

Following Jesus: Being a Peacemaker

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Peacemakers are not passive; they are persuasive in the Savior's way.

Section I

My dear brothers and sisters, as we experience sobering days of commotion, contention, and, for many, deep suffering, our hearts are filled with overwhelming gratitude for our Savior and the eternal blessings of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. We love Him and we trust Him, and we pray that we will forever follow Him.

The Challenge of Social Media

The powerful impact of the internet is a blessing and a challenge, unique to our time.

In a world of social media and information superhighways, one person's voice can be multiplied exponentially. That voice, whether true or false, whether fair or prejudicial, whether kind or cruel, moves instantly across the world.

Social media posts of thoughtfulness and goodness are often quietly under the radar, while words of contempt and anger are frequently thundering in our ears, whether with political philosophy, people in the news, or opinions on the pandemic. No one or no subject, including the Savior and His restored gospel, is immune from this social phenomenon of polarized voices.

Becoming a Peacemaker

The Sermon on the Mount is a message for all but was specifically given to the Savior's disciples, those who had chosen to follow Him.

The Lord taught how to live, then and now, in a contemptuous world. "Blessed are the peacemakers," He declared, "for they shall be called the children of God."¹

By the shield of our faith in Jesus Christ, we become peacemakers, quenching—meaning to calm, cool, or extinguish—all the fiery darts of the adversary.²

As we do our part, His promise is that we will be called the "children of God." Every person on earth is the "offspring"³ of God, but to be called the "children of God" means much, much more. As we come unto Jesus Christ and make covenants with Him, we become "his seed" and "heirs of the kingdom,"⁴ "children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters."⁵

How does a peacemaker calm and cool the fiery darts? Certainly not by shrinking before those who disparage us. Rather, we remain confident in our faith, sharing our beliefs with conviction but always void of anger or malice.⁶

Recently, after seeing a strongly worded opinion piece that was critical of the Church, Reverend Amos C. Brown, a national civil rights leader and pastor of the Third Baptist Church in San Francisco, responded:

“I respect the experience and perspective of the individual who wrote those words. Granted, I don’t see what he sees.”

“I count it one of my life’s greatest joys to know these leaders [of the Church], including President Russell M. Nelson. They are, in my estimation, the embodiment of the best leadership our country has to offer.”

He then added: “We can gripe about the way things were. We can refuse to acknowledge all the good going on now. ... But these approaches will not heal our national divisions. ... As Jesus taught, we don’t eradicate evil with more evil. We love generously and live mercifully, even toward those we think to be our enemies.”⁷

Reverend Brown is a peacemaker. He calmly and respectfully cooled the fiery darts.

Peacemakers are not passive; they are persuasive in the Savior’s way.⁸

What gives us the inner strength to cool, calm, and quench the fiery darts aimed toward the truths we love? The strength comes from our faith in Jesus Christ and our faith in His words.

“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, ... and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

“... For great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”⁹

Mason’s Thoughts

Elder Anderson’s words – Black

Mason’s words & thoughts – Blue

Scriptures – Black & highlighted yellow

Quotes from Prophets & Apostles - Purple

Trials and Suffering

Elder Anderson first mentions, “we experience sobering days of commotion, contention, and, for many, deep suffering...”. In the year 2020 it became an internet wide joke or meme relaying and guessing what perilous measures the world would have to face each and every month of that year. From murder hornets and riots, to earthquakes, and Covid 19. But we are now at a point to where these commotions, are no longer flavors of the month, but daily occurrences and sometimes hourly news updates. We truly are in “Perilous Times” experiencing the prophesied scenes previously envisioned by Prophets ancient and modern.

“The Earth is groaning under corruption, oppression, tyranny and bloodshed; and God is coming out of his hiding place, as He said He would do, to the vex the nations of the earth.”(Joseph Smith, TPJS Pg 253)

Those of us who are wise and are watching, understand what is happening and why these things must be. These commotions have been waking up many of us, including myself and we have felt an actual push to get up and seek after that which is true. I have found in my searching, that everything has been pushing me towards further enlightenment and knowledge of the redemption of Zion and the true doctrine of Jesus Christ. As I have built more of this knowledge upon the foundations of my testimony, it has helped me to better understand what it truly means to “Hear Him”. In D&C 97:1 it reads; **1 Verily I say unto you my friends, I speak unto you with my ^avoice, even the voice of my Spirit, that I may show unto you my will concerning your brethren in the land of ^bZion, many of whom are truly humble and are seeking diligently to learn wisdom and to find truth.** If we are humble and are learning and are seeking for truth, the spirit will lead us to that which is true. This is why I greatly enjoy the work that Micah, Ashley, the Two brothers and others do so diligently. And why I also enjoy participating on discord. I am always learning and am humbled on there constantly.

How many of you have been led and directed by the spirit to make changes in your own lives recently? Think back over the past few years. Have you been led to do things that seemed to push you out of your comfort zones, or compelled you to do something out of your character, or may have been inconvenient, or even seemed impossible to accomplish? Have you been prompted to sell almost everything and move to a new location? Have you felt a desire to rid your lives of time-wasting activities? Have you felt an impression to become closer to your progenitors and spend more time with family either living, or passed on? Are you finding yourself more ready to cut the ties to Babylon and steady yourself on the covenant path? There is a unifying spirit that is taking place among the Saints of God at this very moment. Yes, there is a gathering of scattered Israel that is currently taking place, but what I’m referring too is those of us that have been gathered in already. Those that are listening, preparing, making, and keeping covenants, hearing the voice of the Lord, and acting in faith upon spiritual promptings. Those that amidst the turmoil’s facing our Nations today, are still finding joy, peace, and truth in laboring diligently in God’s Kingdom. To quote the Apostle Paul in Acts 17: 27 **“That they should ^aseek the Lord, ^bif haply they might ^cfeel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:”**

Before I continue, let me ask a few more questions. If you answered yes to any of the questions mentioned previously, then I personally take great joy in knowing that there are those that are finding truth, knowledge, peace, and happiness in their labors. But how many of us in following these promptings, and doing our best to follow the will of our Heavenly Father have also faced many hardships? How many of you over the past few years have suffered your own personal trials, tribulations, heartaches, losses, pains, and moments of despair? Have you found or experienced new personal lows? Or found yourself being pushed well beyond what you perceived as your own physical and mental limitations? Have you felt at times that perhaps you’ve been forgotten? You see others progressing in either Gods Kingdom, or in Babylon and

you ask yourself the question, “Where do I fit in?”. Where is my place in all of this? What is it that God wants me to do? I’m trying my best here Father, so why is that others seem happy or content and yet I suffer? Why do I still lack the knowledge or the courage to continue? If you have ever asked yourself these questions, then please know that you are not alone. God lives and he loves us, never give up hope in that truth. I have come to know and understand for myself that these times of trials, and personal woes are necessary. I’d like to share a portion of this talk by Elder Dennis E. Simmons titled “But if Not..” to help shed some further light on acting in faith, and dealing with the trials that come to the faithful.

“Faith is not bravado, not just a wish, not just a hope. **True faith is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ—confidence and trust in Jesus Christ that leads a person to follow Him.**

Centuries ago, Daniel and his young associates were suddenly thrust from security into the world—a world foreign and intimidating. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego refused to bow down and worship a golden image set up by the king, a furious Nebuchadnezzar told them that if they would not worship as commanded, they would immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. “And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?”

The three young men quickly and confidently responded, “If it be so [if you cast us into the furnace], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and *he will deliver us out of thine hand.*”... But then they demonstrated that they fully understood what faith is. They continued, “*But if not, ... we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*” That is a statement of true faith.

They knew that they could trust God—even if things didn’t turn out the way they hoped. They knew that faith is more than mental assent, more than an acknowledgment that God lives. Faith is total trust in Him.

Faith is believing that although we do not understand all things, He does. **Faith is knowing that although our power is limited, His is not. Faith in Jesus Christ consists of complete reliance on Him.**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego knew they could always rely on Him because they knew His plan, and they knew that He does not change. (>**Insert Micah’s Pyramid of Truth Paper here.**<) They knew, as we know, that mortality is not an accident of nature. It is a brief segment of the great plan of our loving Father in Heaven to make it possible for us, His sons and daughters, to achieve the same blessings He enjoys, if we are willing. They knew, as we know, that in our premortal life, we were instructed by Him as to the purpose of mortality: “We will make an earth whereon these may dwell; **And we will prove them herewith,** to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them.”

So there we have it—**it’s a test. (A test, a test, a test!” *Heber C. Kimball)** **The world is a testing place for mortal men and women. When we understand that it’s all a test, administered by our Heavenly Father, who wants us to trust in Him and to allow Him to help us, we can then see everything more clearly.**

The Lord has given us agency, the right, and the responsibility to decide. **He tests us by allowing us to be challenged.** He assures us that He will not suffer us to be tempted beyond our ability to withstand. But we must understand that great challenges make great men. (And Women!) We don't seek tribulation, but if we respond in faith, the Lord strengthens us. The *but if not's* can become remarkable blessings.

The Apostle Paul learned this significant lesson and declared, after decades of dedicated missionary work, "We glory in tribulations ... knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed."

He was assured by the Savior, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

Paul responded: "Most gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ... I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. When Paul met his challenges the Lord's way, his faith increased." (Elder Dennis E. Simmons, "But if Not.." 2004 Annual General Conference.)

It is through obedience, knowledge, and our willingness to act in Faith that will make us confident, and strong, bold, and noble. We become Watchmen on the tower who are wise to the "signs of the times" and can inform and help others. By overcoming our adversities, we feel a desire to help others, therefore releasing that spirit of unity and oneness. Which brings upon us a desire to gather with those who also seek for pure love, truth, and peace which in all things is Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 1:10** That in the ^adispensation of the fulness of times he might ^bgather together in one ^call things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

"God never bestows upon His people, or upon an individual, superior blessings without a severe trial to prove them, to prove that individual, or that people to see whether they will keep their covenants with Him, and keep in remembrance what He has shown them."
(Brigham Young, JD 3:205)

Where in Lies Our Trust?

Elder Anderson Continues.

"...our hearts are filled with overwhelming gratitude for our Savior and the eternal blessings of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. We love Him and we trust Him, and we pray that we will forever follow Him."

Let's start this part off with a quote from Elder Richard G. Scott.

"...when you pray with real conviction, "Please let me know Thy will" and "May Thy will be done," you are in the strongest position to receive the maximum help from your loving Father.

This life is an experience in profound trust—trust in Jesus Christ, trust in His teachings, trust in our capacity as led by the Holy Spirit to obey those teachings for happiness now and for a purposeful, supremely happy eternal existence. To trust means to obey willingly without knowing the end from the beginning (see Prov. 3:5-7). To produce fruit, your trust in the Lord must be more powerful and enduring than your confidence in your own personal feelings and experience. (Yeet out those “spirit-o-meters”)

To exercise faith is to trust that the Lord knows what He is doing with you and that He can accomplish it for your eternal good even though you cannot understand how He can possibly do it. **We are like infants in our understanding of eternal matters** and their impact on us here in mortality. Yet at times we act as if we knew it all. When you pass through trials for His purposes, as you trust Him, exercise faith in Him, He will help you. That support will generally come step by step, a portion at a time. While you are passing through each phase, the pain and difficulty that comes from being enlarged will continue. If all matters were immediately resolved at your first petition, you could not grow. Your Father in Heaven and His Beloved Son love you perfectly. **They would not require you to experience a moment more of difficulty than is absolutely needed for your personal benefit or for that of those you love.**” (Richard G. Scott, Trust in The Lord, 1995 Semi-Annual General Conference)

As Elder Scott so wonderfully puts it, we are not required to handle more than we can take, but we are required to take on enough to truly forge and temper us into unbreakable tools for the Lord to use in the ongoing restoration of our dispensation. Please know that you are here for a purpose, you can produce good fruit, and you can and will be a divine instrument in the Hands of God. You can bear the weight of your trials and come out stronger, ready to handle anything that the adversary may throw at you. God loves you and He needs you.

Why else would our current Prophet today in almost every conference address or talk that he gives continuously counsel us to learn the doctrine, learn to Hear Him, quit being “lazy learners” and “lax disciples”. President Nelson has been charged with doing all that he can to prepare us for the second coming of Jesus Christ. Every time he speaks, a line is being drawn in the sand. Another warning is given and are we listening? Are we trusting him? Are we truly following the Prophet of God? Are we aware that this is a “time of sifting”? It always confuses me how one can say they have truly taken upon themselves the name of Christ, and trust in Him, but yet completely toss aside the words, counselling’s, or “urges’ from our latter-day Prophets and Apostles. If you truly trust in Jesus Christ and want to take his name upon you, but struggle with heeding to the councils of our current Prophet of God, then I would remind and advise you to reread and memorize these following scriptures and quotes.

Amos 3:7 “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, ^abut he ^brevealeth his ^csecret unto his servants the ^dprophets”.

Proverbs 3 5-7

5 ¶ ^aTrust in the LORD with all thine ^bheart; and lean not unto thine ^cown ^dunderstanding.

6 In all thy ways ^aacknowledge him, and he shall ^bdirect thy ^cpaths.

7 ¶ Be not ^awise in thine own eyes: ^bfear the LORD, and depart from evil.

“There is superior intelligence bestowed upon such as obey the Gospel with full purpose of heart, which, if sinned against, the apostate is left naked and destitute of the Spirit of God, and he is, in truth, nigh unto cursing, and his end to be burned. When once that light which was in them is taken from them they become as much darkened as they were previously enlightened, and then, no marvel, if all their power should be enlisted against the truth, and they Judas-like, seek the destruction of those who were their greatest benefactors,” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith [2007], 321).

“You cannot destroy the appointment of a prophet of God, but you can cut the thread that binds you to the prophet of God, and sink yourselves to hell,” (Brigham Young, in Conference report, May 1963, p. 81)

Let us not cut those threads that bind us, for as Joseph Smith said we risk “being darkened” as much as we were “previously enlightened”. We must continue and keep our faith and trust in our Savior by trusting his prophets whom we know His secrets have been and will continue to be revealed. We need to obey and endure faithfully or we risk sinking ourselves to hell.

Beware the Evil

Elder Anderson mentions in this portion of his talk about the purposeful uses of social media, but also the damning effects that can be forth coming if we are not mindful and careful to the power that one’s words can have. In our current age of technology, the pen is losing its sword like power. But now a Tweet, YouTube video, or social media post is powerful enough to reach thousands upon millions of people. All it takes is hitting the send button to either uplift and encourage or rile up and anger the masses.

“The powerful impact of the internet is a blessing and a challenge, unique to our time.

In a world of social media and information superhighways, one person’s voice can be multiplied exponentially. That voice, whether true or false, whether fair or prejudicial, whether kind or cruel, moves instantly across the world.

Social media posts of thoughtfulness and goodness are often quietly under the radar, while words of contempt and anger are frequently thundering in our ears, whether with political philosophy, people in the news, or opinions on the pandemic. No one or no subject, including the Savior and His restored gospel, is immune from this social phenomenon of polarized voices.”

So much can be accomplished through the usefulness of social media and the internet, but the source of this worldly power does not contain that which comes from the power of God. Within its darkest corners burrows the tainted view scape and falsehoods of the devil himself. The devil has always sought for a power greater than the Priesthood of God. Money, armies, men of influence, and now the internet. While yes it can be used for good, it is also used for most things evil in this world. “Opposition turns up almost anyplace something good has happened” (Elder Jeffrey R. Holland. “Remember How You Felt,” *New Era*, Aug. 2004, 6.) A true statement from Elder Holland.

While a Seventy, Elder Anderson in his April 2005 Conference talk titled “Beware the Evil behind the Smiling Eyes” recounted a personal story from a friend who had a powerful impression to “Beware of the evil behind the smiling eyes”. And in paying heed to that prompting, saved the life of his FBI partner as well as his own. Elder Anderson also shares in this talk how we too can learn to see what evil is lurking in the shadows or just around the corner, and how we can be empowered to see that evil for what it really is.

“How, then, can we discern the evil behind something that doesn’t appear evil?”

...**follow the prophet**. These 15 men we sustain as prophets, seers, and revelators are given divine power to see what we sometimes do not see. President Hinckley has given us clear and specific counsel about the evil behind the smiling eyes. As you apply President Hinckley’s counsel, the Lord has promised that He “will disperse the powers of darkness from before you.”¹⁸ You will see the evil behind the smiling eyes, and its appeal will leave you.

Gain your own testimony of the Savior. Pray passionately. Read the Book of Mormon when no one is watching. Take time alone to think about who Jesus really is and how His life and sacrifice are important to you.

Remember the example of the young Joseph Smith. When he lit the candle at night to read the Bible, it was because he wanted to. When he went into the grove to pray, he went alone.²¹

As we increase our understanding and love for the Savior, **His light will illuminate everything around us**. We then will see evil for what it is.²²

(Beware of the Evil behind the Smiling Eyes. Elder Neil L. Andersen, April 2005)

Great advice from Elder Anderson for us to follow in detecting the counterfeits of Satan. Let us not lean on to our own “Spirit-O-meters” to unveil those evil plans of the Devil. For if it is our own personal feelings we prefer to use then might as well be using Egon Spangler’s patented PKE meter from ghostbusters. That device also detects evil and false spirits and I highly doubt that any of us are licensed to carry a Nuclear Accelerated Proton Pack on one’s back. So, I encourage us all to stick with the prophets of God and increase our understanding and love for Jesus Christ. If we increase our understanding and love for Christ, “**His light will illuminate everything around us**”. As his light illuminates, we can see the “evil behind the smiling eyes” and steer clear of that which is of the devil, false, strange, or tainted by priestcraft.

Becoming a Peacemaker

The devil and his minions seem to be gaining new ground and new followers everyday. We have to experience our necessary ups and downs, our wages against evil and sin and our means to gain triumphs over those afflictions. But the one true way to really settle all things and see past all these commotions, is through Jesus Christ. When we learn of Christ, we “**talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ**” we become enlightened with knowledge, which, in turn brings peace through a remission of our sins (2 Nephi 25:26). Elder Anderson continues in his talk to breakdown how one can become a true Peacemaker. As well as the blessings and changes that come about in a person who truly wants to bring peace into themselves and unto others.

“The Sermon on the Mount is a message for all but was specifically given to the Savior’s disciples, those who had chosen to follow Him.

The Lord taught how to live, then and now, in a contemptuous world. “Blessed are the peacemakers,” He declared, “for they shall be called the children of God.”¹

By the shield of our faith in Jesus Christ, we become peacemakers, quenching—meaning to calm, cool, or extinguish—all the fiery darts of the adversary.²

As we do our part, His promise is that we will be called the “children of God.” Every person on earth is the “offspring”³ of God, but to be called the “children of God” means much, much more. As we come unto Jesus Christ and make covenants with Him, we become “his seed” and “heirs of the kingdom,”⁴ “children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters.”⁵

How does a peacemaker calm and cool the fiery darts? Certainly not by shrinking before those who disparage us. Rather, we remain confident in our faith, sharing our beliefs with conviction but always void of anger or malice.⁶

President David O. McKay once said: “If you want peace, yours is the responsibility to obtain it.” (*Church News*, 11 Mar. 1961, p. 15.)

In his 1975 April Conference address titled “The Man of Christ”, Neal A. Maxwell gives us some remarkable traits of one who is truly a Peacemaker. He explains how those who truly understand the Savior’s Sermon on the Mount and apply its teachings can inherit the traits of our Savior Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. We will be noted as the “Children of God” or the “Children of Light” becoming his seed, and heirs of the kingdom. He brings up about 40 great traits of ones who are peacemakers, but for time’s sake I will only list a few.

1. “Regarding events in the world, “the man of Christ” sees trends around him “about which it is difficult to speak, but impossible to remain silent.” Because he sees with “an eye of faith,” he knows more than he can tell; but he need not always be fully articulate, for real Christianity is contagious.”
2. He believes deeply in the Beatitudes, but also in those doctrines which tell him “who” Jesus is.
3. The “man of Christ” knows that the collapse of systems is always preceded by the collapse of individuals. (Did your ears perk up too?)
4. He knows that in leadership cleverness is not as important as content, that charisma and dash are not as vital as character and doctrine.
5. He has keen ears, for in the silence that hovers over the place that once was Sodom, he hears a warning shout for all who care to compare.
6. As “the man of Christ” looks realistically at life in the Church...he knows that while the Church’s doctrines are constant and perfect, its people are not, so he seeks to learn from mistakes rather than brooding over them, and he will help others to do the same.
7. He testifies with his time as well as with tithing; he witnesses with works as well as with words; **he expects perspiration to precede inspiration.**

8. He remembers Gethsemane and senses that, sometimes, when a righteous individual is in agony, seemingly alone, he, too, is accompanied by celestial friends who are nearby, but not so near as to interfere. For the surrender which is underway is also a victory!
9. He knows that having put his hand to the plow he must not look back, because when we are looking back, we are also holding back.
10. He knows that God loves *us*, not the gifts he has given us.
11. He understands that faith, hope, and charity qualify one for the work, not a craving for clout. And he is as genuinely concerned with the feelings of those he supervises as he is concerned with the feelings of those who supervise him.
12. He quickly puts his “shoulder to the wheel” (*Hymns*, no. 206) rather than calling for a tow truck.
13. He knows that just as God has promised us, individually, that we will not be overwhelmed by temptations or challenges we cannot manage, that neither will the Lord allow his church to be overwhelmed by the challenges it faces.
14. The “man of Christ” will draw strength from his marvelous companions on the journey. (How many of you here in this group have become marvelous companions to each other along the journey?)

Elder Anderson also gives us a great example of one who is striving to be a Peacemaker in his story about Reverend Amos C. Brown replying to a critical opinion piece written against the Church. To quote Reverend Brown and Elder Anderson.

“I count it one of my life’s greatest joys to know these leaders [of the Church], including President Russell M. Nelson. **They are, in my estimation, the embodiment of the best leadership our country has to offer.**” He then added: “We can gripe about the way things were. We can refuse to acknowledge all the good going on now. ... But these approaches will not heal our national divisions. ... As Jesus taught, we don’t eradicate evil with more evil. We love generously and live mercifully, even toward those we think to be our enemies.”⁷

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“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, ... and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

“... For great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”⁹

“We the Latter-day Saints are a blessed and favored people. It is our privilege to become “a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.” The Lord has chosen us, as he chose our fathers

anciently, “to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”

Our position is one of strength because it is founded on eternal truth. We need not fear the fiery darts of the adversary, nor be troubled by world conditions, as long as we walk in that light which a gracious Father has so abundantly shed forth upon us in this final gospel dispensation.” (Joseph Fielding Smith, “I know that My Redeemer Liveth” 1971 Semi Annual Conference)

A Peacemaker’s Mission

“God has reserved spirits for this dispensation who have the courage and determination to face the world, and all the powers of the evil one, visible and invisible, to proclaim the Gospel, and maintain the truth, and establish and build up the Zion of our God, fearless of all consequences. He has sent these spirits in this generation to lay the foundation of Zion never more to be overthrown, and to raise up a seed that will be righteous, and that will honor God, and honor him supremely, and be obedient to him under all circumstances.” (George Q. Cannon, Journal of Discourses, 11:230)

Brothers and Sisters for my final thoughts, I’d like to delve a little deeper into what being a Peacemaker truly means. Yes, we are all on that quest for peace, but in the coming days and throughout the winding up scenes to take place in the entirety of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, peacemakers are to play a crucial role. President Nelson is preparing the Lords Saints for specific roles to be played out very soon. There will be youth battalions, Joseph’s Boys, healers, gatherers, missionaries, builders, watchmen, gardeners, shepherds, disciples, leaders, followers, redeemers, warriors, peacemakers, and more. Many of these roles listed will be overlapping for most Saints. All things will happen in succession and will play out just as prophets ancient and modern have prophesied and foretold. But for all these scenes to play out, we must learn to become true peacemakers. A peacemaker knows and understands the doctrine of Jesus Christ. A peacemaker knows and understands the laws and order of God’s Priesthood (Patriarchal Order) and practices them. A peacemaker knows and understands how to receive personal revelation, and act on those revelations. A peacemaker knows and understands how to “Hear Him”. A peacemaker knows and understands that more will be revealed and given to the saints as it is necessary for the work of God to move forward. A peacemaker knows that many sacrifices will be required as the Lord will require much of them to be done in the preparatory work of Zion’s redemption and in preparing the world for His return.

It will be peacemakers that are enlisted in the Redemption of Zion. It will be peacemakers that will have a seat at the marriage feast. It will be peacemakers that will be sent out from Zion declaring the words and Laws of God to all Nations. It will be Peacemakers that will work along side the resurrected Prophet Joseph Smith to save the world from spiritual and physical famine. “Joseph Smith will stand always as superior among God’s elect the noble and great ones whom he selected to be his rulers.” (A Prophet “Great Like Unto Moses” Milton R. Hunter,

1968-O:82) It will be peacemakers that will also work along side Angels and ancestors, loved ones who have returned and are all enlisted in the “Marvelous Work and Wonder”. It is peacemakers who were held out for this specific time and this specific place in our dispensation. Peacemakers were foreordained to do this great work. As I stated in the beginning there is a gathering taking place within those that have already been gathered. It is the charge and duty of the peacemakers to find each other, strengthen each other, become friends with one another and build themselves up into a sense of unity that they may work together as one force under God. To prepare, warn, teach, prophecy, and do the great work that lies ahead. And as they are united they become true heirs in Christ, and trusted friends of God. God will consider his peacemakers true friends that he will entrust with His great Latter Day work. He will consider them friends just as he considered the Prophet Joseph Smith his friend, in whom he trusted to be the head of the dispensation which all things are revealed, restored, and redeemed.

“It is a truth, my brethren and sisters, there is a great destiny in store for the Latter-day Saints. Men may fight this work and persecute the people who sustain it; they killed Joseph, and thought they had destroyed the cornerstones, as it were, of the fabric; and like the men mentioned in the parable, having killed the heir, they thought they could possess the vineyard, [Matt. 21:38](#) but they soon found out their mistake; and so it will be with every move that is made against the work of God—those with whom they originate will find they have made a great mistake. They will be disappointed in the results of their labors and operations, for God has spoken and his word will be fulfilled, and this work will increase and progress.

God, who knows all things from the beginning, knew that in the last days Satan would exert every effort to destroy the work of God. The closer we approach the second coming of Jesus Christ, the greater will be Satan’s efforts. He will try to influence men as never before to destroy one another by dissension, opposition, selfishness, wars, riots, and destructions. If he can get people to quarrel with one another, they will inevitably destroy themselves.

It is for this reason that God reserved you and the holy priesthood against that time, so that you can exert this divine power to hold Satan in check. God reserved some of his choicest sons and daughters for this present day and age. These special children were to be leaders who would recognize the negative, self-destructive efforts of Satan and thwart them by the righteous use of divinely authorized priesthood power. That is the reason we need peacemakers today as never before.

We must be alert at all times in our homes, in our daily work, in our private lives, and in our branches, wards, and stakes...

God planned to have leaders available in the last days holding the power of the holy priesthood. People are so hungry for peace today that if we truly demonstrate peace among ourselves and to others, they will flock to the Church in great numbers. The greatest missionary tool we have is that of demonstrating friendliness, brotherly kindness, harmony, love, and peace in our homes and in all our Church meetings. If we follow the example of Jesus Christ and become true peacemakers, that flood of love will cover the earth as with a blanket. The only way Satan can ever be bound will be through the love of man for God and for one another

I remind you that Jesus Christ is the God of love. He came to bring peace to the world, but said himself that his word was really a sword, because men would fail to understand it and use it properly. He taught that because people would not comprehend his message, quarrels and misunderstandings would divide them. For this reason there is a great need for peacemakers in the world who know and understand Jesus Christ and who comprehend that the purpose of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was to make it possible to restore all persons, if they would follow him, into the very presence of God, the Eternal Father. (“Blessed Are the Peacemakers” By Elder Theodore M. Burton)

Brothers and Sisters, I close with my testimony that I know we are facing commotions and uncertainties at this time. But I do know that God lives, He loves us, and He tests us. Heavenly Father needs us to become true peacemakers refined in the fires of sacrifice and trials. We have what it takes to “quench the fiery darts” and to be the ones to Redeem that Holy City in which the world’s true Prince of Peace can reign. We can do this for Him because we can “Hear Him”. He is speaking and inspiring us to do better, to gather, to learn, and to testify that peace is coming, and that peace will be found in this world. The one true Peacemaker will reign, and His messages of peace and His Laws will go forth as a light in the darkness to enlighten the word to its truth. That through Jesus Christ we can all be unified and have peace. I know this is true, and I leave my message of peace with all of you in the name of the true Maker of Peace, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Micah’s Thoughts:

Reading the first section my mind was caught back to:

Mosiah Chapter 1

1 And now there was no more contention in all the land of Zarahemla, among all the people who belonged to king Benjamin, so that king Benjamin had continual peace all the remainder of his days.

2 And it came to pass that he had three sons; and he called their names Mosiah, and Helorum, and Helaman. And he caused that they should be taught in all the language of his fathers, that thereby they might become men of understanding; and that they might know concerning the prophecies which had been spoken by the mouths of their fathers, which were delivered them by the hand of the Lord.

3 And he also taught them concerning the records which were engraven on the plates of brass, saying: My sons, I would that ye should remember that were it not for these plates, which contain these records and these commandments, we must have suffered in ignorance, even at this present time, not knowing the mysteries of God.

In this we learn the cause for the lack of contention in all the land- the studying of the scriptures and application of what was learned into their lives. The last line in verse three is very important for us as Saint to understand- “that without the knowledge contained in the record, even the people of God would be suffering in ignorance not knowing the mysteries of God”... What do we learn from this?

1. That we in fact do learn the “mysteries of God” in the scriptures
2. Even the people of God “suffer”, they simply don’t “suffer in ignorance”- they can learn the reason or reasons for their suffering

and

3. Because of the first two contention is in the land or out of the land

Meaning that “suffering in ignorance” is a huge reason for contention- everyone suffers, but when we don’t know or understand the reason for the suffering we need “scapegoats”, we need people to hate, we need things like that to unite us and justify our positions. When we understand the reasons for our suffering when they take place, when we “know the dealings of God”, these reasons of contention are lost. This contrast was showcased later in the Book of Mosiah:

Mosiah 10:

11 Now, the Lamanites knew nothing concerning the Lord, nor the strength of the Lord, therefore they depended upon their own strength. Yet they were a strong people, as to the strength of men.

12 They were a wild, and ferocious, and a blood-thirsty people, believing in the tradition of their fathers, which is this—Believing that they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem because of the iniquities of their fathers, and that they were wronged in the wilderness by their brethren, and they were also wronged while crossing the sea;

13 And again, that they were wronged while in the land of their first inheritance, after they had crossed the sea, and all this because that Nephi was more faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord—therefore he was favored of the Lord, for the Lord heard his prayers and answered them, and he took the lead of their journey in the wilderness.

14 And his brethren were wroth with him because they understood not the dealings of the Lord; they were also wroth with him upon the waters because they hardened their hearts against the Lord.

15 And again, they were wroth with him when they had arrived in the promised land, because they said that he had taken the ruling of the people out of their hands; and they sought to kill him.

16 And again, they were wroth with him because he departed into the wilderness as the Lord had commanded him, and took the records which were engraven on the plates of brass, for they said that he robbed them.

17 And thus they have taught their children that they should hate them, and that they should murder them, and that they should rob and plunder them, and do all they could to destroy them; therefore they have an eternal hatred towards the children of Nephi.

We should be very wary of any group of people (in or outside the church) which is united purely off of their hatred of another group- even if that group is “the wicked”...

“What? Can being united in hatred against evil also be a problem?”

“Oh, very much yes!”

3 Nephi 7

11 And it came to pass that they were not so strong in number as the tribes of the people, who were united together save it were their leaders did establish their laws, every one according to his tribe; nevertheless they were enemies; notwithstanding they were not a righteous people, yet they were united in the hatred of those who had entered into a covenant to destroy the government.

It was made very clear in The Book of Mormon that even those who were united in sustaining the laws of the land (one might say “Constitution” of the land) were NOT a righteous people despite being united and united in what most might deem a “worthy pursuit” because they were only really united in their hatred of those who had entered into a covenants to destroy the government/constitution... True unity that rids of contention can only be founded on a love of the scriptures and obedience to what is found there (i.e. “the pyramid of truth”)- being united on other grounds will bring contention and ultimately warfare and death.

His next section dealing with the challenges of social media, I couldn’t help but think of the quote from President Joseph Fielding Smith in which he said:

"Among the Latter-day Saints, the preaching of false doctrines disguised as truths of the gospel, may be expected from people of two classes, and practically from these only; they are:

First-The hopelessly ignorant, whose lack of intelligence is due to their indolence and sloth, who make but feeble effort, if indeed any at all, to better themselves by reading and study; those who are afflicted with a dread disease that may develop into an incurable malady - laziness.

Second - The proud and self vaunting ones, who read by the lamp of their own conceit; who interpret by rules of their own contriving; will have to become a law unto themselves, and so pose as the sole judges of their own doings. More dangerously ignorant than the first.

Beware of the lazy and the proud."

- Joseph F. Smith (Gospel Doctrine, Page 373)

Those that stick to the pyramid of truth and whom don’t practice priestcraft are often quietly under the radar while those that throw out opinions to make a quick buck are frequently thundering in our ears and promoted and advertised far and wide.

I love how in the next section on “becoming a peacemaker” he makes it clear that these teachings were given specifically for the Savior’s disciples... Far too often we apply the scriptures and teachings to ourselves under the false pretense that many if not most of the warning found therein are for those “outside the church”, when the reality is completely the opposite- these teachings were for those in Christ’s church, for those Mormon, Moroni, etc. knew would have the book, know it was true, and be looking to profit from its pages- it was not written for those that would not read its pages.

Reading to the end of this section the words of my mission president came back to me, he’d also say to us “men of God are calming influences”... “Men of God are calming influences...” he said it all the time, over and over again... Such a true statement! What a true observational fact of reality! People that “stir the pot”, people that gossip, backbite, murmur, those that “teach people to hate others specifically”. Etc. are as far from being “men of God” as you can be... When you walk into a room, do you bring a calming influence? Is the heat turned up with your rhetoric or is it turned down? What’s more, being such an individual is exhausting to be around- you constantly have to tearing others down just to be united in something. Years after my mission I added to the quote, “Men of God are calming influences; slow to anger, full of love”... What we notice from those who have forsaken God and who are walking after the lusts of their own eyes? “They were/are easily stirred to anger against that which is righteous”

2 Nephi 28

20 For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good.

Elder Boyd K Packer offered this insight:

“Beware of the testimony of one who is intemperate, or irreverent, or immoral, who tears down and has nothing to put in its place.” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1974, p. 138; or Ensign, May 1974, p. 95.)

Understanding the Lord’s definition of “peacemaker” and “love” etc. are crucial so we don’t misunderstand or misinterpret what is actually being said- so that we likewise don’t end up “suffering in ignorance”...

Section II

The Importance of Agency

Two important principles guide our desire to be peacemakers.

First, our Heavenly Father has given each individual his or her moral agency, with the ability to choose one's own path.¹⁰ This agency is one of the greatest gifts of God.

Second, with this agency, our Heavenly Father allowed for "opposition in all things."¹¹ We "taste the bitter, that [we] may know to prize the good."¹² Opposition should not surprise us. We learn to distinguish good from evil.

We rejoice in the blessing of agency, understanding that there will be many who do not believe what we believe. In fact, few in the latter days will choose to make their faith in Jesus Christ central to all they think and do.¹³

Because of social media platforms, one voice of disbelief can appear to be a multitude of negative voices,¹⁴ but even if it is a multitude of voices, we choose the path of peacemakers.

The Lord's Leaders

Some view the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve as having worldly motives, like political, business, and cultural leaders.

However, we come very differently to our responsibilities. We are not elected or selected from applications. Without any specific professional preparation, we are called and ordained to bear testimony of the name of Jesus Christ throughout the world until our final breath. We endeavor to bless the sick, the lonely, the downhearted, and the poor and to strengthen the kingdom of God. We seek to know the Lord's will and to proclaim it, especially to those who seek eternal life.¹⁵

Although our humble desire is for the Savior's teachings to be honored by all, the words of the Lord through His prophets are often contrary to the thinking and trends of the world. It has always been so.¹⁶

The Savior said to His Apostles:

"If the world [hates] you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. ...

"... All these things will they do ... because *they know not him* that sent me."¹⁷

Caring for All

We genuinely love and care for all our neighbors, whether or not they believe as we do. Jesus taught us in the parable of the Good Samaritan that those of different beliefs should sincerely reach out to help anyone in need, being peacemakers, pursuing good and noble causes.

In February, a headline in the *Arizona Republic* stated, "Bipartisan bill supported by Latter-day Saints would protect gay and transgender Arizonans."¹⁸

We, as Latter-day Saints, are “pleased to be part of a coalition of faith, business, LGBTQ people and community leaders who have worked together in a spirit of trust and mutual respect.”¹⁹ President Russell M. Nelson once thoughtfully asked, “Cannot boundary lines exist without becoming battle lines?”²⁰

We endeavor to be “peaceable followers of Christ.”²¹

Andy’s Thoughts:

Two important principles guide our desire to be peacemakers.

First, our Heavenly Father has given each individual his or her moral agency, with the ability to choose one’s own path.¹⁰

The first thing to note here is that Elder Anderson doesn’t tell us we have “free” agency but moral agency and that makes a big difference on it’s meaning.

2 Nephi 10:23 Therefore, cheer up your hearts, and remember that ye are **free to act for yourselves—to choose the way of everlasting death or the way of eternal life.**

D&C 101:78

That every man may act in doctrine and principle pertaining to futurity, **according to the moral agency which I have given unto him**, that every man may be accountable for his own sins in the day of judgment.

Elder D Todd Christofferson

Moral Agency

<https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/d-todd-christofferson/moral-agency/>

In years past, we generally used the term free agency. That is not incorrect, but more recently we have taken note that free agency does not appear as an expression in the scriptures. They talk of our being “free to choose” and “free to act” for ourselves and of our obligation to do many things of our own “free will.” But the word agency appears either by itself or, in Doctrine and Covenants, section 101, verse 78, with the modifier moral: “That every man may act in doctrine and principle . . . according to the moral agency which I have given unto him, that every man may be accountable for his own sins in the day of judgment”. **When we use the term moral agency, then, we are appropriately emphasizing the accountability that is an essential part of the divine gift of agency. We are moral beings and agents unto ourselves, free to choose but also responsible for our choices.**

Alma 32

13 And now, because ye are compelled to be humble blessed are ye; for a man sometimes, if he is compelled to be humble, seeketh repentance; and now surely, whosoever repenteth shall find mercy; and he that findeth mercy and endureth to the end the same shall be saved.

14 And now, as I said unto you, that because ye were compelled to be humble ye were blessed, do ye not suppose that they are more blessed who truly humble themselves because of the word?

15 Yea, he that truly humbleth himself, and repenteth of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed—yea, **much more blessed than they who are compelled to be humble** because of their exceeding poverty.

16 Therefore, **blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble**; or rather, in other words, blessed is he that believeth in the word of God, and is baptized without stubbornness of heart, yea, without being brought to know the word, or even compelled to know, before they will believe.

D&C 58

26 For behold, it is not meet that I should command in all things; for **he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.**

27 Verily I say, **men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;**

28 For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.

29 But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned.

This agency is one of the greatest gifts of God.

I really like the distinction here between free and moral agency. As Elder Christofferson said it puts the proper emphasis on accountability. So yes, we are free to choose but we are also responsible for the consequences. The world view is free agency without any consequences. The world says I can do anything I want, and I shouldn't have to deal with any negative consequences. It doesn't take long to look at the world and see this way of thinking play out everywhere.

Moral agency is one of the greatest gifts of God because it allows us to make the choices that either bring us closer to God or closer to Satan. As we get closer to God we become more like him or if we get closer to Satan we become more like him. Who do we want to become like?

Second, with this agency, our Heavenly Father allowed for “opposition in all things.”¹¹

2 Nephi 2:11 For it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things. If not so, my firstborn in the wilderness, righteousness could not be brought to pass, neither wickedness, neither holiness nor misery, neither good nor bad. Wherefore, all things must needs be a compound in one; wherefore, if it should be one body it must needs remain as dead, having no life neither death, nor corruption nor incorruption, happiness nor misery, neither sense nor insensibility.

Opposition in All Things

By Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2016/04/opposition-in-all-things?lang=eng>

The purpose of mortal life for the children of God is to provide the experiences needed “to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of eternal life.”¹ As President Thomas S. Monson taught us so powerfully this morning, we progress by making choices, by which we are tested to show that we will keep God’s commandments (see Abraham 3:25). To be tested, we must have the agency to choose between alternatives. To provide alternatives on which to exercise our agency, we must have opposition.

“It must needs be that the devil should tempt the children of men, or they could not be agents unto themselves” (D&C 29:39).

From the beginning, agency and opposition were central to the Father’s plan and to Satan’s rebellion against it.

Satan’s proposal would have ensured perfect equality: it would “redeem all mankind,” that not one soul would be lost. There would be no agency or choice by anyone and, therefore, no need for opposition. There would be no test, no failure, and no success. There would be no growth to attain the purpose the Father desired for His children.

So it is that the evil one, who opposed and sought to *destroy* the Father’s plan, actually *facilitated* it, because **it is opposition that enables choice** and it is the opportunity of making the right choices that leads to the growth that is the purpose of the Father’s plan.

All of us experience various kinds of opposition that test us. Some of these tests are temptations to sin. Some are mortal challenges apart from personal sin. Some are very great. Some are minor. Some are continuous, and some are mere episodes. None of us is exempt. Opposition permits us to grow toward what our Heavenly Father would have us become.

[President Monson] “Our mortal life, however, was never meant to be easy or consistently pleasant. Our Heavenly Father ... knows that we learn and grow and become refined through hard challenges, heartbreaking sorrows, and difficult choices. Each one of us experiences dark days when our loved ones pass away, painful times when our health is lost, feelings of being forsaken when those we love seem to have abandoned us. These and other trials present us with the real test of our ability to endure.”⁴

To illustrate the opposition of temptation, the Book of Mormon describes three methods the devil will use in the last days. First, he will “rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good” (2 Nephi 28:20). Second, he will “pacify, and lull [members] away into carnal security,” saying “Zion prospereth, all is well” (verse 21). Third, he will tell us “there is no hell; and ... I am no devil, for there is none” (verse 22), and therefore there is no right and wrong. Because of this opposition, we are warned not to be “at ease in Zion!” (verse 24).

The Church in its divine mission and we in our personal lives seem to face increasing opposition today. **Perhaps as the Church grows in strength and we members grow in faith and obedience, Satan increases the strength of his opposition so we will continue to have “opposition in all things.”**

Some of this opposition even comes from Church members. Some who use personal reasoning or wisdom to resist prophetic direction give themselves a label borrowed from elected bodies—“the loyal opposition.” However appropriate for a democracy, there is no warrant for this concept in the government of God’s kingdom, where questions are honored but opposition is not (see Matthew 26:24).

Joseph Smith taught:

TPJS Pg 150-151

The other Comforter spoken of is a subject of great interest, and perhaps understood by few of this generation. After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost, (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter, then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted. **When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure**, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter, which the Lord hath promised the Saints, as is recorded in the testimony of St. John, in the 14th chapter, from the 12th to the 27th verses.

You can’t have agency without opposition, and you can’t have opposition without agency. They are interconnected. How could the Lord thoroughly prove us if there wasn’t opposition? It would be impossible. We wouldn’t be any different from our pre-mortal state without it. With opposition we are presented with options on both sides and then we use our moral agency to pick the correct option, or at least try to, that draws us closer to God. Thank goodness for the atonement of Jesus Christ to help us when we do make the incorrect choice.

Opposition should not surprise us. We learn to distinguish good from evil.

In the last general conference President Nelson re-emphasized to us, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the importance of distinguishing good from evil.

“My third suggestion: **Learn about God and how He works.**

One of our greatest challenges today is **distinguishing between the truths of God and the counterfeits of Satan**. That is why the Lord warned us to “pray always, ... that [we] may conquer Satan, and ... *escape the hands of the servants of Satan* that do uphold his work.”¹⁶

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2022/04/47nelson?lang=eng>

TPJS Pg 297

“It is not wisdom that we should have all knowledge at once presented before us; **but that we should have a little at a time; then we can comprehend it.**

The principle of knowledge is the principle of salvation. This principle can be comprehended by the faithful and diligent; and **every one that does not obtain knowledge sufficient to be saved will be condemned.** The principle of salvation is given us through the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Salvation is nothing more nor less than to triumph over all our enemies and put them under our feet. **And when we have power to put all enemies under our feet in this world, and a knowledge to triumph over all evil spirits in the world to come, then we are saved,** as in the case of Jesus, who was to reign until He had put all enemies under His feet, and the last enemy was death.”

Christ Is Risen; Faith in Him Will Move Mountains

By President Russell M. Nelson

President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2021/04/49nelson?lang=eng>

Lazy learners and lax disciples will always struggle to muster even a particle of faith.

To do anything well requires effort. Becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ is no exception. Increasing your faith and trust in Him takes effort. May I offer five suggestions to help you develop that faith and trust.

First, **study. Become an engaged learner.** Immerse yourself in the scriptures to understand better Christ’s mission and ministry. **Know the doctrine of Christ so that you understand its power for your life.** Internalize the truth that the Atonement of Jesus Christ applies to you. He took upon Himself your misery, your mistakes, your weakness, and your sins. He paid the compensatory price and provided the power for you to move every mountain you will ever face. You obtain that power with your faith, trust, and willingness to follow Him.

Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives

By President Russell M. Nelson

President of the Church

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2018/04/revelation-for-the-church-revelation-for-our-lives?lang=eng>

In coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost.

If the guidance of the Holy Ghost is that critical, then we better make sure we have it at all costs. Nothing is more important to our spiritual survival. Joseph Fielding Smith gave us instruction on one of the key fundamental principles of having the constant influence of the Holy Ghost. He taught:

“Our right to guidance from Holy Ghost. We have the right to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, but we cannot have that guidance, **if we wilfully refuse to consider the revelations that have been given to help us to understand and to guide us in the light and truth of the everlasting gospel.** We cannot hope to have that guidance when we refuse to consider these great revelations which mean so much to us both temporally and spiritually.

Now if we find ourselves in this condition of unbelief or unwillingness to seek for the light and the knowledge which the Lord has placed within our reach, then **we are liable or in danger of being deceived by evil spirits, the doctrines of devils, and the teachings of men.** And when these false influences are presented before us, we will not have the distinguishing understanding by which we can segregate them and know that they are not of the Lord. And so we may become prey unto the ungodly, to the vicious, to the cunning, to the craftiness of men.”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teachings-of-presidents-of-the-church-joseph-fielding-smith/chapter-14-the-gift-of-the-holy-ghost?lang=eng>

In order to distinguish between good and evil in today’s world then it is clear that we have to study and gain knowledge about God and how he works as well as the doctrine of Christ. As we know and accept what has been revealed through prophets, past and living, and the scriptures then we can have that constant guidance of the Holy Ghost which as President Nelson said we have to have in order to survive coming days. The lines between good and evil are getting blurry according to the world and we have to learn to discern between the choices as opposition continues to increase.

We rejoice in the blessing of agency, understanding that there will be many who do not believe what we believe. In fact, **few in the latter days** will choose to make their faith in Jesus Christ central to all they think and do.¹³

1 Nephi 14:12 And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and **its numbers were few**, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw.

Joseph Smith taught:

TPJS PG 331

I have tried for a number of years to get the minds of the Saints prepared to receive the things of God; but we frequently see some of them, after suffering all they have for the work of God, will fly to pieces like glass as soon as anything comes that is contrary to their traditions: they cannot stand the fire at all. How many will be able to abide a celestial law, and go through and receive their exaltation, I am unable to say, as **many are called, but few are chosen.**

Matthew 25:1-13

1 And then, at that day, before the Son of Man comes, the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their clamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were already went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

The Lord's Leaders

Some view the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve as having worldly motives, like political, business, and cultural leaders.

Choose the Lord and His Prophet

By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/2022/06/04-choose-the-lord-and-his-prophet?lang=eng>

The Tugs of the World

As members of this same house of Israel broadly defined, we have been commanded *not* to be just like other people, *not* to be just like the world. But like God's people in the days of Samuel, we face the strong pull to be like those of lesser ways, those overcome by worldly fad in behavior or belief.

“For true believers,” Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles observed, “the tugs and pulls of the world—including its pleasures, power, praise, money, and

preeminence—have always been there. Now, however, many once-helpful support systems are bent or broken. Furthermore, the harmful things of the world are marketed by pervasive technology and hyped by a media barrage, potentially reaching almost every home and hamlet.”¹ And what are some of those “harmful things of the world”? Look around. Celebrity worshipping, materialism, self-interest, and some elements of fashion—in sweet, plain old hedonism—threaten our spiritual sensitivity each time we turn on the television, conduct an online search, or step out the front door.

We have been called to separate ourselves from wickedness (see [Alma 5:57](#)) and to be spiritual leaven to the world without becoming spiritually leveled by the world.

“When men say unto us, ‘you are not like us,’ we reply ‘we know it; we do not want to be,’” said President John Taylor (1808–87). “We want to be like the Lord, we want to secure His favor and approbation and to live under His smile, and to acknowledge, as ancient Israel did on a certain occasion ‘The Lord is our God, our judge and our king, and He shall reign over us.’”² By revelation, the Lord commands us to “lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better” ([Doctrine and Covenants 25:10](#)). We have help in that task. For though we live in a confused, contentious, and commotion-filled world, because of divine direction, we need not “live without God in the world” ([Mosiah 27:31](#)).

The Way to Safety

Having served in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles for nearly three decades, **I can testify that the wise men who lead The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have a grasp of moral and social issues exceeding that of any think tank or brain trust on earth.** Our lives, travels, and breadth of background give us a view of the world that few others experience.

When we couple that collective experience with the mantle of our apostolic ministry, **we can and do declare to the world that the restored Church of Jesus Christ is led by prophecy, seership, and revelation. The light that comes from that divine direction will guide modern Israel through the spiritual and physical dangers of a darkening world.**

“Every time in my life when I have chosen to delay following inspired counsel or decided that I was an exception, I came to know that I had put myself in harm’s way,” said President Henry B. Eyring, Second Counselor in the First Presidency. “Every time that I have listened to the counsel of prophets, felt it confirmed in prayer, and then followed it, I have found that I moved toward safety.”³

Prophets have no greater concern than to lead God’s children to the Savior Jesus Christ, who will, as He did for the willing and obedient anciently, take them to the promised land. But to delay obedience to prophetic counsel or reject it is to put our lives at peril.

However, we come very differently to our responsibilities. We are not elected or selected from applications. Without any specific professional preparation, we are called and ordained to bear testimony of the name of Jesus Christ throughout the world until our final breath. We endeavor to bless the sick, the lonely, the downhearted, and the poor and to strengthen the kingdom of God. **We seek to know the Lord’s will and to proclaim it, especially to those who seek eternal life.**¹⁵

I think that it is interesting to note that Elder Anderson adds a qualifier to this last sentence. Yes, it is true that President Nelson and the quorum of the 12 apostles are special witnesses of Jesus Christ for the entire world but the primary audience that this message is for is for us, members of Christ's restored church. Those in the church that are truly seeking eternal life will cling to the Lord's prophets and their counsel.

Footnote 15: Don't be surprised if at times your personal views are not **initially in harmony** with the teachings of the Lord's prophet. These are moments of learning, of humility, when we go to our knees in prayer. We walk forward in faith, trusting in God, knowing that with time we will receive more spiritual clarity from our Heavenly Father.

Footnote 15 above is on the same sentence as the qualifier which I find very interesting. He tells us that they especially want to proclaim God's will to those who are seeking eternal life but he also recognizes that our opinions and personal views are not always going to initially match up and that is ok. It is a time for us to learn and grow and move forward with complete trust and faith in our Heavenly Father. That point when our personal views don't align with the teachings of the and Lord's prophet is a critical point for us. We either choose to trust in God or we choose to trust in the arm of the flesh, ourselves. Each choice will have consequences but only one of those choices will help us to learn, to grow, to be humble, to trust God more.

Although our humble desire is for the Savior's teachings to be honored by all, the words of the Lord through His prophets are often contrary to the thinking and trends of the world. It has always been so.¹⁶

D&C 1: 14-16

14 And the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, **shall be cut off from among the people;**

15 For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant;

16 They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, **but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world,** and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior's Second Coming

By President Russell M. Nelson

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/2020/04/the-future-of-the-church-preparing-the-world-for-the-saviors-second-coming?lang=eng>

The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do (see [Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–7](#)).

Caring for All

We genuinely love and care for all our neighbors, whether or not they believe as we do. Jesus taught us in the parable of the Good Samaritan that those of different beliefs should sincerely reach out to help anyone in need, being peacemakers, pursuing good and noble causes.

We endeavor to be “peaceable followers of Christ.”²¹

Footnote 21: Moroni 7:3. President Gordon B. Hinckley said: “We must not only be tolerant, but we must cultivate a spirit of affirmative gratitude for those who do not see things quite as we see them. We do not in any way have to compromise our theology, our convictions, our knowledge of eternal truth as it has been revealed by the God of Heaven. We can offer our own witness of the truth, quietly, sincerely, honestly, but never in a manner that will give offense to others. ... We must learn to accord appreciation and respect for others who are as sincere in their beliefs and practices as are we” (“Out of Your Experience Here” [Brigham Young University devotional, Oct. 16, 1990], 6, speeches.byu.edu).

These Things I Know

By President Boyd K. Packer

President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2013/04/these-things-i-know?lang=eng>

We know that we are spirit children of heavenly parents, here on earth to receive our mortal bodies and to be tested. We who have mortal bodies have the power over the beings who do not. We are free to choose what we will and to pick and choose our acts, but we are not free to choose the consequences. They come as they will come.

Agency is defined in the scriptures as “moral agency,” which means that we can choose between good and evil. The adversary seeks to tempt us to misuse our moral agency.

The scriptures teach us “that every man may act in doctrine and principle pertaining to futurity, according to the moral agency which I have given unto him, that every man may be accountable for his own sins in the day of judgment.”

Alma taught that “the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.” In order to understand this, we must separate the sin from the sinner.

For example, when they brought before the Savior a woman taken in adultery, obviously guilty, He dismissed the case with five words: “Go, and sin no more.” That is the spirit of His ministry.

Tolerance is a virtue, but like all virtues, when exaggerated, it transforms itself into a vice. We need to be careful of the “tolerance trap” so that we are not swallowed up in it. The permissiveness afforded by the weakening of the laws of the land to tolerate legalized acts of

immorality does not reduce the serious spiritual consequence that is the result of the violation of God's law of chastity.

Moroni 7:3
Book of Mormon

3 Wherefore, I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ, and that have obtained a sufficient hope by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth until ye shall rest with him in heaven.

Valiant Discipleship in the Latter Days

By Elder Jörg Klebingat

Of the Seventy

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2022/04/53klebingat?lang=ase>

God *won't* force us to do good, and the devil *can't* force us to do evil.³ Though some may think that mortality is a contest between God and the adversary, a word from the Savior “and Satan is silenced and banished. ... It is [our] strength that is being tested—not God's.”⁴

In the end we will therefore reap what our lifelong choices have sown.⁵ So what does the sum total of our thoughts, desires, words, and works say about our love for the Savior, His chosen servants, and His restored Church? Do our baptismal, priesthood, and temple covenants mean more to us than the praise of the world or the number of “likes” on social media? Is our love for the Lord and His commandments stronger than our love for anything or anyone else in this life? Today it is almost impossible to courageously live our faith without occasionally attracting a few actual and virtual fingers of scorn from the worldly. Confidently following the Savior is rewarding, but at times we may get caught in the crosshairs of those advocating an “eat, drink, and be merry”⁹ philosophy, where faith in Christ, obedience, and repentance are substituted by the illusion that God will justify a little sin because He loves us so much.

Should we be intimidated or afraid? Should we live our religion at periscope depth? Surely not! With faith in Christ, we need not fear the reproach of men or be afraid of their revilings.¹⁶ With the Savior at the helm and living prophets to lead and guide us, “who can be against us?”¹⁷ Let us be confident, not apologetic, valiant, not timid, faithful, not fearful as we hold up the Lord's light in these last days.¹⁸

The Savior made clear that “whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father. ... But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father.”¹⁹

“O remember, remember ... how strict [yet liberating] are the commandments of God.”²⁵ Teaching them clearly may at times be seen as an act of intolerance. Let us therefore respectfully demonstrate that it is not only possible but essential to love a child of God who embraces beliefs different from our own.

We can accept and respect others **without endorsing their beliefs or actions that do not align with the Lord's will**. There is no need to sacrifice truth on the altar of agreeableness and social desirability.

Zion and Babylon are incompatible. "No man can serve two masters."²⁶ Let's all remember the Savior's penetrating question, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do *not* the things which I say?"²⁷ Let us demonstrate our love for the Lord through wholehearted, voluntary obedience.

Moral relativists advocate that truth is merely a social construct, that there are no moral absolutes. What they are really saying is that there is no sin,³⁶ that "whatsoever a man [does is] no crime,"³⁷ a philosophy for which the adversary is claiming proud authorship! Let us therefore beware of wolves in sheep's clothing, who are always recruiting and "[often use] their intellectual reservations to cover their [own] behavioral lapses."³⁸

If we really want to be valiant disciples of Christ, we will find a way. Otherwise, the adversary offers enticing alternatives (opposition). But as faithful disciples, "we need not apologize for our beliefs nor back down from that which we know to be true."³⁹

Being a peacemaker is critical to being a follower of Jesus Christ. We need to respect others and treat others with kindness and help where we can, but as we've learned that doesn't mean to stray from truths we know to be true. Christ never sunk to our level to then help us. He stayed where he was and brought people up to Him. We need to follow the same pattern. After all who are we trying to emulate? We need to stay firm in our beliefs and standards and lovingly invite those around us to join us to find these truths for themselves. For those following the world we need to be their opposition. We need to help them see that there are alternatives which would help them use their moral agency. The world tries to say do whatever you want and whatever you do it is ok, but there is opposition to that. There are consequences for our actions and there are as President Nelson put it "absolute truths" out there. We need to open our mouths and help others see the opposition to the world. A loving Heavenly Father who wants us to have all that He has but there are requirements to receive such an unfathomable blessing.

I know that moral agency and opposition are essential for us to be proved and tested here in this life to see if we can qualify for eternal life. We need to love those around us and help and uplift wherever we are. We need to not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to lovingly share it with those around us and respect their responses and choices. We need to be peacemakers of Jesus Christ. I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Micah's Thoughts: My first thought of this section was that I'm not sure if any of the Apostles have used the less correct terminology of "free agency" since Elder Bednar got called to be an Apostle... That has been one of Elder Bednar's point of interest "moral agency vs free agency". Hearing the term "moral agency" years and years ago was a lot less frequent, so I am glad when I get to hear it now- and understanding the difference between "moral agency" and "free agency" is key to understanding what it really, truly means to be a "peacemaker" so I love the fact that this was included upfront and center. If you don't understand the difference I would highly recommend a study of the subject.

I also really love the last thought on social media platforms, purely because of its intentional location: “one negative voice lacking faith or a multitude of such voices doesn’t matter- we will choose the path of being a peacemaker” and the very next section is “follow the Lord’s Leaders” and the first sentence is “many view the leaders of the church as having worldly motives”... And we’ve already gone over what it truly means to be a “peacemaker”, i.e. “someone who strives to rid contention out of the land”- such a peace can only be found united behind the pyramid of truth, behind the doctrine of heaven, ergo what is being said here is that “it doesn’t matter how many people follow after their own Gods fashioned after Babylon the great which shall fall, we are peacemakers, we preach only the doctrine of the Prince of Peace.” And one of the most fundamental doctrines in said “Kingdom of the Prince of Peace” is “follow the prophet”. Period. Those preaching to not follow the prophet, those preaching The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is in apostasy, those preaching reasons to follow spirit-o-meters and not the keys, etc. are in fact the workers of iniquity, they are in fact the very opposite of a “peacemaker”...

Matthew 12

30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

1 Nephi 14

9 And it came to pass that he said unto me: Look, and behold that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose founder is the devil.

10 And he said unto me: Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth.

11 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters; and she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people.

12 And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw.

The peacemakers of Israel are the “gatherers of Israel”, as the Lord said in Doctrine and Covenants 101 “all who are found on the watchtower, or in other words all mine Israel”- they are one and the same. If you are not on the watchtower, if you are not a gatherer, if you are not Israel, then according to the Lord you are “scattering abroad”.

Section III

The Times Not to Respond

Some of the attacks upon the Savior were so malicious that He said nothing. “And the chief priests and scribes ... vehemently accused him ... and mocked him,” but Jesus “answered [them] nothing.”²² There are times when being a peacemaker means that we resist the impulse to respond and instead, with dignity, remain quiet.²³

It is heartbreaking for all of us when harsh or dismissive words about the Savior, His followers, and His Church are spoken or published by those who once stood with us, took the sacrament with us, and testified with us of the divine mission of Jesus Christ.²⁴ This also happened during the Savior's ministry.

Some of the disciples of Jesus who were with Him during His most majestic miracles determined to "[walk] no more with him."²⁵ Sadly, not all will remain firm in their love for the Savior and their determination to keep His commandments.²⁶

Jesus taught us to withdraw from the circle of anger and contention. In one example, after the Pharisees confronted Jesus and counseled how they might destroy Him, the scriptures say that Jesus withdrew Himself from them,²⁷ and miracles occurred as "great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all."²⁸

Blessing the Lives of Others

We too can move away from contention and bless the lives of others²⁹ while not isolating ourselves in our own corner.

In Mbuji-Mayi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, initially some were critical of the Church, not understanding our beliefs or knowing our members.

Some time ago, Kathy and I attended a very special Church service in Mbuji-Mayi. The children were dressed immaculately, with bright eyes and big smiles. I had hoped to speak to them about their education but learned that many were not attending school. Our leaders, with very nominal humanitarian funds, found a way to help.³⁰ Now, more than 400 students—girls and boys, members as well as those not of our faith—are welcomed and taught by 16 teachers who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Fourteen-year-old Kalanga Muya said, "[Having little money,] I spent four years without attending school. ... I am so grateful for what the Church has done. ... I can now read, write, and speak French."³¹ Speaking of this initiative, the mayor of Mbuji-Mayi said, "I am inspired by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints because while [other] churches are being divided each one in his corner ... [you are working] with [others] to help the community in need."³²

Love One Another

Each time I read [John chapter 13](#), I am reminded of the Savior's perfect example as a peacemaker. Jesus lovingly washed the feet of the Apostles. Then, we read, "he was troubled in spirit"³³ as He thought about one He loved preparing to betray Him. I have tried to imagine the thoughts and feelings of the Savior as Judas left. Interestingly, at that sobering moment, Jesus spoke no more about His "troubling" feelings or about betrayal. Rather, He spoke to His Apostles about love, His words cascading through the centuries:

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you. ...

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."³⁴

May we love Him and love one another. May we be peacemakers, that we may be called the “children of God,” I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Russell’s Thoughts:

Micah’s Thoughts:

If being a “peacemaker” means preaching only the doctrine of The Prince of Peace, what do we do when we are mocked, scorned, etc.? We can’t preach any other doctrine, so what do we say? What do we preach? Nothing. We walk away and go looking for those that are “kept from the truth because they know not where to find it”. What do we do with the mockers? The pointers? “We heed them not”... Elder Bednar gave a great talk on that subject that we in fact did a talk breakdown for- I’d highly recommend going back and giving that a read if you have not- “heeding them not” is a huge part to being a “true peacemaker of the Prince of Peace”. We are told to withdraw ourselves from the circles of hate- those united only in their hatred of others, those that are only united in their tearing down of others, and a wonderful key of insight was given to know if you were in the right group- the fruit followed Christ and his followers. Miracles, gifts and manifestations of the Spirit etc. followed the one group and did not follow the other...

“But what if some of them are my friends! I like them and want to be with them! And we are told to ‘be one’ are we not?! We eat the same sacrament! Etc.”

“Not with them, no we are not told once to be ‘one’ with such people...”

Withdraw from such groups/communities at once to save your soul. Period. Remember what President Nelson warned us was coming, said he “Sadly, some whom you thought were your friends will betray you. And some things will simply seem unfair. However, I promise you that as you follow Jesus Christ, you will find sustained peace and true joy. As you keep your covenants with increasing precision, and as you defend the Church and kingdom of God on the earth today, the Lord will bless you with strength and wisdom to accomplish what only members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can accomplish. We are to be builders...”
(The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior’s Second Coming)

3 Nephi 24

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

1 Nephi 8

25 And after they had partaken of the fruit of the tree they did cast their eyes about as if they were ashamed.

26 And I also cast my eyes round about, and beheld, on the other side of the river of water, a great and spacious building; and it stood as it were in the air, high above the earth.

27 And it was filled with people, both old and young, both male and female; and their manner of dress was exceedingly fine; and they were in the attitude of mocking and pointing their fingers towards those who had come at and were partaking of the fruit.

28 And after they had tasted of the fruit they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost.

President Nelson also taught us (and I would like to end my thoughts with these words):

Why do we need such resilient faith? Because difficult days are ahead. Rarely in the future will it be easy or popular to be a faithful Latter-day Saint. Each of us will be tested. The Apostle Paul warned that in the latter days, those who diligently follow the Lord “shall suffer persecution” ([2 Timothy 3:12](#)). That very persecution can either crush you into silent weakness or motivate you to be more exemplary and courageous in your daily lives.

How you deal with life’s trials is part of the development of your faith. Strength comes when you remember that you have a divine nature, an inheritance of infinite worth. The Lord has reminded you, your children, and your grandchildren that you are lawful heirs, that you have been reserved in heaven for your specific time and place to be born, to grow and become His standard bearers and covenant people. As you walk in the Lord’s path of righteousness, you will be blessed to continue in His goodness and be a light and a savior unto His people (see [Doctrine and Covenants 86:8–11](#)).

Do whatever it takes to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ by increasing your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored Church and by relentlessly seeking truth. Anchored in pure doctrine, you will be able to step forward with faith and dogged persistence and cheerfully do all that lies in your power to fulfill the purposes of the Lord. (The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior’s Second Coming)

In the name of Jesus Christ amen