

Tender Mercies of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 2017

Issue #4

Newsletter for Latter-day Saint brothers and sisters in prison, and also those imprisoned who are not members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, yet seek spiritual enrichment and the Savior's peace.

*"...the **tender mercies** of the Lord are over all those whom He hath chosen, because of their faith..." (1 Nephi 20)*

From the Editor: My dear brothers and sisters, how I love each of you! The Savior loves each of you more than will ever be expressed in mere words. He was born into this world to give YOU comfort and joy. Oh

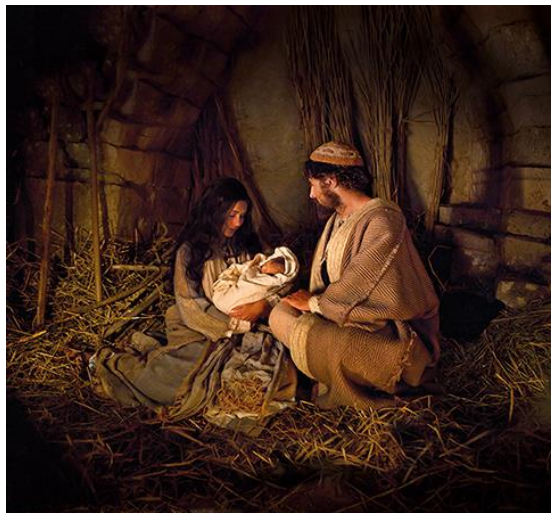
what joy you bring your Savior as you turn to Him in your happy moments and your sorrows, in your accomplishments and your attempts, in your moments of peace and your moments of trial.

His love for all of us is without bounds. He wants to see you succeed and grow and become your best eternal self. Because of the life of this one man, all can repent and be cleansed from all sin through repentance. All of us are going to live forever throughout eternity. Our choices, whether they be good or otherwise, have no impact upon the reality of living forever after this life. Every one of us, by virtue of being on this earth and having a body, are guaranteed the promise of living forever in the next life, (or the next stage of our creation). Our choices while in this life will, however,

have an impact upon the joy we experience in the next life. The scriptures teach us that "no unclean thing can dwell with God" (1 Nephi 10:21). They also teach that we all sin: "If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Thus, if we all sin and no unclean

thing can dwell in God's presence, then we are all lost... That would be true if not for the birth of the Savior we celebrate this month. The Lord Jesus Christ gave His life as a price for our eternal lives. He remarkably paid for our sins so that we can be clean

and free of sin and error through repentance. I am overcome when I ponder the immense love the Lord Jesus Christ displayed as He suffered, bled, and died for each of us. His suffering ended on the cross, but



was far more excruciating in the Garden of Gethsemane; as He took upon Himself all of the sins and pains of each of us. He is your elder brother. We are his younger brothers and sisters. For countless untold years we dwelt with Him before coming to this earth. We loved Him and He loved us. We associated with Him regularly. We knew before the earth was created that He would be our Redeemer and Savior, that through His

sacrifice the doors of repentance would be open to all if we would but choose it. This way, all of us who would repent would be cleansed from our uncleanness. We would therefore no longer remain unclean and could then enter the presence of Heavenly Father and our elder brother Jesus. He suffered for us in Gethsemane and upon the cross because He knows us!



He loves us because He knows us! He knows YOU and loves YOU. YOU KNEW HIM! YOU KNOW HIM! I testify to all who will read these words that the Savior is REAL. I have felt His powerful and unmistakable Spirit through prayer in response to my own heartfelt inquiries on numerous occasions.

I haven't a single doubt as to the reality of the Savior. You too can know with certainty. Keep praying, keep reading your scriptures and attending church. Your own assurances are coming!

— Brother D.

We are indeed blessed this month! Our feature message is from an active-duty Navy Seal. This brother is home briefly for Christmas and agreed to take just a few precious moments from his sweet wife and children to address you. This is a huge sacrifice to him, his wife, and his children. But, he “believes in you!” I pray you read his testimony carefully and therefore feel his love for Heavenly Father, the Savior, and now... YOU. As he is still an active duty Navy Seal, his name is withheld by request.



Welcome my brothers and sisters who are presently incarcerated. I am so grateful to Brother Holliman for giving me the opportunity to address you in his newsletter. I am a Navy Seal. I serve as a Bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The gospel has played a magnificent role in the missions I have accomplished. All of the members of my family are very proud Americans. My parents were born in Mexico. I was born in Los Angeles California. I am a Chicano. I am proud of my Latino heritage, and I love the United States of America. This is my country. This is my

home and the home of my loved ones. We have been very blessed here. In the mid 2000's the Sister missionaries came to my barrio in Bellflower, Los Angeles. My parents were very devout Catholics who attended church numerous times each week. But, the message of these angels from Heaven touched my father and my mother, most of my brothers and sisters, and me. I had been a gang member since age 13. I had been in much trouble with the law. When the missionaries came I was about 18 years old and the Spirit spoke to my soul testifying of the truthfulness of the Gospel. I remember the sister missionaries encouraging me to read the Book of Mormon. Before I did they had me read the following passage from Moroni 10:3-5:

“Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts. And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.”

I prayed about the Book of Mormon and the Holy Ghost did testify to me that it was true. This began a lifetime of spiritual manifestations that have both kept me alive and literally saved the lives of the men I serve with. I was so anxious to be baptized. After a few weeks my father, my mother, most of my brothers and sisters, and I were all baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One year later we entered the Lord's Temple in Los Angeles and we were sealed together as a family for all of eternity. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, as taught in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true. During my conversion and countless times since, I have experienced the witness of the Holy Ghost that is like no other. Because of that witness I know that God is real and that He loves us, that He loves me, and that He loves you. I want to share an experience with you from a mission I was part of recently. We received orders to rescue three civilians from a terrorist cell. We had been given pertinent information from a local. This individual met with us several times and his information greatly enhanced our action plan. We watched the location for 48 hours. We were finally given the order to execute the mission. When we arrived at the rendezvous location where we would stage the mission prior to entry, this individual told me quietly that there would be opposition to the East and that we must enter to the West. This was then carefully orchestrated and



trained for. Upon the Captain's order we entered. As I began to lead my men to the West the Spirit told me that we would walk into an ambush if we went West, and that I must lead my men to the East. I quickly changed my direction and signaled the men to follow suit. The mission was a success because the Spirit gave me life-saving direction. The lives of my men were spared, and the civilians were safely returned to loving and grateful family members. My men were amazed and asked me how I knew. I answered "intuition," but a more complete and accurate answer is direct Spiritual inspiration from the Holy Ghost.

Brothers and sisters, I know that you are in prison, I can't imagine the difficult scenarios you may encounter daily. In your unique trials, I can promise you that the Lord will guide you also through the Holy Ghost as you strive to live a clean life. In October 2015 General Conference, President Eyring said:

"We can, if we live worthy of it, have the blessing of the Spirit to be with us, not only now and then but always,... to always have the Spirit with us is to have the guidance and direction of the Holy Ghost in our daily lives. We can, for instance, be warned by the Spirit...."

I have experienced the truth of this promise. I have received guidance and promptings from the Holy Ghost at many critical junctures and in literal life or death situations in my military service.

President Eyring went on to say:

"Just as the Holy Ghost strengthens us against evil, He also gives us the power to discern truth from falsehood. *The truth that matters most is verified only by revelation from God. Our human reason and the use of our physical senses will not be enough. We live in a time when even the wisest will be hard-pressed to distinguish truth from clever deception.*" (Italics/underline added)

I would feel ill-equipped to overcome the great adversity encountered in the missions I serve as a Navy Seal without the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost.

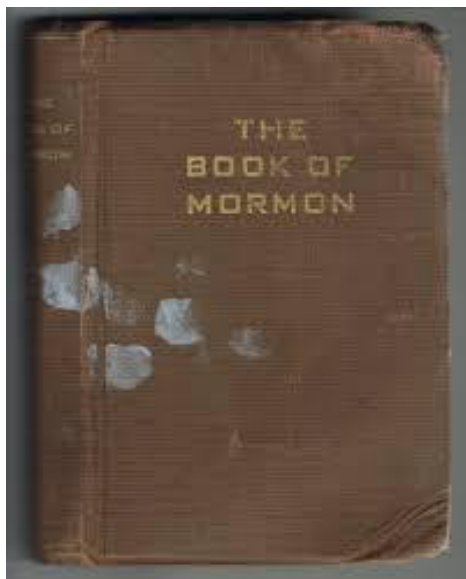
Moroni 7:7 says

"the word of the Lord came to me by the power of the **Holy Ghost.**"

D&C 20:26 references:

"the words of the holy prophets, who spake as they were inspired by the gift of the Holy Ghost."

We learn from these two passages that the words of the scriptures are divine and were given the prophets through the Holy Ghost. I read my scriptures daily and take them on every mission I serve. I never experience a mission without my well-used and worn-out little military serviceman's copy of the Book of Mormon in my



rear pocket. The same is true of the Holy Ghost in our LDS Conference sessions. The brothers and sisters who speak pray fervently to know what the Lord would have them say that will be of benefit to each of us who are listening. Through the Holy Ghost the speakers are inspired, and their messages are from our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. With this in mind, we cannot overstate the importance of General Conference. I feel inspired to tell you that we are very blessed to live in a time when we can watch or listen to the prophetic words and divine messages of the Lord's servants every six months at General Conference. We can read these inspired words over and over again in the Conference editions of the Ensign and Liahona Church magazines. The Holy Ghost is real my brothers and sisters! I am alive today because of the Holy Ghost.

My inmate brothers and sisters I am so grateful for my testimony of the gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Membership in His church has changed the lives of everyone in my family. Our lives have become more peaceful and happy and successful than we ever had imagined. The Holy Ghost has literally saved my life and the life of my

men in numerous ways and many occasions. I love my Heavenly Father. I love the Lord. I love the Holy Ghost. I testify to you that the Atonement is very real and that all of us can be close to the Spirit and receive the guidance we stand in need of. I also want you to know this; as I pondered what to say to you; I have felt the Lord's love for all of you who are currently enduring the trials of incarceration. He loves you! Cling to Him. Cling to His Gospel. Do your best to be worthy and follow His commandments. HE WILL BLESS YOU. I so testify, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Lives of the Apostles

In this new feature we will look into the lives of the Apostles, both current and past, through stories about their lives.



ELDER DIETER F. UCHTDORF

By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

When Pres. Uchtdorf Helped Recover a Plane Hijacked by Terrorists

On December 17, 1973, the president of Lufthansa German Airlines in Frankfurt, Germany, received alarming news. Five terrorists had hijacked a Lufthansa 737 jet in Rome, Italy, and were making their way to Athens, Greece, with hostages on board. As they did so, 32 people lay dead in Rome, and one of the hostages now in flight was soon to be mortally shot and summarily dumped onto the airport runway in Athens. With guns to the heads of the pilot and copilot and with hostages trembling in terror, the unstable hijackers directed a bizarre path from Rome to Beirut to Athens to Damascus to Kuwait.

In an instant, the president of Lufthansa ordered into the air his chief pilot for the 737 fleet. Thirty-three-year-old Dieter F. Uchtdorf was to take a small group of emergency personnel and follow the hijacked plane wherever the guerrillas took it. In every setting possible he was to negotiate for the release of the plane, the pilots, and the hostages. Then, when all of this had been accomplished, he was to fly the hijacked 737 back to headquarters in Frankfurt.

With fortunately no more bloodshed, this mission, like so many others he had been on personally and professionally, was successfully accomplished. Unknown to him at the time, it was a portent of more important missions yet to come.



Prepared to Face Challenges

Dieter Friedrich Uchtdorf, newly called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in October 2004, has been prepared to face challenges and bear responsibilities all his life. Born in Mährisch-Ostrau, Czechoslovakia, on November 6, 1940, he was destined to see at every turn the devastation of war and the suffering innocent people endure because of the fateful decisions of others. His father, Karl Albert Uchtdorf, was conscripted into the German Army and was taken immediately from his wife and four small children. Little Dieter, the youngest in the family, knew only that his father was somewhere he didn't want to be and that his mother, Hildegard E. Opelt Uchtdorf, was bravely fending for her little family as the war in Europe swirled around them.

With the Allies' increasing success in the west and ominous progress by Stalin's forces in the east, Hildegard Uchtdorf wanted to get as close as possible to the western front. So, she left every meager possession the family possessed and, with her small family, made her way to Zwickau, Germany. Fortunately, her husband survived the war and joined them in Zwickau, but he was a bitter opponent of both the Nazi and the Communist regimes. The former was now destroyed, but the latter was in control of their lives as a result of the postwar division of Germany. Because of Karl's political position, their lives were in danger, so the family—for the second time in seven years—left every possession they owned and, despite the danger, made their way to a new haven in Frankfurt, West Germany.

Of this period Elder Uchtdorf has said: "We were refugees with an uncertain future. ... I played in bombed-out houses and grew up with the ever-present consequences of a lost war and the awareness that my own country

had inflicted terrible pain on many nations during the horrific World War II.” The family had every reason to be filled with despair and fear.

But, as President Gordon B. Hinckley once said during another time of international conflict, there is a “silver thread” that can run “through the dark tapestry of war.” And so it did for the Uchtdorfs. While in Zwickau they found the gospel of Jesus Christ. In his first message after being called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Uchtdorf expressed his gratitude for that gift.

“After World War II,” he said, “my grandmother was standing in line for food when an elderly single sister with no family of her own invited her to sacrament meeting. ... My grandmother and my parents accepted the invitation. They went to church, felt the Spirit, were uplifted by the kindness of the members, and were edified by the hymns of the Restoration. ... How grateful I am for a spiritually sensitive grandmother, teachable parents, and a wise, white-haired, elderly single sister who had the sweet boldness to reach out and follow the Savior’s example by inviting us to ‘come and see’ (see John 1:39).”

It was in those young years as a teenager that his love for flying “took flight,” so to speak. At about age 14 he started riding his bicycle to the Frankfurt Airport, where he would gaze in awe at the planes. Occasionally, with the kind indulgence of the staff who serviced the airplanes, he would climb up to look into the cockpit and dream of the day when he might fly into the freedom of the skies. Little did he know that he would eventually master the handling of a dozen major airplanes, including the Boeing 747, perhaps the world’s most readily recognized passenger plane. Furthermore, he could not have known then that he would be perhaps the most readily recognized and honored commercial pilot to walk through the gates of the very airport he now visited as a young boy.

That career started with an engineering education at age 18, followed by six years in the German Air Force. Then, in a reciprocal relationship between the German and U.S. governments, he entered fighter pilot training school in Big Spring, Texas, where, as a German, he won wings in the American Air Force as well. His senior colleagues tell us that Elder Uchtdorf’s most significant achievement there was to win the coveted Commander’s Trophy for being the outstanding student pilot in his class. But in his modest way Elder Uchtdorf says that his more significant achievement there was to help build a meetinghouse for the local branch of the Church, the sweetest memory he has of that important professional time in his life. As Elder Uchtdorf’s life is one of moving from strength to strength, it should not be surprising that years later he would return to the United States to be the director of Lufthansa’s pilot training school in Goodyear, Arizona, the principal and most honored training post offered in the Lufthansa organization.

In 1970, at age 29, Dieter Uchtdorf made captain with Lufthansa, a rank he was once told he could never achieve until late in his career. Then in a rather meteoric rise this airborne Wunderkind was made manager of the 737 fleet (1972), director of the Arizona training school (1975), chief pilot and head of cockpit crews (1980), and finally senior vice president of flight operations (1982).

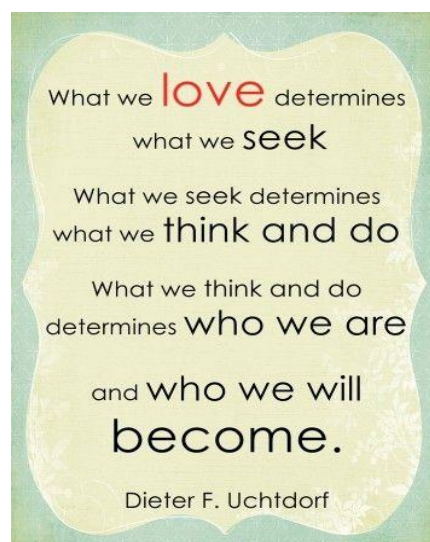
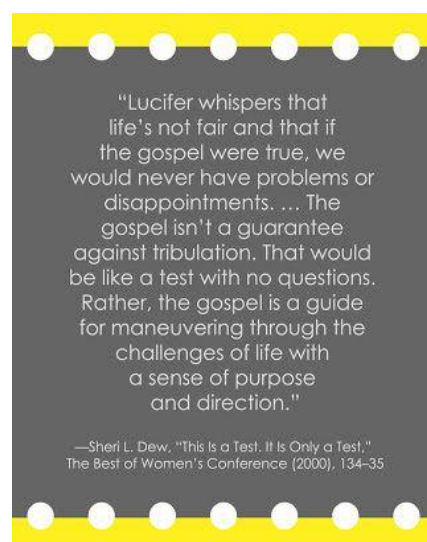
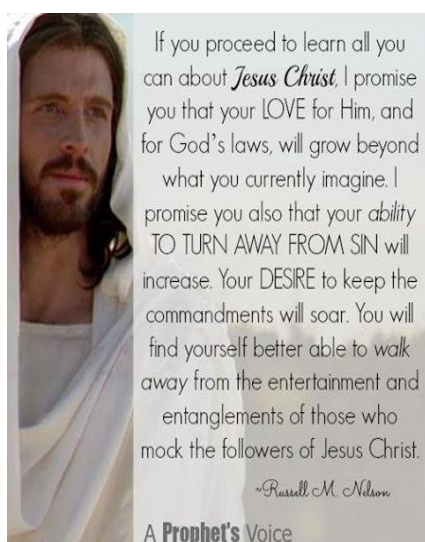
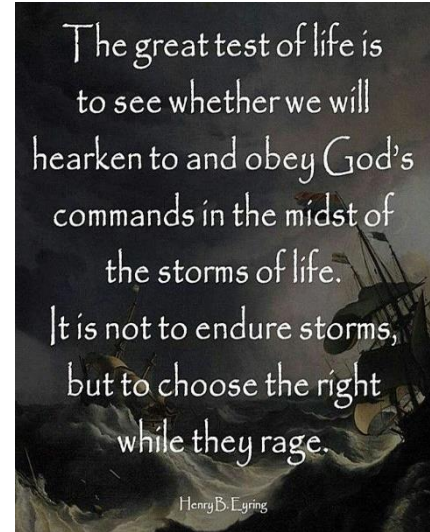
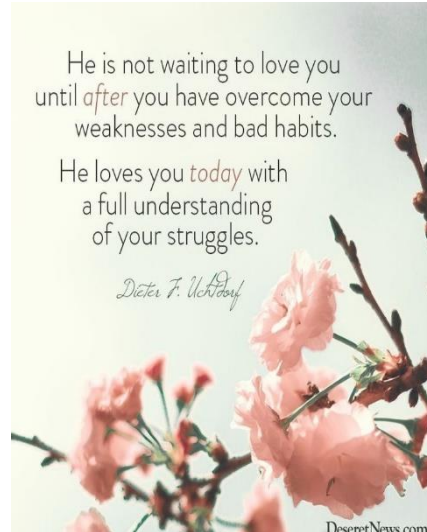
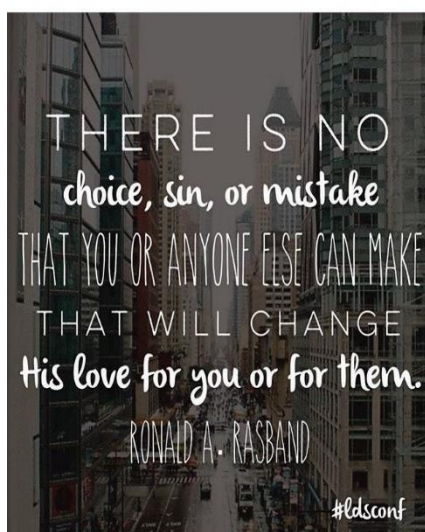
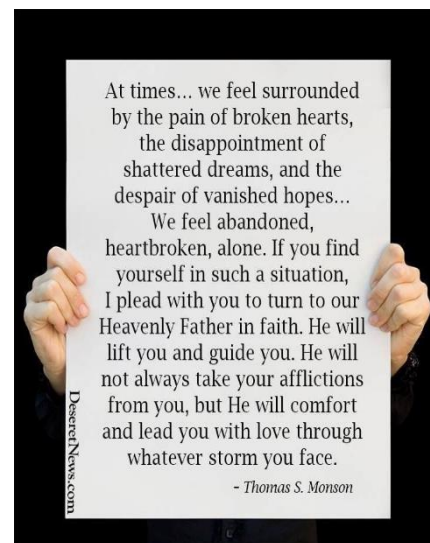
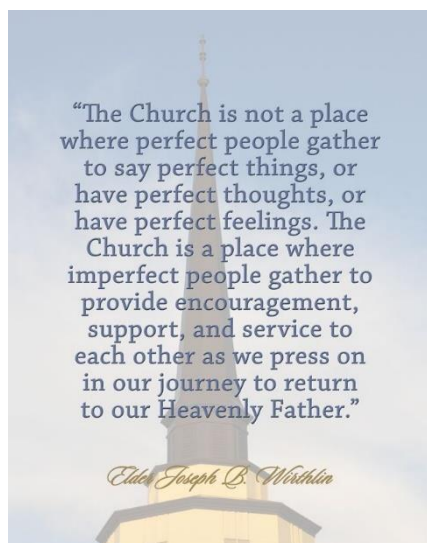
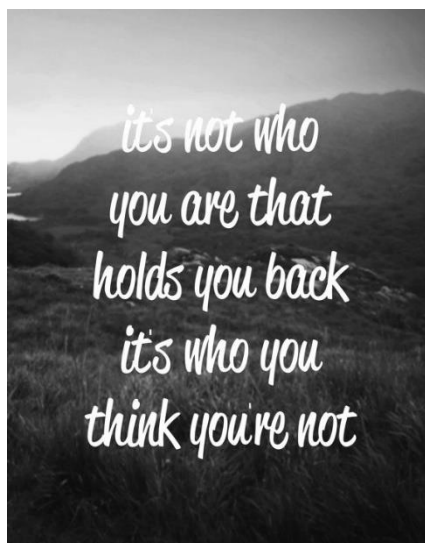
In the midst of this rapid rise and increasing responsibility, Dieter Uchtdorf was called to be the president of the Frankfurt Germany Stake, then as the president of the Mannheim Germany Stake, and finally as a General Authority, called to the Second Quorum of the Seventy in 1994.

[Quotes from Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf](#)

"Go to our Heavenly Father in prayer; communicate with Him daily. Draw close to Him, and He will draw close to you. Ask about your studies of the scriptures, about your feelings and your questions, and He will answer. He is waiting, He is real, and He is there. Use the gift of the Holy Ghost. Believe in the power of prayer. It takes effort and time. Be patient; it is worth it. You can do it. You are not alone in this; others went through this before. Remember, it is easy to doubt, but it is a sure sign of maturity and responsibility to question and then search prayerfully for answers." ("Making Choices for Eternity," Ensign, Oct. 2002)

"Faith in Jesus Christ and a testimony of Him and His universal Atonement is not just a doctrine with great theological value. Such faith is a universal gift, glorious for all cultural regions of this earth, irrespective of language, race, color, nationality, or socioeconomic circumstance. The powers of reason may be used to try to understand this gift, but those who feel its effects most deeply are those who are willing to accept its blessings, which come from a pure and clean life of following the path of true repentance and living the commandments of God." ("The Fruits of the First Vision," Ensign, May 2005)

Points to Ponder:



Favorite Scriptures:

Search and find these passages and mark them in your personal scriptures.



Book of Mormon:

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.." (Isaiah 53:5)

And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God. (Alma 7:10)

:Old Testament

"Of whom we bear record; and the record which we bear is the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the Son, whom we saw and with whom we conversed in the heavenly vision." (Doctrine and Covenants 76:14)

Doctrine and Covenants:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Matthew 2:11,14)

:New Testament

"We believe in God, the Eternal Father, **and in His Son, Jesus Christ**, and in the Holy Ghost." (Articles of Faith #1)

Pearl of Great Price:

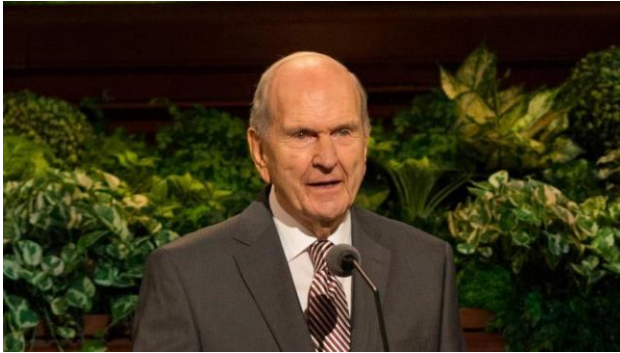
Conference Talks – The Best of the Best...

Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ into Our Lives

[By President Russell M. Nelson](#)

President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

(General Conference April 2017)



The gospel of Jesus Christ is filled with His power, which is available to every earnestly seeking daughter or son of God.

My dear brothers and sisters, we live in a most difficult dispensation. Challenges, controversies, and complexities swirl around us. These turbulent times were foreseen by the Savior. He warned us that in our day the adversary would stir up anger in the hearts of men and lead them astray.¹ Yet our Heavenly Father never intended that we would deal with the maze of personal problems and social issues on our own.

God so loved the world that He sent His Only Begotten

Son² to help us.³ And His Son, Jesus Christ, gave His life for us. All so that we could have access to godly power—power sufficient to deal with the burdens, obstacles, and temptations of our day.⁴ Today I would like to speak about *how* we can draw into our lives the power of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

We begin by learning about Him.⁵ “It is impossible for [us] to be saved in ignorance.”⁶ The more we know about the Savior’s ministry and mission⁷—the more we understand His doctrine⁸ and what He did for us—the more we know that He can provide the power that we need for our lives.

Earlier this year, I asked the young adults of the Church to consecrate a portion of their time each week to study *everything* Jesus said and did as recorded in the standard works.⁹ I invited them to let the scriptural citations about Jesus Christ in the Topical Guide become their personal core curriculum.¹⁰

I gave that challenge because I had already accepted it myself. I read and underlined *every* verse cited about Jesus Christ, as listed under the main heading and the 57 subtitles in the Topical Guide.¹¹ When I finished that exciting exercise, my wife asked me what impact it had on me. I told her, “I am a different man!”

I felt a renewed devotion to Him as I read again in the Book of Mormon the Savior’s own statement about His mission in mortality. He declared:

“I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me.

“And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross.”¹²

As Latter-day Saints, we refer to His mission as the Atonement of Jesus Christ, which made resurrection a reality for all and made eternal life possible for those who repent of their sins and receive and keep essential ordinances and covenants.

It is doctrinally incomplete to speak of the Lord’s atoning sacrifice by shortcut phrases, such as “the Atonement” or “the enabling power of the Atonement” or “applying the Atonement” or “being strengthened by the Atonement.” These expressions present a real risk of misdirecting faith by treating the *event* as if it had living existence and capabilities independent of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Under the Father’s great eternal plan, it is the Savior who suffered. It is the Savior who broke the bands of death. **It is the Savior who paid the price for our sins and transgressions and blots them out on condition of our repentance.** It is the Savior who delivers us from physical and spiritual death.

There is no amorphous entity called “the Atonement” upon which we may call for succor, healing, forgiveness, or power. Jesus Christ is the source. Sacred terms such as *Atonement* and *Resurrection* describe what the Savior did, according to the Father’s plan, so that we may live with hope in this life and gain eternal life in the world to come. The Savior’s atoning sacrifice—the central act of all human history—is best understood and appreciated when we expressly and clearly connect it to Him.

The importance of the Savior’s mission was emphasized by the Prophet Joseph Smith, who declared emphatically that “the fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning

Jesus Christ, that He died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it.”¹³

It was this very statement of the Prophet that provided the incentive for 15 prophets, seers, and revelators to issue and sign their testimony to commemorate the 2,000th anniversary of the Lord’s birth. That historic testimony is titled “The Living Christ.”¹⁴ Many members have memorized its truths. Others barely know of its existence. As you seek to learn more about Jesus Christ, I urge you to study “The Living Christ.”

As we invest time in learning about the Savior and His atoning sacrifice, we are drawn to participate in another key element to accessing His power: we choose to have faith in Him and follow Him.

True disciples of Jesus Christ are willing to stand out, speak up, and be different from the people of the world. They are undaunted, devoted, and courageous. I learned of such disciples during a recent assignment in Mexico, where I met with government officials as well as leaders of other religious denominations. Each thanked me for our members’ heroic and successful efforts to protect and preserve strong marriages and families in their country.

There is nothing easy or automatic about becoming such powerful disciples. Our focus must be riveted on the Savior and His gospel. **It is mentally rigorous to strive to look unto Him in every thought.¹⁵ But when we do, our doubts and fears flee.¹⁶**

Recently I learned of a fearless young Laurel. She was invited to participate in a statewide competition for her high school on the same evening she had committed to participate in a stake Relief Society meeting. When she realized the conflict and explained to competition officials that she would need to leave the competition early to attend an important meeting, she was told she would be disqualified if she did so.

What did this latter-day Laurel do? She kept her commitment to participate in the Relief Society meeting. As promised, she was disqualified from the statewide competition. When asked about her decision, she replied simply, “Well, the Church is more important, isn’t it?”

Faith in Jesus Christ propels us to do things we otherwise would not do. Faith that motivates us to action gives us more access to His power.

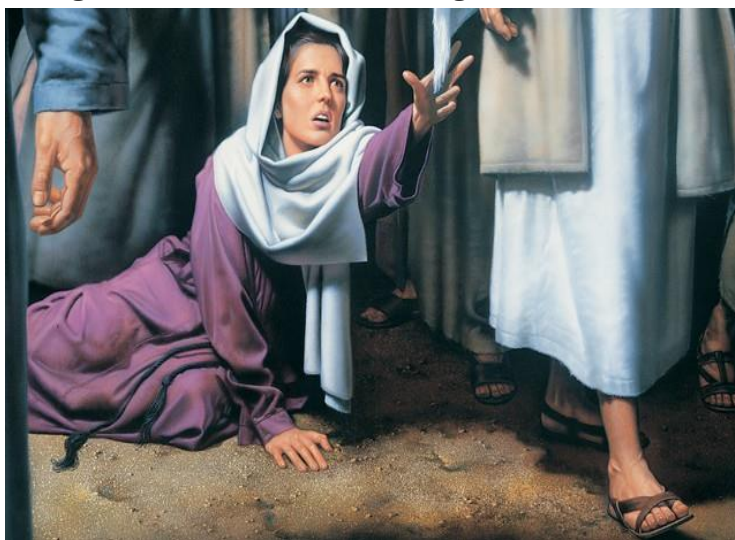
We also increase the Savior’s power in our lives when we make sacred covenants and keep those covenants with precision. Our covenants bind us to Him and give us godly power. As faithful disciples, we repent and follow Him into the waters of baptism. We walk along the covenant path to receive other essential ordinances.¹⁷ And gratefully, God’s plan provides for those blessings to be extended to ancestors who died without an opportunity to obtain them during their mortal lives.¹⁸

Covenant-keeping men and women seek for ways to keep themselves unspotted from the world so there will be nothing blocking their access to the Savior’s power. One faithful wife and mother wrote this recently: “These are troubled and perilous times. How blessed we are to have the increased knowledge of the plan of salvation and the inspired guidance from loving prophets, apostles, and leaders to help us sail these stormy seas safely. We stopped our habit of turning on the radio in the morning. Instead, we now listen to a general conference talk on our mobile phones every morning as we prepare ourselves for another day.”

Another element in drawing the Savior’s power into our lives is to reach up to Him in faith. Such reaching requires diligent, focused effort.

Do you remember the biblical story of the woman who suffered for 12 years with a debilitating problem?¹⁹ She exercised great faith in the Savior, exclaiming, “If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.”²⁰

This faithful, focused woman needed to stretch as far as she could to access His power. Her physical stretching was symbolic of her spiritual stretching. Many of us have cried out from the depths of our hearts a variation of this woman’s words: “If I could spiritually stretch enough to draw the Savior’s power into



my life, I would know how to handle my heart-wrenching situation. I would know what to do. And I would have the power to do it.”

When you reach up for the Lord’s power in your life with the same intensity that a drowning person has when grasping and gasping for air, power from Jesus Christ will be yours. When the Savior knows you truly want to reach up to Him—when He can feel that the greatest desire of your heart is to draw His power into your life—you will be led by the Holy Ghost to know exactly what you should do.²¹

When you spiritually stretch beyond anything you have ever done before, then His power will flow into you.²² And then you will understand the deep meaning of words we sing in the hymn “The Spirit of God”:

*The Lord is extending the Saints’ understanding.
The knowledge and power of God are expanding;
The veil o’er the earth is beginning to burst.*²³

The gospel of Jesus Christ is filled with His power, which is available to every earnestly seeking daughter or son of God. It is my testimony that when we draw His power into our lives, both He and we will rejoice.²⁴ As one of His special witnesses, I declare that God lives! Jesus is the Christ! His Church has been restored to the earth! God’s prophet upon the earth today is President Thomas S. Monson, whom I sustain with all my heart. I so testify, with my expression of love and blessing for each of you, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

1. See [2 Nephi 28:19–30](#).
2. See [John 3:16](#).
3. Jesus was the Anointed One—anointed by Heavenly Father to be His personal representative in all things pertaining to the salvation of mankind. Jesus was anointed to be our Savior and Redeemer. Before the world was formed, Jesus was anointed to make immortality a reality and eternal life a possibility for all of God’s children (see [John 17:24](#); [1 Peter 1:20](#)). Thus, Jesus bore two unique titles: the Messiah (Hebrew) and the Christ (Greek)—each meaning “anointed.” (See Bible Dictionary, “Anointed One.”)
4. We can protect ourselves by knowing and living by the word of God (see [Ephesians 6:17–18](#); [Doctrine and Covenants 27:18](#)).
5. Under the direction of His Father, Jesus was Creator of the earth (see [John 1:2–3](#)) and other worlds without number (see [Moses 1:33](#)). Long before His mortal birth, Jesus was the great Jehovah—God of the Old Testament. It was Jehovah who communed with Moses on Mount Sinai. It was Jehovah who made a covenant with Abraham that all nations of the earth would be blessed through Abraham’s lineage. And it was Jehovah who made covenants with families of the house of Israel. Jesus was also the promised Immanuel, as prophesied by Isaiah (see [Isaiah 7:14](#)).
6. [Doctrine and Covenants 131:6](#).
7. See [Doctrine and Covenants 76:40–41](#).
8. See [2 Nephi 31:2–21](#).
9. Holy Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price.
10. See Topical Guide, “[Jesus Christ](#),” In addition to text under that major heading, there are 57 subtitles about Him. For non-English editions of the scriptures, use Guide to the Scriptures.
11. More than 2,200 listings are cited in those 18 pages of the Topical Guide.
12. [3 Nephi 27:13–14](#).
13. [Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith](#) (2007), 49.
14. See “[The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles](#),” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Apr. 2000, 2–3.
15. See [Helaman 8:15](#).
16. See [Doctrine and Covenants 6:36](#).
17. Jesus Christ taught us the importance of sacred ordinances, such as baptism (see [John 3:5](#)), the sacrament (see [Doctrine and Covenants 59:9](#)), and the endowment and sealing ordinances of the temple (see [Doctrine and Covenants 124:39–42](#)).
18. See [Doctrine and Covenants 124:29–32](#).
19. See [Luke 8:43–44](#).
20. [Mark 5:28](#).
21. See [Doctrine and Covenants 88:63](#).
22. When the faithful woman touched the Savior’s clothing, He instantly responded, “I perceive that virtue [from the Greek *dunamis*, meaning “power”] is gone out of me” ([Luke 8:46](#); emphasis added).
23. “The Spirit of God,” Hymns, no. 2.
24. See [3 Nephi 17:20](#).

Final word from the editor: My friends, I know the holiday season can be hard for you. I implore you to avoid focusing on what you do not have this year. Rather, I encourage you to focus on the life of the Savior, His mission, His purpose, and the eternal blessings available to us only because of His extraordinary life. Our EVERYTHING good and wonderful and joyous is because of the Savior. Without Him there would be no good. There would be no happy or joy or love. There would be no hope! But thankfully, my brothers and sisters, THERE IS A CHRIST. He has broken the bonds and chains of death and sin. Because of Him we will all be resurrected. We can all become clean...perfectly CLEAN. Repentance is all He asks in return for literally EVERYTHING. It is my sacred testimony unto each of you that Jesus Christ is this Savior. He is our Redeemer; for he has redeemed us from death and uncleanness if we will but take advantage of the great gift of repentance. I know Him. I pray unto Him throughout the day, every day. I love Him. I place all of my trust and my faith in Him. He is my reason to go on when life is hard. He loves me and I regularly FEEL His love. If you do not already feel this great and wonderful love and peace only the Savior can deliver, I want you to feel His love as well. No matter the trial that comes my way I approach it with confidence... not confidence in me... but confidence in the Savior who adores me. I cannot imagine making it through this life without the Savior, my loving elder brother, to care for me and love me, and help me and guide me. I am His! I NEED Him, and He is there for me. I love Him with all of my heart. I cling to Him in times of joy as well as trial. He does not remove all trials from my life, but He does help me to cope with them and best respond. He is our EVERYTHING, I testify in His Holy Name, Jesus Christ, amen. Until next month, may Heavenly Father and our Savior bless you all abundantly. May you turn to Him in all things. I love you all.

-Brother D.