

## President Dallin H. Oaks

President of the Church

Most of the Church's 17 million members know that general conference is hosted twice each year. Saturday's session is different than most because it begins with a solemn assembly.

Solemn assemblies only happen in the first conference after a new president and prophet of the Church has been called.

"I am grateful to be among those whose leadership callings are formally recognized in this way, and to express appreciation for your participation in this significant occasion."

Church members sustain the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and other senior leaders voting in blocks of quorums and groups.

"I express our gratitude as leaders of the Church for our members' sustaining vote, prayers and support."

Church leaders pray for its members to receive guidance as they serve God's children throughout the world.

"I reaffirm our testimony of the resurrected Lord and recognize that He is the head of this Church."



## Elder Patrick Kearon

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

A call was extended to become assistant ward clerk after becoming a new convert to the Church in London. The congregation had "raised hands and smiling faces," signalling their support. Other callings followed.

The bishop said he felt prompted to extend callings that would be stretching but not overwhelming. Each calling had purpose and power, and the bishop's inspiration made sense.

Raising arms is part of common consent and choosing to sustain those called to serve. "We sustain each other with our prayers, our love, our patience and our faith." Even though people might not always agree, "as we pray for them, and they for us, important bridges are built."

Serving each other in a ward or branch provides the opportunity to become more like Jesus Christ with people who may be different. The Lord works through imperfect servants.

Some callings might be easy, others stretching. "Our service is a choice, an offering to God and a blessing." Callings from the Lord expand faith and provide growth.

In the temple, 12-year-old Jesus said He was about His Father's business. "He needs you, and He needs me. Life is better — everything is better — when we are about His business."



## Sister Kristin M. Yee

Of the Relief Society general presidency

"When we minister, we are helping to answer each other's prayers. We are the Savior's hands."

As people exercise their faith and serve Him, He has promised blessings and divine help.

"Ministering is truly loving and caring for others as the Savior would. It is a way of being. It is the way of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Ministering is part of fulfilling covenants at baptism and in the temple.

Heavenly Father carries out His word by ministering one by one, and Jesus Christ also used this pattern during His mortal ministry.

"When we feel loved and seen by Him, it changes everything. And when we bless the one, we bless the whole."

Choosing to minister isn't always convenient or comfortable. "When we pause and choose to care for someone over something, His Spirit and love can enter in, and we can receive the peace and perspective that we really need."

When ministering in faith, the Lord has promised He will be with those ministering.

"If you want to feel grounded, gain a sense of divine belonging and make a real difference in the world, I invite you to follow the Savior and minister in His name."



## Elder Clark G. Gilbert

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Jesus Christ, the Redeemer and Repairer, has invited all of Heavenly Father's children to come home.

Each person is given the agency to choose, and those choices have consequences. When a person loses their way spiritually, the Savior still allows the person to change so they can return home.

"I have repeatedly witnessed people finding their way home. It may not have always come quickly, but it happened — over and over again."

Some reasons people don't immediately find their way home include feeling as though they don't belong, feeling inadequate, struggling with doubts or being limited by traditions. But life's deeper questions don't go away.

Prophets have taught that the journey home starts by reanchoring in Jesus Christ. He can fully restore light and joy in life amid the struggles. Hold on to truth and keep covenants.

"To those who are struggling to come home, know you are loved and the Savior is calling you back."

In the end, everyone must make their own choices to come home.

"I witness that Christ is our Redeemer. When we fall short, He repairs the breaches in our lives. The Savior loves all of us and is tenderly calling for you and me to come home."



**Elder David A. Bednar**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

In a spiritual context, enduring is more than persevering tenaciously to complete demanding duties or challenges.

To learn a vital, eternal lesson in three scriptures – Matthew 10:22, 2 Nephi 31:15 and Alma 32:13 – insert the phrase “is possessed of the pure love of Christ” after the phrase “endure to the end.”

Enduring to the end is linked inextricably to the spiritual gift of charity.

Enduring to the end is the joyous quest of a lifetime – a pressing forward with faith in Jesus Christ in a gradual process of trusting in and receiving help from the Savior to become more like Him.

“As our love for Him grows ever stronger and deeper, we can be blessed to receive spiritual perspective, the Lord’s empowering grace and exceedingly great and indescribable joy.”

The scriptural phrase “endure to the end” is a repeated reminder of the mighty spiritual change of heart that should be ongoing throughout one’s life.

“It also is His promise of what we may become if we truly are possessed of the pure love of Christ.

“I joyfully witness that each of us, with the Lord’s grace and mercy, can believe all things, hope all things and endure valiantly all things.”

**Elder Michael John U. Teh**

General Authority Seventy

A Primary song teaches, “Follow the prophet, he knows the way.” President Dallin H. Oaks teaches to follow Jesus Christ.

“When my parents joined the Church, little did they know that they were embracing yet another set of values and traditions.” Weeding out family traditions and cultural practices that were contrary to gospel culture was difficult.

“I am so grateful that my parents exercised faith and chose to keep their covenants.”

President Oaks teaches about repentance and change. He also teaches about the Savior’s Atonement. Latter-day Saints living in Japan and Korea are examples of people being strengthened by Jesus Christ to endure their trials.

Even though a building in Hong Kong did not face east, the morning sun shone through the windows after being reflected off a taller building in front. The prophet has taught that all must hold up the light of Jesus Christ.

Some people would think God’s prophets live in the past and are not attuned to the times. “Everything I know of prophets is the opposite. They actually see into the future as watchmen on a tower.”

President Oaks, his counselors in the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are prophets, seers and revelators.

**Elder Jorge T. Becerra**

General Authority Seventy

In the Book of Mormon, the prophet Alma taught the people of Gideon to avoid a dilemma experienced by their neighbors in Zarahemla. That dilemma was a type of doublemindedness.

“A double-minded person is one who is wavering, indecisive or conflicted; someone who lacks commitment to a single purpose or belief.”

Focusing first on God brings blessings.

“From the beginning of time God has taught His children to put Him first in their lives.”

The Lord commanded Adam and Eve to worship God and offer the firstlings of their flocks as a sacrifice to Him.

“Payment of tithes and offerings will enhance our spiritual capacity as we put God first and offer our ‘firstlings of the flock.’”

Spiritual power and direction that individuals have not previously had will come into their lives as they honor the law of obedience and the law of sacrifice.

“Evidence of this truth is found in the simple statement of the Lord after Adam had offered sacrifice, ‘And in that day the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam’ (Moses 5:9).”

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of putting God first. He laid down His life as a symbol of submission to His Father’s will.

**President Henry B. Eyring**

Of the First Presidency

The Savior comforted His apostles knowing He would have to leave them and cease to lead, protect and succor them in their perils. At the Last Supper, He gave them a promise that continues to comfort and encourage faithful disciples today:

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

Even as the world seems full of commotion, faithful Latter-day Saints across the world have flooded heaven with prayers, petitioning the Lord for help, comfort, direction and peace.

Opening the windows of heaven through prayer does not require many words or flowery language. “Heavenly Father requires us to ‘pour out our souls’ in private places and have our hearts ‘drawn out in prayer unto him continually’ (Alma 34:26-27).”

The sons of Mosiah received spiritual strength from continued prayer. Their example shows that consistent prayer during joyous times and also during distress and grief will be rewarded according to God’s will and perfect timing.

“I bear my testimony that the Savior’s promise is true, and that a humble prayer for peace in your heart will be honored.”



**Elder Gary E. Stevenson**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Far more sacred than checking a bag at an airport, “I wonder what it is like for a loving Heavenly Father to send His most precious belongings, His children, away from their heavenly home, knowing they must pass through challenges of mortality.”

His great comfort is knowing they don’t travel alone. “Blessed are those who care for and nurture others.” Be thoughtful and “intentional handlers of His precious cargo, His children,” through ministering assignments and strengthening the rising generation.

First, “consider your ministering assignment as ‘Christlike caring’ of the Lord’s most treasured possessions.” Contemplate how to provide Christlike love and service, offer help and comfort, seek prayerfully the guidance of the Spirit and help prepare families to make and keep sacred covenants.

Second, nurture the rising generation “by motivating, teaching and encouraging our young people to receive the holy name of Jesus Christ in their hearts and minds.”

Each of God’s children is a precious soul who will “one day be redeemed by its holder.” Disciples of Jesus Christ rise with renewed determination to care for them.

“That we may fulfill that mission for ourselves and diligently care for others as they seek to return to His heavenly embrace is my prayer.”

**Elder Eduardo F. Ortega**

General Authority Seventy

Some may think faith is inherited. True discipleship, however, always begins with a personal decision.

“Family heritage is a great blessing, but it is not a substitute for diligent and intentional search for a personal testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ and the truths of His restored gospel.”

A personal testimony comes from a sincere, dedicated quest to know for oneself and then act upon the impressions and knowledge received.

“The invitation to seek, to come to know and to do, and then to endure on the covenant path is the same for all of us, regardless of whether the gospel has been in our families for generations or we were baptized just last week.”

The path of discipleship often resembles climbing a mountain. The shortest path to the top is not always the most appropriate nor the safest.

“Thus, we must choose the firm and safe path, even if it is sometimes the longest and most demanding one. Jesus Christ and His restored gospel constitute that safe path that leads us to the true summit.

“I testify of the healing, refining and perfecting power of Jesus Christ. ... I testify that He is the author and the finisher of our faith.”

**Elder Wan-Liang Wu**

General Authority Seventy

In the Book of Mormon, the missionary Aaron teaches a king who did not know God. The king “was so surprised by what that missionary said that he insisted on being taught.” The king was willing to give away all his sins to know God and have eternal life (see Alma 22).

“If we have a sincere desire, being meek and lowly in heart, we can come to know the true God the Father and gain eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ; for the power is in us, in choosing to believe and deciding to act accordingly.”

The way to come to know Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ is to come unto Christ and follow Him.

It’s more than learning about Him; it includes faith, works, repentance and becoming converted.

The king “chose to believe and to act. He was willing to forsake all his sins that he might know God.

“What are we willing to give up or change to truly know God and be saved at the last day?”

To know God, a person needs “sincere desire and real intent. We need to have faith in Jesus Christ, continuously repent and strive to obey the commandments.”

**Brother David J. Wunderli**

Of the Young Men general presidency

Many of today’s youth are choosing to accept the Savior’s scriptural invitation to “abide” with Jesus Christ — keep Him in their lives and walk with Him. They are serving in temples, attending seminary and serving missions. They “are committed to becoming lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ.”

During life’s journey, rocks will collect in one’s backpack — naturally and through choices. “As weight increases, remember that taking Jesus Christ out of your life is not the answer. Removing Him will not lighten your load.”

Satan wants to separate people from Christ, but Satan is a liar. “Jesus Christ is not the weight, He is the relief.”

Invite the Savior to be with you each morning and keep Him with you through daily worship, including prayer, scripture study, repentance and keeping covenants.

“Abiding with Him eases your burdens. Walking with Him shapes your character and helps you become even as He is. It brings you real and lasting joy.”

When feeling alone or weighed down by life’s challenges, hold strong to the resolve to keep the Savior with you.

“Jesus Christ is not the weight. He is our relief. He is our strength. He is our way. May we all walk with Him.”



**Elder Gérald Caussé**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The miracle of God's relationship with His children is that though the universe is vast beyond comprehension, every soul carries infinite worth in the eyes of the Creator.

"I bear witness of this truth: God and His Son, Jesus Christ, love all, and They love each."

The dual reality of God's love is clearly manifested in Jesus Christ's Atonement. "All sons and daughters of God, without exception, will receive a full opportunity to access its supernal blessings. Yet it is a remarkably intimate gift, tailored to each individual's needs and applied to one person at a time."

To love all and to love each is the same divine love expressed on two scales — one expansive enough to embrace the whole world, and the other personal enough to notice an individual with unique needs and circumstances.

Service in the Church expands one's circle of love. "We don't serve only those we already love; rather, we come to love people as we serve them."

In Christ's Church there should be no anonymity. "As we extend Christlike love to each person we serve, our eyes are opened to their divine potential. We begin to see them as the Lord sees them."

**Elder Brian J. Holmes**

General Authority Seventy

Because the course of life is often steep and difficult to navigate, God has provided His children many helps to guide their journey. President Dallin H. Oaks taught that the strongest help God has given is a Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Savior invites all to walk with Him. "His way is the covenant path, the one path that leads to our celestial finish line." Covenants bind individuals to Jesus Christ, and He will never sever the tie. When doubts arise, discipleship feels demanding or others turn back, stay bound to Jesus Christ.

"To walk with Jesus is to follow His prophet. ... To knowingly reject His prophets is, by His own definition, to reject Him." Without apostles and prophets, people's perception of Christ gradually becomes whatever they want Him to be. Understanding of doctrine shifts, commitment to standards erodes and unity dissolves.

Heavenly Father desires all to come home, and His Son, Jesus Christ, is the only way back. Walk His path bound to Him through covenant and following His living prophet.

"I testify that because Jesus Christ climbed the steepest mountain of all as He bore the weight of our salvation, we never have to face our mountains alone."

**Elder Clement M. Matswagothata**

General Authority Seventy

The surname Matswagothata is from Botswana and means "getting out of a difficult situation" or someone who can do hard things. "I rejoice even more in the name of Jesus Christ, for in and through His name all who come unto Him can be saved."

Jesus Christ remembers and knows everyone by name. "He hears, sees and knows you. He knows your joys, and He rejoices with you. He knows your sorrows, and He can succor and lift you."

Many carry quiet burdens. Jesus Christ will heal broken hearts. The sun will rise again.

As a young stake president, one challenge followed another. Life was difficult. Then, a child said, "Every morning and every night, my parents ask us to pray for you." This brought the feeling of being seen, loved and known by the Savior.

"Not only does the Savior know you, but He also wants you to come to know Him and His Father."

Choosing to walk with Jesus Christ changes everything. "May I invite you to choose to remember Him and follow Him — not casually or occasionally, but deliberately and always."

No matter one's name, the most "eternity shaping name" anyone can receive is the sacred name of Jesus Christ.

**Elder Ulisses Soares**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The night before His suffering and death, Jesus Christ declared, "I am the true vine ... ye are the branches" (John 15:1, 5). Through this "beautiful and moving" metaphor, the Savior taught that He is the true, trusted and essential source of spiritual nourishment.

"Therefore, just as the branches cannot bear fruit of themselves unless they remain connected to the vine, neither can we reach our full spiritual measure unless we abide in Him and His gospel."

Abiding in Christ is a constant, conscious and sacred choice. It doesn't remove life's burdens, but through His grace, those burdens are made lighter.

"As we place ourselves in His loving care and take upon us His yoke, we receive the spiritual power to endure and overcome the trials, weaknesses and sorrows of mortality — burdens often too heavy to bear without His redeeming help and healing influence."

The world is full of voices, some good, some lacking in substance and some that deceive. Over time, these voices can grow into "tangled vines" that lead to spiritual loss and sorrow.

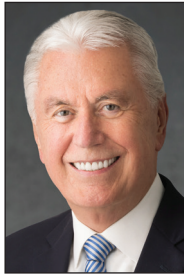
"In a world of many voices, remaining connected to the True Vine is not merely desirable; it is essential to our spiritual survival."



**President Dieter F. Uchtdorf**

Acting president, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Nearly 2,000 years ago, a small group of women arrived at the open and empty tomb where Christ's body had been laid after His Crucifixion, with two heavenly messengers pronouncing He had risen.



"This encounter at the empty tomb changed them forever. It changed the world. ... Because of what happened on that Sunday morning, we can speak of Jesus Christ in the present tense. He lives. Today. At this moment."

The first witnesses of the world's greatest event, Mary and her friends, learned for themselves the glorious truth of Christ's Resurrection.

"We must do the same. We must encounter the empty tomb, experience the reality of what it means and in turn share that witness with others. ...

"We did not see what she and the other women saw. But we can ask ourselves: What have we seen, felt or experienced? Shall we not, therefore, become witnesses of Jesus Christ? Shall we not share our love for Him with others?"

Christ has risen, and He lives. "That testimony has made all the difference in my life. That encounter at the tomb will do the same for all who earnestly seek Him. It will make a difference to you."

**President Emily Belle Freeman**

Young Women general president

God allows mortality to do its work – and that includes both best days and worst days.

The story of Peter teaches that strength comes as individuals walk with Christ and hold fast to His eternal truths.



"From Peter's story we learn that our understanding of eternal truth is not forged in a single moment – testimony is built over time, day after day, both best days and worst."

In Matthew 14, Peter walks on the water to go to Jesus. "Best day."

But in the next verse Peter begins to fear and to sink. "Worst day in a matter of moments."

But Jesus was in the water – with Peter. "As you accept the Lord's invitations, on both your best days and your worst, the same will be true for you."

After some of Peter's worst moments – at Jesus' trial, the cross and the tomb – Christ invites him to "feed my sheep" (John 21:17).

"Sometimes we may wonder if the Lord's promises will truly be fulfilled in us – especially when all seems lost. Especially on our worst days. Peter's story reminds us that they will."

It took worst days and best days for Peter to become who the Lord needed him to become.

**Elder Pedro X. Larreal**

General Authority Seventy

Each week, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have the opportunity to feel the Savior's love and renew the influence of the Holy Ghost by personally preparing to partake of the sacrament.



The resurrected Lord emphasized the importance of the sacrament when He visited the Americas and instituted the sacrament ordinance among the faithful Nephites and Lamanites. The Lord promises those who partake of the sacrament with a broken heart the blessing of having the companionship and constant guidance of the Holy Ghost.

The sacrament represents the Atonement of Jesus Christ. "During that sacred moment, when we give our full attention to Him and focus on His atoning sacrifice, how can we not feel His great love for us?"

The scriptures teach that the sacrament is for those who partake of it. "The Lord uses the pronoun 'you' again and again to emphasize and remind us that the sacrament is for us – for you and for me."

During the sacrament, members should strive to remove worldly thoughts; be prayerful, be reverent and seek to feel His love and remember Him.

"Elevate your spiritual preparation and reverence as you partake of the sacrament. It is vital."

**Elder Edward B. Rowe**

General Authority Seventy

“Several years ago, as a young lawyer, I was involved in resolving a border dispute between countries that had been at war.” He worked in areas laid with many undiscovered mines. To stay safe, he had to follow Winta, an experienced guide. “I was literally to follow in Winta’s footsteps.”



As much as Winta’s guidance was needed then, “I need Jesus Christ to be my guide through life’s journey amidst its spiritual land mines. All of us do.”

The Savior consistently invites all to follow Him. “Jesus Christ denieth none. No one need walk alone.”

Exercise faith in Christ, repent and make covenants with Him to enter His path. Be in holy places, partake of the sacrament, pray, study the scriptures and minister to others to follow in His footsteps.

“The more time we spend with our guide in this way, ... the more we will develop a deep bond and special relationship with Him and our Heavenly Father.”

Knowing His children would be imperfect followers, Heavenly Father provided the Savior who, through His Atonement, has the power to heal completely.

“Jesus Christ is thus not only a perfect and personal guide – He is also the resurrected Redeemer and Master Healer.”

**Elder Ronald A. Rasband**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The Atonement and Resurrection of Jesus Christ – the most powerful, far-reaching and sacred events in human history – are at the core of the doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“Those glorious words ‘He is risen’ have sparked religious ceremony, gratitude, faith in Jesus Christ and [His] promises for centuries.”

All who live or ever have lived and who come unto Christ and live His gospel will feel joy beyond any earthly expression in reuniting as resurrected beings with Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, family members and ancestors.

A grandson, Paxton, was born with a rare chromosomal deletion and lived three years. “Associating with Paxton, our whole family gained an increased, deep and abiding trust in the Lord.”

Paxton’s joy will be not only a resurrected body but one that is resurrected whole and perfect, made so by the power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

“May we testify of Him by the way we live and what we love. May we feel to our very souls these stirring words: ‘He is risen! He is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice’ and ‘Let the whole wide earth rejoice’ (‘He Is Risen!’ ‘Hymns,’ No. 199).”

**Elder Dale G. Renlund**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Prioritize the value of things by maintaining an eternal perspective. Focusing on Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice is of the greatest value.

Because of His merits, mercy and grace, people can return to Heavenly Father and live in His presence.

Reasons for celebrating Easter are:

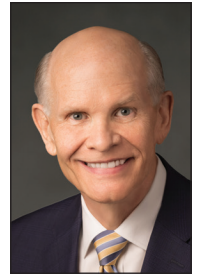
1. Jesus Christ conquered death, giving all the gift of resurrection. “Death is not the end, because the spirit and the body will be reunited, never again to be divided.”

2. Jesus Christ has the power and desire to save mankind from sin through repentance. “‘All’ means ‘everyone.’ If everyone, then anyone. If anyone, then even one. And if even one, then even you.”

3. Jesus Christ understands challenges, having taken on griefs, sicknesses and frailties. “Because of Jesus Christ, all that is unfair in life can and will be made right.”

Focusing on the Savior, His infinite Atonement and what He has done will bring joy and clarity. Celebrate the message of Easter every day by reflecting on the blessings that come because of Him.

“Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life, the Only Begotten of the Father, the Worthy Lamb who was slain, our Redeemer, our Savior, our Advocate and most assuredly the risen Lord.”



**Elder Thierry K. Mutombo**

General Authority Seventy

The understanding of what Jesus Christ offers through His Atonement and Resurrection brings comfort, peace and reassurance to all.

“Without Jesus Christ’s infinite Atonement, no one would have hope to return to our Heavenly Father. And without His Resurrection, death would be the end.”

Early in their marriage, he and his wife, Nathalie, experienced the loss of children, including their 9-month-old baby. After the funeral, extended family gathered and decided that tradition required the couple to separate.

Remembering the words of their temple sealing and the promises made to God and to each other, “I felt the Savior’s love and His hand lifting me up.”

He told his family they were “striving together to build an eternal family, and the Savior is helping us achieve it.”

Exercising faith in Jesus Christ made him stronger.

“The miracle Nathalie and I prayed for happened after we stood for the truth and the light that is in Jesus the Christ. We received a strong confirmation that Christ works miracles according to our faith in Him.”

**Elder Alan R. Walker**

General Authority Seventy

When the Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, He declared that His people would be “a peculiar treasure” unto Him (Exodus 19:5). Through this teaching, He established two conditions for all who desire to become His treasure: Obey His voice and keep covenants with Him. “Then we will be a peculiar, or special, treasure; and as such we will be blessed, strengthened and favored through the Savior’s atoning sacrifice.”

Becoming the Lord’s treasure is not a casual or accidental process. It requires patient effort, faithful persistence and sacrifice. Individuals must lay aside habits, ambitions or comforts that distance them from the Lord so they can offer themselves wholly. “As we choose to follow prophetic counsel, even when it stretches us or when it feels inconvenient, we demonstrate our love for the Lord and show that we cherish Him above all worldly desires.”

Part of being the Lord’s peculiar treasure means honoring covenants, through which He strengthens, sustains and surrounds His people with covenant power. “As we obey the Savior’s voice and as we keep our covenants ... we can have the assurance that one day we will stand before Him and hear the words that matter most: that we are accepted of Him.”

**President Dallin H. Oaks**

President of the Church

Latter-day Saints believe in a literal, universal resurrection. The conviction that death is not the end of one’s identity changes the entire perspective of mortal life. It gives strength to endure mortal challenges and encouragement to fulfill family responsibilities. It helps individuals live together in love.

Jesus Christ taught that the great commandments are to love God and neighbor (see Matthew 22:37-39). He also taught to “love your enemies” (Matthew 5:43-44).

“Today we might say that we are commanded to love our adversaries. All mortals are beloved children of God.”

Following these teachings of the Savior does not mean surrendering one’s values, but seeking to live peaceably and lovingly with others who do not share such values and do not have the same covenant obligations. “This balancing is not easy.”

The Savior declared: “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9). President Russell M. Nelson invited all “to choose to be a peacemaker, now and always.”

“As followers of Christ, let us follow Him by forgoing contention and by using the language and methods of peacemakers. In our families and other personal relationships, let us avoid what is harsh and hateful.”



**President D. Todd Christofferson**

Of the First Presidency

Acquiring the character of Jesus Christ is one of the most important ways that members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can take upon them the Savior's name.



Christlike character – His virtue, integrity, humility, compassion and courage – grows out of a Christlike heart. “If we are to succeed in developing a Christlike character, we must possess His motivations – His thoughts, desires and intents of the heart.”

The good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that through the Holy Spirit, the Savior's grace, His influence and spiritual gifts, members are entitled to “the power of godliness” in their lives.

Three desires of Christ's heart that each person should carry in their own heart are the pure love of Christ, lifting and ministering to others, and devotion to the will of God.

“With faith in Christ, we can pray that the Holy Spirit will effect a mighty change in us to instill these same divine motivations in our heart and help us practice the attributes of a Christlike character.”

Adopting the character of Christ not only prepares a person personally for Christ's Second Coming but is a primary element for preparing the world for His return and glorious millennial reign.

**Elder Chi Hong (Sam) Wong**

General Authority Seventy

Five verses in the Book of Mormon use the phrase “remember, remember.” They teach these principles:

1. Those who keep God's commandments can dwell with Him “in a state of never-ending happiness” (Mosiah 2:41). “Keeping God's commandments is a blessing, both temporal and spiritual.”
  2. Those who don't keep God's commandments will “be cut off from his presence” (Alma 37:13). “God reminds us that His commandments are firm and that obedience to them brings promised blessings.”
  3. Salvation comes “only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ” (Helaman 5:9). “Every assurance of eternal life flows through Him.”
  4. Disciples who build their foundation upon Jesus Christ “cannot fall” (Helaman 5:12). “He is the very foundation of the whole plan of salvation and exaltation.”
  5. Heavenly Father “hath given unto you a knowledge and he hath made you free” to act wisely (Helaman 14:30). By internalizing Book of Mormon messages, “we will be guided to discern right from wrong.”
- Remember, remember the Savior, especially in this Easter season. “He wants us to come unto Him. Let us pray unitedly that we will keep His commandments, use our moral agency wisely every day and prepare for His glorious return.”

**Elder Aaron T. Hall**

General Authority Seventy

As he concluded his teaching, the Book of Mormon prophet Nephi wrote, “I glory in my Jesus, for he hath redeemed my soul” (2 Nephi 33:6).

“To Nephi, Jesus Christ was not someone distant or merely known by name. No, to Nephi, the name of Jesus was his salvation.”

The Book of Mormon missionary Ammon also experienced the joy of Christ's redemptive power, writing, “We will glory in the Lord; yea, we will rejoice, for our joy is full; yea, we will praise our God forever” (Alma 26:16).

“Nephi and Ammon's rejoicing fill my soul with gratitude. They inspire me to deepen my relationship with Jesus Christ and to rejoice in the many ways we can glory in Him.”

He is the Redeemer, the Good Shepherd, the Healer. He is the Advocate, the Lawgiver, the Deliverer.

“When life feels infuriatingly unfair and finding the strength to glory in the Lord seems difficult, reflect on the meaning of His divine names, and let Him restore peace to your soul.”

Draw near unto Him through a covenant relationship to receive direct access to His power. “I invite us to glory in Jesus Christ. He is my Jesus and yours.”



**President Susan H. Porter**

Primary general president

As part of Heavenly Father's plan, individuals come to earth, gain a body and choose to live His commandments so they can return to live with Him and their families. He knew His children would make mistakes on earth, so He chose Jesus Christ to help them. Jesus had so much love for Heavenly Father and His children that He said, "Here am I, send me" (Abraham 3:27).



Stay close to Jesus and learn about Him. "Follow His example and say in prayer to Heavenly Father, 'Here am I, send me.' Then listen for thoughts and ideas."

Just as Jesus fed thousands of people with a young boy's five loaves of bread and two fishes, Heavenly Father can provide miracles when individuals simply offer what they have. "When you say, 'Here am I, send me,' Heavenly Father can take something small and simple and make it great."

As individuals strive to bring themselves and others close to Jesus, they will receive blessings now and later. "I invite you to pray to Heavenly Father and say, like Jesus did, 'Here am I, send me.' And then move forward, walking with Him to bring yourselves and others to Christ."

**Elder Neil L. Andersen**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The sacred sealing power Jesus Christ spoke about in Matthew 18:18 has been restored to the earth and is found in His dedicated temples today.

"In my 74 years, there are only a few experiences where nearly every emotion and feeling are solidly cemented in my conscious mind. One of the most poignant is as I knelt across the altar from Kathy in a holy temple of God."

The sealing ordinance binds couples together with God for eternity. Within this bond, spiritual development and "the very character of Christ ... can become a greater part of us."

Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God. "We believe in eternal marriage, we teach of eternal marriage, and we seek an eternal marriage."

The divine attributes sought in an eternal marriage will not be perfected in this life. Eternal marriage is an eternal journey.

One of the deceptions of the world is to discount the sacred importance and the actual power of the sealing ordinance.

And there are times in marriage that require a "stellar dose of patience." In these times, "keep your hope in each other and in Jesus Christ. His promises can see us through the obstacles and distractions."

**Elder Quentin L. Cook**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

It is a special blessing to have general conference coincide with Easter. It also coincides with the vision of the Savior in the Kirtland Temple in 1836 – just one week after the Kirtland Temple was dedicated.

The appearance of the Savior to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery and the keys committed by Moses, Elias and Elijah are central to the Restoration of the gospel in the latter days. "The role of Elijah in restoring the priesthood keys of the sealing power is crucial in our journey of returning to our Father as a covenant people."

Elijah was a prophet who held sacred priesthood keys, performed mighty miracles and exercised the sealing power of the Melchizedek Priesthood.

"Elijah 'committed' to Joseph Smith the priesthood keys pertaining to the sealing power to bind sacred ordinances and covenants on earth and in heaven. ... Without these keys, there are no eternal families and the 'whole earth would be utterly wasted' (Doctrine and Covenants 2:3; see also Malachi 4)."

All can have a confirmation by the Spirit "that our Savior accomplished the Father's plan. He atoned for our sins and broke the bands of death so that we might return to the Father and the Son in the celestial kingdom."



**Elder Taniela B. Wakolo**

General Authority Seventy

“The gospel of Jesus Christ is not a wedge to divide families but a bridge to unite them, eternally.” One’s discipleship should reflect Christ’s patience, gentleness and perfect love.



Some listeners are in families yet to be sealed in the temple or have spouses who are not members of the Church; others are not Church members. “Today, I say to each of you: You are essential to God’s plan.”

Examples of stories “of patience, agency and the quiet, persistent invitation to come unto Christ” include that of a Fijian wife who waited eight years for her husband to join the Church. “Eight years of attending church alone while her husband remained uninterested and hesitant. Yet she did not withdraw or resent. She served.”

After 24 missionaries, the husband was baptized, and the couple was sealed in the temple. “To be clearer, I should say, my wife, Anita, and I were sealed in the house of the Lord.”

Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ know the prayers of family members waiting for a family member to accept the gospel and be baptized. Conversion is personal; agency is sacred.

“The Savior never forces. He invites. He blesses. He fulfills promises according to faith and faithfulness.”

**Elder Gerrit W. Gong**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The resurrected Christ walked the road to Emmaus, expounding on the scriptures to two disciples who didn’t immediately recognize Him. “As this Easter Sabbath general conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints draws to a close, we, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, long for our Savior to abide with us, for ‘tis Eastertide.”



Individuals sometimes feel alone, misunderstood, burdened or unseen on their personal roads to Emmaus. But just as the disciples on the literal road to Emmaus asked Christ to abide with them, Christ promises to abide with His disciples. “When we have a question, problem or joy, Jesus Christ says, ‘I am your answer – your way, your truth, your life.’”

Christ promises to abide with His followers on their darkest days through the First Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost; and through the Second Comforter, which is Himself.

Church members should also look out for each other – no one should sit alone or walk their road to Emmaus feeling unseen. “Let us see and walk together in His love so He can abide with and in us, and us in Him, at this Eastertide and each day.”

**President Dallin H. Oaks**

President of the Church

“The Spirit of the Lord has inspired all of us to concentrate our worship, focus our learning and unite our testimonies on the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Father’s plan for our eternal increase and joy.



“Truly, Jesus Christ is the way to peace in this world and eternal life in the world to come.

“He knows and loves each of us perfectly and invites us to walk with Him, abide in Him and follow His example of ministering to others one by one in charity and love. We have been reminded of the central role of marriage and families in our Heavenly Father’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

“May we demonstrate the pure love of Christ in our families, in our communities and in all of our interactions with God’s children.”

All are invited to study and prayerfully ponder the conference messages.

“As we treasure up and act upon the teachings of this conference, the Lord will continue to teach and inspire us with personal revelation and guidance.

“I promise this to each of us as we follow the directions of the servants of the Lord and look to God and live.”