

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FAITH QUOTES	3
Gordon B. Hinckley “With All Thy Getting Get Understanding”, Ensign Aug 1988	3
Gordon B. Hinckley	3
Gordon B. Hinckley	3
Bruce R. McConkie “The Mortal Messiah”, Book 3, p. 73	3
Wilford Woodruff “Journal of Discourses”, 15:8 April 6, 1872	3
Elaine Cannon “Adversity”, p. 127	3
Robert L. Simpson Quoting James Freeman Clark, “Organizing for Eternity” BYU Speeches of the Year, 20 April 1965	4
Mark E. Petersen General Conference, October 1947	4
Levi Edgar Young General Conference, April 1940	4
Neal A. Maxwell “Lord Increase Our Faith,” Introduction	4
President Howard W. Hunter	4
Richard L. Evans “Because My Father Said So”	4
Spencer W. Kimball “Faith Precedes The Miracle” (p. 97)	5
Boyd K. Packer “To Young Women and Men,” Ensign, May 1989, p. 54.	5
Ezra Taft Benson cited in “To Draw Closer to God”, Henry B. Eyring, Ensign, May 1991, p. 66.	5
Brigham Young Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 50.	5
Brigham Young Journal of Discourses, 8:30.	5
H. Burke Peterson “Prayer-Try Again,” Ensign, June 1981, p. 73.	6
Vaughn J. Featherstone “A Champion of Youth,” Ensign, November 1987, pp. 27-29.	6
Harold B. Lee “Youth and the Church”, 1970	6
Ezra Taft Benson cited in Marvin J. Ashton, “Stalwart and Brave We Stand,” Ensign, November 1989, p. 36.	6
Ezra Taft Benson “To the ‘Youth of the Noble Birthright,’” Ensign, May 1986, p.43.	6
Boyd K. Packer “To Young Women and Men,” Ensign, May 1989, p. 54.	6
Howard W. Hunter Teachings of Howard W. Hunter	6
Marion D. Hanks “Trust In The Lord” by (April Conf. 1975)	7
M. Russell Ballard “Duties, Rewards, And Risks,” General Conference, October 1989	7
Ardeth G. Kapp “Do Not Despair”, BYU Speeches of the Year, 29 January 1985	8
J. Golden Kimball “Healing”, Conference Report, October 1927, p.54	8
MISC SHORT THOUGHTS	9
Commitment	11
Faith – Eliza R. Snow	11
CONFERENCE TALKS / ENSIGN ARTICLES	12
President Gordon B. Hinckley “The Church Is on Course”, General Conference, October 1992	12
Aileen H. Clyde (Second Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency)	13
“Confirmed in Faith”	13
THERE IS THE LIGHT Excerpts from a talk by Elder John H. Groberg /October, 1976	15
Merrill J. Bateman “A Faith That Preserves and Strengthens”	16
FAITH STORIES, PARABLES AND POEMS	22
Faith	22
God’s Embroidery	23
The Story of Lydia Goldthwait	23
MY BIG BROTHER	24
THE PARABLE OF THE BICYCLE	24
Pushing Against the Rock	25
The Miracle of the Chinese Bamboo Tree	26
A Test of Faith	26
Hope Springs Eternal	27
BYU Speeches, December 1, 1964, p. 6	27
Life’s Struggles	29

The Surrounding Master	29
The Parable of the Unwise Bee by James E. Talmage	29
And A Little Child Earl Nightingale (from 'Especially For Mormons')	30
Jesus Will Save Me - Grant Oratorical Contest, BYU Speeches, December 1, 1964, p. 6	31
Inviting the Savior into Our Lives	31
FAITH	34
INTEGRITY by Ella Wheeler Wilcox	34
In His Steps	35
FAITH OBJECT LESSONS and ACTIVITIES	37
Put Your Trust in the Lord	37
Faith	37
Faith	38
Plane Crash Activity	38
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	42
Videos	42
Class Lesson Manuals	42
Publications	42
Ensign	42
New Era	43
Faith Music	44
Mormads	45
INDEX	46

FAITH QUOTES

Gordon B. Hinckley “With All Thy Getting Get Understanding”, *Ensign Aug 1988*

“When I discuss faith, I do not mean it in an abstract sense. I mean it as a living, vital force with recognition of God as our Father and Jesus Christ as our Savior. When we accept this basic premise, there will come an acceptance of their teachings and an obedience, which will bring peace and joy in this life and exaltation in the life to come. Faith is not a theological platitude. It is a fact of life. Faith can become the very wellspring of purposeful living. There is no more compelling motivation to worthwhile endeavor than the knowledge that we are children of God, the Creator of the universe, our all-wise Heavenly Father! God expects us to do something with our lives, and he will give us help when help is sought.”

Gordon B. Hinckley

“I believe in the beauty of personal virtue. Be happy. Be alive. Be alert. Enjoy life and have a lot of fun. But there is a line, which you should never cross. It is the line that pertains to morality, to integrity, and the crossing of which is expressed in coarse language, in sloppy dress and manners and in immoral behavior. Each of you can and must stand above these destructive evils. May God bless you as you strive to do so.”

Gordon B. Hinckley

I know that frequently it is not easy to face up to that which is expected of us. Many think they cannot do it. We need a little more faith. We should know that the Lord will not give us commandments beyond our power to observe. He will not ask us to do things for which we lack the capacity. Our problem lies in our fears and in our appetites. (CR Oct 1985)

Bruce R. McConkie “*The Mortal Messiah*”, *Book 3, p. 73*

“Clearly there are degrees of malignity and evil powers among the demons in hell. Just as there is a heavenly hierarchy so is there a satanic government that puts one evil spirit in charge of another; and just as there are degrees of righteousness and glory, so are there levels of lewdness and evil. And it takes greater faith to overcome greater evils.”

Wilford Woodruff “*Journal of Discourses*”, *15:8 April 6, 1872*

“The Lord will work with us, and we should work with him; therefore, brethren, let us live by faith, walk by faith, overcome by faith, so that we may enjoy the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us. All the institutions pertaining to the work of God in these latter days are going to progress, Zion is bound to arise, and to arrive at that position in our great future that the Prophets have seen by prophecy and revelation.”

Elaine Cannon “*Adversity*”, *p. 127*

“Remember, however, that while nothing is impossible with God, faith without works is dead. Part of solving any problem -even with exaltation -is to do something about it yourself. Don’t leave everything up to God.”

Robert L. Simpson Quoting James Freeman Clark, “Organizing for Eternity” BYU Speeches of the Year, 20 April 1965

“All the strength and force of man comes from his faith in things unseen. He who believes is strong. He who doubts is weak. Strong convictions precede great actions. Clear, deep, living convictions rule the world.”

Mark E. Petersen General Conference, October 1947

“Let us remember too, that faith in God is inseparably connected with sincere repentance from sin, and that as a people, to enjoy the fruits of faith—including continued freedom—we must live in keeping with the principles of revealed religion.”

Levi Edgar Young General Conference, April 1940

“My brethren and sisters, let us grow in faith; that faith which will regenerate our lives completely. If we have the enlarged faith in the living God that was taught us by the Master, nothing can hurt us.”

Neal A. Maxwell “Lord Increase Our Faith,” Introduction

“The rewards of this journey are many. When seeing daily life with the eye of faith, we see God, mortality, others, and even the universe very differently and more richly. And we are ‘glad’! (See Ether 12:19.) The eye of faith allows us entry into the sun-drenched uplands of reality, where we can better see ‘things as they really are’ and ‘really will be’ (Jacob 4:13). Without faith, however, we simply ‘cannot see afar off.’ Whether we are viewing man’s eventual prospects in the plan of salvation or the other ‘things of the Spirit of God [which]. are spiritually discerned,’ faith is essential. (2 Peter 1:9; 1 Corinthians 2:14.) “

President Howard W. Hunter

“We must know Christ better than we know him; we must remember him more often than we remember him; we must serve him more valiantly than we serve him.”

Richard L. Evans “Because My Father Said So”

I remember the words of a beloved stake president, and I thank him for the thought he left with me some months ago. He said, “I used to ride the range with my father, looking for lost sheep or cattle. And as we would mount a ridge we would look off into a distant hollow or a clump of trees, and my father would say, “There they are. . .” But this stake president said, “My father could see farther than I could, and often I couldn’t see them. But I knew they were there because my father said so.” There are many things, my beloved brethren and sisters, that I know and you know are there, because our Father said so. And I know that he lives, that he made us in his image, that he sent his divine Son, our Savior,

to show us the way of life and redeem us from death. I know that he will enter into our lives as fully as we let him, and that his church and gospel and way of life are on earth and here with us, and that we will realize our highest possibilities if we accept the counsels God has given, and that we will fall somewhat, somewhere short of what we might have been or might had had if we run contrary to his commandments. God bless you and be with you always, I pray.

Spencer W. Kimball “Faith Precedes The Miracle” (p. 97)

“Is there not wisdom in his giving us trials that we might rise above them, responsibilities that we might achieve, work to harden our muscles, sorrows to try our souls? Are we not exposed to temptations to test our strength, sickness that we might learn patience, death that we might be immortalized and glorified? If all the sick for whom we pray were healed, if all the righteous were protected and the wicked destroyed, the whole program of the Father would be annulled and the basic principles of the gospel, free agency, would be ended. No man would have to live by faith. If joy and peace and rewards were instantaneously given the doer of good, there could be no evil—all would do good but not because of the rightness of doing good. There would be no test of strength, no development of character, no growth of powers, no free agency, only satanic controls. Should all prayers be immediately answered according to our selfish desires and our limited understanding, then there would be little or no suffering, sorrow, disappointment, or even death, and if these were not, there would also be no joy, success, resurrection, nor eternal life and godhood.”

Boyd K. Packer “To Young Women and Men,” Ensign, May 1989, p. 54.

“You are a child of God. He is the father of your spirit. Spiritually you are of noble birth, the offspring of the King of Heaven. Fix that truth in your mind and hold to it. However many generations in your mortal ancestry, no matter what race or people you represent, the pedigree of your spirit can be written on a single line. You are a child of God!”

Ezra Taft Benson cited in “To Draw Closer to God”, Henry B. Eyring, Ensign, May 1991, p. 66.

“Nothing is going to startle us more when we pass through the veil to the other side than to realize how well we know our Father and how familiar his face is to us.”

Brigham Young Discourses of Brigham Young, p. 50.

“I want to tell you, each and every one of you, that you are well acquainted with God our Heavenly Father... You are all well acquainted with him, for there is not a soul of you but what has lived in his house and dwelt with him year after year; and yet you are seeking to become acquainted with him, when the fact is, you have merely forgotten what you did know.”

Brigham Young Journal of Discourses, 8:30.

“If we could see our Father who dwells in the heavens, we should learn that we are as well acquainted with him as we are with our earthly father; and he would be as familiar to us in the expression of his countenance, and we should be ready to embrace him and fall upon his neck and kiss him, if we had

the privilege....And there is no other one item that will so much astound you, when your eyes are opened in eternity, as to think that you were so stupid in the body.”

H. Burke Peterson “Prayer-Try Again,” *Ensign*, June 1981, p. 73.

“I want you to know that I know that whenever one of Heavenly Father’s children kneels and talks to him, he listens. I know this as well as I know anything in this world-that Heavenly Father listens to every prayer from his children. I know our prayers ascend to heaven. No matter what we may have done wrong, he listens to us.”

Vaughn J. Featherstone “A Champion of Youth,” *Ensign*, November 1987, pp. 27-29.

“It is not difficult to understand why the great God in heaven has reserved these special spirits for the final work of the kingdom prior to his millennial reign....This generation will face trials and troubles that will exceed those of their pioneer forebears. Our generation has had periods of respite from the foe. The future generation will have little or none....This is a chosen generation....I believe today’s [Church youth] will lead the youth of the world through the most trying time in history.”

Harold B. Lee “Youth and the Church”, 1970

“You, our youth of today, are among the most illustrious spirits to be born into mortality in any age of the world. Yours is a noble heritage and a wonderful opportunity.”

Ezra Taft Benson cited in Marvin J. Ashton, “Stalwart and Brave We Stand,” *Ensign*, November 1989, p. 36.

“For nearly six thousand years, God has held you in reserve to make your appearance in the final days before the Second Coming. Every previous gospel dispensation has drifted into apostasy, but ours will not....God has saved for the final inning some of his strongest children, who will help bear off the kingdom triumphantly. And that is where you come in, for you are the generation that must be prepared to meet your God....Make no mistake about it-you are a marked generation.” ~~~~~

Ezra Taft Benson “To the ‘Youth of the Noble Birthright,’” *Ensign*, May 1986, p.43.

“You have been born at this time for a sacred and glorious purpose. It is not by chance that you have been reserved to come to earth in this last dispensation of the fullness of times, at this particular time was foreordained in the eternities. You are to be the royal army of the Lord in the last days. You are ‘youth of the noble birthright’.....In the spiritual battles you are waging, I see you as today’s sons of Helaman.”

Boyd K. Packer “To Young Women and Men,” *Ensign*, May 1989, p. 54.

“It is my conviction that your generation is better and stronger than was ours-better in many ways! I have faith that you young men and young women can meet the world on its own terms and conquer it!”

Howard W. Hunter Teachings of Howard W. Hunter

“All of these things Thomas well knew, but his personal faith had been dimmed by a great disappointment. Faith does not take precedence over doubt when one must feel or see in order to believe. Thomas was not willing to stand on faith. He wanted positive evidence of the facts. He wanted

knowledge, not faith. Knowledge is related to the past because our experiences of the past are those things which give us knowledge but faith is related to the future-to the unknown where we have not yet walked. (CR 1962) The classic example of faith is ascribed to the Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Hebrews: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Heb. 11:1.) This statement does not presuppose a perfect knowledge, but describes faith as that which gives to one an assurance or a confidence in things which are yet in the future. These things may be in existence, but it is through faith they are realized. Faith gives a feeling of confidence in that which is not visible or susceptible of positive proof.” (CR 1962) (CR 1975) (CR 1984)

Marion D. Hanks “Trust In The Lord” by (April Conf. 1975)

“ . . . We may in our anguish feel that we could bear anything if we could only understand the divine purpose in what is happening . . . the righteous live by faith and that faith is not an easy solution to life’s problems. Faith is confidence and trust in the character and purposes of God

Our religion is ‘not weight, it is wings.’ It can carry us through the dark times, the bitter cup. It will be with us in the fiery furnace and the deep pit. It will accompany us to the hospital room and to the place of bereavement. It can guarantee us the presence of a Captain on the rough voyage. It is, in short, not the path to easy disposition of problems, but the comforting assurance of the eternal light, by which we may see, and the eternal warmth, which we may feel.

‘The Lord is good; Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.’ (Psalm 34:8)

M. Russell Ballard “Duties, Rewards, And Risks,” General Conference, October 1989

“The battle to bring souls unto Christ began in the premortal world with the war in heaven (see Revelation 12:7). That same battle continues today in the conflict between right and wrong and between the gospel and false principles. The members of the Church hold a front-line position in the contest for the souls of men. The missionaries are on the battlefield fighting with the sword of truth to carry the glorious message of the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the peoples of the earth. No war has ever been free of risk. The prophecies of the last days lead me to believe that the intensity of the battle for the souls of men will increase and the risks will become greater as we draw closer to the second coming of the Lord.

Preparing ourselves and our families for the challenges of the coming years will require us to replace fear with faith. We must be able to overcome the fear of enemies who oppose and threaten us. The Lord has said, “Fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail” (D&C 6:34)

....We parents need to begin early to prepare our children to have a strong, fervent testimony of the gospel. We must possess the faith, the courage, and the commitment that our pioneer forefathers had if we are to continue building up the kingdom of God on the earth.... The work of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world will require knowledge, faith, sacrifice, and the best efforts of every

member of the Church. As the Prophet Joseph Smith said to the Saints in Nauvoo in 1842, “Shall we not go on in so great a cause? .Courage, . . . and on, on to the victory!” (D&C 128:22). Today the leaders of the Church echo these words of the Prophet Joseph. “

Ardeth G. Kapp “Do Not Despair”, BYU Speeches of the Year, 29 January 1985

“Our values, our road signs that keep us on course and on schedule, are not to be tucked away in a drawer for safekeeping but carried daily, used continuously, tested against our performance regularly, and literally worn out as a constant measuring device that keeps us accountable. The powers and plans of Satan are cunning and subtle and very real. You are not unfamiliar with the pirates that would attempt to board your ship almost daily, who would rob you of your treasures, your peace of mind, your self-discipline, your clear conscience, your commitment, your integrity, your morality, even your eternal destiny if possible, and leave you shipwrecked, washed up on shore. I believe the most destructive threats of our day are not nuclear war, not famine, not economic disaster, but rather the despair, the discouragement, the despondency, the defeat caused by the discrepancy between what we believe to be right and how we live our lives. We are on a stormy sea. These are threatening times and we may be ignoring or even cutting ourselves loose from the very signals that would save us.”

J. Golden Kimball “Healing”, Conference Report, October 1927, p.54

“I will tell you a story and then I shall stop. I got a telephone message some time ago, I think a year ago, may be, that I had some relatives in the hospital. They wanted me to hurry up there and administer to them. They were two sisters. They were married, and they were not city people, and, by the way, their father and mother were good Latter-day Saints, and these young girls had been taught and they had been active, but they were not healed, so they came to the hospital.

When I arrived I found one of them in one room, and she had been operated upon, and getting along very nicely. The other sister wanted me to bless her before she was operated upon. I asked her how much she was paying for her room. She told me. ‘And how much are you paying the doctor?’ ‘Three hundred dollars.’ ‘Well, haven’t you got confidence in him? He is charging you enough. Why don’t you trust him?’ ‘Well,’ she said, ‘Uncle Golden, I have been administered to, but I was not healed, and I felt forced to come to the doctor.’ I said, ‘I am a little jealous for God, and if I bless you, and you are healed, who is going to get the credit? If the doctor gets all the money and all the credit, and God heals you, I don’t think that fair.’

So I blessed her as best I knew how, and I blessed the doctor. I made a full anointing and blessed the nurse, and asked God that his spirit might be there and the patient’s life be spared. I realize that hospitals, physicians, and surgeons, do wonderful things, and that faith without works is dead. I want to bear testimony to you, and I know it, I don’t think it, I don’t imagine it: I have seen God heal the sick. I know it isn’t in me, but I know that where there is faith there is nothing impossible, and these Young elders who are sent out now, it may not be wisdom to send them out as we went, but when we were in the South, God had to take care of us, whether it was stormy or sunshine, as we had no choice. I know the Lord can take care of us and will take care of us if we have faith.”

MISC SHORT THOUGHTS

“Do your duty, that is best; leave unto the Lord the rest.”

~ David O. McKay

“Faith without works is like a bird without wings; though she may hop with her companions on earth, yet she will never fly with them to heaven.”

~ J. Beaumon

Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.

~ Abraham Lincoln

He is dead in this world who has no belief in another.

~ Goethe

Faith is trust in what the spirit learned eons ago.

~ B.H. Roberts

Unless we do his teachings, we do not demonstrate faith in him.

~ Ezra Taft Benson

The key to faith is what we are willing to sacrifice to obtain it.

~ Elder Cloward

God enters by a private door into every individual. -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mankind never outgrows prayer. -Harry Emerson Fosdick

If in your quest you do your best, the Lord is there to do the rest.

Pray as if everything depends on God. Then work as if everything depends on you.

If God thought about you as much as you think about Him, where would you be?

If you believe in an unseen Christ, you will believe in the unseen Christ like potential of others.

Obedience without faith is possible, but not faith without obedience.

The faith that moves mountains always carries a pick.

Faith does not deny the evil, but it sees around it.

Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future.

Faith is not without worry or care, but faith is fear that has said a prayer.

The Lord will not hold back the promises, even if the person who makes them is not worthy.

As our faith increases, so does our ability to obey.

Why worry when you can pray?

For every problem there is an opportunity.

When the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow.

Search, and you'll find peace even in times of sadness.

Let your hope keep your Joyful.

Happiness is not the absence of conflict; It's the ability to cope with it.

Don't keep the faith.....spread it around.

As long as you have a window, life is exciting.

It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow.

Do not pray for an easy life. Pray to be a strong person.

Faith can place a candle in the darkest night.

Faith makes things possibleNot easy.

Believe that life is worth living, and it will be.

A-worry-a-day drains vitality away.

The difficulties of life are intended to make us better not bitter.

Keep your roots in Him: build your lives on Him.

Whoever is true to God seldom appears false to others.

Every life has its dark and cheerful hours. Happiness comes from choosing which to remember.

I am a daughter of a Heavenly Father who loves me, and I will have faith in his eternal plan, which centers in Jesus Christ my Savior.

~ From Personal Progress

Commitment

Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of intentions. And the actions which speak louder than words.

It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time after time, year after year after year after year.

Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things.

It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.

Faith – Eliza R. Snow

I am Eliza R. Snow and I am honored to have been chosen to represent the value of Faith in the Young Women's organization. As I have pondered my life and the faith that I strived to live true to, I feel there were several times that had my faith failed I would never have accomplished the work that I chose with my Eternal Father to do while in mortality. A time that you sisters will understand came when I was at an age I was expected to marry and have a family of my own. Many offers were made but I never felt the peace and the joy that should accompany such an occasion. I wanted very much to marry. I filled my journals with pages of my romantic longings but still I knew that the right young man had not come into my life.

And so I remained single and was about 25 when I met the prophet Joseph Smith. I was intrigued by the message he gave, his sincerity and the man himself. Yet, it was 5 years before I joined the Church and moved with my family to Nauvoo. Being a member of the church at this time was not easy and the persecution was almost unbearable. Many of the saints fell away and my family was among the weak and could not withstand the dangers and degradation that we were constantly forced to endure. My family left the church, leaving me alone in Nauvoo and my faith was sourly tested.

It was during this same year that I married the Prophet Joseph Smith as his plural wife. This was probably my greatest test. I had waited a lifetime to wed and now I was to be a plural wife. The thought was most difficult to accept. But my faith in God and the Prophet carried me through and I followed according to Joseph's will and the will of my Eternal Father.

The prophet was killed soon thereafter and my grief cannot be described. Joseph had asked Brother Brigham to care for me in his absence and soon I became his wife and remained a part of his family ever after. I founded Relief Society, Primary, and the Young Women's organization and wrote some of the hymns you enjoy today. I feel my greatest contribution was in uplifting the spirits of those around me, especially in times of distress.

There is no way for you young women today to understand the physical hardships the women of my time endured. The cold, the sickness, the frequent deaths, giving birth in the rain and wind of a broken down wagon, or a leaking cabin. There were no convenience stores to run to for a quick dinner or other necessities. So much depended upon the strength of women.

It was a time when women needed sisterhood and I tried to do all I could whenever I could for anyone in need. As I did so I found happiness and peace for I knew I was never alone and that I was doing the Lord's will. It is my prayer that you too can develop unshakable faith in the Lord.

CONFERENCE TALKS / ENSIGN ARTICLES

President Gordon B. Hinckley "The Church Is on Course", General Conference, October 1992

GORDON B. HINCKLEY ON THE LORD'S BACKUP SYSTEM [President Ezra Taft Benson suffered from failing health in the last few years of his life. Some concern was expressed that without clear leadership, the Church would struggle. But in October 1992, Gordon B. Hinckley, who was then a counselor to Pres. Benson, told this story:]

"A few weeks ago, while returning from a regional conference, we had an experience that remains vivid in my mind. As we approached the airport, the captain came on the public address system and spoke in crisp and authoritative tones: "We have an emergency! Please give me your attention. We have an emergency, and the cabin crew will give you instructions. For your own safety, please do what they ask you to do." The crew sprang into action. This was the moment for which their training had prepared them. Every one of them knew precisely what to do. All utensils were quickly secured in locked containers. Passengers were shifted to put strong men at each emergency exit. We were told to remove our glasses, lower our heads, and firmly grasp our ankles. A woman with a baby seated immediately behind me was crying. Others could be heard sobbing. Everyone knew that this was not just an exercise, but that it was for real and that it was serious.

A man emerged from the flight deck door. He recognized me and stooped Down to say, "I am an off-duty pilot. The primary control system has failed, but I think we are going to be all right. They have managed to get the landing gear down and the flaps down." Strangely, I felt no fear. In many years of flying, I have had experiences when I have known fear. But on this occasion I felt calm. I knew that a redundancy system had been built into the plane to handle just such an emergency and that the crew had been well trained. I also knew that the effectiveness of that redundancy system would be known in a minute or two when the rubber hit the runway.

That moment came quickly. To the relief of everyone, the plane touched down smoothly, the landing gear held in place, the engines were reversed, and the aircraft was brought to a stop. Fire engines were standing nearby. We were towed to the gate. The crew was appropriately applauded, and some of us expressed to the Lord our gratitude. I have reflected on this experience in terms of the Church of which we are members. The head of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is His Church. But the earthly head is our prophet. Prophets are men who are endowed with a divine calling. Notwithstanding the divinity of that calling, they are human. They are subject to the problems of mortality. We love and respect and honor and look to the prophet of this day,

President Ezra Taft Benson. He has been a great and gifted leader, a man whose voice has rung out in testimony of this work across the world. He holds all the keys of the priesthood on the earth in this day. But he has reached an age where he cannot do many of the things he once did. This does not detract from his calling as a prophet. But it places limitations on his physical activities. We have seen comparable situations in times past.

President Wilford Woodruff grew old in office. So did Presidents Heber J. Grant, David O. McKay, Joseph Fielding Smith, and, more recently, Spencer W. Kimball. Some people, evidently not knowing the system, worry that because of the President's age, the Church faces a crisis. They seem not to realize that there is a backup system. In the very nature of this system, there is always on board a trained crew, if I may so speak of them. They have been thoroughly schooled in Church procedures. More importantly, they also hold the keys of the eternal priesthood of God. They too have been put in place by the Lord.

I hope I will not sound presumptuous in reminding you of the unique and tremendous system of redundancy and backup which the Lord has structured into His kingdom so that without interruption it may go forward, meeting any emergency that might arise and handling every contingency with which it is faced. To me it is a wondrous and constantly renewing miracle.”

Aileen H. Clyde (Second Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency)
“Confirmed in Faith”

Now let us rejoice since, as the hymn declares, we are no more strangers. We sing as an expression of our faith in God (particularly tonight it is his daughters who sing), of our knowledge that Christ and His people shall ever be one. “And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; . . . and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth..., to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare and it shall be called Zion” (Moses 7:62).

While the Zion where all walk with God is not before us yet, the way to Zion through faith on Jesus Christ is before us. We live among evidence of the promise of the scripture that righteousness and truth are in the earth and that Christ has come to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Relief Society women gathered here tonight and organized in many places in the four quarters of the earth are part of the evidence that righteousness and truth are sweeping forward in the world, because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Our Savior goes before us and invites us to a covenant relationship with Him to help us find our way. In John 15, verse 10, we read, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love.”

The reciprocal nature of our relationship to God is a basic truth of that relationship. Christ does not withhold His part; and we are here to learn better the ways to give our part. As our Savior knew and returned His Father's love, He gained the strength to do all that He was commanded. And then came the promise that is ours when we abide in Christ and allow His words to abide in us. “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you” (John 15:11-12). Our Heavenly Father and His Son expect us to rely on each other in relationships of love and trust by following the pattern they have shown. Every provision is made to help us find the necessary spiritual strength. In the Doctrine and Covenants we read: “To some it is given by the Holy Ghost to know that Jesus Christ is

the Son of God, and that he was crucified for the sins of the world. “To others it is given to believe on their words, that they also might have eternal life if they continue faithful” (D&C 46:13-14).

We are promised, then, that we grow spiritually as we believe in the words of those who know, those whose faith has produced the capacity to endure and to move forward. Faith is power in us and gives us the ability to do. Many of us have seen examples of such faith in our lives, but often they slip by us quickly. In 1839 Mary Fielding Smith, wife of Hyrum Smith, wrote a letter to her brother Joseph Fielding, and we have it in the record. It frames with clarity the reciprocal nature of our relationships with one another and with God in the ways we are taught in the scriptures.

“Dear Brother: ... You have, I suppose, heard of the imprisonment of my dear husband, with his brother Joseph, Elder Rigdon, and others, who were kept from us nearly six months; and I suppose no one felt the painful effects of their confinement more than myself. I was left in a way that called for the exercise of all the courage and grace I possessed. My husband was taken from me by an armed force, at a time when I needed, in a particular manner, the kindest care and attention of such a friend, instead of which, the care of a large family was suddenly and unexpectedly left upon myself, and, in a few days after, my dear little Joseph F. was added to the number.

Shortly after his birth I took a severe cold, which brought on chills and fever; this, together with the anxiety of mind I had to endure, threatened to bring me to the gates of death. I was at least four months entirely unable to take any care either of myself or child; but the Lord was merciful in so ordering things that my dear sister could be with me. Her child was five months old when mine was born; so she had strength given her to nurse them both. “You will also have heard of our being driven, as a people, from the State, [Missouri] and from our homes; this happened during my sickness, and I had to be removed more than two hundred miles, chiefly on my bed. I suffered much on my journey; but in three or four weeks after we arrived in Illinois, I began to amend, and my health is now as good as ever....

We are now living in Commerce, on the bank of the great Mississippi river. The situation is very pleasant; you would be much pleased to see it. How long we may be permitted to enjoy it I know not; but the Lord knows what is best for us. I feel but little concerned about where I am, if I can keep my mind staid upon God; for, you know in this there is perfect peace. I believe the Lord is overruling all things for our good. I suppose our enemies look upon us with astonishment and disappointment” (quoted in Carol Cornwall Madsen, *In Their Own Words: Women and the Story of Nauvoo* [1994], 98-99).

Mary Fielding Smith collected every resource available to her to manage the searing events that filled her daily life. While her moving and articulate letter may be rare, her experience with God isn't. Today, everywhere I go in the Church I see similar dignity exemplified by women and by men whose trials differ in circumstance but are similar in the courage and grace they require.

God's care for us has caused Him, by revelation, to provide not only the means for our salvation, but he provides for ways we can help each other meet the challenges to that salvation. The Lord's organization for women is here so we may bring relief to those who need us. Such important work demands our understanding that to God all things are spiritual (see D&C 29:34). As women in the Church, we have knowledge many others lack; consequently we remind ourselves our work is not dedicated to triviality or entertainment. We have all been blessed with the truths we feel when we sing “I Am a Child of God” (Hymns, no. 301), but we need to remember in our hearts that our experiences here require us also to be adults of God. Again, the scripture verifies the maturing required of us:

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became [an adult], I put away childish things” (1 Cor. 13:11). We do not seek to lose the fresh teachableness of children; we seek to claim steadfastness and the courage to act on our hard-won convictions. We have the opportunity to serve in a time when many among us are lonely or addicted, abused or abandoned, sincerely seeking or full of faith. The ways Relief Society can teach and build are long established, but they have no momentum without the gifts and offerings of individual women day by day.

Our external persecutors may be very different from Mary Fielding Smith’s, but they are real. Many feel they are trying, too often in isolation, to survive an avalanche of pressing duties. Some lament their loss of kinship with others or their sense of direction to the future. These feelings, indeed all tribulations, are common to our humanity; but we find there are antidotes as we develop our personal and shared faith and demonstrate our faith by action.

Earlier this year I was greatly moved as I participated in a meeting in Lagos, Nigeria, in a building with spare concrete walls and a heavy, flat tin roof. Relief Society leaders with their priesthood advisers had been counseling together there for more than two hours. We had worked together to better understand the ways that could be employed to give strength to their important callings, to build their faith, and to help conquer the tribulation that surrounded them in that sprawling city. As we finished the closing hymn and said an amen to a heartfelt prayer, a thunderous roar filled the room. It was rain. The deluge on the tin roof made any parting conversation impossible. Water was already coursing through the streets and splashing immediately against the door. Our meetings had been scheduled in the afternoon so that most could be home by dark.

Now, as we sat waiting and wordless because of the din, it was obvious they not only faced the heightened dangers of darkness, but they would be thoroughly drenched as they returned to their homes. I thought of Alma as he waded through tribulation (see Alma 8:14-15), and then I remembered the blessing that came to him. I was struck for the moment with the somewhat similar conditions in Ammonihah for Alma and for our Saints in Lagos, Nigeria. An angel had said to Alma, “Lift up thy head and rejoice for thou hast been faithful in keeping the commandments of God from the time which thou receivedst thy first message from him” (Alma 8:15).

There were those in that clattering room who were going forth, as Alma did, to teach and help save others through the power of their faith. When the rain did not yield, they rose, one by one, two or three at a time. We embraced or shook hands solemnly, and they went forth. They were confirmed in their new knowledge that God’s matchless power, His mercy and longsuffering, prevented their being cut off and consigned to endless misery and woe (see Hel.5:12).

They had new courage to face, with hope, their immediate journey and their eternal future. They gave me courage too. I testify that we belong to God as He is our creator. His Son’s Atonement vouchsafes our eternal life at great cost because of great love. I know these things are true. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

THERE IS THE LIGHT Excerpts from a talk by Elder John H. Groberg /October, 1976

On one occasion, as a missionary in Tonga, I received word that a missionary was very ill on a somewhat distant island. The weather was threatening, but feeling responsible, and after prayer, we left to investigate the situation. Extra heavy seas slowed our progress, and it was late afternoon before we arrived. The missionary was indeed very ill. Fervent prayer was followed by administration, during which the impression came very strongly to get him back to hospital on the main island, and to do it

now! The weather had deteriorated, but the impression was strong—"Get back now"—and one learns to obey the all-important prompting of the Spirit. There was much concern expressed about the darkness, the storm, and the formidable reef with its extremely narrow opening to the harbor.

Some found reasons to stay behind; but soon eight persons had boarded the boat. No sooner had we made our commitment to the open seas than the intensity of the storm seemed to increase sevenfold. As the sun sank, so did my spirit seem to sink into the darkness of doubt and apprehension. I found my Spirit communing with the Spirit of the father of an afflicted child in the New Testament, as he exclaimed, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." (Mark 9:24)

As we rolled and tossed closer and closer to the reef, all eyes searched for the light that marked the opening—the only entry to our home. Where was it? Then I heard the chilling sound of the waves crashing and chewing against the reef! It was close-too close. Where was the light? Unless we hit the opening exactly we would be smashed against the reef. It seemed that all the elements were bent on our total destruction. Our eyes strained against the blackness, but we could not see the light. At the height of this panic, I looked at the captain—and there I saw the face of calmness—the ageless face of wisdom and experience—as his eyes penetrated the darkness ahead. Quietly his weather-roughened lips parted, and without moving his fixed gaze and just perceptibly shifting the wheel, he breathed those life-giving words, "Ko e maama e" ("There is the light.")

I could not see the light, but the captain could see it. And I knew He could see it. Those eyes, long experienced in ocean travel, were not fooled by the madness of the storm nor were they influenced by the pleadings of those of lesser experience to turn to the left or to the right. Soon we were in the protected harbor. We were, home. Then and only then did WE see through the darkness that one small light—exactly where the captain had said it was. Had we waited until we ourselves could see the light we would have been smashed to pieces. But trusting in those experienced eyes, we lived.

And so the great lesson: There are those who, through years of experience and training, and by virtue of special divine callings, can see further and better and more clearly—and can and will save us in those situations where serious injury or death—both spiritual and physical—would be upon us

Before we ourselves could see. I testify that in our day THERE IS A LIVING PROPHET whose eyes see the light that can and will save us and the world. When all about us are sinking in darkness and fear and despair, when destruction seems close and the raging fury of men and demons ensnares us in seemingly insoluble problems, listen as he calmly says "There is the light. This is the way." I testify that he will guide us safely home IF WE WILL BUT LISTEN AND OBEY. THE STORM IS PERHAPS LIKE THE WORLD, WITH THE MANY FALSE DOCTRINES AND SINKING VALUES. THE BOAT IS OUR TRUTH, AND THE CHURCH. THE LIGHT IS THE GOSPEL: TRUTH

Merrill J. Bateman "A Faith That Preserves and Strengthens"

Merrill J. Bateman is the president of Brigham Young University. This devotional address was given on 7 January 1997 in the Marriott Center.

The first principle of the gospel is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This principle is fundamental to the way we think and act. It defines the set of beliefs and motivations not only for members of the Church but for us as a university community. It explains why most of us have chosen to be here. It is the basis

for the university code by which we try to live. Our faith pushes us to do our best not only for ourselves but to make this institution better. It provides the cohesiveness that makes the whole greater than the sum of the parts. Faith is both a principle and a process. It defines the path by which we build a relationship of trust with the Savior. In order for faith to develop, we must begin with a humble heart and contrite spirit, have a strong desire to know the Lord, and then be obedient to gospel principles.

In return, the Savior rewards the obedient with spiritual confirmations of their actions (see Alma 32:16, 27-32). As faith grows, our vision of eternity expands, which increases our capacity to meet life's challenges. As we become more familiar with the Lord's plan of happiness, we understand that trials and adversity occur for many reasons and are a part of the testing and growth process. Both ancient and modern-day prophets have taught that mortality is a probationary state—a time of testing—and that the Lord gives us experiences to enable us to grow (see Abraham 3:25-26; Proverbs 3:11-12; Alma 42:4).

Some events cause heartache and pain. If our faith in the Lord is weak, the probability is high that we will not learn the lessons intended. Elder Richard G. Scott spoke about the relationship between faith and adversity in the October 1995 general conference ("Trust in the Lord," Ensign, November 1995, pp. 16-18). He suggested that when adversity strikes, there is a natural tendency to feel sorry for ourselves and to waste energy wondering why such adversity came upon us. In contrast, if our faith in the Lord and his plan is strong, we will accept the adversity and try to learn from it. This opens the door for the Holy Spirit to work within us, increasing our faith and bestowing upon us divine gifts. Elder Scott further stated: This life is an experience in profound trust—trust in Jesus Christ, trust in His teachings, trust in our capacity as led by the Holy Spirit to obey those teachings. . . . To produce fruit, your trust in the Lord must be more powerful and enduring than your confidence in your own personal feelings and experience. ["Trust in the Lord," p. 17]

As our faith in the Lord grows, we can put aside our own desires and feelings and submit to the Lord's will. There are many accounts of faithful souls who have faced adversity and through faith in Christ have met the challenges and emerged victors. Today I wish to explore the meaning of the term faith as defined by the apostle Paul and the Prophet Joseph Smith and then illustrate the preserving and strengthening power of faith with three examples—the first two from the life of an ancient patriarch and the third from a modern-day story of a young girl and her family. Paul's Definition of Faith Chapter 11 of Paul's epistle to the Hebrews is devoted to the principle of faith. After defining the term in the first verse, the apostle cites a number of events from the lives of Old Testament prophets that exemplify faith. In particular, Paul uses these stories to teach the Jewish members of the Church about faith and how the faith of the ancient prophets was centered in Jesus Christ. Paul's definition of faith is as follows: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Although I used this scripture as a missionary to explain to investigators the concept of faith, I did not grasp fully the meaning of Paul's succinct statement, and I suspect that many of my investigators wondered as well. Further, I did not appreciate the lessons of faith taught by the illustrations that followed his definition. A few years ago I discovered that the Prophet Joseph Smith made a simple change in Paul's statement when he translated the Bible. In the Joseph Smith Translation, the Prophet changed the word substance to assurance. Thus the JST definition reads: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (JST, Hebrews 11:1). The word assurance provides insight as to the foundation upon which faith is built. It suggests that the underpinning of our faith or belief is an internal, spiritual witness. The word substance suggests something tangible. The word assurance indicates a spiritual affirmation of the "things hoped for."

As Moroni promised, belief and works will be followed by a witness of the Spirit (see Moroni 10:3-5). In my early years I was confused by the fact that some individuals read the Book of Mormon, prayed about it, and received the witness promised, but others seemed to follow the same course but never received the witness. I have since learned that it is not God who is random but we mortals. Some individuals don't believe they will receive a spiritual prompting even though they may pray. Others are not diligent in applying the truths they have been taught. An important lesson of life is to learn that the Father and the Son deliver on their promises.

We should remember, however, that the Holy Ghost's witness comes after the trial of faith and not necessarily on our time schedule (see Galatians 3:14; 2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ether 12:6). In Alma's explanation of the process, the experiment of faith begins with a humble heart combined with a desire to believe. This is followed by the planting and nurturing of the seed, and then come the "swelling motions" and enlightened understanding (Alma 32:27-32). Alma does not specify how long the planting and nurturing process takes. For some it may be short. For others more time may be required for the lessons to be learned. Because of the internal nature of the witness, the evidence is not seen or seeable by others except when they follow the same process.

When a witness is received, is that the end? No! There are still many lessons to be learned and fruits of the Spirit to be received. An investigator who has felt the first promptings of the Holy Ghost does not know all there is to know about the gospel. But a foundation has been laid for his or her spiritual growth. Spiritual confirmation becomes an integral part of a person's faith; it becomes an anchor for a more sure hope (see Ether 12:4) and leads men and women to higher and deeper levels of faith as they continue to "nourish the word . . . with great diligence" (Alma 32:41).

When we understand that faith matures over time through belief, obedience, and witness, Joseph's substitution of assurance for substance is meaningful. Paul's Examples of Faith in Hebrews 11, Paul cites many examples of faith from the lives of ancient prophets and patriarchs. The events taken from the lives of these great leaders illustrate the preserving and strengthening power of faith. Paul begins with Abel's sacrifice, followed by other examples from the lives of Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and others. Paul shows how each prophet's faith is rooted in Christ.

In order to understand the centrality of Christ and the Atonement in the faith of the ancient prophets, it is instructive to ask two questions. First, what are the things hoped for by the prophet? Second, what is the evidence not seen? I have selected two events that illustrate Abraham's hopes, the evidence not seen, the importance of Christ in Abraham's life, and the power of his faith. A Promised Land The first event is described in Hebrews 11:8-10. In these passages Paul discusses the Lord's instructions to Abraham to leave his homeland and journey to a new land that would be given to him as an everlasting possession. The Lord called it a "strange" land, one unfamiliar to Abraham.

Although not familiar with the route or with his destination, Abraham took Sarah and other family members and departed. Not only did Abraham's faith sustain him on the journey, but Paul states that it took faith for Abraham to stay in the strange country. Paul also states that Abraham's faith caused him to look beyond Canaan "for a city . . . whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). What were Abraham's hopes? The first was for a land of promise, or Canaan. The second was to be worthy of "the land of promise," or the heavenly city (see Hebrews 11:9). What was the evidence not seen? First, Abraham had never seen Canaan. Second, to enter the city whose builder and maker is God requires the Savior's atonement. Abraham lived 2,000 years before Christ.

The Atonement had not yet occurred. He could only behold the Lord's sacrifice through eyes of faith. This year is the 150th anniversary of the pioneer exodus from Winter Quarters to Utah. How similar Brigham Young's hopes were to those of Abraham. He, too, wanted a promised land in which the

Saints could worship God and be safe from their enemies. He had never seen the Great Salt Lake Valley except through an eye of faith. When he finally reached the summit and looked down into the valley, however, he knew that it was the right place. However, the Saints' hopes included more than a safe haven. They, like Abraham, were looking for "the land of promise"-the heavenly city. Living almost 2,000 years after Christ, they also had to accept the Atonement through eyes of faith.

A Promised Son The second event concerns the Lord's promise to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a covenant son even though he was 99 and she was 90. Hebrews 11:11-12 indicate that Sarah and Abraham received strength through faith to conceive Isaac-their son of promise. Again, what were the things hoped for? Abraham and Sarah desired a son of promise so that their posterity might be as numerous as the sands of the seashore and the nations of the earth might be blessed through their seed. They also hoped for The Son of Promise, and Isaac was a type for Christ. Paul states in verse 13 that Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and others "died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off." Through eyes of faith they knew Jehovah would come to earth, take up a physical body, suffer in the Garden, die on the cross, and be lifted up the third day.

The fulfillments of the blessings promised to Abraham were dependent on The Son of Promise as well as on a son of promise. What was the evidence not seen? First, no woman past bearing age had ever conceived. Even Abraham's body appeared dead as to procreative power (see Genesis 18:11-12, Romans 4:19). Only through faith in Christ could the promise of a son be realized. Second, with respect to The Son of Promise, a virgin would conceive. Again, Christ's miraculous birth could only be seen through spiritual eyes. How Abraham's and Sarah's faith must have been strengthened by Isaac's birth! This was the son who would preserve the Lord's promises to the ancient patriarch. Isaac's birth must also have deepened his parents' faith in the future birth of God's Only Begotten Son. After all, the most important promise to all of us was given in the Grand Council before the creation of the earth when our Father promised to send his Firstborn Son, who would sacrifice his life that we might live forever (see Abraham 3:22-27).

A Faith Centered in Christ Paul's discussion of the events in Abraham's life poignantly reflects the ancient patriarch's belief in Christ. The Lord's command to Abraham to sacrifice "his only begotten son" as a type for the Savior's sacrifice highlights the focus of Abraham's faith (see Hebrews 11:17). Paul states that Abraham believed that Isaac would be raised from the dead just as Christ would rise from his grave (see Hebrews 11:19). Abraham's knowledge of the gospel and the Savior's mission was profound. His and Isaac's trust in the Savior and the events that would transpire almost two millennia in the future carried them from Hebron to Mount Moriah believing that Isaac would be sacrificed. What sweeping joy and relief they must have felt when the angel stopped them.

We Can Trust Him in closing, I wish to illustrate with a modern-day story the trust that we may place in the Savior. I know that faith in Christ and obedience to the principles of the restored gospel bring answers to prayers and divine help when the hour is darkest. The story that follows concerns a young girl, the fourth child in a family of six children. Her name is Heather. Three of the children, including Heather, suffer from a rare disease called glutaric acidemia. In each case, the onset of the disease occurred during the first year of life when an enzyme attacked the brain, causing paralysis. The disease results in acid forming in the muscles, similar to that which occurs following a period of intense physical activity. The problem faced by the children is that the acid never leaves and causes great pain. Cindy, the first child with the disease, died just over one year ago at the age of 23. She was one of the oldest living persons known with the disease. At death she weighed about 40 pounds. Soon after Heather's birth, the parents realized that she would be physically handicapped and that her spirit would be housed in a body with great restrictions. As she grew, she was confined to a wheelchair, unable to

speak, and could only send messages with her eyes. A direct gaze and a smile meant yes. A blink meant no. Despite the handicaps, one could feel the vibrant spirit inside.

As Heather progressed, it became obvious to the parents that she was extraordinarily bright. She would play guessing games with the family using her limited means to communicate. When she was old enough, the parents enrolled Heather in a special school to see if she could learn to speak. The teacher was a gifted therapist. One morning as Heather and the teacher visited about the prior weekend, the teacher learned that Heather had attended Primary. The teacher then sang for Heather “When He Comes Again” (Songbook, p. 82). The expression on Heather’s face revealed the delight within her. When the teacher asked Heather if she had a favorite song, the young girl’s wide eyes and engaging smile left little doubt. But what was the song? Through a series of questions, the teacher learned that Heather’s song was one she had heard in Primary.

She wasn’t sure which songbook it was in, but it was about Jesus. The teacher sang all the songs she could think of, but to no avail. However, Heather was not about to quit—she wanted to share her favorite song. At the end of the day, the two were still searching. The teacher agreed to bring her Primary songbooks to school the next day. On the following morning, Heather and her teacher continued the quest. From the first hymn to the last, the little girl blinked her eyes indicating no. They were still unsuccessful. But Heather was not about to give up. She wanted to share her favorite song. Finally, the teacher told Heather that her mother would have to help her find the song and then they would sing it. The next day Heather arrived with the green Church hymnal tucked in her chair, but there was no marker. So they began with the first hymn.

The teacher would sing the first part of each song and Heather would give her answer. After the first 100 hymns, there were 100 no’s. After 200 hymns there had been 200 no’s. Finally, the teacher began to sing “There is sunshine in my soul today . . .” (Hymns, 1985, no. 227). Heather’s body jumped, and a big smile crossed her face. Her eyes gazed directly into the teacher’s, indicating success after three days of searching. Both teacher and student rejoiced. As the teacher sang the first verse and began the chorus, Heather mustered all her strength and joined in with a few sounds. After finishing the first verse and chorus, the teacher asked if she wanted to hear the rest of the verses, and Heather’s eyes opened wide with a firm yes. The teacher began to sing:

There is music in my soul today,
A carol to my King,
And Jesus listening can hear
The songs I cannot sing.

Heather’s reaction to these lines was so strong that the teacher stopped. As the reality and significance of the words pressed on the teacher’s mind, she wondered if those lines were the reason Heather liked the song? The teacher asked: “Heather, is that what you like about the song? Is that what you want me to know? Does Jesus listen? Does he hear the songs you cannot sing?” The direct, penetrating gaze was a clear answer. Feeling guided by the Spirit, the teacher asked, “Heather, does Jesus talk to you in your mind and in your heart?” Again, the child’s look was penetrating. The teacher then asked, “Heather, what does he say?” The teacher’s heart pounded as she saw the clear look in Heather’s eyes as the little girl awaited the questions that would allow her to share her insights. “Does Jesus say, ‘Heather, I love you’?” Heather’s radiant eyes widened and she smiled.

After a pause, the teacher asked next, “Does he say, ‘Heather, you’re special’?” The answer again was yes. Finally, the teacher asked, “Does he say, ‘Heather, be patient; I have great things in store for you’?” With all her strength, Heather’s head became erect and her eyes penetrated the teacher’s soul.

She knew she was loved, she was special, and she only needed to be patient. (Story adapted from Jean Ernstrom, "Jesus, Listening, Can Hear," Ensign, June 1988, pp. 46-47.)

Two years later, Heather died because of the ravages of the disease. Her younger brother, Mark, also suffers from the disease but not to the extent of his older sisters. He can talk, although it is not easy. As the parents discussed Heather's passing and the funeral that would take place, Mark exclaimed, "No go Heather's funeral!" Heather was his best friend. As the parents tried to explain death to him, he would not be consoled. He was crushed and did not want to attend the service. For two days he could not be persuaded. On the morning of the funeral, the father went to Mark's room to get him up. As he entered the room, Mark was sitting up in bed with a big smile on his face. His first words were: "Dad, go Heather's funeral!" The father responded: "Mark, what has changed your mind?" "Dad, had dream." "What did you dream about, Mark?" "Dad, dreamed about Heather." "Mark, what was Heather doing?" "Oh, Dad, Heather running and jumping and singing 'There is sunshine in my soul today.' Dad, go Heather's funeral." (Mark's part of the story was obtained through conversations with the parents and also from the book written by the family: Bruce and Joyce Erickson, *When Life Doesn't Seem Fair* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995]; see pp. 65-66.)

I ask each of you: Would the God of this earth who learned about Heather's pains and sufferings in the Garden listen to a little girl sing songs to him even though she could not speak? Would he tell her he loves her? Would he tell her to be patient, that he has great things in store for her? If a little boy did not understand death, would he give him a dream to help him understand that life does not end with death? As Alma teaches us, Christ experienced our pains and sufferings so that he would know how to succor us (see Alma 7:11-12). We can trust him. He earned our trust in the Garden and on the cross. If we exercise faith in him, he will respond. He will strengthen and preserve us in our time of need. May the Lord bless each of us as we develop faith in him, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FAITH STORIES, PARABLES AND POEMS

Faith

Author Unkown

This is a true story of something that happened just a few years ago at USC. There was a professor of philosophy there who was a deeply committed atheist. His primary goal for one required class was to spend the entire semester attempting to prove that God couldn't exist. His students were always afraid to argue with him because of his impeccable logic.

For twenty years, he had taught this class and no one had ever had the courage to go against him. Sure, some had argued in class at times, but no one had ever 'really gone against him' (you'll see what I mean later). Nobody would go against him because he had a reputation. At the end of every semester, on the last day, he would say to his class of 300 students, "If there is anyone here, who still believes in Jesus, stand up!"

In twenty years, no one had ever stood up. They knew what he was going to do next. He would say, because anyone who does believe in God is a fool. If God existed, he could stop this piece of chalk from hitting the ground and breaking. Such a simple task to prove that he is God, and yet he can't do it." And every year, he would drop the chalk onto the tile floor of the classroom and it would shatter into a hundred pieces. All of the students could do nothing but stop and stare.

Most of the students were convinced that God couldn't exist. Certainly, a number of Christians had slipped through, but for 20 years, they had been too afraid to stand up.

Well, a few years ago, there was a freshman that happened to get enrolled in the class. He was a Christian, and had heard the stories about this professor. He had to take the class because it was one of the required classes for his major. And he was afraid of what would happen. For three months that semester, he prayed every morning that he would have the courage to stand up no matter what the professor said or what the class thought. Nothing they said or did could ever shatter his faith, he hoped.

Finally the day came. The professor stood in front of the class and said, "If there is anyone here who still believes in God, stand up!" The professor and the class of 300 people looked at him in shock, as he stood up at the back of the classroom. The professor shouted, "You FOOL!! If God existed, he could keep this piece of chalk from breaking when it hit the ground!" He proceeded to drop the chalk, but as he did, it slipped out of his fingers, off his shirt cuff, onto the pleats of his pants, down his leg, and off his shoe. As it hit the ground, it simply rolled away, unbroken. The Professor's jaw dropped as he stared at the chalk. He looked up at the young man and then ran out of the lecture hall.

The young man who had stood up proceeded to walk to the front of the room and share his faith in Jesus for the next half-hour. 300 students stayed and listened as he told of God's love for them and of his power through Jesus. "Yet to all who received HIM, to those who believed in HIS name, HE gave the right to become children of God. Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of GOD." "But HE knows the way that I take. When HE has tested me, I will come forth as gold." -Job 23:10

God's Embroidery

Author Unknown

When I was a little boy, my mother used to embroider a great deal. I would sit at her knee and look up from the floor and ask what she was doing. She informed me that she was embroidering. I told her that it looked like a mess from where I was. As from the underside I watched her work within the boundaries of the little round hoop that she held in her hand, I complained to her that it sure looked messy from where I sat. She would smile at me, look down and gently say, "My son, you go about your playing for awhile, and when I am finished with my embroidering, I will put you on my knee and let you see it from my side."

I would wonder why she was using some dark threads along with the bright ones and why they seemed so jumbled from my view. A few minutes would pass and then I would hear Mother's voice say, "Son, come and sit on my knee." This I did only to be surprised and thrilled to see a beautiful flower or a sunset. I could not believe it, because from underneath it looked so messy. Then Mother would say to me, "My son, from underneath it did look messy and jumbled, but you did not realize that there was a pre-drawn plan on the top. It was a design. I was only following it. Now look at it from my side and you will see what I was doing."

Many times through the years I have looked up to my Heavenly Father and said, "Father, what are you doing?" He has answered, "I am embroidering your life."

I say, "But it looks like a mess to me. It seems so jumbled. The threads seem so dark. Why can't they all be bright?" The Father seems to tell me, "My child, you go about your business of doing My business, and one day I will bring you to Heaven and put you on my knee and you will see the plan from my side."

The Story of Lydia Goldthwait

Author Unknown

Lydia Goldthwait was born in 1812 in Massachusetts. She was baptized in 1833, and her faith in the gospel was immediately manifested in spiritual experiences that included speaking in tongues. In the spring of 1835, Lydia had the chance to travel to Kirtland, where she hoped to meet Joseph Smith. Upon arriving, she was introduced to Vincent Knight, who greeted her with these words: "Sister, the Prophet is in bondage and has been brought into distress by the persecutions of the wicked, and if you have any means to give, it will be a benefit to him." In response, Lydia emptied her purse and came up with about fifty dollars; she told brother Knight, "Here is all I have. I only wish it was more" Lydia's history continues: "He looked at it and counted it and fervently exclaimed, 'Thank God, this will release and set the prophet free! 'The young girl was without means now, even to procure a meal or a night's lodging. Still that sweet spirit that rested upon her whispered 'all will be well.' "As evening drew on, Vincent Knight returned and brought the welcome news that Joseph was at liberty, and Lydia's joy to think that she had been the humble means of helping the Prophet was unbounded." In Kirtland, Lydia was married to Newel Knight (no relation to Vincent) in Nov. 1835. He died in 1847, and she continued across the plains alone with her seven children. She was called by Brigham Young to assist in the St. George temple when that building was completed in 1877, and served faithfully until her death in 1884.

MY BIG BROTHER

Tim Hansen

When I was just a small boy, I had a favorite big brother. He was great to me. He'd put his big arms around me and we'd go scampering down some cool dirt path. At times like this I felt ten feet tall. He didn't seem to mind my tagging along one bit; and there was nothing I liked better.

I was so proud of him. When I was with him I felt like I was being stronger than the sun. He was good at everything. I never could seem to match the mountains he'd make out of sand. Mine would always seem to crumble and sag, but his would stand as firm as the Rocky Mountains.

Dad always tried not to show how proud he was of him—he being the oldest and all, but his smile always seemed to beam a little brighter when my brother was around.

I felt my world had collapsed when he went on his mission. Dad and Mom both had to fight the tears back. He called up Dad regularly and let us know how much he loved us. He even told us how great his mission was, so Mom wouldn't worry.

The persecution was really bad there as the Church was just getting its start. But he never seemed to let himself get down, even though the people wouldn't believe his message. We'd all share in his joy when he'd get some new converts, but I didn't mind saying I was scared that the non-believers would do something to him. It even got to the point where men were plotting to take his life. But Dad never seemed to be worried, for some reason.

Then one day we received word that his mission had ended, but not as most men's do. I was struck by the terrifying news. They finally got hold of my brother. The big brother I played with. The one that never seemed to be capable of doing anything wrong. My big brother that loved everyone he knew and who most everyone loved. They beat him and mocked him. He suffered all they did to him without striking back. Why would anyone want to hurt my big brother? I couldn't understand.

A mob took him to a hill just outside of town and, spitting on him, they nailed him to a wooden cross. My soul moaned as I heard that he begged father to forgive them. Racked with unbearable pain, he gave up his life for what he believed.

My big brother, my King and my idol was dead. I cried throughout what seemed to me like the darkest day of my life. Where was my brother with whom I'd shaped mountains of sand? Why did he of all my brothers have to die like this?

I felt Dad's strong arm upon my shoulder and heard him say, "He did it for you, son—for you and for his other brothers and sisters." Time passed and I was called on my mission. Sometimes I forget what happened long ago, but every Sunday a small piece of bread and a cup of water remind me of my big brother and what he did for me and assures me that he yet lives.

THE PARABLE OF THE BICYCLE

This is paraphrased from an Ensign article, which was an excerpt from "Believing Christ" by Stephen E. Robinson:

Bro. Robinson's young daughter wanted a bicycle. He couldn't afford it, so he put her off by saying that if she saved all of her pennies that one day she could get one. A few weeks later, he heard a jingling noise and realized that it was his daughter with her piggy bank. He remembered what he had

told her, but of course by the time she had enough pennies she would want to buy a car instead. She came up to him and said, “Daddy, I have saved all of my pennies, every single one. Can I get a bike now?”

Well, a promise is a promise after all. So they went to a store to look at bikes. When she looked at the price tags, she was devastated. She knew there was no way she could afford a bike. When she told her father as much, he asked how many she had. She had \$1.47. “Well, I’ll tell you what. Give me all of your pennies, a kiss, and a hug, and I will make up the difference.”

He goes on to relate that this is our relationship to the Savior in the atonement. While some of us may have \$50 and some of us may have 35 cents, if we give him all that we have, he will make up the difference.

Pushing Against the Rock

Author Unknown

There once was a man who was asleep one night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light and the savior appeared. The Lord told him he had a work for him to do, and showed him a large rock explaining that he was to push against the rock with all his might. This the man did, and for many days he toiled from sunup to sundown; his shoulder set squarely against the cold massive surface of the rock pushing with all his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling his whole day had been spent in vain.

Seeing that the man was showing signs of discouragement, Satan decided to enter the picture - placing thoughts in the man’s mind, such as “Why kill yourself over this? You’re never going to move it! Or “Boy, you’ve been at it a long time and you haven’t even scratched the surface!” etc. giving the man the impression the task was impossible and the man was an unworthy servant because he wasn’t moving the massive stone. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man and he started to ease up in his efforts. “Why kill myself?” he thought. I’ll just put in my time putting forth just the minimum of effort and that will be good enough.” And this he did or at least planned on doing until, one day, he decided to take his troubles to the Lord.

“Lord,” he said, “I have labored hard and long in your service, putting forth all my strength to do that which you have asked of me. Yet after all this time, I have not even budged that rock even half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?”

To this the Lord responded compassionately, “My friend...when long ago I asked you to serve me and you accepted, I told you to push against the rock with all your strength and that you have done. But never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. At least not by yourself... Your Task was to push. And now you come to me, your strength spent, thinking that you have failed, ready to quit. But is this really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled; your back sinewed and brown. Your hands are callused from constant pressure and your legs have become massive and hard.

Through opposition you have grown much and your ability now far surpasses that which you used to have. Yet still, you haven’t succeeded in moving the rock; and you come to me now with a heavy heart and your strength spent. I, my friend will move the rock. Your calling was to be obedient and push, and to exercise your faith and trust in my wisdom...and this you have done.”

The Miracle of the Chinese Bamboo Tree

After the seed for this amazing tree is planted, you see nothing, for four years except for a tiny shoot coming out of a bulb. During those four years, all the growth is underground in a massive, fibrous root structure that spreads deep and wide in the earth. But then in the fifth year the Chinese Bamboo tree grows to eighty feet!

Many things in life are like the Chinese Bamboo tree. One works and invests time and effort, and does everything possible to nurture growth, and sometimes one see nothing for weeks, months or even years. But through patience, perseverance, diligence, work and nurturing, that “fifth year” will come, and all will be astonished at the growth and change which takes place.

Patience is faith in action. Patience is emotional diligence. It is the willingness to suffer inside so that others can grow. It reveals love. It gives birth to understanding. Even as we become aware of our suffering in love, we learn about ourselves and our own weaknesses and motives.

To paraphrase Winston Churchill, we must “never, never, NEVER give up!”

A Test of Faith

Author Unknown

This letter was found wired to the handle of an old pump in the Goby Desert that offered the only hope of drinking water on a lonely and seldom used trail. It read: This pump is all right as of June 1932. I put a new sucker washer in it and it ought to last five years. But the washer dries out and the pump has got to be primed. Under the white colored rock I buried a bottle of water. There is enough water in it to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first. Pour out about one fourth and let'er soak to wet the leather. Then pour the rest and pump like crazy. You'll get water, the well has never run dry. “Have Faith.” When you get all the water you want, fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next feller. Signed, Desert Pete, P.S. Don't go drinking up the water first. Prime the pump and you'll get all you can hold.

Imagine now, if you were a lonely struggling survivor, your canteen is dry, our parched throat is crying for water, what would you do? Drink the water or prime the pump? Would you have the faith to accept the word of an old desert hermit that you had never met or even seen? If you did, you could have all the water you could use and leave some for the next person, possibly saving that person's life. Or would the thought of doubt and self concern control your decision? A thousand thoughts would go through your mind “What if the man was a joker playing a cruel trick on others?” or “Maybe the well is dry and there is no water to pump.” or “What if the pump didn't work, the water in the bottle would be gone and you would be stranded and left to die.”

Sometimes we are asked to exercise our faith in Heavenly Father and His plan. We do not have all the answers and must take that step into the darkness and have faith that He will be there and save us.

Hope Springs Eternal

Author Unknown

The next time discouragement strikes-remember the self-taught young man of limited background, who entered politics for running for a seat in the state legislature. He was soundly defeated. He retired from politics to try his hand at the storekeeper's trade. The store went bankrupt, and he spent the next seventeen years of his life paying off the debts. He fell in love with a young woman...and suffered the heart-breaking experience of watching her die from typhoid fever. He again entered politics, this time a candidate for Congress. He was elected by a narrow margin, but when he ran for re-election, was defeated. He sought a position with the United States land office. He failed to get the job. He became a candidate of the United States Senate-and was defeated. He was nominated for the Vice Presidency of the Presidential convention of a major political party. He lost to a political unknown on the final ballot. Running again for the Senate, he waged a campaign which captured the attention of the nation, but which won him only defeat. But, he continued to dedicate himself to the ideals and principles in which he believed. His eventual reward is familiar to everyone. For Abraham Lincoln, although often discouraged during his lifetime, attained undying fame.

BYU Speeches, December 1, 1964, p. 6

Story #1

A young man, recently released as president of the Northwestern States Mission, had a remarkable experience while attending Cornell University, which exemplifies spiritual valiancy by trusting in the Lord. As a student, he was called to serve in a district presidency at Cornell and one Sunday was assigned to conduct a branch conference 200 miles away. When he had driven home the night before, he noticed that the gas tank of the car was empty. This, coupled with the fact that he, being a student, didn't have a dime to his name, presented a formidable problem. He had no money, too much pride to borrow, an important Church assignment 200 miles away, and an empty gas tank. We remember as well as he did Nephi's testimony that the Lord will prepare a way, but I wonder if we would have had the spiritual valiancy to put complete trust and confidence in the Lord. This young man rose early that Sunday morning, knelt in prayer and asked the Lord to open a way for him to fill his assignment; and then he started out with an empty gas tank, but a heart full of faith. His heart remained full and the tank remained empty as he traveled over 400 miles that day in the service of the Lord.

Have we developed this kind of spiritual valiancy and trust in the Lord in our lives? From these and other examples how may we define "spiritual valiancy"? Surely it is more than just attending all of our church meetings, or taking a required religion class, or being a returned missionary, or not smoking and drinking at B.Y.U. Sometimes we get the idea, because we live on a higher spiritual plane than the rest of the world, that we are valiant and they are mediocre. But we cannot judge our spiritual valiancy by comparing ourselves with the world; we cannot judge our spiritual valiancy by comparing ourselves with other members of the Church. We can only compare what we are with what we can be as we develop faith in God and the courage to do His will. I believe spiritual valiancy is living personally close to the Lord and putting all of our trust in Him all of the time. It's having the humility to know and the courage to do the right things for the right reasons, even when it's very difficult. Spiritual valiancy is going the third mile.

One of the most beautiful experiences I've ever heard concerns the ultimate reward for rising above mediocrity to spiritual valiancy. Apostle Melvin J. Ballard, another of the spiritual giants of this dispensation, received a foretaste of the joys of eternal life promised to those who are valiant in their

testimony of the Savior. He recalls: "I found myself one evening in the dreams of the night, in that sacred building, the temple. After a season of prayer and rejoicing, I was informed that I should have the privilege of entering into one of those sacred rooms to meet a glorious Personage, and, as I entered the door I saw seated on a raised platform, the most glorious Being my eyes have ever beheld or that I ever conceived existed in all the eternal worlds. As I approached to be introduced, He arose and stepped toward me with extended arms, and He smiled as He softly spoke my name. If I shall live to be a million years old I shall never forget that smile. He took me into His arms and kissed me, until the marrow of my bones seemed to melt. When He had finished I fell at His feet, and as I bathed them with my tears and kisses, I saw the prints of the nails in the feet of the Redeemer of the world. "The feeling that I had in the presence of Him who hath all things in His hands-to have His love, His affection and His blessing was such that if I ever can receive that of which I had but a foretaste, I would give all that I am, all that I ever hope to be, to feel what I then felt."

As Apostle Ballard did, we too must develop spiritual valiancy in our lives, that we may someday stand in the presence of God the Eternal Father and His Son Jesus Christ. I bear my solemn witness that Jesus is the Christ. This is His Church; I know this as I live. May we have the courage to rise above spiritual mediocrity to spiritual valiancy in our testimonies of the truth, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Story #2

A tragic incident illustrating this quality occurred on a beautiful summer morning in 1879. Two young missionaries, Elders Joseph Standing and Ruder Clawson, were walking through a wooded area in the state of Georgia on their way to preach the gospel in a small town. Suddenly they were surrounded by an angry mob of well-armed men who held them prisoner for several hours and abused them. They tried repeatedly to get the senior companion, Elder Standing, to deny his testimony of the gospel. When he continually refused, one of the enraged mob shot him through the head with a .45 caliber pistol. As this faithful missionary fell dead at the feet of his terrified young junior companion, all guns were then leveled at Elder Clawson. By denying his testimony of the gospel he could save his life. I wonder what we would have done. The leader gave the command, "Kill him!" This courageous young missionary folded his arms across his chest and calmly said, "Shoot." Because of this kind of spiritual valiancy Elder Ruder Clawson was later called by the Lord to serve as an apostle under President Heber J. Grant. Would you, would I, die for the truth? Will we live for the truth? Which takes more valiancy?

Story #3

I believe spiritual valiancy is living personally close to the Lord and putting all of our trust in Him all of the time. It's having the humility to know and the courage to do the right things for the right reasons, even when it's very difficult. Spiritual valiancy is going the third mile. One of the most beautiful experiences I've ever heard concerns the ultimate reward for rising above mediocrity to spiritual valiancy. Apostle Melvin J. Ballard, another of the spiritual giants of this dispensation, received a foretaste of the joys of eternal life promised to those who are valiant in their testimony of the Savior. He recalls: "I found myself one evening in the dreams of the night, in that sacred building, the temple. After a season of prayer and rejoicing, I was informed that I should have the privilege of entering into one of those sacred rooms to meet a glorious Personage, and, as I entered the door I saw seated on a raised platform, the most glorious Being my eyes have ever beheld or that I ever conceived existed in all the eternal worlds. As I approached to be introduced, He arose and stepped toward me with extended arms, and He smiled as He softly spoke my name. If I shall live to be a million years old I shall never forget that smile. He took me into His arms and kissed me, until the marrow of my bones

seemed to melt. When He had finished I fell at His feet, and as I bathed them with my tears and kisses, I saw the prints of the nails in the feet of the Redeemer of the world.

Life's Struggles

Author Unknown

A man found a cocoon of an emperor moth. He took it home so that he could watch the moth come out of the cocoon. On the day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the moth for several hours as the moth struggled to force the body through that little hole.

Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no farther. It just seemed to be stuck. Then the man, in his kindness, decided to help the moth, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The moth then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the moth because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the little moth spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the moth to get through the tiny opening was the way of forcing fluid from the body of the moth into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Freedom and flight would only come after the struggle.

By depriving the moth of a struggle, he deprived the moth of health. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If we were to go through our life without any obstacles, we would be crippled. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. Give every opportunity a chance, leave no room for regrets.

The Surrounding Master

Author Unknown

A mother wishing to encourage her son's progress at the piano, bought tickets to a Paderewski performance. When the evening arrived, they found their seats near the front of the concert hall and eyed the majestic Steinway waiting on stage. Soon the mother found a friend to talk to, and the boy slipped away. At eight o'clock, the lights in the auditorium began to dim, the spotlights came on, and only then did they notice the boy--upon the bench, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." His mother gasped, but before she could retrieve her son, the master appeared on the stage and quickly moved to the keyboard. He whispered to the boy. "Don't quit. Keep playing." Leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in the bass part. Soon his right arm reached around the other side and improvised a delightful obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice held the crowd mesmerized. In our lives, unpolished though we may be, it is the

Master who surrounds us and whispers in our ear time and time again, "Don't quit. Keep playing." And, as we do, He augments and supplements until work of amazing beauty is created.

The Parable of the Unwise Bee by James E. Talmage

A wild bee from the neighboring hills once flew into the room; and at intervals during an hour or more I caught the pleasing hum of its flight. The little creature realized that it was a prisoner, yet all its efforts to find the exit through the partly opened casement failed. When ready to close up the room and leave, I threw the window wide, and tried at first to guide and then drive the bee to liberty and safety, knowing well that if left in the room it would die as other insects there entrapped had perished in the dry atmosphere of the enclosure. The more I tried to drive it out, the more determinedly did it oppose and resist my efforts. Its erstwhile peaceful hum developed into an angry roar, its darting flight became hostile and threatening.

Then it caught me off guard and stung my hand-the hand that would have guided it to freedom. At last it alighted on a pendant attached to the ceiling, beyond my reach of help or injury. The sharp pain of its unkind sting aroused in me rather pity than anger. I knew the inevitable penalty of its mistaken opposition and defiance; and I had to leave the creature to face its fate. Three days later I returned to the room and found the dried lifeless body of the bee on the writing table.

It had paid for its stubbornness with its life. To the bee's short-sightedness and selfish misunderstanding I was a foe, a persistent persecutor, a mortal enemy bent on its destruction; while in truth I was its friend, offering it ransom of the life it had put in forfeit through its own error, striving to redeem it, in spite of itself, from the prison-house of death and restore it to the outer air of liberty. ...Consider the lesson of the unwise bee! "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3: 5-6)

And A Little Child Earl Nightingale (from 'Especially For Mormons')

There's a story, which I understand is true, about a small farming community in the Southwest, which demonstrates an interesting and important point.

It seems that this community had been suffering for a long time from a serious drought. Their crops and cattle faced certain destruction along with their economy if the needed rains continued to stay away. Finally, the situation became so serious that drastic measures were called for and the entire population was called upon to collect at the small local church to pray for rain.

On the appointed day the thirty or forty families of the area dutifully showed up at the church. The sky was a blazing sheet of brass without a cloud in sight. The heat was almost more than a person could stand. Dust devils could be seen whirly across the fields and the group looked upon the dreary scene through squinted eyes as they trooped into the church, depressed and silent.

Inside, led by the local preacher, they fell silent and each in his own way prayed for the cooling, life-giving rain that could save them. An hour passed. Outside, there was a change in the wind, and over the distant mountains to the west a long, heavy line of clouds began to darken the sky. The worshippers inside the little church were unaware of this and continued their silent prayers until, suddenly, their heads raised at the distant sound of thunder. They held their breath until the sound came again, this time unmistakable. The distant crack of heavy, business-like thunder.

They ran out into the churchyard and filled their lungs with the sweetest smell of fresh, cool water falling on dry, parched earth. And soon the fast moving storm reached them and the rain fell in torrents. They jumped up and down and shouted and hugged one another; they danced in circles and thanked God for the saving rain. And then, suddenly, they all fell silent. There was only the sound of

the booming thunder and the cascading rain as they all stood and looked at one little seven-year-old girl who was smiling from ear to ear and watching the rain from beneath the shelter of a tiny umbrella.

Out of the entire assembly, she had been the only one, who in her simple, childish faith had expected the rain to be delivered, and had in her womanly wisdom, provided herself with an umbrella. The dripping adults looked at each other, and then splashed back into the church for a sober thanksgiving service.

Jesus Will Save Me - Grant Oratorical Contest, BYU Speeches, December 1, 1964, p. 6

A man was drowning in the lake. Another man driving along side the road saw the man drowning and shouted out to him "I'll throw you a rope..." The drowning man replied, "No thank you, Jesus will save me!" The man shrugs his shoulders and drives away. Just then a man in a boat rowing by said to the drowning man, "Take hold of my oar, I will pull you to safety!" The drowning man replied, "No thank you, Jesus will save me!" The man in the boat rows away. A helicopter pilot flying overhead shouts on his bullhorn, "I'll throw you down a ladder and you can climb to safety!" The drowning man replies, "No thank you, Jesus will save me!" As the helicopter flies away the man goes under and drowns. He enters heaven, sees Jesus and says, "Jesus, so many wanted to help me but I told them that you will save me, what happened?" Jesus replied, "What more could I do? I sent you a man with a rope, on man on a boat and a man in a helicopter!!!!"

Inviting the Savior into Our Lives

One day when I really understood what Jesus Christ had done for me; I invited Him to come into the house of my heart. And, as soon as I invited Him, He came, without any hesitation. And, when He was there, He filled the house with joy. And, I wanted to run and tell all the neighbors about my guest and how wonderful it was to have Him there.

When everything was settled, I said, "I hope you will stay and feel perfectly at home here." And, He said, "I'm sure I will, and now since we are new friends; why don't you show me around. I would like very much to see the library in the House of your heart."

And so I did. Now in my house, the LIBRARY is very small and has very thick walls and is filled with everything I have read. Books, magazines, news articles, everything I have seen, like TV shows, movies, plays; all the Sunday School lessons I have listened to, the sermons, the lecturers, they're all there in the library. And His eyes gazed over all the things that were on the shelf. And, I was a little embarrassed that there was so much trivia there. I wished that more scriptures and church books were really mine and on the shelf. And, I suggested to Him that maybe I could stand a little bit of renovation

in this room, and He agreed, that maybe we—together—could add more worthwhile things to the library.

You see, the library is a very important room because it's the study so-to-speak of the mind—a sort of control room for the whole house. It affects the lighting, the electricity, and everything else in the house. And, then He said He would like to see the DINING ROOM; and I took Him in. Now in my house, this is a very large room because this is the room of appetites and desires; and it was stacked with all kinds of boxes and things. And, I told Him I was always hungry, but I never seemed to be satisfied. And He told me that it was because I was eating the wrong things.

He said, “If you would diet as I do, you would never feel hunger; for I live on the word of the Lord, the Father.” And, then He offered me a taste of it; and it was delicious—and oh, the flavor of it. And, I agreed with Him that this alone satisfied, and I knew that I would spend less time in the dining room now that He was a guest in the house. Next, He asked if He could see my WORKSHOP. Now; I had a workshop; it was down in the basement. And, we went down and looked at the workbench and saw all the talents and the skills that were there. But, I hadn’t really produced much. He looked everything over and said that I had a lot of good equipment, but that I really hadn’t used it to produce much. Oh, there were a few gadgets and trinkets and half finished projects but nothing really of great value. And I said, “Well, if I wasn’t quite so busy maybe I could do better.

I know all the tools are there, but I’m awkward and clumsy, and I really don’t know how to use them.”

So, He said, “Would you like to be able to use the tools in your workshop?”

And, I said, “Oh yes, would you help me?” And He said, “I was wondering if you would ask me.”

And, so He stood behind me and put His great powerful hands over mine and guided them, and He showed me how to use the tools in the workshop. And, with His hands directing mine, I marveled at the work of art that came out.

And, I said, “Now that you have helped me, I am going to come into the workshop often, and this will be a fun room to come to. Will you always help me?” And He said, “Yes, if you invite me to, but I never come unless I am invited.” And, so we left the workshop and the next room we went into was the DRAWING ROOM. Now, this was a small, quiet, peaceful place in my heart for deep thoughts and meditation, and He seemed pleased with it and comfortable there. And, so He said, “Let’s meet here often at least twice a day and we can have long talks together, and you can tell me about all your activities and all your ambitions and all your problems—and we’ll talk it over together everyday.”

I thought that sounded wonderful. So, I made an appointment with Him everyday that I would do that; and I did at first, faithfully. But, then I got too busy, and sometimes I would forget to come in the morning. And, sometimes I would forget to come at night. And, sometimes days would go by, and we never had a talk at all.

Now, it wasn’t that I didn’t want to talk to Him, it was just that I was so busy and had a lot to do.

Then, one day as I went to leave, I noticed Him standing in the doorway of the drawing room. And, I said, “Have you been waiting there every morning for me?” And, He said, “Yes, we had an appointment, and you haven’t been here for a long time.” And I said, “You’re a guest in my house, and I have neglected you; and I’m sorry.”

I had called on Him when I was in need, to come and help me, and He always came, but that was about the way I used Him. When things went well, I didn’t really think we needed our chat as well as we did when things were bad. And, so I decided that it had been a very one-sided relationship, and I also realized that He missed me. So, I said, “Maybe there’s something I could do for you; you’ve done so much for me.” And, He said, “Yes, there’s a great deal you could do for me. I was wondering when you would want to help me.”

“I have so many projects and so many things that need to be done. I could use a good friend like you. For one thing, I have no money in the world at all. I only have yours to use. Would you let me use some of yours? And there are people I just cannot see. I could send you and commission you to

go and represent me. Would you do that?” “Yes, of course” I replied. But then one day I got rebellious and I said, “You demand too much of me. Can’t I have anything to myself? After all, I have things I want to spend my money for, and you’re always there needing something.”

Now that wasn’t a very nice way to treat a person, especially a guest. And, then He said, “Look at the things of my projects, and who benefits from them.” And, then I really was ashamed because everything I did benefited me as well. As others and not Him personally. So I continued His work. And, then one day, He said, “There is a peculiar odor in this house, and it’s coming from that locked closet. And, although you’ve let me go into every room in the house, that one door has always been locked, and you’ve never let me in.”

Now that made me mad! I had let Him into every room in my house; I ran and did His errands for Him; I let Him use my money, and now He wanted to look in my secret closet. So, I said “I hold the key, and I will not let you in that closet. It’s very small, only about 2 feet by 4 feet. The rest of my house is large enough and is perfectly presentable; so it shouldn’t make any difference.” And He said, “I cannot stay in this house if you do not give me the key to the closet.” And, so He left.

Oh, I was sad. And, great despair and gloom and depression came over me. Because you see, once having had Him as a guest in my home, life was unbearable without him. And, so I went and tearfully pleaded with and I begged Him, “Come back, and I will give you the key to the closet and I will withhold nothing from you—I cannot stand to live without you.”

And, so I gave Him the key, and He opened it. And, then quickly and efficiently He cleansed out those things that were dead and rotten that I wanted to feel were not there and wanted to ignore. He cleaned the whole closet out, fumigated it, painted it, and He made it perfectly acceptable. Afterwards, I said, “I’m so ashamed that you know what was in my closet.” And, then He said, “Why I see only a house that is totally acceptable to me.” And, then I knew why I loved Him so. And why of all my biggest of brothers only this one could love me enough to clean out my closet. And then, He said, “You know, I’ve cleaned out so many closets, but it’s a strange thing. I can never remember afterwards what was in them.”

After a few moments, I said, “I get so tired of cleaning all the time, I go from one room to the other trying to keep up in the drawing room, in the dining room, the workshop, and in the library, but I always seem to be behind. I was wondering if you could take over the whole house like you did the closet, and you could be the owner, and I would be the guest and sort of helper or servant. And we’ll switch positions. Instead of me calling on you to help me, you can call on me to help you. Is it possible?”

And, He said, “Why yes, that’s why I came the first time you invited me.” So, I ran and got the deed to my house and I signed it over to Him, and I said, “It is yours it belongs to you, and I withhold nothing from you.” After I gave Him the deed, He immediately started remodeling the house because He was not content to own a cottage. He was the architect, the planner, the builder, and told me eventually we would end up with a magnificent castle. It would take a while to build, but we would build it together. So, He started the remodeling. He was the master of the house, and I was the servant, and I did whatever He bid. And, there were times when clouds came and gathered around the house, clouds of war, hate, and sin.

And they beat on the house and demanded entry. But because He was the Lord of the house, it has a firm foundation and none of it was allowed to enter. Inside the house there was warmth, peace, and tranquility regardless of what was outside. He told me as time went on that He would move my house to another city. He would take care of all the arrangements, and I wouldn't even have to know the day it took place or when. He said that I would be in a city where He had the deed to all the houses and there would be no storms or darkness; and I would like the neighbors better. It sounded wonderful, and I looked forward to it with eagerness. And, I looked back so long ago when I first invited Christ to come into the house of my heart as a guest, and thought about the many years it took to have the courage to give Him the deed to the house. And I wondered why I had been so stingy and had reluctantly wanted to turn it over because He showered me with gifts and took care of all the remodeling, and I was always the debtor.

FAITH

The father a well digger, and strong was he.
And as loving and kind as a father could be.
And his daughter, five years old
Very much dearer than silver or gold.
To Mary her father was big, grand and nice...
So each had a treasure beyond price.
One day to the well little Mary was sent
To take Daddy his dinner; how gently she went.
But when she looked down not a thing could she see.
The well, like a pocket was dark as could be.
The father saw Mary and heard her voice, too
But said not a word just to see what she'd do.
She dropped to her knees, the dear little soul
And called down, "Oh, Daddy! Are you down this deep hole?" "Why, yes,
Mary darling. I'm here at your feet. Just drop me my lunch for I'm
ready to eat. Just let it go easy, I'll catch it all right."
She did so and watched it go down out of sight.
"Why, Mary," he said, "There's enough here for two.
Now this is the thing I would like you to do.
You jump down here and we'll eat together
Down here in the cool, away from the weather."
"Oh Daddy! I'm afraid! I can't see you at all.
Be sure and catch me and don't let me fall."
'Twas just for a moment she wavered in doubt...
Then closing her dear little eyes she jumped out.

In the darkness, that was the test!
She trusted in faith in the father's request;
And both were so happy he kissed her and smiled
Because of the sweet trusting faith of his child.

Oh! Sweet little Mary. You have put me to shame.
How often my Father has called me the same

But because it was dark I have turned back in doubt
Refusing the call though His arms were stretched out.
I wanted some proof. Must first see with my eyes.
So I have doubted and lost me the prize.
To him that will ask is given to see.
And he that will seek, the Lord says he shall find
Be he that's a doubter must always stay blind.
Until I have faith and can bow 'neath His rod,
I'll never inherit the Kingdom of God.

INTEGRITY by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Immortal life is something to be earned,
By slow, self-conquest, comradeship with pain,
And patient seeking after higher truths.
We cannot follow our own wayward wills
And feed our baser appetites and give
Loose reins to foolish tempers, year on year,
And then cry, 'Lord, forgive me, I believe—'
And straightway bathe in glory. Men must learn
God's system is too great a thing for that;
The spark divine dwells in each soul, and we
Can fan it to a steady flame of light,
Whose lustre guilds the pathway of the tomb
And shines on through eternity, or else
Neglect it till it simmers down to death
And leaves us but the darkness of the grave.
Each conquered passion feeds the living flame;
Each well-borne sorrow is a step toward God.
Faith cannot rescue, and no blood redeem
The soul that will not reason and resolve.
Lean on thyself, yet prop thyself with prayer,
For these are spirits, messengers of light,
Who come at call and fortify thy strength,
Make friends with thee and with thine inner self,
Cast out all envy, bitterness, and hate.
And keep the mind's fair tabernacle pure;
Shake hands with Pain, give greeting unto Grief,
Those angels in disguise and thy glad soul,
From light to light from star to shining star,
Shall climb and claim blest immortality."

In His Steps

Author Unknown

"The road is rough," I said.

“Dear Lord, there are stones that hurt me so,”
And He said, “Dear child, I understand,
I walked it long ago.”

“But there is a cool green path,” I said,
“Let me walk there for a time.”
“No child,” He gently answered me,
“The green road does not climb.”

“My burden,” I said, “is far too great,
How can I bear it so?”
“My child,” said He, “I remember its weight
I carried my cross, you know.”

“But,” I said, “I wish there were friends with me,
Who would make my way their own.”
“Ah, yes,” said He, “Gethsemane
Was hard to face alone.”

And so I climbed the stony path,
Content at last to know—
That where my master had not gone,
I would not need to go.

And strangely then I found new friends
The burden grew less sore,
And as I remembered—long ago,
He went that way before.

FAITH OBJECT LESSONS and ACTIVITIES

Put Your Trust in the Lord

Topic: Put Your Trust in the Lord (YW Value: Faith)

Preparation: A small glass cup filled with pennies.

Handout: Cut white tissue paper into 5 inch squares. Place a penny in the center of each piece of tissue paper. Pull the tissue paper up and around the penny and tie with a white ribbon. Give a penny wrapped in tissue paper with a copy of the scripture card to each young woman.

Scripture card reads - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

Presentation: Ask the young women what words are imprinted on the front of a penny. ("In God We Trust.") Pass around the glass of pennies and invite each young woman to take a penny and place it in her shoe. Each time she feels the penny in her shoe throughout the week, it will remind her to put her trust in the Lord. Try this experiment yourself the week before presenting this object lesson. Share how you felt as you put your trust in the Lord. Our faith in the Lord increases as we put our trust in Him.

The Savior should be a part of everything we do and every decision we make. Recite Proverbs 3:5

Faith

Preparation: In a food processor, chop up Oreo cookies until they look like potting soil. Place the crumbs/soil into a flowerpot.

Handout: A snack of chocolate pudding with the chopped cookies on top.

Presentation: Speak about faith being like a grain of mustard or a seed that is planted in good soil (the whole time you talk you are sifting the "soil" through your fingers like it is dirt). You speak about this seed growing and what it needs to survive, such as, water food sun. You compare this to faith and how you plant the seed and feed it with Church attendance, scripture study, FHE, temple attendance, etc. You then ask someone if they have faith in you and know that you would never do anything that would hurt them. You ask them to open their mouth and you feed them the "soil". This was done at girl's camp and a leader opened her mouth and ate the "soil" from my spoon. The girls talked about it for months. For an added bonus we put gummy worms in the pudding. It was really cute and the girls all remember the faith activity.

Topic: Listening to our leaders / the Prophet / the Holy Ghost (Faith)

Preparation: Set up an obstacle course

Presentation: Blindfold one youth and place them around the area of the obstacle course. One person is chosen to be "the" voice to listen to. Others are chosen to attempt to lead them astray. They are positioned around the course in various places. The blindfolded person is instructed to listen carefully to this voice and the person speaks so they hear "their" voice. During the activity this voice instructs them how to make it through the course such as, "take 2 steps forward", "stop", "step once to he

right”, etc. The others are instructed to attempt to lead them out of bounds by saying (not yelling),”come this way”, “over here”, “you’re going the wrong way” etc. The game starts and the blindfolded person can make it through just by really listening to the correct person. They could not touch them but could only whisper. Some of the girls were extremely frightened when we began this, very unsure of themselves and of their abilities to do the course. At the end of the obstacle course set up in the woods, there was Heavenly Father (a member of the Stake Presidency) and Heavenly Mother (me). When the girls finally got to us, we each embraced them and whispered, “Welcome home, daughter” (Heavenly Father) and “We’ve missed you. Go join your sisters.”

After they passed through the course, they were unblindfolded and led to a spot a little way back in the woods to sit quietly and watch. It was so amazing the testimony meeting we had that night around the campfire!

Faith

Source: Corrie ten Boom

Presentation:

A girl and her father were going to ride a train and the girl was concerned and asked her father many times on the way to the train station, "where was her ticket?" He kept reassuring her that just before she gets on the train he will give her the ticket and she need not worry. It is this way with our Heavenly Father. He will give us the strength and help and support to successfully learn, grow and be blessed by ANY situation that we encounter in our turn here on earth. But he may give us that help right when we need it and not any earlier, so we may feel unprepared for many things that could come our way. But we need not worry because he will give us the ticket to ride, when we need it.

Plane Crash Activity

Overview:

After gathering in the gym, youth will take a simulated plane trip on the stage. The plane will crash, leaving no survivors. They will then be Lead to the primary room where they will hear about the Telestial kingdom. Next they will return to the gym to hear about the Terrestrial Kingdom. Then The overflow area will open up to welcome them into the celestial Kingdom (the chapel). The activity will then conclude, with refreshments served in the gym. Advance preparation without giving away any details of the planned activity, be sure youth are aware that something special has been planned. Prepare some sort of airplane ticket, to be either given in advance (possibly the Sunday before) or Handed out that night. The tickets should have their names, plus a stub that can be torn off with their name on it, too. Perhaps actual airline envelopes could be used. They could be told they will be taking a trip, or something to that effect, but since this activity seems to have the greatest impact when it happens without warning, we don t want them to compare notes with youth from other wards who may have participated in this sort of activity previously.

Set up Gym: Made to resemble airport waiting area with chairs, magazines, etc. A ticket agent should have some sort of table and microphone to give boarding information.

Stage: Made to look like the interior of an airplane, with rows of seats. A cart with small snacks could be prepared for an in-flight meal.

Optional: a TV with VCR for an in-flight movie.

Primary room: To be used as Telestial Kingdom area. Should be dimly lit. A window could be left open so the room will be cold. No chairs or tables. The room should be slightly uncomfortable. Halls could be dark as they travel.

Gym: During plane and Telestial experiences, gym can be re-set for Terrestrial Kingdom area. Chairs could be moved to a cozier arrangement than they were for airport waiting area. Maybe a table with a cloth and small centerpiece.

Overflow: To be used as transition area between Terrestrial (gym) and Celestial (chapel), Should have a few small tables with cloths and decorations. The plants from the entries and foyer lamps could be Brought in to make it nicer. There should be a marked contrast from the gym, yet since it is difficult to decorate the chapel, it shouldn't make the chapel appear bare.

Chapel: Flowers and recorded (or live) music will help add to the effect. All participants in chapel should be dressed in white.

Participants: (assignments)

Ticket agent in gym who will also help with boarding (YW)

Stewardess(es) (YW)

Pilot(s) (could be live or pre-recorded) (YM)

Escorts, dressed in white, to take them to the primary room, gym, and finally to the chapel. (YW)

Telestial Kingdom speaker (YM)

Terrestrial Kingdom speaker (YM)

Celestial Kingdom speaker(s) (could be married couple) (YM)

Outline: About 7:00 Youth will gather in the gym when they arrive. They can visit, sit, or read magazines. The ticket agent will announce periodically that they must have their tickets ready. She can distribute them from her "desk", being sure that the names are written on the ticket in two places. At the appropriate time, she announces that boarding is about to begin. The pilot(s) might enter through that door just prior to boarding. The stewardess can open the side stage door, and the ticket agent will then collect ticket stubs (tearing each stub off) as the youth enter to climb the stairs to the stage. Seats may be assigned or not. The stewardess will help them get seated, giving instructions on stowing carry-ons, etc. When everyone is boarded, the flight begins. Adult leaders who are not otherwise participating might choose to be passengers if it would be helpful for crowd control. This activity is not as effective if the youth act silly.

About 7:15 as the flight begins, the stewardess can give normal safety instructions, and the pilot will welcome them aboard. All proceeds like a normal flight for a while. Snacks can be served, a movie can be shown (started, at least), then suddenly there is the loud sound of a crash. The light all go black, and the announcement is made that the flight has crashed, leaving no survivors. One or two escorts appear and give minimal instructions to follow them silently. About 7:25 they take the group to the primary room. The youth can be instructed to stand, or sit on the floor, but not next to anyone else. No talking is allowed. A plainly dressed person, standing in a dark corner proceeds to tell them they are about to enter the Telestial Kingdom.

After a discussion of the situation there, and the type of lives that have led them to this place, an escort enters to announce that there has been a mistake, and please follow her. About 7:40 they follow her to the gym. There, the youth can sit in chairs, and should be more comfortable. A nicely dressed person tells them about the Terrestrial Kingdom. The escort returns to announce that they are once again to

follow. The overflow area is opened, and the youth enter what should appear to be a much nicer place. They should be reminded throughout that there is to be no talking.

About 7:55 when they have assembled, the curtain separating the chapel opens. They should have been able to hear music coming from there. Someone at the pulpit reads their names, taken from the boarding passes, and they enter the celestial kingdom one by one. Escorts take them individually to the choir seats. When all have entered and are seated, a speaker or speakers talk to them about the Celestial Kingdom. After the conclusion, refreshments may be served in the gym.

Suggested script:

Speakers in all areas need to be certain of doctrinal accuracy, and try to remain positive. The main purpose of exposure to the lesser kingdoms is not to chastise for past sins, but to create the feeling of missing out on something better. They should understand, however, that the requirements are real, and that our actions really do make a difference to our eternal salvation. We want them to not settle for less than the best, and to realize that the best is within their reach. Since each kingdom is a kingdom of glory, we don't want to teach that the lesser kingdoms are cold and unfriendly places, but do want to emphasize a difference between them. The scripts here are based upon a fax received from someone who has done this before. Consider them a starting point.

Telestial Kingdom We welcome you here. You have passed through the spirit world, and are now about to enter the Telestial Kingdom. Here there is no pain, no death. In fact, life is much better here than it was on earth. And yet, if you could choose, you would not want to stay here. For the glory of this kingdom is that of the lesser - as the stars differ from the moon. But the greater joy is beyond your reach now. You belong to this kingdom, the lesser glory. You and all the others. When you left your parents tonight, did you tell them how much you loved them? And your brothers and sisters; did you tell them how great it was to belong to the same family? Did you tell them how much you love them all? Did you love them enough to try to be worthy to live with them in eternity? There are no families here in the Telestial Kingdom; no mothers, no fathers, no grandparents, no children, only you. Your one chance to live your life on earth is through. And now your body will sleep in the grave for the thousand years of the millennium... Until the LAST resurrection.. You will have a lot of time to contemplate on the things that are lost. You must stay here while others go on to a joyful reunion with our Father and Christ, two loved ones who will never come here. Perhaps you wonder why you are here. Perhaps you already know. Here are those who would not receive the gospel of Christ, or those who failed to receive a testimony of Jesus by study, by service, by prayer, by faith. They are here because they have not maintained high moral standards. They are liars, thieves, adulterers, blasphemers, and murderers. They have taken the name of the Lord in vain; had other gods before the Lord. Worshipped clothes, card, homes, and popularity more than the Lord. Did not keep the Sabbath Day holy. Did not honor their fathers and mothers. Committed sexual sins. The list goes on and on.. Those sins, unrepented, earned your place in this kingdom. Maybe you feel bad now that you made mistakes. Maybe you thought it wouldn't matter, and you thought tomorrow would be soon enough to repent and do better. You believed you had plenty of tomorrows left. You expected the Lord to forgive you, and He was ready to keep that promise when you repented. But you didn't t You are here in the Telestial Kingdom because you lived a Telestial life on earth. You will remain here as a ministering servant to more worthy persons.

Terrestrial Kingdom

Brothers and Sisters, I am here to welcome you to the Terrestrial World. We have been waiting for you. Because of the life you lived while on earth, you have inherited the Terrestrial glory. This glory differs from the Celestial glory as the moon differs from the glory of the sun.(Opens book and read)

And out of the books you shall be judged. You have earned for yourselves a terrestrial body. Unlike those with Celestial bodies, you were not valiant in your testimony of Jesus Christ, nor did you live all of the principles of the Gospel. Let me explain who is in this kingdom. In the Terrestrial Kingdom are all the accountable persons who die without the law of the gospel on earth. Then, when it was taught to them in the spirit world, they would not accept it. Also in this kingdom are the people who rejected the gospel while on earth, but have now accepted it here in the spirit world. Their rejection of the truth while in mortality has barred their way to the Celestial Kingdom. They will remain here in the Terrestrial Kingdom. Here too, are all of the honest and good men and women of the earth who did not accept the gospel, but did live honorable and upright lives. Many members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are here also, These people did have a testimony of the Savior and His great work. Unfortunately they were not a valiant and strong in the faith, and only lukewarm in their devotion and their service to the gospel. They should have been among the valiant. They had all the knowledge, guidance, and opportunities to succeed. Many thought they would, for they lived honorable and upright lives; up to a point, that is. And that point is the point of division between God's home and your present one. These Latter-day Saints usually attended church - unless there was something better to do, like football, boating, skiing, tennis, tiddly-winks. They paid their tithes and offering to the Lord, or at least what they could spare after everything else was taken care of. They usually accepted church positions, then performed the bare minimum to get by. They claimed to be more than willing help the sick or widowed, if they had only known any. Your souls of flight 218 have been assigned to this kingdom because you are part of that Latter-day group. You tried hard to keep the commandments, as long as it was easy to do. If only you had understood where your path was headed, you would have changed while you were on earth. Didn't you realize that it was never too late to repent while you were there? Don't you know how dearly your Heavenly Father loves you and wants you to return to His kingdom? And what about your earthly parents? All the people in the Terrestrial Kingdom must remain unmarried, with no families. That privilege is reserved for those deserving of greater glory. You will have the privilege of having the Son, Jesus Christ, in your midst, but you will not be visited by Heavenly Father, nor can you go to where He is.

Celestial Kingdom

Welcome to the glory, the peace, the joy and happiness of the Celestial Kingdom. We have been waiting for you, for your names are written in heaven. Because you have repented of your sins while in the flesh, you have been granted a Celestial glory; a glory that is that of the sun, even the glory of God, the highest of all. By entering the gate of repentance and baptism, you entered on the straight and narrow path leading here to the Celestial Kingdom. Your trials and temptations were no more or no less than others, but you overcame all things by faith. By keeping the commandments you have been washed and cleansed from all your sins and have received the Holy Ghost. By enduring to the end in righteousness and obedience, you have earned the right to be joint heirs with Christ to all that the Father has. You will receive the fullness of the glory of the Father, becoming gods in your own right. You will come forth in the first resurrection, for you are the valiant whom Christ will bring with Him when He comes in the clouds of Heaven to reign over His people. You will be with Him during His thousand years of millennial reign. Celestial marriage in the temple of the Lord is the gate to exaltation in the highest heaven in the Celestial World. You listened to the voice of the prophet whom God has sent to earth. You were married in the temple, and you kept every covenant you made there. You will be together as families forever. You will have spirit children and create new worlds. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter ye into the joy of the Lord." You shall dwell in the presence of God and Christ forever and ever.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

These are only a few of the many talks and speeches about Faith. To find more, go to <http://www.lds.org> and go to the Gospel Library to search in other magazines or curriculum.

To access any of these resources: If you have the internet, hold down the CTRL button, and click the link with the mouse. For those without the internet, I have provided the month and year of the magazine for reference.

Videos

Man's Search For Happiness, VH002/VH317/53452/53146, 14 minutes
Our Heavenly Father's Plan, VV4033/53604, 28:30 minutes

Class Lesson Manuals

Young Women Manual 2 Lessons

- [1 Drawing Closer to Jesus Christ](#)
- [2 Spiritual Gifts](#)
- [15 Temple Marriage](#)
- [22 Counseling with the Lord](#)
- [23 Fasting Brings Blessings](#)
- [24 Revelation in Our Daily Lives](#)
- [25 The Law of Sacrifice](#)
- [26 The Sacrament](#)
- [29 Exaltation](#)

Young Women Manual 3 Lessons

- [7 Our Purpose in Life](#)
- [24 Agency](#)

Publications

FHE Resource Book; [Lesson Five I Am a Child of God](#)
[Lesson Eleven My Faith in Christ Can Grow](#)

The Latter-day Saint Woman, Part A; [Faith in Jesus Christ Lesson 1](#)

Ensign

Ensign April 2001/ [Faith](#) in Jesus Christ, James O. Mason
Ensign May 1993/ [Faith](#) Yields Priesthood Power, Elder John K. Carmack
Ensign July 1973 / [The Constant Exercise of Our Faith](#) Elder O. Leslie Stone
Ensign March 2002/ [Lord, Increase Our Faith](#) Elder John K. Carmack
Ensign May 1994/ ["Faith](#) in the Lord Jesus Christ"
Ensign November 1975/ [A Prophet's Faith](#)
Ensign April 2001/ [Visiting Teaching Message: Increasing Our Faith](#) in Jesus Christ
Ensign June 1998/ [The Visiting Teacher: Faith](#) in the Lord Jesus Christ
Ensign November 1983 / [God Grant Us Faith](#)
Ensign September 1977/ ["Now Abideth These Three"](#)
Ensign September 1979 / ["We Believe. ...": Development of the Articles of Faith](#)
Ensign September 1983 / [Parables and Promises: An Approach to Learning by Faith](#)
Ensign March 1995/ [The Visiting Teacher: "More Faith](#) in My Savior"
Ensign May 1981/ [Building Bridges to Faith](#)
Ensign May 1991/ ["Lest Ye Be Wearied and Faint in Your Minds"](#)
Ensign July 1984 / [First Presidency Message The Faith](#) of the Pioneers
Ensign May 2000/ [The Shield of Faith](#)
Ensign May 2001/ [The Miracle of Faith](#)
Ensign November 1987/ ["Lord, Increase Our Faith"](#)
Ensign March 1991 / [The Visiting Teacher: "Lay Hold upon Every Good Thing"](#)
Ensign November 2001/ ["Help Thou Mine Unbelief"](#)
Ensign November 1998/ [Cultivating Divine Attributes](#)
Ensign December 1995/ [Learning to Be like the Lord](#)
Ensign August 1997/ [The Visiting Teacher: "Thy Faith](#) Hath Made Thee Whole"
Ensign January 1997/ [Faith](#) in Every Footstep
Ensign October 2000/ [The First Principles and Ordinances of the Gospel](#)
Ensign July 1972 / [Man's Eternal Horizon](#)
Ensign May 1997/ ["You Have Nothing to Fear from the Journey"](#)
Ensign May 1993/ [Keep the Faith](#)
Ensign November 1986 / [Developing Faith](#)
Ensign May 1994/ [Growing Up Spiritually](#)
Ensign May 1994/ [Increase in Faith](#)
Ensign November 1997/ [Making Faith](#) a Reality
Ensign May 1975/ [Faith--The First Step](#)
Ensign February 1997/ ["A More Excellent Hope"](#)
Ensign November 2001/ [Building a Bridge of Faith](#)
Ensign November 1995/ [To Touch a Life with Faith](#)
Ensign November 1994/ [Rowing Your Boat](#)
Ensign May 1996/ [Faith](#) of Our Fathers
Ensign May 2002/ [We Walk by Faith](#)
Ensign July 1981/ [Between Faith](#) and Charity: Some Thoughts on Hope
Ensign November 1972 /[Lucy Mack Smith: Woman of Great Faith](#)
Ensign January 1999/ [Living a Christ-Centered Life](#)
Ensign April 1975/ [Principles of Parenting, Part 2](#)
Ensign May 1994/ [Faith](#) Is the Answer

New Era

New Era October 1982 / [The Message: Faith](#) in the Lord Jesus Christ
New Era January 2002/ [Words of the Prophet: God Will Make a Way](#)
New Era November 1994/ [Young Women-- Then and Now](#)
New Era September 1988/ [The Message: The Eye of Faith](#)
New Era August 1998/ [Listen to the Whisper](#)
New Era November 1971/ [An Open Letter to Students: On Having Faith](#) and Thinking for Yourself
New Era October 1981 / [President Kimball Speaks Out on Administration to the Sick](#)
New Era September 1995/ [The Message: Put Your Faith](#) to Work
New Era April 2002/ [The Message: To Be Healed](#)
New Era October 1986/ [A Priceless Possession](#)
New Era March 1996/ [Keep the Faith](#)
New Era July 1996/ [Fiction: Staying Afloat](#)
New Era April 1986/ [To Fly like a Bird](#)
New Era April 1987/ [My Family: Learning Faith](#)
New Era February 2001/ [The Message: The Lighthouse of the Lord](#)
New Era June 1996/ [Keep It Simple](#)
New Era July 1978/ [The Message: The How and Why of Faith](#)-promoting Stories
New Era February 1975/ [The Message: In Defense of Faith](#)
New Era July 1984/ [Souls Aflame: The Prayer](#) Heritage of the Latter-day Saints
New Era June 2000/ [The Message: A Spiritual Adventure](#)
New Era July 1997 / [Faith](#) in Every Footstep
New Era September 2000/ [The Message: The Faith](#) of a Sparrow
New Era November 1985--YW/ [Young Women Values](#)
New Era May 2000/ [Blind Faith](#)
New Era July 1975/ [Classic Discourses from the General Authorities: To Them of the Last Wagon](#)
New Era February 1998/ [How I Know: I Wanted Proof](#)
New Era July 2001/ [Of All Things](#)
New Era April 2000/ [Seed of Faith](#)
New Era March 1989/ [Winning the War](#)
New Era June 1992/ [How I Know: Wanting a Miracle](#)
New Era September 1986/ [Things Not Seen](#)
New Era December 2001/ [Idea List: Building a Testimony](#) of Christ
New Era September 2001/ [Pure Testimony](#)
New Era August 1985/ [Harmer Accidents](#)
New Era February 1999/ [Scripture Lifeline: Faith](#) Moved Our Mountain
New Era July 1980/ [The Lighthouse of the Lord](#)
New Era July 1998/ [The Message: Don't Be Afraid](#)
New Era March 1993/ [The Message: Anchor Your Soul](#)
Liahona June 1995 /[The Mustard-Seed Teacher](#), Janet Schiller

Faith Music

How Firm a Foundation	<i>Hymns</i>	No. 85
I Am a Child of God	<i>Hymns</i>	No. 301
I Believe in Christ	<i>Hymns</i>	No. 134
I Know My Father Lives	<i>Hymns</i>	No. 136
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	<i>Hymns</i>	No. 136
O My Father	<i>Hymns</i>	No. 292
The Lord Is My Light	<i>Hymns</i>	No. 89
When Faith Endures	<i>Hymns</i>	No. 128

New Era November 1985/ [In Tune: I Walk by Faith](#)

New Era April 1997 / [In Tune: Faith in Every Footstep](#)

New Era March 2002/ [In Tune: In That Holy Place](#)

New Era September 1995/ [In Tune: Plant a Seed in Your Heart](#)

New Era January 1988/ [In Tune: Just One Little Light](#)

“Come Unto Christ” by Sally Deford - <http://www.defordmusic.com/comeuntochristyw.pdf>

Mormads

New Era July 1991/ [Mormonad](#) – Faith Works

New Era April 1994/ [Mormonad](#) – You Are Never Alone

INDEX

Accountable, 8, 42
Adversity, 1, 3, 18
Belief, 10, 17, 18, 19, 20
Boyd K. Packer, 1, 5, 7
Brigham Young, 1, 5, 17, 20, 24
Celestial Kingdom, 40, 41, 42
Commandments, 3, 5, 14, 16, 42
Commitment, 1, 8, 12, 17
Courage, 8
Evil, 3, 5, 11
Exaltation, 3, 43
Ezra Taft Benson, 1, 5, 6, 10, 13
Faith, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 27, 36, 38, 39, 43, 44, 45, 46
Future, 3, 6, 7, 11, 16, 20
Glory, 3, 36, 41, 42
Gordon B. Hinckley, 1, 3, 13
Happiness, 11, 43
Harold B. Lee, 1, 6
Heaven, 5, 6, 7, 10, 14, 24, 32, 42, 43
Heavenly Father, 3, 6, 12, 14, 24, 27, 39, 42, 43
Holy Ghost, 14, 19, 38, 42
Hope, 2, 7, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 32, 44, 45
Howard W. Hunter, 1, 4, 7
Integrity, 3, 8, 12
Jesus Christ, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 29, 32, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46
Knowledge, 7
Obedience, 10, 11, 16, 18
Plan of salvation, 4
Prayer, 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 16, 28, 29, 36, 41, 45
Priesthood, 13, 14, 16, 44
Prophet, 8, 12, 17, 18, 24, 38, 44, 45
Repent, 41, 42
Repentance, 4, 42
Sacrifice, 8, 10, 19, 20, 43
Scriptures, 15, 32
Service, 22, 26, 28, 32, 41, 42
Spencer W. Kimball, 1, 5, 14
Spirit, 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21
Test, 2, 27
Testimony, 8, 9, 13, 14, 28, 29, 39, 41, 42, 46
Trust, 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 29, 31, 38
Truth, 5, 7, 14, 29, 31, 42

Valiant, 28, 29, 42

Values, 8, 12, 33, 45



Posted by: yma_33 on 5-20-03
