

Funeral Services for Lynn Richman

21 July 2022, Remarks by Larry Richman

The last time I was at this pulpit was almost 46 years ago, August 12, 1976, when I had just returned home from my mission to Guatemala and gave my homecoming talk. Now my wife and I are on a full-time mission as a senior couple in South Africa. Before we left two months ago, I had a good, long visit with Dad and basically said my good-byes, expecting that it would be the last time I talked with him alive. I know this is not the end. I have 100% confidence that I will have many more talks with him and live with him forever. I also cherish the many long hours of talks we have had over the past few years as I helped him compile [his life history](#). He reminisced about his good life and all the wonderful experiences he has had. He expressed his love for the many wonderful people who have been part of his life.

That is the beauty of God's plan for us. God *wants* us to live with Him forever. He has provided a Savior for us. Jesus Christ is our older brother who atoned for our sins and paid the demands of justice. He was resurrected so that we will all be resurrected. He also knew there would be sorrow and pain because of this mortal world, and we can turn to the Atonement of Jesus Christ for relief. We often think of Christ's Atonement only in terms of relief from sin and guilt. But His Atonement is more. In the Book of Mormon, the prophet Alma taught that Christ would "go forth, *suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind*; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the *pains and the sicknesses* of his people. And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their *infirmities*, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities." (Alma 7:11–13, emphasis added). The Savior knows our pain because he has experienced it Himself. He knows how we feel, and He wishes to comfort us if we will let Him.

The Savior came to heal broken hearts—not to prevent them from being broken. Living the gospel will not shield us from pain, but it is a resource to help us deal with pain. The Savior may not take away our problems, and he will not always shield us from pain, but he will provide us perspective and strength to bear them.¹

So, what happens when we die? The Prophet Alma taught the following: "Now, concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection—Behold, it has been made known unto me by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow" (Alma 40:11).

We can be comforted to know that the Lord is in control. Elder Richard G. Scott said, "This life is an experience in profound trust—trust in Jesus Christ, trust in His teachings, trust in our capacity as led by the Holy Spirit to obey those teachings for happiness now and for a purposeful, supremely happy eternal existence. To trust means to obey willingly without always knowing the end from the beginning (see Proverbs 3:5–7)."² Faith

sometimes requires us to take a step into the unknown. If we always knew what the future would bring, it wouldn't require any faith. To build faith, sometimes we have to take one little step into the unknown.

God knows us personally. He knows our needs and He loves us more than we have the capacity to understand. We can face experiences in life much easier when we understand who we are, who our Father is, and who our Savior is, and the relationship we have with Them. Our Father in Heaven and His Son love us perfectly.

In times of sorrow, we can also rely on family and friends who love us. President Ezra Taft Benson once said that heavenly hosts are also pulling for us. He called them "friends in heaven that we cannot now remember who yearn for our victory."³ Dad has now returned to heaven, where he was met by his mother, his father who died when he was only four years old, his first wife Joyce, Mary's parents, his grandchild Brandon, and so many family and friends that he loved throughout his life.

I love you, Dad. And I love all of you who are here today. FAMILY MEANS EVERYING.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Notes

1. Adapted from a quote by Robert L. Millet, *When a Child Wanders*, Deseret Book, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1996, p. 58.
2. "Trust in the Lord," Richard G. Scott, *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, p. 16.
3. "Jesus Christ—Gifts and Expectations," Ezra Taft Benson, Christmas Devotional, 7 Dec. 1986.