

Brother W.W. Phelps wrote the following to Joseph Smith after having apostatizing and joining in actions which greatly hurt Joseph and the Church.

"I have seen the folly of my way. ... I will repent and live, and ask my old brethren to forgive me, and though they chasten me to death, yet I will die with them, for their God is my God. ...

"I know my situation, you know it, and God knows it, and I want to be saved if my friends will help me. ... I have done wrong and I am sorry. The beam is in my own eye. ... I ask forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ of all the Saints. ... I want your fellowship; if you cannot grant that, grant me your peace and friendship" (History of the Church, 4:142).

In answer, the Prophet wrote back to W.W. Phelps:

"It is true, that we have suffered much in consequence of your behavior—the cup of gall, already full enough ... , was indeed filled to overflowing when you turned against us. One with whom we had oft taken sweet counsel together, and enjoyed many refreshing seasons from the Lord—'had it been an enemy, we could have borne it.' ...

"However, the cup has been drunk, the will of our Father has been done. ... And having been delivered from the hands of wicked men by the mercy of our God, we say it is your privilege to be delivered from the powers of the adversary ... and again take your stand among the Saints. ...

"Believing your confession to be real, and your repentance genuine, I shall be happy once again to give you the right hand of fellowship. ...

"Your letter was read to the Saints last Sunday, and an expression of their feeling was taken, when it was unanimously Resolved, That W.W. Phelps should be received into fellowship.

'Come on, dear brother, since the war is past,  
For friends at first, are friends again at last.'

"Yours as ever, Joseph Smith, Jun." (**History of the Church, 4:163–64**).

Is it any wonder Brother Phelps later penned the hymn "Praise To The Man"

### **Journal Questions for D&C 64:9-11**

What has been the hardest thing you have ever had to forgive?

What is currently the hardest thing for you to forgive?

Have you ever wanted to hang onto a grudge? Why?

How had you felt when you have forgiven someone else?

Who are you going to seek to forgive and how?

"Why is our salvation at stake when we fail to forgive others? ... Why is it 'the greater sin'? When we take the position of withholding forgiveness from our fellow men, we are attempting to block his progress towards salvation. This position is satanical and our motive is not Christlike. We are endeavoring to impede the progress of a living soul and deny him the forgiving blessings of the atonement. This philosophy is saturated with impure motives that are designed to destroy the soul" (Otten and Caldwell, Sacred Truths, 1:314).