

in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? . . ." (Rom. 10:13-15.)

We hope the seventies will make it possible for them to hear.

Accomplishments through faith

Paul also called to the attention of the Hebrews the great work that had been accomplished by faith by those who had lived in former times. After reviewing these great acts of faith, beginning with righteous Abel and extending throughout Hebrew history, he then said: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Heb. 12:1.)

Should we as seventies do less? Do we not have a greater cloud of witnesses than did Paul? We have his witnesses, and in addition we also have the witnesses of modern times. We have the witness of Joseph Smith, who saw and talked with God the Father and his exalted Son. We have the witness of Brigham Young, of John Taylor, of Wilford Woodruff, and of the remainder of the Prophets of the Lord unto President David O. McKay in our day. We have the witness of the more than 80 apostles, who have done mighty works since the day of Joseph Smith. We have the witness of those who faced the hostile hosts in Missouri and Illinois; and of those, too, who walked with faith into these mountain valleys, offering up their

daily prayers for help and strength and succor. We have the witness of the Church grown strong, and of its hundreds of thousands of happy members.

Witness of living testimony

But most of all we have the witness which enters into the heart of each of us, the living testimony given by the power of the Holy Ghost. Let us not fail to bear that witness. And, too, let us not fail to make it possible for the witness to be borne through the warming love of friendship.

There have been times when we thought that if we approached a man and he, hostile because of stories he had heard about us, or suspicious because we were strangers, rebuffed us, then we had done our duty by shaking off the dust of our feet against him. We have not done that duty until we have given him a fair chance to learn that his prejudices are unfounded. To find families and show them by our love that we are truly followers of Jesus Christ is our manifest duty. Let us not shirk or falter, but let us carry the message to these worthy and good people in our midst.

I bear my witness that the gospel is once again on the earth brought by angels, as John on Patmos declared it would be; that Joseph Smith was its first restoring Prophet; and that President McKay is its present living Prophet. The Lord Jesus Christ lives and is the author of our salvation and our exaltation. We need but to believe and follow his teachings to gain a place in his kingdom. May we do so I pray in his name. Amen.

Elder Richard L. Evans

Of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

May I first cite some lines written for a recent purpose:

Young people sometimes seem to decide to go it alone in life. They learn a little and feel they have learned much more, and often fail to seek

counsel because they think they already know the answer—or at least the one they want. But none of us—at any age—is ever so old or so young, so knowledgeable or so self-assured, that he doesn't need counsel.

When a person of much experience and much responsibility fails to seek or accept counsel, he has arrived at a precarious place. When a person of inexperience feels he doesn't need to listen, doesn't need to learn, he too has arrived at a precarious place.

"They that will not be counselled," said Benjamin Franklin, "cannot be helped. If you do not hear reason, she will rap you on the knuckles."

Safety in counsel

No one is knowledgeable enough or has perspective enough to think of everything at once, to see all possible meanings in a clause or contract or commitment, or to be aware of all the hazards, or to see all sides of a subject.

No one should write a letter of serious commitment, put anything into print, or make a decision of consequence—in matters of marriage, money, career—or be enticed to sign or say yes to any plausible proposition, or make any quick or substantial commitment of any kind without considering, reconsidering, and seeking adequate counsel.

Successful people need counsel. Unsuccessful people need counsel.

The hasty impulse, the know-it-all attitude, the pride that keeps us from asking—these are dangerous approaches to any problem. From the youngest in years to the oldest of age, there is no one who can be always sure he is right, no one who has learned so much of life that he doesn't need the counsel of others and a prayerful approach to all problems. "Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings," said Alma, "and he will direct thee for good. . . ." (Al. 37:37.)

There is safety in counsel, no safety without it. "They that will not be counselled, cannot be helped." ("The Spoken Word," February 25, 1968.)

All need counsel

Now to turn to some other facets of the subject:

All of us have decisions to make. All of us need help. All of us would be in trouble if we didn't counsel with others. We need the judgment

and experience of others. We need to consult competent counsel when we have an illness. We need counsel when we have a problem—and, sometimes more important, before we have a bigger problem.

We cannot emphasize too much the importance of sincerely seeking counsel, and not trying to go it alone in life.

Counsel in church assignments

The First Presidency sit in counsel. We have a Council of the Twelve, the Council of the Seventy. We counsel with each other—continually—long hours each week. We try earnestly, prayerfully, searchingly to consider all sides of the policies, the procedures, the problems that come before us. We counsel with the President, whom we sustain in the weighty obligations and decisions that come with his calling. All, or any one of us, would be in difficulty, and so would the work be, if we were to venture out as individuals with new programs, new policies, in supposed self-sufficiency.

Virtually all presiding positions in all the quorums and organizations of the Church call for counselors. This is not by chance, and it is significant that it should be so. Presidents, bishops, quorum presidents, you who head up all the organizations: Use your counselors. They are there to function, and not merely for form.

You may remember President McKay's counsel at the October conference:

"Let us, too, recognize the local authority," he said. "The bishop may be a humble man. Some of you may think you are superior to him, and you may be, but he is given authority direct from our Father in heaven. Recognize it. Seek his advice and the advice of your stake president. If they cannot answer your difficulties or your problems, they will write to the General Authorities and get the advice needed. Recognition of authority is an important principle." (*The Improvement Era*, Vol. 70 [December 1967], p. 34.)

Counsel from the past

We ought to seek counsel also from the prophets of the past, and the counsel God has given, by searching the scriptures, thoughtfully, prayerfully. Often the answers we are seeking are already there.

We ought also to counsel with conscience, and listen to the promptings of the Spirit. Our Father has not left us alone, and when we go against the counsel of the still, small voice of conscience, we have reason to regret.

An interesting sentence recently read has lodged in my mind: "What's the use of running when you're on the wrong road?" We had better do our best to be sure we are on the right road before we run in any direction.

The accumulated experience of the ages is a source of counsel and a very precious part of the heritage we have.

We can't go back and begin at the beginning. Trial and error, what others have gone through, history, have told us much. We know what happens when nations and people personally ignore moral standards, virtues, honesty. The counsel of the past is not to be ignored.

The source of security

To you, beloved and respected young people of the Church, and all others also: The commandments are still in force. Preparation, character, competence are still the source of security. Proceed with your preparation; keep your mental and physical and spiritual faculties in balance and at their best. Don't acquire harmful habits or use things that would distort or dull your senses.

Have faith. Work, study, prepare. Don't let yourself drift into the kind of company where the counsels are evil, or be misled by influences that would downgrade manners and morals. Live so as to have peace and self-respect. Don't give way to the permissive looseness that leads to the quicksand of life.

Common ground for parents and children

Now, may I recall some words writ-

ten as a plea for parents and children to come to common ground:

It is an odd thing, in a way, how each generation seems to feel that each preceding generation is somewhat old-fashioned—how each generation listens impatiently to the lessons of the last. Youth is so sure the rules have changed. Age is sure they haven't. Youth feels it knows how far it can go. Age is deeply aware of the danger. Youth feels it can always apply the brakes in time to save itself. Age knows it isn't always so. And so parents frequently find themselves groping, reaching, pleading, trying to say what should be said, in a way that will not be misunderstood, in a way that will not seem meddlesome. And always there is need for parents and children to come to common ground, and to say to one another what should so much be said. And so we would plead this day with parents and with children to be more understanding with one another.

To you as parents, remember when you were young; remember why you wanted to do some things you wanted to do; remember how eager you were for social acceptance, how sensitive you were to ill-timed criticism, and how easily your hearts could be hurt, and how some things, which now seem less important, once mattered very much. All this as parents we ask you to remember.

Basic rules unchanged

And now to you, our children, to you in your youth: Why should you suppose that the basic rules have really changed in the few short years since your parents were as young as you? The road seems new to you. It isn't new to them. They've been over it. They are still traveling it, and it is still essentially the same. We have more; we move faster; we have acquired some things and lost others—but it is still true that causes are always followed by consequences.

And as you ask your parents to remember this of you, will you also remember this of them: that they were young, not very long ago, as you are

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young today—that they once thought your thoughts; that they once felt they too had found new ways, and felt your longings for flight and freedom—and since have learned the wisdom of restraint.

Counsel with parents

Remember, too, that parents have hearts that can be hurt; that they, like you, are sensitive to ill-timed criticism and to misunderstanding of their motives. Remember that there is nothing, in righteousness, they would not do for you. They are yours and you are theirs, and you and they together have the privilege, the right, the duty, to sit down and share your thoughts and consider your decisions with one another, that both of you together may be listened to and respected—and work, and pray and plan together for the wholeness of your happiness—always and forever. (“The Spoken Word,” April 17, 1966.)

Those who have given you life, who have reared you in love, deserve your confidence, your consideration. They deserve to sit with you in counsel—for your own sake and for theirs.

May our Father help us to come together in the spirit of love and understanding, working out the problems and the great possibilities, and to keep close in counsel.

Live by God's light

This is God's work. We are his children. He sent his Only Begotten Son to redeem us from death and show us the way to eternal life. His gospel is restored. Its power and purpose are with us, and the way is plain, if we will only seek and accept counsel in love and reverence and respect, and live by the light God has given.

To this end may we seek and accept his help, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President Joseph Fielding Smith

Elder Richard L. Evans of the Council of the Twelve has been our concluding speaker.

I hold in my hand a Western Union telegram from Paris, France, in which

this statement is made: “We here in the French Mission thank you. Every session coming through clearly. How grateful we are.”

I am almost tempted to say that we are living in a wonderful age, when brethren as far off say as France know what is going on here in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

This evening at 7 o'clock the General meeting of the priesthood of the Church will be held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. Priesthood members only are invited to be present.

In addition to the overflow meeting in the Assembly Hall, the proceedings of the priesthood meeting this evening will be relayed by closed-circuit broadcast, originating in the Tabernacle, to members of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood assembled in approximately 500 separate locations in all parts of the United States and Canada. It is estimated that approximately ten thousand holders of the priesthood will be on Temple Square, and approximately ninety-five thousand others will gather in the other locations from coast to coast and in Canada.

Proceedings of the priesthood meeting also will be broadcast publicly over KSL Radio and Television, and will be received by many throughout Utah and in parts of other adjoining states.

The Sunday morning session will be broadcast by many radio and television stations in the west; and by short-wave in English over Station WNYW to Europe, South America, Central America, Mexico, Africa, and parts of Asia.

Again, 30 radio stations will broadcast the translated conference sessions on Sunday morning in major cities of Mexico and Central America, together with Spanish programming stations in this country, to a potential Latin American audience of three million people.

This morning's and tomorrow morning's sessions will be carried by direct wire from the Tabernacle over oceanic cables to a large number of members and friends assembled in chapels throughout Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Holland, Sweden, and Norway.

The CBS Radio Network Tabernacle Choir Broadcast tomorrow morning