

“Seek This Jesus”

Julie B. Beck

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It is good to be back in the Marriott Center for another BYU Women’s Conference because these events have always been attended by a great and powerful outpouring of the Spirit. I know it’s because the combined efforts of all of those who have worked to bring this about make it special, and their work is consecrated for our benefit.

I also know that this is a Women’s Conference, but I have invited all of our grandchildren today who are fit for public consumption; those who are eight and older are here with me today. Most of our grandchildren don’t remember seeing me speak and give messages as the Relief Society general president. I wanted them to hear my testimony of Jesus Christ and how much I love Him and value the blessings He has given me.

You will understand when I tell you that I will only be able to share a portion of what I have contemplated and learned as I’ve prepared to speak to you today. As I have weakened in my faith in preparing this message, I’ve thought of our granddaughter Ellen, who is serving a mission in the Philippines, and I would tell myself, “If Ellie can do it, I can do it. If she can put in a hard day, I can put in a hard day.” So I’m grateful for the examples of my grandchildren.

To all of our grandchildren and you who will listen to me, I wish to affirm at the beginning of this message that I believe everything I teach today to be true.

It is my privilege to speak to the theme of this conference, which is an appeal to us from Moroni from the Book of Mormon, and I quote, again:

And now, I would commend you to seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written, that the grace of God the Father, and also the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of them, may be and abide in you forever.” (Ether 12:41)

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Only a month ago, we enjoyed a general conference in which prophets, apostles, and other Church leaders bore powerful witness of Jesus Christ and His restored gospel. In that conference, as in all previous ones, it was made apparent that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is, as Paul described, “built upon the foundation of . . . apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:20).

This Jesus

As I have contemplated the theme of the conference, I found it interesting that Moroni writes of “*this* Jesus.” He gives an interesting specificity of Whom it is we are to seek. The addition of the word *this* invites us to ponder which Jesus he wants us to seek. Our grandchildren and probably many of you have grown up learning about Jesus, either at school, at church, or at home. In our church, children begin singing songs about Jesus at a young age. I would like us to take a little test to see how well we remember what we learned about Jesus in that way. I’ve asked our grandchildren who are in Primary or have just left Primary to come up and help us sing. We have two new deacons, two young men who will receive the priesthood next year, and two girls who were baptized last month.

The first song is “He Sent His Son”:

How could the Father tell the world of love and tenderness?
He sent his Son, a newborn babe, with peace and holiness. (“He Sent His Son,”
Children’s Songbook, 34)

Let’s try another one, “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”:

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,
Things I would ask him to tell me if he were here. (“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus,”
Children’s Songbook, 57)

Let’s see if you know this next one, “Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam”:

Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,
To shine for him each day;
In ev’ry way try to please him,
At home, at school, at play.

A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,
A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
I’ll be a sunbeam for him. (“Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam,” *Children’s Songbook*, 60–61)

Now we have one more, “Beautiful Savior”:

Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer the moonlight

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And all the stars in the heav’n above;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
And brings to all the world his love. (“Beautiful Savior,” *Children’s Songbook*, 62)

There is so much we can learn about *this* Jesus. For instance, we know that even before the birth of Jesus Christ, there was dispute concerning Him. After He began His ministry, disagreements and interpretations of Him, His messages, His divinity, His actions, His miracles, and His life multiplied. Since the dawn of Christian belief, the search for Him and who He is has involved passion and devotion, hate and violence. Even now, many people abhor the mention of Him, and many believe deeply and sincerely that they have been changed by Him. People have claimed to fight wars in His name, kingdoms have been established and divided over interpretations of Him, and devotees have formed thousands of churches and organizations seeking to glorify His name. Great good and great evil have been done invoking His name.

When my husband and I visited the Holy Land a few years ago, I was moved by the devotion of the thousands of pilgrims from many beliefs and countries who had traveled there, as we had, to seek Him and connect more closely with His life and work. We visited many sites there and walked with people from all over the world at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Garden Tomb, Galilee, and Bethlehem. It was evident that followers of Jesus almost universally accept that Jesus was born of Mary in Bethlehem of Judea, that He lived in Nazareth, that He preached and gained followers during a powerful earthly ministry, that He was betrayed and crucified. Much of the world commemorates His birth at Christmas and His Resurrection at Easter, and yet there remains a great deal of disagreement about Him. The question still lingers in millions of hearts, “Who is this Jesus we are to seek?”

This question has led me to ponder more deeply the experience of Joseph Smith as he sought the right way to worship Jesus. Joseph lived in a very unusual and unique time. He described it as a time of great excitement concerning belief in Jesus Christ. No one in the region he lived in could escape the discourse and clamor concerning belief in Him. It was not the lack of belief in Jesus which perplexed Joseph—it was the abundance of philosophy concerning Jesus which stirred his feelings. This controversy, which extended into his own family, developed in Joseph a profound desire to learn for himself which Christian church he should join.

Two years ago, we took three grandsons to Palmyra, New York, to see the place where Joseph Smith received a sacred vision in a grove of trees. We were with these young men on a “mission preparation trip,” and we were there to ponder more deeply the experience of Joseph Smith in seeking Jesus. We considered the direct answer Joseph received to his question. In that humble place, Joseph was visited by God the Eternal Father, who introduced His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. To his family and later, at different times in his life, Joseph related his experience in which he learned many things about the identity and nature of Jesus Christ, whose “brightness and glory” and message for him changed the course of his life (see Joseph Smith—History 1:17).

We can read accounts in the Old Testament and New Testament of others who have sought Jesus and learned of Him and from Him. In the Book of Mormon, we read that thousands saw and touched Jesus. Moroni testified that he had seen Jesus and talked with Him “face to face” in Moroni’s “own language” (Ether 12:39).

And yet, over time, differing depictions of the Savior’s identity and meaning have proliferated. Many view Jesus as a symbolic or mythical figure, unknowable, unseeable, unrelatable. Many still interpret Him as nothing more than a benevolent uncle, an attentive brother, a thoughtful comrade, an imaginary friend, or a magic genie.

I was taught early in life that Jesus is not symbolic or superficial. He is not an “unknown God” (see Acts 17:23). In the ordinances of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we do employ symbols to help us remember Him, but it is important to remember that those symbols represent a real being. Some of my favorite family home evening lessons as a child were of listening to our father teach about Jesus, my favorite one being when Daddy taught that Jesus called Himself “I AM!” When Daddy said the Lord’s name in that way, I felt the greatness of Him and was captivated by the feeling in our home as Daddy taught of Jesus Christ.

This year, in our home curriculum which is supported at church, we have a coordinated program of study to learn more about and understand the true character of Jesus and His life and mission. This is with the intent that we will heed His invitation: “Come, follow me” (Luke 18:22).

My first Primary teacher in Brazil, Sister Gloria Silveira, helped me memorize the first Article of Faith in Portuguese. “We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost” (Articles of Faith 1:1). Sister Silveira taught us that in The Church of Jesus Christ, we believe that Jesus Christ is the literal Son of God, our Eternal Father.

We believe that He is the Jehovah of the Old Testament and the Messiah of the New Testament. “He hath made the earth by his power” (Jeremiah 51:15). He is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in goodness. . . . He changes not. . . . [He] cannot lie. . . . He is no respecter of persons. . . . He is love” (*Lectures on Faith* [1985], 41). He has the attributes of knowledge, power, justice, judgment, mercy, and truth (*Lectures on Faith*, 50–51).

Joseph Smith wrote that when the Savior Jesus Christ appeared in the Kirtland Temple, “His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters” (Doctrine and Covenants 110:3).

Jesus Christ is the Great I Am, Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. He can “smite the earth with the rod of his mouth” (Isaiah 11:4) and calm wild storms. He performed miracles such as changing gallons of water into wine and multiplying loaves and fishes for thousands to eat and be filled. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, walked on water, and raised people from the dead. The Apostle Paul testified, “He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25).

President Russell M. Nelson declared:

Under the direction of His Father, He was the Creator of this and other worlds. He chose to submit to the will of His Father and do something for all of God’s children that no one else could do! Condescending to come to earth as the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh, He was brutally reviled, mocked, spit upon, and scourged. In the Garden of Gethsemane, our Savior took upon Himself *every* pain, *every* sin, and *all* of the anguish

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and suffering *ever* experienced by you and me and by everyone who has ever lived or will ever live. (Russell M. Nelson, “The Correct Name of the Church,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, November 2018)

Jesus Christ continues to direct His work. He is truly the “good shepherd,” our Mediator with the Father (Alma 5:38; see 1 Timothy 2:5, and Topical Guide, “Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd” and “Jesus Christ, Mediator”). He is “Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

His Covenant and His Doctrine

Apostles and prophets have written that *this* Jesus has always had a specific doctrine associated with His covenant. His doctrine is that we must exercise faith in Him, repent through His Atonement, receive baptism by immersion in His name, receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and endure throughout our lives in His service and covenant (see 3 Nephi 27:13–20; Articles of Faith 1:4; and *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* [2018], chapter 3).

This Jesus of whom prophets and apostles teach about “marked the path and led the way” to all the blessings of eternal life (“How Great the Wisdom and the Love,” *Hymns*, no. 195). Those blessings culminate in becoming a covenant family, meaning marriage between a man and a woman, sealed together with the Lord’s authority and priesthood. It was for that covenant family to increase and grow that the earth was created. It was to prepare us for that covenant family that we experience mortality. It was for the perpetuation of that eternal, sacred covenant that Jesus Christ suffered and atoned for all of our weakness and sins.

Nephi taught that those who covenant with God will be “brought out of obscurity and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel” (1 Nephi 22:12).

Being gathered or linked with Him in His sealing covenant is what constitutes the “fulness” of His gospel. Nephi said “the fulness of the gospel of the Messiah” will come in our day through the principles and ordinances of the restored gospel (1 Nephi 15:13). Those ordinances admit us into God’s covenant family, which is called the house of Israel. Nephi said that in our day, many will come to “the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer . . . wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto him and be saved” (1 Nephi 15:14).

Jesus Christ said, “I will remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them. . . . and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel” (3 Nephi 16:11–12). Elijah was sent to restore the keys or authority to bind families together in that covenant.

Now I would like our older grandchildren to help me. We have one returned missionary in this group, our granddaughter Hope, who served in the Madagascar Mission; Mariner, who has received a call to serve in London; one teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood; and three 13-year-old young women, who have already had their first mission preparation trip with us.

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As we have taken our grandchildren on missionary preparation trips and studied with them, there is one passage of scripture that we study over and over in different ways. This is what Moroni repeated to Joseph Smith about the Lord’s doctrine:

Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers.

If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming. (Doctrine and Covenants 2:1–3)

These verses of scripture sum up the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, and it’s been wonderful for us to study it together.

I began to learn about this doctrine when I was young. Our mother taught us that the covenant we made at baptism gave us “the partness of the gospel,” but with the ordinances of the temple and the sealing of eternal families, we would have the “fulness” of the promises made to the ancient fathers and mothers of the Old Testament.

By entering into and living worthy of that covenant, we turn our hearts to the blessings of the fathers so that the promises we have access to are not wasted in our lives. By becoming part of His eternal covenant family, the house of Israel, we become heirs to all the blessings our Father has promised us. That is why President Nelson has made a specific plea to “gather Israel on both sides of the veil” (Russell M. Nelson, “Sisters’ Participation in the Gathering of Israel,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, November 2018). He declared: “There is *nothing* happening on this earth right now that is more important than that. There is *nothing* of greater consequence. Absolutely *nothing*. This gathering should mean *everything* to you. This *is* the mission for which you were sent to earth” (Russell M. Nelson, “Worldwide Devotional for Youth: Messages from President Russell M. Nelson and Sister Wendy W. Nelson” [worldwide youth broadcast, June 3, 2018], churchofjesuschrist.org/broadcasts/face-to-face/nelson).

Seeking *This* Jesus

When we have a knowledge of the Savior’s character, attributes, mission, Atonement, and His doctrine and covenant, it becomes easier to seek Him. The Apostle Paul taught that we should “seek the Lord . . . [and] feel after him” (Acts 17:27), and it is impossible to “feel after Him” if we do not have faith in Him.

Brother Beck and I have been teaching our grandchildren that faith is “the moving cause of all action” in us (*Lectures on Faith*, pp. 1–2) and that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ begins as we “arouse the faculties of [our] souls” (Jacob 3:11), “look unto God with firmness of mind, and pray unto him with exceeding faith” (Jacob 3:1). Our faith is activated as we are “pure in heart . . . and receive the pleasing word of God, and feast upon his love” (Jacob 3:2).

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The Book of Mormon tells the story of Lehi, who faithfully taught his family about Jesus Christ. His son Nephi wanted a confirmation of his father’s teaching, and he received his own testimony of the Lord’s plan for him. But when Nephi asked his brothers, “Have ye inquired of the Lord?” (1 Nephi 15:8), they said, “We have not; for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us” (1 Nephi 15:9). Their lack of faith led to generations being distanced from the Lord and His promised blessings.

There are many wonderful teachings about faith in the scriptures, and one of my favorites is the remarkable sermon on faith the Apostle Paul gave to the Hebrews. He taught that “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Joseph Smith Translation, Hebrews 11:1) and that “things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11:3). He then listed many instances in the scriptures where faith was the moving cause of action in the lives of faithful covenant keepers, citing Abel, Abraham, Enoch, Noah, Jacob, Sarah, and Moses. In the Book of Mormon, we have many accounts of remarkable faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning power. The faith of Alma and Amulek precipitated miracles. The faith of Helaman, his young warriors, and their mothers precipitated miraculous preservation. In our day, we have thousands of records from early members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who suffered tremendous hardship and persecution because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His restored gospel. Today, many still forsake family, destructive habits and addictions, and former customs in order to “seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written” (Ether 12:41). All these are being added to that great “cloud of witnesses” noted in Hebrews (see Hebrews 12:1).

In the Gospel of Mark, we read of a woman who suffered for much of her adult life from a debilitating hemorrhage—an affliction which distanced her from her friends, family, and worship. When she heard about Jesus, her misery motivated her to push through the crowd or “press” around Jesus, with the belief that touching the fringe of His robe would heal her. As she did so, she was immediately made whole, and in that moment, Jesus felt power go out of Him (see Mark 5:30). In a crowded space where a multitude was thronging Him, the Savior detected the faith of this woman that allowed His atoning grace to work a miracle for her.

From this account we can learn several things. We learn that even in a crowd, suffering and healing are personal. We learn that as we approach the Savior privately, with faith in Him, He can heal us individually. We also learn that it is possible for us to approach Him publicly, being in a “throng” of followers, such as in meetings and classrooms and the activities of the Church, and not “touch” Jesus Christ with our faith. It is possible to check all the boxes of advancement, participate in programs, serve in callings, even go on missions and through the rituals of making covenants in the temple, and still not possess sufficient faith in Him to be changed by Him or represent Him in our actions.

No one wants to hear that hardship is necessary, yet the affliction of the woman induced her to seek Jesus. It is often the struggles in our lives that propel us to Him. A trouble-free life will not necessarily bring us closer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is through our faith in Him that we begin every day with prayer and keep praying all day long. We all hope for prosperous and trouble-free lives. We pray for safety, protection, good health, wisdom, and escape from problems. No one that I know of is praying for more suffering and

more trials. However, in reality life is very, very difficult for many of us. We cannot miss the fact that most people are having a demanding mortal experience. Often the most difficult problems involve other people—relationships and how others exercise their agency. That has been true since the beginning of time. Temptations and pitfalls abound, and personal problems can be messy. Many trials are punishing in their duration and intensity and are often relentless and demoralizing. In most cases it is the pain and the stretching we experience which give us the greater knowledge of Jesus Christ. That knowledge is hard-earned, but it comes with its own reward of recognizing Him and His presence in our lives and learning that He will help us because He has borne our pains. This knowledge of Him and His mercy becomes a great treasure to us; it is a pearl of great price (see Alma 7:11–12; Matthew 13:46).

A Personal, Faith-Based Work

In reality, our life is meant to be a personal, faith-based work. No one can do it for us, and we build our faith one day and one experience at a time.

I have noticed that as our grandchildren begin to realize this, and as they have to stand alone to defend their faith and make decisions about how to govern their lives, they begin to develop greater faith. As they serve missions their faith is tested again, and they reach new understanding of its meaning and importance.

We first learn to demonstrate our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning power as we employ the second principle of the gospel, repentance. Joining with Him in the daily, faith-filled, faith-feeling, faith-full exercise to keep our repentance up to date is evidence of our faith in Him.

It is by faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ that we return to church each week to renew our covenants with Him through the ordinance of the sacrament. It is by faith in Him that we pay our tithes and offerings. It is by faith in Him that we serve in the Church and in our communities. It is by faith in Him that we go to school and work and strive to become self-reliant and useful instruments in His service. It is by faith in Him that we develop our gifts and increase our self-discipline. It is by faith in Jesus Christ that we study the scriptures and ponder the testimony of Him in the Book of Mormon.

It also takes faith for a young man and a young woman to begin a covenant marriage. It takes a great deal of faith to bring children into that covenant family. It is by faith in Jesus Christ that we pray over our posterity and are diligent and consistent in teaching the gospel to them. It is through our faith in Him that we do all the hard work families require. Through faith we can work through the mundane tasks and exhausting labors of life, increasing in hope and glimpsing a celestial perspective.

It is through faith in Him that we seek personal revelation and help with our decisions. It is by faith in Him that we minister to one another and care for others in need. It is by faith in Him that we seek to find and learn about family members who died before us. It is because of our faith in Him that we go to the temple and perform ordinances for them. It is through our faith in Him that we serve missions, enduring exhaustion, rejection, frustration, and even danger to be active witnesses of Jesus Christ and His restored gospel.

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Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can choose not to be defeated by life’s circumstance, and we can be made whole when we are injured and dejected. As I have pondered evidence of faith, I have observed that it is through faith in Him that we can forgive where we could not by ourselves do it. Through faith in Him we can cope with unfairness and cope with injustice and hurt. Through faith in Him we can endure things we cannot alter, move ahead in trying times, and laugh when we are sad. Through faith in Him we can change, becoming better people, becoming more than the sum of our own limited selves.

It is an act of great faith to work with the Lord Jesus Christ to reject unhappy thoughts and put our trust in that Spirit which leads us “to do good—yea, to do justly, to walk humbly, to judge righteously,” because that is His Spirit (Doctrine and Covenants 11:12). In this past conference President Nelson said, “The adversary is quadrupling his efforts to disrupt testimonies and impede the work of the Lord” (Russell M. Nelson, “We Can Do Better and Be Better,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2019). It is only by faith in Jesus Christ that we can withstand that constant buffeting.

I sometimes equate this fight to a tennis game where we fiercely battle not to let the adversary score points on us. We have to be scrappy, determined to keep his influence out of our court. Our faith enables us to resist with all our might chasing after out-of-bounds shots and wild hits in our direction. The Lord has assured us this is a doubles match; He is our partner and He knows how to return a wicked serve. With Him in our court, we can play great tennis, score points, and win sets and matches.

It is by looking to Jesus Christ with an “eye of faith” (Ether 12:19) that we participate with Him in His miracles. Moroni teaches that it is by faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning power that “miracles are wrought” (Moroni 7:37). And so, we are to pray for miracles and expect them.

Recently, our family tested this principle again. We had a specific need, and we thought we were praying in faith, but we also had a few doubts. And then it became obvious that the situation was going to require greater faith and a few miracles. So we began to importune Heavenly Father night and day for help. We did all we have been taught to do. We went to the temple, we fasted, we enlisted others to help us pray. And then we began having what I now call “topsy-turvy days.” In retrospect it was almost comical how schedules went awry, phone calls didn’t go through, the internet went down, and we were forced to get creative with our thinking. We “accidentally” ran into people who had a piece of information or help we needed. We were by chance at a location close to something we were looking for. Huge chunks of time were gobbled up in unplanned activities we felt we just had to take care of. And several times I had the impression to call a friend, but I resisted and made excuses because I did not want to bother her with my problem. In the end I told the Lord, “All right! I will call her!” And as the Lord knew, she held the golden key which unlocked the door to His miracles which were just waiting to be set loose.

Because of all the changes in plans and the interruptions to our days, we were prepared, absolutely prepared, to go through that door. We received a veritable flood of blessings, and my poor, forgetful mind was reminded *again* that the atoning power of Jesus Christ is in the details of our lives. He taught that our Heavenly Father “knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him” (Matthew 6:8). His help was always available to us. However, until we truly made

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our concern a faith-based work, we were weak in our efforts; but when we resolved to work with the Lord, His help nearly bowled us over. We were awash in His grace!

I have asked our Heavenly Father for forgiveness for my imperfect faith, and I have tried to thank Him as fervently as I importuned Him. As my heart and mind have become more sensitive to the constant help we receive, I have recorded His assistance in our lives, and my list of the evidence of His help is growing longer and longer. I have been reminded that my father often taught me, “This is the Lord’s work, and He will do it!”

Seeking Jesus

Last October, President Nelson asked all of the sisters to read the Book of Mormon before the end of the year, with the specific invitation to draw closer to the Savior Jesus Christ in the process of studying about Him (see Russell M. Nelson, “Sisters’ Participation in the Gathering of Israel,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, November 2018). As my family members and I began that assignment, we initially didn’t think that obligation included our 95-year-old mother. She had read the Book of Mormon dozens of times in her life, and we casually assumed that she could pass on that assignment. But the Spirit influenced us to help her accomplish that goal so she could participate in the blessings attached to it. Every day for several months, she read aloud a chapter with a companion, and then she would color in the circle on her reading chart. On December 28, 2018, she called to say, “I finished my book!” She may not remember all she read, or even much of that experience now, yet we could discern that because of her efforts, she was a recipient of the promised miracles.

Mother has been one of my great examples of active faith. She has not been spared challenges and difficulties, but early in her life, she learned how to “feel after” Jesus. She related to us that as a young girl she often attended church meetings alone. She would walk nearly a mile by herself to sit on the back bench, swinging her small legs. But she was drawn there week after week to hear the testimonies of the older members of her congregation. She said she was often embarrassed that she could not stop crying when she heard them speak. She has always been attracted to the stories of her pioneer ancestors, and she worked for years to collect their histories so she could preserve accounts of their faith. Bit by bit, she developed the grit and stamina to rise and confront each day with faith.

She taught us that “you can’t solve a problem if you don’t have a problem to solve!” She encouraged us to prayerfully identify problems we needed to solve, and then work with the Lord to overcome each concern. She believed in the Lord’s miracles. After she was released from serving as a temple matron, my brother asked her if she ever witnessed miracles during her service. She replied, “Oh, they happened daily! That is how we ran the temple!”

Mother’s posterity knows that her faith is now who she *is*. She taught us to:

1. Roll out of bed onto your knees and pray immediately!
2. While you are down there, make your bed; that tells the Lord you are awake and ready for the day He has given you to enjoy.
3. Grab your scriptures and read something quickly so as to get the Lord’s words and His Spirit in you.

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4. Then get dressed as quickly as you can, which shows the Lord you are ready to do whatever He needs you to do.

Mother has been a student of the scriptures and an example of faith in action. She has been an instrument in the Lord’s hands all through her life. I love to hear her pray, and I feel that her prayers connect with heaven, and she always tells Heavenly Father that she “loves life and is glad to be alive.” She has truly been a recipient of the blessings promised those who seek Jesus.

I have witnessed many examples of great faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning power. But I have also learned for myself that *this* Jesus we are to know is a God of might and mercy. He is real, and His work is real, and His covenants and ordinances have been restored with His priesthood power. At His invitation we are to “feel after Him” in a personal, daily, faith-based effort to “seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written, that the grace of God the Father, and also the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of them, may be and abide in you forever” (Ether 12:41). In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.