

Jacob de Jager of the First Quorum of the Seventy, who is Supervisor of the Southeast Asia-Philippines Area.

The congregation and choir will now join in singing, "Now Let Us Rejoice."

After the singing, Elder James E. Faust of the First Council of the Seventy will speak to us.

The Choir and congregation sang, "Now Let Us Rejoice."

President Romney

Elder James E. Faust of the First Council of the Seventy and Supervisor of the South America East Area, will now address us. He will be followed by Elder O. Leslie Stone of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

Elder James E. Faust

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I join with all in acknowledging the greatness of President S. Dilworth Young and his associates of the First Council of the Seventy. I am humbled and honored to be invited to serve in that council and in the First Quorum as well.

South America

It has been interesting to return to this country from South America and see the billboards and signs memorializing a revolution in this country which happened two hundred years ago. In the world I think we need fewer revolutions and more revelations. In my opinion, the greatest change in South America is a spiritual revolution which is coming about as a result of the influence of this Church and of the temple now under construction in São Paulo—and that influence is all within the counsel of Paul to the Ephesians: "the perfecting of the saints, . . . the unity of the faith, and . . . the knowledge of the Son of God." (Eph. 4:12, 13.)

There is a great humility and timidity in my soul as I presume to speak about coming to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world and the Son of God.

Personal relationship with the Savior

Recently in South America, a seasoned group of outstanding missionaries was asked, "What is the greatest need in the world?" One wisely responded: "Is not the greatest need in all of the world for every person to have a personal, ongoing, daily, continuing relationship with the Savior?" Having such a relationship can unchain the divinity within us, and nothing can make a greater difference in our lives as we come to know and understand our divine relationship with God.

We should earnestly seek not just to know about the Master, but to strive, as He invited, to be one with Him (see John 17:21), to "be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man" (Eph. 3:16). We may not feel a closeness with Him because we think of Him as being far away, or our relationship may not be sanctifying because we do not think of Him as a real person.

How can we receive the personal blessing of the Master's divine and exalting influence in our own lives? Since our own feelings are sacred to us and cannot be disputed by others, let us begin with those quiet assurances which

occasionally can come to all of us and which we know are true. We cannot always prove these verities to others, yet they come as a form of knowledge. Is this part of the divine which ferments within us, reaching to its source? Is it not like a personal witness of truth flowing through the thin curtain which separates this world from another?

Is there not a yearning to understand in your mind what is in your heart, a feeling which you cannot give utterance to because it is so unspeakably personal? The Master said that this quiet reality can "speak peace to your mind concerning the matter." (D&C 6:23.)

May I suggest five beginning, essential measures which will greatly clear the channel for a daily flow of "living water" from the very source of the spring, even the Redeemer Himself.

Daily communion

First: A daily communion involving prayer. A fervent, sincere prayer is a two-way communication which will do much to bring His Spirit flowing like healing water to help with the trials, hardships, aches, and pains we all face. What is the quality of our secret prayers when only He listens? As we pray, we should think of Him as being close by, full of knowledge, understanding, love, and compassion, the essence of power, and as having great expectations of each of us.

Selfless service

Second: A daily selfless service to another. The followers of the divine Christ have to be weighed on the scales of what their actions are rather than on solemn professions of belief. The true measure is found in Matthew: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these . . . , ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40.) A wise man observed, "The man who lives by himself and for himself is apt to be corrupted by

the company he keeps." (Charles Henry Parkhurst, quoted in *The International Dictionary of Thoughts*, Chicago: J.G. Ferguson, 1969, p. 659.)

Obedience

Third: A daily striving for an increased obedience and perfection in our lives. "What manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am," said the Savior. (3 Ne. 27:27.) Because of the perfect atonement of Jesus, just men may be made perfect. (See D&C 76:69.)

Acknowledge divinity

Fourth: A daily acknowledgment of His divinity. To have a daily, personal relationship with the Master, we must be His disciples. "For how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?" (Mosiah 5:13.)

Study scriptures

Fifth: A daily study of the scriptures. President Kimball has said: "I find that when I get casual in my relationships with divinity and when it seems that no divine ear is listening and no divine voice is speaking, that I am far, far away. If I immerse myself in the scriptures, the distance narrows and the spirituality returns." ("What I Hope You Will Teach My Grandchildren . . .," address to seminary and institute personnel, July 11, 1966.)

Eyewitnesses

For those who have honest doubts let us hear what eyewitnesses had to say about Jesus of Nazareth. The ancient apostles were there. They saw it all. They participated. No one is more worthy of belief than they. Said Peter: "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known

unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." (2 Pet. 1:16.) Said John: "For we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world." (John 4:42.) Modern-day witnesses, Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, declared: "For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father." (D&C 76:23.)

Peter counsels us to be "partakers of the divine nature." (2 Pet. 1:4.) The influence and teaching of the Messiah should have a transcendence over all other interests and concerns in our lives. We must constantly be reaching upward for the riches of eternity, for the kingdom of God is within us. (See Luke 17:21.)

Love of God

Speaking through the Doctrine and Covenants, God promises that you may be told in your minds and in your hearts, of whatsoever you ask, by the Holy Ghost. (See D&C 8:1-2.)

By sanctifying yourselves, the day will come when "he will unveil his face unto you." (D&C 88:68.) "If your eye be single to [His] glory, your whole bodies shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in you; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things." (D&C 88:67.)

In the many trials of life, when we feel abandoned and when sorrow, sin, disappointment, failure, and weakness make us less than we should ever be, there can come the healing salve of the unreserved love in the grace of God. It is a love that forgives and forgets, a love that lifts and blesses. It is a love that sustains a new beginning on a higher level and thereby continues "from grace to grace." (D&C 93:13.)

Spiritual knowledge

President Kimball has said: "The

spiritual knowledge of truth is the electric light illuminating the cavern; the wind and sun dissipating the fog. . . . It is the mansion on the hill replacing the shack in the marshes; the harvester shelving the sickle and cradle. . . . It is the rich nourishing kernels of corn instead of the husks. . . . It is much more than all else. . . ." (Spencer W. Kimball, *Faith Precedes the Miracle*, Deseret Book Co., 1972, p. 14.)

During the years of my life, and often in my present calling, and especially during a recent Gethsemane, I have gone to my knees with a humble spirit to the only place I could for help. I often went in agony of spirit, earnestly pleading with God to sustain me in the work I have come to appreciate more than life itself. I have, on occasion, felt the terrible aloneness of the wounds of the heart, of the sweet agony, the buffetings of Satan, and the encircling warm comfort of the Spirit of the Master.

I have also felt the crushing burden, the self-doubts of inadequacy and unworthiness, the fleeting feeling of being forsaken, then of being reinforced an hundredfold. I have climbed a spiritual Mount Sinai dozens of times seeking to communicate and to receive instructions. It has been as though I have struggled up an almost real Mount of Transfiguration and upon occasion felt great strength and power in the presence of the Divine. A special sacred feeling has been a sustaining influence and often a close companion.

Spiritual stamina

It is my testimony that we are facing difficult times. We must be courageously obedient. My witness is that we will be called upon to prove our spiritual stamina, for the days ahead will be filled with affliction and difficulty. But with the assuring comfort of a personal relationship with the Savior, we will be given a calming courage. From the Divine so near we will receive the quiet assurance:

"My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment;

"And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes." (D&C 121:7-8.)

Knowledge of the Savior

As I come to a new calling, I recognize that I am a very ordinary man. Yet I gratefully acknowledge one special gift. I have a certain knowledge that Jesus of Nazareth is our Divine Savior. I know that He lives. From my earliest recollection I have had a sure perception of this. As long as I have lived, I have had a simple faith that has never doubted. I have not always understood, yet still I have known through a knowledge that is so sacred to me that I cannot give utterance to it.

I know and I testify with an absolute awareness in every fiber and innermost recess of my being that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Divine Redeemer, and the Son of God. May we be obedient to His wish, "Come unto me thy Savior" (D&C 19:41). I pray humbly in His holy and sacred name. Amen.

President Marion G. Romney

Elder James E. Faust, who is a member of the First Council of the Seventy and supervisor of the South American East Area, has just addressed us.

Elder O. Leslie Stone of the First Quorum of the Seventy will now speak to us. He will be followed by Elder Henry D. Taylor of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

Elder O. Leslie Stone

Of the First Quorum of the Seventy

My dear brothers and sisters and friends, during the few moments assigned to me, I would like to talk about the responsibilities of parents in the rearing of their children.

"The greatest trust"

To begin I would like to quote President David O. McKay as he had this to say about the responsibility of parents:

"It is said that 'to be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved.' The greatest trust that can come to a man and woman is the placing in their keeping the life of a little child.

"If a man defaults who is entrusted with other people's funds—whether he be a bank, municipal, or state official—he is apprehended and probably sent to

prison. If a person entrusted with a government secret discloses that secret and betrays his country, he is called a traitor.

"What must the Lord think, then, of parents who, through their own negligence or wilful desire to indulge their selfishness fail properly to rear their children, and thereby prove untrue to the greatest trust that has been given to human beings?" (*Treasures of Life*, Deseret Book Company, 1965, p. 71.)

Delinquent parents

And then he said that among delinquent parents are these:

1. Those who quarrel in the presence of their children;
2. Those who pollute the home atmosphere with vulgarity and profanity;