

## SOME QUOTES I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO ADD, AND SOME IN THE TALK

When I was a student at this University many years ago, sociology was quite a new science. And I remember sitting in many classes where the discussion was whether heredity or environment were more influential in children's lives, and there were points made on both sides. But as a parent, I became convinced that so much of what they are, they bring with them when they come, and you can see evidence of that within the first hours of life. The differences between children in the same family also become apparent early on, and I would guess that most parents of at least two children would agree with me. Because our children bring with them many attributes that were developed before coming to earth, I think we cannot take credit for a lot of the positive traits they display. An example: As I was attending the parent-teacher conference for my youngest son, the teacher said, "What a wonderful job you've done; your son is so polite." My reply was, "He came that way; he's teaching me good manners." And he did come like that. The great news about not taking a lot of credit for the good attributes is that we also don't need to take a lot of the blame for the bad things that they do. (My own musings)

### TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS AND AFFLICTIONS ARE MANDATORY. MISERY IS OPTIONAL

*Quoted in Spiritual Lightening by M. Catherine Thomas: "Elder Packer has said: 'Remember that mortal life is a brief moment, for we will live eternally. There will be ample (I almost used the word time, but time does not apply here), there will be ample opportunity for all injustices, all inequities to be made right, all loneliness and deprivation compensated, and all worthiness rewarded when we keep the faith. 'If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable' (I Corinthians 15:19). It does not all end with mortal death; it just begins".*

Lorenzo Snow said (October Conference 1893), "I believe strongly that when the gospel is preached to the spirits in prison the success attending that preaching will be far greater than that attending the preaching of the elders in this life. I believe there will be very few indeed of those spirits who will not gladly receive the gospel when it is carried to them. The circumstances there will be one thousand times more favorable...If you succeed in passing through these trials...you will be the power of the priesthood...labor as the Son of God has, until you get all your sons and daughters in the path of exaltation....This is just as sure as that the sun rose this morning over yonder mountains. Therefore, mourn not because all your sons and daughters do not follow in the path that you have marked out to them..."

*Kahlil Gibran in The Prophet writes: "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.*

*They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.*

*You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts.*

*You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.*

*You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you,*

*For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday."*

Quotes from Brian Andreas' "Story People". (Access @storypeople.com) "If you hold on to the handle, she said, it's easier to maintain the illusion of control. But it's more fun if you just let the wind carry you." (Illusion of Control)

"If I love you with all of my heart, she said, what will you give me? And then she stopped and said I didn't have to answer that because she was going to do it anyway." (Single Mind)

"We don't have much time, he said, so I'll just tell you about me." (Back to Me)

"Everything changed the day she figured out there was exactly enough time for the important things in her life." (Enough Time)

*"Revelation means unfolding. The difficult thing about it is that it never stops unfolding. You think you've seen the whole picture but no, there's more...we love things to work out clearly: this means this; that means that. But God, the Creator, manages to teach us line upon line [using] the same line." (Poet Javen Tanner as quoted in Meridian Magazine, 2007)*

"Your children live or die without you. No matter what we do, no matter how we agonize or obsess, we cannot choose for our children whether they live or die. It's a devastating realization, but liberating." (Beautiful Boy by David Steff)

*"Though your prayers may not be answered immediately, if they are offered in the name of Jesus and in faith, nothing being left undone by you that is required, they will live on in the records of Heaven and in the remembrance of the Lord and yet bear fruit." (George Q. Cannon)*

"..While it is true that no other success of our can fully compensate, there is a success that compensates for all our failures after all we can do in good faith. That success is the Atonement of Jesus Christ. By its power we may arise from the ashes of life filled with incomprehensible beauty and joy." (Elder Bruce C. Hafen)

*"A successful parent is one who has loved, one who has sacrificed, and one who has cared for, taught, and ministered to the needs of a child. If you have done all of these and your child is still wayward or troublesome or worldly, it could well be that you are, nevertheless, a successful parent. Perhaps there are children who have come into the world that would challenge any set of parents under any set of circumstances. Likewise, perhaps there are others who would bless the lives of, and be a joy to, almost any father or mother. My concern today is that there are parents who may be pronouncing harsh judgments upon themselves and may be allowing these feelings to destroy their lives, when in fact they have done their best and should continue in faith." (President Howard W. Hunter, Ensign 1983)*

"Girls, this has been a beautiful program. I commend the gospel with all of its auxiliaries and the temple to you, but I do not want you to believe for one minute that if you keep all the commandments and live as close to the Lord as you can and do everything right and fight off the entire priests quorum one by one and wait chastely for your missionary to return and pay your tithing and attend your meetings, accept calls from the bishop, and have a temple marriage, I do not want you to believe that bad things will not happen to you. And when that happens, I do not want you to say that God was not true. Or, to say, 'They promised me in Primary, they promised me when I was a Mia Maid, they promised me from the pulpit that if I were very, very good, I would be blessed. But the boy I want doesn't know I exist, or the missionary I've waited for and kept chaste so we both could go to the temple turned out to be a flake,' or far worse things than any of the above. Sad things— children who are sick or developmentally handicapped. husbands who are not faithful, illnesses that can cripple, or violence, betrayals, hurts, deaths, losses—when those things happen, do not say God is not keeping his promises to me. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not insurance against pain. It is resource in event of pain, and when that pain comes (and it will come because we came here on earth to have pain among other things), when it comes, rejoice that you have resource to deal with your pain."

Carlfred Broderick, "The Uses of Adversity"