

you might even want to wiggle your tie just to remind yourself of your important mission ahead. May you stand straight and noble in your callings.

I pray that you young people will develop a reverence for sacred things, a respect for your elders, and a willingness to keep the commandments. I pray that you will learn to know of the Savior and have an ever-growing understanding of His Atonement. I ask the Lord to help you throughout your life to join your testimony with those of today's living prophets and apostles, who have declared:

"We bear testimony, as His duly ordained Apostles—that Jesus is the Living Christ, the immortal Son of God. He is the great King Immanuel, who stands today on the right hand of His Father. He is the light, the life, and the hope of the world. His way is the path that leads to happiness in this life and eternal life in the world to come. God be thanked for

the matchless gift of His divine Son" ("The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles," *Ensign*, Apr. 2000, 3).

To this I also testify and witness in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### President Hinckley

President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has spoken to us, followed by Elder Harold G. Hillam of the Presidency of the Seventy.

The choir and congregation will now sing "How Firm a Foundation." Sister Coleen K. Menlove, Primary general president, will then speak to us. She will be followed by Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

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The choir and congregation sang "How Firm a Foundation."

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## Sister Coleen K. Menlove

### Obtaining happiness

Children love stories. As a child I was immediately drawn into stories that started with the words "Once upon a time." These stories often ended with "They lived happily ever after." I have a feeling that children are not the only ones who are intrigued by those phrases. We each long to have the "once upon a time" of our lives filled with so much happiness that it becomes the "happily ever after" of our hopes and dreams.

We are living in our "once upon a time." We are experiencing a mortal probation now during our turn on earth. In our premortal existence, "all the sons of God shouted for joy" (Job 38:7) as we accepted the great eternal plan of happiness. We happily anticipated coming to earth to have opportunities to grow spiritually. "Men are, that they might have

joy" (2 Nephi 2:25). The opportunity is here and now to obtain happiness that extends beyond our earth life; however, we need to know what it is and where to find it.

### Happiness results from obedience

In the Book of Mormon, Lehi explained to his son Jacob that happiness is a result of obedience. He told Jacob that eternal laws have both punishments and opportunities for happiness attached to them. When we disobey God's laws, we suffer the punishments, but when we obey, we reap the happiness (see 2 Nephi 2:10). Part of what creates happiness is the absence of regret, guilt, and sin.

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught, "Happiness is the object and design of our existence; and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it;

Elder Richard G. Scott said, "Your joy in life depends upon your trust in Heavenly Father and His holy Son, your conviction that their plan of happiness truly can bring you joy" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1996, 32; or *Ensign*, May 1996, 24).

Through the Savior we can find our way back to God. We can find peace and happiness in this life and eternal joy in the world to come. That thought, in and of itself, warms my heart and makes me smile.

## Elder Dallin H. Oaks

The book of Job poses the universal question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). The question of resurrection from the dead is a central subject of scripture, ancient and modern. The resurrection is a pillar of our faith. It adds meaning to our doctrine, motivation to our behavior, and hope for our future.

### The Resurrection of Jesus

The universal resurrection became a reality with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (see Matthew 27:52-53). On the third day after His death and burial, Jesus came forth out of the tomb. He appeared to several men and women, and then to the assembled Apostles. Three of the Gospels describe this event. Luke is the most complete:

"Jesus . . . saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

"But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

"And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a

### Radiate a glad heart

As we come to understand the great plan of happiness, we will radiate, for all the world to see, a glad heart and a cheerful countenance. We will show that we know the gospel of Jesus Christ is a simple, ever-present source of true happiness today and ever after in eternity. It is living the gospel of Jesus Christ that is our guarantee of living "happily ever after." Of this I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. . . .

"Then opened he their understanding, . . .

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day" (Luke 24:36-39, 45-46).

The Savior gave the Apostles a second witness. Thomas, one of the Twelve, had not been with them when Jesus came. He insisted that he would not believe unless he could see and feel for himself. John records:

"And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

"Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

"And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:26-29).