

**BYU Women's Conference presentation quotes**  
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Several years ago, there was an article in the *Ensign* about a mother of a large family who was having yet another busy day at home. On this particular day, she was having more trouble than usual in doing routine things because of her little three year old boy, who was on her heels no matter where she went. She writes, "Whenever I stopped to do something and turned back around, I would trip over him. Several times I patiently suggested fun activities to keep him occupied.

"Wouldn't you like to play on the swing set?" I asked again. But he simply smiled an innocent smile and said, "Oh, that's all right, Mommy. I'd rather be in here with you." Then he continued to bounce happily along behind me. After stepping on his toes for the fifth time, I began to lose my patience and insisted that he go outside and play with the other children. When I asked him why he was acting this way, he looked up at me with sweet green eyes and said, "Well, Mommy, in Primary my teacher told me to walk in Jesus' footsteps. But I can't see him, so I'm walking in yours." (Davida Dalton and JoEllen Johnson, "In His Mother's Footsteps," *Ensign*, Apr. 1994.)

"There is no responsibility greater than rearing children in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4) Gordon B. Hinckley, "Ten Gifts from the Lord," *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 86.)

"Let us look to our children with love. They are our Father's children, and ours is a custodial relationship to them for their lives." Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Apr. 2001, 73.)

"You are not just ordinary young men and young women. You are choice spirits, many of you having been held back in reserve for almost 6,000 years to come forth in this day, at this time, when the temptations, responsibilities, and opportunities are the very greatest." (Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, 30.)

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal... But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit." (C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, 18-19.)

"Every individual needs to recognize his or her own eternal worth in order to be able to withstand the attempts of the adversary to weaken his or her sense of eternal identity."

(Helping and Healing our Families, School of Family Life, Brigham Young University, 24)

“My personality was created to fit precisely the mission and talents he gave me. Miraculously, I have found that I have untold abundant sources of energy to be myself. When we frustrate God’s plan for us, we deprive this world and God’s Kingdom of our unique contributions, and a serious schism settles in our soul.” (Portraits of Eve: God’s Promises of Personal Identity, LDS Women’s Treasury: Insights and Inspiration for Today’s Woman [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1997], 104.)

“Every individual is of infinite worth. One’s mistakes and weaknesses might affect one’s worthiness, but never one’s worth. No one can take away another person’s worth. Nothing can change the worth of a soul in the sight of God”... The ability to recognize one’s worth does not come all at once. Building self-esteem [or self-worth] is a process that occurs over time and within the context of relationships... Child development research emphasizes that self-perceptions gradually unfold as the individual develops and matures within warm and nurturing relationships, most importantly with parents.” (Helping and Healing our Families, School of Family Life, Brigham Young University, 26.)

“Always be willing, even anxious, to help others. Nothing else you do will give you the same genuine satisfaction and joy within... (Joseph B. Wirthlin, “Running Your Marathon,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1989).

“Do our children know that we love the scriptures? Do they see us reading them and marking them and clinging to them in daily life? Have our children ever unexpectedly opened a closed door and found us on our knees in prayer? Have they heard us not only pray *with* them but also pray *for* them out of nothing more than sheer parental love?... Do those children know that we love God with all our heart and that we long to see the face—and fall at the feet—of His Only Begotten Son? I pray that they know this. (Jeffrey R. Holland, “A Prayer for the Children,” *Ensign*, May 2003, 85.)

“No charge in the kingdom is more important than to build faith in youth. Each child in each generation chooses faith or disbelief. Faith is not an inheritance; it is a choice.” (Elder Eyring, *Inquire of the Lord*, February 2001.)

“My experience has taught me this about how people and organizations improve: the best place to look is for small changes we could make in things we do often. There is power in steadiness and repetition. And if we can be led by inspiration to choose the right small things to change, consistent obedience will bring great improvement.” (Elder Eyring, *The Lord Will Multiply the Harvest*, 6 February 1998.)

“The shield of faith is not produced in a factory, but at home... The shield of faith is to be made and fitted in the family. No two can be exactly alike. Each must be handcrafted to individual specifications. The plan designed by the Father contemplates that man and woman, husband and wife, working together, fit each child individually with a shield of

faith made to buckle on so firmly that it can neither be pulled off nor penetrated by those fiery darts.” (Boyd K. Packer, “The Shield of Faith,” *Ensign*, May 1995.)

“It would not hurt us, either, if we paused at the end of our prayers to do some intense listening -- even for a moment or two -- always praying, as the Savior did, “not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42). (H. Burke Peterson, Prayer—Try Again, Tambulli, Feb. 1992, 4; *Friend*, Apr. 1991)

“What a great strength it would be to all of us in times of desperation and wonderment to humbly approach His throne with, “Please hear my prayers. Answer them in Thy great wisdom for my best good. But please give me the constant reassurance that Thou art there and that peace, contentment, and the courage to continue are mine because I have faith and can come to Thee who hast promised not to forsake us.” (Marvin J. Ashton, “Know He Is There,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1994, 50)

“It is not the usual purpose of prayer to serve us like Aladdin’s lamp, to bring us ease without effort... Often the purpose of prayer is to give us strength to do what needs to be done, wisdom to see the way to solve our own problems, and ability to do our best in our tasks” (quoted in Richard L. Evans, Jr., *Richard L. Evans: The Man and the Message*, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, Inc., 1973, p. 289).

“Scriptures have been written to preserve principles for our benefit.” (Marion G. Romney, “Records of Great Worth,” *Ensign*, September 1980, 4.)

“As you seek spiritual knowledge, search for principles. Carefully separate them from the detail used to explain them. Principles are concentrated truth, packaged for application to a wide variety of circumstances. It is worth great effort to organize the truth we gather to simple statements of principle.” (Elder Richard G. Scott, “Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 86).

“A testimony is to be found in the bearing of it.” (Boyd K. Packer, “The Candle of the Lord,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1983, 51)

“I have been frankly puzzled as I have listened to members of the Church say: “I have my agency. I don't have to live the law of tithing or the Word of Wisdom. I don't have to be chaste.” I would suggest such individuals do not understand the doctrine of agency... It is not simply a matter of freedom to choose... Think of the song Choose the Right. It does not say, “Choose what you want when you will.” Agency is linked to a course of choosing the right. That is why we have agency... Agency is to be used in choosing the right.” (Elder David A. Bednar, Ricks College devotional, September 9, 1997.)