

The Toothache

By Janet S. Porter

The Life and History of Phineas Wolcott Cook
pp. 36, using his own words

CHARACTERS (2 males and 1 angel or just a voice)

Phineas Wolcott Cook (PWC)

Salmon Hall (His brother-in-law)

The Voice (Angel)

PWC: Salmon, I have been in Babylon and have suffered all her abominations since my decision to be baptized two months ago.

Salmon: I have watched you suffer, and feel to help you get away. I have a team of four oxen you can have when you finish your wagon.

PWC: I don't know how to thank you. My father pays me only in wheat, and I have little money while I work for him.

Salmon: And he'll make sure it stays that way. I'll do everything I can to help you, for we intend to go with you to Zion in the spring of next year.

PWC: Having my sister Eliza and you with us in Zion will make leaving our family here a little easier. I'm grateful we have each other in the gospel.

Salmon: The sooner we get away, the better. I've seen you in hell long enough, and will help you get away.

PWC: I consider it a miracle.

Salmon: I must be going, and you must get on with your job of husking corn. You have half a barn full, and you'd better get started.

PWC: I've husked about a million ears of corn in my life, but today it seems an extra burden. I think it's because I'm getting a toothache.

Salmon: I'm very sorry. There's no cure for the toothache.

PWC: And I have been often afflicted with it.

Salmon: I wish you luck. Goodbye.

PWC: Goodbye.

(Salmon leaves. An angel comes in or someone can just voice the words into the microphone)

PWC: This toothache has come on me the hardest kind. I don't know how I can stay out here working.

Voice: What church do you belong to?

PWC: I belong to the Mormons.

Voice: Why, they believe in miracles, don't they?

PWC: Yes, I believe they do.

Voice: Well then, why don't you try the medicine yourself?

PWC: *(Falling to his knees)* Dear Lord, please heal me of the toothache. I don't know what to do and it just keeps coming back. Please help me.

(PWC stands up and puts his hand on his cheek)

PWC: Why, the toothache is gone! That's two miracles in one day. I don't know how I could be more blessed. I feel as if I live in Babylon, but God wants me to know He is with me.

Voice: Yes, Phineas, He *is always* with you.

Family Discussion

Phineas and Ann Eliza were so new in the church, they sometimes felt isolated and alone without many other members to talk to.

How did Heavenly Father let Phineas know he wasn't alone?

We're not always healed of our injuries and sickness. It won't be in the same way as this experience in the life of Phineas Wolcott Cook, but how does God let you know you're not alone?

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said:

"Our Heavenly Father wants to bless us. A rewarding, abundant, and eternal life is the very object of His merciful plan for His children! It is a plan predicated on the truth 'that all things work together for good to them that love God.' (Romans 8:28) So keep loving. Keep trying. Keep trusting. Keep believing. Keep growing. Heaven is cheering you on today, tomorrow, and forever." ("Tomorrow the Lord Will do Wonders among You," *Ensign*, May, 2016, p. 27)