

Embracing Christ

AN INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT ETHAN WILLIS OF THE GILBERT ARIZONA SEVILLE STAKE

Embracing Jesus Christ means having faith in and completely relying on Him—trusting in His infinite power, intelligence, and love. It means believing that even though we do not understand all things, He does. Because He has experienced all our sins, pains, afflictions, and infirmities, He knows how to enable and strengthen us to rise above our daily difficulties and repent of our sins (see Alma 7:11–12; Doctrine and Covenants 122:8).

With all of the distractions in the world, it is hard to have a strong relationship with our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, without daily meaningful prayer. I was touched by Elder Holland's "How I Hear Him" message about carving out "high-priority time" for what he calls "muscular, urgent, determined prayer." He said, "We should make every effort for Him to hear us literally...when we can kneel, be vocal and pray out loud."

Here are my two invitations:

Audible Daily Prayer

Find a quiet, private place each day to kneel and pray out loud to our Heavenly Father as Elder Holland suggested. I encourage you to do this each day from now until next Fast Sunday, March 6th.

A Dedicated Fast Sunday, March 6th

The scriptures teach us that fasting strengthens the power of our prayers (Isaiah 58:6–11). I invite our stake to join together in a unified fast on Sunday, March 6th, to know what the Lord would teach us individually about how we can "more fully embrace Jesus Christ and invite others to do the same."

I promise that as you accept these invitations you will feel a deeper, more personal relationship with our Heavenly Father and His Son. You will also have the clarity you seek as you receive answers to the questions in your heart and will know who the Lord would have you invite to come closer to Him.

