

President Russell M. Nelson
President of the church

In recent years, the presiding councils of the church have wrestled with a fundamental question: “How can we take the gospel in its simple purity, and the ordinances with their eternal efficacy, to all of God’s children?”

It is time for a home-centered church, supported by what takes place inside branch, ward and stake buildings.

The adversary is increasing his attack on faith and on families at an exponential rate. “To survive spiritually, we need counter-strategies and pro-active plans. Accordingly, we now want to put in place organizational adjustments that will further fortify our members and their families.”

For many years church leaders have been working on an integrated curriculum to strengthen families and individuals through a “home-centered and church-supported” plan to learn doctrine, strengthen faith and foster greater personal worship.

“This morning we will announce a new balance between gospel instruction in the home and in the church. We are each responsible for our individual spiritual growth.”



Elder Quentin L. Cook
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Church leaders have been working for a long-time on “a home-centered and Church-supported plan to learn doctrine, strengthen faith and foster greater personal worship.”

To accomplish these purposes the Sunday meeting schedule will be adjusted.

The Sunday church meetings will consist of a 60-minute sacrament meeting, “focused on the Savior, the ordinance of the sacrament, and spiritual messages.” After time for transition to classes, Church members will attend a 50-minute class that will alternate each Sunday. Sunday School will be held on the first and third Sundays. Priesthood quorums, Relief Society, and Young Women meetings will be held on the second and fourth Sundays. Meetings on the fifth Sunday will be under the direction of the bishop.

The new home study resource *Come, Follow Me For Individuals and Families* is designed to help members learn the gospel in the home.

“We are confident that members will be blessed in extraordinary ways. Sunday can be a day of gospel learning and teaching at church and in the home.”



Brother M. Joseph Brough
Young Men general presidency

Sometimes individuals are required to face hard things. “Frequently, our first reaction to hard things is ‘Why me?’ Asking why, however, never takes away the hard thing. The Lord requires that we overcome challenges, and he has indicated ‘that all these things shall give [us] experience, and shall be for [our good]’ (Doctrine and Covenants 122:7).”

To face hard things, individuals must first forgive others, and second, give themselves to Heavenly Father.

Even the Savior faced hard things. “The world ... shall judge him to be a thing of naught; wherefore they scourge him, and he suffereth it; and they smite him, and he suffereth it. Yea, they spit upon him, and he suffereth it, because of his loving kindness and his long-suffering towards the children of men” (1 Nephi 19:9).

“Because of that loving kindness, Jesus Christ suffered the atonement. As a result, he says to each one of us, ‘In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world,’ (John 16:33). Because of Christ, we too can overcome the world.”



Elder Steven R. Bangert
General Authority Seventy

Traditions established within the home ingrain strong characteristics of goodness in children that give them strength to confront the challenges of life.

“Lessons taught through the traditions we establish in our homes, though small and simple, are increasingly important in today’s world.”

Prayer, scripture reading, family home evening and attendance at church meetings help create protection from the fiery darts of the adversary.

“As we establish wholesome traditions that teach the doctrine of Christ, the holy spirit bears witness of the truthfulness of our message and nourishes the seeds of the gospel that are planted deep in the hearts of our children by our efforts all along the way.”

Parents faces moments of frustration and varying levels of determination and strength while raising children. “However, when parents exercise faith by teaching children candidly, lovingly and doing all they can to help them along the way, they receive greater hope that the seeds being sown will take root within the hearts and minds of their children.”



Elder Ronald A. Rasband
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

In a world defined by peril and worry, the Lord offers his followers comforting words: “Be of good cheer and do not fear” (Doctrine and Covenants 68:6).

The Lord knew that at times his children would feel fear. How is fear dispelled? “Our desire to ‘always have his spirit to be with us’ (Doctrine and Covenants 20:77) will push fear aside for a more eternal view of our mortal lives.”

Courage comes when people stand “in holy places” such as righteous homes, dedicated chapels and consecrated temples.

“God loves us, always, and we love him. Our love of God counters all fears and his love abounds in holy places.”

Trust the Lord and his promises. Those who follow covenant paths need not fear. Personal revelation is essential for living the gospel.

“The battles will rage on, but we will face them with the spirit of the Lord.”

Despite the many perils of the day, Latter-day Saints can know peace by seeking personal revelation, keeping sacred covenants and standing with the Lord and his principles.”



Elder David A. Bednar
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Strands of a rope combine to produce a powerful and productive tool. With an eye to interwoven patterns, Latter-day Saints should consider how the principle of “gathering together in one all things in Christ” applies in practical ways to learning and living his gospel and seeing the Lord’s work become ever more home-centered and church-supported.

A doctrinal example is the fourth Article of Faith principles — trusting in and on the Savior in faith, relying on him in repentance, following him in baptism, and pressing forward with and in him assisted by the Holy Ghost.

A church-related example includes building Zion in native lands, the 1980 consolidated Sunday meeting schedule, “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” smaller temples, “to the rescue,” self-reliance and the recent quorum realignments, ministering emphasis and now additional Sunday meeting changes.

“I pray we can recognize the Lord’s work as one great worldwide work that is becoming ever more home-centered and Church-supported. I know and testify that the Lord is revealing and will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.”



President Dallin H. Oaks
1st counselor, First Presidency

Truth and the plan of salvation provide a knowledge of things present, past and future. While information is more easily available now than ever before, not all information is true. “We need to be cautious as we seek truth and choose sources for that search.”



True joy is found by “coming to know and acting upon the truth” that all are children of God. The doctrine of the church provides the knowledge that “there is a God, who is a loving

Heavenly Father” and that God created the earth for his children to “have the opportunity to progress” and to “choose eternal life.”

The conditions of God’s eternal plan include the temptations from the adversary but also provide the gift of repentance through the atonement of Jesus Christ. “The purpose of [the church] is to qualify his children for the highest degree of glory, which is exaltation or eternal life.”

“The work of the Lord is going forward despite the organized and constant opposition that confronts us as we strive to practice the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

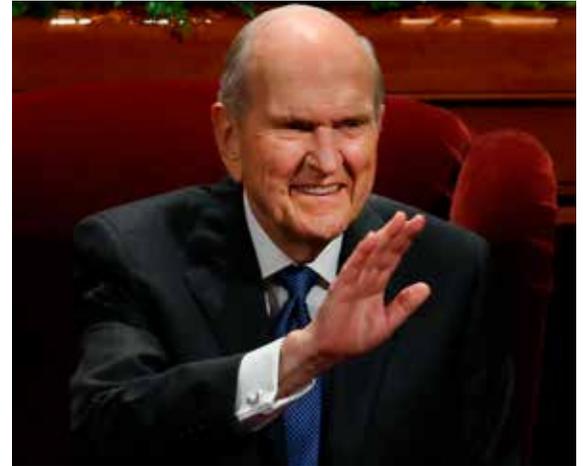


Photo by Laura Seitz, Deseret News



Photo by Rick Bowmer

Elder D. Todd Christofferson
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

It is challenging but vital to remain firm and steadfast when a person is being refined in the “furnace of affliction” — something that comes to all in mortality.

“Without God, these dark experiences tend to despondency, despair and even bitterness. With God, comfort replaces pain, peace replaces turmoil and hope replaces sorrow.”

Temptations and tribulations can lead to full conversion and healing. “But this happens if, and only if, we do not harden our hearts or stiffen our necks against him.”

“To persevere firm and steadfast in the faith of Christ requires that the gospel of Jesus Christ penetrate one’s heart and soul, meaning that the gospel becomes not just one of many influences in a person’s life, but the defining focus of his or her life and character.”

A steadfastness of faith comes from praying constantly, feasting on the scriptures, serving and worshiping in the church, worthily taking of the sacrament each week, loving your neighbor and being obedient to God.



Bishop Dean M. Davies
1st counselor, Presiding Bishopric

As with the early Saints, so it is with church members today — the Lord has revealed and continues to reveal to the president of the church the patterns by which the kingdom of God is to be directed.

Listening to and hearkening to living prophets will have profound, even life-changing effects. “We are strengthened. We are more assured and confident in the Lord. We hear the word of the Lord. We feel God’s love. We will know how to conduct our lives with purpose.”

At a personal level, “he provides guidance as to how each of us should direct our lives, such that our conduct may likewise be acceptable to the Lord.”

Like a temple’s strong foundation, every person needs a strong foundation of faith to ensure he or she will be able to withstand the storms and calamities of life.

“The chief cornerstone and building block of the church and for our lives is Jesus Christ. This is his church. President Nelson is his prophet. President Nelson’s teachings witness and reveal for our benefit the life and character of Jesus Christ.”



Elder Ulisses Soares
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

God's children come together in the restored church from different social backgrounds, traditions and cultures — forming a wonderful community of Christ.

Through encouragement, support and love, members combine to form a mighty force for good in the world.

“Those of us who are at different points in the long journey of discipleship must extend a warm hand of fellowship to our new friends, accept them where they are, and help, love and include them in our lives. All of these new friends are precious sons and daughters of God. ... Our new friends bring God-given talents, excitement and goodness within them.”

Inspired prophets teach members how to support and love one another so they can be united in faith and purpose.

“As we strive to acquire his divine attributes in our lives, we become different than we were, through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and our love for all people increases naturally.”

New members need fellow members who are interested in them. They also need an assignment and nourishment “by the good word of God.”

**Elder Gerrit W. Gong**
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Personal memories and experiences that have built an individual's faith in God can be thought of as “our campfire of faith.” Each individual's “campfire of faith” can help encourage and bless them when they experience times of difficulty or doubt. These “campfires of faith” can encourage and bless God's children in five key ways.

First, “to find joy in creativity.” Second, “to minister in new Spirit-filled ways.” Third, to “seek to love the Lord and others with all our hearts and souls.” Fourth, “to establish regular patterns of righteous living that deepen faith and spirituality.” Fifth, “to remember perfection is in Christ, not in ourselves.”

Through faithful efforts to love God and serve his children, “we may feel God's love and needed inspiration for their and our lives in new and holier ways” and “strengthen our faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ in our hearts, and in our homes and at church.”

“In various times and ways, we all feel inadequate, uncertain, perhaps unworthy.” But by seeking to be obedient to the commandments of Christ and through “faithful efforts to love God and to minister to our neighbor,” everyone can feel the love of the Savior and find strength to bear their personal challenges.



Photo by Laura Seitz, Deseret News

Elder Paul B. Pieper
General Authority Seventy

“The Savior's name has singular and essential power. It is the only name by which salvation is possible. By emphasizing this truth in every dispensation, our loving Father assures all of his children that there is a way back to him.”

In order to access the Lord's saving power, individuals must take upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ.

All who desire to take upon the Savior's name must first be baptized. “By taking upon ourselves the name of Christ, we commit to take his teachings, his characteristics and ultimately his love, deep into our beings so that they become part of who we are.”

Those who take upon themselves the name of Christ accept him as their Savior and continually embrace his teachings as the guide for their lives. “In every meaningful decision we make, we can take his gospel to be true and obediently live it with all of our heart, might, mind and strength.”

The cause of Christ and his church are one and the same.

The sacrament is a weekly reminder that taking upon the name of Christ is a living and continuing commitment, not a single event.

**Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf**
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

“This very day — every day — [God] reaches out to you, desiring to heal you, lift you up, and to replace the emptiness in your heart with an abiding joy. He desires to sweep away any darkness that clouds your life and fill it with the sacred and brilliant light of his unending glory. I have experienced this for myself. And it is my witness as an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ that all who come unto God — all who truly believe, love and do — can experience the same.”

With life's sorrows, sadness and “Weltschmerz” — a German word meaning the sadness from brooding about how the world is inferior to how one thinks it ought to be — there is hope.

That great hope is the transformative power of the gospel and the Savior's redemptive power to heal “soul-sickness.” Latter-day Saints achieve a more abundant life by not focusing on their own needs or achievements but by becoming true disciples.

Discipleship begins with three simple words: believe, love, do.

Believing God leads to faith in him and trusting in his word. Faith causes hearts to grow in people's love for God and others. As that love grows, they are inspired to emulate the Savior as they continue their own journey on the path of discipleship.



Sister Joy D. Jones
Primary general president

“Knowing the who and the why in serving others helps us understand that the highest manifestation of love is devotion to God.”

Service can be challenging if Latter-day Saints do not know the why of their service. The process of serving others is easier and more meaningful if members are “in the service of God.”

“Rather than building resentment, we can build, through service, a more perfect relationship with our Heavenly Father.”

“When serving our God becomes our main priority in life, we lose ourselves, and in due course, we find ourselves.”

The Savior taught this principle simply and directly in 3 Nephi 12:16, “Therefore let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

“Sisters, I testify that when Jesus Christ, through the power of his atonement, works on us and in us, He begins to work through us to bless others. We serve them, but we do so by loving and serving him.”



Sister Michelle D. Craig
Young Women general presidency

“Divine discontent comes when we compare what we are to what we have the power to become. Each of us, if we are honest, feels a gap between where and who we are, and where and who we want to become. We yearn for greater personal capacity.”

These feelings are God-given and create an urgency to act. “Divine discontent it is not an invitation to stay in our comfort zone, nor will it lead us to despair. I have learned that when I wallow in thoughts of everything I am not, I do not progress, and I find it much more difficult to feel and follow the spirit.”

One way to tell divine discontent from Satan's counterfeit is that divine discontent will lead a person to faithful action, to follow the promptings to do good, and will ultimately lead a person to Christ.

“Divine discontent motivates us to follow the example of the Savior, who ‘went about doing good.’”

“Have you ever felt your gifts and talents were too small for the task ahead? I have. But you and I can give what we have to Christ, and he will multiply our efforts. What you have to offer is more than enough — even with your human frailties and weaknesses — if you rely on the grace of God.”



Sister Cristina B. Franco
Primary general presidency

“We have promised our Father in Heaven that we will serve him and others with love and do his will in all things.”

When members of the Church learn to participate in “unselfish service,” they embark on the great journey of helping to hasten the work of God.

When a person sacrifices for those around them, their efforts to serve with the love of Christ can be likened to the story of the widow's mite from the time of Christ. “Her intentions were pure, and she gave all she had to give.”

“Sisters, are we giving our all to the Lord without reservation? ... Are we living the two great commandments — to love God and to love his children.”

Service is often the best way to manifest the love of Christ that each of God's children can share with one another.

In this life, “what will matter is that we came with a desire to serve, that we noticed those to whom we minister and greeted them joyfully, ... and it will certainly matter that we do all that we do with the special ingredient of service coupled with love and sacrifice.”



President Henry B. Eyring
2nd counselor, First Presidency

“Part of the Lord's current sharing of knowledge relates to accelerating his pouring out on the heads and into the hearts of his people. He has made clear that the daughters of Heavenly Father will play a primary role in that miraculous acceleration.”

The Lord has charged the women of the church to be “this principal gospel educators” in the family. “This includes the nurture of gospel truth and knowledge.”

Fathers and mothers are partners — equal in their potential and unified in their efforts. “They are equal in their divine destiny to be exalted together. In fact, they cannot be exalted alone.”

Women have a great capacity to love and hear the whisperings of the spirit — which gives them guidance to know how to nurture and teach.

The Savior is the perfect example for all sisters, from all backgrounds, in their efforts to improve gospel learning in the home. “Each of you, equally yoked with sons of God, will be a major part of a miracle of gospel learning and living that will hasten the gathering of Israel and will prepare God's family for the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ.”



President Dallin H. Oaks
1st counselor, First Presidency

Being a mother is the highest priority of Latter-day Saint women and their ultimate joy. The kingdom of God cannot be complete without women who make and keep sacred covenants.

Young women are unique because of their knowledge of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and the plan of salvation.

“Your knowledge will enable you to endure and overcome the difficulties of growing up.”

It will be a blessing to “limit your use of and dependency on cell phones.”

Be kind to others. “Kindness is something many of our youth are doing already. Some groups of youth in some communities have shown the way to for all of us. ... At the same time, we know that the adversary tempts all of us to be unkind.”

It is not pleasing to the Lord “if we are cruel or mean to others.”

Those who strive to be kind draw closer to [Jesus Christ] and His loving example.

If anyone participates in any meanness or pettiness, resolve now to change and encourage others to change.



President Russell M. Nelson
President of the church

“No one can do what a righteous woman can do. No one can duplicate the influence of a mother.”

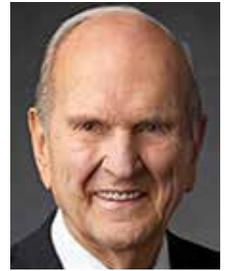
Daughters of Heavenly Father are mothers by their divine destiny and through their spiritual gifts, each has the power to set a standard that will change the world for the better.

Following the example of “Mother Eve,” the women in the Church today have the power to move “God's plan of happiness forward.”

The ministering spirit of the women of the church has inspired many of the changes necessary to bring about the work of gathering Israel in the latter-days.

The gathering of Israel is the greatest challenge, cause and work on the earth, and it cannot be done without the mothers of Israel.

“My dear sisters, we need you! We need your strength, your conversion, your conviction, your ability to lead, your wisdom, and your voices. ... Together, we can do all that our Heavenly Father needs us to do to prepare the world for the second coming of his Son.”



President M. Russell Ballard
Acting president, Quorum of the Twelve

A century has passed since President Joseph F. Smith received “a glorious vision” of the afterlife that would be recorded in Doctrine and Covenants section 138.

“The vision revealed more fully the depth and breadth of Heavenly Father’s plan for his children and Christ’s redeeming love and the matchless power of his atonement.”

President Ballard prepared his talk “sometime before the passing of my dear wife Barbara (who died Monday, Oct. 1, five days before general conference). My family and I thank you for your love and outreach and kindness.”

President Ballard, President Smith’s great-grandson, said the truths taught in section 138 offer “firm hope,” of a glorious resurrection through Jesus Christ.

President Smith knew much sorrow. He lost many of his closest loved ones — parents, two wives and 13 children.

He prayed fervently for answers and comfort and, in the Lord’s due time, received a vision regarding the spirit world. “We too can be comforted and learn more about our own future when we or our loved ones die and go to the spirit world by studying this revelation and pondering its significance in the way we live our lives each day.”



Sister Bonnie H. Cordon
Young Women general president

Last April, President Russell M. Nelson extended an invitation to the membership of the Church to “feed our Father’s sheep in a holier way and to do so through ministering.

“To effectively accept this invitation, we must develop a shepherd’s heart and understand the needs of the Lord’s sheep. How do we become the shepherds the Lord need us to become?”

As with all questions, we can look to the Savior, Jesus Christ — the Good Shepherd.

“What better way is there to feed his sheep than to help them feel his love — through you? ... Do our sheep know we are watching over them with love and will take action to help?”

Youth can be among some of the strongest shepherds. “I hope, like our prophet, that we recognize the magnificent strength and nobility found in these youth. They elevate, expand and magnify the work. Ministering side by side with them, we see wonders.”

The youth are needed. “If you don’t have a ministering assignment, talk with your Relief Society or elders quorum president. They will rejoice in your willingness to make certain his sheep are known and numbered, watched over and gathered into the fold of God.”



Elder Jeffrey R. Holland
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

An even more personal aspect of ministering is the ministry of reconciliation.

“If ye ... desire to come unto me, and rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee — Go thy way unto thy brother, and first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come unto me with full purpose of heart, and I will receive you” (3 Nephi 12:23-24).

“Surely each of us could cite an endless array of old scars and sorrows and painful memories that at this very moment still corrode the peace in someone’s heart or family or neighborhood. Whether we have caused that pain or been the recipient of it, those wounds need to be healed so life can be as rewarding as God intended it to be. Like the food in your refrigerator that your grandchildren carefully check in your behalf, those old grievances have long since exceeded their expiration date. Please don’t give precious space in your soul to them any longer.”

Forgiving and forsaking offenses is central to the grandeur of the atonement of Jesus Christ.

“With the apostolic authority granted me ..., I testify of the tranquility to the soul that reconciliation with God and each other will bring if we are meek and courageous enough to pursue it. ‘Cease to contend one with another.’ If you know of an old injury, repair it. Care for one another in love.”



Elder Shayne M. Bowen
General Authority Seventy

A testimony of the Book of Mormon strengthens one’s testimony of the divine calling of the prophet Joseph Smith and his successors as well as of the Savior and his church.

“As we better understand who we are and the purposes of the Book of Mormon, our conversion deepens and becomes more certain.”

A principal purpose of the Book of Mormon is to gather scattered Israel, which gives all of God’s children the opportunity to enter into the covenant path and return to the presence of Heavenly Father.

“As we teach repentance and baptize converts, we gather scattered Israel.”

“Brothers and sisters, let us be known as those who have taken Moroni’s promise to heart, prayed and received an answer to know that the Book of Mormon is true, and then shared that knowledge with others in word and, most important, in deed.”

The Book of Mormon is the keystone to conversion of all of Heavenly Father’s sons and daughters.

“We are gathering Israel for the last time and are doing so with the Book of Mormon. ... The Book of Mormon is true. It has changed my life. I promise, as have Moroni and many prophets through the ages, that it can change yours.”



Elder Neil L. Andersen
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Although the details will differ, the tragedies, the unanticipated tests and trials, both physical and spiritual, come to every person.

“This is mortality.”

Intermingled with joy and happiness, one thing is certain: there will be moments, hours, days, sometimes even years when an individual’s soul is wounded.

“Wounds of the soul are not unique to the rich or the poor, to one culture, one nation, or one generation. They come to all, and are a part of the learning we receive from this mortal experience.”

Because difficulties are part of life, all must be ready for them.

“Along with the bright colors of happiness and joy, the darker colored threads of trial and tragedy are woven deeply into the fabric of our Father’s plan.”

Struggles, although difficult, can become the greatest teachers. “Never give up — however deep the wounds of your soul. ... You are meant to survive spiritually, and blossom in your faith and trust in God.”

“Look forward. Your troubles and sorrows are very real, but they will not last forever. Your dark night will pass because the Son did rise with healing in his wings.”



President Russell M. Nelson
President of the church

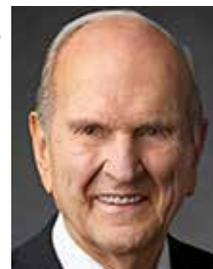
Regarding a statement in August of a “course correction” for the name of the church, “I did this because the Lord impressed upon my mind the importance of the name he decreed for his church, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

The effort is not a name change, not rebranding, not cosmetic, not a whim and not inconsequential. Rather, it is a correction and the command of the Lord.

“Thus, the name of the church is not negotiable. When the Savior clearly states what the name of his church should be, and even precedes his declaration with, ‘Thus shall my church be called,’ he is serious. And if we allow nicknames to be used and adopt or even sponsor those nicknames ourselves, he is offended.”

Jesus Christ directed what the church should be called “because it is his church, filled with his power.”

“I promise you that if we will do our best to restore the correct name of the Lord’s church, he whose church this is will pour down his power and blessings upon the heads of the Latter-day Saints, the likes of which we have never seen. We will have the knowledge and power of God to help us take the blessings of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue and people and to prepare the world for the second coming of the Lord.”



President Henry B. Eyring
2nd counselor, First Presidency

Mortal life is designed by a loving God to be a test and source of growth, but the loving God who allowed these tests also designed a sure way to pass through them. “Heavenly Father so loved the world that he sent his beloved son to help us. ... Jesus Christ bore in Gethsemane and on the cross the weight of all our sins. He experienced all the sorrows, the pains, and the effects of our sins so that he could comfort and strengthen us through every test in life.”



The promise found in the sacramental prayer can provide guidance through trials. “Each time we say the word amen when that prayer is offered on our behalf, we pledge that by partaking of the bread we are willing to take upon us the holy name of Jesus Christ, always remember him, and keep his commandments. In turn, we are promised that we may always have his spirit to be with us. Because of these promises, the Savior is the rock upon which we can stand safely and without fear in every storm we face.”

Sister Kathleen Eyring has spoken for the Lord and served many people for him. Now she can only speak a few words. “I think that she will find, when she sees him, that our Savior has put his name into her heart. ... he is carrying her through her troubles now.”

Brother Brian K. Ashton
Sunday School general presidency

If one cleaves in faith to Christ, repents and seeks God’s grace through obedience, he or she will eventually become like Heavenly Father.



“We won’t become like the Father on our own. Rather it will come through gifts of grace, some big, but mostly small, that build upon one another until we have a fullness.”

By understanding key doctrinal points of the Father, his plan of salvation and his constant, eternal presence in the lives of his children, “Heavenly Father is always there for us.”

“My objective today is to teach key doctrinal points about the Father that will allow each of us ... to better understand his true character and to exercise great faith in him, his son and his plan for us.”

The Father possesses many character traits that can be developed by his children — including kindness, loyalty, honesty, intelligence and dependability.

“There is much we do not understand about becoming like the Father. But I can testify with certainty that striving to become like the Father is worth every sacrifice. The sacrifices we make here in mortality, no matter how great, are simply incomparable to the immeasurable joy, happiness and love we will feel in God’s presence.”

Elder Robert C. Gay
Presidency of the Seventy

In order for individuals to take the name of Christ upon themselves, they must: “Faithfully strive to see as God sees,” “do his work and serve as he served” and “trust him.”



All of God’s children are “sacred beings,” and as such, each of their souls hold infinite worth. “No one is preordained to fail.”

Heavenly Father endows each of his children with the power to bless themselves, their families and the lives of all those around them. But in order to do so, individuals must sanctify themselves by purifying their hearts, repenting of their sins, becoming converted and loving as he loves.

While the world argues that joy may be found away from the gospel path, such joy is short lived. “There simply is no enduring joy outside of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

By trusting in God and his love for his children, all can know the truth that, “there is nothing and no one he is unable to heal and deliver to enduring joy.”

“His love is greater than our fears, our addictions, our doubts, our temptations, our sins, our broken families, our depression and anxieties, our chronic illness, our poverty, our abuse, our despair and our loneliness.”

Elder Matthew L. Carpenter
General Authority Seventy

Heavenly Father is all-powerful and all-knowing.

“He knows our physical struggles. He is aware of our physical pains due to illness, disease, aging accidents or birth disorders. He is aware of emotional struggles associated with anxiety, loneliness, depression or mental illness. He knows



each person who has suffered injustice or who has been abused. He knows our weaknesses and the propensities and temptations we struggle with.

“During mortality we are tested to see if we will choose good over evil. For those who keep his commandments, they will live with him in a state of never-ending happiness.”

The Savior Jesus Christ paid the price so that all can be made whole physically, emotionally and spiritually.

“Spiritual healing is not one-sided — it requires the Savior’s redemptive power and sincere repentance on the part of the sinner.”

Spiritual healing also requires individuals to submit themselves to the conditions the Savior has outlined. Jesus Christ can “heal us spiritually.”

“I testify that Jesus Christ paid the price so that we can be made whole. But we must choose to take the healing medicine he offers. Take it today.”

Elder Dale G. Renlund
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Choices determine who a person is and who he or she will become.



“We need to choose whom we will serve. The magnitude of our eternal happiness depends on choosing the living God and joining him in his work.”

Agency is essential to following the father’s plan.

“Heavenly Father’s goal in parenting is not to have his children do what is right; it is to have his children choose to do what is right and ultimately become like him. If he simply wanted us to be obedient, he would use immediate rewards and punishments to influence our behaviors.”

God desires, expects and directs his children to choose for themselves. He does not force obedience. “Agency allows us to choose to get on the path, or not. It allows us to get off, or not. Just as we cannot be forced to obey, we cannot be forced to disobey. No one can, without our cooperation, take us off the path. ...

“So, choose faith in Christ; choose repentance; choose to be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost; choose to conscientiously prepare for and worthily partake of the sacrament; choose to make covenants in the temple; and choose to serve the living God and his children.”

Elder Jack N. Gerard
General Authority Seventy

In a noisy world, it’s essential to step back and consider what changes need to be made in one’s life.



“We live in a world of information overload dominated by ever-increasing distractions that make it more and more difficult to sort through the commotion of this life and focus on things of eternal worth.”

Rapid-fire bursts of information and distraction can be interesting and entertaining, but they usually have little to do with one’s eternal progress. “And yet they shape the way we view our mortal experience.”

But prayerfully assessing one’s life offers an opportunity to step back from the world, reflect on the covenant path and make necessary adjustments.

“Understanding our divine origins is essential to our eternal progress and can free us from the distractions of this life.”

The debate over truth has reached “a fevered pitch,” with all sides claiming truth as if it were “a relative concept open to individual interpretation.”

The best things in life are centered on Jesus Christ and understanding his eternal truths.

“We can take great hope in knowing that our exemplar Jesus Christ has once again led the way.”

Elder Gary E. Stevenson
Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

It is remarkable how small efforts can have eternal consequences. “This truth is at the heart of the church’s ministering efforts.”

The Lord is the Good Shepherd — and he requires the assistance in the challenging labor of caring for the sheep in his flock.

Everyone is a shepherd. No calling is required. All are commissioned to the work. All have a duty to provide ministering to those who are lost or in need of assistance.

“The day will come when [the Lord] will hold us accountable for the care we take in ministering to his flock.”

Every soul is precious to Heavenly Father. “His personal invitation to minister is of utmost value and importance to him for it is his work and glory. It is quite literally the work of eternity. Each one of his children has immeasurable potential in his sight. He loves you with a love you cannot even begin to comprehend. ... The Lord will stay on the mountain to protect you through the wind, rainstorms, snow and more.”

The Lord does not expect his servants to perform miracles. “He only asks that we bring our brothers and sisters unto him for he has the power to redeem souls.”



President Russell M. Nelson
President of the church

“I urge you to study these messages, commencing this week. They express the mind and the will of the Lord for his people, today.”

The new home-centered, church-supported curriculum “has the potential to unleash the power of families, as each family follows through conscientiously and carefully to transform their home into a sanctuary of faith.”

Attending the temple is crucial to salvation and exaltation of individuals and families.

“After we receive our own temple ordinances and make sacred covenants with God, each one of us needs the ongoing spiritual strengthening and tutoring that is only possible in the house of the Lord.”

Temples will be built in Mendoza, Argentina; Salvador, Brazil; Yuba City, California; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Praia, Cape Verde; Yigo, Guam; Puebla, Mexico; Auckland, New Zealand; Lagos, Nigeria; Davao, Philippines; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Washington County, Utah.

“Building and maintaining temples may not change your life, but spending your time in the temple surely will. To those who have long been absent from the temple, I encourage you to prepare and return as soon as possible.”

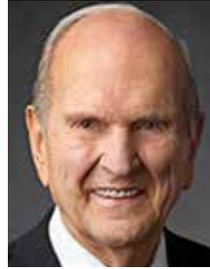


Photo by Laura Seitz, Deseret News



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