

Final Thoughts

I'll Trust Him Forevermore (The Psalm of Nephi)

When thinking about the Prophet Joseph Smith and Book of Mormon prophet Nephi, it's easy to mentally elevate these magnificent leaders to iconic status. Each impacted millions of lives for good, and their influence will be felt through the eternities among the humble and faithful followers of Jesus Christ. The spirituality and achievements of these prophets sometimes seems unattainable. In truth, both had important missions to perform. But Joseph and Nephi were quick to teach that all can enjoy the fullest blessings of the gospel by diligently seeking to learn and do the will of the Savior. That message of hope extends to you and I, and it comes from two beloved prophets who recognized their own imperfections.

Joseph Smith and Nephi freely admitted their weakness, but through humility and faith in Jesus Christ, weak things became strong unto them. Careful study of their lives reveals a pattern that applies to all who would claim the blessings of spiritual strength in the Lord. Doctrine and Covenants Revelation Sites has provided some examples of this process in the life of Joseph Smith. Nephi gave additional insights into the process in 2 Nephi 4:15-35, which is often referred to as the "Psalm of Nephi." I wrote this hymn several years ago, when I finally recognized the pattern found in Nephi's psalm. Perhaps it will be as helpful for you as it has been for me.

The Eagle Song

Like Joseph Smith and Nephi, I was raised by goodly parents who love the Lord. In my youth, my mother was especially diligent in pushing me along in worthy endeavors, such as Scouting. In large part because of her encouragement, I eventually achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. She wrote a beautiful song for my Eagle court of honor, which was performed on that occasion, and has been performed at many similar ceremonies over the years. At one time, a kind BSA regional leader who loved the song lobbied for it to become the national Eagle Song, which never materialized. But the message it carries reminds me of the choices made by a young boy who remained true in his convictions and eventually became the Prophet of the Restoration. I hope you enjoy its beauty and message as much as I do.



Birthplace of the Prophet Joseph Smith, in Sharon (South Royalton), Vermont.