Towards the end of the Nephite civilization, a church meeting was held in which Mormon spoke to "the peaceable followers of Christ" who had "obtained sufficient hope" to "enter into the rest of the Lord" (Moroni 7:1-3). To this group he spoke of faith, hope, and charity.

He taught that "in Christ there should come every good thing" (Moroni 7:22). The greatest thing man can receive from Christ is salvation from his fallen condition. Faith, he said, is the means "whereby ye may lay hold on every good thing" (Moroni 7:21). Therefore "no man can be saved, according to the words of Christ, save they shall have faith in his name" (Moroni 7:38). Thus Christ "claimeth all those who have faith in him" (Moroni 7:28).

Mormon continued: those who obtain this faith "have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal, and this because of your faith in him according to the promise" (Moroni 7:41). "Without faith" in the atoning sacrifice of Christ "there cannot be any hope" (Moroni 7:42).

Mormon then said: "I say unto you that he cannot have faith and hope, save he shall be meek, and lowly of heart" (Moroni 7:43). In other words, faith and hope are obtained when one recognizes that his salvation is entirely dependent upon the atoning sacrifice of Christ and not upon his own merits (see Alma 22:14). In this condition, the repentant soul "confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ." This faith and hope brings man charity! Mormon taught that he who humbly submits to the atonement of Christ "must needs have charity; for if he have not charity he is nothing" (Moroni 7:44).

What is this charity Mormon spoke? Mormon defined charity as "the pure love of Christ" (Moroni 7:47) Earlier in the Book of Mormon, Moroni, speaking to the Lord, said:

"I remember that thou hast said that thou hast loved the world, even unto the laying down of thy life for the world, that thou mightest take it again to prepare a place for the children of men.

"And now I know that this love which thou hast had for the children of men is charity; wherefore, except men shall have charity they cannot inherit that place which thou hast prepared in the mansions of thy Father." (Ether 12:33-34)

In other words, when men seek for and obtain the atonement of Jesus Christ, they receive God's charity or pure love. Christ himself said, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). It is through faith and hope that we obtain this charity. This is dramatically portrayed in Lehi's dream. Those who exercised faith, caught hold of the
rod of iron and traversed the strait and narrow path until they reached the tree where they partook of the fruit of the tree of life. Nephi learned that the tree of life was the "love of God' expressed through the atonement of Christ (see 1 Nephi 11:21-22).

Faith and hope lead to charity or the "pure love of Christ." Those who receive this charity receive Christ's atonement. Mormon tells us that Christ's love "suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" (Moroni 7:45). Without Christ's love or atonement, Mormon taught, "ye are nothing, for charity [i.e., Christ and his atonement] never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity [i.e., Christ and his atonement], which is the greatest of all" (Moroni 7:46). Hence, Mormon concluded, "whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him" (Moroni 7:47). That is to say, those who have obtained the atonement of Christ through faith and hope shall be saved. Therefore, Mormon urged his listeners to "pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love [i.e., atonement], which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ" (Moroni 7:48).

When one has obtained the charity or love of Christ, he, himself, will exhibit this same love for others. He therefore will become like Christ, manifesting the same characteristics: he "suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" (Moroni 7:45). Such a person, when brought into the presence of God, "shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (Moroni 7:48).

Mormon ended his talk expressing his desire "that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure" (Moroni 7:48).