

but when six o'clock comes in the morning, they don't want to do it. And will power is the power to do it then, and you will find that as you go on through life.

I would like to say to you young men that you have a great influence in the world. How much greater your influence would be if everyone of you would just follow the advice of these two young men who spoke to you tonight. I need not add anything to what they have said, but to encourage you to realize that the things that these young men have said are the things that will bring joy and happiness into your lives. Set about to do it—we want you to be happy.

I love these young people in our Church. I love young people wherever I find them, and if there is anything I can do to help them be happy, to be successful in life, to accomplish the things that they want to accomplish, that is the thing I would like to help them do. We are cognizant of the fact that you are going to have temptations as you go through life—all kinds of temptations. Your young friends told you about them tonight. They didn't go into detail, but you are going to have them. But make up your mind now what you are going to do and what you are not going to do.

I have talked to hundreds of young

people who have had problems, and with very few exceptions, yes, with very few exceptions, it is because they have not made up their minds what they would do under certain circumstances. I would like to make this appeal to young men. Honor your parents, honor your mother, and honor womanhood. I would like to say to you young men who hold the priesthood of God, any girl with whom you go has a right to expect you to protect her, to look out for her interests, to honor her, to honor the womanhood in her, and to treat her as you would want your mother or your sister to be treated. She has a perfect right to expect that and to feel sure that you will protect her virtue with your lives.

Brethren, it is a great honor to hold the priesthood of God. Magnify your priesthood, and it will magnify you. You will have joy and happiness while you sojourn upon this earth, and as you finish your mission here, you will be worthy to go back into the presence of our Father. That is my testimony to you, and my prayer for you in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

Our next speaker will be President Hugh B. Brown, First Counselor in the First Presidency.

PRESIDENT HUGH B. BROWN

First Counselor in the First Presidency

Like Elder Tanner, I have thoroughly appreciated what has been said here tonight. We have all been inspired by these young men and by the forthright, inspired talk of Elder Sill and the wonderful testimony of President Tanner. I shall not attempt to add to the subject which has been so well discussed tonight except to give you a few quotations, and then for a few moments discuss another phase of our work.

From Sir Walter Scott: "Teach self-denial, and make its practice pleasurable, and you can create for the world a destiny more sublime than ever issued from the brain of the wildest dreamer."

And Robert Louis Stevenson wrote:

"You cannot run away from a weakness. You must sometime fight it out or perish, and if that be so why not now, and where you stand."

And another has said, "Decision determines destiny. There is absolutely no greatness that is not buffeted with goodness. Brace to the splendid day's work. Keep fit. Be a man."

Many times I have quoted, and no doubt many of you have memorized the clarion call for men to match our message and our times:

"God give us men! A time like this demands

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Strong minds, great hearts, true faith
and ready hands.

Men whom the lust of office does not
kill;

Men whom the spoils of office can-
not buy;

"Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor—men who will
not lie;

Men who can stand before the dema-
gogue

And damn his treacherous flatteries
without winking;

Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above
the fog

In public duty and in private think-
ing; . . ." (Josiah Gilbert Holland.)

Each one of us must live with himself
throughout eternity, and each one is
now working on the kind of man he
must live with throughout eternity. Let
us determine for ourselves the kind of
man our eternal companion is to be.
I say now is the time to act: It is neither
too early nor too late.

Some young men say, "When I get
older, I will do something worthwhile
but let me enjoy my carefree youth."
Let me bring to your attention a few
examples of young men who did things
while they were young.

Jefferson was 33 years old when he
drafted the Declaration of Independence.

Benjamin Franklin was 26 when he
wrote *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

Dickens was 24 when he began his
Pickwick Papers and 25 when he wrote
Oliver Twist.

McCormack was only 23 when he
invented the reaper, and Newton was
24 when he formulated the law of
gravitation.

May I add to this quotation, Joseph
Smith was less than 15 when he had
his first vision, 23 when he translated
the Book of Mormon, 24 when the
Church was organized, and he died a
young man at 38—yet he left an imprint
upon this world second only to that of
Christ the Lord.

Jesus Christ himself was only 30 when
he began his transcendent mission
which lasted only three years but af-
fected the whole world and will yet
redeem it.

Well, now, you older men, has your

chance passed? You high priests, seven-
ties, and elders, is it too late for you
to do something worthwhile? Let me
bring you another set of figures:

Immanuel Kant was 74 when he
wrote his finest philosophical work.

Verdi was 80 when he produced
Falstaff and 84 when he produced
"Ave Maria."

Goethe was 80 when he completed
Faust.

Tennyson was 80 when he wrote
"Crossing the Bar."

Michelangelo completed his greatest
work at 87.

Titian, at 98, painted the historic pic-
ture, "The Battle of Lepanto."

Justice Holmes was 90 when he was
still writing brilliant opinions.

George Bernard Shaw was 88 and was
superbly chauvinistic.

President David O. McKay, past 90,
is recognized world-wide as a dynamic
and inspired religious leader. He is
carrying a load which would buckle the
knees of many younger men. At his
advanced age he still leads us, shows
us the way, and sets the pace.

But perhaps some of you say, "Well,
I have some handicaps." Sarah Bern-
hardt had as her motto, "In spite of
everything." Paul Speicher writing in
one of the magazines about what hap-
pens to men who refuse to be stopped,
reminds us of some statistics, reminds
us of what can happen to a man if he
has the will to do, and knows what
he wants to do.

"Cripple a man and you have a Sir
Walter Scott; put him in prison and
you have a Bunyan; bury him in the
snow at Valley Forge and you have a
George Washington; have him born in
abject poverty and you have an Abra-
ham Lincoln; load him with bitter
racial prejudice and you have a Disraeli;
afflict him with asthma until as a boy
he lies choking in his father's arms and
you have a Theodore Roosevelt; stab
him with rheumatic pains until for
years he cannot sleep without an opiate
and you have a Steinmetz; put him in
a grease pit in a locomotive round
house and you have a Walter P.
Chrysler; make him a second fiddle in
an obscure orchestra in South America
and you have a Toscanini."

History rests on the shoulders of those who accepted the challenge of difficulties and drove through to victory in spite of everything. I want to add this thought on self-control, decisions, determination, faith in God and in yourself.

"You may be what you will to be,
Let cowards find their false content
In that poor word, environment,
But spirit scorns it and is free.
"It conquers time; it masters space;
It cows the boastful trickster, chance,
And bids the tyrant circumstance
Uncrown and fill a servant's place.

"The human will, that force unseen,
The offspring of a deathless soul,
Can hew its way to any goal,
Though walls of granite intervene."

I wish all the priesthood members of the Church would obtain and read and study the masterful address of President David O. McKay delivered last Friday morning. It will be published in the Church Section of the *News* and in other periodicals, the *Era* later, and in the *Conference Report*. Obtain it, study it, read it. Do you know how long it took President McKay to prepare that talk? I haven't asked him, but I think it took him 90 years, because what he said came right out of his heart, and what is in his heart he has been building into that heart for 90 years. Now if it took him 90 years to prepare it, do you think you can get all there is in it in one reading? Get it, study it, apply it in your lives.

I suggest you read the talks of other General Authorities who have spoken here today in the other meetings. Study them, follow the counsel, and you will be blessed. May I suggest especially that you read the talk of Elder Critchlow on priesthood—one of the best I have heard. And then obtain and read, especially you fathers, what Brother Packer said this afternoon about the responsibility of fatherhood. On that subject may I read what many of you have heard before. It applies to every father and to you young men who will be fathers. Fatherhood is next to God-

hood, and therefore it takes a lifetime to become a good father. This is a confession of a father at the bedside of his sleeping child.

"I am saying this to you as you lie asleep, one little paw crumpled under your cheek and the blond curls stickily wet on your damp forehead. I have stolen into your room alone. Just a few minutes ago, as I sat reading my paper in the library, a hot, stifling wave of remorse swept over me. I could not resist it. Guiltily I came to your bedside.

"These are the things I was thinking, son: I had been cross to you. I scolded you as you were dressing for school because you gave your face merely a dab with a towel. I took you to task for not cleaning your shoes. I called out angrily when I found you had thrown some of your things on the floor.

"At breakfast I found fault, too. You spilled things. You gulped down your food. You put your elbows on the table. You spread butter too thick on your bread. And as you started off to play and I made for my train, you turned and waved a little hand and called, 'Good-bye, Daddy!' and I frowned, and said in reply, 'Hold your shoulders back.'

"Then it began all over again in the late afternoon. As I came up the hill road, I spied you down on your knees playing marbles. There were holes in your stockings. I humiliated you before your boy friends by making you march ahead of me back to the house. Stockings were expensive—and if you had to buy them you would be more careful! Imagine that, son, from a father! It was such stupid, silly logic.

"Do you remember, later, when I was reading in the library, how you came in, softly, timidly, with a sort of hurt, hunted look in your eyes? When I glanced up over my paper, impatient at the interruption, you hesitated at the door, 'What is it you want?' I snapped.

"You said nothing, but ran across, in one tempestuous plunge, and threw your arms around my neck and kissed me, again and again, and your small arms tightened with an affection that God had set blooming in your heart and which even neglect could not

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wither. And then you were gone, pattering up the stairs.

"Well, son, it was shortly afterwards that my paper slipped from my hands, and a terrible sickening fear came over me. Suddenly I saw myself as I really was, in all my horrible selfishness, and I felt sick at heart.

"What has habit been doing to me? The habit of complaining, of finding fault, of reprimanding—all of these were my rewards to you for being a boy. It was not that I did not love you; it was that I expected so much of youth. I was measuring you by the yardstick of my own years.

"And there was so much that was good, and fine, and true in your character. You did not deserve my treatment of you, son. The little heart of you was as big as the dawn itself over the wide hills. All this was shown by your spontaneous impulse to rush in and kiss me good-night. Nothing else matters tonight, son. I have come to your bedside in the darkness, and I have knelt there, choking with emotion, and so ashamed!

"It is a feeble atonement; I know you would not understand these things if I told them to you during your waking hours, yet I must say what I am saying. I must burn sacrificial fires, alone, here in your bedroom, and make free confession. And I have prayed God to strengthen me in my resolve. Tomorrow I will be a real daddy! I will chum with you, and suffer when you suffer and laugh when you laugh. I will bite my tongue when impatient words come. I will keep saying as if it were a ritual: 'He is nothing but a boy—a little boy.'

"I am afraid I have visualized you as a man. Yet as I see you now, son, crumpled and weary in your cot, I see that you are still a baby. Yesterday you were in your mother's arms, your head on her shoulder. I have asked too much, too much.

"Dear boy! Dear little son! A penitent kneels at your infant shrine, here in the moonlight. I kiss the little fingers, and the damp forehead, and the yellow curl.

"Tears came, and heartache and remorse, and also a greater, deeper love,

when you ran through the library door and wanted to kiss me!

"I do not know of a better shrine before which a father or mother may kneel or stand than that of a sleeping child. I do not know of a holier place, a temple where one is more likely to come into closer touch with all that is infinitely good, where one may come nearer to seeing and feeling God. From that shrine come matins of love and laughter, of trust and cheer to bless the new day; and before that shrine should fall our soft vespers, our grateful benedictions for the night. At the cot of a sleeping babe all man-made ranks and inequalities are ironed out, and all mankind kneels reverently before the living image of the Creator. To understand a child, to go back and grow up sympathetically with it, to hold its love and confidences, to be accepted by it, without fear or restraint, as a companion and playmate, is just about the greatest good fortune that can come to any man or woman in this world—and, perhaps, in any other world, for all we know.

"And I am passing this 'confession' along to the fathers who may be privileged to read it, and for the benefit of all the 'little fellers'—the growing, earth-blessing little 'Jimmies' and 'Billys' and 'Marys' and 'Janes' of this very good world of ours."

—Author Unknown

God bless you, my brethren of the priesthood. From the very center of my heart I bear witness to the divinity of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I do not claim to have had visions or revelations, but I do claim that he has stamped upon my soul a knowledge of the divinity of this work which did not come through my natural senses but through the Holy Ghost.

I bless you fathers that you may be real fathers to your children. I bless you young men that you may be honorable sons of your fathers. I bless all the priesthood here tonight and all those who are listening in in far places that all may go home from this meeting resolved that they are going to exercise self-control and fight their way through

in spite of everything and be worthy to bear the Holy Priesthood. May it

be so I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

The strict attention that you thousands paid to the remarks of David Cragun and Matthew Simmons tonight bears testimony to your pride in these young men who represented the young men of the Church, and you got their message. The remarks given by Brother Sill confirming the value of self-control sank deep in your hearts. The testimonies of the Presidents of the Church left a lasting impression upon us all.

In conclusion, I have just a word on the topic that the boys of the priesthood have given to us tonight.

A man who cannot control his temper is not very likely to control his passions, and no matter what his pretensions in religion, he moves in daily life very close to the animal plane. Religion is supposed to lift us on a higher level. Religion appeals to the spirit in man, your real person, and yet how often, notwithstanding our possessing a testimony of the truth, we yield to the carnal side of our nature.

The man who quarrels in his home banishes from his heart the spirit of religion. A man or a mother in this Church who would light a cigaret in the home is yielding to the carnal side of his nature—far, far below the ideal of the Church. Any quarrelling in the home is antagonistic to the spirituality which Christ would have us develop within us, and it is in our daily lives that these expressions have their effect.

Man is making great progress in science and invention, greater perhaps than ever before, but he is not making comparable progress in character and spirituality.

A while ago I read the remarks of General Omar N. Bradley, formerly Army's Chief of Staff, who on one occasion said, and I quote:

"With the monstrous weapons man already has, humanity is in danger of being trapped in this world by its moral adolescence. Our knowledge of science has clearly outstripped our capacity to control it. We have too many men of science, too few men of God. We have

grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. *Man is stumbling blindly through a spiritual darkness while toying with the precarious secrets of life and death.*" (Italics added.)

I am still quoting the general: "The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace; more about killing than we know about living."

Our living comes hourly and daily in the home, in our association in business affairs, and in our meeting of strangers. It is the *attitude* of the person during the daily contacts by which we show whether we are appealing to the carnal or to the spiritual within us and within those with whom we associate. It is a daily matter. I do not know whether we can get the thought over or not. It is within the power of each one, especially members of the Church who make such pretensions. You cannot imagine a real true Christian, and especially a member of the Mormon Church, one who holds the priesthood, swearing at his wife. It is inconceivable that such a thing as that could be in a home, and especially with children around. How can anyone justify parents quarreling in front of children? Such a thing should never be a part of the life of church members.

Christ has asked us to develop the spiritual within us. Man's earthly existence is but a test as to whether he will concentrate his efforts, his mind, his soul, upon things which contribute to the comfort and gratification of his physical nature, or whether he will make as his life's pursuit the acquisition of spiritual qualities.

"Every noble impulse, every unselfish expression of love; every brave suffering for the right; every surrender of self to something higher than self; every loyalty to an ideal; every unselfish devotion to principle; every helpfulness to humanity; every act of self-control; every fine