

Words of President Russell M. Nelson

A Plea to My Sisters Women's Conference – October, 2015 (Became President of Quorum of 12 in July)

"My dear sisters, **nothing is more crucial to your eternal life than your own conversion.** It is converted, covenant-keeping women— whose righteous lives will increasingly stand out in a deteriorating world...

I **plead with my sisters...** to **step forward!** Take your rightful and needful place in your home, in your community, and in the kingdom of God—**more than you ever have before.** I **plead with you** to fulfill President Kimball's prophecy. And I promise you in the name of Jesus Christ that as you do so, the Holy Ghost will magnify your influence in an unprecedented way!

Together **we will help prepare the world for the Second Coming of the Lord."**

The Price of Priesthood Power April 2016

I **fear** that there are too many men who have been given the *authority* of the priesthood but who lack priesthood *power* because the flow of power has been blocked by sins such as laziness, dishonesty, pride, immorality, or preoccupation with things of the world.

I **fear** that there are too many priesthood bearers who have done little or nothing to develop their ability to access the powers of heaven. I **worry** about all who are impure in their thoughts, feelings, or actions or who demean their wives or children, thereby cutting off **priesthood power.**

I **fear** that too many have sadly surrendered their agency to the adversary and are saying by their conduct, "I care more about satisfying my own desires than I do about bearing the Savior's power to bless others."

I fear, brethren, that some among us may one day wake up and realize what **power in the priesthood** really is and face the deep regret that they spent far more time seeking power over others or power at work than learning to exercise fully **the power of God**.

I urgently plead with each one of us to live up to our privileges as bearers of the priesthood.

In a coming day, *only* those men who have taken their priesthood seriously, by *diligently* seeking to be taught by the Lord Himself, will be able to bless, guide, protect, strengthen, and heal others. Only a man who has paid the price for **priesthood power** will be able to bring miracles to those he loves and keep his marriage and family safe, now and throughout eternity.

We need to pray from our hearts.

Are you willing to pray to know how to pray for more power? The Lord will teach you.

Are you willing to search the scriptures and feast on the words of Christ¹³—to study *earnestly* in order to have more power?

Are you willing to worship in the temple regularly? The Lord loves to do His own teaching in His holy house.

Are you willing to... serve others?

And if you truly want more priesthood power, you will cherish and care for your wife, embracing both her and her counsel.

If we will humbly... ask Him to teach us, He will show us how to increase *our* access to **His power**.

In these latter days... **Priesthood power** can calm the seas and heal fractures in the earth. **Priesthood power** can also calm the minds and heal fractures in the hearts of those we love.

Are we willing to pray, fast, study, seek, worship, and serve... so we can have that kind of **priesthood power**?

May each one of us rise up as the man God foreordained us to be... eager to pay whatever price is required to increase his **power in the priesthood**.

With *that* power, we can help prepare the world for the Second Coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Joy and Spiritual Survival October 2016

I would like to discuss a principle that is **key to our spiritual survival...** that will only become **more important as the tragedies and travesties around us increase.**

These are the latter days, so none of us should be surprised when we see prophecy fulfilled. **A host of prophets,** including Isaiah, Paul, Nephi, and Mormon, **foresaw that perilous times would come...**

...**You and I “wrestle ... against the rulers of the darkness of this world, [and] against spiritual wickedness in high places.”**

As conflicts between nations escalate... and as corruption in everything from business to government becomes increasingly commonplace, **what can help us?**

Lehi taught a principle for spiritual survival. First, consider his circumstances: He **had been persecuted for preaching truth in Jerusalem and had been commanded by the Lord to leave his possessions and flee with his family into the wilderness. He had lived in a tent and survived on what food could be found on the way to an unknown destination,** and he had watched two of his sons, Laman and Lemuel, rebel against the teachings of the Lord and attack their brothers Nephi and Sam.

Clearly, Lehi knew opposition, anxiety, heartache, pain, disappointment, and sorrow. Yet he declared boldly and without reservation a principle as revealed by the Lord: **“Men are, that they might have joy.”**

If we focus on the joy that will come to us, or to those we love, what can we endure that presently seems overwhelming, painful, scary, unfair, or simply impossible?

What will you and I be able to endure as we focus on the joy that is “set before” us? ... What weakness will become a strength? What chastening will become a blessing? What disappointments, even tragedies, will turn to our good?

Remember Korihor, the anti-Christ? Spewing falsehoods about the Savior... **Anything that opposes Christ or His doctrine will interrupt our joy.**

If we look to the world and follow its formulas for happiness, we will never know joy. Joy is a gift for the faithful. It is the gift that comes from intentionally trying to live a righteous life, as taught by Jesus Christ.

Every day that you and I choose to live celestial laws... joy will be ours.

Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into our Lives

April 2017

(see Elder Eyring, "Walk with me" April 2017—below))

My dear brothers and sisters, we live in a most difficult dispensation. Challenges, controversies, and complexities swirl around us. These turbulent times were foreseen by the Savior. He warned us that in our day the adversary would stir up anger in the hearts of men and lead them astray.

I would like to speak about *how* we can draw into our lives the power of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

The more we know about the Savior's ministry and mission⁷—the more we understand His doctrine⁸ and what He did for us—the more we know that He can provide the power that we need for our lives.

As you seek to learn more about Jesus Christ, I urge you to study "The Living Christ."

True disciples of Jesus Christ are willing to stand out, speak up, and be different from the people of the world. They are undaunted, devoted, and courageous.

It is mentally rigorous to strive to look unto Him in every thought. But when we do, our doubts and fears flee.

We also increase the Savior's power in our lives when we make sacred covenants and keep those covenants with precision. Our covenants bind us to Him and give us godly power.

Another element in drawing the Savior's power into our lives is to reach up to Him in faith. Such reaching requires diligent, focused effort.

Do you remember the biblical story of the woman who suffered for 12 years with a debilitating problem? This **faithful, focused woman needed to stretch as far as she could to access His power**. Her physical stretching was symbolic of her spiritual stretching.

When you reach up for the **Lord's power** in your life with the same intensity that a drowning person has when grasping and gasping for air, power from Jesus Christ will be yours.

When the Savior knows you truly want to reach up to Him—when He can feel that the greatest desire of your heart is to draw **His power** into your life—you will be led by the Holy Ghost to know exactly what you should do.

When you spiritually stretch beyond anything you have ever done before, then His **power** will flow into you. And then you will understand the deep meaning of words we sing in the hymn "The Spirit of God":

The Lord is extending the Saints' understanding. ...
The **knowledge** and **power of God** are expanding;
The veil o'er the earth **is beginning to burst**.

As one of His **special witnesses**, I declare that **God lives!**

**The Book of Mormon:
What Would Your Life Be Like without It?
October 2017**

My brothers and sisters, how precious *is* the Book of Mormon to you? If you were offered diamonds or rubies *or* the Book of Mormon, which would you choose? Honestly, which *is* of greater worth to you?

...three related questions that I urge you to think about today:

First, what would your life be like *without* the Book of Mormon? Second, what would you *not know*? And third, what would you *not have*?

It teaches the doctrine of Christ.

The Book of Mormon provides the **fullest and most authoritative understanding of the Atonement of Jesus Christ** to be found anywhere. It **teaches what it really means to be born again**. From the Book of Mormon we learn about the **gathering of scattered Israel**.

The Book of Mormon both **illuminates the teachings of the Master** and exposes the **tactics of the adversary**.

When I think of the Book of Mormon, I think of the word *power*. The truths of the Book of Mormon have the *power* to heal, comfort, restore, succor, strengthen, console, and cheer our souls.

I promise that as you prayerfully study the Book of Mormon *every day*, you will **make better decisions**—*every day*.

I promise that as you **ponder** what you study, the **windows of heaven will open**, and you **will receive answers** to your own questions and direction for your own life.

I promise that as you **daily immerse yourself** in the Book of Mormon, you can be **immunized against the evils of the day**, even the gripping plague of pornography and other mind-numbing addictions.

President Brigham Young: "I wish I had the voice of seven thunders to wake up the people"¹³ to the truth and **power** of the Book of Mormon.

This is *the* book that will help to **prepare the world for the Second Coming of the Lord**.

Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives

April 2018

(Became President of Church in January)

One of the things the Spirit has repeatedly **impressed upon my mind** since my new calling... is **how willing the Lord is to reveal His mind and will**.

If we will truly receive the Holy Ghost and learn to discern and understand His promptings, we will be guided in matters large and small.

... the boy Joseph took his question directly to Heavenly Father. He sought personal revelation, and his seeking opened this last dispensation.

In like manner, **what will your seeking open for you?** What wisdom do you lack? What do you feel an urgent need to know or understand?

Follow the example of the Prophet Joseph. **Find a quiet place where you can regularly go.** Humble yourself before God. **Pour out your heart to your Heavenly Father.** Turn to **Him** for answers and for comfort.

And then listen!

Write the thoughts that come to your mind... and follow through with actions that you are prompted to take.

As you repeat this process day after day, month after month, year after year, you will "grow into the principle of revelation." ⁹

I urge you to stretch beyond your current spiritual ability to receive personal revelation. (D&C 42:61)

Oh, there is so much more that your Father in Heaven wants you to know. As Elder Neal A. Maxwell taught, "To those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, it is clear that the Father and the Son are giving away the secrets of the universe!"¹³

Nothing opens the heavens quite like the combination of increased **purity, exact obedience, earnest seeking, daily feasting on the words of Christ** in the Book of Mormon,¹⁴ and regular time committed to temple and family history work.

I promise that as you continue to **be obedient, expressing gratitude** for every blessing the Lord gives you, and as you **patiently honor the Lord's timetable, you will be given the knowledge and understanding you seek.**

I am optimistic about the future. But **I am also not naive about the days ahead.** If we are to have any hope of sifting through the myriad of voices and the philosophies of men that attack truth, **we must learn to receive revelation.**

Our Savior... will perform some of His mightiest works between now and when He comes again.

But in coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost.

I plead with you to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation.

Choose to do the spiritual work required to enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and hear the voice of the Spirit more frequently and more clearly.

... I exhort you... to "come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift,"¹⁵ beginning with the gift of the Holy Ghost, which gift can and will change your life.

Ministering with the Power and Authority of God **April 2018**

May I voice a concern? Too many of our brothers and sisters do not fully understand the concept of priesthood power and authority... they would rather satisfy their own selfish desires and appetites than use the power of God to bless His children.

I fear that too many of our brothers and sisters do not grasp the privileges that could be theirs.³ Some of our brethren... do not understand what the priesthood is and what it enables them to do.

We know of brethren who set [Individuals] apart... but fail to bless them—to bless them with the power to fulfill their callings. They give only admonitions and instructions.

invite [Priesthood Holders] to inspire members to keep their covenants, fast and pray, study the scriptures, worship in the temple, and serve with faith as men and women of God.

We are the men who have been "called and prepared from the foundation of the world"... to do this work.¹²

I invite you literally to rise up with me in our great eternal brotherhood... think of your duty as God's mighty army to help prepare the world for the Second Coming of the Lord. This is our charge... our privilege.

Let Us All Press On

April 2018

I bless you to **identify those things you can set aside so you can spend more time in the temple.**

Becoming Exemplary Latter-day Saints

April 2018

My dear brothers and sisters, the assaults of **the adversary are increasing exponentially, in intensity and in variety.**³ Our need to be in the temple on a regular basis has never been greater. I **plead with you to take a prayerful look at how you spend your time.**

I **urge you to find a way to make an appointment regularly with the Lord**—to be in His holy house—then keep that appointment with exactness and joy. I promise you that the Lord will bring the miracles He knows you need as you make sacrifices to serve and worship in His temples.

I **assure you that revelation continues in the Church and will continue** until “the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done.”⁵

The Correct Name of the Church

October 2018

Today I feel compelled to discuss with you a matter of great importance. Some weeks ago, I released a statement regarding a course correction for the name of the Church.¹ I did this because **the Lord impressed upon my mind the importance of the name He decreed for His Church,**

- It is *not* a name change.
- It is *not* rebranding.
- It is *not* cosmetic.

- It is *not* a whim.
- And it is *not* inconsequential.

Instead, it *is* a correction. **It *is* the command of the Lord.**

Have we been so afraid to *offend* someone who called us “Mormons” that we have failed to *defend* the Savior Himself, to stand up for Him even in the name by which His Church is called?

I **promise** you that if we will do our best to restore the correct name of the Lord’s Church, He...will pour down His power and blessings upon the heads of the Latter-day Saints,¹⁷ the likes of which we have never seen. We will have the knowledge and power of God to...**prepare the world for the Second Coming of the Lord.**

Opening Remarks (home-centered church) October 2018

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

The adversary is increasing his attacks on faith and upon us and our families at an exponential rate. To survive spiritually, we need counterstrategies.

We are each responsible for our individual spiritual growth.

Sisters’ Participation in the Gathering of Israel October 2018

My dear sisters, you have special spiritual gifts and propensities. I urge you...to pray to understand *your spiritual gifts*—to cultivate, use, and expand them, even more than you ever have. You will change the world as you do so.

My dear sisters, we need *you!* We simply **cannot gather Israel without you.** Together we can do all that our Heavenly Father needs us to do **to prepare the world for the Second Coming of His Beloved Son.**

Sister Wendy Nelson

March 2019

(During dedication of Rome Temple)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/church/news/sister-wendy-nelson-shares-her-personal-witness-of-president-nelsons-prophetic-calling-and-ministry?lang=eng>

Speaking of President Nelson being called as prophet:

“The Lord gave me a most unique, most distinctive experience that I could never deny or forget— too sacred to share over the pulpit.” I knew the mantle of prophet was upon my husband. The experience was **so dramatic, so clear, that it really was embedded upon my heart** and my mind right in the moment. **Two days later, the Lord gave me exactly the same experience again.**

“He keeps a lined yellow pad of paper beside his bed.” Then she declared, “In the morning he holds up a half page to one and a half pages of notes with joy.”

“I can take any witness stand in any nation on the earth to tell you for sure that Russell Marion Nelson has been called by God to be the Lord’s prophet on the earth at this time,”

“On numerous occasions, I’ve witnessed him receive revelation from the Lord during the night, especially as general conference approached. But after he was ordained as the Lord’s prophet, the revelation came with frequency and intensity. My husband is trying to get every bit of instruction that he can.”

“...my husband emerged from our bedroom and said, ‘Wendy, you won’t believe what has been happening for two hours. The Lord has given me detailed instruction about a process I am to follow.’”

“I can say that I am a witness by being present and I am a witness by being absent that the Lord indeed instructs His prophet,”

“Come, Follow Me”

April 2019

Now, as President of His Church, I **plead with you** who have distanced yourselves from the Church and with you who have not yet really sought to know that the Savior’s Church has been restored. **Do the spiritual work to find out for yourselves, and please do it now. Time is running out.**

“You know what it is to be in deep water and rough water. As you go through rough water and face challenges of life, hold on to the iron rod of the gospel.”

President Nelson to Members in Samoa

May 2019

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/church/news/president-nelson-urges-samoan-members-to-be-strong-facing-persecution-attacks-of-the-adversary?lang=eng>

“**There are difficult days ahead,**” he said. “Please **protect your children. Help them to know the Lord and love Him** and keep His commandments and be free from the shackles of addiction and bondage.”

[President Nelson stood at a podium on a stage constructed for Saturday night’s event and warned about Bible and Book of Mormon prophecies of persecution of those willing to bear the name of Jesus Christ.]

“This Church, when restored in its fullness, will **prepare the world for the coming of the Lord,**” but not before Christ’s followers are persecuted, he said.

“Church members in the Samoan Islands will not be immune from being persecuted,” he said, warning them to “**prepare to be persecuted, even every day,**” and telling them they have a solemn duty to prepare for it.

“Please **protect your families from the deception you will see in your future,**” he said. “That’s why we are all busily engaged in this work. **We have to fortify our people against attacks of the adversary.**”

[He told them not to become discouraged. He said God will provide them with revelation, strength, and the ability to judge right from wrong.]

“Part of being a temple is caring for our health. **As we take care of our physical bodies, we become more able to have His Spirit touch our spirits.**”

Sister Nelson: “My husband often receives inspiration for the direction of the Church during the night and gets up to take notes. Just this past week, the inspiration was flowing so rapidly during those early morning hours that he went to the office in our home and wrote for three hours.”

Elder Henry Eyring

“Walk With Me”

April 2017

I pray that I may be able to convey... an encouraging glimpse of what you may, with His help, yet achieve as a holder of His holy priesthood.

...your future progress... will require a measure of sacrifice.

...the Lord magnifies and strengthens the holders of His priesthood to do things they never could have done alone.

So the only way to succeed is to rely on Him, whether you are a newly called deacon... or a father... and time seems to be running out, because those children are growing up quickly and the world seems so harsh and hostile.

“Few understand what the Priesthood really is...

“... the privilege of **receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, to have the heavens opened unto them, to commune with the general assembly and church of the Firstborn, and to enjoy the communion and presence of God the Father, and Jesus the mediator of the new covenant.**

“The power and authority of the ... Aaronic Priesthood, is to hold the **keys of the ministering of angels**” (D&C 107:18–20).

“...For without this no man can **see the face of God, even the Father, and live**” (D&C 84:20, 22).

“Every one being ordained after this order and calling should have **power, by faith, to break mountains, to divide the seas, to dry up waters, to turn them out of their course;**

“**To put at defiance the armies of nations, to divide the earth, to break every band, to stand in the presence of God...**” (Joseph Smith Translation, Genesis 14:30–31 [in the Bible appendix]).

One way to respond... is to **assume that they do not apply to us.**

We know Enoch as a mighty prophet who established Zion in the midst of great wickedness. But before he was a mighty prophet, Enoch saw himself as “but a lad, ... slow of speech,” and hated by all the people (Moses 6:31).

The Lord told Enoch... “Behold my Spirit is upon you, wherefore all thy words will I justify; and the mountains shall flee before you, and the rivers shall turn from their course; and thou shalt abide in me, and I in you; therefore walk with me” (Moses 6:32, 34).

...our ordination to the priesthood is an invitation from the Lord to walk with Him.