

Quotes from “Treasuring and Delighting in the Scriptures”

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Elder Joseph Fielding Smith: “I say to you, my brethren and sisters, you cannot keep the commandments of the Lord and walk in righteousness unless you know what they are. The Lord has commanded us to search the scriptures, for the things which they contain are true and shall be fulfilled . . . search the scriptures; make yourselves familiar with that which the Lord has revealed for your salvation, the salvation of your house, and of the world” (*Conference Report*, October 1920, 58-59).

President Ezra Taft Benson: “The word of God, as found in the scriptures, in the words of living prophets, and in personal revelation, has the power to fortify the Saints and arm them with the Spirit so they can resist evil, hold fast to the good, and find joy in this life. . . .” He then quotes President Harold B. Lee, who said, “We are convinced that our members are hungry for the gospel, undiluted, with its abundant truths and insights. . . . There are those who have seemed to forget that the most powerful weapons the Lord has given us against all that is evil are His own declarations—the plain, simple doctrines of salvation as found in the scriptures” (“The Power of the Word,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 79).

Elder Dallin H. Oaks: “The idea that scripture reading can lead to inspiration and revelation opens the door to the truth that a scripture is not limited to what it meant when it was written but may also include what that scripture means to the reader today. Even more, scripture reading may also lead to current revelation on whatever else the Lord wishes to communicate to the reader at that time. We do not overstate the point when we say that the scriptures can be a Urim and Thummim to assist each of us to receive personal revelation” (“Scripture Reading and Revelation,” *Ensign*, January 1995, 8).

Elder Neil L. Anderson: “We hold in our arms the rising generation. They come to this earth with important responsibilities and great spiritual capacities. We cannot be casual in how we prepare them. Our challenge as parents and teachers is not to *create* a spiritual core in their souls but rather to *fan the flame of their spiritual core* already aglow with the fire of their pre-mortal faith” (“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus,” *Conference Report*, April 4, 2010).

Sister Cheryl C. Lant: “I would invite all of us to take a moment to reflect on the traditions in our lives and how they might be affecting our families. Our traditions of Sabbath day observance, family prayer, family scripture study, service and activity in the Church, as well as patterns of respect and loyalty in the home, will have a great effect on our children and on their future. If our parenting is based on

the teachings of the scriptures and of the latter-day prophets, we cannot go wrong. If every time there is a challenge our hearts turn first and always to our Father in Heaven for direction, we will be in a safe place. If our children know where we stand and we always stand on the Lord's side, we know we are where we need to be" ("Righteous Traditions," *Conference Report*, April 5, 2008).

Elder Dallin H. Oaks: "How much time does a family allocate to learning the gospel by scripture study and parental teachings, in contrast to the time family members spend viewing sports contests, talk shows, or soap operas? I believe many of us are overnourished on entertainment junk food and undernourished on the bread of life ("Focus and Priorities," *Conference Report*, April 1, 2001).

Elder David A. Bednar: "Today if you could ask our adult sons what they remember about family prayer, scripture study, and family home evening, I believe I know how they would answer. They likely would not identify a particular prayer or a specific instance of scripture study or an especially meaningful family home evening lesson as the defining moment in their spiritual development. What they would say they remember is that as a family we were consistent. Sister Bednar and I thought helping our sons understand the content of a particular lesson or a specific scripture was the ultimate outcome. But such a result does not occur each time we study or pray or learn together. The consistency of our intent and work was perhaps the greatest lesson—a lesson we did not fully appreciate at the time" ("More Diligent and Concerned at Home," *Conference Report*, October 3, 2009).

President James E. Faust: "A few years ago, a young man who was starting his senior year in high school resolved to nourish himself by studying the scriptures for half an hour each day. As he began reading the New Testament, he hit a stumbling block. He didn't feel the anticipated spiritual high, and he wasn't getting any insight. So he asked himself, 'What am I doing wrong?' Then an episode at school came into his mind. He and some friends had been sharing jokes—some of which were not so funny, and downright shameful. He not only had joined in, but had even added some off-color comments of his own. Just as he thought this, his eye fell on these words in Matthew: 'But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.' He knew that the Spirit had directed him to these words at this time. He turned from his Bible and offered up a prayer of repentance.

The answer to his question 'What am I doing wrong?' was simple. He was reading the scriptures, marking the scriptures, and even enjoying the scriptures, but he was not living the counsel given in the scriptures. As he renewed his scripture reading and tried to live by Christ's example, he soon noticed how different areas of his life began to blossom. By incorporating the scriptures into his life, he had added an important spiritual nutrient ("Spiritual Nutrients," *Conference Report*, September 30, 2006).

Elder W. Rolf Kerr: "... The words of Christ can be a personal Liahona for each of

us, showing us the way. Let us not be slothful because of the easiness of the way. Let us in faith take the words of Christ into our minds and into our hearts as they are recorded in sacred scripture and as they are uttered by living prophets, seers, and revelators. Let us with faith and diligence feast upon the words of Christ, for the words of Christ will be our spiritual Liahona telling us ‘all things what we should do’” (“The Words of Christ—Our Spiritual Liahona,” Elder W. Rolf Kerr, *Conference Report*, April 3, 2004).

President Ezra Taft Benson: “Let us not treat lightly the great things we have received from the hand of the Lord! His word is one of the most valuable gifts He has given us. I urge you to recommit yourselves to a study of the scriptures. Immerse yourselves in them daily so you will have the power of the Spirit to attend you in your callings. Read them in your families and teach your children to love and treasure them” (“The Power of the Word,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 79).

Sister Sheri L. Dew: “The adversary has launched an all-out attack against womanhood, because he knows—he absolutely knows—that the influence of a righteous woman is enormous and that it spans generations. . . . At all costs, he wants to keep us at arm’s length from Jesus Christ. For if we don’t come unto Christ, meaning that we never turn our lives over to Him, we will go through our probation here on our own rather than experiencing what the Savior promised when He said, ‘Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.’

“. . . The Lord needed the strength of the women of this Church as the seeds of the Restoration were planted and nourished. And He needs us today. He needs us to speak up for what is right, even when doing so is unpopular. He needs us to develop the spiritual maturity to hear the voice of the Lord and detect the deceptions of the adversary. He delights in women who keep their covenants with precision, women who reverence the power of the priesthood, women who are willing to ‘lay aside the things of this world, and seek for the things of a better’” (“Are You the Woman I Think You Are?” *Ensign*, November 1997).

Sister Julie B. Beck: “Through my scripture reading and the prayers that accompany my study, I have gained knowledge which brings me peace and helps me keep my energies focused on eternal priorities. Because I started reading the scriptures daily, I have learned about my Heavenly Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and what I need to do to be like Them. I have learned about the Holy Ghost and how to qualify for His companionship. I have learned about my identity as a daughter of God. Essentially, I have learned who I am, why I am here on earth, and what I should be doing with my life” (“My Soul Delighteth in the Scriptures,” *Ensign*, May 2004).