

December 5th 2021 Fireside

Sisters and the Power of the Priesthood

Quote #1

“You are now placed in a situation where you can act according to those sympathies which God has planted in your bosoms. If you live up to these principles how great and glorious!—if you live up to your privilege, the angels cannot be restrained from being your associates. ... If you will be pure, nothing can hinder.:

- **Joseph Smith** (Daughters in My Kingdom; Chapter 10 Live up to your privilege)

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Lisa:

This quote was given to the women of Nauvoo by Joseph Smith as he organised the divine institution of RS in April 1842. It can be found in the RS manual/ church publication called Daughters in My Kingdom. This quote is used as a springboard for chap 10 entitled "Live up to your Privilege ". This book was used as a RS manual in the 2010's which for me personally I thoroughly enjoyed participating in.

In chapter 10 we read that as God's Daughters we have an innate capacity to love and nurture, serve and bless others and a tendency to put the well-being of others ahead of our own. The Prophet is telling us that if we live up to these principles, including living in purity, we are in effect living up to our privilege. And what is that privilege? To have angels as our associates and nothing can hinder us. What a marvellous blessing and promise.

The Prophet JS also taught that it is natural for females to have feelings of charity. For me I understand that for true charity to blossom in our hearts, women must combine our innate compassion with faith in Jesus Christ and His atonement.

Henry B Eyring said charity is born of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and is an effect of His atonement working in our hearts. He said that our acts of charity come out of gratitude for His infinite gift of mercy and by the holy spirit which He sends to accompany His servants on their missions of mercy. (The enduring legacy of RS, Ensign Nov, 2009)

From this I understand that as we recognise and receive the Lord's mercy in our own lives, we can through gratitude and the holy spirit, then extend the same mercy to others. What a blessing it is to participate in this holy work of using our divine gifts to extend mercy and love to others. Are we not becoming as our Lord and Saviour as we do this. As we practise our innate Christlike

attributes and overcome our sins and weaknesses we can experience the Joy of living in charity as love emanates from our spirits and we can be a light and example to others of the promises of the new and everlasting gospel.

I love the scripture in Alma 7: 23-24 where Alma the elder is speaking to the members in Gideon and says, and now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive and gentle, easy to be entreated, full of patience and long suffering, being temperate in all things, being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times, asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need of, both spiritual and temporal, always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive. And see that ye have faith, hope and charity and then ye will always abound in good works.

When I joined the church at 17, I'm sure that I had none of these attributes. Yes I was born with them but as I had grown, for varying reasons, I had squashed each and every one of them so significantly that they were hardly recognisable. My heart was small and shrivelled. I was in pain, angry, rebellious and miserable. If you have watched the movie or read Dr Seuss's book called The Grinch, you can get the picture. But just as love opened his heart, so did mine. Healing wasn't immediate but through recognising and receiving the mercy of my Saviour, I gradually opened my heart. I felt and heard the Holy spirit guide and teach me what I needed to do. Over the years I have taken each one of those attributes in that scripture from Alma and studied them. I have called down the powers of heaven to help me learn about them and learn to be them. I desired to be born again, not just once but each and every time I gained knowledge and further understanding of who the Saviour was, I wanted to become like Him.

32 years since my baptism and I am grateful that He makes up the difference because I'm still not as He is and I'm not expecting to be in this lifetime but as I look back, I can see much progress. My heart is healed, I feel connected to my innate divinity as a daughter of God and believe that right here and now I am living up to my privileges. I am looking forward to enjoying those privileges more fully as we experience the power and majesty of the last days and progress towards the second coming.

Ryan and Kelly:

In the prior Relief Society meetings (April 14 and 19, 1842) there was some background events that put this quote in context.

In the Temple women would with oil and by the laying on of the hands confer on their sisters blessings of greater eternal significance than the beautiful but single effect of healing an illness.

What to Joseph Smith say to encourage the Relief Society? What characteristics should define us as Women?

1. The instruction given to the Relief Society was to **ACT ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD.**
 - a. Lectures on Faith 6 for further reading.
2. Joseph stated that he was leaving the keys to the Church and Relief Society

- a. "He spoke of delivering the keys of the Priesthood to the Church and said that the faithful members of the Relief Society should receive them in connection with their husbands, that the Saints whose integrity has been tried and proved faithful, might know how to ask the Lord and receive an answer; for according to his prayers, God had appointed him elsewhere" (History of the Church, 4:604, or Teachings, p. 226). For further explanation, see 5 October 1840, note 19.
3. He exhorted the sisters always to concentrate their faith and prayers for, and place confidence in those whom God has appointed to honor, whom God has plac'd at the head to lead—that we should arm them with our prayers—that the keys of the kingdom are about to be given to them, that they may be able to detect every thing false—as well as to the Elders
4. The charitable Society—this is according to your natures—it is natural for females to have feelings of charity—you are now placed in a situation where you can act according to those sympathies which God has planted in your bosoms. If you live up to these principles how great and glorious—if you live up to your privilege the angels cannot be restrain'd from being your associates—
5. The devil has great power—he will so transform things as to make one gape at those who are doing the will of God—You need not be teasing men for their deeds, but let the weight of innocence be felt which is more mighty than a millstone hung about the neck. Not war, not jangle, not contradiction, but meekness, love purity, these are the things that should magnify us.
6. Let this Society teach how to act towards husbands, to treat them with mildness and affection. When a man is borne down with trouble—when he is perplexed, if he can meet a smile, [not] an argument—if he can meet with mildness, it will calm down his soul and smoothe his feelings. When the mind is going to despair it needs a solace.
7. When you go home never give a cross word, but let kindness, charity and love, crown your works henceforward.

Micah:

What are the principles that women were to live up to so as to open the veil of heaven? So as to purify themselves so that they would have the companionship of angels? Is it any different than it is for the men? The simple answer is "no", if one understands "grace for grace", if one understands that patriarchal order always gives glory to those that came before. We are taught this order and how to obey it with the keys of the kingdom.

"There has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing; and let those be chosen that are worthy. And it shall be manifest unto my servant, by the voice of the Spirit, those

that are chosen; and they shall be sanctified; And inasmuch as they follow the counsel which they receive, they shall have power after many days to accomplish all things pertaining to Zion."

- Jesus Christ (D&C 105: 35-37)

"Behold, I, the Lord, will give unto my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., power that he shall be enabled to discern by the Spirit those who shall go up unto the land of Zion, and those of my disciples who shall tarry."

-Jesus Christ (D&C 63:41)

Do Not Betray the Brethren

O ye Twelve! and all Saints! profit by this important Key--that in all your trials, troubles, temptations, afflictions, bonds, imprisonments and death, see to it, that you do not betray heaven; that you do not betray Jesus Christ; that you do not betray the brethren; that you do not betray the revelations of God, whether in Bible, Book of Mormon, or Doctrine and Covenants, or any other that ever was or ever will be given and revealed unto man in this world or that which is to come. Yea, in all your kicking and flounderings, see to it that you do not this thing, lest innocent blood be found upon your skirts, and you go down to hell. All other sins are not to be compared to sinning against the Holy Ghost, and proving a traitor to the brethren.

-**Joseph Smith Jr** (TPJS Section Four 1839-42, p.156)

D&C 90:36–37. The Lord Will Chasten Zion until She Overcomes

Elder Melvin J. Ballard said of the Lord's promise to see that Zion overcomes and is clean: "That kind of promise entails the necessity of chastisement, when we need to be chastened and corrected and brought to a condition of repentance. I recognize that the Lord cannot fulfil his work nor accomplish his purposes without our willing obedience. He will not use this people unless we are willing to be used; but he has means of correcting, he has means of chastisement, which he will apply from time to time, and the only thing that impedes our progress today is our own lack of willingness to follow the counsel of those whom God has appointed to lead this people, because of the imagination of our hearts that we are wiser than they are." (In Conference Report, Oct. 1921, p. 100.)

- Student Manual

"It is hard to keep the Lord's commandments without faith and trust in Him. As some lose their faith in the Savior, they may even attack His counsel, calling good evil and evil good. To avoid this tragic error, it is crucial that any personal revelation we receive be consonant with the teachings of the Lord and His prophets."

- **President Henry B. Eyring** ("The Faith to Ask and Then to Act", 2021 Oct General Conference)

Without becoming too long winded, the bottom line is that as we accept and follow the counsel from the keys we are promised and will be blessed with these same blessings- angels being our companions, etc. We don't have to hold the keys of the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to receive the power of those keys, power we receive by obedience to them. Our revelation from God will never not be "consonant" with the counsel provided by the keys. But how does this relationship relate to women? Elder Orson Pratt gives us the answer:

"The wife should never follow her own judgment in preference to that of her husband; for if her husband desires to do right, but errs in judgment, the Lord will bless her in endeavoring to carry out his counsels; for God has placed him at the head, and though he may err in judgment, yet God will not justify the wife in disregarding his instructions and counsels; for greater is the sin of rebellion, than the errors which arise for the want of judgment; therefore, she would be condemned for suffering her will to arise against his. Be obedient, and God will cause all things to work for good; and He will correct the errors of the husband in due time by the authorities of the priesthood; and if he govern his family in unrighteousness, and the wife is obedient, the sin will be upon his head, and if he repent not, when he is reproved, he will be disfellowshipped, after which, the woman is not under the same obligations to abide by all his councils, as in the days of his righteousness. As we have already observed, the law of strict obedience on the part of the wife and children is only applicable in families who are in the church of God, and in full fellowship. Rebellion in families is as sinful as rebellion against the authorities ordained in the church; and a wife will lose the spirit of God in refusing to obey the counsel of her husband, just the same as members of the church would in rebelling against the counsels imparted to them by the priesthood."

- Elder Orson Pratt (The Seer [1854], pg 96-97)

Quote#2

"Attacks against the Church, its doctrine, and our way of life are going to increase. Because of this, we need women who have a bedrock understanding of the doctrine of Christ and who will use that understanding to teach and help raise a sin-resistant generation. We need women who can detect deception in all of its forms. We need women who know how to access the power that God makes available to covenant keepers and who express their beliefs with confidence and charity. We need women who have the courage and vision of our Mother Eve."

Pres Nelson (2015 A Plea to My Sisters)

Lisa:

I like how this quote leads off from the last, JS said if we are pure nothing can hinder. Being pure reminds me of being virtuous. Purity and virtue are synonymous with chastity, integrity and power. There are quite a few scriptures about these but one I like is in Psalms 24:3 it reads he (or she) that has clean hands and a pure heart shall stand in the Lods holy place. I love this promise! Clean hands to me denotes the practicalities of life- the temporal things we do, so if the things we do in an outward appearance are clean plus our hearts are pure on the inward spiritual body then we can stand in his holy place. Of course his holy place is the temple and being covenant keeping women is everything. But I want to add that we have also been commanded to stand in holy places and be not moved (D&C 87:8) and thus if we are pure and virtuous we can create holy places wherever we stand.

When our homes are holy places amongst others we can access that power from our temple covenants every single day. We can receive, guidance for our lives, inspiration to know how to serve our family members and others, strength to endure and overcome challenges, receive gifts of the spirit to magnify our abilities, revelation to know how to fulfill the work we are set apart or assigned to do and receive help and strength to become more like Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. (General handbook 3.5)

In this quote Pres Nelson is calling out for mothers to raise a sin resistant generation. To do this WE need to be sin resistant. Children will follow the example of their parents and particularly their mothers. I love the example of the sons of Helaman who were taught by their mothers. Their fathers may have been those who sacrificed themselves by being unwilling to participate in bloodshed but either way they had come from families that were "all in" as Elder Holland spoke about last conference.

When we understand the doctrine of Christ, being; faith, repentance, baptism, gift of the HG and enduring to the end and we use that understanding in our own lives, then it becomes easier to teach our children. I used to think the doctrines of Christ was something you learnt and did then only had to concern yourself with the last point, but a year or so ago I received revelation to help me see it is an ongoing pattern. So for me the doctrines of Christ includes;

Faith as a continual belief and process of acting on that belief until it becomes a knowledge

Repentance as a continual process of seeking forgiveness and redemption and striving to become like our Saviour

Baptism as a one off, but weekly we take the sacrament to remember and recommit to our baptism covenants of always remembering our Saviour

Enduring to the end includes continual temple attendance to receive keys of knowledge and power to enable us to receive exaltation. It also includes becoming Saviours on Mount Zion for our ancestors and our posterity as we participate in temple ordinances and assist them in the opportunity to also become exalted.

I have found as we participate in this continual pattern of the doctrines of Christ, we can become sin resistant and as a result raise a sin resistant generation.

The last line; having courage as our Mother Eve is especially meaningful to me. We named our last child, our daughter Eve and her middle name is Esther. She is 5 and already we have shared with her their stories many times and encouraged her to emulate the courage of these two amazing and glorious women. As we become familiar with their stories and ponder on their lives, we can make them real in our lives, then we can more easily follow their examples.

Ryan and Kelly:

How do we become courageous women like Mother Eve?

In the scriptures we always find two groups of people. It is our choice to determine our understanding of covenants and the Priesthood.

- 1) Those who do not understand the covenants they have made with God, or the Keys of the Priesthood
- 2) Those who DO understand the covenants they have made with God, and The Keys of the Priesthood.

1 Nephi 16:35-36 Daughters of Ishmael

35 And it came to pass that the daughters of Ishmael did mourn exceedingly, because of the loss of their father, and because of their afflictions in the wilderness; and they did murmur against my father, because he had brought them out of the land of Jerusalem, saying: Our father is dead; yea, and we have wandered much in the wilderness, and we have suffered much affliction, hunger, thirst, and fatigue; and after all these sufferings we must perish in the wilderness with hunger.

36 And thus they did murmur against my father, and also against me; and they were desirous to return again to Jerusalem.

Numbers 14:1-5 Children of Israel being led by Moses

1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

3 And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

Numbers 16: 12 -15, 31-33, 41-50 False Priest and Priestcraft

12 ¶ And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up:

13 Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?

14 Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up.

15 And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the Lord, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

31 ¶ And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

41 ¶ But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, **Ye have killed the people of the Lord.**

42 And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared.

43 And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation.

44 ¶ And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

45 Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.

46 ¶ And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the Lord; the plague is begun.

47 And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people.

48 And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.

49 Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah.

50 And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the plague was stayed.

1 Nephi 16:37-38 Laman and Lemuel

37 And Laman said unto Lemuel and also unto the sons of Ishmael: Behold, let us slay our father, and also our brother Nephi, **who has taken it upon him to be our ruler and our teacher, who are his elder brethren.**

38 Now, he says that the Lord has talked with him, and also that angels have ministered unto him. But behold, we know **that he lies unto us; and he tells us these things, and he worketh many things by his cunning arts, that he may deceive our eyes, thinking, perhaps, that he may lead us away into some strange wilderness; and after he has led us away, he has thought to make himself a king and a ruler over us, that he may do with us according to his will and pleasure. And after this manner did my brother Laman stir up their hearts to anger.**

39 And it came to pass that the Lord was with us, yea, even the voice of the Lord came and did speak many words unto them, and did chasten them exceedingly; and after they were chastened by the voice of the Lord they did turn away their anger, and did repent of their sins, **insomuch that the Lord did bless us again with food, that we did not perish.**

1 Nephi 17: 1 to 4 An example of Women who understand their covenants

1 And it came to pass that we did again take our journey in the wilderness; and we did travel nearly eastward from that time forth. And we did travel and wade through much affliction in the wilderness; and our women did bear children in the wilderness.

2 And so great were the blessings of the Lord upon us, that while we did live upon raw meat in the wilderness, our women did give plenty of suck for their children, and were strong, yea, even like unto the men; and they began to bear their journeyings without murmurings.

3 And thus we see that the commandments of God must be fulfilled. And if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God he doth nourish them, and strengthen them, and provide means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them; wherefore, he did provide means for us while we did sojourn in the wilderness.

4 And we did sojourn for the space of many years, yea, even eight years in the wilderness.

Exodus 16:12–15 Children of Israel

12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel; speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God.

13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.

Micah:

I want to take a quote by Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, John E. Page, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, and George A. Smith (Times and Seasons, 11 [November 1839]: 13) and change it slightly to answer this question, said they:

*We would say to the [sisters], that God has called you to an important office, he has laid upon you an onerous duty, he has called you to an holy calling, even to be [priestesses] of the "most high God," [mothers] to the nations of the earth; an upon your diligence, your perseverance and faithfulness, **the soundness of the doctrines that you preach**, the moral precepts that you advance and practice, and upon the sound principles that you inculcate, hang the destinies of the human family...*

*You are the [women] that God has called [to] spread forth his kingdom, he has committed the care of souls to your charge, and when you received this [blessing/calling], you became the legate of heaven, and the great God demands it of you, that you should be faithful, and inasmuch as you are not, you will not be chosen; but it will be said unto you, stand by, and let a more honorable [woman] than thou art take they place, and receive thy crown; be careful that you teach not for the word of God, the commandments of men, nor the doctrines of men, nor the ordinances of men, inasmuch as you are God's messengers; study the word of God and preach it, and not your opinions, for no [one's] opinion is worth a straw: advance no principle but what you can prove, for one scriptural proof is worth ten thousand opinions: we would moreover say, abide by that revelation which says, "preach nothing but repentance to this generation," and leave the further mysteries of the kingdom, till God shall tell you to preach them, which is not now. The horns of the beats, the toes of the image, the frogs and the beast mentioned by John, are not going to save this generation, for if [one] does not become acquainted with the first principles of the gospel, how shall [they] understand those greater mysteries, which the most wise cannot understand **without revelation**. These things therefore, have nothing to do with your mission [or calling].*

And I love this example set by Sister Nelson one what it means to be this grounded, strong, woman, told by Nelson:

Fifty-eight years ago I was asked to operate upon a little girl, gravely ill from congenital heart disease. Her older brother had previously died of a similar condition. Her parents pleaded for help. I was not optimistic about the outcome but vowed to do all in my power to save her life. Despite my best efforts, the child died. Later, the same parents brought another daughter to me, then just 16 months old, also born with a malformed heart. Again, at their request, I performed an operation. This child also died. This third heartbreaking loss in one family literally undid me.

I went home grief stricken. I threw myself upon our living room floor and cried all night long. Dantzel stayed by my side, listening as I repeatedly declared that I would never perform another heart operation. Then, around 5:00 in the morning, Dantzel looked at me and lovingly asked, "Are you finished crying? Then get dressed. Go back to the lab. Go to work! You need to learn more. If you quit now, others will have to painfully learn what you already know."

Oh, how I needed my wife's vision, grit, and love! I went back to work and learned more. If it weren't for Dantzel's inspired prodding, I would not have pursued open-heart surgery and would not have been prepared to do the operation in 1972 that saved the life of President Spencer W. Kimball.

(President Russell M. Nelson said in his talk “A Plea to My Sisters”)

Quote#3

"Our continuing role is to receive continuing revelation.

As we attain a greater degree of proficiency at doing so, we can receive more power in our individual roles to minister and accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation—to truly “lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better.” We can then more effectively inspire our rising generation to do the same."

- **Sister Joy Jones** (April 2020 An Especially Noble Calling)

Lisa:

I loved how Sister Jones in this talk was speaking specifically to the women. She referenced the first quote we used tonight by Joseph Smith counselling the sisters to live up to their privilege. She also said, “we have a divine errand from the Lord, and our faithful unique contributions are vital”. I am grateful to understand that we as sisters are all different and our contributions being unique means that we are not in competition with each other. We just need to concern ourselves in learning through the spirit what our own personal pathway is meant to look like.

Receiving personal revelation would have to be my favourite part of the gospel. Before I was baptised I felt so alone, but once I knew and recognised the spirit that dwelt with me, suddenly I realised I never had to feel alone ever again. What a joy it is to feel the love of our Saviour and the inspired guidance of the Holy Ghost.

In the previous quote I spoke about being pure and virtuous and I have come to learn that the Holy Ghost loves a pure and virtuous temple to dwell in. Considering we know that purity and virtue are synonymous with chastity, integrity and power then we can see that these are the keys to being worthy to have the Holy Ghost dwell within us.

The part of this quote that stands out to me is to lay aside the things of this world and seek for the things of a better.(D&C 25:10) We have been commanded in the scriptures to flee Babylon. Babylon is synonymous with the world or the devil. Nephi foresaw us living in the last days and warned us against works of darkness such as pride, secret combinations and priestcrafts. He goes on to use the example of how Satan uses a flaxen cord to destroy us. A flaxen cord is a thin linen thread that can easily be broken. However, when multiple threads are woven together they become a strong cord which is a lot harder to be free of. I feel that so many latter day saints are toying with these flaxen cords not realising their danger and their power. When we are in tune with the spirit and living our lives in a way that we can always hear Him, then we can choose to ask and receive continual personal revelation and learn what the Lord wants from us.

Speaking of Esther again I love when her cousin Mordecai asked her, “who knoweth whether thou art come to thy kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther4:14) Sisters, I pray that if we have not already, that we will ponder, ask and pray to know that we *have* come to such a time as this for a specific reason and purpose. I pray that we will come to know what that specific reason and

purpose is. We know we are in the winding up stages of the last days, we know the righteous and the wicked will soon be separated and it is our charge to redeem Zion. If we are going to survive these difficult days ahead we will need to lay aside the things of this world and seek for the things of a better.

Ryan and Kelly:

Exodus 15:23–26 Children of Israel

- 23 ¶ And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.
- 24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?
- 25 And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,
- 26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

Doctrine and Covenants 98:12

12 For he will give unto the faithful line upon line, precept upon precept; and I will try you and prove you herewith.

Doctrine and Covenants 124:55

55 And again, verily I say unto you, I command you again to build a house to my name, even in this place, that you may prove yourselves unto me that ye are faithful in all things whatsoever I command you, that I may bless you, and crown you with honor, immortality, and eternal life.

Micah:

Keys to Receiving “Continuing Revelation”

Joseph Smith explained it thus: “The Spirit of Revelation is in connection with these blessings. A person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation; for instance, when you feel pure intelligence flowing into you, it may give you sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon; (i.e.,) those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God, will come to pass; and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation, until you become perfect in Christ Jesus.” (TPJS, p.151)

And it is through the Holy Ghost that our natures are changed:

“There are two Comforters spoken of. One is the Holy Ghost, the same as given on the day of Pentecost, and that all Saints receive after faith, repentance, and baptism. This first Comforter or Holy Ghost has no other effect than pure intelligence. It is more powerful in expanding the mind, enlightening the understanding, and storing the intellect with present knowledge, of a man who is of the literal seed of Abraham, than one that is a Gentile, though it may not have half as much visible effect upon the body; for as the Holy Ghost falls upon one of the literal seed of Abraham, it is calm and serene; and his whole soul and body are only exercised by the pure spirit of intelligence; while the effect of the Holy Ghost upon a Gentile, is to purge out the old blood, and make him actually of the seed of Abraham. That man that has none of the blood of Abraham (naturally) must have a new creation by the Holy Ghost. In such a case, there may be more of a powerful effect upon the body, and visible to the eye, than upon an Israelite, while the Israelite at first might be far before the Gentile in pure intelligence. (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.149)

The answer is to “how to grow into the principle of revelation” and thus profit by “continuing revelation” is simple, but following through on it seems to be anything but. When the Lord isn’t speaking we need to be walking, and when the Lord says jump, we jump. When we act upon what the Lord says to us specifically or to us through the keys and we act upon those things, our intelligence is expanded and we grow into the principle of revelation. And the contrary is true, if we don’t listen to revelation either directly or through the keys the revelation will be harder and harder to recognize and will be far and in between. Or as Elder Eyring taught:

"Another fallacy is to believe that the choice to accept or not accept the counsel of prophets is no more than deciding whether to accept good advice and gain its benefits or to stay where we are. But the choice not to take prophetic counsel changes the very ground upon which we stand. It becomes more dangerous. The failure to take prophetic counsel lessens our power to take inspired counsel in the future. The best time to have decided to help Noah build the ark was the first time he asked. Each time he asked after that, each failure to respond would have lessened sensitivity to the Spirit. And so each time his request would have seemed more foolish, until the rain came. And then it was too late."

- Henry B. Eyring (Finding Safety in Counsel, , Apr 19917 Gen Con)

Why is it important to become this principle of revelation? It is simple, we should all want to go back and live with our Heavenly Father and be like Him. In the Lectures on Faith we learn that the mind of God is the Holy Ghost and they both are charity. Meaning, as our intellect grows and becomes more like our Father in Heaven, His way of thinking, we become love and charity in that our minds and will are perfectly aligned with His.

Quote#4

"I invite you, my dear sisters, to create a home that is a place of security. And I renew my invitation for you to increase your understanding of priesthood power and of temple covenants and blessings. Having places of security to which you can retreat will help you embrace the future with faith."

- **President Nelson (Oct 2020 Women's Conference)**

Lisa:

We have discussed that being covenant keeping women is the key to priesthood power. We have mentioned that standing in holy places means being temple worthy and accessing the temple as often as we can. We also know that we can make our homes a temple. But when I read Pres Nelson's words of having places of security which we can retreat to that will help us embrace our future with faith, I had the thought that this also includes our own body, mind and spirit as a temple. I know that is probably not exactly what Pres Nelson had in mind but the spirit whispered to me that doing all we can to prepare our home as a temple includes looking inward and finding ways we can improve our own personal temples.

If you can, I'd like to ask you to sit very still and quiet and listen to your inner voice as I ask these three questions. I will give you 10 seconds between each question, but you can always come back to them if that's not enough time.

1. What do I need to do to have a healthy and alert mind?
2. What more can I do to love my body?
3. How can I strengthen my spirit?

In Alma 60:23 Captain Moroni is complaining to Pahoran about his neglect and reminds him that God has asked them to cleanse the inward vessel first, then the outer vessel. As we increase our understanding of Priesthood power and temple covenants and blessings, we cleanse our inner vessels or temples and then we can cleanse or fortify our homes. As we combine these roles of cleansing the inner and outer vessels simultaneously we will feel congruent and secure. Security will come because we have done all we can to prepare ourselves inside and out to receive the wonderful blessings we have been promised.

We know that children feel secure when they are immersed in strong boundaries and know what those boundaries are, it is the same with us. If our homes are to be places of security we need to get really clear on what our boundaries are and make sure we are following them the best we can. Obedience is the first law of heaven, so asking in prayer, 'what lack I yet', and searching to know what more we can do to be obedient to the laws of heaven will enable us to create places of security. Recently our Prophet also urged us to take unprecedented measures to strengthen our spiritual foundation. So the question is, what unprecedented measures do you need to take to strengthen your spiritual and might I add physical foundations? This is a question I believe behoves us all to take to our HF and ask to receive our own personal revelation as I get the impression we are REALLY going to need to draw on these in the coming days.

Ryan and Kelly:

THE FAMILY: A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity.

Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Successful marriages and families are established and maintained **on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities.**

- These match exactly with what we learned from the Prophet Joseph Smith.

By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily **responsible for the nurture of their children.**

In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support when needed.

We warn that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God.

As women, we are held responsible to support the father as he presides over the family. Remember the father is to preside over the family by divine design. We cannot have a full understanding of our temple covenants (Power of the Priesthood) without a solid testimony of how God has designed the family.

Micah:

Elder M. Russell Ballard in his talk “Women of Righteousness” said:

There is nothing a woman can do that has more far-reaching, eternal impact than to rear her children to walk in righteousness... Some women do not have the privilege of marrying or rearing children in this life. Yet if they are worthy, these blessings will come later. Women who do have the privilege of rearing children will of course be held accountable for that priceless, eternal stewardship. There is simply not a more significant contribution [women] can make to society, to the Church, or to the eternal destiny of our Father's children than what [they] will do as a mother. For that reason I am concerned about what I see happening with some of our young women. Satan would have you dress, talk, and behave in unnatural and destructive ways... The adversary is having a heyday distorting attitudes about gender and roles and about families and individual worth. He is the author of mass confusion about the value, the role, the contribution, and the unique nature of women. Today's popular culture, which is preached by every form of media from the silver screen to the Internet, celebrates the sexy, saucy, socially aggressive woman. These distortions are seeping into the thinking of some of our own women.

Remember, Satan wants us to “be miserable like unto himself” (2 Ne. 2:27), His plan is to get [women] so preoccupied with the world’s glitzy lie about women that [they] completely miss what [they] have come here to do and to become. Remember and never lose your precious identity... Your influence on families and with children, with youth, and with men is singular. We don’t need women who want to be like men, sound like men, dress like men, drive like some men drive, or act like men. We do need women who rejoice in their womanhood and have a spiritual confirmation of their identity, their value, and their eternal destiny.

Elder D. Todd Christofferson said in his talk “The Moral Force of Women”:

In all events, a mother can exert an influence unequalled by any other person in any other relationship. By the power of her example and teaching, her sons learn to respect womanhood and to incorporate discipline and high moral standards in their own lives. A mother’s love and high expectations lead her children to act responsibly without excuses, to be serious about education and personal development, and to make ongoing contributions to the well-being of all around them.

Elder Neal A. Maxwell, from his talk “Women of God”:

When the real history of mankind is fully disclosed, will it feature the echoes of gunfire or the shaping sound of lullabies? The great armistices made by military men or the peacemaking of women in homes and in neighborhoods? Will what happened in cradles and kitchens prove to be more controlling than what happened in congresses? No wonder the men of God support and sustain you sisters in your unique roles, for the act of deserting home in order to shape society is like thoughtlessly removing crucial fingers from an imperiled dike in order to teach people to swim. Finally, remember: When we return to our real home, it will be with the “mutual approbation” of those who reign in the “royal courts on high.” There we will find beauty such as mortal “eye hath not seen”; we will hear sounds of surpassing music which mortal “ear hath not heard.” Could such a regal homecoming be possible without the anticipatory arrangements of a Heavenly Mother?

Quote #5

"Now, you might be saying to yourself, “This sounds wonderful, but how do I do it? How do I draw the Savior’s power into my life? You won’t find this process spelled out in any manual. The Holy Ghost will be your personal tutor as you seek to understand what the Lord would have you know and do. This process is neither quick nor easy, but it is spiritually invigorating. What

could possibly be more exciting than to labor with the Spirit to understand God's power—priesthood power?"

- **President Nelson** (2019 Spiritual Treasures)

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- **President Nelson** (2019 Spiritual Treasures)

Lisa:

In our discord group we have had much discussion on how to present or talk about women and priesthood power. There were many talks and individual experiences that could have been shared but we decided to include this quote to emphasize the importance of coming to this knowledge through personal revelation.

President Nelson and others have spoken a lot about strengthening our ability to Hear Him. There has been quite a concert of clarity to the women about doing all we can to learn and understand about priesthood power, I have included a number of talks and resources (19) that have been helpful to me. The list is not exhaustive and rather than read them all out, to preserve time I will let you read them in the paper.

- President Russell M Nelson, 2015 "A Plea to my Sisters"
- Elder Dallin H Oaks, 2014 "Keys and Authority of Priesthood"
- Elder M Russell Ballard's BYU 2013 Education week devotional "Let us Think Straight" titled later in the *Ensign* as 'Men and Women and Priesthood Power"
- Elder M Russell Ballard 2015 BYU Women's conference, "Women of Dedication, Faith, Determination and Action"
- Sister Linda K Burton BYU Women's Conference 2013 address "Priesthood Power - Available to All"
- Sister Julie B Beck 2012 General Conference, "Why we have Quorums and Relief Society"
- Sister Bonnie L Oscarson, 2016 "Rise up in Strength, Oh Sisters in Zion"
- Sister Sharon Eubank "Priesthood" at Fairmormon Conference
- Sister Oscarson 2018 "Young Women and Ministering"
- President Eyring 2019 "Women and Gospel Learning in the Home"
- President Nelson 2019 "Sisters Participating in the Gathering of Israel "
- Relief Society Presidency, Womens Conference, 2019, Priesthood
- Elder Bednar, 2019, "Prepared to Obtain Every Needful Thing"
- President Nelson 2019 Women's Conference, "Spiritual Treasures"
- President Oaks 2020 General Conference

- Sister Joy Jones 2020 General Conference
- President Eyring Oct 2020 General Conference
- Sister Patricia Holland 1987 General Conference
- Daughters in my Kingdom, The History and Work of Relief Society, 2011

I feel prompted to share my own personal experience of how I've come to learn about Priesthood power. The foremost and obvious way to learn about women and the priesthood is through the temple, but living in Tasmania, Australia I don't have easy access to a temple.

So I began my search after hearing this very quote by Pres Nelson in 2019. I started with prayer and fasting. I studied all the footnotes from the talks I could find. I took notes and I searched and prayed. I searched, wrote and prayed. Since that initial desire to learn, I've been asked twice to speak in sacrament on this topic. I felt that HF wanted me to pull my notes together into some sort of comprehensive understanding. Writing a paper or talk about a particular topic is of most benefit as most of you know.

By this time I felt I had a good understanding and felt that I had a greater connection to my Saviour and was experiencing His power in my life on a daily basis. Specifically feeling Him close around me and hearing His voice guide me.

But I knew there was still something missing but I just didn't know what it was. One day after prayer I was told I need to ask for the eyes to see. I have poor eyesight and I was told as I came to learn what this meant, I would qualify for the miracle to have my eyes made perfect.

I was very keen to receive this miracle so for the last 16 months now, I have been striving to find what it is I need to see. So many talks, many scriptures, much searching and studying and it wasn't until the last 6 months when I found this group and joined them in discord that I've found my answer, or the next part of my answer.

The scripture I listed after the very first quote where I had studied all those Christlike attributes; and now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive and gentle, easy to be entreated, full of patience and long suffering, being temperate in all things, being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times, asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need of, both spiritual and temporal, always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive. And see that ye have faith, hope and charity and then ye will always abound in good works (Alma 7:23-24), well, I had missed one, and that was submissive.

I can tell you I rationalised the submissive. I was prepared to be submissive to God but that's where it ended and I decided that was enough. To be submissive to people- men or women appeared unfavourable to me and I concluded that it didn't mean that. In my experience women didn't get anywhere in life by being submissive. I know throughout my life I have come off as intimidating, self assured and in control and I liked it because as a result I felt powerful. But it's not the Lord's way and it's not REAL power. It's the world's power, not Priesthood power.

An amazing blessing happened for me as I joined our discord group. I was used to being with people where I was the oddity with gospel passion and zeal but now I was in a group of like-minded people with equal to and greater passion and zeal. With people that had far more knowledge and understanding and how to use their knowledge to further their discipleship and preparations for this life and the next.

I have heard it said that if we want to improve our lives, our chances of success, our destination then we need to hang out with people who are going where we want to go.

Well, through my new friends I was given an opportunity to see how our Saviour Jesus Christ was submissive and obedient to his father. How He descended below all things so he could comprehend all things(D&C 88:6). Things such as wisdom, discernment, patience and knowledge. He obtained His power BECAUSE he was obedient and submissive.

In prayer I had been told to ask for the eyes to see. This is synonymous with having discernment, knowledge, wisdom and patience etc. Elder Bednar shared in Oct 2019 General Conference that "Focusing our lives on the Saviour and His gospel enables us to..... be blessed with eyes to see and ears to hear. The Holy Ghost can increase our capacity to look and listen when we may not typically think we need to look or listen or when we may not think anything can be seen or heard." (Watchful unto Prayer Continually)

As I prayed for help to do this I saw how if I wanted to have eyes to see and comprehend all things, I needed to strive to practise perfect obedience, perfect submission and perfect charity or love just as Jesus Christ did in his life on earth.

I understood that is how you draw the Saviours power into your life.

I began with little things like driving within the speed limits and making sure my fasts were 24 hours in duration but the big one which made the most difference was when I understood that I needed to submit to my husband. I took the opportunity to apologise to him, to ask him for advice and to allow him to practise his role as the key holder of our family.

The most notable difference I have seen in the last month since making this decision is the love and connection between us. Our relationship changed immediately. I feel more secure and safe. He feels more empowered and as a result of giving his responsibility back to him, he is becoming more responsible to us and to the Lord.

I have come to understand that priesthood power is the ability to draw on the Saviours power to help instigate change in our own lives and the lives of those around us for the better.

After all, if our Father in Heaven's work and glory is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man, then it makes sense that our purpose is to assist him in this endeavour. I pray that we may draw on the Saviours power to this end ; the salvation of ourselves and the exaltation of our families and I do so in the name of JC amen.

Ryan and Kelly:

THE FAMILY: A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God

Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Fielding Smith

If we go into the temple we raise our hands and covenant that we will serve the Lord and observe his commandments and keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

If we realize what we are doing then the endowment will be a protection to us all our lives—a protection which a man who does not go to the temple does not have.

I have heard my father [President Joseph F. Smith] say that in the hour of trial, in the hour of temptation, he would think of the promises, the covenants that he had made in the House of the Lord, and they were a protection to him. ... This protection is what these ceremonies are for, in part. They save us now and they exalt us hereafter, if we will honor them.

Dear Sisters,

I know that by having an understanding and foundation of our covenants, we are able to understand the divine design of the family and priesthood. And my commitment for those who are present by hearing or reading,

Will you remember the covenants you have made?

Will you observe the commandments of the Lord?

Will you keep yourself unspotted from the world (fleeing Babylon)? Will you realize what you are doing as part of the endowment?

I know that as you perform these actions of faith, you will receive the blessings of the Priesthood in your families. I know that you will be able to support your husband as he presides over your family. I know that by keeping this commitment you will be found unspotted from this world and prepared to meet our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

I know that President Russell M. Nelson is the Lord's prophet. Just like Moses was the Lord's prophet in the time of the Children of Israel. I know that we can make a choice to follow and obey our covenants. By making that choice, we will be prepared to redeem Zion and build the New Jerusalem.

In the name of Jesus Christ Amen.

Micah:

What we need to do individually is not spelled out in any book, but how we go about getting those answers for what we need to do individually thank God is... We are taught how to go to the Lord, pray, and receive answers:

D&C 8:2

2 Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.

D&C 9:9

9 But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong; therefore, you cannot write that which is sacred save it be given you from me.

Pray and ask a question, hold the thought in your head (a thought can be an image, words, etc), if the thought begins to expand in your mind and become clearer and your bosom begins to burn and it feels right, that is of God. If the thought disappears either slowly or quickly it is not of God or God doesn't care, it doesn't matter. I've often explained to Ashley that a thought or inspiration that comes suddenly to ones mind (once again, either an image, or words, or a voice etc) that one knows "this is not something I would naturally think or am inclined to do" it is a very good indicator that it is of God.

President Nelson described it as, "Sometimes you get an idea in your mind and you wonder where did that come from. Often it is Heavenly Father trying to teach us through the Holy Ghost something we hadn't been thinking of" (Church News, Dec 15 2019)

Another huge key to asking questions and getting answers from the Lord the question one asks. If Joseph had gone into the grove and asked "what Church should *my mother* join?" the grove would have remained silent that day. Those that get in the habit of asking "Lord, where do you want *me* to go, what do you want *me* to be, what do you want *me* to do?" will be those who seem to have periodic and regular revelation (revelation is rarely fluid, we go through long periods of nothing) while those who ask poorly worded questions will either A) not get answers or B) be led by false spirits and devils.

Moroni 10:4 also gives some very important prerequisites for answers: faith in Christ, sincere heart, real intent. Another crucial prerequisite is found in my oft quoted but ever relevant Joseph Fielding Smith quote, "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.” (Doctrines of Salvation, p.43)

What you personally need to do, that “process”, is something the individual is responsible for; but the Lord has given us the keys to getting those answers from the Holy Ghost. The priesthood power we gain is gained purely and entirely by obedience to what we are told. May we ask in faith, with sincere hearts and real intent to do what the Lord asks us to do- via the Holy Ghost or through the keys, etc. and I can testify that you brethren and sisters will both be filled with the blessings of that priesthood power, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen!