

May I commend to you what Richard L. Evans said this morning: "A teacher is responsible for the total effect of his teaching." So is it true of a parent, an official, a leader of youth. What is the total effect of your influence on the young?

I want to mention one other thought that came in the cavern. As we walked in that subterranean beauty, I thought what each of you under like circumstances would have thought. I thought how wonderful it would be if my lovely wife and little girls could be with me; I wanted to share with them the wonder, the inspiration, the nearness to God I felt then. A verse of scripture came to mind. It is recorded in First Nephi:

And it came to pass that I did go forth and partake of the fruit thereof; and I beheld that it was most sweet, above all that I ever before tasted. Yea, and I beheld that the fruit thereof was white, to exceed all the whiteness that I had ever seen.

And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceeding great joy; wherefore, I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; . . . (1 Nephi 8:11-12.)

We should all desire to share the goodness and beauty and truth of the gospel with others of God's children.

In the story of Ammon's missionary work among the Lamanites there is one statement the unusual language of which sometimes evokes mirth in a student when he first hears it, but which to me is one of the most sacred and provocative verses in all the record. The king has been stricken and lies as if he were dead. Ammon is summoned by the queen, his loving, loyal wife. She says:

. . . I would that ye should go in and see my husband, for he has been laid upon his bed for the space of two days and two nights; and some say that he is not dead, but others say that he is dead and that he

stinketh, and that he ought to be placed in the sepulchre; but as for myself, to me he doth not stink. (Alma 19:5.)

The love of this faithful wife for her beloved husband seems typical to me of the love which will obtain in the heavenly kingdom and which should here characterize our relationships with those dear to us.

I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will guide the young people of the Church as they seek answers to their questions, for this is encouraged, that they may seek "by study and also by faith"; that they may with dedication and honest effort seek for useful knowledge, for the Lord has said that "to be learned is good," if we hearken to the counsels of God.

I caution those who influence young people, and ask you to look at the total effect of your teaching. I bear my witness as to the truthfulness of the message of the Prophet Joseph in his testimony of the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of the restoration, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### President David O. McKay:

We have just listened to Elder Marion D. Hanks, member of the First Council of Seventy.

There are two other members of the General Authorities from whom we should be pleased to hear, but in consideration of their health we will refrain from calling on them. They are Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Council of the Twelve, and Elder Thomas E. McKay of the Assistants. We assure them they have, and they know they have, our faith and prayers for the blessings of the Lord to attend them and to give them strength, vitality, wherein they may now be suffering from physical weakness.

#### PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

**A**T THE CONCLUSION of this great conference, I am sure you would have me express appreciation to all who have contributed to it, including those who have so inspired us with their uplifting sermons. I shall repeat, of course,

some expressions which we have already given directly at the time of service.

You have been blessed by the sight of these beautiful flowers, so profusely displayed before you—the calla lilies from the high priests' quorum of the

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Oakland-Berkeley Stake; the daffodils from Puyallup Valley Daffodil Festival, Inc., sent here through the Tacoma Stake; the spring flowers here from the Phoenix and the East Phoenix stakes; the bird of paradise flowers from the Los Angeles Temple Grounds. We express appreciation for the thoughtfulness of all who have desired to make pleasant these gatherings through these "messengers of love."

We thank representatives of the public press for their fair and accurate reports throughout the sessions of conference; the city officials, Chief W. Cleon Skousen, and traffic officers for their co-operation in handling the increased traffic here in the city. We express appreciation to the fire department and to the Red Cross for being on hand to render any service that might be needed.

To the Tabernacle ushers, who have rendered service early and late in seating the great audiences!

For assistance rendered by the various radio and television stations, here in our own city and state, and other states named in the various sessions of the conference, we are grateful. This truly has been the means of permitting tens of thousands of people to hear the proceedings of the 127th annual general conference of the Church.

We appreciate the choirs. Never have we had better service than the choral groups have rendered during these three days, beginning Friday with the Brigham Young University combined choruses, with Norman Gulbrandsen and Newell B. Weight conducting; the Institute of Religion chorus from the University of Utah, with David Austin Shand conducting; the Tabernacle Choir male chorus last evening under the direction of J. Spencer Cornwall—all these choir seats filled—a larger group, I think, than we have ever had before. It was appropriate, too, because it was the largest priesthood meeting ever held in the Church. And now, today, we appreciate the singing of the Tabernacle Choir under the direction of Brother Cornwall. We express appreciation, also, to the organists, Alexander Schreiner and Frank W. Asper, and Brother Roy M. Darley, assistant organist.

I should like to say just a word in conclusion.

I do not know how many of you heard Brother Marion G. Romney this morning. I hope all of you listened to his excellent address over the Church-of-the-Air broadcast, speaking about the reality of inspiration from God to individuals. I was reminded of what Peter said. (My fellow workers know that I am rather partial to Peter, the chief Apostle of the Meridian of Times—a practical man, a successful fisherman.) But as I have read his life, I find that he rose from a seeming indifference to religion to the heights of spirituality, and I find confirmation of that in the following reference in his First Epistle General. He refers to an "inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled," and that inheritance the "lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," a hope that "fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:" (See I Peter 1:3-6.)

Then he continues in his Second Epistle, referring to the sacredness of the priesthood, "that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature; . . ." (II Peter 1:4.)

Happy is the man who has experienced that relationship to his Maker, wherein we are "partakers of the divine nature." That is a reality, and I so testify to you here in this sacred hour.

Then Peter says that we must go on from that . . .

". . . giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

"And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

"And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." (*Ibid.*, 1:5-7.)

Note those virtues from that practical man who had experienced the relationship, the real relationship to his Creator. And you have had that experience, many, and I hope all may have it. It is glorious. And then the promise:

"For if these things [virtues] be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (*Ibid.*, 1:8.)

And you have heard in this conference what that knowledge means; to know God and Jesus Christ, his Son, is eternal life. Or, in the exact words, as recorded in the 17th chapter of John:

"And this is life eternal [this is Jesus praying to his Father, two distinct personages], that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3.)

That, my brothers and sisters, is the highest purpose of life. It has been put in one sentence that the whole purpose of life is "to subdue matter" (conquer everything physical, our passions, enmity, selfishness, and all that), "to subdue matter that *we might realize the ideal*," and that is the ideal—"life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

With all my soul, at the conclusion of this highly spiritual conference, I bless you that you may attain that testimony, that high spiritual state, which will make all who attain it ready to enter through the veil into the presence of God, our Eternal Father.

Thank you, Brethren and our fellow workers of the General Authorities, for the messages you have given during this conference. You have been blessed. Thank you, brethren and sisters, here especially in this great Tabernacle, for your reverent attitude in every session. May you go home now with your children to your neighbors, and radiate that high spirit of love, brotherhood, virtue, integrity, which will lead them to investigate the gospel of Jesus Christ and eventually accept those principles, that they too, someday, may realize what it is to be "partakers of the divine nature," I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### President David O. McKay:

There will be a meeting at four thirty this afternoon of Temple Presidencies in the Salt Lake Temple.

Tonight the Deseret Sunday School Conference will convene in the Salt

Lake Tabernacle at seven o'clock. All Sunday School workers should be in attendance. Others are cordially invited. We are informed by the Superintendent that provision will be made for overflow audiences in the Assembly Hall and in Barratt Hall.

The singing for this afternoon, as this morning, has been furnished by the Tabernacle Choir. We have said so often, "thank you," but we say it this afternoon with even greater appreciation. God bless you for the great service you are rendering to this Church and to the nation! I am sure the Lord will bless you individually and collectively.

The Choir will now favor us with "Hallelujah Chorus," under Brother Cornwall, and the closing prayer will be offered by Elder Myron L. Western, president of the West Pocatello Stake, after which this Conference will be adjourned for six months.

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The Tabernacle Choir sang the "Hallelujah Chorus."

President Myron L. Western of the West Pocatello Stake offered the closing prayer.

Conference adjourned sine die.

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The congregational singing for the Conference was conducted by J. Spencer Cornwall and Richard P. Condie, Conductor and Assistant Conductor respectively, of the Tabernacle Choir.

The choral music for the Friday sessions was furnished by the Brigham Young University Combined Choruses, with Norman Gulbrandsen conducting at the morning meeting, and Newel B. Weight at the afternoon meeting.

The music for the Saturday morning and afternoon meetings was furnished by the Institute of Religion Chorus from the University of Utah, David Austin Shand conducting.

At the General Priesthood Meeting the choral music was furnished by the Tabernacle Choir Male Chorus, J. Spencer Cornwall director.

J. Spencer Cornwall directed the singing of the Tabernacle Choir at the Sunday morning and afternoon sessions, and also the *Church of the Air* and the