

*“Strength from Grace: Faithful LDS Women”*

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A number of months ago, I met a woman who had recently served a two-year mission with her husband. They had served in a very remote area of the world and had a lot of difficult challenges there. Knowing how often the Lord blesses our missionaries by blessing their families back home, I asked her to tell me about some of the blessings that had come to her children while they were away on their mission. With some hesitancy, she shared that coming home was really difficult. She and her husband discovered that two of their four children had become less active and had actually left the Church while they were on their mission. I could see and feel the depth of the pain that she was feeling, but what was amazing to me was that there was a radiant light in this sister's eyes. She had such a happy countenance, and there was a great peace about her. I asked her to tell me how she and her husband had been able to cope with this loss.

She shared with me that she and her husband had decided that they would continue to be the best examples that they could possibly be—that their children would never be able to doubt the testimonies of their parents or their devotion to the Savior and the gospel of Jesus Christ. They continued pouring out their love to their children and to do all they could to be great examples in the hopes that their children would come back, but “if not,” they would continue to be valiant.

This dear woman’s example reminded me of another family that I know who have a similar situation with two struggling sons. These parents serve in the temple, fast often, serve faithfully in their callings and pray fervently for these sons. Recently their oldest daughter, who has suffered years of infertility, called to tell her parents that she and her husband, on their own, were expecting! Overjoyed, this mother related that when she found out about her daughter’s pregnancy, she felt the Lord whispering to her heart, saying to her, “You may not be receiving the very blessings that you have been praying so fervently for, but I am watching over and blessing your children in other ways.”

Do you remember the promises that were given by President Henry B. Eyring in the April 2013 General Conference when he testified to all of us:

“Like Alma and King Mosiah, some faithful parents have served the Lord long and well yet have had children who wandered despite their parents’ sacrifice for the Lord. They have done all they could to no apparent avail, even with help from loving and faithful friends.

“Alma and the Saints of his day prayed for his son and the sons of King Mosiah. An angel came. Your prayers and the prayers of those who exercise their faith will bring the Lord’s servants to help your family members. They will help them choose the way home to God, even as they are attacked by Satan and his followers, whose purpose it is to destroy families in this life and in eternity.”

President Eyring continues, “My promise to you who pray and serve the Lord cannot be that you will have every blessing you may wish for yourself and your family. But I can promise you that the Savior will draw close to you and bless you and your family with what is best. You will have the comfort of His love and feel the answer of His drawing closer as you reach out your arms in giving service to others. . . . His arms are outstretched with yours to succor and bless the children of our Heavenly Father, including those in your family” (“Come unto Me,” *Ensign*, May 2013).

Dear sisters, I too testify that I know the Lord does and will bless our children as we continue to faithfully do all that we can to be faithful and true and rescue others. He will bless our children and our families. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.