



# IN SERVICE TO HIM

A Period of Fasting, Prayer and Study

1/18/12 – 3/1/12

Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you,  
Keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the  
cause of Zion. D&C 6:3a

To receive guidance, direction and a greater understanding of God's plan for the  
Fort Worth Restoration Branch, individually and collectively.

## SCHEDULE

Week 1 – 1/18 - 1/24	Cleansing - Preparations
Week 2 – 1/25 - 1/31	Identify Your Calling
Week 3 – 2/1 - 2/7	Understanding your Calling
Week 4 – 2/8 - 2/14	Your Role Within the Church
Week 5 – 2/15 - 2/21	The Church's Role
Week 6 – 2/22 - 2/28	Where Do We Need to Be?
Week 7 – 2/29 - 3/7	Dedication/Sanctification

Many of the Saints in the church are wondering about their role within the church as well as the role of the church in their communities, regions and the world in general. For the Saints in the Fort Worth area, it is no different. We need to have that understanding of what our role is within the Branch and how that translates to our role within the community and ultimately our role within the Church at large.

In answer to these questions, the Priesthood of the Fort Worth Restoration Branch we would like to take the opportunity to build upon our recent fasting period and begin another period of fasting, prayer and study to specifically petition the Lord for guidance and direction for us as individuals, families, a congregation and a church.

***Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you. DC 4:2b***

We truly believe that the Lord will answer our petition when we humble ourselves and approach him with a sincere heart and a true desire to serve him above all.

***He who cometh from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth; he who cometh from heaven is above all John 3:32***

The material presented here is designed to focus your attention on certain topics that can assist you in your petition to the Lord and answer those questions we have at this time in our lives. For each week, we will have a daily scripture or thought to help us focus on the theme for that week. We encourage you to take a moment to contemplate the presented thought and not just merely read it. We should take this opportunity to read additional scriptures or thoughts to help motivate us to gain a fuller understanding of the weekly theme and how to apply what we learn to our lives. For your convenience, at the end of each section you will find a place to make notations, reminders and thoughts pertaining to that week's topic.

***Therefore they did forsake all their sins and their abominations, and their whoredoms, and did serve God with all diligence day and night. 3 Nephi 2:85***

We would like to follow the same guidelines that were issued with our recent fast and utilize Wednesday evening meal as our congregational fasting time, during which time our focus at our prayer and testimony service will be "how we can be in service to Him?"

## **Week 1 – Cleansing**

We begin the period of fasting, prayer and study with a week set aside for preparing for this event. During this time we are encouraging you to take time to identify the areas in your life that need cleansing. It may be deficiencies in your study, it could be personal issues with others, it could be love for worldly pleasures but whatever it is, it needs to be removed from your life in order for you to move closer to God.

### **Wednesday, January 18, 2012**

#### **Genesis 6:59, 60**

*And I have given unto you another law and commandment; wherefore teach it unto your children, that all men, everywhere, must repent, or they can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God. For no unclean thing can dwell there, or dwell in his presence; for, in the language of Adam, Man of Holiness is his name; and the name of his Only Begotten is the son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous judge, who shall come in the meridian of time.*

### **Thursday, January 19, 2012 - 2 Corinthians 7:1**

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

### **Friday, January 20, 2012 - Alma 27:43**

*Now I would that ye should remember that God has said that the inward vessel shall be cleaned first, and then shall the outer vessel be cleansed also.*

### **Saturday, January 21, 2012 - Moroni 6:4**

*And after they had been received in baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ*





## **Week 2 – Identify Your Calling - Taking an Inventory**

Before we make an accounting to the Lord for tithing, we perform an inventory of our possessions and render an accounting for what the Lord has blessed us with. As with our monetary gifts from the Lord, we all have received a calling from the Lord in regards to His work. It is our responsibility to know what that calling is. For some, it may be a call to the ministry, for others it may be the call of teaching but whatever that calling is we need to identify it and cultivate it. During this period, we are asking you to take this time and focus on working with the Lord on identifying that calling.

### **Wednesday, January 25, 2012 – DC 132:4**

*Everywhere the demand for great activity exists, and for the accomplishment of our work the great essential is fraternal cooperation in service to man and devoted consecration to God and his work*

### **Thursday, January 26, 2012 - Ephesians 4:4**

In one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling

### **Friday, January 27, 2012**

*Romans 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.*

### **Saturday, January 28, 2012 - Colossians 3:22**

*Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;*

### **Sunday, January 29, 2012 - Exodus 39**

*The clothes of service*





### **Week 3 – Understanding your Calling - Inventory**

In our stewardship response to our inventory, we not only make a list of the items we have but we examine those items and come to an understanding of what these items mean to us. We begin to see how the Lord has blessed us and by understanding the value of what we have, we begin to formulate our response to this portion of our stewardship. So as our stewardship, so is our calling.

While we can inventory our goods all we want, if we don't understand what it means to have these possessions and our responsibilities for them we fail to follow the laws of Stewardship given to us by God and we put ourselves in danger of not only losing those gifts the Lord has given us but as the unwise steward learned, we are in danger of being cast out. We can identify our calling but if we don't understand that calling we are in danger of losing it or worse, being cast out.

During this week, having already identified our calling, we now need to take time to understand it. To do this will require us to diligently study out our calling and gain a better understand of it and prepare to understand how our calling relates to our role within the church. This week and next, we offer specific thoughts that will call our attention to understanding our calling. You may recognize these from the Church Member's manual.

#### **Wednesday, February 01, 2012**

*Obey divine command. The scriptures are replete with the Lord telling us to obey his commandments. Spend the day considering the commandments of the Lord and how well you follow them.*

#### **Thursday, February 02, 2012**

*Move in the direction of man's greatest need. When we get involved with the Lord's work, we are supposed to become a new creature in Christ. We are supposed to move away from the old man, forsaking the things of the world. Being a part of the Church and actively attending moves us in a different direction in our lives than the world would have us go. What is Man's Greatest Need? Contemplate this thought for this day and see if you are indeed moving in the right direction in your life.*

### **Friday, February 03, 2012**

*Cultivate the presence of the Divine Spirit and the knowledge, conviction, light, and power which it brings. In our fast-paced world we live in, many of us don't even know what it means to cultivate something. Fast-food, digital downloads and the like bring us instant gratification as we ready ourselves for the next thing. To truly understand our calling we must take time to cultivate it. Spend this day in thought about how to cultivate the presence of the Lord in your life and how that can help you understand your calling.*

### **Saturday, February 04, 2012**

*Join in collective endeavor to witness Christ-to build his kingdom. It has been said by many that it is so much easier to witness Christ or build his kingdom when you are surrounded by the saints. In effect, this means that it is difficult to witness Christ and build his kingdom when we are alone. Trying to understand your calling and where you fit in is difficult when you are alone. We can be so distracted by the world in our daily lives that we don't focus on our calling of witnessing to others or about building the Kingdom. Take this day to think of ways to associate more with other saints that desire to witness Christ and build his Kingdom.*

### **Sunday, February 05, 2012**

*Join in the fellowship of those who would put the service of God and man first. We are what we eat. We have all heard this saying before and it is true. We know that our bodies consume the foods we eat thus becoming what we eat. The same can be said about our fellowship with others. If we fellowship with the saints, our thoughts and concerns are on God and the building of the kingdom. If we fellowship with the world, we are in danger of moving away from the Lord and the further we move away from the Lord, the dimmer our light – our calling – becomes. Take this day to evaluate your fellowship and see just exactly where you spend your time.*

## **Monday, February 06, 2012**

*Make available to oneself and to others that salvation which is the essence of divine and human love and fellowship. The Lord's gift of salvation is so important to us and knowing that we have the opportunity to accept that gift should cause us to seek out ways to understand what that gift really means. Too many of us take that gift for granted and fail to realize that this gift – the greatest gift of all – is something that applies a great worth to our souls. Knowing that God has a great concern for each of us as individuals, it should stir our hearts to gain a fuller understanding of that love and our response to that love should be more than just attending church. Our response should be that we are actively engaged in the work of building the Kingdom. To be actively engaged means to understand our calling and putting that calling into action.*

## **Tuesday, February 07, 2012**

*Keeping spiritually alive. Every day we struggle with the demands placed upon us. We are constantly running in different directions because we desire to please everyone but in the end it can't be done. As the Master said, you can't serve two masters. When we place ourselves in a position that tries to please everyone, we are setting ourselves up for failure. It can't be done. While we believe it can, the evidence is clear that eventually we must make choices as to what comes first in our lives. The Lord said that if we try to serve two masters, we will end up loving one and hating the other.*

*While we may try to serve the world and the Lord at the same time, and we may think we are successful at it, eventually we will have to make the choice of who our true master is. When we make the choice of the world, we lose the need to remain spiritually alive and our calling begins to suffer.*

*As we close out this week of understanding our calling, we end on what the impact has upon each of us when we don't make an effort in keeping spiritually alive.*

*The first and foremost impact we see when we don't keep ourselves spiritually alive is our church attendance. When we fail to attend church, we may not realize the consequences this has on us as individuals and us as a Christian. Take this day to consider the following when we fail to attend church regularly.*

*When We Fail to Attend Church Regularly, We...*

- † *Violate the commandments of God*
- † *Violate the commands of one's own soul*
- † *Slip back into the lower levels of life*
- † *Deprive others and the church of that which you could contribute*
- † *Fail to resist the drag-down of your own impulses*
- † *Fail to attain salvation in the true sense of that term*
- † *Retard the work of the church on all fronts*
- † *Close the door to life's highest values.*

**Week 3 – Understanding your Calling - Notes**

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## **Week 4 – Your Role Within the Church - Tithe**

In our initial stewardship response we make an inventory of our possessions and then respond to that inventory by determining the amount of tithing that we owe to the Lord. In determining that amount, we clearly see our obligation to our Stewardship (the church) and respond by paying this monetary amount. Those tithes are used primarily for financing the Lord's work which involves four main areas of the church:

- † To support of missionaries and those engaged in the general work of the church.
- † Used in maintaining the operation of general church offices
- † Used to provide for the administrative expenses incurred in the operation of the church
- † Used for the support of the educational program of the church.

As with our tithes, when we understand our calling we can begin to see how our calling is utilized within the Church. Understanding your role provides everyone the opportunity to be a resource available for the Lord's work. For this period of fasting and prayer, it is important for each of us to understand that we are an important part of the church yet at the same time there is a responsibility for each of us to meet the requirements that role we have within the church.

### **Wednesday, February 08, 2012**

*A Saint is expected to share regularly in the worship and activities of the church. Failure to do this, as mentioned in last week's notes, endangers your spiritual condition and at the same time is detrimental to the church itself. For those in the workplace, you know that when a colleague is out of the office, even for a day, there is an impact to the activities that occur that day and if the absence is extended, such as a vacation or long-term illness it can cause easily cause delays in getting things done at work.*

*When members are out, the church suffers. When members do not attend business meetings, church sponsored social activities, Sunday school and Worship services, the opportunity for both the absent party and the congregation to receive a blessing, encouragement, enlightenment, and the like are missed. Use the opportunity today to ponder on your participation in the worship service and other activities of the church.*

### **Thursday, February 09, 2012**

*A Saint is expected to be unfailing in his observance of the Lord's Supper. As particular as the saints can be about the Lord's Supper, and as adherent to the tenant of being close communion, we can sometimes take this Sacrament for granted. What a terrible thing to say or to even think but it is true. As part of our calling and as a member of the church we are to take part in this service. As diligent as we are about ensuring that only the member is served the emblems, we better be as diligent in regards to being unfailing in observance of the Lord's Supper. Use this day to contemplate how you can ensure that you attend and participate in the Lord's Supper without fail.*

### **Friday, February 10, 2012**

*A Saint is expected to take part in the work of the church according to his gifts and opportunity. When a person receives a gift, it does no one any good to hide that gift. When the Lord has blessed you with the gift of song, preaching, healing, or whatever, it does no one any good to hide it and never use it. As you begin to understand your calling, look for ways to use those gifts that the Lord has bestowed upon you in service to the one that gave you the gifts.*

### **Saturday, February 11, 2012**

*A Saint is expected to take his share in contributing to the funds of the church according as God has prospered him. Many a comedy routine has been written around the loafing, no good brother-in-law. You know the story of the one that comes to stay with a family and has all the good intention of being a productive member of the family and contributing to the household but never seems to get that job he applied for but continues to eat, sleep and live as part of the household without contributing anything to it. The same story is often told of the college bound child that seems to be a professional student. Taking from the household but contributing little if anything to it.*

*When the Lord blesses us with a gift, and we don't share that gift with the church we become the loafing, noncontributing member that we shouldn't be. We should be mindful of the gifts the Lord has given us and whatever that gift is, look for ways to put it to use, contributing to the church.*

### **Sunday, February 12, 2012**

*A Saint should maintain a standard of good reading with the Liahona and other church periodicals should find a place in the regular reading of every church member. Since April of 1942, The New York Times has published a list of best-selling books. This weekly publication is considered the preeminent source of the best books available. But just because a book makes this list is it considered good reading for the Saint. Like some foods we eat, just because they taste good doesn't mean they are good for us. Take the time today to consider your reading habits and see what material gets the most attention in your life. Apart from the scriptures and our monthly newsletter, The Liahona, there are many other worthwhile publications available and most are free and easily accessible.*

*On this Sunday we will offer many publications that you can preview and if interested the church will work to provide these to you.*

### **Monday, February 13, 2012**

*A Saint should plan for individual and family devotions and study the Word of God. When we take a look at the time allotted in a week and then look at the time we allow for all the things we do during that week, it can really be an eye-opener when we see how little time we spend in individual and family devotionals to the Lord. Take this day to write out your week and just performing a quick analysis will more likely than not show you where you stand with offering your time back to the Lord.*

### **Tuesday, February 14, 2012**

*Where Can I Be In Service? The last week has been focusing on your role within the church. After contemplating these things, it should becoming clear to you where you can now be in service to the Lord. Take this day to review the last week of thoughts, prayers and leadings of the Spirit to look for areas to be in service to Him as you prepare yourself for taking the Church outside the walls of the Sanctuary.*

