

A Richardson Studies Journal Collection on

Exemplary Faith

Highlighting the Lives of Prophets & Inspired Souls



Featuring

Highlighting Madsen & Haycock on Stories of the Lives of Church Presidents

Highlights from “A Christ Centered Home” on the Life Teachings & Family of James Stoddard

Highlights of the Thomas S. Monson Biography

Highlights of the Bruce R McConkie Biography

Highlights of Mother Teresa’s Example & Message

Sleep is Overrated: Courageous Excellence -add

& More

Nate Richardson

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Nate Richardson is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This book is written to benefit people of faith & goodwill everywhere.

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Basics of The Life of President John Taylor

The following are a few notes on basic facts about the life of John Taylor. The Living Scriptures video on Taylor was used to gather most of these notes, which represent common records about the life of John Taylor.

-All church presidents were of English extraction. He was the only church president born in England. England from the reformation was more diverse in religions than France and Germany etc. The missionaries were received well there.

-He often read scripture from a young age. As a young man he prayed often, and got others to join with him in secret prayer. He was a lay minister in the Methodist church a while.

-He felt an urgent impression that he needed to immigrate to America to preach the gospel. He migrated at 25.

-He proposed to Leonora, a high class lady, and she at first refused. She had a dream vision of being married to him, and she accepted his second proposal.

-He was converted by Parly P Pratt. At first he turned away Parley being skeptical, but later accepted him. John was determined to investigate Parleys message and accept it no matter the consequences if true, and expose it if false. He wrote Pratt's sermons word for word and compared them as well as the Book of Mormon with the bible.

-When the bank of Joseph failed, even Parley P Pratt was upset about his financial loss. John helped encourage Parley, saying that if Joseph was a prophet before, he was a prophet now.

-He had a spiritual experiance where he spoke in tongues and had a revelation that he would someday be an Apostle.

-John presided over the church in Canada. At age 29, Joseph wrote him calling him to the 12 Apostles. He saw his work as something to demand his all both in life and eternity. A year after his calling to be an Apostle he was sustained by the church, and set apart. But he preached whenever he could even before that.

-John's business was failing but he was to leave on a mission, and he didn't have any means but set out anyway.

-He knew that at a sermon several there planned to tar and feather him. He preached on freedom, and addressed those who came to tar him and asked if that was the liberty they had inherited. He told them he was ready, so come on and tar him. None did. He went on to preach for 3 hours.

-He didn't carry a weapon but soon learned he needed one so he borrowed a gun and prepared himself for defensive measures. John and 23 others prepared to defend themselves against over 100 mobbers.

-On a missin he had to leave behind his wife and sick children who all had malaria. He had only a penny to his name. He said he had enough for his needs. Parley said he needed a few hundred to publish a pamphlet. John said he could have all he had, and gave Parley the penny. They traveled without purse or scrip. When they had no money, he still booked passage on ships they needed to travel on, and they'de come up with the money by various donations by the time they needed to pay the fair.

-John preached and debated anyone anywhere. He preached in congregations, and when the members believed him, the ministers of those churches had him leave.

-He converted a congregation of 200 in England. He organized the converts as they migrated to America.

-John knew that he could only accept plural marriage as Joseph taught him if he accepted all the doctrines of the gospel. He was 35 his wife was 47. Many of the brethren had difficulty accepting this but had testimonies of the prophet Joseph and followed through.

-He had at least 17 wives.

-William Law and John C Bennet stirred up contention against the church.

-None of the presidential candidates would defend the saints so Joseph ran for president. Joseph had John as his campaign manager.

-The Nauvoo Expositor was full of lies. The city council declared it a public nuisance and had that press destroyed. Mobs were angry and Joseph Smith the mayor of Nauvoo declared martial law. Shortly later Joseph was sent to Carthage jail. John Taylor and Willard Richards chose to stay with Joseph and Hyrum at Carthage. John sang all 14 verses of Joseph's favorite song, A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief, and Joseph had him then sing it again. Mobs came and were shooting at Joseph through the door, John knocked their guns down with his cane. He saw these efforts wouldn't last, and went to the window. John was shot in the thigh and was paralyzed, then shot in the heart where his watch was hit and saved him. A piece of flesh the size of his fist was taken from his hip.

-When traveling west to the Rockies, John had to go back to England to help solve problems in the church there, and had to leave his wives and children in wagons and tents.

-John saw the trials they went through as nothing compared to the glories to come.

-The first year on the salt lake valley was a harsh winter, then in the spring the crickets came. This is when the seagulls came and ate the crickets miraculously, preserving the crop.

-He went on a mission to France. They were robbed by Indians of all their blankets and clothing. He said they weren't robbed, they were tithed. He said they preferred being tithed by bishops rather than those who officiated without authority.

-John prophesied that the kingdom of God, the church, would stand long after France would be crushed.

-John was upset about the French preferring the philosophies of men. There was a cake that wasn't filling, he called it 'philosophy.'

-John said Babylon was developing in the political not just the religious world, so they got into politics. They had to represent themselves so they wouldn't be represented by others. He stood up to the various newspapers. Brigham complimented John for being a strong editor and writer defending the church.

-John expected his sons to do their part to care for the family garden. They were to carefully measure the rows, etc. One son was careless, and the rows showed it. John saw this and said to the son, 'well, we are not very proud of this. We had better dig it up and start over.'

-There were stolen chickens, the criminals were sentenced to pay back 7 fold.

-One chicken John didn't think was his, and threw it over the fence. Wilford saw the chicken wasn't his, and threw it back over the fence. John saw the chicken had returned, and threw it back over the fence.

-John forbade his children from using face cards or reading novels. John reviewed a novel his son had, and admitted his misjudgement in that case saying, 'that's a good book son. You may read it.'

-The national government was relentless in trying to destroy the church. There was the Utah war and continued false charges. John responded to claims in the press, and wrote that the government of the United States was at war with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

-John taught that bishops should have weekly council meetings, and that stakes should have quarterly conferences. This is continued today.

-John held a 50 year jubilee of the church, and forgave many debts of members, including debts of those who used the immigration fund to join the saints, and some tithing debts of the poor.

-The Edmunds act made heavy fines and jail for polygamists, and denied polygamists the rights to vote, hold office, and be in juries. John said they would wait out this storm, and not try to reason with the government during it. Many all-night raids took place, dragging men from their homes. America was no longer a land of liberty and equal rights. John told the saints not to get caught by the government, and himself went into hiding. His motto was "The kingdom of God or nothing." The last 2.5 years of his life was on the underground and he was moved from home to home for safety as federal marshals hunted for him. Once he needed to go from Kaysville to Taylorsville, he put himself in a shipping crate and was shipped to the location successfully. He often traveled at night. He communicated with the saints by writing. His counselors George Q Cannon and Joseph F Smith were also in hiding. Joseph F was sent to help the church in Hawaii.

-A farmer gave his home for John's headquarters in hiding, and the farmer moved into a small cabin.

-John would disguise himself in a woman's dress and bonnet so he could go outside and feed the chickens.

-John's last words were, "Joseph, Joseph"

-Only 3 members of the 12 could attend John's funeral, all the others were being hunted for plural marriage.

-At his funeral, it was recognized that John was killed by the cruelty of the government.

Highlighting the Presidents of the Church Lectures by Truman G Madsen

Madsen: Joseph Smith

-said were he the emperor of the world he would guarantee all people religious rights (wanted to give to others what we have sometimes been denied)

-you think me a boy like one of you (said to Zion's Camp members), but I'm in a position where I'm governed and controlled by the Lord.

-if they send us to hell we'll turn the devil out and make a heaven out of it. (This is basically what happened when leaders of the Church were sent to prisons)

-Madsen says that people say there are 2 Joseph Smith's and that Madsen only teaches of the good one. Well, truth is that all the firsthand accounts speak of Joseph Smith as being a good man. The second Joseph Smith is fictitious and a fabrication of evil conspiring men.

-they were strict to keep journals from the beginning days of the Church for they knew that they were making history and that one day people would refer to those as scripture.

- if they take his rights fine but if they go after those of the Saints he would stand for them he said with sword in hand

-the Smith family had verbal threat for their lives hence Emma Smith must have wanted to stay back as to not jeopardize them entire camp going west

-Joseph Smith was said by another prophet to manifest the power of all the prophets

- the revelation said his life wasn't YET as Job, and in increasingly came to be as time went on
- he was kissed by a man who would betray him
- people broke the law to slay him
- people met in secret to plan his death
- about 150 people were ready to swear with their hand on a bible to not rest until he was killed
- Hyrum Smith was given a blessing of long life and what would come then by Joseph Smith, and he forfeited that blessing in order to go with Joseph.
- the relationship between Joseph and Hyrum surpasses anything you'll read of any two mortal people in history ever
- Joseph walked CALMLY toward the window, knowing that weather inside or outside of the jail he would be killed. He was shot in the back and pulled himself through the window, and fell down; in so doing, he managed to save two other people who were in the jail, for once Joseph had fallen out the window, they yelled "he's out!" and left.
- Hyrum made a covenant with the God of Israel to be where Joseph was, and to die where he died.
- Joseph told some with him near his death: don't worry, they cannot do to us more than they did to the Master. They can only kill our bodies. We and our message will live on.
- said Hyrum demonstrated the very meekness and love of Christ
- one of the prophets said soon the church would be 10 million then one hundred million, in an extension of Joseph Smith's words that the church would grow to fill north and south America, and eventually to fill the world.
- all truth belongs to Mormonism; that if there is any truth in hell, it belongs to the Mormons. That the devil has no attractive kingdom, the devil merely distorts truth. The devil has NOTHING.
- another prophet said that WHEN (not if) the law fails to revenge the blood of Joseph Smith, leave it to God.
- the day will come, another prophet said, that Joseph will be known as a temporal and spiritual deliverer of this dispensation like Joseph in Egypt was in his
- when asked "who are you?" he said "Noah came before the flood. I have come before the fire."
- at the time when things were tense and Joseph was about to be killed Joseph saw some packing their wagons and leaving the gathering of the Saints. He said as he watched them leave, "there go the cowards."
- no one was convicted for any crime in the murder of Joseph Smith.
- the murder of Joseph Smith was an obvious conspiracy
- after Joseph Smith was killed, mobsters continued to rape and plunder the Saints.
- Joseph said he doesn't care what they do to him so long as they don't hang him. Hearing this, a 300-pound man (a close associate George Smith I think) offered to be hung in the stead of Joseph Smith.

- if you can get the LDS to agree on any matter, you can know that such a matter is of God
- he and Emma moved about 14 times
- he revealed to Eliza Snow that we have a Mother in Heaven.
- said once when under the spirit strongly that it's as though we were in the presence of The Father and the Son and others who have given their entire lives to build up the Kingdom of God and heal and seal family relationships.
- of guardian angels that he believed likely we have relatives (now dead) who care more for us than we can for them and they have influence in our lives and aren't far from us
- spoke of the Godhead as the matchless governing quorum over all the creations of the Father
- taught earnestly against using black and mourning clothes at death and funerals; instead wear white! Eliza Snow said he taught her this.

Madsen: Brigham Young

- when God calls a man to a work nothing can stop it
- he said "now we are to rest here" while on the trail. Then he said, "now we dance". Porter Rockwell said "first he tells us we can rest, now he tells us we must dance!"
- a person full of the Holy Spirit never grows old
- Brigham Young as a young man learned to care for horses, clear timber, and work in the cold (they would often milk their cows in 30 below zero in a tee shirt) as those of Vermont, "the final frontier of the yankee" were common to do. They were fiercely independent people there. There the Constitution and rights were strongly respected, and Brigham was sad to see those be violated against him and the Saints through his life.
- one missionary was asked how many wives Brigham Young had yelling it over and again in a congregation. It was relentless so the missionary said, "I don't know I'll have to ask him when I get to heaven." The man responded, "oh no, he's not going to heaven". Then the missionary said, "then you ask him!"
- he said at his baptism he felt like fire was running through his body and he couldn't help but get up and preach
- on the night when Joseph Smith got the plates from the Hill Cumorah which would become known as the Book of Mormon, with his wife Emma, it was Rash Hashanah, the Jewish new year holiday. This record signified the beginning of a new dispensation, the restoration of the knowledge of the days of old. Brigham Young at this time didn't even know who Joseph Smith was, but he and Heber C. Kimball went out from a woman beckoning them to come see the stars, and they went and saw in the sky armies of soldiers dressed in American revolution clothing with guns, and they were marching toward the west. It went on for about an hour. They could hear the marching. They seemed intent about something, concerned about something, and as to be preparing to

participate in a great battle.

-many of the Saints had to burn the very homes and bridges they built to protect the Saints from an army coming to get them though they lived in peace in the west where no one else wanted to be.

-Joseph Smith heard him pray for the first time when they first met and said that he would be one of the greatest teachers of redemption this world has ever seen.

-he preached that Jesus went beneath all things so that no person, no matter how sin stained, could be out of the reach of Christ

-he taught that human kind are generally good, doing away with the doctrine of original sin, which thing he had also heard Joseph Smith preach. That most of the falling of the human race came at the time of Cain. That Adam and Eve didn't fall very much that they knew what they were doing and yes there are consequences of that action but it's what we need. He taught that humans are generally good in nature, all with the candle light of the Lord in them even the worst of people having some of that. In other words that people are inherently good not inherently bad.

-he taught that we should picture Christ in our minds, and that in so doing, making every part of our lives spiritual and involving God in every part of our lives, even the menial parts of life become hallowed, and that this thinking of Christ will ALLOW (not make) our spirits to become hallowed and holy.

-in England many were baptized into the Church, one prophet said that the forefathers in Israel had prayed for their families that they would get the gospel and the reason that there were many baptisms in England was fulfillment of the prayers of their forefathers that they would one day find the fullness of the gospel. Many of these people are the blood of Israel, and it's such that prayed for them. More than 6 thousand baptisms were performed, and they baptized all day long.

- in response to others who say that they couldn't have endured what the pioneers did, he said that he was in the very heart of those trials, and that he had never felt better in his life. That the spirit of God was poured out upon them so heavily during those times, and it was exquisite and precious.

-we will put in our roots here (in the Utah area) so deep that not even the devil himself will be able to drive us out

-one saint was bare foot and in scraggly clothes and stood outside of a conference the Church was having too embarrassed to go inside from how he looked for it was all he had. He learned that in that conference President Young had asked for men to go and get more stone for the Salt Lake Temple, this man said yes I will go!

-he told one man that his calling was to "go and colonize Mexico. You'll be released when you're dead. God bless you!" And thus did and died the man in Mexico colonizing.

-at one time he had 7 counselors to him as President. Not all of them had to be Apostles.

Madsen: John Taylor

- came from England.
- felt that he was to come to America to preach the gospel
- organized a group of people called the seekers who were looking for New Testament Christianity. They were taught about the Church by Parley P Pratt and joined.
- at one point Pratt spoke bad of Joseph Smith, and John responded although a new convert that if Joseph Smith was a prophet at first, he still is now, and that Pratt was out of line. Pratt later came back into good terms with Joseph Smith and did more great missionary work
- John went on an 8 year mission and only got to return to visit his wife very seldomly, and when he did return from those 8 years she was ill
- liked the debate with people as a missionary particularly that this Church is the only one with the authority offices miracles and spiritual gifts of the new testament. He didn't avoid debate and this sort of contention.
- take care to nourish the smaller roots and the bigger ones will take care of themselves
- tithing was given in kind in those days; he would look at the baskets of his fruit and see the best one and say there that is the tithing for the Lord
- was known to say the Kingdom of God or nothing; he searched for the New Testament Church until he found it
- he translated the Book of Mormon into French and German
- Joseph Smith told him he needed to give his wife to Joseph for sealing. John responded that if it is the Lord who wants her in this thing, ok the Lord can have her in this way as asked, but that if it's merely Joseph's desire then no. Joseph wept and told him that the Lord was only trying him as Abraham, asking for what he held most dear and seeing if he and his wife were willing to give everything up for God and His Christ.
- only did plural family principal because it was from the Lord, otherwise he wouldn't. It was to raise more righteous prosperity to go preach the gospel
- he would not be a slave to anything, so he quit tobacco and alcohol
- he would not be a slave to anyone, not even to God. That he would be a servant to God and son of God, but not a slave to anyone, that he would die first.
- he wrote the Times and Seasons which is the newspaper they had the Deseret News of the time for the Church
- he was a very skilled writer
- at Carthage as mobbers were shooting through the door at Joseph Smith, John used a stick to whack the pistols up into the air from the crack in the door. Joseph said that is right, parry them off as long as you can. Those are the last words he heard from Joseph.
- when it comes to the gospel and eternity, our nation knows about as much as an iron railing

-the Lord suddenly appear at his temple means the Jews await his appearance at the Jerusalem temple, it will happen.

Madsen: Wilford Woodruff

-Hugh B Brown was asked who he would deem a Saint based on the regular qualifications in Catholicism etc. of devotion to the Church, radiance, being productive: he said Wilford Woodruff

-a miller in Connecticut

– plead to God to find someone who could say like the bible characters, they didn't just know of Christ, rather that they KNOW Christ.

-felt prompted to go to Rhode Island but didn't go. If he had gone he would have heard the preaching of the LDS missionaries there. But later in the next year he did go, and a missionary Pulsipher went there, and felt to go directly to Wilford's house. Wilford went to a church meeting then was baptized in icy water with clothing on but he said he didn't feel the cold

-a friend of his called "father Mason" had a vision before his death that the New Testament Church would return and he would not get to see it, but that Wilford would be a large participant in it.

-a small number of choice spirit sons and daughters of God have been kept to come to earth now and inherit this Church, they've been kept in store for 6,000 years (that's when Adam was in Eden) to come forth in this time to build up and organize this Church, to receive the Everlasting Priesthood.

-had many injuries growing up; he felt like a marked man, partly because he was a most avid journal keeper. He took notes of the Joseph Smith sermons and couldn't rest until he went and put them from shorthand into legible prose.

-his daily journal is over 7,000 pages

-unless we have the spirit, our religion is a farce.

-those with the spirit can see weather others they meet with have the spirit. You'll feel safe in their atmosphere etc.

-he was told he would be numbered with the 144,000 who sing the new song on Mt. Zion

-was a President of a horticultural society

-everything that brings joy and gladness is for us, if we use it well

-no singing or dancing in hell. No joy there. There is only singing and dancing in heaven.

-you can build all the buildings you want but there will never be enough to hold the LDS

-visited by the founders of the USA in the temple of St. George Utah. Those who put their lives on the line to sign the Declaration of Independence etc. They "pled" with him as a man pleading for his LIFE that he would do their temple work, so they could have those blessings. They said, "we did not apostasies from the form of

government that God gave us, but we have no form of earthly representatives for us to do this temple work, please help do this for us.” George Washington and Benjamin Franklin “argued with me and said they were choice spirits not wicked men”. Woodruff did their temple work, and loved the Constitution and the American way, partly because he spoke to those who created them.

-did some reading in Greek Latin and Hebrew; he was well read

-would say things in public meetings regardless of how it would affect him personally or effect the audience

-rather than troubling the government, they stopped plural marriage.

-founded Utah Power and Light Company

-was a statistician and at the end of each year said of the number of people he visited, number of sermons he had preached, etc. We know of at least 4367 baptisms and confirmations he did, 817 administrations of the sick via the Priesthood, sealing 11,388 couples (living and dead) in the temple. That is an average of administering 2 ordinances per day of his life. Said he never did an ordinance without the Holy Ghost.

-dedicated a railroad; believed that temporal and spiritual things are tied to each other

-constantly spoke of the spirit world (Madsen calls him a spiritual amphibian, spending so much time in the world of spirit and the temporal world). One example of this is that he said to one man “hello Mr. Jones. (a pause). You know, I don’t think I’ve talked to your father since he died!”

-as we dedicate and should hosanna at temple dedication, they do so in heaven and it echoes to the very throne of God.

-Isaiah speaking of the house of the Lord in the mountains: he was seeing and referring to the Salt Lake City Utah LDS Temple!

-there have been 2 powers: one to slay me and one to spare me

-the Lord used me because he couldn’t find a weaker vessel

-we must read novels, but we can’t call the bible mere novel: it contains revelation.

-said that Joseph Smith will be crowned as a martyr in the presence of God and the Lamb

-bore his testimony into a talking machine (voice recorder)

-at his death he wanted no one to wear mourning clothes because he was a faithful person and for those type of people, death is a good thing

-said he would try to attend his own funeral

Madsen: Lorenzo Snow

-descendant of Sephardic Jews at time of Spanish inquisition where Jews told they had to leave or die

-came from a family of 9

-at his school one had to do 3-4 hours of manual labor a day, and they were geared toward language study, he

was interested in Hebrew, but not impressed in the religion he saw. Said “if this is all there is in religion, then goodbye to religion!”

-didn't believe in Joseph Smith at first, only having heard bad rumors of him.

-was stunned at promises Joseph Smith Sr. was giving in Patriarchal blessings to people. He told Lorenzo “you'll become great as God and you couldn't wish to be greater”

-he gave up his military ambitions and his plans of further education to set out on his first mission for the Church

-after some time in the jail (at present day Sugar House SLC) for polygamy, one thought he would be full of wrath and a spirit of rebellion. Rather he was calm like a Saint. In this prison the Saints thrown in taught math lessons to each other, art lessons, and enjoyed each other's association. They had Church sacrament and sermons on Sundays. They wore black and white striped outfits common to prisons. He led them in a Hosanna Shout which they did at the top of their lungs.

-had a vision he went to Kolob (the star nearest to the throne of God, see the Pearl of Great Price), and was clothed with a Celestial body. The joy that came from that was beyond description.

-went with 4 women to be sealed in the temple

-was to colonize a city, Brigham City. He told the Saints that they would indeed return to Jackson County Missouri (Where the New Jerusalem will be built), but not today or tomorrow, to build there for now.

-healed a dying child in Italy

-converted a group of people in Italy who were rebelling against the current protestant Churches. This group of people was living in strict adherence to the New Testament despite the protestant ideas that were going around.

-translated the Book of Mormon into Italian

-came home and woke all his children and family, knelt in prayer with them that they would be able to understand what he was about to testify of to them: that he saw Jesus Christ. When praying in the temple of how to organize the Church upon the death of the President, Christ appeared to him in the hall way of the temple after he had prayed much for guidance. Christ stood on something a little above the floor, similar to the Kirtland temple account of Christ standing on a paved breastwork of pure gold when Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdry saw him there, and Christ told him how to lead the Church, to reorganize it straightway and be President. Christ also told him plainly whom his councilors were to be.

-if we knew all our trials in advance it would discourage us; God ever helps us in the time of our greatest need; whenever threatened with discouragement, he saw glorious blessings awaiting.

-had 41 children and adopted 3 more. Last child born to him at age 81.

-away from home oft several years at a time

-“As man is God once was, and as God is man may become.” He taught this, and after that revelation, he saw it

in the scriptures as well in writings of Jesus Paul and John. The early Christian Fathers also taught that doctrine. (the Hebrew says we are created “a little lower than the Gods (Elohim is the word)” not angels (melak is the word for that).

-Jesus was a God before he came here to this earth. Knowledge of that was taken from him when he was born. Similarly, knowledge of who we were before we were born is withheld from us in this life. Jesus in pre-mortality (whom was Jehovah) knew of the mission he would perform during mortality. We also knew the mission we would perform in mortality while we were still in the pre-mortal world.

-being like Christ means suffering for others rather than dominating over them. This is how we access the ultimate power in the universe, the Priesthood.

-there is no God in eternity that has any governmental rights except over his own children

-being President meant nothing to him in comparison of what his calling would be in the next life

-rose a girl from the dead after she had been dead for 2 hours.

-was 5’6 and 140 lbs. and had respiratory problems.

-if we are faithful we will at some time be doing our own work, but for now we are doing the work of our Father in Heaven.

-a mother who has brought up faithful children should be saved even if she does nothing else.

-diplomatic friendly scholarly gentle Christlike appearance.

Madsen: Joseph F Smith

-son of Hyrum Smith, nephew of Joseph Smith Jr.

-when JFS was a little boy of 6, Hyrum and Joseph were going to Carthage Jail where they would be murdered. Hyrum pulled JFS up onto his horse and gave him a big hug. JS said, “Hyrum he looks pale have you been feeding him skim milk?” It wasn’t that, it was that sorrow to see his father leave, and that they had been living in hiding because of the death threat for any Smith to be found.

-his mom Mary Fielding Smith prayed in faith over an ox and it healed. She died when he was 14, so he was sort of an orphan.

-there are more than 6,000 righteous posterity that have come from the lineage of JFS.

-self-taught, beside his mother teaching him to read. All he had to read from was the bible. He became a master of the English language. When his children on missions would write home to him, he would send their letters back to them marked with red pen in places where they had misspelled things.

-schools were maintained in the covered wagon trail

-had a fiery temper in his early life; a school teacher threatened to whack his sister, he threatened the teacher. The teacher came after him, and he beat up the teacher. He was expelled.

- The leaders of the Church decided to channel this energy in another direction, and sent him on a mission to Hawaii at age 15. He got the endowment before leaving.
- He was promised to master the language, but it came at great struggle for him.
- That mission was so challenging that even the mission President gave up, but others did not and had great success.
- At one point on this mission he became very ill and was taken in by a lady and nursed for 3 months like by a mother. Later as President, he returned to Hawaii around age 90 and saw her there and ran to her hugging and kissing her calling her “mamma, mamma!” over and over.
- When he was leaving to go on this mission he wouldn’t get on the small dingy boat unless they commanded him in the name of the Lord to do so. They did, and he did.
- a woman was seizing up and having contortions from an evil spirit. He said, “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I rebuke you.” She fell down and later recovered.
- his first wife was barren. She divorced him.
- later he married 6 others, and had many children. (Plural marriage was still current)
- in a vision he saw JS and touched his bosom as he went to take a child JS had blessed to return the child to it’s mother. He said that the contact with JS brought much excitement, discerning that it was a life form of a perfect order (*this is after the death of JS, perhaps suggesting he is resurrected now, or an illustrative vision to teach of future, or on the nature of spirits)
- had all his children call him papa, and the most affectionate term he had for his wife was mama
- having children gave him deeper appreciation for everything about life. he was very affectionate with children.
- in the tradition of his father, he kissed all his children on the lips a quick smack weather they were adults or not.
- made an Apostle at age 27
- Carthage jail has a blood stain on the floor of Hyrum Smith his father. When he saw that he sat on the bed there, put his hands in his face, and wept uncontrollably until water came pouring out of his hands. He said “Charlie take me out of here” on the 20-mile buggy ride back to where they were staying not a word was said.
- every morning the JFS family had prayer together then he kissed each one of the children
- one morning JFS got a letter of the mean note his son had written to a bully who beat him up and almost drown him in a puddle of water. The letter had every **cuss word his son had ever read or heard in it. That morning JFS gave a kiss to all of his children except this one. To him he said, “See me in my office.” He opening the scriptures pointed to one and said, “Now what does that say?” He did this showing passages of forgiveness and “swear not at all” etc. for 20 minutes. Then he said come here and he gave him a hug and a kiss then said no more of it. The boy never swore again.**

-he shook hands with newspapers etc. that said bad things about him and the Church. One man said of him that he would shake hands with the devil himself. He was able to make better relations with people, and those who wrote ill of him often later wrote good of him because of these things.

-with some people you feel an instant trust. With some songs they strike you so deeply as if you knew them from somewhere before. We knew some people and songs etc. in pre-mortality, that is why. At times in the Spirit, Celestial memories fill us with the spirit and feeling of pre-mortality.

-he taught that Jesus Christ didn't visit people in the spirit world other than the worthy, the missionaries; this implies that no one can see Jesus without being ready or it's terrible for them. On a similar note, his sister sees his parents after their death and they are veiled. He asks why and is told by them that it was because she couldn't endure their presence

-teaching the gospel is the primary activity in the spirit world for the righteous (this shows that you can't escape yourself you go on doing what you do in this life in the next life, you keep being who you are even after death)

Madsen: Heber J Grant

-had a summer cabin in Brighton

-Jedediah Grant his dad said USA is the best place and the best people under the heavens. He died when Heber was a baby.

-his mother went to an LDS sermon on a Sunday out of a dare then went home and prayed to God for forgiveness of breaking the Sabbath by going to a congregation of false doctrine on the Sabbath. Then she went to church and her pastor told her that if she did that again she would lose a seat in his church. She said, "how do you know they aren't right?" being upset and defending herself. This caused her to be curious and really investigate the LDS faith, and then she was baptized into the LDS faith.

-Eliza Snow said at him when 2, said you would grow to be an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. His mother heard this and always told him growing up that if he would behave himself he would be a leader in the Church. He said he did not want to, that he wanted to do other things.

-grew up in severe poverty

-6 leaks in their roof as he was a lad. A bishop came and told his mother that she should not give fast offerings, that those fast offerings should be for her to fix her leaking roof. She said who are you to deny me the blessings of obeying this commandment of God to give fast offerings? She said if I need my roof fixed my son will do it. The bishop said Heber was lazy and wouldn't do it. Heber was angry about this and built his mother an entire new home, and invited that bishop over to do the dedication prayer over it, and thanked him for his motivating statement earlier which inspired the project.

-called to be a stake president at age 23.

-his mother wept at the idea of him going off to school at the prestigious universities he was offered to attend. He prayed all night about it and thought it would be a good thing. In the morning he saw that his mother's eyes were blood shot, she had been crying all night at the idea. He decided not to go but to stay and take care of his mother who needed him there.

-he wanted to go on a mission, but President Brigham Young said no stay and take care of your widow mother.
-turned down a position as Senator since he realized he only wanted that position for pride to prove to someone that he could do it to a person who had called him stupid. He was already deeply involved in the Church and wanted to stay in that.

-as a stake president he was asked if he absolutely knew the gospel and the Church are true he said no. Some said he can't be a stake president then. President John Taylor said that Heber was the only one in the room that didn't know he had an absolute witness. Pres. Taylor said Heber does have one he just doesn't know that he does yet. As he did his calling, he realized that he indeed did have an absolute witness.

-once he had some beer he was asked by the bar tender do you keep the word of wisdom? He responded "yes" the tender said "really?" he said "yes. As of right now." And he never had any more alcohol.

-had an obvious stock trading opportunity to get rich with and was afraid of how riches could corrupt him so he prayed about what to do, of which stocks to sell and God told him which and he didn't make all that money he was glad about that and saw it was from the Lord.

-as a boy was good in business, he would get good at playing marbles, and for every ten marbles he won he would only loose one. With all the marbles, he would sell them and use that money to hire others to do his chores.

-in a Patriarchal blessing to him it was said that the spirit of his heart is integrity and said for that reason the Lord honors him and that he would be blessed because of that all his days

-had many prophetic insights through his life like the spirit telling him which callings he would get

-tells of a man asked by a bishop to give his best ham at a church banquet. He thought to himself "if I don't give my best ham, who would know?" he realized that was the devil speaking and he said, "shut up Mr. Devil, or I'll give two hams!" then the man was troubled no more

-he was in a car going to his Thursday temple meeting with the rest of the Apostles, they fasted before those meetings. A man came to him with cold fresh frosted cherries on that hot summer day and put them through the window and said you want some? His eyes raised, and he was excited and reached out for some then said "oh no!" and didn't take any, and explained to the man why he had to refuse. Heber then turned to the empty seat next to him in the car and said, "Knocked you out there, didn't I Mr. Devil!"

-as an Apostle he had not had an open vision of Jesus Christ. Later he did, but before that he had to push away the devil who tempted him by saying "you lie you have no absolute witness".

-he felt so unworthy and unqualified to be an Apostle. He had a vision of Christ in heaven with his father and Joseph Smith and other righteous men counseling in heaven about who would fill the vacancies in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. They said they would have the son of Jedediah Grant do it because of the faith of Jedediah Grant. He saw this vision not with his eyes but with spiritual eyes like Lehi who said, "I thought I saw God on his throne surrounded by concourses of angels praising him". He then wept for joy for he felt so small compared to the others in the Quorum and rejoiced to see this was a big part of why he was called to this office.

-had several counsels decide one way on an issue 2 times. He was in charge of the decision however, and decided to do it the other way contrary to the counsel of the counsel. He said when he thought of doing it the way they said he only saw darkness, and only saw light when thinking of doing it the way he felt it should be done. So he decided to do it his way and it worked out for the best in the long term.

-one time he offered his life if it could somehow save the credit of the Church. He prayed all night. One person came through and saved the banks.

-get out of debt and stay out

-saw it as dishonest to declare bankruptcy. To him, he owed that money and he was going to pay for it. He had all his children work menial jobs to help pay for things

-Pres. Taylor said the Lord told him in accepting a mission call to preside in Japan despite his financial difficulties and how it would make him live very meager and put many more years of debt upon him, that Heber Grant had made a financial sacrifice comparable to Abraham in that field, and it was acceptable to God. Pres. Taylor said to him not to plan how to get out of debt but to wake each morning and ask the Lord what to do and he will put ideas in your head of what to do. He did this and his 13-year plan to get out of debt was done in 6 months. Pres. Taylor said he would be able to go on his mission and return a free man and be helped in paying for the mission expenses, so it was.

-he was tone deaf (standing at the piano facing away from it, if you played the top key and the bottom key, he would not be able to tell the difference between the two) but he wanted to learn to sing because he knew the song of the righteous is a prayer unto the Lord, and he wanted to pray. He sang 5,000 times the hymn "Oh my Father", and 5,000 times the hymn "The flag without a stain". He was able to master these songs and sing them with great feeling and power.

-he had chicken scratch handwriting and was criticized for this, so he went on to master it and taught penmanship.

-the 3 Nephites would help carry the gospel to the Japanese.

-had a vision of his son being taken to heaven by his deceased wife and a Church leader interpreted it for him. One night his son was ill, and he asked his current wife if she felt something strange. She said yes, she felt like his first wife was in the room to come take the son to heaven. Heber was so filled with peace that he didn't shed

a tear as the son died.

-in those days when one was about to die they spoke of it intimately and said tell such and such person this and that message when you get to the other side.

-he didn't have much grammar skill

-we didn't need to get involved in the WW2 the way we did. That if the leaders of the country were better it wouldn't have been thus. He said this on record in a Conference Report.

-sustained the US Constitution good as anyone ever did

-spoke so much of the word of wisdom commandment that people wrote him letters to stop talking about that and go on to something important.

-he didn't want alcohol legal in Utah. People in that day had all the same arguments for legalizing alcohol as people do today for legalizing marijuana. Heber felt that alcohol needed law force against it or it would get out of hand and be a plague. When news came to him that alcohol had become legal in Utah, he slammed his fist against the table and said we will pay in misery and sorrow for this!

-when President of the Church, he chose Melvin J Ballard to be an Apostle rather than one of his lifelong friends to fill the position. This helped him see that the Church is led by God and not by him, for he didn't even know who Melvin J Ballard was.

-had an LDS friend who started with a little alcohol and ended up dying with liver poisoning from alcohol at age 30. From then on, he swore to be an eternal enemy against alcohol.

-asked J Golden Kimball on a ride if he could practice singing all through the ride. He gave him his word yes. Half way through the journey Kimball was going crazy from it, but Heber always held people to their word, and insisted that he keep his promise, and kept singing the rest of the way.

-was in favor of menial work; said that nothing is below our dignity. He pushed a wheel barrow of dirt in his earlier life and one said "why do you do that work it's below your dignity" he responded "why is it beneath my dignity? I paid for it!"

-believed that music could open hearts when all else failed

-paralyzed on one side, the doctor told Heber that there is nothing he can do to heal it. Heber said, "**is there really nothing I can do?**" the doctor said, "I suppose you can take a sponge and try squeezing it". Heber that day had someone go get a sponge for him. They put it in his hand and it rolled off. He said "again" over and over all night long trying this. He was able to get the movement back from this.

-of driving cars, he would rather be 30 minutes late to a meeting than be 30 years early to eternity

-some neglect duty and replace it with seeking mysteries he said

-pass on to your children a good name and a testimony of the gospel and to save nickels and dimes investing for the temple for such would teach them glorious things.

- Jesus wasn't a mere good moral teacher. If such were the case and he not divine, he would be telling the biggest lie ever, that he is the Son of God, and such a lie would not make him a great moral teacher.
- the only royal virtue here is humility
- most common disease is "the big head"
- when people praised him he would, as he walked away, say under his breath, "that's devil talk! Devil talk! Pride will get you..."
- on evolution let's leave it to the scientists and get on with preaching the gospel
- tells of a man who prayed for 1 million dollars and that he would give 300,000 of it to charity ; the man went on to say "God you don't even have to trust me. Just give me 700,000!"
- spoke of a man getting ten apples and holding one of them up in the air saying, "here you can have a bite of this one". He compared this to how people aren't willing to pay the 1/10 tithing that God has commanded.
- quoted Wilford Woodruff saying "if my head aches (while fasting), let it ache.
- gave to temples rather than an estate for his posterity. Asked why he said " I want my posterity to be sorry when I die."
- saw Maeser teaching the gospel to children and getting their attention and keeping it within the first minute and really taking them a wonderful place; he spoke of how he spends his time in worldly things, business natured things. He said he would not be worthy to black the boots of Maeser in the next life, seeing as there was a man who dedicated his whole life to lifting mankind.

Madsen: George Albert Smith

- most men then were married before going on a mission.
- his wife was devastated without him, so they sent her to be his mission companion
- his wife rose flowers and gave them to hospitals
- one spread bad rumors of him and that caused him to lose an election to be president of the local National Guard. He was so angry about it that he did not take the sacrament at Church. He went to the man who slandered him and asked his forgiveness for being so angry at him. They became friends.
- got highest scout awards
- good at business, on many boards, very busy man.
- when called the Quorum of the 12 Apostles it was announced in a conference before he was told himself. The room was full, so he didn't go in that conference, and people congratulated him. He said, "oh no, there must be some mistake!" He hated the idea of being an Apostle because his father was in the First Presidency and he worried about people thinking he was in for that reason, and the other members of that quorum were giants he had looked up to all his life and sustaining as a child. It shook his faith and he prayed of it and God said that his

leaders are all known to him.

-the thing he had going for him was he had lived a moral life and tried to keep the commandments.

-had a self-creed of commandments for himself to live by including helping the poor, visiting the sick, friending the lonely, teaching the truth, seeking the erring one and trying to love him back, not forcing but loving people into what's right, live with the masses and help the world be pleasant, not offend people even if they offend him, not be an enemy to any living soul.

-damaged eyes so helped develop blind program in the Church

-gave laundered and starched shirts in the welfare program. People were putting them back in his closet thinking it a mistake. He said no, that's the way I like my shirts, so it's probably the way they would like them as well.

-one stole his car and he sorrow he said "I wish he would've asked me for it then I would've given it to him and he wouldn't be a thief."

-donated to the Salvation Army saying "they reach some that we miss"

-came home blue and cold from having given his coat away to a man on Main St. in SLC

-people of other religions are so good and beautiful and that we ought not to say that we only have the truth, but that we want to add to what they have, and not have them leave behind any blessing, only come and let us help you enjoy blessings from Heavenly Father which they have not be experiencing up to this point.

-he was a historian. Said that without memorials, we tend to forget (this could be why they had to carry the plates across the desert, or why Joseph Smith had to have the plates).

-said to Matthew Cowley never to prepare a sermon, just stand and say what the Lord tells you (*could mean prepare, have materials, but at delivery, don't read it, rather say what God gives to your thoughts)

-taught that music can reach the heart when prose cannot.

-Didn't have a centurion voice but rather a gentle one.

-you couldn't get him angry or hostile no matter how hard you tried

-one said of him he often was known for giving hope to the hopeless

-when others spoke of "very important people" around him, saying "yes such and such a person is a very important person" He would say "no, we are all very important people"

-of people who believe there was no holocaust of the Jews, that belief would be worse than the holocaust itself.

-taught that we need to stay on the Lord's side of the line

-we the LDS will lead all the world in all regards because we have everything they do, but in addition we have the inspiration of the Lord.

- what matters if we understand Homer, Milton, Newton, etc., if we fail to know the scriptures, for they are the better part.

-the home is a mini temple; we can use it to resist evil

- our dead are just as anxious for us as the Lord is and they are praying for us
- our eternal happiness will largely be based on what our children attain
- “give the Lord a chance.”
- focused on how much growth and development is ahead of us and how to that point, the Church had only been in it’s infantile stages.
- he didn’t care about school degrees
- Spencer Kimball said that he was a good Indian, for they sat together for 48 hours on a hard bench waiting to meet with an Indian chief (those chiefs have a way of testing people).
- he was an advocate for the Indians
- when asked if he had any last council near his death he said “yes, I know that my Redeemer lives!”
- at his death, a 7 year old paper boy knocked on their door and said “I’ve lost my best friend, what can I do?” They had him be one of the pallbearers.** (he made friends with even who others would call insignificant people)
- it was said of him that his journey from death to the next life was the shortest journey he ever took (meaning he lived a heavenly life)
- he was a great reconciler
- he made not just friends, but dear friends
- he spoke of the aristocracy of righteousness
- of him President McKay said he was one of the most Christlike men who ever lived.

Madsen: David O. McKay

- his parents were ostracized for joining the Church
- a bishop for 20 years
- his dad would have the subject changed whenever people would start talking bad things about others
- he prayed for self-assurance of the truthfulness of the gospel as a lad. The answer didn’t come right then, but eventually it did.
- one told him he would grow to be in the leading councils of the Church. He tried to live for that.
- while working in the field he would memorize whole passages of Shakespeare, other poetry, etc.
- he knew much British Literature
- his father was political and educationally involved
- the vocational training of their home was centered around education.
- He knew he was to be a teacher.
- he was class president and valedictorian. In those days to be valedictorian it involved moral character strengths

as well, not just academic strength.

-of all the people he met as Prophet, his parents were the most influential.

-motherhood is the most beautiful and noble occupation

-supportive powerful family growing up

-his girlfriend couldn't resist his dancing and quoting poetry. They were married.

-he said of his girlfriend that she was his queen

-never let your wife's hand touch a doorknob

-take your wife out once a week; let her count on that. He did this all through life and when he had to be away from home he would call her and tell her that he would make it up to her

-always helped his wife into her seat

-always kissed his wife goodbye. Once he was put in a wheelchair to be taken out of a hospital and carefully taken down all the way out to a car, much work helping him get in and out of the chair etc. When they got there he said "oh no we have to go back" he had forgotten to kiss his wife goodbye. They accordingly did go back.

-he was kind courteous and trusting

-no man has a right to an oath in or out of his hoe

-never raised his voice in his home

-said no one would dare leave a TV on when leaving the house, so slothful that would be.

-he never asked his boys to do anything he didn't himself; said it's useless for a father to punish his child for swearing by swearing at his son

-blessed a man in a terrible accident who would have obvious great scarring that he would have no scars it was fulfilled

-he developed teacher training in the Church and insisted on outline of lessons and that after a principal be taught, that application of that principal be taught and discussed.

-one would always start meetings late; he told the constituents to not correct him, but to praise him greatly when he did start ontime one day, and in that method, the man would continue to start on time. So it was.

-he speaks of lofty ideals and the sublime and ecstasy

-dreamed of a city where people of white robes and headdresses were. The Savior was there, and he had peace about him which was sublime. It was Christ's city. The people who were there were they who had overcome and world and truly been born again.

-becoming partakers of the divine nature as Peter taught happens in process as we take the sacrament and go to the temple till we can say we have truly been born again

-about 200 people joined the Church from one sermon he gave on an island

-said often the veil is very thin

- was President of European mission
- a trustee of on university and regent of another
- Apostle Benson accepting the government position as secretary to Eisenhower “my mind is clear on it I know what the Lord would have you do.” It was to accept, and much good came of it.
- one Polynesian man went to his office to see him; it wasn’t common to be able to just go in; but he went in, past everything and to his door. It was opened some, and McKay said “come in brother”
- he had humor
- his eyes seemed to search the very soul
- one interviewer asked “are you a prophet?” in response he said “look me in the eyes and you’ll know” he did and it was confirmed to him.
- if we want to love God we must love and serve his children
- Jesus Christ is the source of The Priesthood
- his secretary said she never saw him depressed or lash out; people came to him that way but they left differently, he had a great effect on people
- never thought of death because I’m so enthralled with life
- few who he calls as mission Presidents are surprised about that call
- when his wife was set apart for them being mission presidents she was blessed with health, and indeed her cancer was healed
- he was president of the church except over his wife he said
- advocated that even little children fast learning that they must do things at times just because they don’t want to
- advocate of science and technology
- against Niche philosophies speaking of Christianity being bad; this couldn’t be said of original Christianity, but nevertheless it gives a wrong idea to people
- against communism
- said every member a missionary (if all members then converted one person each for a year, it would take 14 years before the whole earth were members, then each one of those people would only have to do 40 names in the temple, and everyone from Adam would have their temple work done) (in one sense the prophets are the gatherers of gatherers, and the common members are to gather everyone else)
- didn’t slow down until he was in his 90’s
- the scripture says that when Moses came down from Mt Sinai that ‘he wot not that his face shown’ meaning he didn’t realize it was shining. Pres. McKay had gone to the holiest room in the temple to pray about who was to fill the vacancy in the first Presidency and was told who it was to be. President Hugh B Brown spoke with Pres.

McKay after that, and said that was the very same experience, his face shone but he knew it not.

-no one can stay clean in this world without the Holy Ghost

-earth was created by a personal divine source and not by mere creation. He said scientists can say what they will about the creation but let there be one mistake about this one thing: it was not by chance, it was by God.

There was divine intervention.

-the temptations of Jesus are typical of all types of temptation we experience in life: 1. appetite 2. fashion and pride 3. money and leadership

-few, even temple workers, understand the importance of the endowment; it's the steps to get into God's presence; if our young people understood that it would be the core of their spiritual motivation (*I think what he is saying here is the doctrine that this is the only way, there is no other way, we must go to the temple if we are to return to the presence of God to dwell with him after this life)

-he went to the temple each week through his life and it showed

Madsen: Joseph Fielding Smith

-at one meeting he told the Saints that they needed to repent or few of them would be saved in the world to come. People complained so he came back and said he had changed his mind, and told them that if they didn't repent NONE of them would be saved.

-he told some temple square guides that they needed to be more humble guides

- he loved the concept that through Christ the yoke can be lightened

-he loved the scripture about how we can become like Jesus to see him as he is at His coming

-he loved the scripture that we can learn more and more making us become lighter until the perfect day; that we may have bodies shining bright as the sun in a day to come

-one woman knew Joseph Smith a prophet but didn't know of him being one. She got to shake his hand and felt spiritual power in him.

-one said to him "I'm a convert" he responded that he was too

-one came by his office in the temple depressed thinking he not there walked on and then the he **put his arm on his shoulder of the depressed man and said, "it's rough going isn't it"**. The man told him his plight, and Smith told him "God bless you brother"

-the supreme act of worship is keeping the commandments

-he never came to a meeting late though he did complain about the length of some meetings.

-he sat on the hump seat in the back seat of cars so others could be comfortable

-integrity comes from integral and means pulling things together in your life and being consistent. He wouldn't act like signing a letter for a picture to be taken of him, but found a letter he needed to sign anyway and had

them take a picture of him signing that

-avoid mysteries he spoke of not thinking about whether the gates of heaven are on a hinge or are rolling etc.

-he quoted himself twice in discourses

-people thought that Einstein had all the right answers but now much of what he said is out of date. Like how Widtsoe thought of Ether being what's referred to in D&C 88 but that theory is out now but the D&C goes onward.

-Pres. Smith interviewed one for being a teacher at BYU on a controversial topic said "do you like my book Man his Origin and Destiny"? The man said no, and Smith asked why he said that and he replied that he thought some of it out of date or something. Smith asked the man if he would teach some of those things he said he doesn't like. He said he would and defensively. Smith responded well I guess you'll have to, have a good time teaching at BYU.

-he would go out of his way to go say hello to people

-he wrote a book "Signs of the Times". He was constantly reading the prophecies.

- the fire at the second coming will be as real as the water that was at the time of Noah. He went on to say that the water was H₂O and that the fire to come is the kind we now know also.

-taught that in preexistence there was an organization there just as well as there is here and that there were men in authority holding the Priesthood. A Pre-mortal Church.

-taught that fullness of the Priesthood only comes to those men and women sealed to each other as spouses in the temple

-he wanted people to kneel and pray about their questions of the gospel rather than calling him all of the time.

-his daughter would call him then set the phone down and read a book for a while then pick up the phone and say hello dad! It was because they let the phone ring 33 times before picking it up knowing that such a caller had something urgent since he was so bombarded with calls.

-was known to not be able to have a conversation without bringing the scriptures into it; likewise his son in law Bruce R McConkie

-when Bruce R McConkie was 19, J Fi. S gave him a blessing foretelling that his doctrinal commentaries would be known of in the 4 quarters of the earth and that he would one day be in the leading councils of the Church.

Bruce R McConkie determined 100 doctrines in the Book of Mormon then obtained 100 copies of the book and tore out the pages pertaining to said doctrines in 100 folders and referred to those reading them a half hour a day with his spouse

-wouldn't drink the coffee with no caffeine or other supposed toxins, because he wanted to avoid the presence of evil, and it still looked and smelled like normal coffee.

-very little meat he ate, taking the word of wisdom seriously

- played hand ball until his 70's. He was so good at it that he could hit the ball and have his opponent running around waring out his opponent.
- liked to fly jets
- so many calls to his house that he would wait until the phone had rung 32 times then he would pick it up knowing it must be very important
- 1st wife died 2nd wife died and then married a third
- when asked if marriages are made in heaven he said "It's in heaven now"
- married Jessie same year his prior wife died, President Grant told him to remarry, whom firmly believed that it's not good for man to be alone.
- women have the most exciting and noble calling
- women will be given authority when they are priestesses
- the Lord offers every gift and blessing to both his sons and his daughters
- 64 years Church History record keeper; 20 years counselor in a temple Presidency; 4 years as a temple President.
- 19 years as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles
- insisted on rising early from bed
- an invalid spouse of his (bedridden) spent much time on family history he said he will ever bless her for how she helped him with doing that
- asked how he got so much done at work he said "it's in the bag" referring to how he would bring a sack lunch and never take that hour off.

Madsen: Harold B Lee

- he told Ludlow to get the curriculum done by the beginning of the year and said if you need more motivation to do this just **consider that you would be shot if you don't. So Ludlow took a sleeping bag** and stayed at the Church offices for 30 days and got it done.
- auxiliaries wouldn't be needed in a future day when the parents are doing more
- Elder Romney submitted to the words of the leaders of the Church when they didn't like his political platform and he stopped trying to win an election; they had different political views. They saw that he was willing to submit to the council of the leaders of the Church and they called him to be an Apostle in the Church.
- the titles etc. we get in this life aren't really important, but the real importance is weather we truly lived the gospel, and how are our families
- played the piano as did several of his children
- was an educator but full time church service at a very young age

- served Denver Colorado English mission
- when his daughter died he said The Lord keeps stirring me up.
- on an airplane he felt hands on his head twice and looked back to see who it was. Upon landing found out that he had bleeding ulcers and without administration of a Priesthood blessing he would have died
- one time in the hospital he was told to get up put on his clothes and walk out. This made the doctors and nurses angry.
- Elder Spencer Kimball one of the Twelve Apostles was having great health problems; he was saying that perhaps he had lived long enough and that he would not do the risky surgery. President Lee banged his fist on the table and said you have been called of God you must live as long as you can. Elder Kimball then agreed to the surgery if President Lee would give him a blessing the night before.
- there were 8,000 people in the tabernacle a man said he had a bomb. Lee responded that there was no bomb. Indeed.
- glued papers into his scriptures with important things and quotes on them
- did interviews until 2am then had more at 5am. He prayed that the 3 hours of sleep would be enough
- about blacks and the Priesthood, those who understand revelation, to them there is no problem. To those who do not understand revelation, there is no solution
- in animals the light of Christ is instinct.
- was told if he would get physically close to other people they would trust him- so he would say be close in our homes and invite people in your homes and show familial closeness and they'll befriend and trust you.
- says most profound thing he had heard any prophet say is that those who defame Joseph Smith will die and ever have their stink of such but the glory of Joseph Smith lives on forever
- even President of the Church eventually gets released from that calling, but the calling of father and mother are forever.
- had problems so difficult that he has had to pray all night about them
- upon the question of medication which would numb his mind, he said that we should not alleviate all suffering for the scriptures say that Melchizedek and others learned by the things they suffered.
- after his death, Elder Kimball who would be the next President visited with him half a night long. This seems to be the pattern of all the prophets gutted proceeded.
- a strong supporter of the Constitution of the USA
- Smithsonian Institute had display of LDS religion as being typical of a faith which has religious understanding of the Constitution of the USA
- the gospel has all answers to complex life questions
- when people see Mormonism in action they'd be more tolerable of our faith

Madsen: Spencer W Kimball

- after President Harold B. Lee's death, Elder Kimball who would be the next President visited with him half a night long. This seems to be the pattern of all the prophets gutted proceeded.
- Elder Spencer Kimball one of the Twelve Apostles was having great health problems; he was saying that perhaps he had lived long enough and that he would not do the risky surgery. President Lee banged his fist on the table and said you have been called of God you must live as long as you can. Elder Kimball then agreed to the surgery if President Lee would give him a blessing the night before.
- the surgery was done by Russel M Nelson (an Apostle). Of the 250 cuts in this open-heart surgery about 25 cuts go wrong. This was the **only surgery Nelson had ever done of the 8,000 surgeries of his career that he had done perfectly**. Before or after, he was never able to do a perfect surgery.
- to parents who adopted Chinese children he told them to tern Mandarin Chinese for the Church will be there someday
- avid in family history
- he was dumped on for the hardest chores in the family. His mother said that he would get extra blessings for helping on the farm. (This may be why he was so short, working so hard in his youth)
- was good at athletics and got in a few fights but grew out of that
- never overcompensated or complained for being short. Didn't walk in extra-long steps etc. He refused to go through the door first. He was humble and identified with humble men
- his wife Camilla was a teacher
- never let anything anything anything get between you and Jesus Christ. He said **you young people are too infatuated with degrees and grades**. 20 years from now no one will care if you got A's or E's in school. He was himself a **self-taught man, and VERY avid reader**
- attributed strong education of his children to his wife
- had large will display of Old Testament prophets and events timeline
- the first commandment (thou shalt not have any gods before me) is the commandment that we break the most (see his talk, "The God's we Worship" about obsession with material things).
- known for much community involvement not so much academia
- learned piano since mom excused him from some chores if he would practice
- in banking, lost all his scrupulous savings from the great depression and had debts at other times from bank failures
- managed bank books; balanced them to the penny, eliminating the disorder. He did much clerk work through his life.
- as a Stake President a flood came and he counseled people to work at recovery hard all day long but that when

the evening comes, break out the violins and live life.

-when asked to be in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles he said “oh no not me!” he felt there were other more worthy candidates

-he recalled not reporting vandalism he had seen or in business being too pressing on someone in a deal or asking too much money for something so he went around with his check book making amends to people. A few times people said yes, I’ll take some money for that but most of the time they said that if anything, they dealt with him wrong not the other way around. He would tell these people he went to that he had been called to a high position in his Church, and couldn’t do it in good conscience unless he set some things straight.

-when set apart as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, he knelt before the face of who ordained him

– if working hard could make up for his inadequacies he would. So he slept only a few hours each night and became a master of sneaking away every now and then for a **15-minute cat nap, then was back in action.**

-had many boils in his skin for 20 years (not even Job had them that long)

-on one occasion an unkempt Indian man came into a sacrament meeting with his unkempt son they were very poor he got up and hugged kissed and blessed the child. **With other men one may think this was for attention, but not with President Kimball.**

– the purpose for parents isn’t to get children on missions but to get them into the temple, then they go on missions to get other people into the temple.

-he was able to get missionaries fixed on going home to stay on their missions. He had them write home that day to their parents telling them they would stay.

-there was a missionary staying at the mission Presidents home with an emotional issue. The mission President woke one night to see that Elder standing over his bed with a knife. He called President Kimball and they spoke for a few minutes then he asked Kimball about what to do, President Kimball said “Save him. The Lord bless you.” then Kimball hung up the phone. He never gave up on anyone!

-he did the intense personal one on one counseling with people, he **took on the hardest cases including 200 homosexuals. When asked what the result was of working with them on that, he said “we pretty well got that all cleaned up.”** He **didn’t believe in “born that way genetics”** and he taught against it. He stayed in touch with them by phone. He would help a person change their behavior, then work on the inner life that lead to the behavior. **Institutions criticized him for his methods and theories. He said, “You know I’m a criminal.”**

-the Miracle of Forgiveness book he wrote is so unyielding in its principals that **even hardened addicts became successful by using it.**

-at **2am the lights were often still on the Kimball home.** He would be writing in his journal responding to

letters and thanking them for any bit of faith they had in such letters. In his journals he not only wrote of the things of the day, but he opened his heart. There are **33 black binders of these journals** he kept. He said that **in journals don't put your sins in neon but write you have weaknesses and quickly get on** to the good stuff, to the inspired.

– one physician said that in the time of his throat cancer, that when Kimball spoke it took 5 times as much effort to speak as it would for a normal person. That speaking for an hour to him was like us speaking 5 hours.

President Lee said that Elder Kimball will speak. Kimball motioned to his throat to say no my throat is too bad.

Lee said oh yes he will speak. Kimball spoke a 10 minute very raspy monotone message. Lee wanted the people to feel his spirit. He sat down and put his hand in his face and wept after giving the speech. This happened another time. When the speech was over, Lee shook his fist in the air “YES Spencer, YES!”

-say with a dying person all night

-at the end of work day he wrote thank you letters and responses to all who had written him even the little children and he thanked them for all they do big or small

-if it was for the Kingdom, pain meant nothing to him. In the line of duty for Christ, his rights subsided. That is the opposite of our society, it's all about rights for us. But in the gospel, all rights have duties, and all duties have blessings.

-the main issue with marriages today is selfishness, insisting your needs be met.

– divorce is rarely needed

-don't put your wife down from her pedestal by putting her onto a diet.

– marriage can be ecstasy

– he has different likes than his wife, and she has different likes than him, but they have some similar likes, and that's where they stay when they do things together. They do their own thing by themselves at times, and they get along just fine.

-once he and his wife couldn't determine whether some extra money they had saved would be used for a vacation to go touring, or to save for getting a new house. He wanted the vacation, so he went on the family vacation touring by himself and reportedly had a very good time.

-if anti-Mormon people had the spirit of God, they wouldn't talk the way they do

-he complained of strapless evening dresses the women would wear.

-peoples' lives are written on their faces. After 40 years, it's written there. What we are born with is what it is, but after 40 years we are the ones who have written what is seen there. Kimball wasn't as comely as President McKay, but when he was under the influence of the spirit of God, he was beautiful!

-on the Mount of Transfiguration, the Apostles were also transfigured

-Kimball hinted that it was better that Peter lived to be leader of the Church than to get killed earlier. God had

- other plans for him. Though Peter had said “I know not the man”, he never said that Jesus is not the Christ.
- death is not so bad, it’s giving up a handful of dust for something much better.
- disintegration of the family is the worst tragedy of our time and if the Church won’t reverse this at least among themselves, great trouble is ahead.
- the majority of the Apostles won’t lead you astray. All of the LDS Prophets since Joseph Smith and onward have said something to this effect.
- while we profess God we are nevertheless an idolatrous people.
- heaven is like here but there are more realms of creativity.
- one man was called to be a General Authority. He cried at the thought of being in association with Kimball. Kimball left the room for 10 minutes while the man was crying, saw that he was still crying, and left the room again.
- Madsen says he feels like Kimball was much like the person of Heavenly Father, kissing and hugging people he saw.
- 3,000 youth fasted he would be well to come address him at college. He wasn’t going to go not feeling well, very ill, but he went. The opening prayer student prayed that they had been fasting please send the prophet to speak to us. Then Kimball entered. They cheered.
- of children who have strayed “it’s not over yet”
- Madsen got a call from Kimball. It was the saddest he had ever heard Kimball in his life. Kimball had called to ask him to go perform a civil marriage for one of his grandchildren (not a temple marriage).
- there will be martyrs in this dispensation in the future. He said giving your life is better than violating covenants. Martyrdom is how Christianity began, and before the end (before the Second Coming of Christ which is termed in the scriptures as the end of the world in the JST of Matt. 24 because it’s the end of wickedness in the world), that’s how the scenes will be.

Madsen: Ezra Taft Benson

- dated some before his mission and met a wealthy girl he liked his friends said she’ll never even look at you (she was rich he was poor). They dated a while he said if you’re still around when I return we can take it from there. He returned and she was but she was going on a mission and gave him the same offer, and he waited for her and they married upon her return.
- in his marriage they were good examples of looking for the good in each other
- atheism has become the state religion
- America is the Lord’s base of operations
- America is the only place the restoration could happen, and it barely did even there

- people came to America hungry for religious freedom
- we must study the Book of Mormon DAILY.
- no civic honor (he got tons of them) is comparable to getting the Melchizedek Priesthood
- Jesus Christ not only taught the law, he IS the law; aka his current revelation is what we do.
- pride is become a popular sin in our generation and it leads to sin
- the law of Consecration is not a social experiment, it's an eternal law of heaven
- for bitter or sweet, Jesus has experienced such deeper than us
- only a God could atone for our sins. Jesus Christ was and is a God.
- born a stillborn. The Dr. gave up on him and went to save his mother. Several women in the room dipped him in cold then hot water back and forth then he came to.
- in Family Home Evening in his family they did song scriptures recreation of their own make knowing how to make their own recreation, not TV.
- his wife gave up a nice home to marry him. She was from a rich family, he from poor.
- he hated debt. He had a sense of self sufficiency personally and in government.
- there were 837,000 members of the Church when he was called an Apostle, and no stakes abroad.
- saw a German who survived a bomb upon receiving many boxes of wheat from the Church. He said in tears "how can people who don't know us care this much about us?"
- his message was do not despair, there is always a way
- they wanted 12 but only got 6 children
- when US President Eisenhower asked him to be his secretary, he said he would ask the brethren of the Church and see what they say. President McKay said, "my mind is clear on it I know what the Lord would have you do." It was to accept, and much good came of it.
- Benson told Eisenhower he would not defend a policy that he didn't believe in or what is against my religion. Eisenhower then had him put in.
- he insisted that policies were good for the character of the US people as secretary to US President. Others asked, "what does that have to do with it?"
- he said, like Tocqueville, that the strength of American was in its spirituality.
- insisted they start cabinet meetings with verbal prayer not just a silent moment for silent prayer. They did so.
- he fired one person thinning he was a socialist. Such would be against what America stands for in all its background. Later found the person was not socialist, and rather than trying to excuse himself he said he had made a mistake and apologized (not for being anti-socialist, but for firing the man in misunderstanding)
- Benson had the people fast for rain. It did. The news headlines read "Benson really does have contacts that are out of this world"

- Eisenhower and others joined him in doing Family Home Evenings on Monday nights.
- Eisenhower said that Benson was the shining star in the firmament of his administration.
- he was against government subsidies and against paying farmers to destroy their crops and against putting limits on farmers
- spoke of what to do with freedom once it's been won; to hold on to faith in God; the greatest tragedy is forgetting God
- of Vietnam war: it was a fight we never intended to win and hence a fight we should have never entered.
- plead with mothers to stay home as much as they could even to leave work and cut the budget. One womanist wished she had listened to this prophet lamenting her fate.
- leaders in Zion should be familiar with each other sharing with each other their intimate thoughts humor etc. They would lay down their lives for each other and were to be very close.
- There is more salvation in wheat than in high flown theology. Benson said this like Orson Pratt. Said revelation on having food storage could be like the people of the day of Noah being commanded to get on the ark.
- often his addresses were to specific audiences like sisters, mothers, etc., and he did that in a genius way.

Madsen: Howard W Hunter

- despite repeated advice from doctors kept his wife at home with him and didn't put her in a nursing home despite her illnesses which were common for a person forgetting things and turning on even those closest to them and her being bedfast
- despite bone cancer, remained active and tender
- let the temple be the symbol of your membership in the church
- be calm in your spirituality (not as a cheerleader)
- reflecting on the past should not be self-debasing or causing doubt
- God is usually more willing to forgive us than we are ourselves
- if Jesus lays his hands on a marriage it lives
- any theology that says Christ didn't suffer all levels of suffering and temptations are false
- to judge righteously means with fairness, compassion, and charity
- the meek will inherit the earth not those who win by intimidation
- went on Egyptian Nile cruise on a honeymoon
- when one scowls a lot, usually there are lines that show in the face from doing that over time. He had none, and there is something Christlike in that.
- he was not dominating when with people. He was careful and methodical; a careful listener; these things were probably a result of his legal training

- the Marriott Center at BYU had a full audience, one man stood and shouted that he had a bomb in a brief case and that it would go off if he didn't come sign a statement. He said NO! The bomber persisted, he said no again. Some members started singing which distracted the bomber, and he went on with his sermon
- he leaned back too far and fell straight on his back while giving a General Conference address. Elder Packer and others helped him up, and he went right on with his discourse without missing a word.
- was part of the archeological society
- was a regular reader of The Biblical Archeologist
- had a large collection of historical books which he read
- marked his scriptures well
- God's blessings are for all Palestinians regardless of Muslim Jewish etc. for all are the children of God. He recognized the scripture that says the Jews will eventually return to Jerusalem, but said that we don't get involved with the geo-political conflict there.
- in the 1950's there were only about 100,000 visitors to Hawaii a year, but he dedicated the Polynesian Cultural Center and said that it would bring millions of visitors and be a missionary tool. Such has happened.
- in the time of the dedication of the BYU Jerusalem center, there was conflict. President Jeffery R Holland was President of BYU at the time. A prominent Jewish man came to his office and offered to write a check for the cost put into it so far and however else much he wanted if they would stop the BYU Jerusalem center. Holland said no. Holland was worried until he opened the scriptures at random and it said in the D&C: "It is peaking to me that a school should be built in Zion"
- in the dedication prayer for the BYU Jerusalem, said that people who go there will feel constrained to acknowledge that "this is thy house". All types of people say they feel peace there. An atheist said he feels like praying when near the upper room there. Other atheists have said that also.
- he was a lawyer. His patriarchal blessing said that he would be wise in the ways of the world and that he would teach those to people and that the Lord would use those skills to build up his kingdom.
- was in a wheelchair and Dr.'s said he would never walk again, and he overcame that; he walked into the Apostles Thursday temple meeting with a walker. He was usually never late but this time he was and though it's not usual they stood and applauded him. He basically collapsed in a chair and they went around hugging and kissing him.
- played 7 instruments competently while a teenager.
- leader of a well-known music band in his youth
- not as interested in the gospel in his teenage years
- loved animals as a boy
- collected bird eggs and could identify them

- used money he made from his band to help pay family expenditures and prepare for school
- the purpose of temples is to reunite the family of man
- got an offer to be a higher judge but decided to not so he could be able to keep doing church service and his law practice was treating him well enough.

Madsen: Gordon B. Hinckley

- one man gave an excellent talk. He became proud. Time for his next talk he got up in a boastful spirit. The spirit left him and his talk was shattered, he stumbled his way through it. He got off the stand humbled. Hinckley told him if he would have went up the way he went down, he would have went down the way he went up.
- in university schooling during the great depression
- studied ancient Greek literature and British literature in college before his mission then learned of communications on his mission and studied that thereafter; always there helping in the production of church films and other distribution things
- he would do whatever the brethren told him to, but he LOVES missionary work
- spoke much for retention of church converts
- it was said of his dad that he wrote more church manuals than any other for in his day it was an individual assignment not that of a committee.
- at age 12 he went to a Priesthood meeting though against his will. There he heard the song “Praise to the Man” about Joseph Smith sang by many converts, and then is the first time he recalls it coming into his heart that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God.
- as a lad dipped the pigtailed of a girl into black ink
- didn’t go to class one day along with other students who wanted to protest; his mother wrote to the principal to please excuse him what he did was merely an impulse to follow the crowd. He says that is the most scathing rebuke he ever got from his mother.
- he never beat his children. Twas his policy that such only intensifies resentment
- when Pres. Hunter died, Hinckley was one of his councilors. A son of his tried getting ahold of him a long time and finally did. He asked if he could help. Hinckley said “Yes, pray for me” then hung up the phone.
- while he was President of the Church, 138 million were given in humanitarian aid. The humanitarian aid section was added to the tithing slip. This minority small church isn’t just taking care of it’s own, it’s taking care of others who don’t belong to it. 100% of funds to humanitarian aid in this church go to that cause. There is no one else who does that. Funds to this church are not of overhead; all we have are the tithes of the members to run this church. We don’t dip in along the way, every penny of it goes where directed.

-spoke of a single woman who raised her family by cleaning houses. Over the years after her children were grown and married, she managed to save up enough to get a new house or remodel her house. She gave it to the church. A mission President said no, you earned this and have right to it and deserve it. She said no, I want to give serve the Lord. I am comfortable enough in my house, I've gotten used to it. President Hinckley said after relating this account, DON'T WASTE THE WIDOWS MITE! The funds we have in this Church are very sacred, much of them come from house cleaning mothers.

-do little more than is expected. At close of his talks he often said do a little better. (Such are the words of a man who has put in effort)

-when visiting near Ghana Africa he told the people "I don't want to leave here, I feel at home here." They wept together.

-if we don't do D&C 121 then our Priesthood and leadership in the Church will be gone and our role as Patriarch will be gone.

Madsen Church President Lecture Series: Assorted Notes

-a master Psychologist speaking of why we came to Utah as a people, said it's not just to survive, for plenty do that, but it's because it offers something more here, something special.

-BH Roberts, known to be one of the most eloquent speakers the Church had had, said of young people who were indifferent or even hostile toward the Church "Ah! They have not yet met a master interpreter!"

-olive oil causes more poisons to cease than any other remedy; so if you don't know what poison you ingested or how to cure it, drink olive oil. Interesting that such is what we use in anointing the sick as directed in James 5, and that Christ's atonement was at an olive tree (*also Jewish lore suggests the Tree of life in the garden of Eden was an olive tree; also the bird returning to Noah on the ark to show that there was land brought back an olive tree leaf); it's like how Jesus purifies us of our sins and heals us from our afflictions of all types (*Alma 7 says Christ doesn't just help us with our sins, but with all aspects of life)

-President Packer was asked if we really believe we are going to take these sacraments (temple ordinances) to every human that has ever lived. He responded "it is a big job, and we're doing it"

-Truman G Madsen asked President Hugh B Brown: what are the blessings of Abraham Isaac and Jacob? Answer: posterity. Question: they why was Abraham asked to sacrifice his one chance at that? Answer: Because Abraham needed to learn something about Abraham. He and Isaac came down from that mountain with stronger faith in God and in the future.

-BH Roberts was in disagreement with the rest of the brethren about whether one of them in the high council of the Church had to get permission from the others before running for public office. Everyone said yes except him. They told him he would have to leave the council if he could not come to terms with this. He walked

around all night and finally decided to come to terms with it. He told them it took him all night to come to that, and they responded, JFS being one of them, that they hadn't left the room, and had been praying all night for him.

-Madsen said the First Presidency asked him to speak on Emma Smith, he asked what are the current feelings of the brethren on her, they said "Very positive."

-The LDS Sort Center in SLC gives 1 million clothes a month.

-one person asked Elder Jeffrey R Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "would you give your life for Christ?" He responded, "I thought that is what I was doing".

-Matthew Cowley said when called as Apostle felt it a call to be a delinquent father. He said that because in that type of calling The Church must come 1st, although of course the ultimate thing is family.

-book "Think and grow rich" by Napoleon Hill. BH Roberts quoted from this famous book.

-David Whitmer was the only one of the three witnesses of the Book of Mormon to be told directly by the angel "blessed is he that endureth to the end"; he was the only one of them who didn't come back to the Church.

-Madsen says how much we bring to the scriptures determines how much we take from them.

-Madsen says with Mosiah 5 the people were literally reborn

-Madsen says that our conscience kisses us when we obey the core of our hearts, that being which is truth.

-Madsen says that the 1 year plan for food storage and cash the church has instructed us about is important; Too many of us see the Church as something to rescue us when we have none of that, and it's not designed to be that. The plan of the Church is storage kept by the members themselves.

-Hugh B Brown was in the First Presidency at one point

-how much we bring to the scriptures is how much we will get out of them

-J Golden Kimball said if you want to live a long time, get an incurable disease then take care of it

-Madsen was told as long as he was in the path of duty on his mission he would be safe in his travels

-one man visiting an LDS congregation, he was getting a **doctorate in theology, said "they're all like little children there... which is just like Christ would want them to be" he then joined the Church.**

In The Company of Prophets: Personal Experiences of D. Arthur Haycock – Book Highlights

with Heber J. Grant, George Albert Smith, David O. McKay, Joseph Fielding Smith, Harold B. Lee, Spencer W. Kimball, and Ezra Taft Benson; By Heidi S. Swinton

(unreferenced words are those of Arthur)

-“I’ve had more tutoring and training from the real masters of life than anybody who ever went to college”

-what made the prophets sad made Arthur sad, them happy, he happy. He wasn’t responsible for all they were, but he tried to help them all he could and felt it his duty when assigned as he often was to help these men.

-“If you don’t have the brethren’s total confidence, if they can’t talk about anything or anyone, any situation or circumstance with you sitting there, it doesn’t work.”

-“It is invariably the case, that when an individual is ordained and appointed to lead the people, he has passed through tribulations and trials, and has proven himself before God, and before His people, that he is worthy of the situation which he holds.” (Elder Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses 1:123)

-“Don’t take yourself too seriously” (President J. Reuben Clark)

-“they don’t make hasty deceptions...they make haste very slowly and very deliberately and very prayerfully. They are righteous and sensitive.”

-President Kimball wore holes in his shoes, “worn out in the service of the Lord” he would say.

-When President Kimball would get tired, he would lay down on his desk or the floor. “Lengthen your stride” he would say.

-no one in their right minds would ever ask for these jobs, it goes beyond the nice red chairs at conference.

-people know little of the demands make on leaders and their families

-“The General Authorities spend every ounce of energy, strength, and talent with which the Lord has blessed them to uplift the members and good people everywhere. That is their special assignment.”

-he had little education or contacts, but tried and hence succeeded in his heart’s desire.

-from them I learned life is a testing ground to make us strong and effective.

-“I’ve found in this world, if you don’t look out for yourself, no one else will.” (Elder Harold B. Lee to Arthur)

Haycock: George Albert Smith

-“Unlike most other westward-bound emigrants of the time, these pioneers (LDS settling in Zion) came not for wealth, but to create homes where they could worship God unmolested....Bound by recognized ties of brotherhood and guided by Christian ideas, which were part of their very fiber, they knew how to live and work together without suppressing individualism.” (George Albert Smith, NBC radio broadcast, Church News, July 26, 1947, pp. 1, 10.)

-Pres. George Albert Smith had Arthur drive a more direct route, a guard at the private road entrance whistled for him to stop and waved his arms but he went on, wanting to do what the Pres. said. He said he would drive up the steps the admin. building if that’s what the Pres. asked. p19-20

– ‘hope to see you again’ was not superficial, he meant it when he said it.

-“Wherever I have gone, I have found noble men and women.” (George Albert Smith, Improvement Era, Apr. 1950, p.263)

– would lift the burdens of others’ shoulders and put them on his own. p20

-never heard him swear, the meanest thing he say about someone is that they are “a first-class scrub”

-he was one of 11 children

-his health was poor; he went to live in a tent over a summer in St. George for the heat to heal him, but decided that he would give what he could how he was. God preserved him.

-“You could put me in jail and I would always look for an opportunity to escape. But if you put me in a room with doors and windows, unbarred and unguarded, and you draw a line and ask for my promise that I will never try to escape, I’ll never step across that line.” (George Albert Smith) p23

-He went to bid Lucy farewell as he was about to go on his mission, she said “George Albert Smith, if you think you’re going to the Southern States without me, you’re wrong. Let’s get married and go together.” They did.

-“One of our difficulties in this world today is that too many of our Father’s children do not believe in God. They have an idea that they can do just as they please and they throw their lives away....The [pathway] of righteousness is the highway of happiness.” (George Albert Smith, Church News, Oct. 20, 1948, p. 2-c)

-“it’s always better to have notes and not need them than to need them and not have them.” (George Albert Smith to Arthur Haycock)

-he kept a stack of children’s books in his desk, and silver coins to give the children, and a blessing if they wanted one. p29

-he had Arthur take an old lady pulling sticks to her home dispute Arthurs contesting, saying “You go and take her home. Remember, Arthur, she’s somebody’s mother.” p30

-“I declare” was one of his favorite phrases p31

-when he got a good sermon or something in the mail, he would say “I wonder what Reuben would think about this?” then would give it to him. He relied on his councilors much. p32

-he always ate steamed wheat for breakfast, with warm cream or prunes; for lunch he had a soft boiled egg, milk, homemade bread, and bottled fruit; they always brought a jar of wheat, the longer they were going to be away the larger the bottle would be; At dinner Arthur would say “We are having roast beef, he is having boiled wheat.”; at night he would eat a bowl of bread and milk with white seedless grapes; for a real treat he would have a chocolate shake or malt with a raw egg mixed into it. p32-33

-one couple had no children, he knew they would hence be lonely, so he said he would keep them in his prayers. p34

-instead of rushing home to check his mail or to take a nap after a strenuous trip, he would go to be with the sisters who were alone, being concerned for their wellbeing.

-he loved to dress in full boy scout regalia and attend scout meetings where youth would advance in rank.

-he advised General Authorities to speak from the heart. At one conference session Elder Cowey read his talk. He called and said, “Don’t let me ever catch you doing that again! **You and the Lord do this. Don’t get up and read. You get up and let the Spirit guide you.**” p36

-his favorite phrase was “we are all our Father’s children”. Such is written on his tombstone.

-In WW2 time, he send wheat to Europe. President Truman asked how they had this ration, George said “We’ve been saving the wheat, while you’ve been plowing it under. We’ve got our granaries and our storehouses full, and we just need a ship to get all we’ve set aside to our destitute members in Europe.” p40

-He stayed at a rancher’s house once. This rancher didn’t make time for church or the Sabbath day since he was making his farm more prosperous. When George knelt and prayed at breakfast time, a child in that home asked his father what George was doing and what he was saying to the chair. p41

-“I have no desire except to help you carry on the Lord’s work....I don’t think my girls have any idea how near I’ve been to the other side. I haven’t felt like my work was done at all. When my work is done, I want to go. One of my regrets is that I have been unable to organize a library and dispose of it....As long as I have the money, I want to pay my hospital expenses; I don’t want the Church to do it.” p42

Haycock: David O. McKay

-eloquent in quoting scripture, Shakespeare, Browning, Burns.

-Apostle since 32 years old.

-“In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one takes the place to which one is duly called, which place one neither seeks nor declines.” (President David O. McKay p45)

-“always be sure that you get as many converts as you do baptisms” President J Reuben Clark to Arthur, p48

-McKay said of his wife 54 years after their marriage, “[she] is 54 years lovelier than when I married her” p49

-President McKay has Elder Hinckley put the endowment to film. p54

-“Every member a missionary” -President McKay p55

-“Only through individual effort and divine guidance may true access and happiness be obtained. There is no blessing based upon another’s achievement. Everyone must work out his own salvation.” (President David O. McKay, Cherished Experiences, pp.9-10)

Haycock: Joseph Fielding Smith

-“His manner appeared strict and exacting, yet he was tender and warm. He was driven to preach the gospel, to tell the world, ‘There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, and one true church, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.’” p56

-he was Church Historian for 45 years

-he was the grandson of Patriarch Hyrum Smith. He was the grandnephew of the prophet Joseph Smith.

-when dedicating a temple he said, “May I remind you that when we dedicate a house to the Lord, what we really do is dedicate ourselves to the Lord’s service.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Church News, Jan. 22, 1972, p.3)

-speaking of his father Joseph F. Smith, he said “My father never had time to be a boy.” p58. He had driven an ox team across the plains with his mother when he was just a boy, at age fifteen, orphaned, he was sent on a mission to Hawaii where he served for four and a half years.

-Arthur ran into a door opened by Elder Smith to get into another building without having to search for his key. He told Elder Smith, “I’m kind of hoping that’s how it will be on the other side. If I can catch the pearly gates before they close behind someone like you, I may make it.” Elder Smith said, “If I were you, my brother, I wouldn’t count on it.” p59

-“He wasn’t flashy. He never made anyone laugh in conference. I can’t ever remember him telling a joke at the pulpit. His was always a solemn gospel dissertation that was a result of his intense family tradition of faith and service. He had something to say to the Saints, and it was always serious.” p61

-“We believe that worship is far more than prayer and preaching and gospel performance. The supreme act of worship is to keep the commandments, to follow in the footsteps of the Son of god, to do ever those things that please him. It is one thing to give lip service to the Lord; it is quite another to respect and honor his will by following the example he has set for us.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Conference Report, Oct. 1971, p.6)

-his wife would say, “Now lie down and take a nap after church. All the other presidents did.” He would say, “Well, where are they now?” (*he was saying that he was alive and wanted to work)

-his wife loved to sing and had him sing with her. He would say, “She calls it a duet; I call it a Do-it. I have to Do-it whether I want to or not.” p62

– “I plead with you young people...to keep yourselves clean and pure so that you will be entitled to go to the house of the Lord and together with the companions of your choice, enjoy all [the] greatest blessings the Lord offers to you.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Church News, Apr. 24, 1971, p.6)

-“I can’t wait to get to the other side and thank Mother Eve for what she did. We wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for her. Then I think of the Savior born in a manger. I think of him sweating drops of blood and hanging on the cross. You know, he did that for me. He did that for us all. How can we ever repay him for his redeeming sacrifice?” (President Joseph Fielding Smith to Arthur Hancock, p64-64)

-he had 3 wives die on him, one after the other. He was married to one of them at a time.

-“We are members of a world church, a church that has the plan of life and salvation, a church set up by the Lord himself in these last days to carry his message of salvation to all his children in all the earth.... Not only shall we preach the gospel in every nation before the second coming of the Son of Man, but we shall make converts and establish congregations of Saints among them.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Manchester Area Conference Report, Aug. 1971, p.5) p66

-he lived with his daughter before he died.

-all his life he was **up by 6am and in his office by 8am.**

-the last week before his death he was still working in his office.

-“The saving of the souls of men is the greatest work that is going on in the whole universe. It is going on both sides of the veil; and I think sometimes that it doesn’t matter which side of the veil we are working on.” (Elder Ezra Taft Benson, Mission Presidents Seminar, June 29, 1972) p.67

Haycock: Harold B. Lee

-he felt like Nephi not knowing beforehand what to do p69.

-when asked the greatest challenge for Church leaders, he said “Keeping pace with the growth of the membership.” p69

-“The safety of the Church lies in the members keeping the commandments. There is nothing more important that I could say. Keep the commandments and blessings will come.” p69

-he was so close to the other side that he often said there was no veil for him. p70

-“Pray for me, young people. I plead with you to pray for me, and I promise you that I will try to so live, that the Lord can answer your prayers through me.” (President Harold B. Lee) p70

-he was a seminary teacher, and took his work very seriously. He knew it was important.

-he was secretary and treasurer at Deseret News

-Arthur was approached by Elder Kimball and a few others to take a certain position. Arthur asked President Lee for advice. He said, “The offer may not be coming to you by inspiration, but if Spencer W. Kimball is asking you to do it, it’s the closest thing to it. He is the biggest short man that I know anywhere. Anything Spencer W. Kimball wants, I’d listen.” p71-72.

-“I have the responsibility to speak by the Spirit of the Lord, and you have the responsibility to listen by the Spirit of the Lord.” (President Harold B. Lee, Church News, June 16, 1973, p.3)

-“Men may fail in this country [USA], earthquake may come, seas may heave themselves beyond their bounds, there may be great drought and hardship as we may call it, but this nation, founded on principles laid down by men whom God raised up, will never fail. This is the cradle of humanity where life on this earth began in the Garden of Eden. This is the place where the new Jerusalem is; this is the place which the Lord said is favored above all the nations in the world. This is the place where the Savior will come to his temple. I have faith in America. You and I must have faith in America if we understand the teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ.” (President Harold B. Lee, speech at Rick’s College, see ‘In the Company of Prophets’ by Swinton p72)

-“He looked impeccable and stood with such imposing stature. You seldom spoke lightly or facetiously around him. He set a formal tone in his meetings, yet no one was more gracious or more considerate. He was formal in his relationships.” p73

-he was a forceful and able administrator. p73

-“he was driven to do all he could as fast as he could” like speaking to 4 groups in one night p73

-“It seemed as though the heavens opened, and I could encompass every member of the church and my love went out to every member of the church and in fact to the whole world.” (President Harold B. Lee) p73

-his service as Church President was marked by announcements of new missions and new building projects. p73

-he pushed himself to the limit p73

-he called people on the phone who sent him letters and spoke with them about their problems and concerns.
p73

-he cared deeply about issues facing people universally and individually p73

-“The real strength of the Church is to be measured by the individual testimonies to be found in the total membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (President Harold B. Lee) p75

-he spoke of the hastening of the Lords work being manifest in finding many of the blood of Israel in Mexico, “The evidence of hastening of which the Lord spoke (D&C 88:73) can be found in no greater measure than in this land of Mexico and in the countries of Central America as witnessed by the overwhelming superabundance of the blood of Israel to be found here.” (President Harold B. Lee) p75

-he was the primary author of the area conferences, they system of regional representatives, and the correlation program. Arthur says “He brought the worldwide Church together in one whole, ready to move ahead with force and energy. That was his major contribution.” p75

-he was a door to door encyclopedia salesman

-he taught the leaders of the Church to, when faced with issues of Church growth, “all that was necessary was already established: simply follow the priesthood lines of authority.” p76

-“I know, with a testimony more powerful than sight, that as the Lord declared, ‘The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth [from the Prophet Joseph Smith through his successors down to the present], and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends f the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.’” (President Harold B. Lee, Conference Report, Oct. 1972, p.20)

-President Harold B. Lee and President Marion G. Romney were carpenters of a sort. p77

-President Marion G. Romney took apples from a neighbor's tree, his mother chastened him and told him to give them back at once. Since that lesson he has never taken a stamp or a paper clip from an office which does not belong to him.

-President Lee was healthy vigorous and kept a busy schedule p78

-“Every one of you can become great ancestors. This is the important thing. The only honor to your name is the honor you bring it.” (President Harold B. Lee, BYU Seminar) p78

-speaking of the accomplishments of the early pioneer leaders, he said, “We can equal them in dedication and keeping the commandments of the Lord.” (President Harold B. Lee, dedicating a stake center near downtown SLC) p78

-In Munich President Harold B. Lee didn't tour the Olympic gardens, they were there to work. It was hard to keep up with President Lee. p78-79

-President Lee told Arthur and his wife not to take the detour touring Spain and Portugal on the way home from one trip with the prophet. The next morning President Lee told them he had reconsidered and said it would be alright with him if they did such. Arthur responded, “No, President Lee. Just to know that you had even the slightest question at the wisdom of such a visit is enough for us. We're going home.” p79

-speaking to Saints at Athens on Mars Hill President Lee compared them to those at the time of the ministry of Paul, “As we come to positions of trust and responsibility centuries later, bearing the same message, teaching the same gospel, worshipping the same God, faced with the same opposition, we must not hesitate nor slacken our zeal to project the word of the Lord.” (President Harold B. Lee, Church News, Dec. 16, 1972, p.5)

-his first wife died and he remarried

-when President Lee died, “There was no campaigning, no electioneering, no jockeying for position, no speeches- just a simple process the Lord himself has directed, that upon the death of the president of the Church, the president of the Twelve should become the next prophet and president.”

-“The source of his greatness was his knowledge that he lived in the shadow of the Almighty.” (President Marion G. Romney speaking of President Harold B. Lee his funeral) p82

Haycock: Spencer W. Kimball

-“He plowed through business all day at the office and then went home for a short nap and a light supper followed by more work and then more work. It wasn’t unusual for him to stop down to the office at night if he had something on his mind.” p84

-he regularly admonished the Saints to keep a journal, sing in their wards, plant gardens, pray for doors to nations not open to the gospel would open to missionaries, serve missions, read the scriptures, serve neighbors, and repent repent repent. p84

-“We teach the truth. If people knew what we know, there would be great numbers eager to join the Church. It’s true, it’s right, it’s divine.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p84

-“How can we be satisfied with 100,000 converts out of 4 billion in the world who need the gospel? I wonder if we are doing all we can....We have been proselyting now 144 years. Are we prepared to lengthen our stride?” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Nov. 10, 1985, p.10)

-“So much depends upon our willingness to make up our minds, collectively and individually, that present levels of performance are not acceptable either to ourselves or to the Lord. In saying that, I am not calling for flashy, temporal differences in our performance levels but a quiet resolve to do a better job- to lengthen our stride.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p85

-President Kimball loved people rich or poor, high in position or of no position at all. He was a friend to everyone. p85

-“Father considered long and well the creation of this earth and the peopling of it....He made the earth for our benefit and for our growth and development....You probably do not remember all the things you did in the life before you came here, but you lived; you understood the program; you accepted the divine plan; you agreed to it; you made the covenant, and you must not ignore that promise, even though you have that right of agency.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Mar. 8, 1975, p.4)

-“Suffering can make Saints of people as they learn patience, long-suffering, and self-mastery.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p86

-Kimball suffered typhoid, smallpox, throat cancer, heart attacks, and open-heart surgery.

-“Once he (President Kimball) was being wheeled into an operating room, the hospital orderly pushing the gurney bumped the corner of the door and began to swear, taking the Lord’s name in vain. President Kimball looked up at him and said quietly, “Don’t say that. You are speaking about my best friend.”” p86

-Though he had a temperature of 104, he still went to his meeting, would stand and council the Saints with great sincerity, then be whisked back to the hotel to rest. p86-87

-“The Church of Jesus Christ, nicknamed Mormon, is the only true and living church which is fully recognized by God....Most of the world disbelieves it, ministers attempt to disprove it, intellectuals think to rationalize it out of existence, but when all the people of the world are dead, and the ministers and priests are ashes, and the high trained are maundering in their graves, the truth will go forward, the Church will continue triumphant and the gospel will still be true.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Sep. 10, 1977, p.3)

-“he didn’t have a lot of education or a list of degrees behind his name, but he could touch the hearts of people everywhere with his stories and his warm and loving manner.” p87

-“almost numberless are the men and women who today are allowing sin to grow in the heart wood of their lives (speaking of wedges which hinder the growth of trees as an analogy)” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p87-88

-“Paint up, clean up, fix your homes and your gardens, plant flowers.” (frequent council of President Spencer W. Kimball at conferences) p88

-gave conference talk “Don’t kill the little birds” about not killing animals unless we need to.

-“We believe that we have in the Church the answers to all the questions, for the Lord is the head of the Church and He has given us the program. Our message is what it has always been, and our hope is that our people will live the commandments of the Lord. They have been revealed in the holy scriptures and by living prophets throughout many years.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Conference Report, 1974) p88

-he would ask a secretary to type something saying it's no rush whenever they get time, then a few minutes later would return to see if it was done. He pushed the work forward. p89

-on his desk he kept the motto "Do It" to remind himself and his visitors to do the gospel. p89

—"With missionary work...we...say, 'Father, thy will be done.' I'm just Your faithful servant. I'm ready to serve and sacrifice. Open the gates. I'll do it.' The Lord didn't tell Lehi to ask for the plates or to try to get the plates. He said, 'Send your sons and get the plates.'" (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Dec. 21, 1974) p89

-Arthur says, "when I served with President Kimball, I never worked so hard in my life." p90

-"We want to keep faith with that small but noble band of souls who assembled in the Peter Whitmer home 150 years ago for the purpose of formally organizing the Church. we can keep the faith, in part, by helping the Church to grow in numbers and also in spirituality." (President Spencer W. Kimball, Conference Report, Apr. 1980, p.6)

-"Thousands of converts should come in from this source. They are your neighbors. They are your friends. They know your righteousness. You are an example in Christian living to them." (President Spencer W. Kimball, speaking of local member missionary work, Church News, Aug. 24, 1974, p.4)

-"The days of gathering are over, and now we've got to establish Zion in all areas of the world. We need you here. Stay in our homeland and build up The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." (Elder Spencer W. Kimball, 1955 speech to European Mission)

-"Every time a new temple is built, all the bells in hell begin to ring because Satan knows what it means." (Brigham Young)

-"He wasn't kissing babies to get votes or shaking hands to be popular; he was touching the people because he wanted them to know of his love, and he wanted to know them." (Arthur speaking of President Kimball.) p93

-"When you work for those who have time for people, you work for the Lord's chosen." (President Spencer W. Kimball) p95

-“It’s the people- the ordinary people everywhere, not just the leaders- who make the Church great.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p95

-“When we are asked by the Lord to enlarge the borders of the Church, that means not only more stakes, more missions, and greater missionary work, but greater effectiveness...by having more and more of members, young and old, more fully converted and in control of their lives, and less tossed by the trends of the time.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, July 5, 1975, p.3)

-“There is great security in spirituality, and we cannot have spirituality without service.” (Spencer W. Kimball, 1974) p97

-he would often see a young person and tell them they would be a great missionary when they grow up, and give them money telling them it was to start their missionary fund. p98

-he was often in the office by 7am. p100-101

-USA President Carter said, “We ought to be more like the Mormon Church. They have thousands of young people out teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.” p101-102

-he often would skip lunch wanting to get more work done.

-he would suggest that Arthur go on a diet, and would do the diet alongside him. He thought in terms of ‘we’.

-“I would explain that Sister Kimball would be unhappy if I didn’t get him lunch, and the president would quickly retort, ‘That’s all right. I’d rather she was mad at you than mad at me.’” p102

-“He was also human; he got frustrated and upset at times, like all the rest of us.” (Arthur speaking of President Kimball) p103

-“There was never time for us to relax” Arthur says of his days with President Kimball. p103

-he had a sense of humor; he asked a flight attendant for lemonade, she said she didn’t have any, then remembered they had lemons and returned to Kimball and said, “I can squeeze you some” Kimball replied “don’t touch me.”

- people would ask him for an inside scoop on the second coming of Jesus Christ, he would say, “Why? Are you ready to go?” p104

- Arthur turned a man down who wanted Kimball to perform his marriage because the petitioner didn’t know Kimball; the man persisted and caught Kimball coming home from work and asked Kimball himself. Kimball agreed to do it, and scolded Arthur for being too protective. p104

- upon a natural disaster, Kimball urged the Saints to “Rebuild your lives while rebuilding your homes” p105

- “When President Kimball got something on his mind, he would not let go of it. He was tenacious and determined yet demonstrative and kind.” p105

- Sister Kimball always tended a garden and bottled fruit. p106

- when they moved into Hotel Utah, sister Kimball would walk to their old home, pick the apples off of the ground, cart them to the hotel, and make applesauce. p106

- when he traveled he took no time out for sightseeing p106

- Arthur planned a free day with only an evening session and said to Kimball, “I’m just trying to save you, President.” Kimball responded, “I know you’re trying to save me, but I don’t want to be saved. I just want to be exalted.”

- “You can’t just float down the Thames; you have to be up and going. You’ve done a great job so far. Now what are you going to do tomorrow? Quicken your pace, lengthen your stride.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p107

- “My life is like my shoes, to be worn out in the service of the Lord” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p107

- Kimball urged Arthur to go home one evening as he stayed past 5:30 to work and wait for his wife. Arthur said, “President, you’re making this hard for me. I am torn between doing my duty to stay close to you and still doing what you ask me to do.” President Kimball responded, “They both ought to be the same, hadn’t they?” p108

-Kimball had a cousin who was Catholic, who said of President Kimball, “They could make my father a Saint”. Arthur told this to Kimball and the immediate response of President Kimball was “Nobody can make me a saint. I have to do that for myself.” p108

-Kimball’s philosophy was to put the Lord first, others second, himself last. p109

-even when Kimball was out of the office from being ill, nothing was at hold at the office. “He had set the agenda, and we simply followed his directions.” p109

Haycock: Ezra Taft Benson

-oft times Secretary Benson (worked as such in the dept. of Agriculture for USA President Eisenhower) was misrepresented by others who had agendas of their own. Benson expected complete integrity of others but didn’t always get it. p114

– a Washington reporter observed of Benson. He “acts like a man whose conscience is always clear- his testimony will be the same next week or the week after or a year from now.” This helped him to not have to remember what he told everyone, he simply remembered the truth and knew that is what he told. p115

-he got a letter from the white house saying, “Secretary Benson, since I was with you in New York I have had the strangest feeling that I wanted to leave my nets and come follow you and be a fisher of men.” p116

-he was thoughtful, and arranged for Arthur to take his failing old mother with him on an assignment to Hawaii. p116

-when Arthurs mother died, he was touched that President Benson and President Monson took time to come to her funeral. p117

-he put greater emphasis on the divinity of the Book of Mormon and the importance of its message in our lives than anyone p118

-“You can’t work at the side of such chosen vessels of righteousness without recognizing that the Lord is in charge and that his servants are his witnesses...My experiences far outweigh any material blessings or missed opportunities.” (D. Arthur Haycock) p118

To The Rescue: Biography of Thomas S Monson by Heidi Swinton – Book Highlights (close gaps & review)

- growing up in their home they had family meal daily with meat (note: Monson had terrible diabetes later in life).
- Sister Monson daily cooks him dinner no matter the hour and always packs his suitcase when he has to travel.
- Sister Monson's parents dressed formally to meet Thomas as he came to pick Francis up for their first date.
- Owned a bank and many other big businesses
- Sport courses were required in his college, he took basketball and swimming.
- He had a summer home cabin and another house.
- college major in marketing? minor in economics. Interested in business finance.
- oft sings and whistles
- oft prays to God even over little things like a basketball game so he did when he was young
- liked to hunt
- his branch president was known to try people on the scriptures thoroughly. Monson went to set a 5pm appointment to get out by 6pm, but the leader said, 'no that would not give us enough time to search the scriptures how about 2pm?' It was so, and there he asked TSM to quote D&C 4 and D&C 13 and told him he has the right to be ministered to by angels as we learn from D&C 13.
- life is a mission not a career
- don't fire someone until you know why they are misbehaving** i.e. coming late
- if you **find out of their misconduct from the police instead of them, tell them yes, they are fired and you must be more harsh with them than you would have had to if they spoke with him in person.**
- be willing to rehire someone who used to misbehave who comes asking for work later.
- had an experience hunting on Sunday where almost his brother died, and he learned to never go hunting or fishing on Sunday again.
- to people returning to church attendance, Bishop Monson would say "welcome home. We've missed you. We need you!"
- do things in the way they are to be done; ordaining a person to Aaronic Priesthood it was to be done with the chair facing the congregation. A temple worker said it should be facing the temple. TSM said that may be ok in some wards, but here they face the congregation. And he turned the chair back towards the congregation.

- when people moved out of his ward he tried to keep track of them and when he saw them would council them, (once their bishop always so it was to say)
- when difficult things would come up he would say do your best and don't worry it will be alright we are in the Lord's hands (doing his work).
- as bishop he considered himself quite generous welfare-wise, and if he had to go back and do it again he would be even more generous.
- he was the usher of his ward watching the doors as church began while serving there as Bishop.
- very skilled at turning welfare opportunities in his ward into opportunities for service for the ward members.
- wrote 17 monthly letters to a serviceman from his ward before getting a reply. sent church magazine to him as well, but the hand letters were what got him to become active.
- singular acts can shape the eternal destiny of youth; acts of people reaching out to them.
- called a boy who was not at Priesthood opening exercises and asked why he was not in attendance, offered him one of his own clean white shirts, and the boy although late came!
- mission presidents is not like being a bishop, your wife councils with you in all.
- TSM mission tours as a General Authority tried to have an interview with each missionary in the missions he visited to strengthen their faith in Christ.
- has a firm grip handshake
- as a mission president he went to every wedding, spoke at members' funerals, and engaged the members in mission presidents. He usually made an appearance at every event.
- knew all the names of his missionaries as a mission president; remembered names and situations of many members when he toured his mission a decade later.

-when Elders said they had tracked out the whole city he said now your next assignment is to teach and baptize them all.

-when Elders said their apartment was 40 below zero he said dress warm work hard and don't look at the thermostat

-pessimism of an area it closed then it was announced as a hot new area and Elders went back in and baptized many. Attitude was the difference.

-“success is the ratio of your accomplishments to your capabilities”

-have the courage to refrain from judging and criticizing those around you.

-read all 6 volumes of the church history on air plane rides

-*getting temple and church meetings etc. in Germany was what it must have been like for JS to get things going in the USA, and people who helped USA become free.

-Pres. Kimball concealed that the Germans had to befriend the communists who oppressed them if they were to progress in their rights as a church.

-There are as stalwart of saints in these days as there were in the days of any past dispensation.

-awarded honorary Dr. Degree in Law

-asked seriously by Pres. Kimball to memorize a manual to get it into a communist Germany where it was not allowed to be mailed then for TSM with the memory to go there. As he did his best and was writing, there was the manual and in German none know how it arrived.

-asked to review the PMG manuscript in 2 days by Elder Ballard, TSM did so staying up most of the night.

-the 5 most important English words: I am proud of you

the 4: what is your opinion

the 3: if you please

the2: thank you

the least: I

-there is no problem too small or too big for God not to answer the prayer of faith and give his attention.

-when an answer to a prayer does not come yet he does not worry for when he absolutely needs the answer, it will come.

-came late to a conference once (general?) for he was caring for his wife. Showed his emphasis was not on scheduling.

-today sin oft puts on the facade of tolerance.

-he gets to meetings early and visits with people, then starts the meeting on the dot.

-he is a great sports fan talking about them then getting right to the point of what he must say.

-rather than wanting to win arguments, he wants to get to the truth

-usually before expressing his opinion he has discussion and goes around the table to hear from those in council.

-the church voted against gay marriage but for letting them have hospital and home rights.

-the temple itself is a missionary

-when he starts a book he will finish it

-he likes Wheaties in the morning

-your deception to think say and do right will rarely if ever be the easy way

-good habits are like muscles the more you use them the more they grow

-as we look heavenward, we inevitably see our need to reach outward.

-He teaches old folks in rest homes about how a football game works, so they can understand what is going on the television and enjoy it.

-He speaks about current ball games.

-Every boy ought to have his own dog.

-Give to the beggar and poor all you have, as shown in him giving a hungry family at Thanksgiving time his pet rabbits to eat.

-When his mother is asked about how she raised a prophet, she says “it was hard, but I persevered.”

-Fishing is good and spiritual.

-Having animals and going to fairs is joyful.

-He knows about what is going on in the local barber shop.

-He travels on a plane to go and give a blessing to one person in need.

-Debt is a demon.

-Road shows and dance festivals are uplifting.

-It is the duty of Priesthood holders to memorize the sacrament prayers.

-Don't read the sermons you give at church, but give them from the heart.

-for college, study what you like and what will provide for your family.

-Were he to go back and do it again, he would have studied history instead of business.

-Were he to go back and do it again, he would have married younger. He knew Francis for years before they married.

-Studying, it's how you use the hours not the number of hours.

-Study as though you had to explain what you read, and as though you were going to teach the lecture that you are about to attend.

-Formal attire to meet the boy your daughter is doing to go on a date with.

-Don't steady date at first.

-The 12 Apostles are to freely express their opinion, and once a decision is made by them collectively, they are to entirely uphold that decision.

-President McKay quoted Shakespeare freely.

-President Lee was one of the wisest church teachers.

-Members of the Quorum of the 12 Apostles read "The Readers Digest"

-Henry the 8th was his favorite Shakespeare play.

-Among his favorite theatrical works is the Phantom of the Opera.

The Bruce R. McConkie Story: Reflections of a Son by Joseph Fielding McConkie – Book Highlights (edit, particularly last half; and add last items

-Zions camp march was 1500 miles

-revelations of the restored gospel are the key of knowledge

-Today we love the Joseph Smith Translation

-The book Millennial Messiah was based on scripture and shatters Mormon myths

(Note: I do say there is still a strong case that could be made, scripturally, for the ten tribes still being in a body. This is one of the things Elder McConkie said was not so in parts of his book. Many scattered? Yes. Some together still who have prophets & scriptures & will return together from “the north”? Yes. Many prophets such as President Joseph Fielding Smith and Elder James E Talmage have affirmed this fact.)

-we need the faith of the ancients, to believe what they did, and to live as they did

Ch. 1: Let This Then Be Our Covenant

-our faith entails that we must come to sound individual understanding of gospel principles

-prophet to prophet the mantle transfers at death

-his gift was perfect knowledge of gospel principles

-he heard words in his mind attesting validity of the 1st Presidency sure as the Lord to Enos' mind.

-live worthy to be where your ancestors are after death

Ch. 2: The Hearts of the Fathers

-legacy of ancestors faith is wealth

-his dad preached so loud you could hear it from home

-believed his family had kinships which existed before birth

Ch. 3: The House of Faith

-don't think you win God's favor while opposing him in anything.

-Joseph Smith, Woodruff, & his father he called greatest spiritual giants of this dispensation

- his parents were equally yoked
- frustrated with ambivalence seen in some church councils
- he nor his father understood uncertainty
- self taught the gospel; neither he nor his father had a gospel library growing up, they just had the scriptures; they drank from the fountainhead
- his father told his children that they knew more about God than anyone they would ever meet in the world.
- never had \$ making talent
- given the choice between making \$ and preaching a sermon, they, he and his father, would preach a sermon every time
- had no care for sports or fashion
- Oscar (his dad) watched Kentucky Derby on TV. Bruce never watched TV. Joseph Fielding Smith watched boxing Wednesday evenings on TV (as it reports elsewhere in the text).
- Bruce & Oscar were lawyers
- Orson spilled milk and was spanked for it once, he never spilt milk again.
- Oscar passed sacrament in overalls and bear foot, it was all he had
- Oscar had pride in being the best at work and made a full wage
- Oscar fasted 3 days until the spirit said fast no more your prayer is answered. And it was, the very hour the spirit told him that, events took place fulfilling his prayer.
- dreams and visions warned Oscar of death's of close ones
- Oscar ran for several public offices, each time the spirit told him the outcome. Oscar was active in politics and government all his life.
- Oscar said despite all others being asleep in society, it wouldn't effect him
- Oscar loved the constitution like life and liberty itself.
- those who see must teach those who don't
- agency is needed to be virtuous, and the constitution allows such.

- Dr. said Oscar should use tea and coffee to help his near death Typhoid, he said if it kills him to obey God by not using those things, so be it.
- Oscar always boiled his drinking water to make it clean
- of Oscars family, only those who lived the word of wisdom survived Typhoid. Dr. told them that if they had any poison in their system they would have died. The Dr. said he was referring to tea, coffee, tobacco, and liquor.
- Oscar often told his children that God ordained and appointed their mother for him, that their union was according to divine plan.
- while courting, Oscar would meet Vivian by appointment on campus, as they were both very busy with large class loads.
- Oscar's courtship consisted of walking and talking, they were happy just to be together and didn't need to seek other forms of entertainment.
- Oscar said his wife and he knew each other before birth and know what they would do about it after they were born. He said it was as though they had always known each other. She never seemed strange to him.
- Orson's wife made him shirts for many years.
- Oscar said his wife knew all their children before birth, and that she would be their mother. She was ordained to come to this earth to mother special spirits who would influence many and lead in the church, and become prophets and prophetesses
- Oscar and Vivian claimed to never argue over anything of importance. They did disagree on things though, because those who don't argue are either overly dominating or overly weak.
- Oscar spoke of his wife being as much a part of him as the air he breathed, and that his heart always ached for her presence.
- Bruce believed that faith could be inherited. Compare 2 Tim. 1:5
- Oscar said each of his children were foreordained to be mighty in the testimony of Christ.
- Oscar had perfect knowledge of the reality of the living Christ.
- after touring Elder Oscar McConkie's mission, Elder Harold B. Lee said more spiritual experiences were happening there than in any other mission in the church.

-an Elder serving in Oscar's mission had a report from an eye Dr. that he would go blind in a few weeks. Elder Oscar M. gave him a blessing that the Lord wanted him to stay on his mission so he could heal his eyes and so he could reunite his parents. Elder O M then told the Elder to go again to the eye Dr., and received a report of complete healing from the Dr. Then 2 weeks later his parents reunited.

-One investigator struggled with the word of wisdom, the Elders teaching him feared President Oscar M. would scare the investigator away by a strong sermon against the word of wisdom, and they fasted and prayed he would not speak on that topic. Then Pres. O M gave a fiery sermon on the word of wisdom that those who didn't obey it would never find happiness in this life or the next, and that it was the very hinge upon which their salvation would swing. After the sermon the investigator told the Elders he would never smoke again, handed over his cigarettes, and indeed never smoked again.

-one Lamanite Indian chief in Pres. O M's mission was doing great work bringing many into the church but unexpectedly died. Pres. O M prayed as to why this would happen, and had a vision of that man in the spirit world preaching to a crowd of some 10 thousand Lamanites. In the vision, one disenter arose and said, "Don't listen to this man, he is a Nephite!" the man replied, "I am not a Nephite, I am a Lamanite..."

-Pres. O M McConkie prayed for the faith of Enoch and Elijah, When he arose from his knees, the voice of the Spirit spoke to him saying, "Enoch and Elijah obtained their faith through righteousness." He understood that actions more than words are how we get faith.

-when someone went overtime on a talk into Oscar's time, he didn't go over into the next persons time, but spoke for only 1.5 minutes, then promptly sat down

-It was made known to Oscar that Lucifer covenanted with himself to destroy him (Oscar) and his (Oscar's) posterity. He said "Lucifer once said to my face: 'I'll destroy you and your family, if I can.'" On another occasion he was at the threshold door of the house of Lucifer but refused Lucifer's invitation to enter.

-The Lord showed Oscar that his mother covenanted with the Lord that her posterity would be blessed according to the amount they followed her righteous example of selfless service, love of the gospel, and profound respect for those who represented the Lord in the offices of the priesthood.

Ch. 4: Boyhood in Monticello

Somewhere it said (chance of this being from some other McConkie talk though):

we must work hard daily till we ache

provide temporally or you have no spirituality

-Bruce almost died when born but was saved by a priesthood blessing from his father.

-Oscar went to take his bar exam, he didn't know about common law pleading, and they forgot to administer that part of the exam.

-young Bruce rode in a wagon pulled by a goat

-a man spoke of his sons being able to beat Oscars sons in a fight, Oscar said 'that may be so, but my son is going to grow up to be a good man.'

-Bruce was in some fist fights as a kid, and had C and B average grades.

-his grandmother would never turn anyone away from the dinner table, be they Indian, cowboy, or prisoner from the jail down the street

-Bruce was being dragged by a horse, Oscar was prompted to get up and run, he did so, and eventually saw in incident, and saved Bruce.

-They were the only members in the area. Sometimes they could travel a distance to a congregation very far away. Usually Bruce taught lessons from the Book of Mormon, even though it was his first time reading it. Sometimes Oscar would take the family to a Presbyterian church service. He said he just felt it was important for his children to form the habit of attending church meetings.

Ch. 5 Youthful Years

-the children would spend the summer sleeping on a blanket in the lawn under the stars

-Bruce made sure to be home from a date Saturday night by midnight because it was the eve of the Sabbath

-they had dance cards back then

-Oscar had a small telescope and loved looking at the stars. He would point things out and quote scriptures about them.

-Bruce was given a mission blessing to be like prophets of old and lead his brethren in the fight for righteousness. he was warned Satan would make a special effort to overthrow him. In this blessing he was told in a blessing that he was a leader in premortality, and that all men who know him would look to him for council. He was told to fear no man but to reverence the power of God. He was told if he would clothe himself with power, the adversary would be subject to his will. When the spirit whispered to him he was to act and do so immediately. After giving the blessing, Oscar wondered if he was too bold, but the spirit commanded him to leave it as it stood.

Ch. 6 Service as a Missionary

-at the dedication of the Cumorah Monument, President Grant emphasized that Moroni was present and had come to accept the offering.

-Bruce chose his wife who was the one who most nearly replicated the grace and goodness of his mother.

-he said in speaking against the prejudice against the church, that if a person could go to Jerusalem in the times of Christ, he would hear people say the same things about Jesus Christ that they were now saying about Joseph Smith.

-President McKay said when the scales of prejudice fall from people's eyes, they see Joseph Smith with a certain degree of pride.

-he wrote in his journal several times of spending time in the presence of Moroni on Hill Cumorah.

-answering some antagonists when asked how many wives they had, he responded, 'well we are still young, we only have 3 each.' The district president said those investigators will likely come to church to learn more.

-he would rate his speeches as good or poor, and record how many minutes the speeches were. He frequently rated his speeches poor. He bought a dictionary for his birthday and studied learning more vocabulary and to have a perfect diction. '

-he had a short companion, and brought a wooden box for him to stand on. The Elder was nervous, and Bruce told him to not worry, that if he fell, it wouldn't be very far.

Ch. 7 His Marriage

-in countless talks he told people that “the most important single thing that any member of this Church does in this life is to marry the right person, in the right place, by the right authority.”

-he didn't need confirmation about his choice for who to marry, the obvious needed no confirmation.

-at law school he had several anti-Mormon professors who went out of their way to make things particularly hard for him.

-he said “I have always claimed to believe that Ph.D.s and academic doctorates of all kinds were valued at a dime a dozen; now with inflation, some of them seem to be free for the asking.”

-Though not enamored with men of supposed learning, he did highly prize education, and even mentioned in a conference talk his hope that his sons would earn doctoral degrees.

-Joseph Fielding Smith was the father of Bruce's wife.

-at Joseph Fielding Smith's marriage, President Heber J Grant said “Joseph, kiss your wife.” Of this Joseph said, “He said it like he meant it, and I have been doing it ever since.”

-Joseph F. Smith (father of J Fielding) spoke of when one of his children died at age 3. “The morning before she died, after being up with her all night, for I watched her every night, I said to her, “My little pet did not sleep all night.’ She shook her head and replied, ‘I'll sleep today, papa.’ Oh! How those little words shot through my heart. I knew though I would not believe, it was another voice, that it meant the sleep of death and she did sleep. And Oh! The light of my heart went out. The image of heaven graven in my soul was almost departed.”

-Bruce Jr. died an infant. At the funeral service, obviously under the direction of the spirit, Brother Smith told of the Prophet Joseph Smith saying that some spirits were too pure to go through this life, that they had advanced so far in the Spirit World that their only need was to obtain a body and then go back for the work they had to do. At the hospital, the baby opened his eyes and looked at us as an adult would do. He examined those present head to toe, then he closed his eyes and never opened them again.

-President J Fielding was easily awoken by crying babies, and would often walk the halls at night rocking grandchildren.

Ch. 8 The War Years

-“Righteous men are entitled, expected, and obligated to defend themselves; they must engage in battle when there is no other way to preserve their rights and freedoms and to protect their families, homes, land, and the truths of salvation which they have espoused.”

-those of Germany and Russia were very hostile to religion.

-he complained about a church manual that didn't have many scriptures or words of the modern prophets but had many scholars cited, many theories of men which were subliminally critical to traditional religious teachings.

-Bruce was careful to not undermine General Authorities.

-he spoke of how the US is not a democracy but a representative & constitutional republic.

-he loved the constitution as did his father, as much as life itself.

-he spoke of the US as the place where the gospel was restored, and the place from which it was sent out to the rest of the world.

-civil control of religion is Lucifer's way of enforcing an enduring state of apostasy

-in a 1942 conference report J Reuben Clark spoke of the time when the constitution hangs by a thread being already fulfilled by that time.

-under no other government could the church have been restored

-J Reuben Clark spoke of the US Constitution as the basic law for all of the Americas, or Zion, as defined by the Lord (D&C 101:77-80).

-Oscar had had negative experiences with the press. He said "When the truth is spoken, at the judgement bar of God, the press will have full representation in hell."

Ch. 9 Called as a Seventy

-at 31 he already had a reputation for speaking strongly and knowing the scriptures

-he said Elder Kimball was one of the most devoted men he had ever met

-when traveling by train to speaking assignments he used that time to write editorials for the Deseret News and study the scriptures.

-study the principles of the gospel, for "the Lord does not pour a testimony into a vacuum."

-“there is nothing in this world that I would rather do than have the privilege of preaching the gospel and of devoting such time and abilities as the Lord may bless me with to the building up of his kingdom.”

-between sessions of conference he was in his office working on editorials. He would return after conference and work into the night.

-he asked Bishop Worthlin if the 1st ten conferences are the hardest, Bishop Worthlin replied “No. The hardest conference is always the one coming up.”

-he served 26 years in the first council of the Seventy

-for the 1st 25 years of their marriage they had little time for vacation. They would occasionally pack the family into the car to go on conference assignments together.

Ch. 10 Things Great and Small

-Glen Rudd said of Bruce, “Many people thought Bruce was stiff and a bit arrogant, a kind of know-it-all, but he wasn’t. He was one of the sweetest, kindest individuals you could ever meet; he just didn’t know how to relax at the pulpit.” Bruce was very warm and friendly when not on formal assignment. Glen said “Bruce loved his wife. I’ve never seen a man more affectionate to a wife than he was. He liked to have her by him all the time.”

-Bruce spoke with another of wanting to climb the highest mountain in site. 5 minutes later they took off to climb it, without any supplies.

-Oscar blessed one of his sons James that he would write the greatest music ever written. James died prematurely, and was told by the Lord that this blessing was still to come to pass, that death did not discontinue blessings.

-his wife wasn’t familiar with the concept of allowance when asked for it from their children

-their children were to save half their earnings for their missions. This communicated to them that it was very important to go on their missions.

-Joseph Fielding Smith was easy to please. If they were late somewhere traveling, it didn’t bother him. He didn’t seek special accommodations in his travels, and was always considerate and kind.

-someone said to Bruce to try and take it easy at the pulpit, to tell some interesting little stories, anecdotes, and humorous things. Bruce said he would do what he could. He stood up, and delivered his same style message. He only had one thing on his mind when at the pulpit: to teach the people about the Savior and the Church. He was a teacher.

-He never apologized for being inexperienced in some things. He simply said 'I've never had that experience, you know more about it than I do.'

-“Who am I to tell someone how to hold a high council meeting? I've never been to one. I just teach doctrine.”

-Behind the pulpit his only concern was teaching of Christ and the Church. He didn't tell anecdotal stories or use humor there.

-When he didn't know something he didn't apologize he just said I don't have that experience you know more about that than I do.

-Since he didn't have experience as an administrator, in leadership sessions of stake conferences he just taught doctrine.

-Elder Harold B. Lee said at general conference “What might have been contrary to the order of heaven in the early 1830's might not be contrary to the order of heaven in 1960” (see page 178 for reference)

Ch. 11 The Mormon Doctrine Saga 1958 and 1966

-He took criticism very well

-Spencer W. Kimball was assigned to be his mentor in changes to Mormon Doctrine

-no one who personally knew Elder McConkie could question his integrity or discipline, and he was very obedient to priesthood direction

-he timed himself to speak exactly the amount of time he was allotted

-he followed counsel and minded his business

-he said his negative comment about Catholics in his book, “it wasn't smart on my part.”

-no suggestion that the title of the book be changed was ever made, even though at the time he was merely a Seventy

-the writing of this book was back in a day before the Brethren did much writing, there weren't established review systems

-His practice was this: **When you are getting scolded, you offer no excuses, you just take it.**

-since the book was to catalog doctrine not rebuke heresies, much of the rebukes were dropped in the second edition

-there was no editor. There were about 50 items Elder Kimball wanted Elder McConkie to revisit, they dealt with the word of wisdom, etc. Elder McConkie was very appreciative of the feedback. McConkie did lots of the rewriting on his own.

-The standard Elder McConkie held out for the members caused many to squirm

-the first edition called **birth control "gross wickedness and "rebellion against God. Card playing was called "apostasy and rebellion". Light speeches at church meetings were called "highly offensive" to the spirit.**

-his stand on organic evolution (that it's false and evil) was the primary reason people criticized the book. The discussion on evolution was the longest entry in the book. He referenced President John Taylor's words against Darwin as the official church doctrine, but dropped that statement in a later edition. The second edition he wrote "how scrubby and groveling (changed in second edition to weak and puerile) the intellectuality which, knowing that the Lord's plan takes all forms of life from a pre-existent spirit state, through mortality, and on to an ultimate resurrected state of immortality, yet finds comfort in the theoretical postulates that mortal life began in the scum of the sea, as it were, and has through eons of time evolved to its present varieties and state! Do those with spiritual insight really think that the infinite Creator of worlds without number would operate in this way?" He said there is no harmony between these theories of organic evolution and revealed religion.

-in the course of his ministry he did change his view on some doctrinal matters. He said any who serve as a general authority for 40 years and never change a view are not to be trusted. He was always anxious to grow and refine his views.

-his grandfather President Joseph Fielding Smith thought highly of the book and said he kept it at home where no one would borrow it and forget to return it.

-the manager of Bookcraft (the publisher) never got a single complaint about the book

-the author doesn't know of a single instance in which Elder McConkie was asked to change or chose to change his doctrinal position in subsequent editions of the book. The essence of each entry remains the same.

-“To read a written sermon, except under very unusual circumstances, is a mockery of sacred things. There may be a few instances in which sermons may be read, just as there are a few formal occasions when prayers may be read” such as dedication of a temple. But usually, “a written sermon does no more than bear record that the preacher has neither the knowledge to draw upon, the faith to rely on the Spirit, nor the ability to attune himself to the spirit of inspiration.”

-while he walked he often mentally organized talks, and gave talks to himself.

-His grandfather McConkie loved the book, and said if John the Revelator wanted to read it, he would have to do so at his house, and not go off with it.

-Elder McConkie spoke with a breadth of subjects similar to Brigham Young. Few have done this.

Ch. 12 The Australia Years 1961-1964

-“**Being a mission president is the best job in the world.**”

-he felt that missionary work and enjoying life were not mutually exclusive

-he tolerated occasional mistakes, and expected them to use innovative finding and teaching methods

-in one televised meeting he pointed to a Catholic priest on one side of him and a Methodist on the other and said, “Now, on this side we have a representative of the fallen apostolic faith and on the other side we have one who represents those who rebelled against them but lacked priesthood authority. And here [pointing to himself], in the middle, we have the restored gospel of Christ in all of its magnificent glory, having the Lord's legal administrators who are authorized to baptize the faithful.” He said after the program to them “Well, brethren, until we meet in the unity of the faith, cheerio.”

-he **never missed the chance to extend to those to whom he spoke the invitation to be baptized.**

-He **fought attitudes of priesthood leaders who said to go slow when preaching**, to have missionaries do meetings where the gospel isn't even mentioned. He fought the attitudes of the Australians, who claimed they didn't take things fast like the Americans.

-He told his missionaries that the mission had a policy of baptizing in even numbers, and told his missionaries to go find someone else to also baptize at that night's baptism. They did.

-At a conference, he asked if any were in attendance that knew the message was true but had been resisting baptism due to some worthiness issue. He found there was, and he got up and preached for 50 minutes on the necessity of baptism. He decided that he could, like Wilford Woodruff, preach a sermon then have people come up for baptism. He announced there would be a baptismal service after the conference where some in attendance would be baptized, and told them the Lord expected them to respond and come into the church. One man's wife said her husband was ready for baptism, he resisted and he told him he could come peaceably or he would have one of the elders help him carry him. He put his arm under the man's and lifted him slightly off the floor and marched him to the baptismal room and told him to get dressed. The man turned out to be very grateful. He needed someone to tell him there was no turning back. 13 were baptized by the end of that district conference.

-The father of a recent convert. He told the missionaries to get out. The district fasted and prayed and went back. He was very mad, but within 45 minutes they had him on his knees praying.

-One woman yelled and swore at President McConkie, accusing him of vile things. Bruce said "I entertained the devil tonight."

-One young man was a chain smoker and on his way to becoming an alcoholic, he was converted, and called by the mission president to labor as a missionary.

-His wife had not been set apart as a missionary, there was no reason why not, so he set her apart, blessing her with the gift of testimony which would bring many into the kingdom.

-He **rarely made formal preparation for the talks he gave.**

-He would honor a request to speak but **felt no obligation to confine the Spirit to someone else's topic.**

-He prepared himself to speak **specifically in response to falsehoods being perpetuated** by a Protestant radio ministry.

-he encouraged people to read the Book of Mormon for themselves rather than relying on opinions of experts. One man claimed to have read it. He told him to pray about it. The man said he told God to strike him dead if the book is true. Bruce replied "But you have to have to have faith"

-he wrote this called "My Commission" related to being a missionary:

"I AM CALLED OF GOD.

My authority is above that of the kings of the earth.

By revelation I have been selected as the person representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is my Master and he has chosen me to represent him; to stand in his place; to say and do what he himself would say and do if he personally were ministering among the very people to whom he has sent me.

My voice is his voice, and my acts are his acts; my words are his words, and my doctrine is his doctrine – for I am his agent.

My commission is to do what he wants done, to say what he wants said, to be a living, modern witness – in word and deed – of the divinity of his great and marvelous latter-day work.

And he that receiveth me, receiveth him, while he that rejecteth me, rejecteth him that sent me.

How great is my calling!”

-he also wrote this called “My Mission” related to being a missionary:

“I AM A MISSIONARY.

My blessings are above those of the kings of the earth.

In my hands I hold the pearl of great price.

Mine is the same gospel taught by Paul, the same plan of salvation preached by Peter, the same saving truths which sanctified Enoch and Elijah.

I rejoice in the same priesthood held by Abraham and Melchizedek.

It is my right to see visions as did Nephi; to teach and testify as did Alma; to entertain angels and work miracles as did Nephi the Disciple; to receive revelations as did Joseph the Seer; to walk daily in the light of the Spirit as did Wilford Woodruff; to enjoy all of the gifts and graces which that Holy Being, who is no respecter of persons, always pours out upon those who love and serve him.

How great are my blessings!”

-he told his missionaries to go to those in the missionary records who had been acquainted with the missionaries for some time and to tell them you have been acquainted with the missionaries for some time, it is time to get baptized, we expect you to be baptized.

-he tried to buy equipment for the mission, it was \$1000. He would need to go through SLC and red tape to make any purchase of \$1000 or more, so he got the salesman to sell it to him for \$999. He was known for getting things done on his own without bothering SLC.

-Thomas S. Monson said that the entire time Bruce was a mission president in Australia, **he only called SLC 3 times over those 3 years.** Monson used this as an example to tell mission presidents in training that they didn't need to call SLC every time they had a problem.

-Bruce had a high priest put in as an elders quorum president when he found it necessary on one occasion. One disgruntle member reported this to President Benson in a leadership meeting. President Benson said "I'm sorry I can't hear the question." He repeated the question 3 times and got the same answer from President Benson 3 times, then the man finally got it and dropped the question.

-he said **all great men climb mountains**, Moses, the brother of Jared, Nephi, etc. He held a meeting with his missionaries on a mountain top.

-whenever we **tune our souls to the wavelength on which the Holy Ghost is broadcasting, we will receive revelation, for he is a revelator.** Attuned thus, we can see the vision of D&C 76, or anything else expedient for us to see. This will all happen with compliance to law. He explained that this is similar to television picture transmission through space, and that we can know it occurs without a perfect knowledge of how.

-the sort of thing that we ought to desire above all else if we are spiritually inclined is to know what the Lord would have us do

-when he left his mission, 4 times as many people were being baptized per year as when he first came.

-of his time as mission president he said "**Our greatest achievement was the saving of delinquent missionaries.**" The next great achievement he said was delegating authority to local leaders to prepare several areas to become stakes.

-he was **up consistently at 5 or 5:30**

-he memorized the 104 lines of the poem "The Man From Snowy River" so he could quote it to his missionaries as he drove them to the airport on their way home.

Ch. 13 Family Traditions

-**"True greatness is found only in the family."**

-for breakfast he always ate the same **whole wheat mush.** His wife ground the wheat in an old coffee grinder. Store bought cereal was only for special occasions, as there were 8 children in the family.

- Bruce's **prayers always included that his sons would go on missions, and that his sons and daughters would marry in the temple.** It never occurred to his children to do otherwise. His role model which he considered perfect was a man with 12 children who all married in the temple, and which family fulfilled 12 missions. Bruce's 8 children all married in the temple, and fulfilled 8 missions.
- Bruce always kissed his wife goodbye after breakfast
- before Bruce came home, his wife would finish her work, change her clothes, and **doll herself up for him.**
- he would lie on the living room floor and read the Deseret News
- he was devoid of vanity, believing the **message is what mattered, not the appearance of the messenger.** He had holes in his socks and his wife urged him to not wear them at conference, but he said if they can't keep their eyes off of my socks he didn't deserve their attention.
- they got a TV just because someone gave it to them. **Bruce never watched it.** He didn't use the car radio either. As he traveled, he planned and organized talks.
- Joseph Fielding Smith would watch Wednesday night boxing on TV
- he enjoyed birdwatching
- when he had a free Saturday he would wake his kids early to go hike saying "Come on, great men climb mountains."
- to avoid a falling rock his son was about to warn him but didn't have time, so the spirit told him to move, and he did in the nick of time
- Bruce couldn't cook at all
- the **importance of learning is something caught, not taught.** Children learn to love what their parents do. In their home, a love of the gospel was preeminent.
- He **treated high school athletics with tolerance rather than excitement**
- His son (the author of this book) had a knee injury and so had to stop basketball and joined the debate team. Bruce marched around singing saying "My son is going to use his brain, my son is going to use his brain."
- his enthusiasm was reserved for things like mission calls. He only gave praise for things that mattered.
- he didn't give his children an allowance, they were expected to help.
- Half of everything his children earned was to be saved for a mission fund.

-he **spoke about the gospel constantly**. He wasn't phony and didn't seek to impress others.

-He didn't suggest to people that they were something they were not.

-Bruce and his wife **didn't bribe their children to read scriptures or nag them about religious duties**; instead they loved those things and their children imitated the example. Their children learned to put the Lord 1st by watching their parents do so.

-he usually gave his children gifts of books, always with a note inside

-he wrote to his son "The most important single thing that any Latter-day Saint ever does in this world is to marry the right person, in the right place, by the right authority"

-he didn't write his sons serving missions about what was going on at home, he wrote them Paul-like epistles.

-**He didn't teach his children sports, mechanics, etc.**, for he didn't know these things. He did teach them hard work: to sweat, get blisters, and a sore back as part of a well-rounded life.

-when his children asked gospel questions he didn't always answer immediately, but had them think. He would ask questions in return, which would show their level of understanding and how much thought they had put into the matter.

-**when someone was spiritually mature, he would answer their question. When someone spiritually immature asked the same question, he would say "I don't know."**

-**he didn't bless each child as they started school**, but rather blessed them on occasions such as missionary and military service or marriage. **These blessings were recorded, they contained counsel and prophecy the equal of a blessing from an inspired patriarch. Each blessing was distinctly different.**

-rather than letting his children chose the subject they would speak on in church, he assigned it, and he **always assigned them to speak on the First Vision & bear testimony that Joseph Smith** was a prophet.

-there was **no small talk about the weather or recent sporting events, nor concern about recent political affairs** when Bruce and his father in law Joseph Fielding Smith got together to talk. They always immediately talked about the gospel.

-**each week they visited both sets of grandparents**. Back then people knew how to visit.

-**Bruce and his wife belonged to groups who met monthly to discuss the gospel.**

-his mother insisted her **married children meet together frequently to study the gospel all together**. His dad would send people home to get their scriptures if they showed up without them. Bruce followed the same pattern with his married children.

-Bruce would always use the scriptures as the source for teaching rather than himself or his experiences. He was **very guarded about his experiences and rarely shared them** with others. He told his son, **“Did it ever occur to you that you don’t teach gospel principles with stories?”** He thus taught that we shouldn’t expect the emotional impact of stories to carry the gospel, but to let the principles stand on their own, and let the Holy Ghost carry a witness of them to people.

-when his father began to have health problems he became very concerned with watching his weight and exercising. He often walked the almost 8 miles to the church office buildings. He took up jogging at age 65 and would sometimes just run then call his wife to pick him up wherever he got too tired to continue. He sometimes ran 15 miles. He wanted to run a marathon and sometimes watched those runners in July.

-Christmas morning everyone dressed, made their beds, ate, and would line up on the stairs according to age. Then, Bruce would go into the living room, turn on the tree lights and see if Santa really came. He was always surprised.

-his father assured them before his death that after his death he would not cease to love pray for and be concerned about them

-Bruce usually spoke last at meetings but was prompted to speak first. He did so, then was notified about the worsening health condition of his father, and was able to immediately leave for the hospital.

-Christmas dinners were filled with telling of memories, laughing and crying together.

-he wasn’t pleased by gifts, no one could figure out what to give him. His son gave him a manuscript he had written to review, this pleased him very much.

Ch. 14 What Was It Like (to be his child)

-Bruce said **“I would never brag about my children. If they are worth bragging about, someone else will do it for me.”**

-“his knowledge of the gospel, his love of God, and **relentless pursuit of gospel truths were not appended to an office or calling. No office added to them**, and no office could take from them. It is for the man to make the office, not the office to make the man.” Pg. 246

-“my father never threw a ball to me, never took me hunting or camping, nor did he have any idea how to change the oil in a car.”

-he was gone virtually every Sunday on conference assignments

-he didn't teach his kids to tie a tie, or attend their Scouting awards. He didn't teach them to tie a tie. He never took them to a ball game. They never went to a movie together. “In short, **we were not a recreationally minded family.**”

-he didn't teach them patience, he expected them to work with him quickly in the yard etc.

-**activities they did together were work projects** of tile, shingling, digging a root cellar, painting a house.

-when he came **home in the evening and his son wasn't working the first thing he would say was “Mother, isn't there something Joseph can be doing?”**

-their mother taught them to garden weed and irrigate as Bruce was gone so often

-Bruce was fearless of sweat and calluses, for himself and his children

-his son's memories of him are ministering to the sick, instructing priesthood leaders, teaching the gospel, and listening to his remarkable conversations

-Joseph (his son, the author of this biography) realized he hadn't missed out on what mattered

-his son said he wanted to exercise his agency to not go to church one day. Bruce assured him he had **agency which in his family meant you could go to church willingly, or go unwillingly**, the choice is yours.

-Joseph expounds on agency, relating that the baptism covenant means a commitment to go to church, and that **agency means “the right to act, the right to do our duty. It is not and cannot be the source of excuse for refusing to do the same.”** Pg. 248

-when his son received his mission call, Bruce said to him, “**Now, son, what I want you to do is to read the Book of Mormon and report.**” **His son did this, then Bruce repeated the instruction 2 more times.** After this Bruce said, “Now we've laid the foundation. **You are ready to begin** your study of the Book of Mormon.” Then he tutored Joseph in the meaning of the book.

-he told his son, who hadn't had a better grade than a C in English class, "You will yet write books, and when you do, you be sure that they are worthy of your name."

-“He never just answered a question. He would always ask “find out” questions first. He wanted to know what we had done by way of preparation. His answers were an expression of the confidence he had in you. Usually you had to prime the pump – he didn't just volunteer information. You had to almost twist his arm and prove that you were hungry to learn.” Pg. 250-1

-sometimes the answer to his son's questions was “Look, junior, you have the same sources available to you that I do to me.” He was teaching a weaning now that he had been taught how to learn.

-D&C 9 says to not just ask God questions, but to try to figure things out, make your best conclusions, then seek confirmation. This is how his son asked him about gospel questions. Sometimes it seemed at the **beginnings** of these conversations Bruce didn't know the answer to his son's questions. Sometimes they disagreed.

-Joseph points out the saying that “It has been said that a teacher has succeeded when you no longer need him.” Bruce created a well of understanding in his children.

-Bruce said **no one is required to “drink below the horses”, meaning, don't rely on the spiritual experiences of others.**

-J. Reuben Clark said to Marion G. Romney **that we shouldn't fawn to the world for approval. We don't care when they have things to say against us, so we should likewise not care when they have things to say in favor of us.** Don't seek confirmation from the world. Pg.252

-He was anxious for his return missionary son to marry. He said, “Son, don't you think you ought to have a goal? How many dates do you think you should have each week?”

-His son began to tell him of a **girl he liked whom he had met a week and a half ago. Bruce said “marry her.” He explained, “You've heard the story of Isaac and Rebekah, haven't you?” (they met, walked into Sarah's tent, were married, and loved each other) He continued, “Certainly you're as smart as Isaac, aren't you?”**

-**He read the standard works cover to cover in preparation to write each volume of his Messiah series.** For the promised messiah, he read them through looking for all of those promises. For millennial Messiah, he read them through again looking for all those promises, etc. He used this as the basis for the book rather than quotes from scholars and experts. No research grants. No compilation of quotes.

-He only quoted others in books when he found they could say it better than he could, and if it squared with the scriptures. He said, “Last week I quoted Parley P. Pratt for the first time my life.”

-He said we can't leave the pondering and praying to others and experts or we experience spiritual atrophy.

- on one occasion Joseph had to explain doctrine to some experts. Instead of helping him, Bruce said “he is doing just fine” and slipped out of the room.
- he said teach gospel principles not just faith promoting stories
- he said “teach what they should have asked you to teach”
- no office can bestow faith
- “Everyone is responsible for what they believe and what they choose not to believe. No office can excuse them from that responsibility.”
- Joseph Fielding Smith was repeatedly invited to a Christmas open house by a man for whom he had great love and respect, but he never attended because it was always held on a Sunday.
- the measure of a person’s spirituality could be determined by his loyalty to the prophet Joseph Smith.
- revelations of the restoration are the key to understanding the bible. It’s easier to convert someone to the truth of the Book of Mormon than to bring them to a correct understanding of what the bible is really teaching.
- to study the bible without the aid of modern revelation was the same as denying that we had living prophets.
- “true greatness is found only in the family”
- some said he ‘went beyond the period at the end of the sentence’ in his explanations. He replied, “If you can’t go beyond the period that ends the sentence, you don’t have the Spirit; and if you don’t have the Spirit, you shouldn’t be teaching.”
- a gospel teacher has the right to interpret scripture & expound on it. (Joseph points out how this is not a stretch when we consider how God gives priesthood to every worthy man. The fact that agency and priesthood are misused sometimes doesn’t justify doing away with either.)
- scriptures are sufficiently ambiguous so that those desiring to misconstrue them may do so. This is intentional on the Lord’s part, allowing how we interpret scripture to be a test of our spiritual integrity.
- Asked how to discern between unrighteous domain and proper use of priesthood authority, he replied “you don’t!” Don’t constantly question what your leaders tell you to do. Those who don’t constantly question them have a rich portion of the spirit.
- his favorite topic to preach on was eternal marriage.
- he took considerable interest in those whom his children chose to date
- one of his daughters told a man who asked her out that he would need a temple recommend to date her. He came to their home, and spoke with Bruce while she waited in the kitchen. He gave Bruce a letter from his bishop attesting to his worthiness. Bruce carefully reviewed the letter and asked follow-up questions. Only when that was done was his daughter allowed to make her appearance. There was no question in the minds of his children as to who was acceptable for them to date.
- when asked **who was going to talk at General Conference, he replied “Peter James & John.”** The First Presidency was to speak, and it was the same to him.
- in the **revelations the blessings associated with missionary work are almost always associated with the missionary not the convert**
- he motivated **missionaries** by telling them the doctrine that they were there **to work out their own salvation.**
- “it is **certainly not important whether people have a white collar or a blue collar job.**”

-when it comes to jobs, “Don’t try to choose the thing that will make life easy. **Look for something that will make life hard.**”

-he considered **the amount of money people had** was usually the result of accident or chance, and it **mattered little**.

-“I just do what the Brethren tell me.”

-When the prophet President Kimball told the saints to grow a garden, he did not consider himself excused as he was an apostle. He created a garden space in his yard despite there not being a natural place for one.

-he told his son’s roommate to ensure his son was not spending too much time studying the scriptures at university, and that he spent sufficient time studying for his classes.

-when asked if there was ‘a special strain of savior gods’ he replied “What earthly good could possibly come from teaching such a thing?” If a doctrine is good, its fruits will be good, and vice versa. The doctrine of an elite line with different standards & laws would not help us.

-he would only tell certain stories during talks if the spirit affirmed to do so.

-he could recognize the promptings of the spirit with perfect surety, some perceived that as arrogance.

Ch. 15 The Nature of the Man

-“**Tell them to warm up the tar. I’m coming to speak.**”

-Detractors only added to his confidence. He knew Joseph Smith was to be spoken of for good and evil over all the earth, and that if he echoed the doctrines of Joseph Smith, his name would be treated similarly.

-Criticism followed him like a shadow.

-“The measure of a man is not found in who speaks well of him but who speaks against him. It is just as important to have the right enemies as it is to have the right friends.” Pg.265

-he was an agent of the Lord. “**Agents represent their principal. They have no power of their own.** They act in someone else’s name. They do what they are told to do. They say what they are authorized to say – nothing more, nothing less.”

-Christ is the messenger of the covenant. Reject him, and we reject the covenant he brought.

-in general conference he said “**What I am saying is what the Lord would say if he were here.**”

-he wanted all of his writing to offend the Devil. He didn’t seek the praise of others.

-he didn’t care what topic he would speak on, he only cared about being in tune with the spirit.

-sometimes prophets grew very old. When asked why the Lord allows that he said, “Whenever the prophet ceases to be a vigorous voice, all the wolves come out to bay. Perhaps this is the Lord’s way of allowing the wolves to identify themselves.” P.266

-he had **no interest in style** or fashion. He wore short sleeved shirts and didn’t know what a power tie is. When his hair was cut badly, he didn’t mind, he just said “it would probably grow back”. He relaxed in clothes that were well worn and comfortable. He didn’t mind socks with holes. He didn’t like suits and ties and only put them on when going to a meeting or his office.

-he wasn’t critical when priesthood leaders made procedural mistakes.

-he did not dominate discussions. He had to be prodded to talk. “When asked about his reluctance to say much around his extended family, he expressed concern about being misquoted and about having sacred things sensationalized. There were very few people with whom he dared shed his office and truly be himself. **In teaching, he rarely shared personal experiences.**” P.267 His brother Oscar shared instances of his brothers life to illustrate principles. He told Oscar if he did that again he would not be called to speak again.

-he had no interest in being cute or funny. He learned this from his father and from Joseph Fielding Smith. If they said something funny while speaking it was unintentional. They weren’t storytellers, and didn’t feel the gospel had to be compatible or light-minded.’

-when his son (the author of this biography) **made some clever quips at his mission farewell, one person said he would be a good missionary. Bruce said, loud enough for him to hear, “Well, if he can preach the gospel as well as he does nonsense, he will be fine.”**

-this being said, Bruce was not humorless, and it was always pleasant being with him. He watched birds at 5am, and collected and polished rocks in his garage.

-he was terrible at singing, but sang hymns most of the way on a trip with his daughter. He knew all the words to all the verses of an hour’s worth of hymns.

-he did not like popular music

-his method of **studying the scriptures**, as well as the method of Joseph Fielding Smith, was basically that they had **no method**. They just studied **frequently consistently and intensely**. Bruce “had a score of loose-leaf binders full of scriptural notations and analyses of every doctrine he found in his study of the Book of Mormon. **He always studied with a purpose.**” P.274

-**he could not read a book without marking it up**. After **finishing it he would write the date he finished it, and a review** of the book. To one book about ancient Israel his note was:

“100% anti-Christ

75% anti-Jewish

50% pro-Baal & Pro Canaanite

Of questionable historical accuracy

Highly speculative

Unreliable

Written with a bias intent to foster unbelief

Not objective in any sense

Almost pure hogwash”

Some other book reviews he wrote “not inspired writing” and “Splendid Fiction!” and “not a word of truth in it” etc.

-people asked **when he found time to write**. His wife said “on my time”. He made good use of holidays, days off, etc. when free from other assignments. His wife said, “more correctly, however, the answer should have been **all the time**”. His wife said “Although he was a fun-loving, normal, well-balanced, and interesting person, **he seemed to have the gospel on his mind all the time.**” Instead of flowers in vases they kept pencils and **pens in flower vases, in drawers, on tables, and especially a shirt pocket with a bit of paper**, available for when a thought came so it could be promptly

recorded. He had to write while the inspirational juices were flowing. “Then those thoughts were organized, and outlines made, and when he began to write on the typewriter, he seldom had to change a word.” There were innumerable notes with ideas written on them for talks books etc.

-“People were always asking him questions; therefore the subjects he chose to write about were chosen because he felt a need for them.”

-he wasn't the least upset by those who were critical. “He did not care about what they had to say as long as he felt it was what the Lord wanted said.” P.276

-as he walked to and from campus while a student, he would assign himself gospel subjects to organize and speak on. He followed that practice when he had to drive long distances as a general authority.

-“one evening when Dad was lying on the floor reading the paper and she [his wife] was reciting a litany of things they ought to be doing. Dad's response to all of it was a loving “Amelia, relax.” P.277

-he **warned against becoming “truer than true”**, and made time to relax. He said nuttiness/fanaticism in one area makes it a short step to nuttiness/fanaticism in another. **We can't practice one virtue at the expense of another virtue.**

-“The Lord doesn't reveal himself to blabbermouths.” P.278

-“it's not who you are in the kingdom that counts; it's how well you keep the commandments.”

-“Life was never intended to be easy.”

-“The pursuit of easy things makes men weak.”

-he chastised one writer for taking an entirely different view on the scriptures than what the prophets had.

-“when the Lord comes he will find in every nation and among every people the Saints of God who, speaking every language, will then be qualified to live and reign on earth with him a thousand years. Whenever a stake of Zion is created in any part of the earth, that portion of the earth's surface becomes Zion and the gather of Israel then consists of coming to that area... We do not believe that the Saints will come out of all nations and gather to Jackson County before the Second Coming. We do believe that Zion will be built up in all nations before the Lord comes, and that after he arrives there will be added glorious things connected with the gathering of Israel...Eventually the whole earth will become Zion.” P.280

-his usual policy is to not engage in theological debates

*Note: I remember hearing of one address of his where he slammed the pulpit at the MTC and said “We do not bible bash! We do not bible bash! We do not bible bash! But when we do, we win!”

-he chastised one for applying scriptures to the wrong group of people

-someone saw him walking in a hall and quickly approached him saying, “**Elder McConkie, you once said...**” **Before he could utter another word Bruce said, “Son, if I said it, it was true” and kept walking.**

-one missionary wanted to go home. He told the boys father to relax and let the mission president run the mission. One of the Brethren called him to assure he knew what he was doing, he assured him he did. He kept the boy's passport locked in a safe, and the boy couldn't get a new one from the Consul without his approval. The missionaries sang a song which said, “President McConkie's favorite word is no. Elder _____ will tell you so.” Another boy wanted to leave and went on a hunger strike and lost 30 pounds in 30 days and many other things to try and get out of the country. President McConkie made it clear that his only way to leave the country was to die, in which case he would bury him in Australia, or to start swimming, in which case the sharks would get him. Eventually the boy snapped out of it and later thanked him for insisting he stay and make a man out of himself. P.282

-he was not the kind of leader who had to have his hands on everything. “As an Apostle he desired to do only those things that were apostolic, while trusting others to labor in their own callings and offices.”

DONT HAVE CH HEADERS, JUST BOLD UNDERLINE. ITS ALL THE SAME STUFF.

ADD THAT THIS IS BASED ON THE 2003 VERSION.

He gave assignments and expected people to follow through. When they did he praised them publicly. When they didn't he spoke to them about it privately. Soon he had the best running ward in the stake, with all their statistics improving. Bishops who tried to run everything themselves didn't have thriving wards. "I loaded everything I could on my counselors and expected them to do the work." He doesn't do anything as president of a stake which others can't do. He had his counselors do the interviews, and shorten the interviews if they couldn't fit them all in, etc. As an Apostle it was the same. He said if the angel Moroni came to visit, he wouldn't teach about making family group sheets, but would expound doctrine. He was not excited about administrative meetings, he was a teacher. He said "running a committee is not that hard," that the "management fellows" didn't get things done any better than he did.

He showed his kids hate mail sent to him to remind his kids that there was opposition.

He witnessed leaders being where different people were inspired to call the same person independently, and that person not being on the suggested interviewed list of people. This was a person who converted to the Church from the Reorganized Church 15 months prior.

He said he never spoke at a Saturday session without hearing himself misquoted at meetings the following day.

McConkie Bio Ch. 16 As He Saw It

"It is the practice of the Lord to give added knowledge to those upon whose hearts the true meanings and intents of the scriptures have been impressed.

He said as the early brethren, "The kingdom of God or nothing."

He said concerning spiritual and intellectual concerns, "We don't want the pendulum to swing too far one way or the other."

He said, the "practice of the Church was the interpretation of the scriptures."

When his stake president Marion G Romney found out he was in law school, he released him from being a stake missionary. McConkie taught to be careful about giving assignments to people busy with such things.

He doubted that the second coming would happen in the lifetime of his grandchildren.

(Note - no one knows the hour. We also know that before the second coming, many epic zion events happen, possibly decades before the second coming. There are many unknowns. Personally I believe it is sooner than apparently McConkie estimated it. The grandchildren of McConkie would now be adults.)

Things to occur before Christ's return include the gospel being taught in every nation (Rev. 14:607) in their own tongue (D&C 90:11) by their own people (Alma 29:8), and the congregations of the saints would be in all nations (1 Ne. 14:12) presided over by people who've received the fullness of the gospel (Rev. 5:9-10).

McConkie taught against the idea of the personal relationship with Christ, of singling out one member of the Godhead for "a special relationship." If we were to do such, it would be with the Father.

He taught that people shouldn't continually seek "special blessings," depending on others for such.

He taught people going on dates shouldn't pray together, that such spiritual intimacy should be reserved for marriage.

He taught people to make their own decision about who to marry, not to ask others who to marry. Use good judgment and don't insist on a heavenly revelation. Don't ask the Lord to make the decision for you.

He taught if you go out of this life on the straight and narrow, you go on to an eternal reward in the Father's kingdom. You don't need to feel that you have to be perfect to be saved. You can't fall off of the straight and narrow in the life to come. This life is the time to prepare for eternity. Work zealously in this life and you'll be saved. Stay in the mainstream

of the church, live upright, and for all practical purposes, your calling and election is made sure, the end result will be the same.

The vast majority of those who followed Christ in the premortal life will be saved in the celestial kingdom. The Matt. 7:14 on "strait is the gate, and narrow is the way...and few there be that find it" is about the Saviors day and ours. But many will receive the gospel from the preaching in the spirit world, many received it in Enoch's city, the city of Salem, after the visit of Christ in the New World, and other places the Savior visited, and in the Millennium many more will gain salvation than the rest of the history of the earth. He said "All faithful saints, all who have endured to the end, depart this life with the absolute guarantee of eternal life."

Joseph Fielding Smith preached at a funeral "that no righteous man is ever taken before his time."

The welfare state worked against some relying on the Lord for temporal support as they relied on the government instead. This was a common view in Europe, and the Europeans were more exclusive about different cultures. In America where all were seen as created equal before the law and entitled to be treated with respect created an environment where people felt free to exchange views and change their lifestyles, so they were more open to the gospel.

His notes for his message "Three Pillars of Eternity" in a 1981 BYU devotional said "Evolution is not a science; it is a religion. It is not an objective analysis of what is found in a test tube; it does not involve experiments that all researchers can duplicate. It is, rather, a mass of theoretical postulates by which its devotees seek to explain the origin and destiny of man without reference to revelation."

He knew people labeled him as a bigot for renouncing evolution, but he noted that in true science, no offense is taken when someone attacks a tenet, because facts stand on their own.

His 1982 article published in the Ensign at the request of the First Presidency detailed scriptural conflicts of the theory of evolution.

When the revelation granting priesthood to all worthy males came (including blacks) he said "Forget everything that I have said, or what President Brigham Young or President George Q. Cannon or whoever has said in days past that is contrary to the present revelation. We spoke with a limited understanding and without the light and knowledge that now has come into the world." (From "All are alike unto God" message delivered to the Church Educational System in SLC, Aug. 18 1978, in Charge to Religious Educators, 2nd Ed. 152-155. In this biography volume on p299)

He expected sons to do better than their fathers.

Some scriptures have dual interpretations.

In the Promised Messiah p515 he taught, "Those who preach by the power of the Holy Ghost use the scriptures as their basic source of knowledge and doctrine." That they "...begin with what the Lord has before revealed to other inspired men." That the Lord gives more knowledge to those who know the meanings and intents of scriptures. He gives them additional information which those who don't know the scriptures can never have. They teach what the prophets have taught AND what is taught them by the Comforter through the prayer of faith (D&C 52:9). The true living church applies teachings from the past to current situations.

He taught that we can't present the message of the restoration independent of the testimony of Joseph Smith. We can't just profess faith in Christ, we must profess our faith in that Christ revealed to Joseph Smith the Prophet. He said, "Joseph Smith is the revealer of the knowledge of Christ for our dispensation. If it were not for him and the witness and testimony he has given, we would not have more knowledge than the sectarian world has; hence, we bear testimony of Joseph Smith."

He noticed that the Russians were good at promoting their country and used lots of propaganda to get their message over, but that the US was very bad at it, just showing a few displays of astronauts to the moon. The US weren't willing to brag about their constitution etc.

He said "Now I'm not too impressed with the fact that we try to be very soft and very gentle in all the visitors centers and in the missionary work and in everything else, just trying to leave people feeling good. I think we've got a message, and it ought to be delivered. It's a worldwide message, and our centering should be on Joseph Smith. Here is Joseph Smith and he revealed Christ, and here is Christ, and here is salvation through this system. That kind of approach will have the effect

of dividing people on one hand or the other, but so you divide them. You divide them- you get some people who are interested. You don't make friends with everyone."

President Clark said you can't tell the Joseph Smith story without offending people.

President Clark said we don't need to be so anxiously concerned about not offending the world.

President Clark said "Jesus offended people. now we are trying not trying to offend people but he offended them by the nature of the message that he presented, and we, in my judgment, just have two more affirmatively present our message"

Elder McConkie conducted a missionary training center survey of their testimony where he asked missionaries to rate whether they knew believed didn't know or doubted the doctrines of one God is my father the father of my spirit to Jesus is the Christ the son of God three Joseph Smith is a prophet of God for the Book of Mormon is the word of God five Spencer W Kimball is a prophet of God today. The lowest rated of these were item three Joseph Smith is a prophet of God and item for the Book of Mormon is the word of God. To this elder McConkie said quote something's wrong. Something's terribly wrong!

Elder McConkie said "maybe in our efforts as a church to ensure that everyone knows we are christian, we have gone too far. A while back we changed our missionary discussions to make our first discussion a message about christ. It seemed at the time a good thing to do, given that Jesus is the head of the church. But what was the result? A decrease in convert baptisms and a decrease in the number of copies of the Book of Mormon placed my full-time missionaries from 1 million per year to 500,000. We are not teaching the restoration as we ought to."

Elder McConkie said quote we will never achieve the quantity and quality of converts that President Kimball and the Lord have envisioned as long as we continue to stress the similarities between us and those of other faiths. It is only when we stress the differences that we are able to make our distinctive contribution in the world and thus make our influence felt"

D&C 5:10 and 20:11-17 and 31:3-4 and 49:1-4 say we must be true to the restoration.

We are under condemnation because of our neglect of the Book of Mormon and Latter-Day revelation says D&C 84:54-61.

Ch. 17

When elder McConkie was called to preside over a mission in Australia he said "well, I have been writing again."

He explained that being a general authority means that administrative authority delegated overlaps local boundaries. And the general authorities are subject to the strict discipline the lord always imposes on his saints and those who preside over them. He said many were qualified and could be general authorities have called upon. He said general authorities may not be authorities in the sense of doctrinal knowledge, the intricacies of church procedures, or the receipt of the promptings of the spirit. That a call to an administrative position of itself adds little knowledge or power of discernment.

When he was a boy who would walk around with a broom handle between his elbows and his back to ensure the habit of standing straight and tall.

Ch. 18

For McConkie knowledge of the divinity of Christ was the result of personal revelation.

When Elder Marion G. Romney called Oscar McConkie (Bruce's younger brother) to be a stake president, Romney said, "Now, Oscar, when you speak, make sure you are right, because the way you say it is going to make people mad anyway."

McConkie never left an assignment unfinished; what could be done tomorrow, he did today.

"The family unit and working in the cause of righteousness are more important than any position. Service is essential to salvation, but the place where we serve is not."

People not called to leadership positions in this life could well be called to such positions in the spirit world. He also foresaw a future day when the organization we now have will no longer exist. Apostles and prophets continue until there is unity in the faith, so at some point in the millennium they won't be needed. All will be converted, we won't need special witnesses.

Entitlement to exaltation and your place in the patriarchal order depends on how you live (not positions held).

Ch. 19

In the name of the God of Israel, he commanded bodies to mend and organs to function.

Buddhists by instinct think the family unit exists after death. A Lutheran minister tried to convince Buddhists that this wasn't the case, then the Mormon film "Man's Search for Happiness" showed the family indeed as continuing in heaven. When the Lutheran asked why our missionaries preach not just to the Buddhists but also to the Christians. Elder McConkie said, "we think it is just as important for a Lutheran to be saved as it is for a Buddhist." He also related the first vision to this minister, then he left. Some missionaries lingered with the minister and the minister said he didn't want to talk to McConkie. Hearing this, McConkie said, "if I were a Lutheran minister, I wouldn't want to talk to me either."

A native boy shined his shoe, it was larger than the boy had ever shined, the boy kept measuring it in astonishment, so Bruce paid him double.

Ch 20

One couple tried to teach that a person should pray to Christ the cocky taught them this was wrong. The couple was not satisfied and tried to speak with President Harold lee. Lee declined to meet with them and advise them that if they did not follow the counsel given them the spirit of the adversary would have power over them.

McConkie said of this, "this is a perfect illustration of how doctrinal misjudgment can lead people away from the truth and eventually out of the church. People begin to believe something that is not taught by the church, then they refuse to accept the council of those whose right it is to interpret the doctrines, then they feel the church is out of line and they are right, and finally they begin to criticize the brethren. The spirit of the devil takes over in their lives, and unless they repent they go out of the church to destruction."

To worship as Christ worshiped is to worship the father. To center our worship on anyone or anything other than the father throws the entire plan of salvation out of balance. McConkey said "if there were some need - which there is not! - to single out one member of the godhead for a special relationship, the father, not the son, would be the one to choose."

We pray only to the father. Prayers do not go through Christ or anyone else. Hebrews 4:16 says we are entitled to come boldly unto the throne of grace.

Some "intellectuals without strong testimonies" advocate that God is forever "progressing in truth and knowledge." "unless they repent, will live and I weak in the faith and will fall short of inheriting what might have been theirs and eternity."

An 18 year old had an incurable skin disease from birth. He got out of bed to meet with elder McConkey who asked have the elders administered to him? He was told they had many times. Elder McConkie, after a moment of silence, blessed him saying "the Lord has given you this affliction to prepare you for the work that lies ahead. I promise you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that your health will never stand in the way of your serving the Lord." The disease was rebuked and the blessing of healing was soon realized.

A mother of two had contracted a rare blood disease which prohibited her from having more children. She was impressed to touch the edge of Elder McConkie's jacket which she hesitantly did. The moment she touched her finger on the Hem of His jacket he suddenly spun around and extended his hand to her with she shook and perfectly uttered thank you. He nodded and went back to what he was doing. She was healed, the doctor was baffled, she had three more children. p360

He did not feel constrained to follow a particular procedure. He sought to follow the lead of the spirit and speaking and administration etc.

One patriarch withdraw money to take his family to the temple and when he opened the envelope a few days later he noticed he was paid about \$750 extra, which he returned. He soon learned that he was about \$75 short to pay for tickets to get back home to his family. A stranger handed him the amount. after giving the money to the ticket agent he turned around to thank the man who had disappeared. P362

When a series of interviews for callings was not getting anywhere he played on his knees, stood in the thought came of who to call to him and his partner.

One mission was in a poor condition they had a goal not to baptize anyone unless they were absolutely certain that the one they're baptizing would remain in the church because if one baptized were to Fall away they would be rehiled responsible at the bar of judgment. Because of this mission presidents in doctrination teaching these false messages a negative Spirit ruled the mission and the work of the Lord was at a standstill.

Some missionaries asked about Adam God doctrine and Elder McConkie noted, "I was talking with some power and fluency about this doctrine explaining that these interpretations were false and defining how and where the church stood on Adam and on the members of the godhead. In the midst of this discussion, under circumstances where I was far more fluent and expressive than my normal capacity allows, it suddenly seemed to me as though a pillar of light extended up from me endlessly and the clear unmistakable impression came from the spirit of the Lord that what I was teaching was true; that the interpretations made by various people of Brigham Young's quotations was totally false and then if I felt so inclined I was perfectly at liberty to speak in the Lord's name as to the truths I was then declaring." P366-7

And I'm approached Bruce and said " I am a member of the Church of Christ quote maconkey replied " well you can repent just like anyone else. "

The man began to harass Elder McConkey and tell him that if he was an apostle he needed to be able to heal him. McConkey replied quote healings come by faith. There is no possible way for you to be healed because you do not have faith. You have any evil spirit. Quote

The man persisted still citing the New Testament about apostles healing and McConkey said quote I am doing exactly the same thing toward you that Peter or Paul would do, and that they did do, when people with evil spirits came to them "

The man just persisted in demanding that he healed him. McConkey then said you have an evil spirit, and there is something I want you to know. I'm going to tell it to you and I want you to write it in your journal, and if you do not keep a journal, to write it on a piece of paper and your wife who is here listening will be a witness that I told it to you. I want you to know that unless you repent, you will go to hell. I've never told anyone else this before, but I am telling you quote p369-70

When the mark Hoffman forgery documents came out Elder McConkey rejected them on theological grounds knowing that those documents could not represent the voice of Joseph Smith. He also noted that there was a lack of language indicating the conferral of keys and that the man to whom all of the keys of the Kingdom had been restored could not

forget to bequeath them to his successor. McConkey did not know anything about Hoffman but he did know Joseph Smith and those documents did not represent Joseph Smith.

Chapter 21

Boys K Packer said "we live in a day of great events relating to the scriptures."

The third article of Faith about being saved all being saved through Christ by obedience in this context the word saved means to be exalted or obtain all the blessings of the Celestial Kingdom. He cited D&C 6:13 " if thou wilt do good, yea, and hold out faithful to the end, thou shalt be saved in the Kingdom of god, which is the greatest of all the gifts of god; for there is no greater no gift greater than the gift of salvation"

When the 12 were praying about the priesthood African band being lifted there was a great Pentecostal outpouring of the spirit such as none of those present had ever before experienced. McConkey observed quote I think the Lord waited to give this new direction to his earthly Kingdom until his church was big enough and strong enough to absorb those of all races and cultures, without being overwhelmed by the world, as the primitive saints were when the church in their day gained a general acceptance in the Roman empire. Quote

Footnotes and cross references to the standard wood were added in the 1979 LDS edition of the King James Bible and the 1981 new edition of The Book of Mormon and the doctrine and covenants and the program price this work was done under the direction of Thomas monson Boyd packer and later Bruce McCarthy. The LDS Bible King James was now cross-referenced with the three other books of scripture. It took about 10 years to make this addition. Mcconkey's contribution was the chapter headings which constitute a doctrinal commentary of each chapter. McConkey pushed for adding the Joseph Smith translation saying that Joseph Smith should not have to compete for room with the words of any Bible scholars interpretation and that we need a little more jst and a little less dictionary.

Chapter 22 special contributions

Boyd K Packer said " if there ever was a man raised up unto a very purpose, if ever a man was prepared against a certain need - it was Bruce R mcconkey. "

Maconkey would not use humor etc in his church tops he went right to the point.

He said quote doctrinal teachers will be quoted a hundred years after their death while the popular speakers who people find so entertaining will be long forgotten. "

Bruce was advised that if you wanted his book to be read it had to be not above a 14-year-old reading level. His response was " I will not do it. If I cannot raise the level of understanding in the church, I will not write. "

He was tasked with overviewing a manuscript to see if there was any reason that it shouldn't be published he said " I wish I'd been asked if I could think of any reason why it should be. "

He did not like the substitution of quote goose pimples and fluff quote for saving principles. He thought such things were an insult to the gospel. But teaching from the scriptures energized him. When he taught religion classes at BYU and you of you he had more energy at the end of the class then when he began.

some in scholarly circles in the church have viewed the Joseph Smith translation with skepticism because it is not always in harmony with the ancient manuscripts. The profit did not use manuscripts in making his transaction he simply use the King James version of the Bible and the gift and power of God, it was a translation by the spirit of Revelation. We have to choose between the spirit of Revelation as Joseph Smith had and loyalty to ancient manuscripts, all of which are in some degree at variance with each other. Formic it was an easy choice to go with the Joseph Smith translation, that such presents the reader a greater Christ than any other translation of the Bible.

The conkey's Messiah book series was written 64 years after James E talmage's Jesus the christ, and mcconkey's books Drew more heavily upon the Joseph Smith translation and dnc-138 which was received after challenges work. The conkey's book a new witness for the articles of Faith took a different approach from tallmadge's work 8 decades earlier. Thomas tried to give credibility to Joseph Smith and Mormonism by showing that it's doctrines were based on the bible. But Elder McConkey sought to explain them in the light of modern revelation. He felt that the best evidence that God has spoken in our day is found in what God has said today.

Milwaukee was *by choice* in the front ranks of the defenders of the Fate and was a rightful heir to the wrath of those who opposed such principles.

McConkey had his own list of scripture including the Wentworth letter of Joseph Smith and the lectures on faith (which were published with the DNC until 1921) and the first presidency exposition on the original man 1912 and the doctrinal disposition of the first presidency on the father and the son 1916 and the King f o l l e t t discourse of Joseph Smith. To him these documents could very properly have been added to our present Canon.

He probably wrote more that way of explanation and testimony of the Bible than any other man in our dispensation.

He said there are two seals on the Bible the first is a seal of ignorance the second a seal of intellectuality. Joseph Smith and the revelations of the restoration removed those seals.

He defended the lectures on faith and said of the fifth lecture quote in my judgment, it is the most comprehensive, intelligent, inspired utterance that now exist in the English language - that exists in one place defining comment interpreting, expounding, announcing, and testifying what kind of being God is. It was written by the power of the Holy ghost, by the spirit of inspiration. It is, in effect, eternal scripture; it is true. "

They used to teach the gospel in a way where they would hold up the Bible and say here's the prophecy that is fulfilled in the book of mormon. But that is not the Lord's way of teaching the gospel. The fact is not the Bible proves The Book of Mormon is true, but that the Book of Mormon proves the Bible is true. It's true that passages like Isaiah 29 and Ezekiel 37 and Psalm 85 and John's statement about the "other sheep" all refer to the Book of Mormon, but that's not the point.

Mcconkie said " I don't think there's anyone in the world who believes more of what's in the bible, or who has attempted to study it more and figure out what is involved in numerous passages, then I have, I have unbounded appreciation and respect for the biblical word, as far as what I have had occasion to write about his concerned. I've written more about the bible, 100 times over, then I have about the book of mormon. However, I have used the Book of Mormon for the purpose of interpreting what's in the bible."

Mcconkie said quote and no single passage does the bible give all the facts about what it's talking about. It just doesn't do it. We sometimes have the idea that things get translated and that the translation is what the Lord originally revealed. That doesn't quite right. There is more than one translation for some passages, and both translations are correct."

one translation can have a lesser meaning and another translation can have a much higher meaning, and the Elijah passage as quoted by Moroni is a higher version.

Teachings of the Presidents of the Church Manual Highlights: Joseph Smith

-revelation is here to remain p551

-to get to God we go through Jesus Christ like the ancients did. We do not go through the ancients. p166

-Celestial Kingdoms p531

- soon no peace but in Zion p186
- New Jerusalem come down out of heaven as a bride for her husband p189
- Jesus being so rough they rejected him p202
- make light of the revelations and you will lament it p203
- bible error example p 207
- eternal spirit and always there's been spirits p210
- all can grow in this mortal life (even severely disabled persons) p210
- study the plan of salvation day and night p211
- spirit with body power over those w/o p211
- Lucifer tabernacle of body not having is his punishment p 213
- salvation is to put all our enemies under our feet including death p212
- we have power to resist Satan (else we have no free agency) p213 (aka can't say "the devil made me do it")
- not about how fast you become virtuous, it's about resisting evil. Then you'll be safe.

Teachings of the Presidents of the Church Manual Highlights: Brigham Young

- all beings in eternity governed by laws. LDS is heaven law. p15
- doctrine we preach is perfect but we as a people are bad as any, the doctrine we preach is calculated to make us heavenly. p21
- for full light need act on every little revealed p22
- Temporal=spiritual; serve God in working (like in a 9-5 sweat shop) p22
- provide for wife and a few children or you've nothing to do with heaven p26
- God sees all p30
- Omnipresence is true via HG, Father sees all p30
- God in 1 place physically at a time p29
- seek not all mysteries but practical service and super power for knowledge and best books. p31
- emulate God alone p32
- w/o the HG, your best will disappoint you p33
- who live with only the bible live in ignorance (see Ch. on Joseph Smith)
- The faithful know that they are in the presence of the Almighty, of angels, and in the midst of eternity.

Teachings of the Presidents of the Church Manual Highlights: Joseph Fielding Smith

- Pray while at the job and you will probably do everything correctly.
- Asleep or in bed is where people die, and where ambition dies.
- He considered getting up past 6am immoral and woke his children accordingly daily.
- Relief Society work is as important as Priesthood work.
- The Lord's prayer is teaching us to pray for the end of the world. Join with me (Pres. Smith) in praying for this. See the prayer says "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". That will be the beginning of a new world, and I want it. I pray for it to come, and ask you all to pray for it with me.
- Past 90 years old he still prayed for the strength to be able to keep his covenants and endure to the end.

Christ Centered Home by the Stoddards – Book Highlights

A Story of Hope & Healing for Every Family in Every Situation
(On the Life Teachings & Family of James Stoddard)



Note: These notes are shared with permission of the author, but they do not represent all ideas of the text, and much more effective and thorough treatment is given in the full text, which can be found at JosephSmithFoundation.org.

Intro: This book highlights the life teachings and family of James Stoddard. It is a most compelling work for those who hunger and thirst after a righteous way to raise a family. I have scarcely heard of a family with this level of unity standards and productivity, the only comparable work that comes to mind is the biography of Apostle Elder Bruce R McConkie, which discusses some of the bold righteousness of that family. The works of these families will not be understood by the masses, but only by the spiritually minded. Their ways are not the world's ways. This book is a refreshing help as we navigate the complexities of family life in these last days.

Ch. 1 (Family Based Missions)

- Stand in the forefront in the cause of truth.
- Overlook each other's mistakes and work together.
- Joy comes from serving God with all the heart.
- Never invest time into a hobby without involving your kids.
- Your mission to change the world is with and through your family.

Ch. 2 (Stand Alone)

- We must be willing to be a lone pilgrim.
- Study the gospel so well that no matter who speaks, you will not be deceived.
- Where to start in gospel studies? Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Doctrines of Salvation (J Fi. S), Mormon Doctrine, Answers to Gospel Questions (J Fi. S)
- In his youth, James learned to study the gospel seriously, even multiple hours a day, and had read the scriptures and key texts by the brethren before his mission.
- James became unpopular for being interested in the gospel, so he hid his interest, became popular again while studying in private, and later greatly regretted hiding his gospel interest, even being prompted that he had wasted much of his life as a youth.
- Chariots of Fire is a movie about Eric Liddell, Olympic runner who wouldn't run on the Sabbath.
- Life isn't about how much we study the scriptures, but about whether we have made a real difference in the world, helping others experience a change of heart.
- James discerned the difference between a mission and being home as that on the mission, you are serving.
- America's Godly Heritage by David Barton was a presentation which stirred James to devote himself to showing God in history, etc. To bring God back into education.
- James quit work at a video store due to pornographic video covers.
- James quit professional basketball aspirations seeing better things to do.
- At BYU studying the social sciences, James was taught socialism, evolution, communism, welfare state, etc., and all the professors and students took it in like gospel.
- When their oldest daughter learned rebellious attitudes and progressive philosophies in kindergarten, they became homeschoolers.
(Note: I recall James saying that many people told him he was too protective of his children by homeschooling them over the years. He has had to resist these voices which keep coming against what he was prompted to do.)
- Two bedrock principles for their home were 1. We follow God's laws and 2. We defend the truth and teach the Gospel.
- They defined the purpose of their lives and schooling as to 1. Become like God and 2. Help others become like God.
- In their family, they learned folk and country dances, creation science in line with scripture, and used the words of the prophets for their standards in relationships, music, etc.
- Father's aren't just to pay the bills and go on occasional family outings. Their first priority should be family. Fathers' extra time should go toward family.
- What is the purpose of life? To be tested, sure. But the main purpose is the have joy.
- When kids have questions, use scripture to show them the answers.
- James put together a family website to share history of their family ancestors, holiday ideas, providential miracles from the past, wholesome family movies, etc.
(Note: This is a great idea to have a family website. One might also include key family pictures, writings and interests and projects of each child, a family mission statement, family mission plans, etc.)

Ch. 3 (Death)

- They had never seen their dad cry until one of his sons died. All he could say to comfort his family was "it is better this way", though of course he did not wish it that way. This said, he did not allow himself to wallow in grief. They often looked at pictures, remembering the good times and the bad.
- Kneeling prayer at meal time. Kneeling is a sign of submission to God, a reflection of humility, reverence, and

soberness. An outward demonstration of a change of heart.

Ch. 4 (Make A Difference)

- Film schools which professed standards still had degrading material, so James taught himself how to make films, feeling called to do so. These skills became a part of their homeschool curriculum.
- Too many good parents set aside their family to chase their own dreams. Even if it's a worthy cause, if you leave your family behind, it is vanity.
- Always bring your children along when engaged in a cause.
- There should be more kids at the Book of Mormon Evidence Conferences.
- When James was a county delegate, his kids were brought to all the events.
- When James interviewed various authors etc., some kids were always brought.
- The kids reviewed manuscripts of debates etc. their father was involved in.
- As a young men's leader, James brought his small children. Some other leaders complained about this, James was persistent, "My kids will sit quietly, participate, and even help the older youth" he said, and they did. He was firm: If he was coming, they were coming.
- Kids can do far more than we think.
- Some apostasy of youth is inevitable like Laman and Lemuel, but most apostasy of youth is unnecessary, and stems from a lack of family mission.
- At age 12, Hannah was brought to meetings of her dad's. She was disciplined to sit quietly, be respectful, and listen when adults were having conversations. Just when she finished her schooling and chores and had only a few hours of play, she had to attend these meetings. Eventually she learned to appreciate them and pay attention at them.
- From youth, the children learned to stand up for truth even in controversial topics such as polygamy, Adam God, gender roles, modern science, etc.
- Testimonies are not gained through intellectual study, but by doing.
- Joseph Smith taught that religion which doesn't require the sacrifice of all things does not have the power to save p49
- The key is living the gospel. Don't focus on whether your kids are reading their scriptures, focus on whether they are living the teachings of scripture.
- At one point, James felt called to make inspirational videos about gospel truths of the restoration, he moved and put his work on hold. They had funds enough to work at this for a year, then they would run out. It was a great leap of faith. Everyone thought he was crazy.
- The children were involved in James' research. They were "Family projects, not dad projects."
- The children started making their own video slideshows and their own websites.
- The kids wanted to be grown up like dad, doing what he did.
- James "never worked on any project, wrote any article, researched any subject, made any video, or visited with any influential friend, without one or more of his kids right by his side." p54
- One of his young daughters began learning computer programming (under age 10 from the looks of the picture on p55)
- How can we come to know the Son of God? The answer came: I have sent my servant Joseph Smith.
- "Your family is your team. Do not set them aside and chase after strangers."

- "When family choruses begin proclaiming truth throughout the world, that voice will never be silenced." p56

Ch. 5 (Faith to do God's Work)

- As Jared collected stones for the Lord to touch, so must we make sacrifices, monetary and otherwise, for the Lord to bless our efforts beyond our abilities.
- Their family could not make progress on any of their projects if there was contention in the home.
- James saw that there was a need to have more frequent family prayers when contention occurred in the home.
- The children would have extra chores, memorization of scripture verses, etc. as consequences for disrespect, etc.
- When on his mission, James was locked out of his apartment while the oven was on. They tried to get in for two hours to no avail, and worried the home would burn down. His companion said "Elder Stoddard, you always do the right thing and always follow the rules. Why don't you just pray and open the door?" He did, and the door swung wide open, and the fish weren't burnt. p59
- See "God's Smuggler", the story of Andrew van der Bijl who smuggled Bibles behind the Iron Curtain into Communist countries. He suffered and frequently wanted to give up but knew his life was not his own, following Jesus.
- Shares stories of praying for help on difficult problems, and miraculous help coming just as needed, just in time, as they worked toward the solution.
- Hannah began taking courses at age 14 in web development, audio and video editing, digital photography, etc. She journaled of God opening her mind to understand it.

Ch. 6 (Youth Responsibility & Service)

- "Love to be real, it must cost - it must hurt - it must empty us to self." (Mother Teresa)
- It is a lack of parenting when kids take multiple times of a parent speaking before the child will respond. This is not a loving attitude from a parent, and sets up children for failure and chaos. James' kids were expected to come immediately when called.
- "True education trains in self-denial and self-mastery" (David O. McKay) p68 for more of the quote & reference.
- The Stoddard's were raised not just to dream, but to accomplish goals competently. When James had to return to regular work rather than full time documentary making, he gave the children assignments for while he was gone. He would call on the phone during lunch break to check in on the assignments of the children. His coworkers overheard these conversations and would say, "What are you doing over there? Running a sweatshop?"
- James did not tolerate slothfulness of his children, or disobedience, or irresponsibility, "so he required the tasks to be completed when he got home without exception." p68
- James knew the Lord has a high standard of work ethic, and was strict on his kids fulfilling commitments.
- James told his coworkers about each of his kids. When his kids came to work on bring your kid to work day, they were surprised to see his coworkers knew who they all were.
- 6AM the children's alarms rang. They were to go to the office, study scripture, study the day's school work, and their dad's assigned projects.

- While their peers were chasing around the neighborhood with friends and phones, they were doing work. People thought their documentaries were from being gifted, but they were actually from putting in lots of blood, sweat, and tears.
- The children were shown movies which demonstrated the suffering in the world in a non-traumatic way such as Mother Teresa, and presentations on history, Communism, social conflicts, science, and many other battle lines facing us in the 21st century to help them catch the vision of being service oriented, love oriented. They knew the details of torture methods in North Korea, emotional trauma following an abortion, and the reality of how hard life was outside their doors. These things reminded them why they were sacrificing their time to serve. The children were taught to focus out not in toward themselves and their own accomplishments, that joy does not come from living for yourself.
- The children were taught that they have privilege's which others do not have, that they are accountable to God for what they did and did not do to lift others with these privilege's they were given. The world is starving for our help.
- They learned of Mother Teresa, who chose a life of labor and exhaustion in the slums lifting others in need.
- There are millions right now spiritually starving, even more than are physically starving. It's your responsibility to help. Your life is not your own. Your duty is to wear out your life helping others, consecrated to helping others, that is where true happiness comes from.
- If a child's accomplishments become their cause everything becomes about them, their battle, their heroism, their talents. They become the hero. and pride becomes the driving motivation. Some even serve missions for the church just for their image.
- David O McKay: it is the consistent parent who gains trust of the child. p72
- James taught a "love lifestyle", namely to spend your time doing good. Mockers called him a dreamer.
- He ensured his kids were raised in clean safe neighborhoods
- See Movie Amazing Grace: The Story of William Wilberforce
- James was driven by the recurring thought that every moment he wasted would cost someone blood or suffering in the future.
- When asked what he wanted to do, James said "I never ask that question. My life isn't about what I want, but what the Lord wants done."
- He treated everyone with compassion, but his trust level varied depending on the character of the individual.
- One lady only attended the Book of Mormon conferences to talk to him as she saw him as one who truly cared.
- One day he could not even walk due to pain, but still had others over because they needed help.
- Siblings can learn to quietly lay their lives down for their siblings.
- The real test of character is how one acts when no one is watching.
- The home is the greatest, most difficult work.
- Joseph Smith literally wept for Zion, for those who didn't have access to the Book of Mormon and gospel truths. Do we weep for this?
- Video games are indolent

- Real love is sacrifice, surrendering comfort, dreams, wants, desires to bring hope to another without any personal reward or return.
- The children gave up many opportunities to finish documentaries.
- Almost every project involved pulling all-nighters to get things done on time.
- They worked long days in the office even when sick.
- The children learned to serve by knowing that there are many who needed their help, they learned to love those people even if they hadn't met them.
- Real love tears you apart and requires laying down your dreams, but it's the only real way to make a difference in the world.
- Joseph Smith said, "Happiness is the object and design of our existence; and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping ALL the commandments of God." (JS Letter to Nancy Rigdon, JS Papers circa Mid-April 1842)
- People living the adventurous comfortable lives seem happy but ironically when you dig beneath the deceptive exteriors, not everything is as it appears, it's a mirage that can only last for so long.
- God is the happiest being in the universe. We will have joy to the degree we live like Him.
- Teaching at the MTC (missionary training center), James noticed a contrast between those youths and the youths of a similar age who he taught outside of the MTC. Those at the MTC were always happier and had more peace. Why? They didn't have free time, media, they just studied the gospel and had small breaks for physical recreation. They had a purpose. When asking the youths whether they were happier before or after entering the MTC, he never had anyone report being happier before the MTC.
- James asked, "Are we losing the search for happiness because we are focused on ourselves- only to discover that this journey ends in a dead end road of empty loneliness?"
- See movie Bless You Prison and movie God's Outlaw, persecuted Christians who were happy despite being beaten in jails etc.
- Pleasures of food movies and fun activities trigger dopamine, but deep down they leave us unhappy, irritable, and feeling low in self worth. The more people serve God, serve their family, promote the gospel with the family, the more you'll feel pure joy, peace, contentment, and confidence levels. This is the tree of life with fruit which really satisfies.
- James took the pledge which every endowed member takes to consecrate their time talents etc. to build God's kingdom, very seriously.

[Ch. 7 \(Conversion to the Gospel & Family Vision by Hannah\)](#)

- Critics accused James of brainwashing his kids into a crazy lifestyle of consecration, service, and passion for defending the Restoration, as if it were cult-like to teach that we should lay down our lives for the cause of Christ.

-Many kids read the Book of Mormon before being baptized. But even with this, kids have to surrender their lives to God. Even kids which seem like good kids fall far short of what they could be if they don't surrender to God, and this is evident in their relationships & how they chose to spend their free time.

-At 13 in a difficult situation Hannah had to be primarily responsible for managing the home, maintaining the homeschool, caring for the little ones (including a few month old), preparing meals, etc. She was prepared by being trained to cook most meals from scratch by age 11. She was worn down and poured out her heart to God, and then had a marvelous conversion, feeling powerful love and comfort, compassion nobility and affection, and she learned that God knew exactly who she is and loved her with such a deep strong unwavering love that she couldn't have imagined. She felt power which was strong noble pure and selfless. This taught her to love to serve God because of how much noble compassion God felt toward her. This taught her why her dad loved God so much, and why he would feast on the scriptures, preferring them to any other book. She started studying everything she could about the gospel not because she was smart or important, but because she wanted to know more, wanted to learn how to become a true Christian. God began to reveal to her how, often painfully, to do that, breaking her heart, tearing down her walls of self-importance bit by bit. God convicted her of how she treated her siblings. He challenged her to be more respectful to her parents even in moments of conflict. She began to recognize her slothfulness. She learned that no one could release her from those weaknesses but God. She didn't really want to change, but prayed for God to soften her heart so she could feel remorse for her sins. Slowly day by day, sacrifice by sacrifice, God changed her heart.

-Some told James his kids would grow to be rebellious and uneducated from putting them through homeschool and having them be involved in family gospel research projects and productions, etc. However, his kids did become very smart, and gained their own testimonies, knowing that it was their own life, and they would have to live with the consequences of their own actions. The projects became things which the children owned, not just their dad's things they were working on. Hannah said, "This wasn't dad's project, this was my project."

-Hannah started a girls study group called "Maidens with a Mission" to ignite the fire of faith in others.

-Hannah was distracted by good internet groups, conservative movements, and this often made God's priorities for her a second place priority while she put first all the things she wanted to do. She learned that she couldn't rely on God if she hadn't done her part in the work he had asked her to do. She learned to give up her life and name, and instead bear the name of Christ.

-The Lord doesn't need wealth and talent and position for people do his work, he is searching for those who are willing to give Him their heart. He has all power, he can do anything. [Note: This goes against the popular attitude that we need to go around building wealth so we can 'someday' do good in the world. That is backwards!]

Ch. 8 (Joy)

-James loved buying toys for his kids, and they had playground equipment indoors for the kids during winter.

-If he weren't helping with world issues James would have liked to spend more time playing with the kids, growing plants, making videos, writing songs, and relaxing.

-For recreation, they asked: does this activity have purpose? Does this activity encourage family bonds or does it alienate us from one another? Does this activity allow us to develop hands on skills or strengthen our mind or is it a waste of valuable time? Does this activity cultivate Godlike attributes of nobility, kindness, refinement,

honor, integrity and humility, or is does it promote silliness, light-mindedness, pride, addiction, or even aggression and anxiety? Does this activity allow us to better serve others? Does this activity bring the spirit of God or does it drive it away?

-Joseph F. Smith said of useful recreation, "We should train ourselves to find pleasure in that which invigorates, not stupefies and destroys the body; that which leads upward and not down; that which brightens, not dulls and stunts the intellect; that which elevates and exalts the spirit, not that clogs and depresses it. So shall we please the Lord, enhance our own enjoyment, and save ourselves and our children from impending sins..." (JFS Answers to Gospel Questions, vol. 1 (SLC Deseret Book 1957) p92.)

-"...we say again to the people that no kind of chance game, guessing contest, or raffling device can be approved in any entertainment under the auspices of our Church organizations. The desire to get something of value for little or nothing is pernicious...In reply to a question as to whether raffling and games of chance are justifiable when the purposes to be accomplished are good, this was said: 'We say emphatically, No. Raffle is only a modified name of gamble.'" (First Presidency, Joseph F. Smith, Improvement Era, vol. 12, Dec. 1908, 143-144)

[Note: This reminds me of an economics class I took at BYU. Professor James Kearl talked about when he was consulting with General Authorities on a matter, proposing a lottery. They said "raffle, ok, but no lottery." The whole class laughed because we all knew that a raffle and lottery are exactly the same thing! We can see how standards have slipped in these regards.]

-"**Nothing good comes out of card games or games of chance.** There are numerous ways in which we may obtain wholesome amusement and recreation which is beneficial to both body and mind. In games where cards are used usually 'stakes' are played for, and betting is done. Someone will obtain the 'stakes,' but no one really wins, for the one **who obtains the 'stakes' has lost part of his manhood which is difficult to regain.** There seems to be an urge in human nature which leads many men and women to seek to obtain something for nothing...There is a lure in all games of chance which Satan laces before them, and in their greed or **selfish desire for gain** they take the uncertain bait far less innocently than does a fish which grabs the angler's hook." (Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers to Gospel Questions, vol. 1 (SLC Deseret Book Co 1957) p92)

-They don't watch movies which glorify magic, witches, violence, immorality, selfishness, or dysfunctional family life.

-They avoid music with a rock beat due to counsel from President Harold B. Lee and Ezra Taft Benson (more quotes etc. in Ch. 11 of this text)

-Joseph F. Smith said of character and amusement, "One's character may be determined in some measure by the quality of one's amusements." And "Tell me what amusements you like best and whether your amusements have become a ruling passion in your life, and I will tell you what you are." ("The Social Effects of Card Playing" in Juvenile Instructor, Vol. 38, Sept. 1, 1903, 528-529)

-God clearly intended for food to taste good. They bought a Mongolian grill.

-They made Hebrew letter shaped cookies and made uplifting messages with them.

-They celebrated a Latter-day Saint version of Hanukkah with the traditional candles etc.

-He wrote Christmas carols inspired by the Book of Mormon.

-They put songs they liked into the family songbook, and edited the words of those songs as needed.

- James took kids on walks and had 1:1 time with them as the others raced ahead.
- They played “Scripture Charades”, a humorous way to test their knowledge of the scriptures.
- They gathered for out loud reading of stories such as “In Freedom’s Cause”, “Sense and Sensibility”, “Emma”, “North and South”
- Some nights they read aloud to the group, others they read quietly and journaled to music.
- James had a balance of masculine traits like tools sports etc., but also of the delicate arts of writing poetry, feeling & expressing deep emotion, dancing, classic literature, etc. He said “Real men appreciate Jane Austen and clean classic literature.”
- They watched hundreds of movies & documentaries on Christian persecution, communism, the Holocaust, abortion, natural and conventional medicine, the Hungarian Revolution, education, the Constitution, etc. (Suggested movies on these topics on p.106 footnotes)
- They have 400+ suggested movies (and movie reviews & clips) on ZionTube (josephsmithfoundation.org/ziontube)
- Movies have the power to change lives faster than a book.
- Working on their homestead they had Happy Hour break for lunch and laughs. Friends came to work alongside them.
- Activities with friends also included sword fighting, family dance (English country dance, square dance, Virginial Reel, waltz, etc.), etc.
- Focus your activities on what brings everyone together. So many activities these days encourage children to divide into groups, segregate the popular from the unpopular, discourage siblings from having common friends, etc.
- Activities don’t have to be silly or wasteful to be fun.
- Recognize the difference between activities which contribute to family, good causes, etc., vs those which detract.
- Choosing purposeful leisure is purposeful and brings one closer to God.

Ch. 9 (Outdoor Work)

- James taught the kids to work hard in the sun with sweat and tools. He didn’t want their experiences and skills limited to office work. He showed them the freedom and health of working directly with the soil.
- They bought and worked 11.5 baren acres, using perennial plants etc. They installed pressurized irrigation including digging the trenches, wood chips etc. for the soil, and didn’t use fertilizers or artificial weed killers so they could heal the land naturally using Gods laws. They also laid sod and planted a garden. They planted thousands of plants, put in a septic system, etc. He made all of this a teaching tool for his family and didn’t just do it himself.

- they named their homestead “Highland Cathedral” after a Scottish song about being faithful and loyal to the land of their fathers, encouraging ‘ancient prayer’, being true, and strong, bearing standards, and petitioning God to restore peace joy and liberty.
- Eliza R. Snow spoke of Nephite temples once existing throughout Utah (“A Journeying Song for the Camp of Israel”, Eliza R Snow An Immortal (SLC: Nicholas G. Morgan, Sr., Foundation, 1957), 267)
- He kept his tools very organized.
- He built AR-15’s with his boys.
- He taught his kids housekeeping, types of pans, how to cook, how to tend babies and little kids, etc.
- During the 19th and 20th centuries there developed stereotypes against farmers as dirty and uneducated, and kids became increasingly ashamed of growing up in small towns. In reality, working the soil requires thought, intelligence, creativity, and a thorough understanding of the laws of nature and science.
- They made a point to not hire someone else to do the repairs, chores, landscaping, etc. Those were family projects.
- Today it is a foreign idea that kids should be able to control their emotions tempers and impulses. Being in nature gives vigor, and teaches self-control, how to find joy in simple things, and temperance in habits.
- The blood of Israel has always been a family culture including a natural agrarian lifestyle. Families had farms and estates with space for their children to run and play with animals, fresh air, and sunlight, the way God intended it.
- Jesus grew up in little Galilea, in an honest manual labor economy. He often withdrew from the city to be in nature.
- Standards deteriorate in the city lifestyle because that is unnatural living.
- Young men shouldn’t be cooped up in offices and bedrooms engaging in inefficient and unproductive schooling while being driven to make money, and chase the next party.
- Gyms are a “complete counterfeit” of God’s system of fitness. When you just repeat trivial exercises you aren’t making the world any better. Do creative hard work in nature.
- Eve labored alongside Adam (Moses 5:1)
- We live in an idol society without discipline, which has counterfeit ways for food, love, relationships, exercise, success, etc. Some of the consequences are pornography addiction, and children being increasingly disrespectful to parents.
- Brigham Young said, “We want men to labour in every mechanical pursuit that they can; for I believe that the time will come when we shall have to depend upon our own resources...” (BY, JD vol. 7 p67)
- Heber C Kimball taught to lay up grain for troubling times upon the world which are coming. Ref p.120
- Wilford Woodruff taught to make your own shoes clothing and food. Ref p.120
- Spencer W Kimball said to have little gardens and trees for a time when there won’t be a store. Ref p120
- Bruce R McConkie taught to prepare for a time when we won’t be prosperous as we are now. That perils of the past are but a foretaste of what we will yet see, that we must prepare temporally and spiritually. Ref p120

-Gordon B Hinckley taught that we ought to emphasize the obligation of members to become more independent and self reliant. Ref p120

-It is Godlike to create and establish order.

-God inflicts pain out of love, like shearing goat horns so it doesn't get stuck in a fence, etc.

-Self pity and complaint are not fruits of the spirit of God. To become like God, we must eventually suffer endure and overcome all things. **The path of a true Christian is marked with sacrifice and tribulation.**

-Once they planted over 1000 trees shrubs herbs etc. in the space of a few weeks.

-Once their irrigation water was dry and they had to carry water buckets for weeks. By mighty prayer, rain did come at an unprecedented time and amount.

-Sometimes to repair farm machinery they would send pictures to a repairman and consult with him over the phone.

-“If you wish to go where God is, you must be like God...Search your hearts, and see if you are like God. I have searched mine, and feel to repent of all my sins.” (Joseph Smith History 1836-1856, vol C-1 Addenda p62 The Joseph Smith Papers)

-On his mission James saw Elders whose apartment had a little Jesus picture, and lots of rock band pictures, along with rock music being played. He said, “You know what Elder? I'm cool with this, but I just have one problem.” He pointed to the Jesus picture. “You can keep the rest, but that picture must come down.” He showed that these 2 are not compatible, that claiming they can is hypocrisy.

-James taught that “The Lord has told us that we live at the most wicked time on the most wicked earth. In other words, if we feel comfortable or at ease with the modernist culture (movies, music, diet, fashion, language, literature, parenting, philosophies, schools, etc.), we must think again. This is not who you really are.”

-Remember your true **identity**: 1. You are the blood of Israel, with the heritage of the culture of **refinement, beauty, purity, honor, and integrity**. Live up to this birthright. 2. Power comes from purity. You can't do the Lord's work without living righteously. The better you are, the more good you'll be able to do in the world. 3. Jesus Christ is the exemplar, the standard, seek to be like Him, don't look to the world. 4. Stand as a witness. Never be ashamed of who you are, spread the joy and light of pure living.

-A story is told of a young prince exposed to all manner of temptation. He resisted it all, saying, “I cannot do what you ask for I was born to be a king.” P130 for more of the story.

-When you grow older you won't care how many parties you attended, but how well you served the Lord and others.

-The love of God cannot be comprehended by anything in this world.

-Isaiah Stoddard said, “The gospel is about helping people have joy and allowing them to think for themselves – not turn them into micromanaged robots.”

-Sin should be the abnormal, not the normal. It's not about “do your best,” its about successfully resisting Satan. We can do it.

-Real Christians are on Satan's most wanted list.

-Your standards and lifestyle will make all the difference in your life.

-The Stoddards weren't just lucky, any family can do what they did.

-In giving priesthood blessings, James didn't ramble on, but was thoughtful about each word, given them slowly, and the blessings therein came to pass astonishingly.

-It takes great responsibility to preside over a family. Revelation doesn't come easily.

-It's not about the number of commandments, but about whether we are like Jesus Christ. If we are not like Him, we must repent. Memorized rules and customs aren't needed when we have correct principles.

Ch. 11 (Music)

-It's not just the lyrics that can make music bad. The beat, rhythm, etc. can corrupt it.

-David O McKay taught to avoid electronic bands and loud beats. He speaks favorably of waltz, fox trot, tango, rhumba, cha-cha, samba, swing, & most folk dances. He calls for good posture in dance, and to avoid fad dances. He says to shun the appearance of evil, to avoid dances which look bad. That most electronic bands have a loud beat inconsistent with desired standards, that the loud beat is had by most fad dances. (Full Quote p140-2. Source: Daily Universe, Dec. 3, 1965, 1-2; Living Prophets for a Living Church, Church Educational System college student manual, 1974.)

-In the 50s 60s and 70s, the music became continually harder and louder. BYU students rejected the prophetic counsel regarding music, and the next generation never had the chance to be taught a higher standard. Learning of the counsel of the prophets back in the day on these matters is like when Josiah found the forgotten Book of the Law. James saw that he need to throw out many albums, even those which many would consider most tame.

-Ezra Taft Benson: Today's music is nerve-jamming, and deliberately promotes revolution, dope, immorality, **"and a gap between parent and child."** Some of our church dances today are certainly not praiseworthy. (Full quote on p143-4; Source: Teachings of ETB p325)

-Ezra Taft Benson: **It is modern Sodom to have short skirts, loud beat, strobe lights, and darkness.** (Full quote on p143-4; Source: ETB God Family Country p229)

-Boyd K Packer: Music itself has been corrupted by the tempo, beat, and intensity. It can dull the spiritual sensitivity of men. Bad music in churches is a sign of apostacy. Why put in sacred meetings the music of the drug hard rock culture? That is a repellent to the Spirit of God. Music isn't harmless in and of itself as some say. Its influence pours into the room and **repels the spirit** of God. "...the **breach between the world and the extremes of its music and the Church is wider in our day than ever in generations past.**" (Full quote on p144; Source: "Inspiring Music – Worthy Thoughts" Ensign Oct. 1973)

-Harold B Lee: Napoleon said "Music of all the liberal arts has the greatest influence over the passions and is that which the legislator ought to give the greatest encouragement." Be careful that music in the church doesn't invoke the wrong kinds of passions in our youth programs. (Full quote p145-6; Source: HBL Teachings p203)

-Harold B Lee: Beware the hellholes of Satan which are everywhere. "...there's damnable rock music that appeals to the lower senses of man, where the offbeat [rock beat] is just as vile and abrasive to human thought as it can be. We say it to you, we plead with you to listen to the beautiful things, if you want to be on the right side. But be careful you don't choose the wrong things; you shun those things just as the moths should have shunned the white flame." (Full quote p146; Source: HBL Teachings p104)

-Spencer W Kimball: “Musical sounds can be put together in such a way that they can express feelings – from the most profoundly exalted to the most abjectly vulgar.” (SWK Teachings p519)

-The majority of the BYU student body has rejected the advice of the brethren on politics, education, birth-control, science, etc.

-The music itself, not the words in the music, has influence. In pop rock there is expression of arrogance and pride. Modern music has a near universal influence on the mind and body to “just be free to do what it feels like”

-Elder Gene R Cook spoke of the music in his home, that they use “church music, classical music, or other good general music, but no light or hard rock or anything like unto it.” (Gene R Cook, Raising Up a Family to the Lord, p157)

-Elder Gene R Cook recorded a conversation with Mich Jagger who said, “Our music is calculated to drive the kids to sex.” Jagger went on to say that was to free youth from their parents and enable them to do whatever they like without being controlled. He said he was thankful that the family as an entity was being destroyed.

-Every feeling and emotion we can experience can be expressed by music.

-Music is not amoral anymore than language is amoral.

-Music is the language of the heart. It can lift you to heaven or sink you to hell.

-Poetry is a mixture of mind and heart, blending rhythm and words. Music however is solely the language of the heart.

-Ezra Taft Benson taught: “Music creates atmosphere. Atmosphere creates environment. Environment influences behavior.” Rhythm: you can still detect beat even when dulled by drugs. Loudness: to the point of pain and violence to block thought and reason. Repetition to the extreme [Note: like a spell.] Gyration [sexual in nature]. Darkness which deadens conscience and loss of identity and responsibility. Strobe lights like the pendulum of a hypnotist. “The whole psychedelic design is a swinging door to drugs, sex, rebellion, and Godlessness.” This music is the fruit of filth, and is very deceptive, and it denies evil to be an absolute. The leaders in the church must not endorse this music, even if they think they’ll lose people. ...If you compromise with evil, evil always wins. ...**By reducing revealed religion to mythology, rock assumes the mangle of righteousness while rejecting the reality of sin.** (Full quote pgs149-151; Source: ETB “Satan’s Thrust – Youth” Ensign Dec. 1971)

-Ezra Taft Benson: "Sometimes, from behind the pulpit, in our classrooms, in our council meetings, and **in our Church publications, we hear, read, or witness things that do not square with the truth...** Now, do not let this serve as an excuse for your own wrongdoing. The Lord is letting the wheat and the tares mature before He fully purges the Church. **He is also testing you to see if you will be misled.** The devil is trying to deceive the very elect. Let me give you a crucial key to help you avoid being deceived. It is this - learn to keep your eye on the prophet. He is the Lord's mouthpiece and the only man who can speak for the Lord today. Let his inspired counsel take precedence. Let his inspired words be a basis for evaluating the counsel of all lesser authorities. Then live close to the Spirit so you may know the truth of all things." (ETB, Teachings p134, and ETB An Enemy Hath Done This p317)

[Ch. 12 \(Movies\)](#)

- "The family is the simplest and smallest unit of society and the real fountain of culture. If this fountain remains pure, man's culture has promise. But if it becomes polluted, all the rest will turn to dust and ashes, since the home is the foundation of the entire social structure." -Henry R. Van Til

-It's not enough to be good, we must be good for something.

-As in Article of Faith 13, we seek virtuous lovely praiseworthy things.

-The way to judge is plain with perfect knowledge (Moroni 7:15)

-In 1930 the rating system was very different; today's 'family entertainment' wouldn't pass.

-Don't just go by the world's telestial (at best) rating system.

-Do you movies show suggestive material? Crudeness?

-Are large families being promoted or ridiculed?

-Are Christian values showing the path to happiness or are they shown as out of date and ridiculed?

-The bitter fountain can't bring good water (Moroni 7:11). If there is a bad scene in a movie, the entire movie will also contain the fruits of that producers character.

-Show heroes as honest. Dishonest characters should always be villains and have undesired consequences.

-Show righteousness as being rewarded in the end, and wickedness as bringing difficulty and sadness.

-Show breaking the law of chastity as being evil and causing heartache, sorrow, depression, and bitter consequences. This is the sin next to murder (Alma 39:5). **Heroic characters will sacrifice their lives before allowing their virtue to be taken.** Seek movies which show families honoring their marital vows.

-Show heroes sacrificing their lives for others in service and practicing great and simple deeds of benevolence. That service is the source of happiness. That greediness causes misery and regret. That heroes build humanity by doing good to all around them. Good characters are shown striving to change and become better with all their heart, might, mind, and strength.

-Especially value movies which show characters who believe in and follow Christ, who perform righteous works through faith and diligence, enduring persecution.

-Ensure sacred things are portrayed as sacred. Hymns should never be re-written in irreverent ways with loud music and tempos.

[Ch. 13 \(Be an Example\)](#)

-It seems everyone is worried about being "too good." The truth is, you can't be "too good". Elder Hartman Rector Jr. said, "when you get older and look back at your life, you are never going to regret having lived the highest standard you could. You will never say to yourself, 'I wish I hadn't been so careful in my media selection,' or 'I wish I hadn't been so kind and charitable to my neighbors' You will always look back and wish you had been better. Always live the best you can so you can live a life without regrets."

-Make every moment a missionary effort to share the gospel.

-Make uplifting YouTube playlists and share them.

-We don't need to tear others down or condemn them. "We have no need to tear down the houses of other people [using this expression as a symbol]. We are perfectly willing that they should live in the homes they have erected for themselves, and we will try to show them a better way. Show them a better way and build them a better house, and then invite them kindly, in the spirit of Christ, of true Christianity, to enter the better dwelling." (Joseph F. Smith, Gospel Doctrine p256)

-Enjoy having friends of different faiths. They may not apply principles in the same way we do, but they share the common goal of raising the bar, of trying to please a righteous God, whose children we all are.

-Everyone who strives to live higher standards experiences mockery. It hurts to stand out and be different. But we can and must have high standards unapologetically.

-Your ideals are reflected in your music, art, conversation, diet, etc.

-Your children need a cause, and they need to be pure so their channel of revelation will not be hindered. A home can be transformed by changing the standards.

Ch. 14 (Change of Heart by Leah)

-There's a big difference between participating because you should, and having your heart in something.

-It's easy to do things behind your families back when your heart isn't in on the family vision.

-A father can ask, "is there any part of you that wants this other way?" inviting the rebellious child to live the better standards and the gospel life.

-Don't just learn about God, become like Him. Do you just know gospel trivia, or do you actually know who God is?

-What changes people? Not prayer, etc. It's sacrifice. (Elsewhere in the text it is pointed out that the devil is more pleased about you not living the scriptures than not reading them.)

[Note: This is not to undermine prayer. Prayer is the great source of revelation and spiritual power which inspires the saints and sinners to do good and great things. But yes, it's actually getting up and doing something that will change you. You can't stop at prayer and scripture study, however helpful those things are.]

-One must make permanent commitment. Make a line in the sand. It's impossible to be neutral. The gospel will influence how you eat, talk, walk, sit, speak, think, which skills you pursue, etc. The choice to embrace the gospel is a big choice, and effects everything.

-Know who you are. Your heritage will help you know how to act. You don't want to deny your heritage.

[Note: I'm reminded of The Ten Commandments movie directed by Cecil DeMille. The Pharaoh is deciding who will be the next ruler. His rebellious son wants the throne, and says it belongs to him due to his bloodline. The wise leader responds something to the effect of, "Whoever is most fit to rule will be the next Pharaoh. I owe that to my fathers, not to my sons." He demonstrated the need to live up to what his forefathers had done before him, to not let the legacy of greatness die with him.]

-Before we are really converted, we will be emotionally blind to many of our faults. We will not hate sin.

- See the free magazine “Voice of the Martyrs”
- See book “God’s Double Agent”
- Share your conversion story at hereistandnow.com/Stoddard/refinersfire
- Once converted, among your favorite stories may be those of Christian missionaries and martyrs.

Suggested Books: Christian Persecution

- The Heavenly Man by Brother Yun
- God's Smuggler by Andrew van der Bijl
- Tortured for Christ by Richard Wurmbrand
- Words of Joseph Smith, a collection of Nauvoo discourses by Joseph Smith
- The Pastor's Wife by Sabina Wurmbrand
- I Found God in Soviet Russia by John H. Noble
- These Are The Generations by Eric Foley
- Hearts of fire by The Voice of the Martyrs
- Into the Den of Infidels, a collection of Muslim conversion stories by Voice of the Martyrs
- Captive in Iran by Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh, and their experience in Evin Prison
- Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus by Nabeel Qureshi
- The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom
- I Dared to Call Him Father by Bilquis Sheikh
- Restricted Nations series by The Voice of the Martyrs
- Tortured for His Faith by Haralan Popov
- I Will Die Free by Humberto Noble Alexander
- The Persecutor by Sergei Kourdakov
- God’s Double Agent by Bob Fu
- Vanya: A True Story by Myrna Grant
- The Voice of the Martyrs (Magazine, free monthly)

Suggested Movies: Christian Persecution

- China Cry (1990)
- For Greater Glory (2012)

- On Wings of Eagles (2016)
- The Printing (1990)
- Tortured for Christ (2018)
- Sabina: Tortured for Christ – The Nazi Years (2022)
- Bamboo in the Winter (1991)
- The Least of These (2019)
- Polycarp (2015)
- Bless You, Prison (2002)
- Behind the Sun (1995)
- Gold Through the Fire (1987)
- Flame in the Wind (1971)
- God’s Outlaw (1986)
- The Radicals (1989)
- Sarah’s Trail of Blood (2007)
- Free Burma Rangers (2020)
- The Insanity of God (2016)
- Messenger of the Truth (2013)

[End of suggested books & movies]

-“Those who have read [the scriptures], and who have drunk of the stream of knowledge which they convey, know how to appreciate them.” -Joseph Smith

-Memorizing long passages of scripture can become a comfort. Try Alma 5, Alma 7:14-15, Mormon 9:25-29, 1 John 3:13 1 Nephi 15:24.

-Weekly fasts can be helpful

-James went on walks all through the year with his kids where they could freely talk.

-James suggested his daughter Leah read Words of Joseph Smith, which brought her a whole new level of wisdom clarity and power. She also began to listen to gospel audiobooks by Ezra Taft Benson and Joseph Fielding Smith. Her desires slowly changed for good as she **obeyed** the principles she was learning.

-Ezra Taft Benson said “The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. **Christ take the slums out of the people, and then they take themselves out of the slums**...Christ changes men, and changed men can change the world. Men changed for Christ will be captained by Christ. Like Paul they will be asking, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” Peter stated they will “follow his steps.” John said they will “walk, even as he walked.” (ETB “Born of God” Ensign July 1989)

-When Leah had various concerns (of gospel standards etc.), James spoke with her hours and hours, even late into the night, even when he had work early in the morning. He never complained about this.

-James said that if you watch low standard movies etc., that **will affect you for years** to come, even if you clean it up. These films etc. effect our attitudes, perspective on authority, sensitivity to sin, etc. Those who watch us like younger siblings are also impacted by the negative/low standard times.

-Wasted time results in great regret. Many have gone unhelped by our desires to have fun.

-Joseph Smith said, “Our heavenly **father is more liberal** in his views, and **boundless** in his mercies and blessings, **than we are ready** to believe or receive, and at the same time is more terrible to the workers of iniquity, **more awful** in the executions of his punishments, and more ready to **detect every false** way than we are apt to suppose him to be.” (JS, Letter to Nancy Ridgon, circa mid-April 1842 p2, The Joseph Smith Papers)

-Our taste for media can change dramatically by, and only by, God’s grace

-The rebel culture of our time is strong. Its on the billboards, cars, stickers, movies, music, books, etc. Entertainment can desensitize us, and make us “without feeling”.

-Charles Spurgeon said, “Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the **difference between right and almost right.**”

-See josephsmithfoundation.com/battlelines, which is a list of Gospel principles and Satanic counterfeits. [Note: I’ve done something similar, a great way to study. See RichardsonStudies.com writings on Awakening to The Great Divide.]

-When we learn the solutions to life’s problems, we had better share them, or it would have been better if we hadn’t known them.

[Ch. 15 \(Forgiveness & Healing\)](#)

-When we whitewash history or portray Christian life as smooth-sailing, we lose touch with reality, with the true meaning of discipleship. Try to be up front and tell the whole story.

[Note: I don’t think this means we need to dwell upon the bad, but yes retelling the grievances can sometimes serve an important purpose.]

-Most have experienced abuse in some form.

-The free Gospel from God is the solution, not self-help books.

-An abused person or an abuser can resort to a “survival of the fittest” mindset rather than a gospel mindset. Such as:

Support yourself, punish your enemies VS forgive, don’t seek vengeance, protect yourself in a loving way.

Strong survive while weak die out VS strong lay down their lives for the weak (like Christ).

Strong prey on and use the weak to survive VS strong building up the weak at their own expense, serving and sacrificing to the best of their ability.

Driving emotion of fear VS love.

Instinct appetite and urges VS principles laws and restraining urges.

Victim due to environment and genetics VS overcoming genetics in any environment.

Forever scarred vs complete healing.

External rules and force VS God softening the heart and changing ones nature.

[End of “Survival of the Fittest” VS Gospel Solutions]

-James didn't allow rude sarcasm or fighting. He would calm the situation, go on a walk and talk through the issue, etc. to help the tempers calm down. He could be very firm on these standards.

-Learn to forgive, even when the persecutor continues to persecute.

-Listening to the Book of Mormon while doing chores changed one's heart to no longer feel hatred toward a persecutor.

-Remember: God has forgiven us, we can forgive others.

-Only Charity the pure love of Christ can overcome enmity, it has real power.

-The heart of the gospel is forgiveness.

-Remember God is in charge, don't worry about false accusations, don't lose confidence in the Lord's deliverance for those in the right.

-Ignore aggressive attackers and move on. [Note: This reminds me of something Elder Bedar recently said in a press conference, that the church has always been mischaracterized and put down, as was Christ, we don't focus on that, we press forward with the mission that we must accomplish.]

-Build up the good, don't tear down.

-James said, “There are **two kinds of people in this world**. People who do good, and people who gossip about people who do good.”

-Try to help your persecutors, not to tear them down. Perhaps they don't care now, but they may in the future. When something clicks, when they are desperate for a friend, be there. Let them know by your actions that you are there to help when they are ready.

-Going through hard persecution etc. can help you be a better person and better equip you to help others.

-James never bashed on those who had injured him.

-We can ask God “what is to become of my kids?” God said to James along these lines when things were hard, “[James,] what about MY kids?” In other words, we must not let our grief disable us from helping others.

[Ch. 16 \(Conversion, Testimony by Isaiah\)](#)

-A begrudgingly given gift is the same as if it were never given (Moroni 7:8). At times we act because it's what we have to do, or it being the right thing to do, rather than out of a desire to follow the Savior. James taught it is

important for each to receive their own testimony of the gospel. To not be sunshine patriots, but to be driven by one's own testimony.

-Heber C Kimball prophesied, "The time will come when no man nor woman will be able to endure on borrowed light. Each will have to be guided by the light within himself. If you do not have it, how can you stand?...You will be left to the light within yourselves. If you don't have it you will not stand; therefore seek the testimony of Jesus and cleave to it, hat when the trying time comes you may not stumble and fall." (Life of HCK p461)

-They spent most weekends and several weekdays working the property, building fence and irrigation, a shop, etc.

-Choosing to forgive is harder than a battle.

-A testimony and witness comes from taking the harder road and sacrificing.

-A sacrament we covenant to 1. Take upon us the name of Christ, meaning to commit to do exactly what he would do if he were here. 2. Always remember him, meaning to keep Christ on our minds, to build our lives around the gospel rather than just fitting in. 3. Keep his commandments, meaning all of them, so we can have the spirit of Christ with us.

Ch. 17 (Finding Confidence Again)

-They were asked to write a book on the BFM translation and to have it done in a short time window of a few months.

-In writing they would pause to care for small children, and return to work, getting a little in here and there.

-Even when they were personally under attack and hurting in personal matters, they worked concecrating their time, and an amazing spirit came.

-The small child (Mary) put off her chicken farming wishes to help the project move along.

-Ezra 8-10 years old was his dad James' right hand man in editing. Other editors mistook him for an adult editor.

-Young Mary 10-13 wrote this poem about wholesome music: "Oh, the melody is so sweet When it doesn't have that backbeat All the instruments playing, brings a peaceful feeling. My heart is always truly sad when sons turn that bad. But I am always greeting a song to praise our Lord and King"...

-Family should become your best friends. God put you together for a reason. Ensure they can count on you. Forgive and love even in the hardest situations. Family brings out your real character more so than how you act around others, it is a measuring stick of where to improve.

Ch. 18 (Miracles)

-When very sick James asked of how others were doing, and reminded them to take care of themselves. "Stop worrying about me."

-In the hospital James taught the hospital chaplain about Joseph Smith, the translation, and the traditionalist vs progressive history of the church.

-Remember Paul and Silas sang in their prison in chains.

-James continued to go walking even when he was supposed to be on bed rest.

-James continued researching, gathering needed quotes etc. while hospitalized.

-James held out as long as he could for his kids' sake.

-We must taste the bitter if we are to be able to serve others.

-James was able to ordain his kids in the hospital with miraculous timing.

Ch. 19 (Keep the Faith)

-The New Jerusalem isn't a spiritual fairytale, it will be a real city with real people, real blood, real promises. Gather people with the scriptures.

-James wrote a hymn "Faithful Footsteps" to the tune of "Come Thou Fount" to honor all of those who have stood for truth through the last many years without station, respect or honor. Those who have quietly stood along and been ridiculed tortured and persecuted. It reads thus:

Faithful footsteps of my father,s

Seeking ancient Truth once more.

Sacred scripture clasp'd in darkness,

Buring fire in mother-tongue.

Yoke of iron, tortured, trodden;

Dampness chills in murky gloom.

Yet a willing heart to suffer

Father's will 'till Morning's loom.

True and Faithful to His Calling

To be separate from the world.

Hunted, driven from the North land,

Joined in cov'nant for His Word.

Born of peril, storming tempest,

Sun, nor moon, nor star canst see.

Yet Lord thou canst surely save us,

Thou hast called us to be free.

Sacred honor, lives and fortunes,
Parchment's words must never die,
Declaration, rights unalienable,
Bleeding cause, yet choice of Heav'n.
First for God, then family, country,
Millions yet, methinks I see.
But for now a voice of duty,
And the gibbet to be free.

These two prophets, sacred witness
Why from youth the called revile?
Like pure lambs going to the slaughter
They are calm as summer's morn
Sacred names had by all nations
Good or evil they must judge.
As for me, I had this witness
I praise heaven's worthy sons.

-James loved his Hebrew roots and identity as a son of Abraham, a son of Israel.

-His life was built on the principle of work.

-For his funeral, James' wishes were 1. An inexpensive white casket 2. Funeral talks should all bear testimony of Jesus Christ through personal experience, no bragging and no sermonizing 3. On his headstone to have two scriptures: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 1:4) and "...whosoever will save his life in this world, shall lose it in the world to come. And whosoever will lose his life in this world, for my sake, shall find it in the world to come." (JST Matthew 16:27-28)

Mother Teresa: In Her Own Words - Book Highlights (finish & edit)

This is a great book to check in with whenever I'm feeling like I'm doing well, I can review this to be reminded how there's so much more I can do, which I'm very glad to hear, as it promises always greater opportunities for joy in Christ.

I do of course reject the idea that a celibate life without marriage is a higher way. Nuns are married to Christ, but inasmuch as you marry a Christian man, you are married to Christ. I see Christian marriage as a higher virtue than Christian celibacy. But of course the Catholics don't have the full truth on this point, and our hats are off to them for doing what they see as the highest ideal. Surely their sacrifices will be made up to them for their faithfulness to Christ as they know Him.

I also reject the idea that all forms of pleasure are evil, and that any comforts are to be rejected. It is true that our highest goal is to care for the needy, but sometimes on the path of duty, a little refreshment helps us to be renewed and do our duty all the better. As Joseph Smith put it, unstringing the bow helps it to not lose its string. This is not to undermine the need for heroic self sacrifice - we know of the priesthood doctrine that for those who give themselves to service in God, God will renew their flesh. But wholesome recreation remains a true principle. I will confess that Teresa has a level of mastery I will likely never attain to in this life, and there certainly is something to rejecting comforts in our labors, particularly to the extent that it helps us to live among and as one of those we are called to serve. Teresa would agree with this to an extent, as she professes that God calls each of us to different things (though she sees no need for anyone to be called to act outside of God's church, and sees that all could be better off in it, which is excellent.)

Teresa also makes a comment in this book that her manner of dress is changeable based on the people she is among, that she would be perfectly willing to change that mode of dress to fit the customs of those she labored among if such were more acceptable. So I think she has these principles down, and my clarifications here are perhaps not so much to disagree with Teresa as to caution people against getting the wrong idea about Teresa's approach.

Now on to the book highlights:

People were always asking her to slow down and rest to this she replied I have eternity to rest

The more we renounce the more we draw closer to God.

She isn't the person a great theologian she is of great compassion

Mother Teresa: On Prayer

Jesus said why are you sleeping wake up and pray
Luke 22

My secret is very simple I pray. Praying to God is loving him.

God allows failure but he does not want discouragement

Don't pray long and drawn out but short full of love

If we want to be able to love we must be able to pray

Prayer is what helps us reach our goal of perfection

Prayers the breath of Life to our soul and Holiness is impossible without it

Mental prayer is greatly fostered by simplicity when we forget ourselves

There can be a mental prayer or you shut your eyes shut your mouth and open your heart to God and there can be vocal prayer. In vocal prayer respect to God in mental prayer he speaks to us. It is then that God pours himself into us.

Note some say truly but in completely that when we want to talk to God we pray and when we want God to talk to us we read the scriptures. But of course God speaks to us in prayer and that's a really big time when he speaks to us. I believe most of conversion comes through prayer not reading.

Let the love of God take entire and absolute possession of your heart. Let it become the second nature of your heart. Seek to please God in all things and refuse him nothing.

If you fail pray and rise up again at once.

You have to deepen your life in prayer before you'll be able to give the word of God to people who are hungry for it

You learn humility only by accepting humiliations. You will need humiliation all through your life. The greatest humiliation is to know that you are nothing and you come to know this by prayer when You face God. When you come face to face with God you cannot but know that you are nothing and have nothing.

We cannot put ourselves directly in the presence of God if we don't practice internal and external silence. The internal silence is very difficult but we must make the effort. That brings new unity and energy. Unity is the fruit of prayer humility and love.

In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing and empty and God can fill you with himself. Souls of prayer our souls of great silence. Silence gives us a new outlook on everything and we need silence to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say but what God says to us and through us. If your heart is full of other things you cannot hear God. If we really want and need to pray we must be willing to do it now. These are the first steps of prayer and the last steps are the presence of God. When our hearts are full our mouths will have to speak. Before you speak it is necessary to listen then from the fullness of your heart you speak and God listens.

Jesus often left society to be alone for prayer.

We cannot find God in noise and agitation but in nature. Plants grow in silence as do planets and stars move in silence.

When we have silence of the heart which includes silence of the eyes ears and mouth God will speak to us.

If we are careful of silence it will be easy to pray. There is so much talk and repetition in words and writing and our prayer life suffers greatly due to the lack of silence.

Real prayer is Union with God like the vine to the branch as it says in John. We need this to produce fruit whatever kind of fruit or money etc we are called to produce. It is the power of oneness with God

There is no prayer without sacrifice and there is no sacrifice without prayer. Jesus' life was spent in intimate Union with his father as he passed through this world and we need to do the same.

Today God loves the world so much that he gives you and me to be his love. We need to love him to use us to share his food his clothing with those in need.

If we have faith we are continually in the presence of God.

Contemplation is to live our life in Christ's life.
Contemplation is not to be locked in a dark place but to be living for God.

Don't waste your time looking for extraordinary experiences in contemplation just live the pure Life watching for God's coming as we do his work.

Prayer is necessary to keep Us alive to the grace of God as air is necessary to keep our bodies alive.

Introductory note I have jotted down some of the ideas she expressed is often not direct quotations but summaries of the principles she taught.

If we don't pray our presence and our words will have no power. We need to be completely available to God in every moment.

Knowledge of God produces love and knowledge of the self produces humility.

St Augustine says fill yourself first then will you be able to then only will you be able to fill others.

Knowledge of the self is also a safeguard against pride. The greatest mistake is to think that you are too strong to fall into temptation. You have to walk through the fire but refuse to give in to temptation.

Pray to make loved the one who is not loved.

Words to which do not increase Christ increase the darkness. Pray for the light to know Love and do the will of God.

Mother Teresa: On Love

It is better to commit faults with tenderness than to work miracles with unkindness

Note that seems that as we try our best we'll make mistakes on both sides of the line, but try we must. Some circumstances do require Swift and straightforward rebukes.

God commands us to love him and our neighbor and he cannot command The impossible

We can harvest God's love any season and anyone can do it

To love we do not need to do something extraordinary but we need to do is to love without getting tired, like a continual lamp burning from one drop of oil after another.

Keep your lamp burning and you will recognize Jesus in you.

Jesus loved us to the limit of love, the cross.

We too must love till our death

When we care for the poor we are touching the body of Christ. Matthew 25:40

A mother of 12 children's last child was terribly mutilated. Teresa said she volunteered to welcome that child into her house where there are many others of similar conditions. The mother began to cry and said "For God's sake mother don't tell me that. This creature is the greatest gift of God to me and my family. All our love is focused on her. Our lives would be empty if you took her from us."

One family with a crippled child called the child teacher of love has that child talks in Love by what they would do for him.

Don't try to conquer the world with bombs but with love and sacrifice

It is the intensity of love we put into our gestures that makes them beautiful for God.

It's easy to love those who are far away but much harder to love those who are right next to us.

Sometimes it's hard for the husband and wife to smile at each other. (Later she adds,) Teresa is married to Jesus and it is difficult sometimes to smile that Jesus because he can be very demanding at times.

The fulfillment of the law is to love one another. Jesus came to teach us that God loves us and he wants us to love one another.

We are created not just to seek things but to love and be loved.

Do little good things for the sake of the great (big) thing which is the will of God.

If you are discouraged is a sign of pride as it shows you trust in your own powers. Do your best and that is all. Be humble and you will never be disturbed. The Lord has willed you here where you are, he will offer a solution.

When We touch the poor it makes us heroic and makes us forget about our inferiority.

Intense love does not measure, it just gives. Charity is an overflow of the love of God from within.

The more disgusting the work the more love will be required to do it.

Note just be sure that you never sink down to their level morally when you're dealing with immoral people. You may not be able to persuade them to go higher but you can and always must offer them your example.

When we find God we gained back the innocence of our youth which we had lost.

When you have found God go home and bring joy to your parents.

A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love. Joy is strength. The poor felt attracted to Jesus because they felt a higher power in him which flowed out from him.

The joy of the Resurrection can allow us to not become ever discouraged.

Joy is not just a matter of temperament, it is always hard. This is why we have to seek it. We may not be able to give much but we can always give the joy that springs from a heart in love with God. Jesus can take full possession of our souls only if we surrender joyfully. Thus Joy is one of the greatest protections against temptation.

Mother Teresa: On Giving

Poor people are often very generous.

She heard of one family with eight children who had not eaten for days. She went to give them food. The mother went out and came back with only half the food, she had given to her neighbors who were also hungry.

It is a pity that the rich never gives to the point of feeling that they are in need.

One little child had never eaten chocolate and when he got a piece he said here take it and give it to the children. He gave something very precious to him and he gave it all.
Small children often make great sacrifices to give to the poor.

She doesn't allow people to have fundraisers for her she wants people to give up themselves.

Don't just give from your surplus, give until you really feel it.

One man who is paralyzed except for his hand stopped smoking for a week and gave the money he would have used for smoke to Teresa for charity.

The most difficult thing the suffering for experience is not being wanted.

We say God is loving and kind but can they see the living proof of that through us?

Do not be surprised or preoccupied at the failures in others but rather find the good in them because we are all created in the image of God. We aren't a community of saints we are a community of people trying to become saints.

One woman who likes to wear expensive clothing asked how she could help Teresa to serve the poor, Teresa prayed and was impressed to tell her to buy less expensive clothing and by clothing for the poor with the remainder of what she would have spent. The woman did this and was glad.

The rich who live with the worry of riches are actually very poor. They are only Rich if they put their money to the service of others.

Kindness has converted more people than zeal science or eloquence. Holiness grows fast where there is kindness.

There's a natural conscience within every person Christian or not Christian to know the difference between right and wrong.

Mother Teresa: On Being Holy

Our mission is to convey a living God's love

The first step to become holy is to will it.

To be holy is to carry out God's will with joy.

When you say you want to be holy you are saying you will divest yourself of everything that is not of God. It is to empty the heart of material things.

You can run to reach and possess God, but it all depends on whether you want to.

Christ tells us to aim very high not to be like Abraham or any of the saints but to be like our heavenly father.

The Passion of Christ is being relived everywhere and we can share in it if willing.

Gandhi said if Christians were to live their Christian lives to the fullest there would not be one Hindu left in India.

Submission is more than a duty, it is the secret of holiness.

St Francis said each one of us is what we are in the eyes of God, nothing more nothing less..

Live each day as though it were the first day of your conversion.

Note when it comes to being willing and wanting godliness to take upon us the name of Christ, are we willing and wanting to put aside the world's ways in favor of favor of God's ways? The reason we read the scriptures and listen to general conference and read the church manuals is because we can't reject the world and accept God if we don't even know what God wants. Do we know what God's ways are when it comes to eating dressing playing voting reading gaming, watching, sporting, dating, marrying, ...

Scripture says that God's ways are higher than our ways. I'd wager they are often at odds with the ways of psychologists with the ways of professors and the ways of doctors and the ways of popular politicians. The ways of your school teachers, the ways of your friends, and maybe even some of the ways your parents taught you growing up.

It's important to be in the true church or you won't get as correct information about what God wants from you, so you won't be able to become as He is to the same degree. And the degree we become like God is the degree we will be happy, as God is by definition the happiest person there is.

So step one: faith comes by hearing the word of God. Learn God's ways. Then pray to God that those ways will enter your heart, and that you'll have the courage to stand up for those ways. You will be tested. But with every test you pass, it becomes that much easier to be a saint. We are the latter Day saints, or the latter Day aints and complaints?

Yes, it can be hard to follow God. It can be lonely. But the alternative is so much worse. Surely hell is a lingering realization of what you could have been, but failed to become.

You also study doctrine because you need to know the rewards involved. I can't tell you, the bishop can't tell you, you have to find it, it's sort of a top secret. Get active about knowing your religion, what it wants you to do, what it has in store for you. When you know, it becomes a joy to lay down the old life and take up the cross. It has to do with learning how terrible and real hell is, and how wonderful and real heaven is. You've got to figure out all those mechanics.

Note for the beginning here I paraphrased Teresa and when I am adding something that's specifically my idea I do so by writing note:...

We cannot be renewed without the humility to realize what needs to be renewed in ourselves.

Being happy with God now means loving like he loves helping like he helps. Jesus is going to do great things with you if you let him and if you don't interfere with him.

Be very strict with what you are receiving from the outside beware anything that takes you away from the reality of what you have given to God.

We must not be afraid because God loves us and will continue to help us. When we understand the tenderness of God's love there is no need for us to despair.

We are very unlike Jesus we have very little love compassion and kindness.

The work of moral rearmament is carried out with discretion and love. The more discreet the more penetrating it will be. You give it to others and they absorb it.

Note I recall the teaching of Elder Holland that surely the thing that God must love being most about God is the thrill of being merciful.

Sustain the tempted by our prayer penance and love, and encouraging en lightning words when the opportunity arises. Encourage them to Bear suffering for the world.

Loving trust means confidence in Heavenly Father even when everything seems a total failure.

Walk in total freedom daring and fearless of any obstacle trusting in God knowing that nothing is impossible with God. Feel like little children, totally convinced of the goodness of God the Father.

When you learn that God exists you learn that you must live for him.

Faith in God is to go through life peacefully like a child with his hand in his mother's with no fear or anxiety.

Mother Teresa: On work & Service

God doesn't demand our constant attention just our willingness and effort.

We are the wires God is the current. We can let the current pass through us and use us to produce the light of the world, hurricane refuse to be used and let darkness prevail.

Perhaps you can read a newspaper to a blind man or babysit a family's child for a half hour. Many things are so small that we forget about them.

Everything we do can involve thought and importance even the little things.

God will not ask you how many books you've read or how many miracles you've worked he will ask if you've done your best for the love of him. Even if our best is failure it must be our best, our utmost.

If you are in love with Christ no matter how small your work it will be done better. Your work will prove your love. You'll be exhausted with work you may even kill yourself but unless your work is interwoven with love it is useless. To Work without love is slavery.

Serve God wherever you feel called to whether that's feeding the poor, changing social structures etc.

Never think in terms of crowds think in terms of individuals, that will inspire work.

I believe in person to person encounters.

It's difficult to see that when people are drunk and shouting that is Jesus in his distressing disguise. It must be clean and loving to bring compassion to them. We must be pure in heart to see Jesus in the person of the

spiritually poorest. It is an honor to serve Christ in the spiritual poorest and should be done with reverence and the spirit of sharing.

St Francis of Assisi was repulsed by lepers but he overcame it.

When you help someone cross the road or give them a glass of water you do it to Jesus.

Be ready to be detached from the work you are doing for Christ, it is not your work it is his. The talents God has given you are not yours, they have been given to you for your use for the glory of God. Be great and use everything in you for the glory of the Great Master.

If we are meek and humble we will learn to pray and therefore belong to Jesus therefore we will believe and love and serve. If you pray you will have faith and if you have faith you will naturally want to serve. When you have faith you want to put it into action. Faith in action is service. The fruit of Love is service and the fruit of service is peace. We should all work for peace.

Politicians should spend time on their knees to become better statesman.

Input prayer St Francis

Mother Teresa: On Jesus

Don't pass by the cross, it is a place of grace. There is a story of a little robin who saw Jesus on the cross and flew around until they found a way to remove just one thorn and in the process was prick himself. Be like that little robin find something you can do.

We all have to carry our own cross if we are to reach the summit with Jesus.
We must be emptied of ourselves and be Jesus's love and light in the world.

Mother Teresa has a value Chastity where she does not marry and focuses instead her devotion on God. Chastity is not just abstinence from marriage it is to have love for God.

Note I would take a different approach, the Latter-Day saints believe that marriage is part of the law of Chastity and is Holiness to the lord. Inasmuch as you marry a Christian you marry Christ.

Love in order to survive must be nourished by sacrifices, specially the sacrifice of self.

Quote the more we renounce the more we love God and man."

You have been traded for great things you must not be afraid to say yes to Jesus because there is no greater love than his love and No greater Joy than his Joy.

We can be there for people, even those who resent our presence.

Jesus in the form of the least of his brother is hungry not only for Bread but for love, to be taken into account.

All that Jesus asks of us is to give ourselves to him.

Note this might sound like a lot but it can be a very peaceful way when you consider the alternative or the world pressures you to be something you aren't, to strive for less meaningful things, the world is constantly pushing us to be doing things contrary to our diilvine nature. The miracle takes place when we give ourselves to god, our lives become so much more than they would have been otherwise, and all the while even in the stariving, peace which the world cannot give.

We must be totally available to Jesus in whatever form he comes to us.

Sanctity is Jesus in you.

Mother Teresa: On Poverty & the Poor

God did not create poverty, we did.

Poverty is not just hunger for bread but for the dignity of human love.

In some countries poverty is more spiritual involving loneliness disparagement and the lack of meaning in life.

Don't just be concerned about the poor who are far away it is more challenging to help the poor that are near you.

It is difficult to remove the spiritual hunger of a person who feels shut out from society.

It's not enough to know the spirit of poverty you have to know poverty itself. Poverty means not having anything.

Spending lots of money on food and clothes is trifling.
Remain as empty as possible so the Lord can fill us up.

Christ voluntarily became poor even though he was rich.

Note in this life and the one before

Rigorous poverty is a safeguard against our possessions keeping us from sharing.

Note it is good to have much if you give much as Jacob 2 says the only justification for riches is the desire to better serve the poor.

Religious orders historically have made the mistake of transitioning from serving to the poor to serving the rich.

Those we aid are poor by force and we are poor by choice

note this is the consecrated life it is to seek the interest of others as much as your own. It is as Brigham Young describes Zion that we all live in tents until everyone has a tent, then we all live in huts till everyone has a hut, then we all live in cabins till everyone has a cabin, and we progress together.

Poverty is love before it is renunciation. To love it is necessary to give and be free from selfishness.

When we are poor we can work with the poor and they say it is very hot we can likewise say that we too are experiencing the hot. As they go barefoot so do we. We stand in line for food as they, and have only a bucket of water as they. For us there is no fasting there is only giving of food as we receive it.

Note this is a good point on fasting. Fasting is better if it is more continuous humility than it is the occasional starving, and living high on the hog the other 95 percent of the time. Hugh Nibley said we should always be fasting. This means that we should live a humble life, always giving of ourselves. We can do the occasional complete fast, just as we can do the occasional treat, but the point is to typically lead a humble life. Nibley also says taking more than you need is stealing. More than enough is more than enough, and it doesn't belong to us. All belongs to God. There's no such thing as earning or deserving or being entitled to more than you need. This doesn't mean the government should crush the rich, it means we should voluntarily recognize God as the chief sovereign, and chose to live in accordance to his will. Only in the voluntary charity system can a person maintain his personal dignity and motivation to continue to produce at his best. This is not to detract from the church practice of once a month going 24 hours without food or water and giving those funds to the poor, this is to add to and make holier that sacrifice. It is of course a free will offering, and we set the bar lower for general church membership. Im aware of multiple accounts that attest to the leaders of the church fasting more than just once a month, and of their humble lifestyles. I'm not saying all church leaders live humble lives, I'm saying many do, and that pathway of holiness is narrow but open to all who wish for it.

Patched clothes are no disgrace. It is said that when Saint Francis of Assisi died his clothes were so patched that the original cloth was no longer there.

Jesus told people the people the good news after he fed them.

One woman Teresa picked up in the street looks very hungry, Teresa gave her a bowl of rice and she just stared at it she couldn't believe it was rice, she hadn't eaten in so long.

Note a person can live on only water for multiple months.

Perhaps in our homes there is no one naked or hungry but there could very well be someone deprived of attention and affection. Also consider your lonely aged father or mother, abandonment is an awful poverty.

All the homeless are someone's children and were all loved at some time.

Note I remember the song from Les Miserables called "Turning", it reads, "Did you see them going off to fight?

Children of the barricade who didn't last the night

Did you see them lying where they died?

Someone used to cradle them and kiss them when they cried

Did you see them lying side by side?

Who will wake them?

No one ever will"

That's the end of the lyric for our purposes here. Of course they will be awakened by God their father in the resurrection, but the point is that we fall so far short of giving the help people need, forgetting that all are precious children!

Once a person becomes a parent, seeing the suffering of anyone the age of your child becomes particularly painful, as you consider "what if that was my _____ (name of your child)". This I believe that being a parent can bring upon a person a sense of compassion which no other system can.

When you know people it causes you to love them which causes you to serve them.

What the poor gives to us is more than what we give to them.

The standard for judgment for all people Christian and non-Christian alike is how we treated the poor. Therefore the poor are the hope of humanity.

Mother Teresa: On Forgiveness

Whatever our religion, we know that if we really want to love, we must first learn to forgive before anything else.

Confession is where we go in sinners with sin and come out sinners without sin.

Confession is where we allow Jesus to take from us everything that divides us from him.

What appears to be a stumbling block can be a rock for us to step up on.

Knowledge is necessary for confession. This is why the saints could say they were criminals, because they saw God then they saw themselves. When the saints looked upon themselves with horror they really meant it.

Knowledge of ourselves helps us rise up because when we see our weakness we know we need God's help.

When we take the Eucharist (Sacrament) we pledge to take Jesus literally, to literally help the poor.

The Holy Communion is uniting ourselves with God, the saints understood this and they could spend hours preparing for it and hours giving thanks for it.

Mother Teresa: On Children and the Family

"I will take any child anytime night or day. Just let me know and I will come for him."

Only when love abides at home can we share it with our next door neighbor. You'll be able to say to them "yes love is here" and be able to share it

Teresa took in one little girl off the street and each day the little girl would run away and later return. They found out she was going to her mother who lived in the street under a tree where she had put two stones and did cooking. Teresa asked why she kept leaving and she has more with Teresa. The little girl said she loves her mother and cannot be without her. Thus we see there is more happiness in being with mother than with having many possessions. When she was with Teresa and the sisters in the home for the poor the child did not smile, but when the child was with her mother in the street she could not stop smiling. Why? Because they were family.

Teresa was in a neighborhood where there were no children. One lady was pushing a baby stroller and Teresa went over to see the child but to her shock it was not a child it was a dog and the stroller. She said she hated to see a dog take the place of a child.

"People are afraid of having children. Children have lost their place in the family."

Children are very lonely not having anyone at home to greet them so they go back into the streets. If the mother is home the children will be there too. To bring the children back home as a beautiful thing for God.

Note - families must sacrifice to have a mother in the home for the sake of the children. This is forever and always the primary role of women, and it's glory is not understood.

Children are a sign of God's love.

No one should dare to take human life (note here she is referring to abortion, she gated abortion). Life is the life of God in us. Life belongs to God and we have no right to destroy it.

Mary offered her body to form the image of Christ.

When Children are killed before they see the light of day is a great offense to God.

She promotes family planning, particularly among the poor.

Note this is certainly a difficult issue, and it does not seem wise for people to have a child out of wedlock, but we do encourage married couples to have children even when financially it doesn't make sense. Having children is asleep of faith financially and every other way.

Teresa continually took in more children. Her homes were always full of children.

Today the world is upside down because there is Little Love in the home or time for children and each other, to enjoy each other, and this lack of Love causes much suffering in the world.

"Everyone today seems to be in such a terrible rush, anxious for greater development and greater riches. Children have very little time for their parents and parents have very little time for their children and each other. So the breakdown of Peace in the world begins at home."

A family that prays is a United Family.
Families get broken because they don't pray together.

Her mother was usually busy all day long but when sunset Junior her customers to hurry and her tasks in order to be ready to receive her husband. No matter what happens she was always prepared with a smile to welcome him.

Today we are so busy that when children come home they are not welcomed with a smile.

Help children live today so that when tomorrow becomes today they can face it with greater Love.

Children can only learn love when they see parents love for each other.

"People who really and truly love each other are the happiest people in the world."

The poor who have little or nothing are often very happy as they love their children and their family.

"Jesus was born into a family and stayed in Nazareth for 30 years. He had come to redeem the world, yet he spent 30 years in Nazareth, during the humble work of an ordinary person. They spent all those years just living out family life."

Mother Teresa: On Suffering and Death

"The prize with which God rewards our self-abandonment is himself."

Teresa considered the suffering of others so much greater than her own.

A terrible monsoon disaster brought about sharing has people donated food and clothing from everywhere.

"Suffering will never be completely absent in our lives so don't be afraid of suffering."

Suffering in itself is useless but when we share it as the love of God it is a wonderful gift.

The Passion of Christ ends in the joy of the Resurrection of Christ, so when you suffer remember that the resurrection will come.

Teresa calls AIDS the leprosy of the West.

On Christmas day she opened a house to care for AIDS patients as a gift for Jesus's birthday.

Note it is high time that we stopped treating Christmas like a time to receive and more like a time to give. Of course there can't be giving without receiving, but let's involve our children more in the giving aspects, and let's not get too carried away in frivolous giving but seek for the poor to give to. Yes it is good for children to have the happy expectation of a gift but bad if that desire for things consumes them. We must teach them balance, we must teach them Christmas Day above all other days is a day to serve. I remember on my cross

lighting mission we went out in the rain to knock on doors Christmas Day to seek people to teach of Christ. My companion thought this was most strange.

When you have a headache remember Jesus's crown of thorns. When you have a backache remember Jesus being scourged with the whip. When your hands and feet hurt remember the crucifixion.

We are all meant to go home to God when we die.

One person was dying at a young age and asked why. Who apply came from a coworker but God wants you, not your works. The dying Young Christian lady perfectly happy after that.

Love and sacrifice to the point of hurting.

Note this is a little unrelated but perhaps can help teach a message. My brother was in an elite military program, I remember having a conversation with him where he told me "You don't stop when it hurts."

Death in the final analysis is the quickest and easiest means to go back to God. We come from God and we have to go back to him. Death is like our coronation, and can be beautiful. We miss them but they're back with God!

Mother Teresa: On the Missionaries of Charity

To be a missionary of Charity you need help with mind and body good sense and a joyous demeanor and the ability to learn.