

## The Lord Weeps and the Devil Laughs

Every once in a while we get a glimpse of the qualities of deity as we read the scriptures. For example, “This is *my work and my glory*, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (D&C 1:39), or, “I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and *delight to honor* those who serve me in righteousness...” (D&C 76:5). These glimpses help us to relate to a very personal God that knows and loves each one of us.

One such glimpse is found in the Book of Moses when Enoch is speaking with the Lord. Enoch is given the full vision of this world from the beginning to the end. He saw the great wickedness of the world. “And he beheld Satan; and he had a great chain in his hand, and it veiled the whole face of the earth with darkness; and he looked up and laughed, and his angels rejoiced.” A little further in the passage of scripture it says, “...the God of heaven looked upon the residue of the people, and he wept...” (Moses 7:26, 28)

We read on to learn that the Lord calls his children the “workmanship of his hands”, that he gave them knowledge – their free agency, that he gave them a commandment to love one another and that they should choose “me, their Father”. Yet, too often Satan wins the hearts of men and wickedness prevails. And, each time the Lord weeps for the suffering his children will necessarily have to go through.

On one occasion I can remember very distinctly riding in the car with my mother and Uncle Thom. We were arguing with mom about something and to my embarrassment we were being pretty mean about things. As my poor little mother was driving the Volkswagen and peering through the steering wheel because she was not tall enough to look over it, she started to cry. I can remember to this day how absolutely horrible I felt. I was doing and saying things that hurt someone I loved very much. I made a promise to myself that I would never do that again to my mother.

So it should be with the Lord. If we really love him we will never want to think, do or say anything that we know would cause him to weep. When we realize how personal he is with our own lives we will start to know how much our words and actions can cause him to hurt. I do not want to stand before him someday and discover that my behavior was the cause for him, the greatest being in all creation, to weep over me.

In 3 nephi 9:2 it tells us, “Wo, wo, wo unto this people; wo unto the inhabitants of the whole earth except they shall repent; for the devil laugheth, and his angels rejoice, because of the slain of the fair sons and daughters of my people...”. I don’t like to be laughed at, especially by the proud and the wicked.

Maybe if we can remember what happens when someone transgresses, we will make better decisions. Maybe we will make the right decisions if we can just remember that when we sin the Lord weeps and the devil laughs.