

therefore, it becomes our responsibility as children and particularly as youth, to heed the teachings that we receive. We have a responsibility to our parents and our home to live the standards that have been set and to follow their advice and counsel. It is our duty as young people to uphold and respect our homes, our priesthood, and our Church. This is a charge and assessment which we cannot afford to ignore. Usually when sorrow, despair, and discouragement come into our lives it is because of our failure to abide by the standards of the Church and keep them foremost in our lives and our minds. It is when we fail in these things that the Adversary has the greatest control over us.

I am grateful for my home, where the simple truths of happiness have been taught, where strength of character and spirit is built, where advice and counsel is given to help make the decisions that create joy and happiness; where the true worth of virtue and clean living is taught; and where values are established that if but followed will lead to eternal life; where parents are honored and where the strength of the priesthood is magnified.

It will be gospel teaching in our homes that will help us make the proper adjustment in society and give us the religious foundation which we need.

Again I am grateful to belong to a Church that has the restored gospel of our Lord and that believes and advocates that it should be taught in the home. I have appreciated the strength

that it has brought me many times in my life. I am thankful for my parents, my brothers and sisters. I am indebted to those who have taught me in my seminary, school work, and priesthood work. I am thankful for the teachings of the gospel and the priesthood that I bear, and I pray that as young people we will be responsive to the teachings of the gospel, that our lives may become enriched and full of joy, that our service to our Father in Heaven and our fellowmen will become more sincere and that our testimonies will become stronger. I testify that my life has always been happier when I have adhered to the standards and principles of the Church as I know the Church and the gospel to be true.

May the Lord help us to live more fully his teachings I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Hugh B. Brown

We wish to thank these two young men for their splendid addresses. They have spoken not only to young men of their own age but to all of us, and I am sure we will all profit by what they have said to us.

I mentioned earlier that we would have a message from President David O. McKay. Preliminary and introductory to his message, the Chorus will now sing "Jesus, My Savior True, Guide Me To Thee," after which Elder David Lawrence McKay will bring us the message from the President.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY

(Read by his son David Lawrence McKay)

Charge to the Priesthood

To the seventy thousand or more priesthood members assembled tonight, I should like to quote the truth and the admonition given by Peter the chief Apostle to the members of the priesthood over nineteen hundred years ago. That chief Apostle wrote these lines and addressed them to the elders of that time:

"... I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

"Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed

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with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

"Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." (1 Peter 5:1-9.)

These instructions are nineteen-hundred-years old, yet new today, and just as applicable as then to the elders of this Church. Peter said they should be "ensamples to the flock." I should just like to ask if that example starts at home. What better place to exercise the lofty ideals of the priesthood?

Gratitude for Parents

The older I grow, the more grateful I am for my parents, for what they did in that old country home. They lived the gospel. Father used to preach it, particularly to visitors who came, more than to us boys and girls; but both Father and Mother lived the gospel. I realize more than ever before that my testimony of the reality of the existence of God dates back to that home when I was a child, and it was through their teachings and their examples that I received, even as a child, the absolute knowledge that God is my Father, that I received then the knowledge of the reality of the spiritual world, and I testify to you tonight that that is a reality.

It is easy for me to accept as a divine truth the fact that Christ preached to the spirits in prison while his body lay in the tomb. It is true. And it is just as easy for me to realize that one may so live that he may receive impressions and direct messages through the Holy Ghost. The veil is thin between those who hold the priesthood and those on the other side of the veil.

Testimony Borne in the Home

That testimony began, was borne in that home, because of the example of a man who lived the priesthood and a

wife who sustained him and lived it in the home. I do not know that Peter had that in mind, particularly, when he mentioned "being ensamples to the flock" (*ibid.*, 5:3), but I do know that each home is a part of that flock. The influence you spread in your home will go throughout the ward, the stake, and then will go throughout the city, the state, the country, and the world.

The most precious thing in the world is a testimony of the truth. Truth never grows old, and the truth is that God is the source of your priesthood and mine, that he lives, that Jesus Christ stands at the head of this Church, and that every man who holds the priesthood, if he lives properly, soberly, industriously, humbly, and prayerfully, is entitled to the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. I know that it is true!

Exemplify Truth in Our Homes

God help us to defend the truth—better than that, *to live it, to exemplify it in our homes*. What we owe to our parents we cannot express. Are you going to have that same influence on your children, you parents—fathers and mothers? Never set an improper example before them. You are men of the priesthood, and you are leaders. Never let them hear a cross word. You should control yourself. He is a weak man who flies into a passion, whether he is working a machine, plowing, or writing, or whatever he may be doing in the home. A man of the priesthood should not fly into a passion. Learn to be dignified.

Home is Transformed by Priesthood Honored

To hold the priesthood of God by divine authority is one of the greatest gifts that can come to a man, and worthiness is of first importance. The very essence of priesthood is eternal. He is greatly blessed who feels the responsibility of representing Deity. He should feel it to such an extent that he would be conscious of his actions and words under all conditions. No man who holds the Holy Priesthood should treat his wife disrespectfully. No man who holds that priesthood should fail to ask the blessings on his food or to kneel with his wife and children and ask for God's

guidance. A home is transformed because a man holds and honors the priesthood. We are not to use it dictatorially, for the Lord has said that ". . . when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man." (D&C 121:37.) That revelation given by the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith is one of the most beautiful lessons in pedagogy or psychology and government ever given, and we should read it over and over again in the 121st section of the Doctrine and Covenants.

The Divine Brotherhood

Let us realize that we are members of the greatest fraternity, the greatest brotherhood—the brotherhood of Christ—in all the world, and do our best each

day, all day, to maintain the standards of the priesthood.

Let us live honest, sincere lives. Let us be honest with ourselves, honest with our brethren, honest with our family, honest with men with whom we deal, always honest, for eyes are upon us, and the foundation of all character rests upon the principles of honesty and sincerity.

God is guiding this Church. Be true to it. Be true to your families, loyal to them. Protect your children. Guide them, not arbitrarily, but through the kind example of a father, a loving mother, and so contribute to the strength of the Church by exercising your priesthood in your home and in your lives, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Hugh B. Brown

I am sure we all remember this inspiring message from our President. Bishop Robert L. Simpson will be our next speaker, please.

BISHOP ROBERT L. SIMPSON

First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

My dear brethren, I feel great strength in the presence of the priesthood. How thrilling it has been to listen to these young men [Grant Pace and Scott Peterson, whose addresses will be published in the *Conference Report*].

The Lord must be very pleased about the prospects for his Church in the future, and, of course, the most gratifying aspect of all is the fact that there are hundreds and hundreds of young men—deacons, teachers, and priests—from all over the Church who could have represented their quorums here tonight with sincerity, with ability, and with a fervent testimony that God lives.

What Gives "Spiritual Dimension"?

What causes a boy to think this way? What is it that gives spiritual dimension during teenage years? Certainly, in the eyes of the world, this type of thinking should come much later in life, but we Mormons seem to be dif-

ferent. These two young men have been obviously well-trained. The academic quality of their talks has been superior. How grateful we are to the public schools and to church activity that have made this excellence possible.

However, the thing that has made these talks truly outstanding is their rich spiritual dimension and sincerity. Truly, this has enabled their messages through the Spirit of the Lord to sink deeply into the hearts and minds of those of us who have been privileged to listen.

Sincere Spirit of Testimony

This is the same sincerity and spirit of testimony that makes a Mormon missionary successful in his field of labor. His discussion, his testimony is not a mere communication of words. It is much more than that. It is a transmittal of the Spirit of God into the hearts of those receptive to his message.