

Obedience to that divine command, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect," (Matt. 5:48) will ally man with God and will make of earth a paradise.

God bless you, my young friend. Keep on thinking the serious thoughts and asking those serious questions, and

in time, as you keep your eyes fixed upon the stars to guide you on and on and upward, you will reach your objective—an exaltation in the celestial kingdom of our Heavenly Father, which I pray for you and all youth of Zion, and all the world if that were possible, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I VERY humbly pray for the blessings of the Lord to be with me as I address you.

I take the privilege because of having been twice president of the alumni of Brigham Young University, to express my appreciation for this fine chorus, for the great institution that God has established. It represents so much of our heritage, the sacrifice of our fathers and mothers. God bless the youth that they may treasure this glorious opportunity. Hold high the standards of this Church at Brigham Young University. May the Lord bless you to grow in spirit and in truth.

I have a friend far away, stationed at Shanghai, China, very much discouraged. He went to see if there was a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Shanghai. He was weary, wanting to find someone with whom he might talk about his religion. He went to the United States consul. The consul sent a clerk to review the records. "No, we haven't any Mormons here."

"Well, try Latter-day Saints." They did.

"Sorry, young man, we have no one affiliated with that Church here in Shanghai."

He went back to his barracks. On the bunk he saw a large package, and there were eight fellows sitting there. Something of this type generally arouses curiosity on the part of soldier boys, and they suspected very seriously that

probably there was some candy or goodies in the package, and they had come to enjoy the festivities with the young man.

He took his time in opening the package, which, of course, was his privilege. Finally he snipped the string and opened it. A lovely white napkin was unfolded, and in it, a Book of Mormon. The title was printed in large letters on the outside cover.

The fellows began to drift back to their bunks, but one chap sitting near said, "Book of Mormon." The young man quickly turned to his friend and said: "What do you know about it?"

"Why, I am a Mormon. I can show you where there are a couple more."

My friend, when he first opened the package and saw the Book of Mormon, grew silent for a moment and then he said, "Hello, Mother." He was back home again. He knew who had sent the book.

I am happy to say to youth everywhere, prayerfully study the word of God. This is one of the greatest opportunities we have, and I hope you will take the opportunity of it now before that hunger comes in the after years. Do it now. Make it a part of today and tomorrow and the next day. Here at this conference we have enjoyed the guidance of the living oracles, and we are greatly blessed, but now, also enrich these words by being a student of the word of the Lord.

Monday, April 5

Third Day

Another humble suggestion I would like to make is, live and enjoy the gospel. Live it, you have often heard, but also enjoy it. Reflect it in your life to the man who lives over the fence, works in the office, in the shop, wherever you may go. Reflect the joy and the happiness of living it. The man and the woman who live the gospel of Jesus Christ are our greatest exponents. They are our greatest missionaries.

I received a call not long ago from the general hospital in Los Angeles, while staying in Los Angeles at one of the hotels. On the other end of the line a young man said: "Brother Kirkham, I am back from Korea, having just landed in an airplane. I will be operated on at eight o'clock this morning. Won't you come and be with me?"

"Yes, at eight o'clock I will be there."

He was prepared for the operating room. The doctor said to the nurse as they were moved forward, "Take his pulse, will you please? I see his eyes are closed. He may have gone. I have been preparing him quite seriously."

In a moment the young man opened his eyes and said, "Doctor, I am not gone. I was just saying a prayer that God would guide your hands, that you would operate with great skill, and that I would be blessed."

For an hour and eighteen minutes he was on the operating table; then they took him back to his room for rest and recuperation. I went down to meet my friends coming for me. The doctor passed by the door of the waiting room of the hospital and called me out and said, "I know you were seriously interested this morning with what happened, but to me this was just another operation at the hospital. I am here nearly every day, but I want to say a word to you, and I know you will be interested. When that boy opened his eyes and said, 'No, I am not gone. I was praying for God to guide your

hand,' I felt as I went to do my work that there was a special spirit that was upon me. It was beyond my ordinary skill. The boy had sent a message in prayer, and the answer came to help me. I am not sentimental, Mr. Kirkham, about things like this, but I wanted to tell you that this morning was a great event in my life."

Yes, to live and enjoy the spirit of the gospel of Jesus Christ in that moment when we need it so badly, when life calls us to a great task at a deciding moment, may we be prepared by good living to speak freely and frankly to the Lord and enjoy his holy blessings.

May I add one word further. *Share these blessings.* It is not quite complete unless we give to someone that which God has graciously given to us. Share the blessings.

Just two days ago on the elevator in our general office, I met a young man just home from a two-year mission. He said, "I want you to meet my mother. Mother, this is Brother Kirkham." Then he turned to me and said, "Mother is going on a mission. I just came home, and we have been working it out. Of course, you know Mother is a widow. We have a little country store, but we have been working it out. Now she is going, and we are very happy."

Yes, prayerfully study the word of God. Live and enjoy the gospel. Share its blessings, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Brigham Young University Combined Choruses and the congregation joined in singing the hymn, "O Ye Mountains High."

President David O. McKay:

President Levi Edgar Young of the First Council of Seventy will now speak to us.