

MESSAGE FROM A MEMBER OF THE SEVENTY

The Journey to the Promised Self-Reliance

By **Claude R. Gamiette**

Area Seventy

The Book of Mormon teaches in many instances “inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper” (1 Nephi 2:20; see 1 Nephi 4:14; Mosiah 1:7; Alma 9:13). The Lord desires to provide for His Saints (see Doctrine and Covenants 104:15). In the New Testament we read that the gospel is preached to the poor (see Luke 4:18). Gospel principles seek to lift men up out of mediocrity to allow them to prosper temporarily while they grow spiritually. We read in Jacob 2:18–19, “But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good.” Self-reliance is based on principles of faith in God and in righteousness, principles that need to be implemented in our lives to help us prosper.

The foundation of self-reliance includes twelve doctrinal principles and practices that, as we integrate them in our lives, give us the foundation to build personally to greater self-reliance. Faith, repentance, obedience, and perseverance are principles that we must seek after, teach, and

implement in our behavior. These are not just quick-fix techniques towards prosperity, rather they are guiding principles that are needed to build our character, to allow us to face the challenges that await us on our journey to self-reliance.

The journey to self-reliance could be compared to the journey to the promised land. Often these journeys start with storage, planning, and budgets. But the first steps in the wilderness are full of challenges, unplanned events, and broken bows. Like Nephi, success is not just in starting the journey, but in persevering, continually

applying principles of faith, diligence, and obedience all the way to the end, remembering that the Lord will sustain those who seek to become self-reliant. He will send angels to guide the traveler on the road to self-reliance, for all is spiritual to Him.

The journey to self-reliance often requires acquiring new talents (see Doctrine and Covenants 82:18). There again, the Lord sustains us by enlightening our minds. We must learn to evaluate our competencies and approach the task of learning with confidence and faith. Nephi used regular prayers and faith to understand



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how to build a boat in the Lord's way; because of his consistency in crying to the Lord and counseling with Him, he received line upon line precept upon precept not only spiritual understanding but also how to build a boat, a temple, tools, etc., gaining at the same time temporal and spiritual understanding.

Becoming self-reliant requires one to lift up his vision of who he is and to what he can aspire. Start small but think big; every journey starts with a first step in the right direction. Faith is more than just preparing; it is taking steps forward, pursuing a vision of what can be, acting with consistency and regularity.

Fear is the enemy of faith. Though we must do all we can to mitigate the risk that comes with any change, fear of the future and the belief that we cannot get more than what we already have are powerful hindrances to progression. Self-reliance requires the spirit of entrepreneurship, the will to conquer, and the confidence that God has already prepared the way. Let us remember Nephi's answer to his father: "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them" (1 Nephi 3:7).

Though the way was prepared, Nephi still had to try three times: he

was beaten by his brothers, he lost all his father's gold, and he had to demonstrate great determination. "As the Lord liveth, and as we live, we will not go down unto our father in the wilderness until we have accomplished the thing which the Lord hath commanded us" (1 Nephi 3:15).

In summary, each member should understand these doctrinal points regarding self-reliance:

1. Self-reliance is a commandment from God, essential to the plan of salvation. President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) taught, "The responsibility for each person's social, emotional, spiritual, physical, or economic well-being rests first upon himself, second upon his family, and third upon the Church if he is a faithful member thereof" (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball* [2006], 116).
2. God wants to provide for His Saints who seek to become self-reliant (see Doctrine and Covenants 104:15), but challenges will always be there for us to rise above, to test our commitment to living correct principles in the midst of adversity.
3. The temporal and the spiritual are interconnected. Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, "The two great commandments—to love God and our neighbor—are a joining

of the temporal and the spiritual" ("Providing in the Lord's way," *Liahona*, Nov 2011, 53). As we seek temporal self-reliance, relying on the Lord (see Jacob 2:18–19), we shall develop our spiritual strength and better understand the Lord's hand in our lives. Like the brother of Jared, we shall see the Lord's finger in our lives as we seek to raise and lift others around us.

God our Father lives, Jesus is the Christ; They invite us to become self-reliant in order that our faith and our determination may grow and that we may serve and help others become self-reliant also. ■

LOCAL PAGES

Supporting My Children in Seminary

By Luis Daniel Santana

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At this wonderful time of great opportunities and technological advances, our children need to have a secure

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anchor where they can learn how to receive revelation, come to know the Savior through guided scripture study, and act righteously when faced with opportunities to show their faith and courage. As parents, our job is to teach, provide, and guide our children to have experiences that will facilitate their conversion to the gospel, enabling them to find happiness in this life and in the life to come by living a Christ-centered life.

President Boyd K. Packer (1924–2015), President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, taught, “Parents, encourage, even insist, that your students register for seminary or institute. Presidents, bishops, youth leaders, you are responsible to encourage every youngster, without exception, to enroll. Few things you do will benefit them quite as much.”¹ I like President Packer’s emphasis on *encouraging* and *insisting*. He knew of the great blessings that come from participating

in seminary and of how excellent your children will become because of it.

I would like to encourage you to register your children for seminary using the following website, which will also work on your mobile devices: **myseminary.lds.org**. Not only will this app allow you to register your children for seminary (which is extremely important to be able to gain approval to use the students’ information in the system, etc.), but as parents, you can also view your children’s development and history throughout the course, monitor and update their reading, and see what assignments they have to complete in case they need to improve their attendance to get credits.

Leaders can also use this tool to verify the progress of the youth at the ward and stake level. This is useful for measuring whether the program is accomplishing the established goals on a monthly basis, for making any adjustments to their plans, and for

continuing to bless the youth under their jurisdiction.

We would like to show the registration process through this tutorial. The video shows the registration steps, and it also explains the benefits that it offers you as parents when you register your children for seminary this way.

Registration opens up one month before the beginning of the new school year and ends on the last day of the school year (this means that youth can enroll in seminary anytime during the year, whether they are baptized in the Church or learn about the program during the year).

We know that regular seminary attendance will help your children to understand and trust in the teachings and in the Atonement of Jesus Christ, to qualify for the blessings of the temple, and to prepare for eternal life with Heavenly Father.

President Thomas S. Monson (1927–2018) said, “How grateful I am



that the family home evening manual places emphasis upon the scriptures. The seminary and institute curricula likewise stress the scriptures and help the student to internalize their vibrancy and meaning.”²

“The holy scriptures, the guidance of your parents, and the diligent teaching

you receive in Primary, Young Women, Sunday School, sacrament meeting, and seminary will fortify you in your determination to be your best self.”³

I know that as we allow our children to participate in the seminary program, we will see the fulfillment of these promises and we will have

a feeling of joy in our hearts as we know that we have prepared a righteous posterity. ■

NOTES

1. Boyd K. Packer, “Agency and Control,” *Ensign*, May 1983, 67.
2. Thomas S. Monson, *Pathways to Perfection* (1973), 98.
3. Thomas S. Monson, “Your Celestial Journey,” *Liahona*, July 1999, 115.

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- Conversion story
- Special life lesson
- Missionary story
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EMAIL YOUR STORY OR QUESTIONS TO:

Sister Georgina Rosario: gutierrezgr@ldschurch.org

We are waiting to hear from you! ■

