

By President  
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# The Voice of the Lord

**T**he Doctrine and Covenants invites all people everywhere to hear the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ (see D&C 1:2, 4, 11, 34; 25:16). It is filled with His messages, warnings, and encouraging exhortations given by revelation to chosen prophets. In these revelations we can see how God can answer our prayers of faith with messages of instruction, peace, and warning.

In our prayers we seek to know what God would have us do, what we should do to find peace and happiness in this life and the next, and what lies ahead of us. The Doctrine and Covenants is filled with answers to such questions asked by ordinary people and by prophets in humble prayer. It can be a precious guide to teach us how to receive answers to questions about our temporal well-being and eternal salvation.

Humility and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are key. Oliver Cowdery received an answer from the Lord regarding his desire to help in the translation of the Book of Mormon: “Remember that without faith you can do nothing; therefore ask in faith. Trifle not with these things; do not ask for that which you ought not” (D&C 8:10).

Over and over in the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord requires faith and humility before He gives His help. One reason for this is that His answers may not come in the way we expect. Neither will they always be easy to accept.

Church history and the experiences of our ancestors illustrate this reality. My great-grandfather Henry Eyring

prayed fervently to know what he should do when he heard the restored gospel taught in 1855. The answer came in a dream.

He dreamed that he was seated at a table with Elder Erastus Snow of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and with an elder named William Brown. Elder Snow taught the principles of the gospel for what seemed to be an hour. Then Elder Snow said, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to be baptized and this man [Elder Brown] . . . shall baptize you.”<sup>1</sup> My family is grateful that Henry Eyring had the faith and humility to be baptized at 7:30 in the morning in a pool of rainwater in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, by Elder Brown.

The answer to his prayer did not come in an audible voice from the Lord. It came in a vision and dream in the night, as it did with Lehi (see 1 Nephi 8:2).

The Lord has taught us that answers can also come as feelings. In the Doctrine and Covenants, He taught Oliver Cowdery, “Behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart” (D&C 8:2).

And He encouraged Oliver this way: “Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?” (D&C 6:23).

The Doctrine and Covenants, Church history, and the history kept by Henry Eyring on his mission just after his baptism have taught me that answers can be felt as warnings as well as peace.

In April 1857, Elder Parley P. Pratt of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles attended a conference in what is now Oklahoma, USA. Henry Eyring recorded that Elder Pratt's "mind was filled with gloomy forebodings . . . , not being able to discern the future or any way of escape."<sup>2</sup> Henry recorded the sad news immediately thereafter of the martyrdom of the Apostle. Elder Pratt had gone forward on his journey despite feelings of danger, just as the Prophet Joseph had done in going to Carthage.

It is my testimony that the Lord always answers the humble prayer of faith. The Doctrine and Covenants and our personal experience teach us how to recognize those answers and accept them in faith, whether they be direction, confirmation of truth, or a warning. I pray that we always will listen for and recognize the loving voice of the Lord.

#### NOTES

1. "The Journal of Henry Eyring: 1835–1902" (unpublished manuscript in author's possession).
2. "The Journal of Henry Eyring: 1835–1902."

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#### TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

1. Consider reading together the paragraphs about prayer in this message. As you read, ask family members to listen carefully for how God answers prayers. Consider testifying of the importance of prayer.

2. The Doctrine and Covenants is filled with answers to questions asked by people in prayer. What if the answers to their questions (the revelations) were never recorded? Encourage the family to learn to recognize and follow the promptings of the Spirit. They may want to record their thoughts regarding prayer in their journals.

## YOUTH

### Listening for the Promptings

By María Isabel Molina

**O**ne night my young cousin ran away from home, so I hurried to go look for her. As I drove, I prayed for the Spirit to help me. I knew that God would

answer and direct me, and I tried to listen to the Spirit's promptings. But when I couldn't hear anything, I began to feel desperate and felt that the Spirit was not prompting me.

Although I wanted to go farther away to search, I felt that I should stay in the area around my cousin's home. So I decided to drive around the area once more. As I stopped at an intersection, I saw the silhouette of a young girl walking. I had found my cousin!

As I got out of the car and ran to her, I realized that the Spirit had been directing me all along by helping me feel that I should stay in the same area. Because I had been listening for a quiet voice, I nearly ignored the Spirit's promptings. I then understood that many times we will not hear a voice, but we will feel impressions in our hearts.

I was so thankful for the Spirit's guidance. Truly He is always there! As the scriptures say, "The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion" D&C 121:46).

If we are worthy of the Spirit's guidance and we pay attention, we can be instruments in God's hands to do good for many people. With the constant companionship of the Spirit, we will know the way we should go.

## CHILDREN

### A Prayer Adventure

**P**resident Eyring teaches that prayers can be answered in many different ways. You can have an adventure searching the scriptures to find out some of those ways.

Look up each scripture below. In your journal, write a few words to describe what these scriptures say about answers to prayer.

You can also write in your journal about your own experiences with prayers being answered.

John 14:26

Doctrine and Covenants 6:22–23

Doctrine and Covenants 8:2

Doctrine and Covenants 9:8–9

Proverbs 8:10–11



Faith, Family, Relief

# Missionary Work

*Prayerfully study this material and, as appropriate, discuss it with the sisters you visit. Use the questions to help you strengthen your sisters and to make Relief Society an active part of your own life.*

Latter-day Saints are sent forth “to labor in [the Lord’s] vineyard for the salvation of the souls of men” (D&C 138:56), which includes missionary work. We don’t need a formal mission call to share the gospel. Others whose lives will be blessed by the gospel surround us, and as we prepare ourselves, the Lord will use us. Visiting teachers can embrace their spiritual responsibilities and help “bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39).

When the Prophet Joseph Smith organized the Relief Society in 1842, he said that the women were not only to look after the poor but also to save souls.<sup>1</sup> This is still our purpose.

“The Lord . . . entrusts a testimony of the truth to those who will share it with others,” said President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency. “Even more, the Lord expects the members of His Church to ‘open [their mouths] at all times,

declaring [His] gospel with the sound of rejoicing’ (D&C 28:16). . . . Sometimes a single phrase of testimony can set events in motion that affect someone’s life for eternity.”<sup>2</sup>

## From the Scriptures

Doctrine and Covenants 1:20–23; 18:15; 123:12

## From Our History

The story of Olga Kovářová of the former Czechoslovakia is an example of member missionary work from our Relief Society history. In the 1970s, Olga was a doctoral student and hungry for a deeper spiritual life. She noticed 75-year-old Otakar Vojkůvka, a Latter-day Saint. “He appeared to me seventy-five in his age but in his heart nearer to eighteen and full of joy,” she said. “This was so unusual in Czechoslovakia at that time of cynicism.”

Olga asked Otakar and his family how they found joy. They

introduced her to other Church members and gave her a Book of Mormon. She read it eagerly and was soon baptized and confirmed. Since that time Olga has been an influence for good in a world of political oppression and religious persecution. She served as Relief Society president in her little branch and helped save the souls of others by bringing them to Christ.<sup>3</sup>

## NOTES

1. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 453.
2. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Waiting on the Road to Damascus,” *Liahona*, May 2011, 76–77.
3. See *Daughters in My Kingdom: The History and Work of Relief Society* (2011), 92–95.

## What Can I Do?

1. Do I follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost as I share my testimony with the sisters I visit?
2. How am I helping the sisters I watch over to learn the gospel?

For more information, go to [reliefsociety.lds.org](http://reliefsociety.lds.org).