

Grant Inkley Funeral Talk
By Daniel L. Rasmussen
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Revealed truth teaches us that mortal life is but a small part of a vast plan for our eternal happiness. We understand the concept penned by the poet Wordsworth who wrote, "Not in utter nakedness, nor yet in entire forgetfulness, but trailing clouds of glory do we come from God, who is our home." (From the Ode on Intimations of Immortality)

As wonderful as it is to receive a mortal tabernacle for our spirits, our bodies are imperfect. During his life – in particular the last four years -- Grant Inkley became witness to the fact that a physical body is corruptible. As an unforgiving cancer attacked every system of his body and took eight inches off his mortal stature, Grant experienced excruciating discomfort and pain. But, in the eyes of his friends and loved ones, Grant Inkley never stood taller. Through it all, Grant maintained a quiet dignity which we would all do well to emulate in our times of heartache, distress and disease.

No. It was not fair that Grant had to suffer. He was not just a good man. He was a righteous one who suffered nonetheless.

Perhaps we ask ourselves why righteous men like Grant suffer?

On this topic, President Brigham Young offered the profound insight that at least some of our suffering here on earth has a purpose. He said:

"All intelligent beings who are crowned with crowns of glory, immortality, and eternal lives must pass through every ordeal appointed for intelligent beings to pass through, to gain their glory and exaltation. Every calamity that can come upon mortal beings will be suffered to come upon the few, to prepare them to enjoy the presence of the Lord. . . . Every trial and experience you have passed through is necessary for your salvation." *Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe (1954), 345.

As his aches and pains became more numerous and more pronounced, I had the opportunity to hear Grant mention his increasing gratitude for the gift of his elder brother, Jesus Christ who (we read in the Book of John) described himself as “the resurrection, and the life” and taught that even though we may die, “yet shall [we] live.” [John 11: 25]

Yes, Grant Inkley, a veteran of the life insurance industry, will be the beneficiary of the ultimate life insurance policy: the resurrection of the dead. Though his mortal body was “sown in corruption,” it will yet be “raised in incorruption.” [I Corinthians 15:42]

The Book of Mormon Prophet Alma described what that means: "the soul shall be restored to the body, and the body to the soul; yea, even a hair of the head shall not be lost; but all things shall be restored to their proper and perfect frame." [Alma 40:23]

This is fantastic news. Looking around, I see that many of the brethren in this congregation take great hope in the promise that every hair of their head will be restored in the resurrection. I am personally grateful that I will not have to take blood pressure medicine forever or that my good wife will not suffer from migraine head aches in the eternities.

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” [I Corinthians 15:55]

What makes this promise of restoration so great is that it is Christ’s gift to all who have ever been born on this earth and received a physical body. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” [I Corinthians 15:22]

This memorial service is, for each of us, a moment when we are reminded of our glorious pre-mortal life and of our ultimate destiny as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Parents, clothed with bodies made perfect through the resurrection of Christ.

It is fitting then that we give thanks for a mortal birth and the promise of a re-birth through resurrection. These are great gifts for which we can take little responsibility. They are ours simply by our act of signing up for God’s plan of salvation. Having received them, we are forever indebted.

Grant Inkley recognized his great debt to God and committed himself to live a life that exemplified the principles of the Gospel. There can be no debate that, despite all, Grant was immovable in his devotion to the Savior and the Lord’s true church: in word, in act, and in deed.

Stephen Robinson in his book, *Following Christ*, described such a person [pages 28-29]

“There must come some point at which our commitment to the [Lord] settles questions in advance and predetermines our response to *whatever challenge we may encounter to our faith, to whatever commandments we may receive, or to whatever sacrifice we are called upon to make*. That is not blind faith; rather, it’s a vague suspicion that has finally managed to *become* true faith!

Just as the parties to a celestial marriage say, ‘we are sealed, no matter what,’ so a truly converted member says, ‘I am a member of this church, and my lot is cast with the apostles and prophets—no matter what. Above all other loyalties, agendas, and commitments, *this* is where I stand; *this* is what I believe; *this* is whom I serve.’ Then and only then can we experience the power and the blessings promised to the faithful.”

This great faith is the most important legacy left by Grant Inkley. I testify that he is now in the place Christ called “paradise” where he may “anticipate enjoying the glory, excellency and exaltation which God has prepared for the faithful.”

[Brigham Young, "Remarks," *Deseret News*, 31 May 1871, 197]

Having been the beneficiary of the example of stalwarts like Grant Inkley, and with the promise that I too will have a glorious resurrection in the hereafter, I recognize a solemn duty to do the Lord’s will and make my stand on the Lord’s side. I challenge each of you to do likewise.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.