

OLIVER GRANGER

There is a message for Latter-day Saints in a seldom quoted revelation given to the Prophet Joseph Smith in 1838. "I remember my servant Oliver Granger; behold, verily I say unto him that his name shall be had in sacred remembrance from generation to generation, forever and ever, saith the Lord" ([D&C 117:12](#)).

Oliver Granger was a very ordinary man. He was mostly blind having "lost his sight by cold and exposure" (*History of the Church*, 4:408). The First Presidency described him as "a man of the most strict integrity and moral virtue; and in fine, to be a man of God" (*History of the Church*, 3:350).

When the Saints were driven from Kirtland, Ohio, in a scene that would be repeated in Independence, Far West, and in Nauvoo, Oliver was left behind to sell their properties for what little he could. There was not much chance that he could succeed. And, really, he did not succeed!

But the Lord said, "Let him contend earnestly for the redemption of the First Presidency of my Church, saith the Lord; and when he falls he shall rise again, for his sacrifice shall be more sacred unto me than his increase, saith the Lord" ([D&C 117:13](#)).

What did Oliver Granger do that his name should be held in sacred remembrance? Nothing much, really. It was not so much what he did as what he was.

The Lord did not expect Oliver to be perfect, perhaps not even to succeed. "When he falls he shall rise again, for his sacrifice shall be more sacred unto me than his increase, saith the Lord" ([D&C 117:13](#)).

The Lord did not say of Oliver, "[If] he falls," but "When he falls he shall rise again" ([D&C 117:13](#); emphasis added).

We cannot always expect to succeed, but we should try the best we can.

Today we fulfill the prophecy "that [Oliver Granger's] name shall be had in sacred remembrance from generation to generation, forever and ever" ([D&C 117:12](#)). He was not a great man in terms of the world. Nevertheless, the Lord said, "Let no man despise my servant Oliver Granger, but let the blessings ... be on him forever and ever" ([D&C 117:15](#)).

Let no one underestimate the power of faith in the ordinary Latter-day Saints.

(Boyd K. Packer "[*The Least of These*](#)")

