woodger
- 05:58 Background regarding Corinth
- 07:04 Butchers and sacrificed meat
- 09:39 Personal rights vs. spiritual welfare of others
- 14:25 Story of a Vietnam Veteran
- 15:25 Being submissive to God
- 17:37 Paul’s day and views on women
- 21:18 Paul doesn’t condone abuse
- 23:38 Elder Holland teachings about men and women
- 25:58 Spiritual Gifts
- 30:25 Less conspicuous gifts
- 32:54 Moroni and spiritual gifts
- 34:54 Hank shares a personal story about listening
- 39:42 Dr. Woodger shares a personal story about testimony
- 43:21 John shares keeping a testimony journal
- 44:07 Eleazar Miller and Brigham Young
- 45:44 Heber J. Grant called to be Stake President
- 47:13 John’s *How Do I Know if I Know?*
- 48:04 Additional spiritual gifts
- 50:01 Complementary spiritual gifts
- 52:16 Wisdom and knowledge
- 57:29 End of Part 1–Dr. Mary Jane Woodger

Part 2

- 00:00 Part II–Dr. Mary Jane Woodger
- 00:07 Additional gifts of the Spirit
- 03:15 Seeking gifts of the Spirit
- 05:30 President Grant and his brother Fred
- 05:58 War on Latter-day Saint women
- 8:21 Patricia Holland on her gifts
- 11:24 All gifts are necessary
- 13:35 Elder Holland and Church as a choir
- 15:39 Differences unite us, not divide
- 17:27 Brandon Flowers in the airport
- 19:26 Spiritual gifts for this life and the next
- 21:24 President Eyrings on charity

- 25:08 Developing charity or receiving the gift of charity
- 30:43 Fear, jealousy, and charity
- 34:42 Meekness and God's love
- 37:01 Long suffering and patience
- 40:59 Robert C. Oaks and natural man
- 45:59 President Uchtdorf "You are My Hands"
- 48:01 Eliza R. Snow and forbearance
- 49:10 Dr. Mary Jane Woodger on gifts of the Spirit
- 52:16 End of Part II—Dr. Mary Jane Woodger

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Biographical Information:



Dr. Mary Jane Woodger is a professor of Church history and doctrine at Brigham Young University. Born and raised in American Fork and Salt Lake City, Utah, Dr. Woodger has always had a great love for teaching. After obtaining a BS in home economics education, Dr. Woodger taught home economics and American history in Salt Lake City, where she received the Vocational Teacher of the Year Award from Jordan School District. In 1992, she completed her MEd at Utah State University. In 1997, she received from Brigham Young University an EdD in educational leadership, with a minor in Church history and doctrine.

In 1998, Dr. Woodger was honored by Kappa Omicron Nu with an Award of Excellence for her dissertation research, entitled "The Educational Ideals of David O. McKay." Since then she has had three books published about the life and teachings of David O. McKay. She has also authored numerous articles on doctrinal, historical, and educational subjects. These articles have appeared in various academic journals, as well as venues for the Latter-day Saint audience including the Journal of Book of Mormon Studies, Deseret News, and the Religious Educator. She was recently honored with the best article of the year award from the Utah State Historical Society. Her current research interests include twentieth-century Church history, Latter-day Saint women's history, and Church education.

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Hank Smith:	00:03	Hello, my friends. Welcome to another episode of FollowHIM. My name's Hank Smith. I'm your host. I'm here with the awesome John Bytheway. Welcome, John.
John Bytheway:	00:11	Thank you.
Hank Smith:	00:12	It's a good day here at FollowHIM. Hey, John, we're going to continue in these letters from Paul. We're once again in 1 Corinthians. Last week with Dr. Bell, and here we are again in another lesson in 1 Corinthians. What are you learning about Paul so far? We've been through two of his epistles. What are you seeing? What have you learned?
John Bytheway:	00:32	I am so dazzled by Paul. We hear the phrase sometimes, "I'd like to be an instrument in the Lord's hands." Well, I think Paul was like a Swiss army knife because he could do anything. He could speak different languages.
	00:45	He could talk the Torah with a group of Jews and convince them or try to convince them that the Messiah is Jesus. And then, he could turn and talk to the Greeks and quote philosophers and stay toe to toe with them. He was amazing. And I am really loving learning about Paul here.
Hank Smith:	01:04	Yeah. I've noticed, too, John, how many problems he's dealing with in these separate branches as we're going through. Man, it's not an easy go for him as the leader. I just don't think I'd thought of that before, how many problems he was dealing with.
	01:20	He's not just teaching doctrine. He's trying to, "Okay, we got to be nice to each other. We got to get along. We have to find a way for Jews and Gentiles to be in this together." John, we're joined by a wonderful scholar and friend, Mary Jane Woodger.
	01:36	Mary Jane, what are we looking forward to today in this 1 Corinthians 8 through 13 lesson?

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	01:43	Well, when I look at Corinthians, as you just said, I look at the problems that that branch was going through, that Paul is dealing with, as what I like to call an area authority. I've gone through and put it in modern terms.
	01:59	If you had a new branch president and there's an area authority and the branch president writes and says, "Give me some advice on how to handle these issues, and maybe I can just go through those. Members are suing each other in civil court."
	02:12	"They're frequently going to social clubs where they're serving stuff that isn't exactly word of wisdom. Intoxicated men are handling the ordinance of the sacrament. Women are saying, 'I'm going to conduct the meeting.'"
	02:26	Paul is saying, "You need to get rid of the fornicators." And then, the branch president said, "Well, I've got this ancestral relationship in my ward and they're both coming to church and flaunting it, and I'm just looking the other way. So, what do you think, Paul?"
Hank Smith:	02:41	Yeah. What can I do?
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	02:43	He's just dealing with what our bishops' deal with, basically. I like to say there's nothing new with sin under the sun. He's dealing with the same things that we're dealing with in our congregations.
Hank Smith:	02:55	Fascinating. I'm looking forward to this today. Although I don't love talking about the problems you listed, but I am looking forward to how Paul is going to address these. We can probably help quite a few leaders in the church with this episode.
	03:07	Hey John, why don't you introduce Mary Jane to our audience? We've actually never had her on the podcast before, even though she's a good friend. I've known her for years. Tell us who she is.
John Bytheway:	03:16	Yes. I'm excited to introduce Dr. Mary Jane Woodger. She's a professor of church history and doctrine at Brigham Young University. She was born and raised in American Fork and Salt Lake City.
	03:27	In 1992, she completed her Master of Education at Utah State University, and received an educational doctorate in educational leadership at BYU with a minor in church history and doctrine. She's written over 20 books.

	03:42	She wrote one called Beloved Prophet about David O. McKay, and more recently, Gifts of Self-Esteem, and Spiritual Gifts and the Christlike Life with Lloyd Newell. And I was excited to have Dr. Woodger on because as Hank and I, we both went to Greece earlier this year, and I needed to have something to say in Corinth.
	04:05	And I have this book, Go Ye Into All the World. Mary Jane wrote this article called The Eyes of Corinth, Modern Problems, Not New, and all of this, you can find at rsc.byu.edu now, but she's like an expert on Corinthians.
Hank Smith:	04:22	It sounds like she's an expert on everything.
John Bytheway:	04:25	Right. So, we're just thrilled to have her. So, thank you for joining us today.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	04:30	My pleasure.
Hank Smith:	04:31	And not only is she a prolific writer, John, she's just really, really nice. When I first came to BYU, she was one of the first to come and find me and say, "Welcome and you belong here, and we love having you here."
	04:43	That meant a lot to me. I don't know if you knew, Mary Jane, but that really made a difference for me. A little nervous coming into BYU, it was odd to walk those halls with people I'd read plenty of books.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	04:55	I know what you are saying.
Hank Smith:	04:56	And I'm like, "Oh, there's that guy. I read his book." "There's that woman, I read her book." And you're like, "Holy cow, where am I?" All right, I'm going to read a little bit from the manual here and then we're going to turn it over to you and let's go where you want to go into this lesson.
	05:11	Here's the first paragraph in the manual. "In Paul's time, Corinth was a wealthy trade center with residents from all over the Roman Empire. With so many different cultures and religions in the city, church members in Corinth struggled."
	05:23	You've already talked about that. "They struggled to maintain unity. So, Paul sought to help them find unity in their belief in Christ. This unity was to be more than just a peaceful coexistence. Paul wasn't asking them to merely tolerate each other."

	05:36	"Rather, he taught that when you join the church of Jesus Christ, you are baptized into one body and every body part is needed." It goes on a little bit later to say, "So, whether you feel like you've always been at home in the church or find yourself wondering if you actually belong, Paul's message to you is that unity is not sameness, but you need your fellow saints and your fellow saints need you."
	05:58	I thought it was a great opening to this lesson. So, Mary Jane, where do you want to go? How should we start this? Do we need some background on Corinth or should we just jump right in?
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	06:07	As we talk about Corinth, I have conceptualized some problems they were having and they all start with the letter I. As identified those, you've got intellectualism, being inappropriate, immorality, indiscretion, being insubmissible, and insecurity.
	06:26	And you've covered the first three intellectualism, being inappropriate, and immorality with Chapters 1 through 7. But I'd like to look at those other three problems they were having that we also have, starting with the first one, which I call indiscretion.
	06:43	Paul's going to apply the gospel to social situations. We might look at Greco-Roman society and say, "That doesn't apply to us." But I really think it does. The first one, Chapter 8 through 10, that he spends a lot of time on, maybe Latter-day Saints reading it go, "This has nothing to do with me."
	07:04	But there are two problems. One, people were going to the butchers, some meat, and you realize that in Corinth, if you got to eat meat, it was a big deal. It was very scarce. They would sacrifice the meat to the idols.
	07:22	People were going, "I don't know if that's right." The other thing is saints in Corinth, ancient saints, were being invited to pagan temples for dinner parties and they weren't sure if they should go. Those are the things that Paul's dealing with.
Hank Smith:	07:38	I've never been invited to a pagan temple for a dinner party. I would wonder, too. I would wonder if I should go.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	07:46	If I went to a local grocery store and said to the butcher now, "I want to buy this T-bone, but I need to know if it's been sacrificed to Zeus or not." They'd be calling security. "This woman's got some problems."

- 07:57 But if you look at it in the context, it really does apply to us. So, his response in Chapter 8, Verse 4, he says, "As concerning therefore, the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world and there is none other God but one."
- 08:19 In theory, eating idol meat had no religious significance for the Christians, but Paul's going to add something. So, if you go to Chapter 8, again, in Verse 9, he said, "Take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours becomes a stumbling block to them that are weak."
- 08:37 "For if any man see thee, which hath knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him, which is weak, be emboldened to eat those things, which are offered to idols. And through this knowledge shall the weak brother perish for whom Christ died."
- 08:59 So, I believe Paul's applying the principle of love your neighbors yourself to this social situation. In some contexts in Corinth, eating meat offered to an idol is correct, in others, it's inappropriate. Depending on how it's going to affect all the people that are involved.
- 09:16 Paul admonished, and this is going to Chapter 10, he said, "Whatsoever is sold in the shambles that eat asking no questions for conscience's sake." Paul instructs the Corinthian saints not to ask, where the meat they're going to buy came from, unless someone else makes an issue of it, then the saints aren't to buy it.
- 09:39 Some may eat meat because the examples of other saints or through peer pressure, but feel it's wrong. Thus, they would violate or weaken their consciousness. So, in other words, if you put your rights ahead of the spiritual welfare of another, you're in the wrong.
- 09:56 In other words, go through the motions and a liberty of yours or some right of yours can become a stumbling block to your neighbor's testimony. What does that apply to us? Well, he's not talking about commandments, he's talking about those gray areas, word of wisdom, dress, those kinds of situations where you've got to consider your neighbor's feelings.
- 10:22 We need to be concerned about what we do, how it affects our brothers and sisters. I'll give you an example in class, and this is talking about something that I don't think we even consider that

much, but we were talking about word of wisdom. We're talking about Coke.

10:38 So, I have one sister returned missionary who raises her hand said, "Well, Sister Woodger, when I was on my mission, my mission president said, 'If a member of the church offers you a Coke, just drink it. Just drink it.'"

10:53 And then, I had another returned missionary who raised their hand and said, "Well, Sister Woodger, in my mission, the saints were so conservative that the mission president said, 'Even if a member of another faith offers you a Coke, don't drink it.'" So, it's in the context. It's in the context,

Hank Smith: 11:13 Yeah. Trying to be careful with other people's faith, especially Paul says, "The weak in the faith." Be careful with those who are, how would you describe it, that their testimony isn't quite strong enough to maybe handle some of this ambiguity.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 11:28 Yeah, absolutely. Let me give you another example. Let's say, Sister Smith comes over, she sees me outside and she comes over.

Hank Smith: 11:34 By the way, I love her, Sister Smith. She is one of my favorite.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 11:37 Yeah, Sister Smith is the best.

Hank Smith: 11:39 I adore her. I'm glad I got to marry her. All right, keep going.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 11:42 Yeah, I didn't know that. Oh, dear, maybe I better change it to Sister Jones. And she says, "Oh, I'm sorry, you're seeing me like this." And she looks like she could model for the Liahona cover. She says, "I just got off my exercise bike where I was reading my scriptures and my whole wheat bread was rising."

12:03 And I just got home from the grocery store and I have some Twinkies in the bag and some Diet Coke. And she said, "Oh, do you know Twinkies are just full of triglycerides and have you seen what a Coke does to a penny?"

12:17 And then, she says, "I'm just going to go and pick up some peaches to can. You do canned fruit, don't you?" And by the time Sister Smith gets done with me, what do I feel like, something that crawled out from under the rock.

Hank Smith: 12:29 I'll have to go talk to her about this.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	12:35	Yeah, you need to. So, even in the church, Paul would say, "Be sensitive if someone's not on your level." What's the principle? Its love your neighbor as yourself.
Hank Smith:	12:44	Be sensitive, I like that.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	12:46	I think sometimes, we look at, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Those two great commandments, "Love the Lord thy God with all your mind and strength." And we think there are three commandments there.
	12:58	We think the Lord's saying, "Love your God, love your neighbor, and love yourself." He's not commanding us to love ourselves. He's just saying, "I'm aware that you do that." He simply acknowledges that our own comfort is our first priority.
	13:12	And he's saying, "As an ancient saint, you've got to worry about your neighbors and what you're doing is going to affect them."
John Bytheway:	13:21	Is this getting into avoid the appearance of evil? I don't mean to say eating meat was evil, but it's that idea, what will this do to others who may be weaker in the faith? Let's look at Verse 13 of 1 Corinthians 8.
	13:35	"Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." This reminds me of Jesus saying to Peter, "Do the children of the kingdom give tribute?" Do you remember that story?
Hank Smith:	13:50	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	13:51	But Jesus says, "Well, no, but lest we offend them. Go get that coin out of that fish's mouth and we'll pay." Here's the Savior being... but we didn't come to offend, so let's avoid offending, if we can. Anyway, I love that, that Jesus would teach that.
Hank Smith:	14:08	Mary Jane, I really like what we're saying here because we're not labeling you as evil or sinful because you're doing this thing. Just be sensitive to other people. I really like that. Every ward would be better, every branch would be better if we were just sensitive to each other.
	14:25	Let me share with you a quick story. I had a friend who was a young dad in a ward, and they came in one of their first weeks. They sat down in sacrament meeting. And he has a lot of noisy

kids. An older gentleman behind them decided to get up and switch benches.

14:41 And my friend assumed it was because his family was so out of control. He held a little bit of that grudge towards that man for a long time. He said, "It wasn't until much later that I learned that he had served in Vietnam, and the people he was fighting often used children in that fighting, that they would either use them as shields or they would hand them weapons."

15:05 And so, he had some real, very real trauma connected to that. He suddenly became very sensitive to the needs of another member when he knew about this specific member's problems. And so, maybe that's similar to what we're talking about here.

15:20 Be sensitive to maybe what other people have experienced. What does Paul teach next?

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 15:25 I think the next one that we need to deal with, which is a difficult one, is being insubmissible. If you go to Corinthians 11:3, I know for some women this is a difficult scripture where Paul says, "The head of every man is Christ and the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God."

15:48 Now, some who read that misinterpret Paul's words. In error, they feel that there's a continuum of value and a woman is on the bottom. I believe that Paul's focus in that verse is not on gender, but it's on the role of husbands and wives.

16:07 He is not talking about an individual's value, but if you look at the kingdom of God, everyone is in submission to someone else, to a higher authority. Submissiveness is not gender-based, nor does it demean the one who is presided over.

16:27 I would ask, is Christ lessened by being submissive to our Father in heaven? Is a bishop who's submissive to a stake president less than? Every Latter-day Saint is voluntarily submissive through common consent with an understanding that the person who presides over them is going to serve them.

16:52 I think as Paul talks about the covenant relationship that is made through a sealed couple, his paradigm for a husband and wife relationship is Jesus Christ and the church. So, as a wife, can I ask my husband to treat me better than Christ treats the church?

	17:16	Paul was perfectly comfortable with women teaching, counseling, testifying, praying, and exhorting, but not with ruling, organizing, or presiding over a ward or branch. Especially if you look through Philippians, Paul loved and showed great concern for women.
	17:37	It's not Paul and it's not the original apostles that started the degradation of women. It was rather the culture in society in which they lived. Let me just give you an example, often referring to women as the weaker sex.
	17:53	It was Socrates who immortalized the Athenian disdain toward women. And Socrates said that being a woman is a divine punishment since a woman is halfway between a man and an animal. That Greek philosophy that Paul's dealing with pervaded the Christian church's thinking.
	18:15	And it not only accelerated the apostasy, it accelerated the apostate perception of women. Let me give you another one.
John Bytheway:	18:23	That was Socrates, that first Socrates?
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	18:25	That was Socrates.
John Bytheway:	18:26	Unbelievable.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	18:27	Yeah. Here's Augustine. Augustine wondered how a man could possibly love his wife knowing what she is and what she represents, and concluded that he should love her as a Christian is commanded to love our enemies.
John Bytheway:	18:42	Goodness.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	18:43	The ascetic church fathers identified women with sexuality, which they equated with filth. And the horror of sexual relations became transported into a horror of women. So, here you have in contradiction, what does Paul say?
	19:00	In 11:11, he says, "Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man in the Lord." That's revolutionary in the culture that he's living in. It's just amazing. He's never inferring that a wife should be a drudge or a doormat, or a slave.
	19:22	And for Paul, I believe, the only reason he's saying you are voluntary submissive is because that person who's presiding is

going to serve you. If you want to find fault, you can easily find it, but don't find it with Paul or those original apostles.

19:41 They were so different in the way they regarded women. And I would say, they regard women in the same way that our general authorities do. And as I read Corinthians, I feel that Paul was absolutely clear that women receive their due respect, which the society and culture around him was not giving women.

John Bytheway: 20:05 I was down at Deseret Industry just once, so I was looking for a book.

Hank Smith: 20:10 My books?

John Bytheway: 20:11 Yeah, that's where I find mine. They're goodwill, recycle bins, everywhere. You can find mine. I found this book called Who's Who in the Bible, a Reader's Digest publication. I wanted to see what they said about Melchizedek.

20:25 But I looked up Eve and it said that in early Christian theology, Eve was seen as the devil's gateway.

Hank Smith: 20:32 The opposite of Mary, yeah.

John Bytheway: 20:34 Opposite of Mary. I found another book called History's Worst Mistakes and the People Who Made Them. And I opened up the first page and it said, "Adam and Eve were the original idiots." It's fun to show that to my class when I teach 2 Nephi 2 about the fall.

20:51 And then, to look at Joseph F. Smith's vision where he uses the phrase about people he saw in the spirit world, "And our glorious Mother Eve and many of her faithful daughters." And to see how different that is than Socrates or even some of the early church fathers like you just said.

21:11 "Our glorious mother Eve," and find that anywhere in traditional Christianity, that phrase,

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 21:18 I think Paul would never... we just talked about him worrying about being insensitive to your neighbor. He would never ever condone any kind of abuse for a woman in any way, shape, or form. And you get into Corinthians and you get into this whole thing about their cultural dress standards and a woman needs to cover her head, this kind of thing.

	21:46	And he's just saying there that it's a form of respect. It's like, in our congregations, I don't think a man would wear a baseball cap. He would never condone abuse. Especially what President Nelson has said and the incredible things I've learned about being a female in the Kingdom of God from President Nelson, I think Paul would say, "Oh, absolutely."
	22:17	He has this respect for women. And when you look at the civilization, which he was brought up here, especially as a Roman citizen in the place of women, he is revolutionary in how he sees really women and men as being equal partners in that marriage relationship.
John Bytheway:	22:37	As we've talked earlier about some of the first witnesses of Christ's resurrection, the women at the tomb and everything, what a prominent part they play in the whole story of the resurrection.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	22:48	It's interesting John, that though, that's not mentioned all that often in the gospels, there were women following the entire time. There were women in the Savior's circle, in the group, that would go with him from place to place.
	23:03	This is President Nelson in 2022, "As president of the church, I affirm the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ on this issue." He's talking about abuse. "Let me be perfectly clear, any kind of abuse of women, children or anyone is an abomination to the Lord. He grieves and I grieve whenever anyone is harmed."
	23:22	"He mourns and we all mourn for each person who has fallen victim to abuse of any kind. Those who perpetuate these hideous acts are not only accountable to the laws of men but will also face the wrath of almighty God." I think he was perfectly clear.
John Bytheway:	23:38	There's a book out by Elder Jeffrey R. Holland called Our Day Star Rising. And it's basically his commentary on the New Testament, and he had a commentary on 1 Corinthians 11:11 that we just read.
	23:50	So, let me read from Elder Holland's book. "The apostle Paul taught that the inspired concept that neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man in the Lord," just 1 Corinthians 11:11.
	24:02	"I know the truth of that in my own life, no prophet, no apostle, no president of the church, no mission president, no bishop, no

deacons quorum advisor, no scoutmaster, no seminary teacher, no one in all this world has taught me what Sister Holland has taught me."

24:18 "She has been the light of my life for more than half a century in a category of her own beyond any of those great fine teachers that I have had. I like to tell young adult men, you make sure you marry the right woman."

24:31 "I don't care about how she looks. I don't care about her education. I don't care about her social status. I don't care about her income or what her parents were or were not. But I want her to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God Almighty, our Father."

24:46 "With her conviction of the restoration and her love for you, you will change the world and you'll start by changing your own." Beautiful.

24:57 And I just thinking, we just lost Sister Holland. It's hard to read that. But Mary Jane, I love what you said, "Can we expect our husbands to treat us better than Christ treated the church?"

25:09 I'm so glad you put it that way and that Paul elevates marriage and elevates the marriage relationships so much when he talks about that. How does Christ treat us and the church? And boy, if we can treat each other that way, that seems to be the ultimate that Paul's giving us.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 25:28 I think it's his expectation, Paul's expectation. And it's probably not happening as it needs to, but it's the ideal and it's how he envisioned. In mortal settings, it's not as it should be, but that's what he envisioned. That's what he's trying to say.

Hank Smith: 25:48 I like that. He even flat out says in another place, "Brethren, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it."

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 25:58 The next "I" that I want to cover, I think, is the most important one in Corinthians, and that's insecurity. That I believe has to do with spiritual gifts. So, Chapter 12, Paul starts right out and he says, "Now, look, concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant."

26:21 Paul says, "I want you to learn about spiritual gifts." Now, look at President Nelson, same thing, he said, "Pray to understand your spiritual gifts to cultivate, use, and expand them even

more than you ever have. You will change the world as you do so."

- 26:41 I would suggest that you'll change your world as you learn about spiritual gifts and become confident and secure in owning those gifts. And notice in Verse 70 says, "But the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit with all."
- 27:04 In other words, every member of the church has at least one spiritual gift. Now, I call, there are two apostles, modern apostles that I call the great spiritual gift apostles. And then, I call President Nelson, the prophet, who spoke more about spiritual gifts than any other prophet in my lifetime.
- 27:25 But the two apostles that spent more time than any others are Elder Maxwell and elder Marvin j Ashton.
- Hank Smith: 27:31 I was going to say, Marvin J. Ashton comes to mind when spiritual gifts.
- Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 27:35 Elder Maxwell will say, "The spiritual gifts that we have are not new. You possess them premortally." So, he says, this is Elder Maxwell, "Each mortal is endowed genetically, environmentally, but also premortally."
- 27:49 "We each have, for instance, at least one spiritual gift. None of the approximately 20 gifts specified in the scriptures is insignificant. Yet, if we despair, then whatever our gifts or talents we have felt."
- 28:04 "A gift is no gift until one gives it. Lucifer, apparently, was and is multi-talented, but the memories of what might've been gnaw at him constantly, no wonder he is an incurable insomniac."
- Hank Smith: 28:19 That's Elder Maxwell?
- Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 28:21 We will never see a wordsmith like Elder Maxwell. Some people don't think they have any spiritual gifts. Elder Maxwell says, "That's going to bring despair." Here's Elder Ashton. He calls that one of the great tragedies of life. "A tragedy, it seems to me is when a person classifies himself as someone who has no talents or gifts.
- 28:44 When in disgust or discouragement we allow ourselves to reach depressive levels of despair because of our demeaning self-appraisal, it is a sad day for us and a sad day in the eyes of God. For us to conclude that we have no gifts when we judge

ourselves by stature, intelligence, grade point average, wealth, power, position or external appearance is not only unfair, it's unreasonable.

- 29:12 Some latter-day saints who are believers fail to believe they possess any spiritual gifts." Elder Ashton goes, "It's up to each of us to search for and build upon the gifts which God has given. We must remember that each of us is made in the image of God that there are no unimportant persons."
- 29:32 So, I get from what those two apostles have said and what Paul said that if you don't believe you have spiritual gifts, you're going to be in despair. You're going to have those other awful D's, depression, doubt, darkness, until you can rediscover what immortality, what spiritual gifts you had premortally.
- 29:58 So, if you'll go to Verse 4, Paul says, "Now, there are diversity of gifts but of the same spirit." Not all spiritual gifts are listed in Corinthians or D&C 46 or by Moroni. I think that list is illustrative, not comprehensive.
- 30:25 And Elder Ashton again gives what he calls a list of less conspicuous gifts. He says this, "Many gifts are referred to as being very real and most useful. Taken at random, let me mention a few gifts that are not always evident or noteworthy but that are very important."
- 30:46 "Among these may be your gifts, gifts not so evident, but nevertheless real and valuable. Let us review some of these less conspicuous gifts," Elder Ashton says, "The gift of asking, the gift of listening, the gift of hearing and using a still small voice, the gift of being able to weep, the gift of avoiding contention, the gift of being agreeable, the gift of avoiding vain repetition."
- 31:13 Boy, as a teacher, I need that one. "The gift of seeking that which is righteous, the gift of not passing judgment, the gift of looking to God for guidance, the gift of being a disciple, the gift of caring for others, the gift of being able to ponder, the gift of offering a prayer, the gift of bearing a mighty testimony, and the gift of receiving the Holy Ghost."
- 31:37 And then, Paul says, and I would include those gifts that Elder Ashton just listed, "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame spirit dividing to every man severally as he will." So, there is this diversity of gifts, but they are all honorable.

	32:00	And look what Paul says in Verse 23, as he compares, "I believe are spiritual gifts to the human body." And he says, "And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these, we bestow more abundant honor, and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness."
	32:20	"For our comely parts have no need, but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked." "That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another."
	32:37	When I read that, I'm looking at those gifts that maybe we would call uncomely. And Paul is saying they're all needed. They're all needed as much as the gifts even that are listed by Paul and Joseph Smith, and Moroni.
John Bytheway:	32:54	I'm glad you mentioned it. When we think of Moroni 10, we think, "Oh Moroni, I promise." Right after that, Moroni gives this list of spiritual gifts. And you mentioned also Section 46, and I'm really grateful for that one that talks about some is given to teach, some to believe on their words.
	33:14	In my margin I put, here's Nephi that says, "I want to see what my father saw and he sees." And then, he tells Sam and Sam just believes him. And I think both of those are spiritual gifts with those two as an example.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	33:29	I just have here also Elder McConkie said, "In the fullest sense, spiritual gifts are infinite in number and endless in their manifestations."
John Bytheway:	33:42	And I love that Elder Ashton said, "Gift of listening." I've heard Hank give some really excellent counsel about listening. We've had a few home evenings about interrupting, which is saying what I have to say is more important than what you're saying.
Hank Smith:	34:03	Oftentimes, I think, Mary Jane, sometimes we see our spiritual gifts as weaknesses. People who weep are often like, "Oh, I hate that I weep so easily." And I'm saying, "That's a spiritual gift. That's a spiritual gift."
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	34:16	Elder Ashton lists that one also, that it's a gift to be able to cry.
Hank Smith:	34:20	When people are shy, they think, "Oh, this is such a curse." And I tell them, "I covet that gift." John, it would be good for you and I to sometimes be shy, right? Close your mouth sometimes.

What a gift. What a gift to keep your mouth shut. I would love that gift, actually.

- 34:39 I had done some research on listening. There are just so many different types of listening from ignoring someone to passive and casual listening where you're on your phone, you're doing other things, and you work your way all the way up to this connective type of listening.
- 34:54 So, I have to share a story. Sarah and I were out to dinner once with a big group of people and we ended up sitting across from a couple we did not know. And so, we were engaging in polite conversation.
- 35:04 I was talking to the husband across from me and we were talking about the Red Sox or something. And I was trying to be a good listener. So, I was trying to be interested in what he was speaking about. That's a good listener.
- 35:16 And a few minutes, probably 10 minutes into our conversation, I look over and my wife and his wife are holding hands and they're both crying across the table. And I looked at them, shocked. I was like, "Wow."
- 35:34 And my wife looked at me, both my wife and the woman looked at me, and I didn't know what to say, so I just said, "What are you doing?" It struck me, John, so I said, "What are you doing?"
- 35:47 And they went back to their conversation. And I turned to the man, and I was like, "I'm not going to do that." We're not going to be holding hands or crying anytime soon. So, afterwards, I asked Sarah, I said, "What was that about?"
- 36:01 And she said, "Hank, that woman is the best listener I've ever talked to," which I was offended because I'm obviously the best listener that she's ever talked to. But I said, "Why? What did she do?" And she said, "Well, she was asking about our family and our kids."
- 36:19 And we had just barely had twin boys. They were about two years old. And the woman said to my wife, "You must rely on your mom a lot. You've got all these little kids. You must rely on your mom a lot."
- 36:32 And Sarah said, "I would, I absolutely would, but unfortunately, my mom passed away about six months ago when they were 18 months old." Now, even a good listener might say something

like, "Oh, I'm so sorry." And then, we would probably move on in the conversation.

36:49 She said, "Hank, she looked as if I had kicked her or something. She looked so hurt. And she reached out across the table and she said, 'Sarah, are you telling me that you are raising five kids and your mom is already gone?'"

37:04 And she said, "Yeah, yeah, she is." She said, "Tell me about her. Tell me about her, Sarah. I want to know about her." Sarah said, "Oh, thanks for asking." Nobody ever asks, right? She said, she's the greatest grandma in the world.

37:20 She knew when their doctor's appointments were and who their teachers were. And she just was very interested. She said, "I miss her so, so much." And the funny part of this is the woman said, "Is there anybody that you have that you can talk to?"

37:35 And they both looked at me. And at that moment, I said, "What are you doing?" And then, Sarah turned back to her and said, "No, I have no one." That moment of my wife being hurt and just having someone who was listening and understanding really, really blessed her life.

38:00 And that's because this woman had this spiritual gift, this spiritual gift that she uses on a regular basis. It's not huge. It's not one that's up in front of everybody on the pulpit, but it's real and it's there. Thanks for letting me tell a story there.

John Bytheway: 38:16 Oh, I love that story. That's great. Looked at me and went, "No, I don't have anybody."

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 38:25 Now that you mentioned, yeah.

Hank Smith: 38:27 Yeah, not really. Let's keep talking about this. Mary Jane, what more do you want to say about spiritual gifts?

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 38:34 You notice that Paul, Moroni, and D&C 46, when they start to list those illustrative gifts, all three of them start with the same one. And here's Paul, "Wherefore I give you to understand that no man speaking by the spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed, and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost."

39:01 So, that I think is the premier spiritual gift, is that you can say that Jesus is the Christ. I just find that interesting that all three

sections or chapters on spiritual gifts list that as the first. And notice that in the Doctrine & Covenants, they're all listed in pairs.

- 39:26 And this one by Paul misses the pair that is listed in the Doctrine & Covenants. That pair of gifts became very important to me one situation in my life. When I was 18, I had the opportunity to participate in the Hill Cumorah pageant.
- 39:42 And at that time they took 600 women, and I think we had about 24 return missionary males, and they put us on buses and took us back from Utah to Palmyra. And we were on the bus for three days.
- 40:01 And I was one of the youngest and realized that I was around people that were much more developed in the gospel than I was. And I remember we stopped in South Bend, Indiana. I think we were at Notre Dame, we had a testimony meeting.
- 40:18 And the meeting went on for, I swear, hours. And with each testimony, I was feeling more and more inadequate. And finally, one of the return missionaries got up and said, "If there are any of you that are feeling your testimonies weak compared to those that you're hearing today."
- 40:37 And I wanted to stand up and say, "Yeah, right here." He said, "I just would encourage you to refer to Section 46 verses 13, 14. And then, he read them and he said "to some it is given by the Holy Ghost to know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he was crucified for the sins of the world."
- 40:56 That's the one Paul's talking about. But here's the pairing. "But to others, it is given to believe on the words that they also might have eternal life if they continue faithful." And he said, "Now, notice, if you continue to believe on their words, you get eternal life also.
- 41:19 At 18, I went, "Oh, okay. I get to have eternal life also, if I have the gift of believing on their words." Of course, we cannot continue our whole lives without receiving that. We can't go on borrowed light.
- 41:37 But through the spiritual gift of believing on their words, eventually, we also will receive that knowledge. And I love that pairing of those two gifts in the Doctrine & Covenants, which enhances what Paul is saying about that first premier gift.

Hank Smith:	41:53	Yeah. It reminds me very much of Matthew Chapter 10. Do you remember Jesus saying, "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward." And for a long time, I didn't know what he was talking about there until I read it really closely.
	42:07	And he's saying, "You don't have to be a prophet to receive a prophet's reward. You just have to receive a prophet. Then, you are going to enjoy that same reward that a prophet is given." "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward."
	42:23	And once I saw it, I thought, "Oh, I don't have to be a prophet in order to have the greatest blessings that God has in store. I do need to receive a prophet in order to receive those same blessings."
John Bytheway:	42:34	And I think you've got the capital P Prophet and a small P prophet, too. I love that when Nephi is giving us his keys for understanding Isaiah, he says, "Well, it's not maybe clear to you, but it's clear to those of us with the spirit of prophecy."
	42:49	And we all think, "Oh, thanks a lot Nephi. You're large in stature, too." But I love the Revelation 19:10, I think it is the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. In that way, if you're with a group of people who believe and have a testimony of Christ, you're in a room with Prophets and prophets. Where else would you get it except by the Spirit?
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	43:14	Doesn't that give us the reason we have testimony meetings every month? How very important that is?
John Bytheway:	43:21	When I was a bishop, I kept notes on every testimony when I was there and I have a Bishop's journal. And I didn't know when I had a brother pass away, how beautiful that was because I could go back and I could say, "Do you remember when Brother Wardell said this? Do you remember when Brother Wardell said this? Do you remember another time when he said this?"
	43:47	And it was really nice to have those. I know the angels record our testimonies, but that has been a blessing writing those down. I wanted to know how do people know when they say I know how do they know? And I was looking for that when I wrote those down and I could see some of those spiritual gifts in there.

44:07 Mary Jane, there's a wonderful story from the life of Brigham Young where he talks about his baptism being taught and baptized, which if you're the guy who baptized Brigham Young, you had some impact on the church. This is what Brigham Young said about Eleazer Miller who was teaching him the gospel.

44:26 He said, "If all the talent, tact, wisdom, and refinement of the world had been sent to me with the Book of Mormon, and had declared in the most exalted of earthly eloquence, the truth of it, undertaking to prove it by learning and worldly wisdom, they would've been to me like the smoke, which arises only to vanish away."

44:46 Now, he's talking about Eleazer Miller, he says, "But when I saw a man without eloquence or talents for public speaking, who could only say, 'I know by the power of the Holy Ghost, that the Book of Mormon is true, that Joseph Smith is a prophet of the Lord,' the Holy Ghost proceeding from that individual illuminated my understanding and light, glory, and immortality were before me."

45:11 "I was encircled by them, filled with them. And I knew for myself that the testimony of this man was true. My own judgment, natural endowments and education bowed to the simple, but mighty, testimony."

45:23 And then, in the meeting itself, he said, "There sits the man who baptized me, Brother Eleazer Miller." We don't have to be eloquent in this testimony. In the bearing of a testimony, we don't have to worry about talent or wisdom, or refinement. We can just speak what we know.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 45:44 That reminds me so much of when President Heber J. Grant was called to be a stake president at age 23.

Hank Smith: 45:51 Wow, at 23, oh, man.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 45:54 Yeah. He was called to Tooele, and he didn't live in Tooele. When they sustained him, he got up to speak and afterwards they had the luncheon, and President Taylor and Joseph F. Smith were there and Joseph F. turned to Heber J. Grant and said, "I noticed this morning, you didn't bear your testimony that you know, that Jesus is the Christ, and I would encourage you to do that this afternoon."

	46:19	And Heber J. Grant said, "Well, I didn't bear it because I don't know it." And Joseph F. Smith was aghast and turned to John Taylor and said, "I suggest we undo what we just did. We can't have a stake president."
	46:31	And John Taylor said, "Heber J. Grant knows that Jesus is the Christ. He just doesn't know that he knows it, yet, but he will." So, what Heber J. Grant did is he decided he would go to all the different wards in the stake and he was listening to one of the bishops speak.
	46:52	He had horrible grammar. Heber J. Grant started to write down all the phrases that he used inappropriately. And then, this bishop bore his testimony, and Heber J. Grant stopped and said, he knows, he knows. And I know from listening to him.
Hank Smith:	47:13	John, I remember you writing this book, How Do I Know If I Know? I remember you telling me that the impetus for that book was a conversation with your son.
John Bytheway:	47:23	Yeah. He came into my office one day and said, "Dad, how do I know if I felt the spirit?" And I panicked, and closed the door and wrote a book. But I loved the story because for John Taylor to say, "He knows, he just doesn't know that he knows."
	47:41	I thought is a testimony that hard to detect? And sometimes we know more than we think we do. And it's so fun that it was Heber J. Grant, he became the president of the church. I guess six months later he bore a powerful witness that he knew.
	47:56	We talked about knowing, but we don't often talk about how do we know. And so, that story gave me a good jumping off point. Thanks for mentioning that, Hank.
Hank Smith:	48:04	Mary Jane, where are we going to go next with this? Does Paul continue to talk about spiritual gifts?
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	48:10	He does and he lists, as I said, some of the same ones that are found in the other two places in scripture. The next one he talks about in Verse 5 and 6, "And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God, which worketh all in all."
	48:30	Latter-day Saint scholar, Sidney B. Sperry defined the gift of knowing the differences of administration is meant, he said, "The distinctive varieties of service." In other words, there are

different ways that an individual serves in any capacity, in any calling.

48:48 I think of my friend who was called to be a young women's president and she's in her 60s. She's going, "Okay, I need more energy. I got to be able to hike." It's just not going to happen. But her way of serving is so needed by those young women in her ward.

49:10 And she has made a much different impression than she would've if she would've been called in her 30s or 20s. There's a unique style, and the Lord honors that. He accepts the way in which each of us fulfill our callings, even though it might be so different.

49:30 You look at our prophets, Joseph Smith restoring the great prophet of restoration, but I'm not sure he had the gifts that would've brought the saints across the plains and colonized the great basin, like Brigham Young did.

49:42 Even in my lifetime, I look at Spencer W. Kimball, who I call the great prophet of change and so many things that he did. And then, I'm not sure he could have got The Book of Mormon into the lives of the church like Ezra Taft Benson did. So, it's that differences of administration, but it's the same Lord.

Hank Smith: 50:01 Mary Jane, maybe I'm going to be a little vulnerable here, but how do I not excuse myself from some service in the church saying, "Well, I just don't have the gift of administration." Listen, I'm a teacher. I am not an administrator.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 50:15 It's like President Ballard said, when you're called to that administrative situation, whenever you are considering the call of a new counselor, make sure you look for people who are strong, where you feel you are weak.

50:30 This means you need to have a pretty good understanding of your own strengths and weaknesses as well as the relative ability and inabilities of those whom you're considering to serve with you.

John Bytheway: 50:39 And that's why we need that diversity of gifts.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 50:44 You also have the diversity of operations along with the differences of administrations. You might say, "What's the difference?" So, as you look at the Greek word for operations, it means activities.

Hank Smith:	50:58	Diversity of operations.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	51:01	I think as you're looking at the Greek, the ideas of activities are different kinds of things that go on. And so, if you have that gift, then you understand what is going on around you and you can decipher what an activity really is.
	51:15	You have eyes to see the reality of works, manifestations, trends and events that are going on around you, and you have that lens to know whether it's Satan's counterfeit.
John Bytheway:	51:27	That is interesting. Though, I'd never seen that phrase, diversity of operations along with differences of administration.
Hank Smith:	51:35	Under spiritual gifts, it says knowledge of the diversity of operations helps individuals discern whether a teaching or influence comes from God or from some other source. So yeah, you were right on there.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	51:46	Spiritual gifts produce results that are obvious because of the divine power behind them. Satan can produce powerful counterfeits. His works are nothing in comparison to the works of the Lord.
	51:58	So, if you have that diversity of operations, you can recognize the power behind any work, whether it's Satan's power or Gods. Authentic gifts or workings of the Holy Ghost, you can determine from false spirits, doctrines, or commandments.
Hank Smith:	52:16	Oh, okay. That's a good gift. I like that gift. Yeah. Let's see. What does Paul mean next, Mary Jane, when he says, "For one, it is given by the spirit, the word of wisdom." Now, if I'm going to read that with my 2023 lens, I'm like, "Oh, this guy keeps the word of wisdom," but I don't think that's what Paul meant.
John Bytheway:	52:35	I didn't even think it's a health code thing.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	52:39	And to another, the word of knowledge by the same spirit. So, you've got two gifts there. One is knowledge and the other is wisdom. Let's first of all talk about the gift of knowledge. We're called the information age.
	52:53	And we have information at our fingertips. Literally, we have the preceding accumulated information of every other era that's ever existed on the earth. So, what's the difference? I would ask between knowledge and information.

	53:09	I believe the difference is the Holy Ghost is called the spirit of truth. And I think if you have that gift of knowledge that you are able to understand through the spirit what is truth, and that is the difference. It isn't that you have a high IQ.
	53:29	Notice in the Doctrine & Covenants. This is in 121:26, "God shall give unto you knowledge." And I would say the gift of knowledge "by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost, that has not been revealed since the world was until now."
	53:47	And then, in Section 42, to gain knowledge, the Lord said, "If thou shalt ask, thou shalt receive revelation upon revelation, knowledge upon knowledge." I think that gift of knowledge is deciphering which information is true. And boy, do we ever need that in our society?
John Bytheway:	54:08	I like to tell my students, "If any of you lack information, let him ask Google. Google will tell you something. Alexa will tell you something. Siri will tell you something, every time, and it might be true, but if you lack wisdom, that's an entirely different question."
	54:27	I heard Sheri Dew turn a phrase once that I thought, "Oh, that's so good." "Go to sources that only speak truth," is the way she said it. I thought, "Oh, what a good way to say it. "Go to the scriptures."
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	54:38	As we look at the difference, because there's obviously a difference between the gift of knowledge and the gift of wisdom. You'd say, "What is the difference?"
	54:45	I would say knowledge is the acquisition of facts, of true information, where wisdom is related to our actions, our decisions, and our behaviors. A humorist once said, "Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing you don't put that tomato in a fruit salad."
Hank Smith:	55:05	I had that quote ready to go. I love that. I love that. "Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad." Oh, that's funny.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	55:17	You look at Joseph Smith, he determined he lacked wisdom. He didn't lack information. There was plenty of information, plenty of knowledgeable people around him. What Joseph wanted to know is, "How should I act?"

	55:33	A lot of people think wisdom comes from age. A wise person is old, wrinkled, and has white hair. But wisdom is not just acting your age, it is acting according to our better nature.
John Bytheway:	55:45	And it isn't even educational degrees. It's the 2 Nephi 9, "When they are learned, they think they are wise." It's like he's saying it's not the same, not necessarily the same things, very wise people who don't have lots of credentials.
Hank Smith:	56:02	And both are good.
John Bytheway:	56:03	But to be learned is good if they hearken.
Hank Smith:	56:05	I think John and I both have to learn this lesson. Have you, Mary Jane, that knowledge is knowing what to say, wisdom is knowing when to say it?
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	56:15	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	56:15	Knowledge is knowing how to play the banjo. Wisdom is you don't use that for a musical number in sacrament meeting.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	56:21	Here you go.
Hank Smith:	56:28	Please join us for part two of this podcast.



John Bytheway:	00:01	Welcome to part two with Dr. Mary Jane Woodger. First Corinthians chapters 8 through 13.
Hank Smith:	00:07	What's next, Mary Jane, on our list of spiritual gifts?
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	00:10	12:9. "To another faith by the same spirit, another gift of healing by the same spirit, faith to heal and be healed." I would say in our generation, there's a relationship between faith and the priesthood, gifts to have faith to heal or be healed. Increasing our faith, the Lord is willing and able to heal us through the administration of the priesthood. And so we have Elder Oaks that says, "In emergencies, prayers and blessings come first, but most often we pursue all efforts simultaneously." And then of course, he said, this is Elder Oaks again. "We must always remember the faith and the healing power of the priesthood cannot produce a result contrary to the will of him whose priesthood it is."
John Bytheway:	00:55	Captain Moroni sent spies to follow the camp of Malachi and he sent people to go ask the prophet where they would show up. I love that he did both.
Hank Smith:	01:05	We've talked on the podcast before about gift of healing and then Elder Bednar's faith to not be healed to another faith by the same spirit, to another, the gifts of healing by the same spirit.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	01:18	This is President Kimball. "Too frequent administrations may be an indication of a lack of faith or if the ill one is trying to pass the responsibility for faith development to the elders rather than themselves." He told about this faithful sister who received a priesthood blessing and when she was asked the next day if she wished to be ministered to again, she replied, "No, I've been anointed and administered to. The ordinance has been performed. It's up to me now to claim my blessing through that faith."
John Bytheway:	01:51	I remember President Oaks giving a talk about that which was so incredibly helpful. I remember him talking about Jesus

saying, "Thy faith hath made thee whole." It was just what you were saying, Mary Jane, that it was up to her now. The person pronouncing the blessing, that can be a very nerve-wracking, humbling experience, but the faith of the person receiving the blessing is what President Oaks emphasized.

Hank Smith: 02:16

Yeah.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 02:17

12:10. "To another, the working of miracles. To another, prophecy. To another, discerning of spirits. To another, diverse kinds of tongues. Another, the interpretation of tongues." He kind of groups all those real fast.

Hank Smith: 02:29

Yes. This is where it's getting back to what you said. This is illustrative and not comprehensive. He's trying to list off a bunch maybe so people can go, oh, there are lots.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 02:38

Yeah. Paul is just listing all those together to get us to think about the different kinds of gifts that there are. I think Elder Ashton did the same thing when he gave that list about the gift to laugh, the gift to smile, the gift to cry.

Hank Smith: 02:54

To weep, to avoid contention. I have it right in front of me. The gift of being agreeable, the gift of avoiding vain repetition. I remember you talking about that. The gift of seeking righteousness, the gift of not passing judgment. The gift of being a disciple, the gift of caring for others. The ability to ponder, the gift of ponder. To offer prayer, to bear mighty testimony.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 03:15

And I think Paul, after he lists those, notice then he says, okay, "But covet earnestly the best gifts and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." So, we might say, what are the best gifts and how am I supposed to determine what gift I really desire? And of course, we need to ask for spiritual gifts, but sometimes we're like a little child who's so scared when he sits on Santa Claus's lap that we forget to ask for anything. Bruce R. McConkie said, "We are commanded to seek the gifts of spirit. If we do not do so, we are not walking in the course which is pleasing to Him, whose gifts they are." Moroni put it this way. He said, "Lay hold upon every good gift." How do you covet the gifts? How do you lay hold of them? You just ask for them.

04:11

And then we come back to, so what are the best ones? What should I desire the most? It depends on your circumstances. Here's George Q. Cannon, and I love this. He says, "How many of you are seeking for those gifts that God has promised to

bestow? How many of you, when you bow before your heavenly Father in your family circle, in your secret places contend for these gifts to be distilled upon you? How many of you ask the Father in the name of Jesus to manifest Himself to you through these powers and these gifts? Or do you go along day by day like a door turning on its hinges without having any feeling upon the subject, without exercising any faith whatsoever, just being content to be baptized, to be members of the church and rest there thinking that your salvation is secure because you've done this? If any of you are imperfect, it is your duty to pray for the gift that will make us perfect. Have I imperfections? I'm full of them. What is my duty? To pray to God to give me the gifts that will correct my imperfections."

Hank Smith: 05:14

That's fantastic and I think one thing that maybe Paul is trying to teach and Elder Cannon there is that the Lord is anxious to give these gifts, wants to give these gifts, but maybe we don't ask, we don't seek.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 05:30

I think of a great story about President Grant again. He was on the pulpit, not the pulpit, what do they call that one? He was on the stand and he saw his brother, Fred, who was totally inactive walk in. And so President Grant is supposed to get up and give his sermon and he said, "Okay, there's Fred. I've never seen him at general conference before." And he said he prayed, of course, this is a prayer in the heart. "Heavenly Father, I've really got to reach Fred and I don't think I can do it by myself. I need the gift of being able to speak beyond my natural ability." He got up to talk and he said, "I completely forgot about my sermon." He said, "I have no idea what I said, but I did not give the sermon that I had planned." And he sat down and he said, President Grant said, "I put my head in my hands and I wept like a baby."

06:27

And the next day, Fred came into his office and said, "Heber, I was at conference yesterday." He said, "I know. I don't think you've ever come to general conference before." And Fred said, "Oh yeah, I come all the time. I slip into the gallery and then I leave before." He said, "Oh, well then you've heard me speak before." And he said, "Yeah, I have, Heber, but I've never heard you speak like you spoke yesterday." And then he used the same words. "Yesterday, you spoke beyond your natural ability."

06:58

The Sister Holland, who we just lost, at one time, said that Satan is executing a full-blown blitz, waging war against Latter-day Saint women. And she said, "All that Satan can wield is minuscule in comparison to a woman or man of God who

possesses spiritual gifts." President Nelson recently said, "Satan and his minions will constantly contrive. Roadblocks prevent you from understanding the spiritual gifts with which you have been and can be blessed."

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| Hank Smith: | 07:34 | Interestingly, she talked about in that talk, if I remember right, having the courage to be imperfect. She said, "If I were Satan, I would keep women so distraught and distracted that they would never find calming strength and serenity, catching them in the crunch of trying to be superhuman instead of realistically striving to reach their individual purpose and unique God-given potential. We must have the courage to be imperfect." I like that. |
| John Bytheway: | 08:03 | Maybe that's a gift too, being able to be settled and to know I'm on the path, I'm doing the best I can. I'm on the covenant path. I'm not perfect, but I'm on and I'm continuing. Maybe that's a gift to be able to feel settled in that. |
| Hank Smith: | 08:21 | As you mentioned Sister Holland, Mary Jane, I thought of, it's kind of a long quote from her that really impacted me because sometimes I look around and I look at other people with their spiritual gifts and I think I should probably be more like him. I need to be more like him or why can't I have that gift like she does? And you can get caught up in that almost the comparison of spiritual gifts and here's what she said. "For many years, I tried to measure the oft times quiet, reflective, thoughtful Pat Holland against the robust, bubbly, talkative, and energetic Jeff Holland and others with like qualities." She says, "I have learned through several fatiguing failures that you can't have joy in being bubbly if you're not a bubbly person. It is a contradiction in terms. I have given up seeing myself as a flawed person because my energy level is lower than Jeff's and I don't talk as much as he does, nor as fast. |
| | 09:21 | Giving this up has freed me to embrace and rejoice in my own manner and personality in the measure of my creation. Ironically, that has allowed me to admire and enjoy Jeff's", and she uses a word I don't know here, "buoyance, even more. Somewhere somehow the Lord blipped the message onto my screen that my personality was created to fit precisely the mission and talents He gave me. For example, the quieter, calmer talent of playing the piano reveals much about the real Pat Holland. I would never have learned to play the piano if I hadn't enjoyed the long hours of solitude required for its development. This same principle applies to my love of writing, reading, meditation, and especially teaching and talking with my children. |

	10:07	Miraculously, I have found that I have untold abundant sources of energy to be myself, but the moment I indulge in imitation of my neighbor, I feel fractured and fatigued and find myself forever swimming upstream. When we frustrate God's plan for us, we deprive this world and God's kingdom of our unique contributions and a serious schism settles in our soul. God never gave us any task beyond our ability to accomplish it. We just have to be willing to do it our own way. We'll always have enough resources for being who we are and what we can become." Isn't that beautiful the way she was vulnerable then?
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	10:48	Never heard that before.
Hank Smith:	10:49	Yeah, she said I'm not like Jeff, but that's okay. He's not like me and that's okay.
John Bytheway:	10:56	Pat also talked once about reading her daughter, Mary's journal and I am not sure exactly what the activities were, but she said, "I tried to play the piano and I couldn't. I tried to do a dance and it was horrid", she said. "And I tried to draw a picture and it was terrible. And I said", it was her little brother, was it, "Matt, what can I do? What can I be?" And he said, "You can be my sister. That's a gift."
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	11:22	Yeah, I like that. Love that.
Hank Smith:	11:24	Mary Jane, I've noticed next that as Paul goes through these spiritual gifts, he then talks about how every gift is needed to be part of this body of Christ. Am I getting that right?
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	11:37	I think he is comparing those spiritual gifts to the body parts and that they're all needed. And also, there's an interesting phenomenon because you would think as different people exhibit different spiritual gifts that exhibiting all these spiritual gifts would divide us. Instead, amazingly, they unify us even as the different body parts become one whole human being.
Hank Smith:	12:09	Interestingly, doesn't he compare, like the foot doesn't say I am not the hand, so I am not of the body. The foot feels bad that it's not a hand. He then does the same thing with the ear and the eye. The ear is like, "I am not the eye so I don't belong here." He says, "If the whole body were an eye, how would we hear?" I think there's two ways we could mess this up. One is when we think we need to be like someone else and the other one would be when we think other people need to be like us. I think we could get into trouble thinking everyone needs to be like me. Any thoughts on that?

John Bytheway:	12:48	When I was first called to be a bishop, I thought I had to be a bishop. I had to get into this role. One night, the Lord called me and the best me I can be is still me and so I'll bring what I have to this type of a thing. It was, I think, an important moment for me. And everyone's different. My wife and I were talking about how some church leaders in general conference have the gift to weep. Some I've never seen weep who speak a lot and that's okay. We all bring something different. So somebody once said harmony is being different together. And so I like that idea with Paul's analogy here of the body. We need everybody, but we're all different.
Hank Smith:	13:35	I think you're right, John. This is just like a choir. I think it was Elder Holland who described the church as a choir. And Mary Jane, if you'll comment on this, let me read what he said. "On those days when we feel a little out of tune, a little less than we think we see or hear in others, I would ask, especially the youth of the church, to remember it is by divine design that not all the voices in God's choir are the same. It takes variety, sopranos and altos, baritones and basses to make rich music. To borrow a line quoted in the cheery correspondence of two remarkable Latter-day Saint women, 'All God's critters got a place in the choir.' When we disparage our uniqueness or try to conform to a fictitious stereotype, stereotypes driven by an insatiable consumer culture and idealized beyond our possible realization by social media, we lose the richness of tone and timbre that God intended when He created a world of diversity."
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	14:35	I think especially among Latter-day Saint women, there is this idea of the superwoman and that there's a stereotype. What is successful in being an LDS woman? And of course, one of those is that she's married and she's a mother. I think that being single in the church sometimes because you're not the stereotypical Latter-day Saint woman or what we think of as being such, that you think you don't belong.
Hank Smith:	15:04	You're not part of the body.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	15:05	Yeah. That just is not true. I think Paul's trying to say the foot might not be as attractive as the eyes, but boy, try and get along without a foot. I remember moving into a ward and having my home teacher come for the first time. He brought his wife and she turned to me and she said, "So you're not married and you don't have children, so what do you have?" I said, "I got nothing. I guess I got nothing."
Hank Smith:	15:36	What do you have?

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	15:39	So I especially can't tell you how grateful I am for President Nelson. If he didn't do anything else, his remark of telling me that I'm a mother has made all the difference in the world to me, on Mother's Day especially. So those unique ... I am a different kind of mother, but I am a mother even though I have never given birth or adopted a child. I think that's what Paul's saying in our congregations, in the Church of Jesus Christ, every member is necessary and brings something unique that unifies us rather than divides us.
Hank Smith:	16:23	Thank you for sharing that, Mary Jane. Sometimes it sounds like some parts of the body hurt the other parts of the body sometimes. And then Paul makes mention in verse 26. "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it. Or when one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." I think we could talk a long time about this. That we're not in a competition with one another, we are a team.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	16:53	I think when you said that, Hank, I thought about our great colleague, Fred Woods. Anytime something happens great in my career, he will write me or email me or call me and he'll use that verse. And he'll say, "You did such an incredible thing, and that brings honor on me too." And that should be our attitude. And I think that Paul is really emphasizing that as he's going to talk about charity in a few minutes.
Hank Smith:	17:21	We could probably do better. I know I could about cheering others on.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	17:26	Yeah, absolutely.
Hank Smith:	17:27	I was at the airport the other day and I ran into Brandon Flowers. In fact, I've run into him twice in my life and both times have been at the Salt Lake airport. He approached me and he said, "Hi, I'm Brandon." And I went, "I think I know who you are." He said, "I just love your podcast. I just think you guys are doing so much good." In fact, John, he gave me a piece of paper where you had said something. Oh, it's one of your favorite verses in the Doctrine & Covenants that God deals His mercies according to the-
John Bytheway:	17:56	Conditions of the children. 46:15.
Hank Smith:	17:59	Yeah, he said, "I wrote that down and shared it with my son." He said, "And it really helped my son." And he said, "I've kept that piece of paper to give it to John one day." So he gave it to me. I'll have to give it to you sometime.

John Bytheway:	18:13	Yeah, I'll meet you at the airport. Yeah.
Hank Smith:	18:16	Yeah. Brandon was a great example to me of someone who is a part of our church that is doing really well, but cheers on others.
John Bytheway:	18:26	Hank, tell people why he has some notoriety, who he is, what he does.
Hank Smith:	18:31	Brandon is the lead singer for a world famous band called The Killers. Now, don't let that turn you off. But he is especially talented, just has incredible musical gifts. And I was touched that took time for the show.
John Bytheway:	18:48	It's always fun to discover when you find out someone like Brandon Flowers is a member of the church. I feel like that's part of me, that's part of you. That's part of us. And we're proud of him and happy for him and are glad for his influence. And as we move on, we've got all these spiritual gifts and a diversity of gifts and operations and all that. And then, I don't know exactly how or who decided chapter 12 was ending and chapter 13 was started, but then Paul's last words at the end of 12, "Now I'm going to show you a more excellent way."
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	19:26	There are some spiritual gifts that are useful in mortality which will be useless in the eternities. For instance, when Joseph says that the Holy Ghost speaks spirit to spirit and communicates with you as if you didn't have a physical body.
John Bytheway:	19:43	Oh wow.
Dr. Mary Jane Woodger:	19:44	I think the gift of tongues is probably going to be obsolete. But there are three spiritual gifts that will be absolutely necessary in the eternities and they are what Elder Maxwell calls portable. We can take them with us. And of course, that is faith, hope, and charity. And notice that Paul says the same thing in First Corinthians 13:13. He says, "And now abideth faith, hope and charity." That abideth, I think he's saying these are different than those spiritual gifts I listed in chapter 12. So I believe that possessing those three gifts determines our self-esteem. And you might wonder if you have faith, hope, and charity.
	20:35	I believe that Moroni and Paul and Joseph Smith understood that concept as they received those revelations pertaining to spiritual gifts, is with those spiritual gifts once we've discovered them that we gain confidence. And the purpose of those spiritual gifts, as Elder McConkie said, is to enlighten and to edify and also so that we can have peace in this life and feel

secure. President Boyd K. Packer said this, "If you learn and earnestly seek the gifts of the spirit, then you will be competent. The problems will be there, but you will find great solace and comfort and great power will be with you all of the time." That says self-esteem to me.

21:24 And so that's all he spends on faith and hope. And then the rest of chapter 13, he's going to talk about charity. He says, "And now abideth faith, hope and charity. These three, but the greatest of these is charity." I never read Corinthians 13 that I don't think about President Eyring. I believe this is where President Eyring's favorite scriptures are. And I'll tell you why. Elder Eyring grew up in New Jersey before the law wouldn't allow this. Three things happened at the first of every school day. One, they pledged allegiance to the flag. Two, they had a prayer. And three, they read a scripture verse out of the Bible.

22:10 And for Hal Eyring, he always did the same verse. So every 25 days when it was his turn, the kids would go, "Oh, here we go again. Hal, are you going to give us the same one?" Yeah. And so he would start out and the rest of the class would repeat it with him. And what did he always quote? "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass or a tinkling symbol. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains and have not charity, I am nothing."

22:47 Now, why, as a little boy, did he do that? Here's his words. He says, "By the time I read the first few words, the feeling would come back. The feeling was not just that the words were true, but they were about some better world I wanted with all my heart to live in. For me, the feeling was even more specific and I knew it did not come from within me. It was that there would or could be some better life and that it would be in a family I would someday have. In that then distant future, I would be able to live with people in some better kinder way beyond even the best and kindest world I had known as a boy."

23:31 He then says, "I didn't tell anybody about that." That's not what little boys talk about. You might say that someday you want to be the pitcher on the World Series team, but you didn't tell them that someday you wanted to have a home where you felt like you felt when you read First Corinthians 13, one and two. I love that. And Elder Eyring said that he came to Salt Lake because they didn't have a stake in New Jersey when he was growing up. So he had to come to Salt Lake to get his patriarchal blessing. And he said that the patriarch, as he was giving his

blessing, started to talk about the home he would someday have with his future wife, Kathleen. And he said, "I had the same feeling wash over me."

24:18 And I'll give you one more. And then he sees, he's our oldest apostle to marry at the age of 29 and he said when he first saw Kathleen, he saw her walk. They were the Cathedral of the Pines and he just saw her walk and he said, "I had the same feeling wash over me." So that First Corinthians scripture is important to Elder Eyring. I don't know if you do this, Hank, but I have my students write research papers on gospel topics and a lot of times they'll choose charity. Always they will equate charity with service and they will say, "If you serve, then you have charity." And I will write back. "Charity always involves serving, but serving doesn't always involve charity." Because you can serve without being charitable. I've done it a lot.

25:08 The other misconception they'll write is they'll say, "Here's how you can develop charity." And I will write, "You cannot develop charity. It is a gift." Here's what Elder Holland said. "Mormon explicitly taught that this love, this ability, capacity, and reciprocation we also want is a gift. It is bestowed. That is Mormon's word. It doesn't come without effort and it doesn't come without patience, but like salvation itself, in the end, it is a gift given by God to the true followers of His son, Jesus Christ. The solutions to life's problems are always gospel solutions. Not only are answers found in Christ, but so is the power, the gift, the bestowal, the miracle of giving and receiving those answers," from Elder Holland.

26:02 And then Paul goes on to say, "Though I have the gift of prophecy." In other words he's saying, though I have one of these gifts that I talked about in section 12, "and I understand all mysteries and all knowledge", there's another one, the gift of knowledge, "and though I have all faith so I could even remove a mountain and I have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor", there's the service idea, "and though I give my body to be burned and I have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Hank Smith: 26:38 Those are some pretty incredible things that he's saying.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 26:41 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 26:42 And he's like, they don't do you any good. I'd like to have all knowledge. Yeah, exactly.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 26:47

I'd like to remove a few mountains.

Hank Smith: 26:50

Yeah.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 26:50

"Wherefore my beloved brethren, if you have not charity, you are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore cleaveth unto charity, which is the greatest gift of all for all things must fail, but charity is the pure love of Christ and endure forever and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all energy of heart that you may be filled with this love which He hath bestowed upon all of you who are true followers of His son, Jesus Christ, that you may become the sons of God, that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is, that we may have this hope that we may be purified even as He is pure."

27:38

Charity is not something that we develop. Charity is a gift that comes through earnest supplication. And then Paul says this. "Charity never faileth, but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail and whether there should be tongues, they cease." He's talking again about those gifts that he talked about in section 12. "Whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." Charity never fails. We can fail charity, but charity never fails us. Many gifts are going to be obsolete in the Celestial kingdom, but charity love or loving sealed relationships, those will not fail.

28:17

When I write all over those student papers on gospel topics of charity, charity is a gift. It's not achievement. You can achieve an MBA, you can work for a commission. You can have a nicer yard than your neighbors through your own efforts, but you cannot achieve charity on your own. Here's President Nelson. In the most recent Peacemakers Needed. "Charity is the antidote to contention. Charity is the spiritual gift that helps us to cast off the natural man who is selfish, defensive, prideful, and jealous. Charity is the principle characteristic of a true follower of Jesus Christ. Charity defines a peacemaker."

28:59

I would say it's a gift and I don't think we get that and I've thought, what kind of receiver does the Lord like to give the gift of charity to? And I've thought of myself as a gift-giver. I have one friend I love to give gifts to. Whenever I give her gifts, she just raves and goes on and on about it. If I give her a piece of clothing, she makes sure she wears it around me and she says, "You are the best gift giver." I have another friend I hate to give gifts to. Her birthday comes around and I just go, "Oh, no." It doesn't matter what I give her, she never mentions it. She never talks about it. She never uses it. Even if I've watched her in a

store and she said, "Oh, I want that", and I've gotten it for her, she-

Hank Smith: 29:43

She just doesn't like it.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 29:45

There's no gratitude. And so I've thought, I bet the Lord really likes to give charity to people who acknowledge it and express gratitude for it. I think gratitude is a key to receiving that gift of charity. So, the synonym is a gift and the commodity is gratitude, but the antonym is always jealousy for charity. I used to think that the great antonym, the opposite of charity was hate. It is not. It is not. It is jealousy. Implicit in that jealousy is the assumption that God is unjust. He is un-noticing, he is partial and he's a respecter of persons. It partakes of pride and jealousy always signifies insecurity, which is one of those I's which I talk about.

30:43

Women and men who are jealous will feel frightened and threatened and seek to find replicas of themselves in order to feel validated. That's why Paul says, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal." Jealousy is alive and well in our families, in the church, in our Relief Societies, in our wards, in our priesthood quorums. A jealous person pits their intellect, opinion, works, wealth, talents, or any other worldly major device against others. Coining the words of C.S. Lewis, "Jealousy gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. It is in the comparison that makes you proud, the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition is gone, jealousy is gone."

31:41

Satan has blocked our increasing efforts to love God, our neighbors, and ourselves. In the last century, Satan has enticed all humanity to engage all of their energy instead of in the pure love of Christ, which is charity, in romantic love, thing love, or excessive self-love instead of the pure love of Christ. And paying attention to Satan's counterfeit, we sometimes forget self-love and self-esteem are promised rewards for putting others first. The desire to serve others comes directly from the gift of charity. Charity initiates all the other spiritual qualities.

32:24

Brigham Young said this. "There is one virtue, attribute, or principle which if cherished and practiced by the Latter-day Saints, would prove salvation to thousands upon thousands. I allude to charity, to love, from which proceed, forgiveness, long-suffering, kindness, and patience." Those attributes or personality characteristics that Brigham Young lists above are

sometimes mistaken for charity. They're not the gift, rather, they're the result of the possession of the gift.

32:57 Those who possess such qualities are displaying charity. Those characteristics, again, are not something we develop. Rather, they are the fruits of charity. Many of us seek the fruits of charity, yet we find they are elusive. Why? Because I don't know what's going to happen to me during the average day. I don't know if some inept sales clerk is going to drive me crazy or if I'm going to go into irritation because somebody pulls out in front of me. And my response should be, I need to get on my knees every morning and beg the Lord for charity. And then at the end of the day when I've been blessed with the gift of charity, when I've gone to the bookstore and the sales clerk has been with me for 25 minutes and charged my card three times and I was patient and I go, "Oh, heavenly Father, aren't I amazing that I developed patience?"

33:52 No, I gave you the gift of charity. When Paul says, "If I have charity, I am nothing." I don't think he meant that we are worthless. Even the wicked, most vile human being is valued by our heavenly Father. The worth of souls is great in the sight of God. Paul meant, I believe, if you do not have charity and only think about yourself, you will feel like nothing. Meekness is not being proud or self-concerned. Indeed, the faults display of humility or the world's counterfeit. Most self-concerned people who are full of self-pity, the attitude of woe is me, leaves little room to think of others. The humble seldom think of themselves at all.

34:42 Paul uses another word describing meek as those who are not puffed up. This is Elder Holland talking about being puffed up. Haven't you ever been with someone who was so conceited, so full of themselves that they seem like the Pillsbury Doughboy? You know, the kind. Such a fellow walks down lover's lane holding his own hand. True love, in fact, all love blooms when we care more about another person than we care about ourselves. We need to stress with our children. I used to teach Home Ec and they had this self-esteem unit where I was supposed to teach the students, you are lovable and capable. I would teach instead, you are loved and grateful. Not you are special, but rather you are special to Jesus Christ.

John Bytheway: 35:31 I love that, Mary Jane. I mean, Moses did this. Enoch did this. I can't do this, I can't do this. And the Lord didn't say, you're great, you're special, you're awesome. The Lord said, "I will be with thee." It's kind of what you're saying. Yeah, it's okay. I will be with thee. That was what he needed more than, you're

great, you're awesome, you're special. It was, don't worry. I'm right here. I love that.

Hank Smith: 35:53

And Mary Jane, it seems that Paul, at least what I'm learning here from you and Paul is that my priority has to be charity. It has to be my priority over any other spiritual gift.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 36:09

Yeah, absolutely.

John Bytheway: 36:11

I've wondered if the reason that this starts with, though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, because tongues was such an outward, visible spiritual gift that maybe he's starting with that and saying, listen, don't think that the gift of tongues is the best one. If I speak with the tongue of men and angels and have not charity-

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 36:33

I think it's interesting that Joseph Smith said it was the least. Joseph Smith said, "There's two gifts of the spirit that are most visible, the gift of tongues and prophecy." But he said the gift of the tongues is the least among the spiritual gifts.

John Bytheway: 36:50

But it might be the most visible and the one that might say, look at me or something. And so I love that Paul's saying, wait a minute, let me show you the more excellent way here. It's not tongues.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 37:01

It's definitely charity. And I think that's why he lists that one specifically. In this list of synonyms and antonyms that Elder Maxwell gives, he says, "Okay, we are to be patient. We're not to be hectic, hurried, pushy, intolerant of ineptness." Suffering long is a gift for me. I am not a normally patient, deliberate, or slow person. As a little girl, I bit into that Tootsie Roll pop. When I eat ice cream cones, I don't lick them, I gulp them. I am at my worst in a long line. My natural tendency is to be pushy and I am usually hectic, hurried, and late. My behavior is characteristic of the society around me. We drive down the street with a cell phone in our ear and that's not the way of charity.

37:55

God constantly reinforces the principle of suffering long in our lives. You cannot have charity without exhibiting being patient. We're to be full of love. Elder Maxwell says, "We are not to be demanding, dominating, harsh, manipulative, or condescending." Satan's counterfeits of being full of love are being executed in precision. Our society is not full of love, it's full of lust. I recently visited some European countries where acceptance of the gospel is diminishing. They're combining

missions rather than creating new ones. And I said to one of the mission presidents, "Why is this trend happening?" And he said, "It's no wonder conversions are so difficult. The very air of our country is permeated with pornography."

38:45 We're to be gentle. We are not to be coarse or brusque or vindictive. We're not to be easily provoked. Elder Holland says, "The maturity of charity is exhibited in gentleness. We are to seek, if not her own or be easily entreated. We are not to be unapproachable, inaccessible, non-listening or over talkative. Entreat means to ask earnestly or to implore, to ask others about themselves and gain knowledge about them. Someone who seeketh not her own cuts down on verbalism. How can we become like our Father in heaven and the Savior if we're poor listeners?" Elder Maxwell said, "Many of us do what Jesus never did. We talk too much." President Brigham Young said, "You cannot hide the heart when the mouth is open."

Hank Smith: 39:40 That's scary.

John Bytheway: 39:41 Yeah.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 39:42 Yeah. The easily entreated don't multiply words. Elder Maxwell said, "Those that multiply words display a desire for more airtime. Those who are easily entreated", he said, "are more settled in their views. They can be succinct without feeling unappreciated. They can even let someone else say what they would've said and still not feel left out." I think a good barometer for the characteristic of seeking not your own is to ask, what kind of friend am I? Do I have to be hurt all the time? Do I pause once in a while? I think of first dates that I've been on where I could tell you the man's entire life story and I can count the number of sentences I said on one hand.

40:31 I think of phone calls where all I say is uh-huh. I think it's a good barometer in our relationships is to ask ourselves, how much does the other person know about me and how much do I know about them? And if those tallies are lopsided, we need to take some action and pray for charity that will help us to have a real interest in others. A charitable person is temperate, they're self-restrained. They're not egotistic, eager for attention or recognition.

Hank Smith: 40:59 This has been really good for me because I keep thinking of all the people who need to hear this. I was going to share a story that's really touched me and I would love for you to comment on it, Mary Jane. This is a talk given in October of 2006 by Robert C. Oaks. He says, "The impatient, natural man is all about

us. We see it manifest in news reports of parents in a fit of rage, abusing a child even unto death. On our highways, incidents of mobile impatience or road rage result in violent accidents and sometimes fatalities. On a less dramatic but much more common level, are flared tempers, harsh words uttered in response to slow moving customer lines." He must know you, Mary Jane. "Never-ending telephone solicitation calls or children reluctant to respond to our instructions. Does any of this sound familiar?"

41:56 And then he tells this story. When Paul says to covet spiritual gifts, this is one suffereth long that I personally covet. He said, "Fortunately, there are seldom reported but marvelous to consider stories of great patience. Recently I attended the funeral of a lifelong friend. His son told a beautiful story of parental patience. When the son was in his youth, his dad owned a motorcycle dealership. One day when they received a shipment of shiny new motorcycles and they lined them all up in the store, the boy did what every boy would like to do and he climbed up on the closest one. He even started it up. Then when he figured he had pushed his luck far enough, he jumped off. To his dismay, his dismount knocked the first bike down. Then like a string of dominoes, they all went down one after another. His dad heard the commotion and looked out from behind the partition where he had been working, slowly smiling. He said, 'Well son, we'd better fix one up and sell it so we can pay for the rest of them.' I think my friend's response personifies parental patience."

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 43:07

Wow. Paul uses the word we are to strip ourselves. And as you look at that, it's peeling away. It's peeling off of those fleshy tendencies that we have of jealousy and fear and doubts as we strip away that natural man. Our heavenly Father is in it for the long haul, for all the right reasons and with all the right motivations and with the right methodology, which is charity. Charity is the most reasonable way of dealing with the human family, including dealing with our own families as Hank told that story about dealing with children. And Paul says in verse 11, "When I was a child, I spake as a child. I understood as a child, I thought as a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things. A person who possesses charity is no longer childish. They are not immature." In other words, they are self-aware. They know exactly how they are acting.

44:18 We've all had experiences with someone and we go, someday they will see themselves as they really are. There'll be no more facade. There'll be no more hypocrisy. And so Paul says, "For now, we see through a glass darkly, but then face-to-face. Now,

I know in part, but then I shall know even as also I am known." In other words, people won't be saying anymore, "Boy, I wish Mary Jane could really see what she's really like." What does someone who is known as they know themselves look like? Here's Parley P. Pratt. "Their very atmosphere diffuses a thrill, a warm glow of pure godness and sympathy to the heart and nerves of others who have kindred feelings or sympathy of spirit. No matter if the parties are strangers, entirely unknown to each other in person or character, no matter if they have never spoken to each other, each will be apt to remark in his own mind and perhaps exclaim when referring to the interview, 'Oh, what an atmosphere encircles that stranger. How my heart thrilled with pure and holy feelings in his presence. What confidence and sympathy he inspired. His countenance and spirit gave me more assurance than a thousand written recommendations or introductory letters.'" That's what a person with charity is like. The very atmosphere around them exudes love, interest, awareness.

John Bytheway: 45:59

This is sobering to me because I feel like if what we're talking about is a gift that God gave us, He can probably withdraw it. And if He's given me gifts, He could take them back anytime He wants and it's sobering. President Uchtdorf gave a talk called You Are My Hands. And he said, "True love requires action. We can speak of love all day long. We can write notes or poems that proclaim it, sing songs that praise it, preach sermons that encourage it. But until we manifest that love in action, our words are nothing but sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal", to quote Paul in First Corinthians 13. "Christ did not just speak about love, He showed it each day of His life. He did not remove Himself from the crowd. Being amidst the people. Jesus reached out to the one. He rescued the lost. He didn't just teach a class about reaching out in love" ... Ouch, I think I've done that ... "and then delegate the actual work to others. He not only taught, but also showed us how to succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down and strengthen the feeble knees. Christ knows how to minister to others perfectly. When the Savior stretches out His hands, those He touches are uplifted and become greater, stronger, and better people as a result. If we are His hands, should we not do the same?"

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 47:25

Love that.

Hank Smith: 47:27

Eliza R. Snow, she wrote down something she heard Joseph Smith teach. He quotes First Corinthians 13:1. "Though I speak with the tongue of man and angels and have not charity, I become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal." And then he said, she reports, "Don't be limited in your views with regard to

your neighbor's virtue, but beware of self-righteousness and be limited in the estimate of your own virtues and not think yourselves more righteous than others. You must enlarge your souls toward each other if you would do like Jesus and carry your fellow creatures to Abraham's bosom."

48:01 This is Eliza R. Snow again. "He said he had manifested long-suffering, forbearance, and patience towards the church and also to his enemies. And we must bear with each other's failings as an indulgent parent bears with the foibles of his children." He read from the second verse. "Though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries, I could remove mountains and have not charity, I am nothing." Then he says, "As you increase in innocence and virtue, as you increase in goodness, let your hearts expand. Let them be enlarged towards others and you must be long suffering and bear with the faults and errors of mankind."

48:41 So Mary Jane, how do I get this gift?

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 48:44 From what I understand, you've got to pray for it.

Hank Smith: 48:46 Yeah.

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 48:47 I think daily. Like I said, I don't know what's going to happen that day, who's going to set me off and my natural man that comes out all the time. I think we have to pray for it and ask that it be bestowed. And then when you have received it and you witness, "Oh, that wasn't me today. That was charity." Then we express gratitude.

Hank Smith: 49:10 Mary Jane, this has been fantastic. I've learned so much and we've laughed a lot, which has been a lot of fun. We have listeners all over the world who are living their lives the best they can. They're busy. They are sometimes overwhelmed by their challenges. What would you hope that they would get out of our time together today?

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger: 49:30 I would hope that they would succeed in overcoming those I's that I talked about today and the ones we talked about, of course, were indiscretion, being insubmissive, and above all, insecurity. It's interesting as you look at the timing and where the spiritual gifts chapters are placed in scripture, Paul uses it as we're heading into apostasy. Moroni is in full blown apostasy. And of course, Joseph uses it in the Doctrine & Covenants where he's experiencing some apostasy among those early members. It would be my hope as Latter-day Saints really look

at Paul and what he said in Corinthians. It will guard them against personal apostasy. I truly believe that's one of the things those spiritual gifts do, and that's what I would hope they would get. Not from what I've said, but from what Paul and Moroni and Joseph revealed.

- Hank Smith: 50:31 Beautiful. John, what a great day.
- John Bytheway: 50:34 Yeah, I feel motivated. I've got to ask more often for I think the Lord's willing to give them. I think we need a reminder to ask for these to help us get through this world, like you said.
- Hank Smith: 50:47 Yeah, plead for charity. We want to thank Dr. Mary Jane Woodger for being with us today. It's been wonderful. We want to thank our executive producer Shannon Sorensen, our sponsors David and Verla Sorensen. And we always remember our founder, Steve Sorensen. We hope you'll join us next week. We have another lesson coming up in First Corinthians on followHIM.
- 51:11 Today's transcripts, show notes, and additional references are available on our website, followhim.co. That's followhim.co. You can watch the podcast on YouTube with additional videos on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. All of this is absolutely free and we'd love for you to share it with your family and friends. We'd like to reach more of those who are searching for help with their Come, Follow Me study. If you could subscribe to rate, review, and comment on the podcast, that will make us easier to find.
- 51:38 We've just completed a new project we think you'll love. If you would like short and powerful quotes and insights from all of our Old Testament episodes, join our mailing list on our website, followhim.co, and we will email you a PDF of the first three chapters of our new book, Finding Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. If you enjoyed our guests on the podcast last year as much as we did, we think you'll love this new collection. Of course, none of this could happen without our incredible production crew, David Perry, Lisa Spice, Jamie Neilson, Will Stoughton, Krystal Roberts, Ariel Cuadra, and Annabelle Sorensen. We also love hearing from you, our friends and listeners.
- Whitney: 52:17 Hi Hank and John and everyone over at the Follow Him Podcast family, my name is Whitney. I am a homeschooling mom of four young children. I've been watching you ever since the beginning back when the world was shut down and we were all in a pandemic. You were there. You came into my home and you

brought light and you shared your knowledge of the gospel. And not only that, you brought these amazing scholars. I cannot believe how blessed we are that we get to listen to these people that most people have to pay hundreds of dollars to listen to. I use the followHIM podcast and YouTube video in my teaching of my children. I use it in my own life. It has inspired me to want to gain more knowledge about the scriptures. Just thank you. You have brought so much joy to my life.

HOW CAN I DEVELOP THE GIFT OF CHARITY?



Hank Smith:	00:02	Hello everyone. Welcome to another followHIM Favorites. My name is Hank Smith. I'm here with John Bytheway. Welcome John.
John Bytheway:	00:08	Hi Hank. Thank you.
Hank Smith:	00:09	John, let's take on a single question from this week's Come, Follow Me lesson. It comes from Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians, which as you know is all about charity. So, John, how do I develop this gift? How do I get this gift from God? I want it, but how do I get it?
John Bytheway:	00:26	Well, such a good question. First, read the chapter and then you kind of get an idea of the sense of how Paul is saying there's a lot of traits we can focus on, but without charity, they don't mean much. So I think it's something we ask for definitely. I think it's something we study and ponder about, but I also think it's something we can try to practice. And maybe at first we are not feeling charitable towards our little brother or sister or something. But sometimes an act of charity, even though we're begrudging, we can start to feel the fruits of it and think, "I'm glad I did that." Has that ever happened?
Hank Smith:	01:06	Yeah, I think so. You can practice charity, and maybe that's a way of showing the Lord that you want to have the gift that only he can offer. President Monson said, "Charity is having patience with someone who's let us down. Charity is resisting the impulse to become offended easily. Charity is accepting weaknesses and shortcomings. Charity is accepting people as they are. Charity is looking beyond physical appearances to attributes that will not dim through time. Charity is resisting the impulse to categorize others." So, I can practice those things, right John?
John Bytheway:	01:40	Mm-hmm.
Hank Smith:	01:40	And that can show the Lord I really want this gift of being charity.

John Bytheway:	01:45	Yeah. And when I think about how I want people to view me, I hope they view me through the lens of charity, and that helps me to have it for others. It's kind of that idea of if I judge harshly, I may be judged harshly in return, but if I can extend charity and figure folks are doing the best they can, maybe they'll look at me and say, "Well, I guess he's doing the best he can."
Hank Smith:	02:05	Yeah. I like that, John. I like the idea that when you're full of the Spirit, you start to see people the way the Lord does. You become less judgmental, you become less harsh in your criticisms. You become just more kind, and you realize that other people have difficulties and problems that they face that you probably know nothing about.
John Bytheway:	02:25	Yeah. I think it was President Gordon B. Hinckley's, wonderful wife, Sister Marjorie Pay Hinckley that said, "Be kind. Everyone is fighting a battle." We just realize that, and, yeah, we all are. So, we can look through the lens of charity. It's a better way to see the world, a better way to live.
Hank Smith:	02:42	Beautiful. We hope you'll join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM. This week we're joined by Dr. Mary Jane Woodger. We think you're going to love how she goes through these chapters in 1 Corinthians, and then come back here next week, and we'll do another Follow Him Favorites.