

What can
turtles teach
us about
prayer?

Turtles Teach Us About Prayer Sharing Time Idea

for use with the topic

“Answers to prayers come from Heavenly Father in many ways”

by Cherice Montgomery

- 1) **Stuffed Turtle:** Prayer protects us like a turtle’s shell. *We Bow Our Heads, p. 25a (v.2)*
- 2) **Turtle Poster:** Heavenly Father answers prayers in many different ways. ([Joseph Smith History 1:17](#), [Mosiah 27:11](#); [D&C 6:22-23](#); [2 Nephi 32:3](#); [D&C 8:2](#); [Mosiah 27:36](#)) *Children All Over the World, p. 16*
- 3) **Turtle Story--[He Gives the Best Answers](#):** Heavenly Father always answers our prayers in the way that is best for us. *I Pray in Faith, p. 14 (Verse 1 prior to chorus)*
OR Jesus is Our Loving Friend, p. 58b
- 4) **Turtle Pictures w/ Scriptures:** We have to do our part to receive answers to our prayers. (Search: [D&C 1:37](#); Ponder: [3 Nephi 17:3](#); Pray in Faith: [Enos 1:12](#); Wait patiently: [D&C 98:2](#); Live the gospel: [James 5:16](#)) *Search, Ponder, & Pray, p. 109*
- 5) **Turtle Pictures:** [Ephesians 6:12-18](#): Living the gospel makes it easier for us to hear and recognize Heavenly Father’s answers to our prayers. *A Child’s Prayer, p. 12*
OR I Want to Live the Gospel, p. 148

How do turtles protect themselves from danger?





the shield of faith

A photograph of a turtle resting on a bed of small, grey and white pebbles. The turtle's shell is a mix of dark brown and light tan colors with distinct patterns. Its head and front legs are visible, showing scaly skin. The text "Prayer protects us like a turtle's shell" is overlaid in white on a semi-transparent dark background in the center of the image.

Prayer
protects us like
a turtle's shell

A photograph of two turtles, likely painted turtles, resting on a stack of grey rocks next to a shallow stream. The turtles have dark shells with yellow and red markings. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding environment. The background shows a rocky bank with some green grass.

Turn

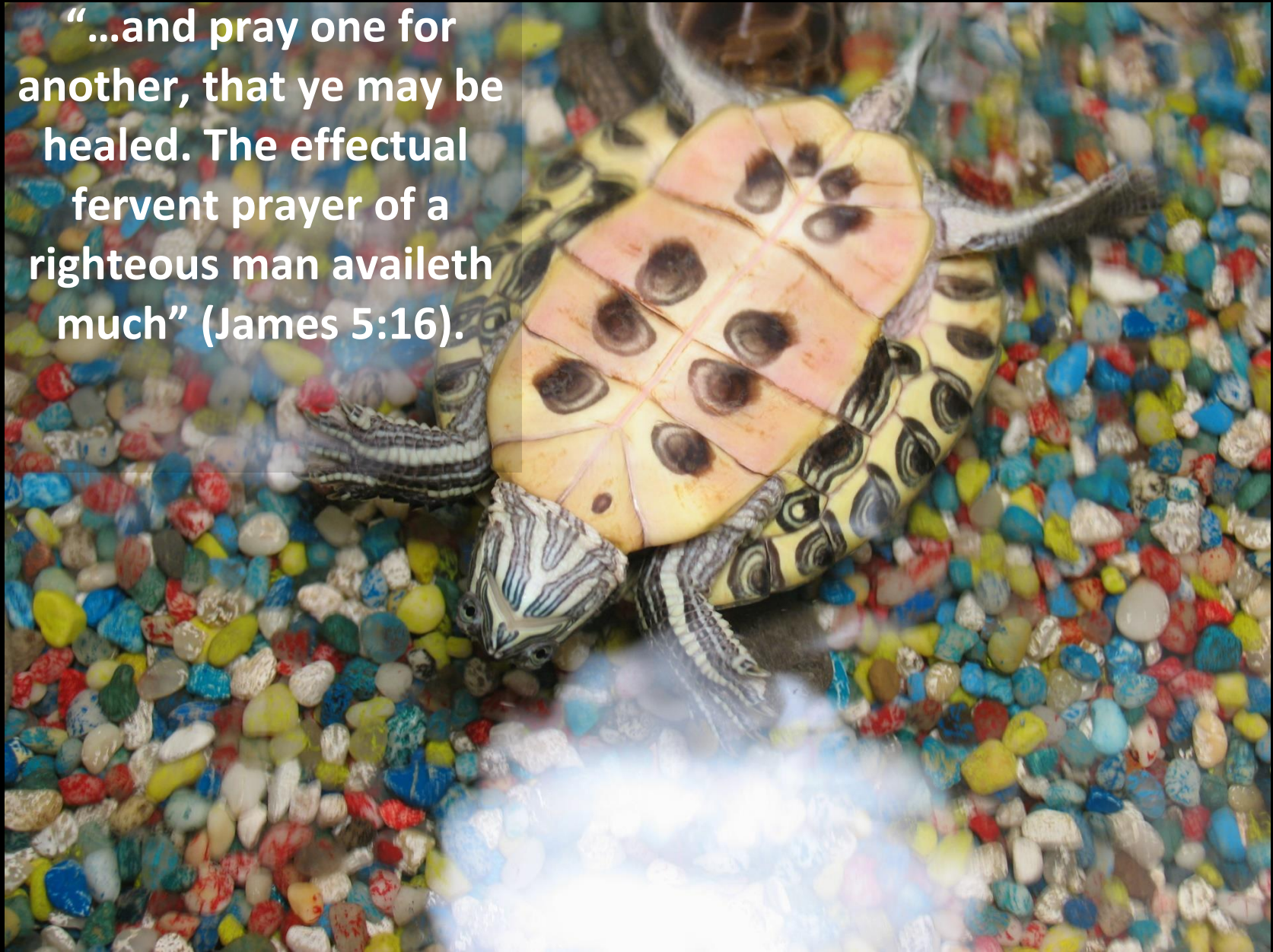
and Talk

Tell about a
time when
prayer kept
you safe

Do our prayers
really help and
protect
others?



“...and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).





**How does
Heavenly Father
answer our
prayers?**

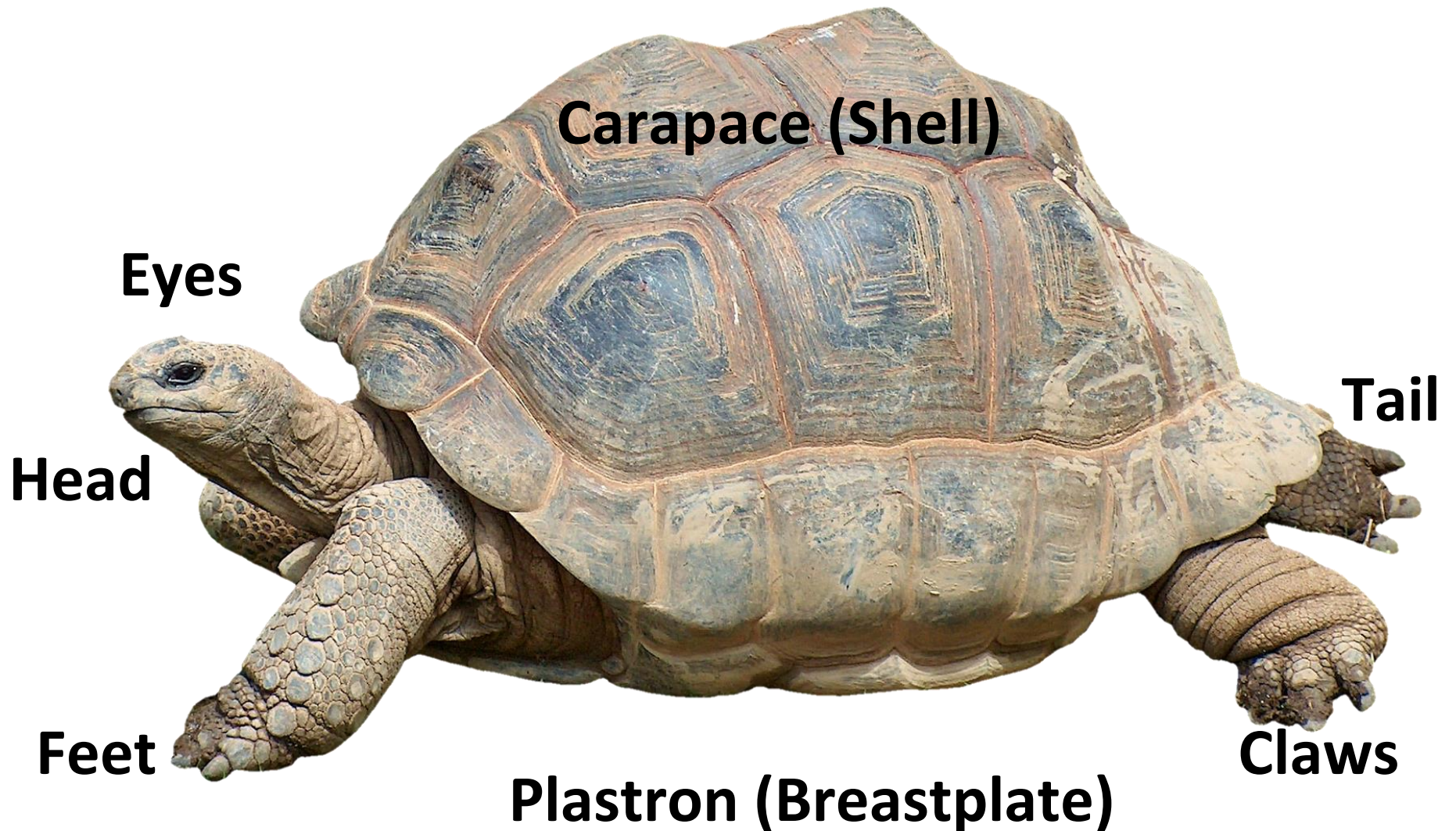


**Joseph
Smith
History
1:17**



**Mosiah
27:11**


How does a turtle protect itself?





(D&C 6:22-23)

Watch
for &
remember
answers



22 Verily, verily, I say unto you, if you desire a further witness, cast your mind upon the night that you cried unto me in your heart, that you might know concerning the truth of these things.


23 Did I not **speak peace to your mind** concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?

(D&C 6:22-23)



(D&C 8:2)

Listen to the Spirit



**“Yea, behold, I will tell
you in your mind and
in your heart, by
the Holy Ghost, which
shall come upon you
and which shall dwell
in your heart”
(D&C 8:2).**



**Feast on
the
Scriptures**

A large tortoise, likely a Galapagos tortoise, is shown in a naturalistic enclosure. The tortoise is positioned in the center-left of the frame, facing right. It has a large, weathered, brownish-grey shell with distinct scutes. Its head and front legs are visible, and it is actively eating a piece of bright green grass. The ground is dark brown dirt, and there are several vertical wooden posts in the background, suggesting an enclosure. The lighting is somewhat dim, with a soft glow around the tortoise.

“...feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do” (2 Nephi 32:3).

Touch
base
with

family & friends

(Mosiah 27:36)



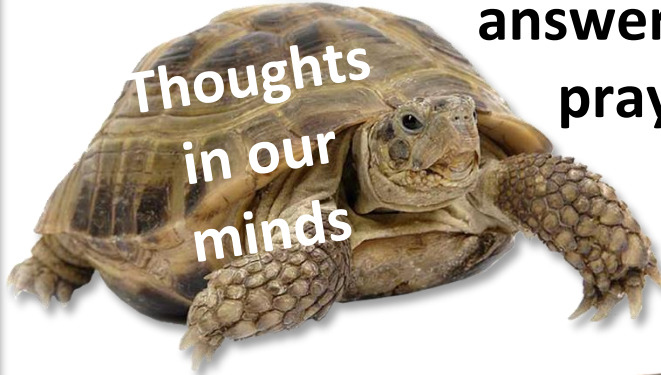
“And thus they were
instruments in the hands of
God in bringing many to the
knowledge of the truth,
yea, to the knowledge of
their Redeemer”

(Mosiah 27:26).





**Heavenly Father
answers**



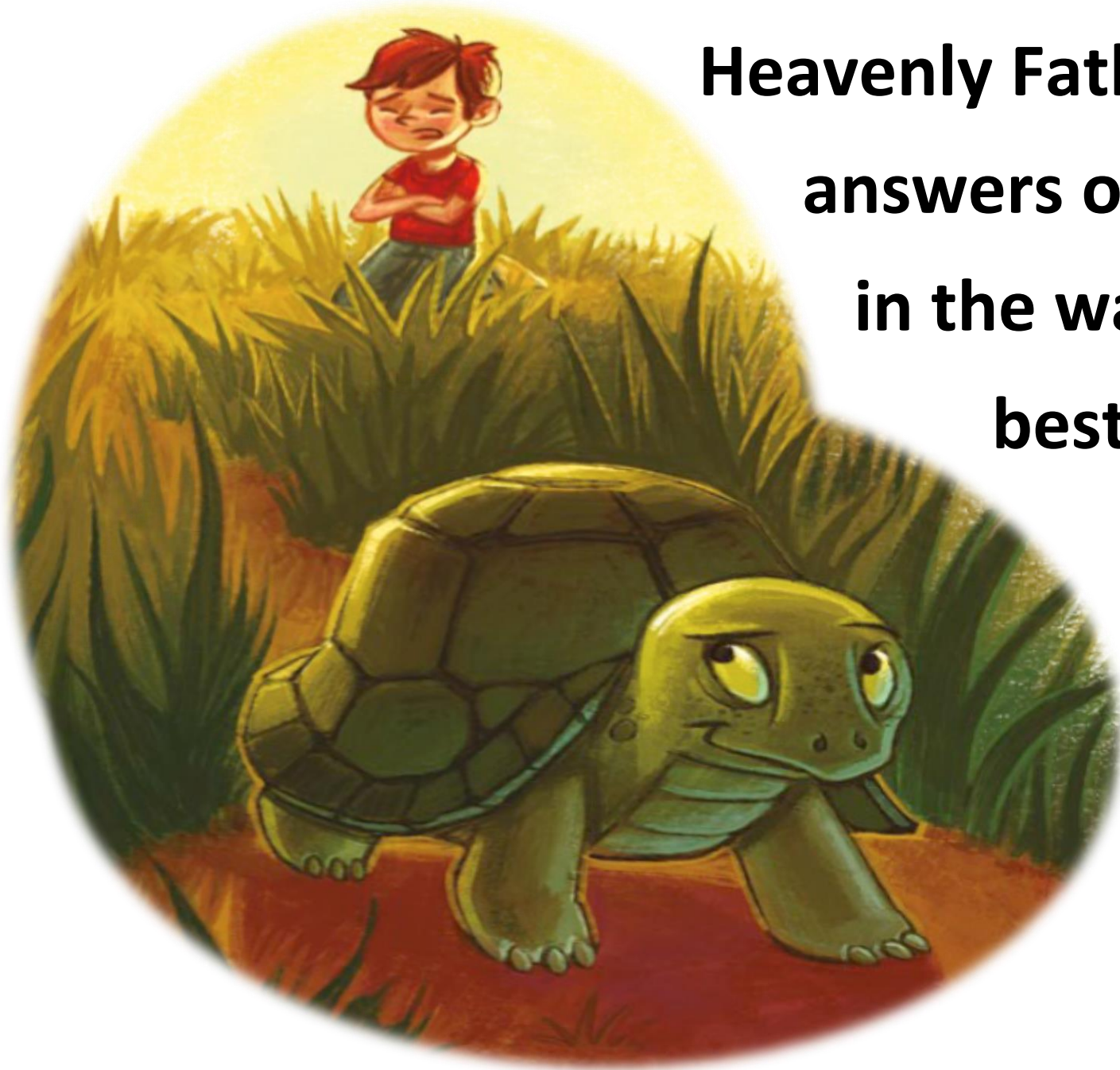
**prayers
in**



**many
different
ways.**



**Heavenly Father always
answers our prayers
in the way that is
best for us.**



He Gives
the Best Answers

How can we get answers to prayers?



**We
have
to do
our
part!**

SEARCH the scriptures

**Notice
thoughts as we
read**

**Apply principles
from stories**

(D&C 1:37)



**“Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful,
and the prophecies and promises which are in them
shall all be fulfilled” (D&C 1:37).**



PONDER

(3 Nephi 17:3)



A photograph of a turtle, likely a painted turtle, resting on a mossy rock in an aquarium. The turtle's head is turned towards the left, and a green grape is visible in the water nearby. The background is a light-colored, textured wall. The word "PONDER" is written in large, bold, green capital letters in the upper right corner of the image.

PONDER

“Therefore, go ye unto your homes, and ponder upon the things which I have said, and ask of the Father, in my name, that ye may understand, and prepare your minds for the morrow, and I come unto you again” (3 Nephi 17:3)

**PRAY with faith
(prayer + action)**



(Enos 1:12)

“And it came to pass that after I had prayed and labored with all diligence, the Lord said unto me: I will grant unto thee according to thy desires, because of thy faith” (Enos 1:12).



Ephesians 6:12-18: Living the gospel makes it easier for us to hear and recognize answers to our prayers.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Turtles: What do turtles have to protect themselves? Prayer is like spiritual armor that protects us!

14 Stand therefore, having your loins ^agirt about with ^btruth, and having on the ^cbreastplate of ^drighteousness;

Turtle Tummy: What would happen if a turtle's heart got hurt? Turtles have a "breastplate" on their tummies to protect their heart when they walk over hard, bumpy surfaces like rocks. We can put on "the breastplate of righteousness" too. When we do what we know we should (i.e., righteousness), it is easier for us to hear Heavenly Father's answers to our prayers in our minds and hearts.

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of ^apeace;

Turtle Feet: Turtles have to walk everywhere (because they don't drive cars)! That means that sometimes they have to walk on hot sand, over rough rocks, or up steep hills. Turtles have strong feet with tough skin and spiky claws to help them do all those things. What would happen if you had to walk on hot sand, rough rocks, or up steep hills, but didn't wear strong shoes? The things Jesus taught are called the gospel. When we pray, read our scriptures, and go to church, we are doing the things Jesus taught us to do—we are living the gospel. Living the gospel helps us when we have to go through hard things while we are living on earth. Would the turtle get anywhere if it just said a little prayer and then sat there? No! He has to DO something—he has to walk! Well, when we pray, we have to DO something too—we have to live the gospel and work on our problems. When we combine our prayers with action, we are doing what is called "praying with faith." Praying with faith doesn't always take the hard things out of our lives, but it does make it easier for us to walk through them with happiness.

16 Above all, taking the shield of ^afaith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery ^bdarts of the wicked.

Turtle Shell: Turtle's shells are very strong. Their shells keep them safe from birds' beaks that might try to eat them, or things that might fall on them. We don't have shells, but our prayers protect us just like turtles' shells protect them! When we pray, it shows we have faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and acts like a shield.

17 And take the **helmet** of ^asalvation, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the **word of God**:

Turtle Head: Turtles have a long-term memory of up to 7.5 months. When we are waiting for answers to prayers, we need to remember to do what is right. We can remember how Heavenly Father has helped us in the past, and can think about our problems to try to find solutions. Turtles also eat with their strong jaws. The scriptures promise that when we feast upon the words of Christ, we will know exactly what to do to solve our problems. **Turtle Tail:** Turtles also have strong tails they can use to defend themselves like a sword. When we pray, it helps us have the Spirit with us. The Spirit will keep us safe like a sword too. Truth is like the "sword" of a turtle's tail—it keeps us safe & happy on our long journey through life.

18 ^aPraying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and **watching** thereunto with all ^bperseverance and supplication for all saints; **Turtle Eyes:** Turtles look for possible danger and food. We can look for possible danger, spiritual "food," & answers to prayers.



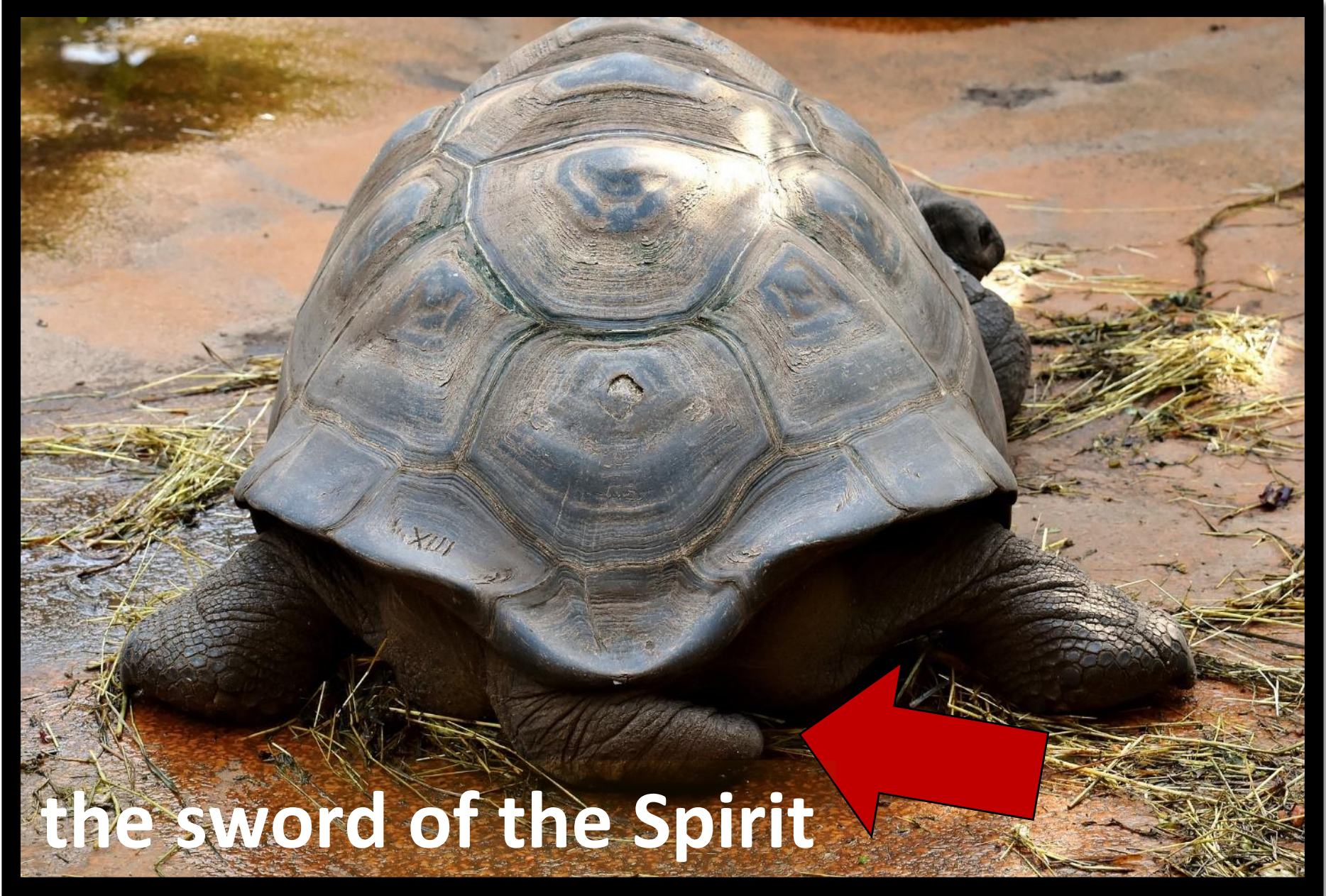
breastplate of
righteousness



the gospel of peace



the helmet of salvation



the sword of the Spirit

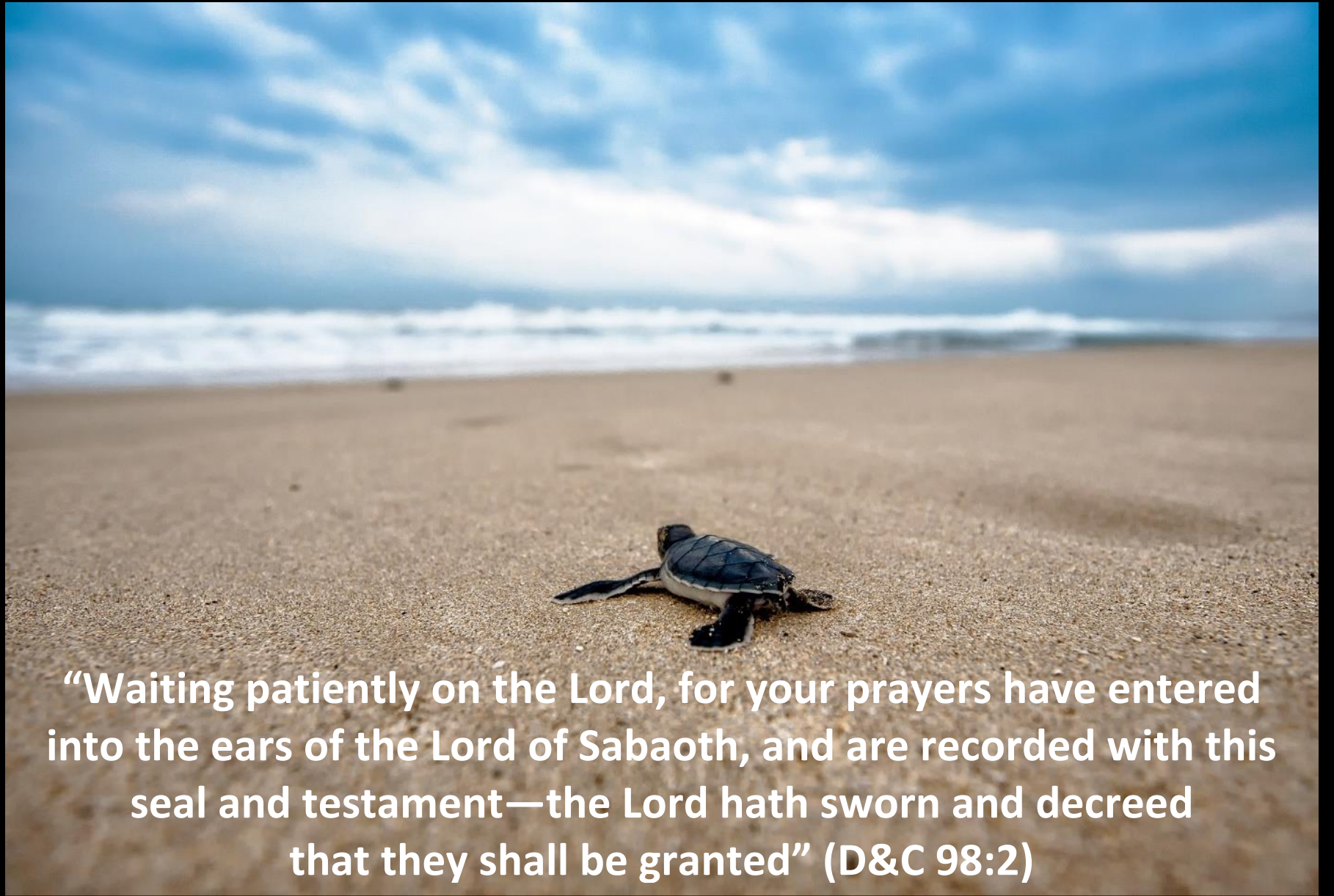


watching with all perseverance

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small tortoise. The tortoise has a yellowish-brown shell with dark brown or black markings. Its head and front legs are visible, showing a scaly texture. The background is a blurred green, suggesting foliage. The image is framed by a black border.

**Wait
patiently**

(D&C 98:2)



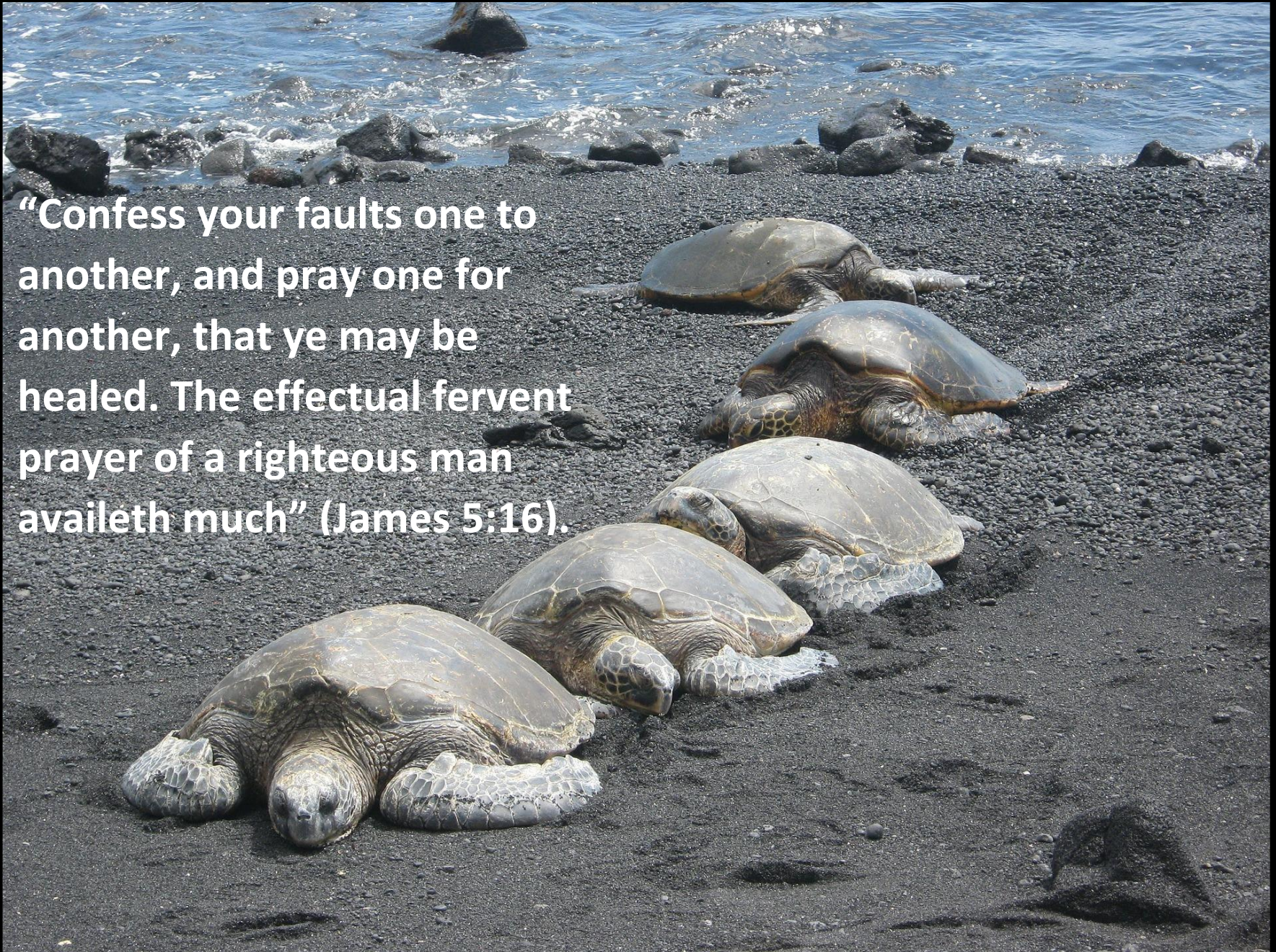
“Waiting patiently on the Lord, for your prayers have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and are recorded with this seal and testament—the Lord hath sworn and decreed that they shall be granted” (D&C 98:2)



**Live the gospel by
following Jesus Christ**

(James 5:16)

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).



Prayer doesn't
always take
hard things out
of our lives



The gospel of
Jesus Christ
gives us a path
that guides us
through the
hard things in
this life



Praying with faith
makes the hard things
in life happier.



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