

men; his serving as president of two universities. And then on about the last page of that book he says:

"During this long life, I have had occasion to test, time and time again, the verity of the foundations of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The answer has always been the same: Joseph Smith told the truth." (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1952, pp. 243-244.)

Joseph Smith did tell the truth. This is the witness that I would leave with you, my beloved brothers and sisters, my beloved family and friends, along with the witness that Jesus is the Christ and that God our Father did make us in his own image and that it is his purpose to bring to pass our immortality and eternal life, and this I do in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## ELDER THOMAS S. MONSON

### *Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

"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." (Prov. 3:5-6.) So spoke the wise Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel.

On this the American continent, Jacob, the brother of Nephi, declared: ". . . Look unto God with firmness of mind, and pray unto him with exceeding faith. . . ." (Jacob 3:1.)

In this dispensation in a revelation given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord said, "Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not." (D&C 6:36.)

#### "Have You Tried Prayer?"

This divinely inspired counsel comes to us today as crystal clear water to a parched earth.

We live in troubled times. Doctors' offices throughout the land are filled with individuals who are beset with emotional problems as well as physical distress. Our divorce courts are doing a land office business because people

#### President Hugh B. Brown:

Elder Richard L. Evans of the Council of the Twelve has just addressed us. The Choir and congregation will now sing "We Thank Thee O God For A Prophet," conducted by Kurt Weinzinger. After the singing Elder Thomas S. Monson of the Council of the Twelve will speak to us.

The Brigham Young University Chorus and the congregation joined in singing the hymn, "We Thank Thee, O God, For A Prophet."

#### President Hugh B. Brown:

Elder Thomas S. Monson of the Council of the Twelve will be our next speaker. He will be followed by Elder Delbert L. Stapley of the Council of the Twelve.

have unsolved problems. Personnel workers and grievance committees in modern industry work long hours in an effort to assist people with their problems. One personnel officer assigned to handle petty grievances concluded an unusually hectic day by placing facetiously a little sign on his desk for those with unsolved problems to read. It read, "Have you tried prayer?"

What that personnel director did not know when he placed such a sign upon his desk was that he was providing counsel and direction which would solve more problems, alleviate more suffering, prevent more transgression, and bring about greater peace and contentment in the human soul than could be obtained in any other way.

A prominent American judge was asked what we as citizens of the countries of the world could do to reduce crime and disobedience to law and to bring peace and contentment into our lives and into our nations. He carefully replied, "I would suggest a return to the old-fashioned practice of family prayer."

### Family Prayer

As a people, aren't we grateful that family prayer is not an out-of-date practice with us? There is no more beautiful sight in all this world than to see a family praying together. The oft-repeated phrase is ever true, "The family that prays together stays together."

The Lord directed that we have family prayer when he said, "Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed." (3 Nephi 18:21.)

Will you join me as we look in on a typical Latter-day Saint family offering prayers unto the Lord? Father, mother, and each of the children kneel, bow their heads and close their eyes. A sweet spirit of love, unity, peace fills the home. As father hears his tiny son pray unto God that his dad will do the right things and be obedient to the Lord's bidding, do you think that such a father would find it difficult to honor the prayer of this precious son? As a teenaged daughter hears her sweet mother plead unto the Lord that her daughter will be inspired in the selection of her companions, that she will prepare herself for temple marriage, don't you believe that such a daughter will seek to honor this humble, pleading petition of her mother whom she so dearly loves? When father, mother, and each of the children earnestly pray that these fine sons in the family will live worthy that they may, in due time, receive a call to serve as ambassadors of the Lord in the mission fields of the Church, don't we begin to see how such sons grow to young manhood with an overwhelming desire to serve as missionaries?

I am sure that family prayer prompted a letter written by a young Latter-day Saint girl attending a Denver, Colorado, high school. The students had been asked to prepare a letter to be written to a great man of their choice. Many addressed their letters to Mickey Mantle, the New York Yankee star of baseball; John Glenn, America's first astronaut; the President of the United States; and other celebrities. This young lady, however, addressed her letter to her father, and in the letter she stated, "I have decided to write this letter to you, Dad, because you are

the greatest man that I have ever known. The overwhelming desire of my heart is that I might so live that I might have the privilege of being beside you and mother and other members of the family in the celestial kingdom." That father has never received a more cherished letter.

### Prayer is the Language of Faith

As we offer unto the Lord our family and our personal prayers, let us do so with faith and trust in him. Let us remember the injunction of Paul to the Hebrews: ". . . for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6.) If any of us has been slow to hearken to the counsel to pray always, there is no finer hour to begin than now. William Cowper declared, "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Saint upon his knees." Those who feel that prayer might denote a physical weakness, remember that a man never stands taller than when he is upon his knees.

We cannot know what faith is if we have never had it, and we cannot obtain it as long as we deny it. Faith and doubt cannot exist in the same mind at the same time, for one will dispel the other.

If our desire is to discard all doubt and to substitute therefor an abiding faith, we have but to accept the invitation extended to you and to me in the Epistle of James.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." (Jas. 1:5-6.)

This promise motivated the young man Joseph Smith to seek God in prayer. He declared to us in his own words,

"At length I came to the conclusion that I . . . must do as James directs, that is, ask of God. I at length came to the determination to 'ask of God,' concluding that if he gave wisdom to them that lacked wisdom, and would give liberally, and not upbraid, I might venture.

"So, in accordance with this, my determination to ask of God, I retired to the woods to make the attempt. . . . It was the first time in my life that I had made such an attempt, for amidst all my anxieties I had never as yet made the attempt to pray vocally." (Joseph Smith 2:13-14.)

Now if we have hesitated in supplicating God our Eternal Father simply because we have not as yet made the attempt to pray, we certainly can take courage from the example of the Prophet Joseph. But let us remember, as did the Prophet, our prayer must be offered in faith, nothing wavering.

It was by faith, nothing wavering, that the Brother of Jared saw the finger of God touch the stones in response to his plea.

It was by faith, nothing wavering, that Noah erected an ark in obedience to the command from God.

It was by faith, nothing wavering, that Abraham was willing to offer up his beloved Isaac as a sacrifice.

It was by faith, nothing wavering, that Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the Red Sea.

It was by faith, nothing wavering, that Joshua and his followers brought the walls of Jericho tumbling down.

It was by faith, nothing wavering, that Joseph saw God our Eternal Father and Jesus Christ his Son.

Now the skeptic may say that these mighty accounts of faith occurred long ago, that times have changed.

#### Source of Spiritual Power

Have times really changed? Don't we today, as always, love our children and want them to live righteously? Don't we today, as always, need God's divine, protecting care? Don't we today, as always, continue to be at his mercy and in his debt for the very life he has given us?

Times have not really changed. Prayer continues to provide power—spiritual power. Prayer continues to provide peace—spiritual peace.

Wherever we may be, our Heavenly Father can hear and answer the prayer offered in faith. This is especially true in the mission fields throughout the world. While presiding under the direction of President McKay over the

Canadian Mission, Sister Monson and I had the opportunity of serving with the finest young men and women in all this world—your missionary sons and daughters. Their very lives exemplified faith and prayer.

There sat in my office one day a newly arrived missionary. He was bright, strong, filled with enthusiasm and a desire to serve, happy and grateful to be a missionary. As I spoke with him I said, "Elder, I imagine that your father and mother wholeheartedly support you in your mission call." He lowered his head and replied, "Well, not quite. You see, President, my father is not a member of the Church. He doesn't believe as we believe, so he cannot fully appreciate the importance of my assignment." Without hesitating and prompted by a source not my own, I said to him, "Elder, if you will honestly and diligently serve God in proclaiming his message, your father will join the Church before your mission is concluded." He clasped my hand in a viselike grip, the tears welled up in his eyes and began to roll forth down his cheeks, and he declared, "To see my father accept the truth would be the greatest blessing that could come into my life."

#### Faith Generates Action

This young man did not sit idly by, hoping and wishing that the promise would be fulfilled, but rather he followed the example of Abraham Lincoln, of whom it has been said, "When he prayed, he prayed as though everything depended upon God, and then he worked as though everything depended upon him." Such was the missionary service of this young man.

At every missionary conference I would seek him out before the meetings would ever commence and ask, "Elder, how's dad progressing?"

His reply would invariably be, "No progress, President, but I know the Lord will fulfil the promise given to me through you as my mission president." The days turned to weeks and the weeks to months and finally, just two weeks before we ourselves left the mission field to return home, I received a letter from the father of this mission-

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ary. I would like to share it with you today.

"Dear Brother Monson:

"I wish to thank you so much for taking such good care of my son who recently completed a mission in Canada.

"He has been an inspiration to us.

"My son was promised when he left on his mission that I would become a member of the Church before his return. This promise was, I believe, made to him by you, unknown to me.

"I am happy to report that I was baptized into the Church one week before he completed his mission and am at present time Athletic Director of the MIA and have a teaching assignment.

"My son is now attending BYU and his younger brother was also recently baptized and confirmed a member of the Church.

"May I again thank you for all the kindness and love bestowed upon my son by his brothers in the mission field during the past two years.

"Yours very truly,  
"A grateful father."

### ELDER DELBERT L. STAPLEY

#### *Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

My brethren and sisters and friends: This has been a glorious conference. The messages have been fitting for this particular day and time in which we live. I have been uplifted, benefited spiritually, and encouraged to go forward in the progress of the great work of our Lord.

When Jesus uttered the words: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3), he expressed a truth at once profound and eternal.

But truth must be sought and understood and lived—otherwise, it is useless. It does not impose itself; it waits to be discovered. It waits to be acted upon by intelligence, wise judgment; but when discovered and utilized, it places one on the road to God—to enjoy a life like unto that of God, which is eternal life. When truth is known in its

The humble prayer of faith had once again been answered.

There is a golden thread that runs through every account of faith from the beginning of the world to the present time. Abraham, Noah, the Brother of Jared, the Prophet Joseph, and countless others were obedient to the will of God. They had ears that could hear, eyes that could see, and hearts that could know and feel.

They never doubted. They trusted.

Through personal prayer, through family prayer, by trusting in God with faith, nothing wavering, we can call down to our rescue his mighty power. His call to us is as it has ever been, "Come unto me. . . ." (Matt. 11:28. Italics added.)

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Hugh B. Brown:

We have just heard from Elder Thomas S. Monson of the Council of the Twelve. We shall now hear from Elder Delbert L. Stapley of the same Council.

entirety, it makes one more Godlike, for God knows and understands all things. This blessed condition is what God wants for all his children, for he has declared: "For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." (Moses 1:39.)

#### Truth leads to Eternal Life

Now, where shall we go to discover the truth, that, when utilized, will bring eternal life? Shall we go to the world's halls of learning, the laboratories of the sciences, the studios of art, the dens of metaphysical speculation? Was it from such institutions that Jesus derived his wisdom respecting mortal life, his understanding of eternal life? No, indeed! Although he did not condemn these interests of men, he never used them. He never even referred to them as essential to life ever-