

The Window is Open

By Seventy Richard F. Neill

This is my testimony. Following the Elders Conference, in the Summer of 2019, the Lord spoke these words to me - *"My people have become my Living Church."* After pondering that message, the Lord spoke further and said *"The window is open."* I shared this experience with the Priesthood gathered at the Kirtland Temple on September 15th, 2019. In my 47 years of ministry I have been made aware of the "windows of heaven" being opened and the "windows of heaven" being shut. A few years ago, the "window" was opened in the Restoration. As the Lord made this known, I also became aware that because of our weakness and failure to respond obediently the "window" became closed for a time. In my sadness I made a commitment to the Lord. I said to Him, *"Lord if you ever tell me again that the windows of heaven are opened, I commit to you that I will be all in. I would commit to do all that I could in following Your direction and fear no person. I would commit to actively proclaim this message to the people."* I testify this to you – the Lord has made it known to me that the window is now open once again.

In the Old Testament book of Malachi there is the classic reference to the *"windows of heaven"* becoming open. This reference is talking about tithes, but it has a broader application of what happens to a people when they are obedient.

Malachi 4:10-12 says this, *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the 'windows of heaven' and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it, And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground: neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed; for ye shall be a delightsome land {people}, saith the Lord of hosts."*

So, what are the promises that the Lord makes of the window being opened if we are obedient? In this scripture, just quoted, we see the following:

- 1) *"the Lord will pour out his blessing,*
- 2) *There shall not be room enough to receive it,*
- 3) *I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,*
- 4) *He shall not destroy the fruits of your ground;*
- 5) *Neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field*
- 6) *And all nations shall call you blessed;*
- 7) *For ye shall be a delightsome land {people}, saith the Lord of hosts."*

The Lord promises to pour out great blessings, bind the devil so he cannot destroy the work, and bless the nations through his people. In order to claim a blessing, the people must be humble and full of love, diligent, and obedient to God. When the people see and know the window is open, they must be ready and prepared to carry out the Lord's commands.

Likewise, the elders must be prepared. In D&C 104:9a we find these words, *"The power and authority of the higher, or Melchisedec priesthood, is to hold the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church; to have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven; to **have the heavens opened unto them**; to commune with the general assembly and church of the Firstborn; and to enjoy the communion and presence of God the Father, and Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant."*

Finally, the Elders and Saints must commit themselves to the task that they have been called to do and finish the work the Lord has called them to do. Jesus is the great example of this. In principle he was *"slain from the foundation of the world"* (13:8), he offered his life that we might be redeemed, and at the cross he uttered the words, *"It is finished."* (John 19:30)

In order to respond to this "open window" we must be prepared. We are familiar with the parable of the ten virgins found in the 25th chapter of the book of Matthew. In this parable there are 5 wise virgins and 5 foolish virgins. The wise virgins had placed oil in their lamps, and when the cry went forth at midnight to meet the bridegroom {Jesus} they trimmed their lamps to go and meet him. The lamps would be the light that would lead them to the bridegroom. The 5 foolish virgins did not have oil - so they could not use their lamps to light their way until they procured some oil and then it appears that they were too late coming to the bridegroom. As with the "windows of heaven" the parable of the 10 virgins, states, *"the door was shut."* This parable is also referred to in D&C 45:10b. Only in this account we understand the significance of the oil. The oil represents *"they {the 5 wise virgins} have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived."* The promises made to the wise virgins are listed in this scripture out of the D&C reference – they shall not be hewn down, the earth shall be their inheritance, they shall wax strong, their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation, the Lord shall be in their midst, his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their King and their lawgiver. This is all to take place during the end-time when Satan shall be bound. No wonder I Thessalonians 5:5 refers to the believers in the last days as *"Ye are all the children of light."* Jesus is that light - the light of the world. Those who follow Him and serve Him are his children.

We have been instructed by the Lord to create temporal storehouses. The Scripture from Malachi mentions bringing the tithes to him. We have many scriptures that teach us about stewardship. Have we ever thought that if all things are spiritual before the Lord - that with the commandment to have a temporal storehouse there is commandment to have a spiritual storehouse as well? The temporal storehouse we can easily see – money, resources, tithing, oblation, surplus, etc. So, what would a spiritual storehouse look like? The Lord many years ago gave me an illustration to better understand the concept of a spiritual storehouse.

When we have a temporal storehouse, we store items that will carry us through rough times. In the Old Testament we see Joseph in Egypt interpreting Pharaoh's dream. He told Pharaoh that Egypt would have 7 years of plenty in their crops, but this would be followed by 7 years of famine. He also told Pharaoh that if he would have his people set aside their surplus that Egypt would be spared the devastation that would come upon other nations. This Pharaoh did, and not only was Egypt protected but the children of Israel {Jacob} would be protected also. In today's circumstance if we save money, we can handle financial setbacks better – like if we have car trouble. If we have no money saved in the bank the car problem becomes a very difficult and stressful matter to resolve.

So how can we better understand a spiritual storehouse? This is what the Lord showed to me in regards to a spiritual storehouse.

Every time we pray, we make a spiritual deposit in our storehouse.

Every time we fast, we make a spiritual deposit in our storehouse.

Every time we study our scriptures, we make a spiritual deposit.

Every time we serve others, we make a spiritual deposit.

Every time we show love toward God and love our neighbor, we make a spiritual deposit.

Every time we keep his commandments, we make a spiritual deposit. And so on.

If we have surplus in our temporal storehouse not only can we take care of our needs, but we have extra to help others. It is a temporal manifestation of "all things in common." Likewise, if we have surplus in our spiritual storehouse not only can we take care of our needs, but we have extra – knowledge, understanding, wisdom, kindness, patience, etc. – to help others. This is the spiritual manifestation of "all things in common." In order for us to comprehend the beauty of the storehouse commandment and principle we must understand not only the temporal storehouse, but the spiritual storehouse as well.

We find the two storehouses connected together in the Malachi account. If we bring our tithes into the storehouse, consequently acting in temporal obedience, the Lord promises to *"pour out blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."* Our temporal sacrificial response in time, talents, gifts and monetary resources, etc. is met with a spiritual endowment from on high. What we then see is "the window" allows us a temporal understanding to a spiritual condition. The windows of heaven recorded in Malachi are not windows as we understand them, but rather the Lord is proclaiming that the windows of heaven being open results in the Lord not holding back his blessing and this is because of our preparation and obedience to being His people. In other words, heaven and earth come together. The "windows" do not open for just any reason at all, and they do not remain open indefinitely. They open by His choosing, and the response of His people. When the windows are open there is nothing that separates heaven from earth unless it would be the disobedient response of the

people. If this response occurs then the windows become shut, because God cannot *"pour out blessing"* on us with power from on high in our disobedience. He too, cannot cast pearls before swine. If he did - the blessings would be to our condemnation because we did not deserve them. Only through humility and repentance can we regain the blessings he bestows on us.

The "windows of heaven" being open means it is a time for preparation and service. It is time to have the covenant relationship stated in II Corinthians 6:16, *"as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and 'I will be their God, and they shall be my people'."* God desires to pour out his blessing on His people and His creation. Are we prepared to receive? Are we ready? The window is open.