

Share testimony to help others find peace

After the Savior taught His disciples of the peace He would leave with them and the Comforter He would send from the Father, He charged them by saying, "And ye also shall bear witness."⁷ He taught that "herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit."⁸

Brothers and sisters, there are many on the earth who desire a witness of truth and earnestly seek the peace and joy promised by the Savior, but "who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men . . . and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it."⁹

We live in a world where many hear of Christ but do not know Him. It is incumbent upon us as members of the Church to share our testimony with others. In humility we bear witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If they will but open their hearts to Him, they will find the reassurance, the peace and joy that His gospel brings. They will find strength to meet the challenges of life in a difficult world, and by accepting His teachings and keeping His command-

ments they will be heirs to His promised blessings.

To this I bear my humble witness in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

NOTES

1. *Gospel Ideals* (1953), 396.
2. Hoyt W. Brewster Jr., *Doctrine and Covenants Encyclopedia* (1988), 287.
3. Philippians 4:7.
4. John 15:10-11.
5. In Conference Report, Apr. 1970, 14; or *Improvement Era*, June 1970, 37.
6. *The Miracle of Forgiveness* (1969), 363.
7. John 15:27.
8. John 15:8.
9. Doctrine and Covenants 123:12.

President Monson

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has just spoken to us, followed by Elder Ronald T. Halverson of the Seventy.

Our next speaker will be Elder Earl M. Monson, who was sustained as a member of the Seventy at April conference. He will be followed by the choir and congregation singing "I Am a Child of God."

Elder Earl M. Monson

Establishing the Church

The Book of Mormon testifies of the resurrected Savior ministering to the Nephites. He included in His teachings some things about the latter days: "I shall gather in, from their long dispersion, my people . . . and shall establish again among them my Zion."¹

The prophet Daniel "foresaw and foretold the establishment of the kingdom of God in the latter days."² In this dispensation the Lord has declared, "If this generation harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them."³

There are many references which confirm this is the time for His Church to be established in preparation for His Second Coming. We are the ones with the special opportunity of helping build His kingdom once again. I offer prayers of gratitude that I have any part in this work which has been spoken of for centuries by many prophets and the Lord Himself.

Establishing His Church is a unique assignment. We must take the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people in their own language without defiling the purity of the message. The Church must help de-

velop leaders of integrity—leaders from whom honest people everywhere can receive inspired guidance. The Church has an equal obligation for all who have lived, who now live, and who will yet live on this earth. The Church must teach correct laws and ordinances, in the Lord's way, which qualify the obedient believer for eternal life. There are many other requirements familiar to us that make the task of establishing such a church seem overwhelming, but such is the assignment from the Lord.

Comparison with building temples

And how is such a church established? On a much smaller scale, I know what it takes to build a beautiful temple, and it is more than detailed plans or quality materials. It requires skillful workers in every part of the process, each one doing his best work in a united effort. I also know that the leadership of an inspired prophet is vital in building lovely temples, as it is in every other part of this great work. I dearly cherish the special opportunities I have had to see inspiration and the Spirit of the Lord flow through President Hinckley. He is truly a prophet for this time.

As in building temples, dedicated workers are a necessary part of establishing the Lord's kingdom on earth. The work moves well if each one has a driving conviction in his heart and mind that Jesus Christ is the head of this Church, that He truly lives and guides this work, and that all of us have an important part in bringing it to pass. We must be willing to learn gospel principles, practice them, and pray about them with sincere hearts, with real intent and having faith in Christ. Then comes the assurance that the principles are true. And with true conversion comes an excitement about being part of this great work.

Strength based on personal testimony

It is an interesting thought that the Lord has declared this is the time to establish His Church, and then to realize it happens as each of us develops a firm, unwavering testimony of the truthfulness of its precepts. The Church can build temples, send missionaries throughout the world, and do marvelous humanitarian acts, but it still comes to what exists in our own thoughts and feelings and actions as to how solidly it is established. Will the good news of the gospel be shared with our neighbors; will new converts be warmly fellowshipped; will the temples be filled with dedicated patrons doing work for their ancestry; will families learn to live on a celestial level—all because we have a pure love for our Father in Heaven, His teachings, and His children?

President Kimball declared that the kingdom of God, which we seek to establish, "can only be done through consistent and concerted daily effort by every single member of the Church."⁴

The wonderful part is that every person devoted to the establishment of the latter-day Church of Jesus Christ receives innumerable and eternal blessings. It has been said that "the greatest waste in the world is the difference between what we are and what we may become."⁵ The gospel is at the heart of what we may become and how to get there. With that help we are able to live in this world while separating ourselves from that which is debasing, and we can become better people while we are here.

Choose the better part

Most of us want to live pure lives and contribute, yet we still falter occasionally. Perhaps it helps to reflect on Solomon's observation that as a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he."⁶ It is my privilege to

know many who have focused their thoughts on the wholesome and the pure things of life. They ponder on the scriptures, and they strive to magnify callings given to them. The gospel becomes a way of life, and over time they evidence peace and tranquillity in themselves and bless greatly those around them.

We may not appreciate the capacity of our minds to absorb and remember if we think it doesn't matter what books or movies or other activities are fed into it. The Lord wisely told us to seek first for the kingdom of God, and then other desirable things will also come to us.

Elder Sterling W. Sill noted that "the mind, like the dyer's hand, is colored by what it holds." That is, if I hold in my hand . . . purple dye, my hand becomes purple."⁷ Those who help establish the Church know what is bad, but they consistently choose the better part and fill their minds with pure thoughts. Establishing the kingdom of God on the earth depends on individual members of the Church using their God-given agency to think and say and act in keeping with the gospel of Jesus Christ at all times.

Those who feel they are too busy or have too many problems to be part of this work are likely the ones who would receive the greatest benefit from wholehearted participation. And the valuable service they could give would greatly bless others as well.

Now is the time to establish the Lord's Church by securing a confirmation of the truthfulness of the gospel in

our own hearts and doing what priesthood leaders ask of us. As we do so, we can come to know the personal blessings found in a great plan of happiness. We will come to know our Savior and what He has done for us and feel His great love. A sweet assurance of what is truth comes into our lives. We will sense that we are an important part of an eternal cause. We will truly enjoy the leadership of a wonderful prophet and other great leaders. Our lives can be filled with the peace of the Lord and the benefit of having His Church solidly established on this earth. Of this I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

NOTES

1. 3 Nephi 21:1.
2. Doctrine and Covenants 138:44.
3. Doctrine and Covenants 10:53.
4. In Conference Report, Apr. 1978, 122; or *Ensign*, May 1978, 81.
5. Anonymous.
6. Proverbs 23:7.
7. In Conference Report, Oct. 1954, 28.

The choir and congregation sang "I Am a Child of God."

President Monson

We will now be pleased to hear from Elder Merrill C. Oaks of the Seventy. He will be followed by Elder Gordon T. Watts of the Seventy. Elder Oaks and Elder Watts were sustained as members of the Seventy at the April conference.

Elder Merrill C. Oaks

Continuing revelation is essential

Just over two years before his death, the Prophet Joseph Smith published the Articles of Faith. The ninth article of faith states, "We believe all that God has

revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God." I will speak concerning the final sentence, "He will