

Becoming Like the Savior

One morning I awoke full of anticipation because of my upcoming trip to see family in Utah.¹ I had a long list of things to do before I left, but I knew I had time to do all of them if I organized myself. Unfortunately, when my husband went out to the garage to go to work, he discovered that my car had a flat tire. He quickly inflated it enough to get me to a repair shop and then left for work.

It took me until midmorning to get packed and ready enough so that I could get my tire fixed. Even though I wasn't first in line at the repair shop, they told me it would only take an hour, so I shopped in a department store while I waited.

After an hour I returned and was promised it would only be another 30 minutes. "OK," I thought, "I can deal with this."

When another 30 minutes were over, I went back. A new employee was there, and he said that it would be "Another 30 minutes." Now I started to feel upset, and a little pinched for time.

I decided to exhibit some patience and long-suffering, so I continued to wait. But since I had an early afternoon flight I knew I couldn't delay much longer if I was going to be on time to the airport. I started mentally crossing things off my list because I knew I would not have time to do them now.

During this 30 minutes, however, I started to watch my car and I saw that it was not getting any closer to being serviced, and that it was by no means going to be only another 30 minutes. Now I was frustrated, anxious, and felt

¹ See original publication: Gail H. Johnsen, "About Becoming Like Christ," *Deseret News*, Dec. 26, 2011.

like they were lying to me. I wanted to go and tell them what I thought about their “30 minutes.”

Instead of expressing my frustration in a loud voice or with threats, I decided to tell the attendant my situation. My car was immediately driven into the garage and the tire was repaired. I slashed almost everything off my list and rushed home to get my suitcases before continuing on to the airport.

Later that day, while waiting to board the plane, I sat quietly thinking about how much energy and strength it had taken not to yell at someone. That would have been easy; being patient, showing kindness, and displaying long-suffering were hard. Then I thought, “Heavenly Father, I hope you have a big reward for me for the way I handled this one!” And in His loving and patient wisdom He opened a little window for me. The Spirit whispered that it wasn’t about rewards; it was about becoming like Heavenly Father and His Son.

At the end of my life, the Lord isn’t going to drive up with either a small station wagon or a large semi-truck filled with various prizes all neatly wrapped just for me. What He wants is that each one of us become like He is. I suddenly understood the progression of knowing, doing, and finally becoming.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve expresses the thought in this way, “As important as it is to lose every desire for sin, eternal life requires more. To achieve our eternal destiny, we will desire and work for the qualities required *to become* an eternal being.”²

² Dallin H. Oaks, “Desire,” *Ensign*, May 2011. (Italic added by author.)

I am grateful for this unusual challenge, the life lesson given to me, and especially for the words of an apostle that reinforced what I learned.

