

“Believe, Obey, and Endure”

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SISTER OSCARSON: Good afternoon, sisters. We are so happy to be here with you. We were recently sustained as the new Young Women general presidency. We want to thank you first of all, for raising your hands and sustaining us. It means so much. We’ve felt your support and your prayers and we’re so grateful. If you’re all active on Pinterest or Facebook, you may know us better as the three fairy Godmothers from Sleeping Beauty. I would be Flora.

SISTER MARRIOTT: I’m Fauna.

SISTER MCCONKIE: And I’m Merryweather.

SISTER OSCARSON: If you don’t know what we’re talking about, go check it out. We’d like to take just a minute to tell you a little bit more about ourselves. Shortly after we began working together, we began comparing notes and we discovered a few interesting facts. For instance, between the three of us we have 25 children and 75 grandchildren.

SISTER MCCONKIE: Between us, we have lived in 15 different states and 3 foreign countries.

SISTER MARRIOTT: And all three of us have served as wives of mission presidents. Sister McConkie was in California. Sister Oscarson was in Sweden. David and I were in Brazil.

SISTER OSCARSON: Between the three of us, we’ve been married 125 years, and that one was kind of a little scary! But really, we’re very much like you are. We’ve all worked in Primary, Relief Society, Sunday School and Young Women, of course. We’ve taught seminary, we’ve supported our husbands in their callings, and we’re visiting teachers. We’ve worried about our children; we’ve prayed over our teenagers and stressed over them a little bit. We’ve taken

dinners to new mothers. We've done just what you do in your lives. We have more things in common with you than we have differences. We feel a real kinship with what you're doing in the Young Women program of the church as mothers, as leaders, as aunts and grandmothers. So thank you for all that you do.

In the 2012 Young Women broadcast, President Thomas S. Monson gave a talk entitled "Believe, Obey, and Endure." In this talk to the young women of the church, President Monson said, "The world around you is not equipped to provide the help you need to make it through this often-treacherous journey. So many in our society today seem to have slipped from the moorings of safety and drifted from the harbor of peace." He went on in this talk to name so many of the problems which are besetting our young people today including permissiveness, immorality, pornography, drugs and negative peer pressure. Our prophet counseled our youth to look to the lighthouse of the Lord. The Lord's lighthouse sends out signals that will guide our young women back to their heavenly home. He said it's up to them to keep their testimonies alive. He also gave three essential signals which will help them stay safe, and those are believe, obey, and endure. So the subject we would like to address today with you is how can we, as women of the church, help our youth to see the dangers around them. And to help them nurture this flame of testimony through practicing these three principles. The first signal is *believe*. How can we help our youth believe?

SISTER MARRIOTT: I testify to you—leaders, parents, and friends—that you can help the youth believe if you have the Spirit with you. President Monson said, "Believe that you are a daughter of Heavenly Father, that He loves you, and that you are here for a glorious purpose—to gain your eternal salvation." Those truths were foreign to me as I was growing up. I grew up in a wonderful, staunch, Methodist family in Alexandria, Louisiana. We went to church every Sunday. Daddy taught Sunday School for 40 years. I loved the meetings. I loved the minister. I loved the donuts after Sunday School. It's a wonderful church and there is still a tender spot in my heart for the Methodist Church. But my belief, if I had a belief, was just this vague feeling that church was good and there was probably a God, but He certainly didn't know me personally.

All that changed the summer of my thirteenth year. I went to Young Women Christian Association camp. It was lovely. There were about one hundred of us young teenage girls. Our screened-in cabins were spread out around a beautiful, little log chapel. Every night we would go to the chapel and have activities. On Sunday night, we would leave our cabins and in the dark of the pine woods, we would head to the log chapel. I can remember it had a peaked roof and big, wide, screenless windows, and it would glow in the night because it was all lit up inside. On Sunday night, we would gather there to sing hymns. I can still remember the song leader, her name was Francis. She had black, curly hair. This particular Sunday night, we all gathered in the chapel and Francis said, "Let's start by singing 'Kumbaya Lord.'" I can't say this is correct, but I had been taught that "Kumbaya, Lord" was a distortion of English that really meant "Come By Here, Lord." So as we sang, that's what I was thinking that night. *How* would He come by here? *Would* He come by here? As the song finished, my heart was opened to that thought. The second

song, Francis said, was “Fairest Lord Jesus.” That’s the way the Methodists say it. It’s more familiar to the LDS Church as “Beautiful Savior.” As we began to sing the words, something happened to me.

SISTER MARRIOTT: I want to read some of these words to you.

Fair is the sunshine, Fairer the moonlight and all the stars in Heav’n above;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer and brings to all the world His love.
Fair are the meadows, Fairer the woodlands, Robed in the flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer. He makes the sorrowing spirit sing.
Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I honor, praise, and give glory, Give praise and glory evermore!¹

By the time we got to the third verse of that song, I couldn’t sing. I was weeping. It started in my heart—this warm feeling I had never felt before, like a glow. It grew and grew from the top of my head to the tips of my toes, encircling me in a love I didn’t know existed. But I learned something as that feeling grew. I learned there was a God, and He knew me and He loved me. I had never had that personal experience before, but a belief started to grow. A tiny, young, immature belief, but it was real. There was a God! He *knew* me and loved me and I was so filled with this that I ran to my friend Martha, who was sitting in one of those wide window sills in the chapel. She was singing and I took her by the arm and whispered, “Martha, God loves me!” Martha has great big brown eyes and she said, in surprise, “What?” I thought “I cannot explain this” so I ran out of the chapel into the dark and walked slowly back to my cabin pondering, “There is a God.” Belief was firmly attached to my heart, but I didn’t know anything about Him. I decided then to start a search for Him in two ways.

One, I decided I would read the Bible every night, all through junior high and all through high school. That was my commitment to not miss a night of reading from the Bible. Don’t be too impressed that I read every night and I didn’t miss a night. I would open up the Bible at random, read one verse, and tell myself “Okay, you read the Bible tonight.” I do not remember a single verse I read, but just the act of picking it up and committing to this feeling that there was a God made a difference in my faith and in my belief. I hoped He was somewhere and I was determined to keep reading until I found Him.

The second thing I decided to do was kneel down each night to pray. I used to just jump in bed and say the Lord’s Prayer. That’s the prayer I had been taught to say. I would just rattle it off and be finished. But that wasn’t enough for me after experiencing that feeling of God’s love at camp. I was yearning to know who God was. So, I began to kneel and say the Lord’s prayer, then I would go on and have “Neill’s prayer.” I would just talk to this heavenly father yearning to contact Him again, to feel that warm feeling again. I didn’t have a Mia Maid advisor; I didn’t have a bishop. I just had this knowledge that He loved me. This little belief was enough to keep

me going. And that is why belief is so important. You Young Women leaders have an enormous power to bring the Spirit to a young girl's heart so she can start her belief too.

My prayers were rambling and they didn't go very far, but I remember one. I was kneeling that night by the front window of my bedroom, and looking out the window. I didn't have my eyes shut. I said, "Heavenly Father, where are you? I know you must be somewhere, but where?" I wanted that feeling back again. I knew it was real, I couldn't let go of it. Then I said, "I'm going to look at the oak tree in the front yard, Heavenly Father. And if the leaves move, I'm going to believe You're here." That just shows you how little knowledge I had and how much I wanted it and how powerful belief can be. I cannot tell you that the leaves moved; I don't think they did. But I remember wanting so much to find my Father in Heaven. I know that belief can be powerful and I know that it can be planted in a young woman's heart by a loving teacher who teaches with the Holy Ghost. That is where we can begin in our belief.

SISTER MCCONKIE: I love Sister Marriott's story. I'm probably like you, I am enchanted, and I have heard this story three or four times now. Every time I hear it, it just warms my heart. President Monson said that every young woman should believe the words of the Young Women theme which says, "We are daughters of our Heavenly Father, who loves us, and we love Him." That's a truth that is unique. It was a surprise to my husband and me when we were serving our mission to learn that most people do not have a concept of that truth. That we literally are spirit children of Heavenly Father and that He loves us. We're so blessed from the time we're young to sing in Primary, "I Am a Child of God," and then to say these words of the Young Women theme. I am grateful that we have the Holy Ghost bear witness to our souls that these things are true. That's how truth is learned. It might come through a song like Sister Marriott's experience, or it might come through hearing the words or the testimony of someone who is speaking by the Spirit, or it might come while being in nature and enjoying the creations of God and feeling a witness that He is there. However it comes, when it comes by the Spirit, that truth, that feeling, awakens in us a desire to believe. Not only a desire to believe, but a desire to act upon that belief.

SISTER MARRIOTT: I hope everyone heard her say "awaken." It might take a loving teacher, by inspiration through the Spirit, to "awaken" the understanding in the young women that they are daughters of a loving God. That's a key word.

SISTER MCCONKIE: Well it's scriptural. We awaken unto God. Nephi is a perfect example. He said in 1 Nephi 10:17, "I, Nephi, having heard all the words of my father, concerning the things which he saw in a vision, and also the things which he spake by the power of the Holy Ghost, which power he received by faith on the Son of God . . . I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto all those who diligently seek him, as well in times of old as in the time that he should manifest himself unto the children of men."² When we feel or when we have had our desire or our belief awakened, we seek the Lord. As we seek, our testimony will grow. Our Heavenly Father delights in us when we seek after Him. In the 76th section of the Doctrine and

Covenants, He says He delights to open up treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the mysteries of the kingdom to all those who are willing to seek after Him. He will honor our efforts to seek after Him. We have to act on our belief. So for a young woman it might be praying and reading the scriptures. We might read more than one verse a day. We might read two or three, at least five minutes every day. We might commit to attend church regularly. As we do these things our belief can grow, and become the testimonies that will strengthen us and help us become converted to the things of God.

SISTER OSCARSON: I would just like to add one more thought to the principle of belief. I can't over emphasize enough the power of our examples as mothers, grandmothers, friends and youth leaders to influencing the testimonies of these young women. We cannot expect our young women and our youth to dress modestly, attend church meetings, pray daily and read their scriptures if they don't see us modeling this virtuous behavior and righteous lives. If we want them to develop good habits, we need to have good habits. It really is a responsibility that we all have in our lives. They need to see us making the temple a priority in our lives. I, obviously having just come from a temple mission, have very strong feelings about the place that the temple should play in our lives and what a strength and a blessing it is. We want them to understand the vital role of the temple in our lives. They need to see us modeling that.

SISTER MARRIOTT: Sister Oscarson is talking about the power of example, of course. The reason I thought to kneel down to pray was because I had seen my grandmother kneel. Though my family prayed at mealtime and at church, in my 13 years I hadn't seen another adult kneel in personal prayer. However, when I stayed with my grandmother, at bedtime she would ask, "Neill, would you like to pray with me?" We would kneel down by the bed in the darkened room. She would bow her head and pray silently. I just watched her. The light from the outdoor street lamp came through the shades leaving bars of light on the bed and my grandmother. The scene had a holiness to it, never to be forgotten . . . a scene that prompted me years later to kneel down in an effort to connect with Heavenly Father.

SISTER OSCARSON: When we were serving our mission in Sweden we would see the saints from Sweden and Norway, which was also in our temple district, take their vacation time to come to the temple with their families. We had a guest home there that they would stay in and they would bring their children with them. The older ones would do baptisms during the week and the younger ones would play with each other. They would spend a whole week at the temple, in the temple everyday doing temple work watching each other's children so that they could take turns coming. I used to think that without saying a single word, what a great message these parents were sending their children about the importance of the temple in their lives. They didn't need to speak, they were teaching the importance of the temple by their example. We know for a fact that these children, because these parents were coming, having that modeled by their parents, that it was the example of their parents that meant everything in teaching them the importance of the temple.

SISTER MCCONKIE: The next signal that President Monson teaches is obedience. I am grateful for the knowledge that obedience brings us blessings. I think that often times our young women believe that obedience is restrictive. It gives them boundaries and limits. In reality, obedience to the commandments of God and to the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*, expand our capabilities. Obedience helps us progress. It helps us progress in eternal things which gives us unlimited potential. I love that President Monson taught, “Our lives will be more fulfilling [and] less complicated. Our challenges and problems will be easier to bear. We will receive the Lord’s promised blessings.”³ I know that this is true.

I learned this lesson in a very powerful way. As a young 16-year-old girl, my Laurel teacher strengthened me through a very difficult time in my life. I’m sure she had no idea what she did for me personally, but her example of obedience, and the joy of living the gospel meant everything to me. My parents were going through a divorce and a difficult custody battle. I was quite embarrassed by this situation. It hurt my heart. I didn’t want my friends at church to know anything about it. Every Wednesday evening (when Mutual was held on Wednesday), I would arrive late so that I could slip into the back of the classroom and no one would notice me. Then before the lesson concluded, I would slip out early before the socializing would begin.

What the teacher didn’t know, was that I felt that the lessons she taught every week were directed specifically to me, because they were about eternal families, temple blessings, celestial marriage, and temple worthiness. These lessons inspired me and touched my heart in such a way that I knew that even though it wasn’t what I was experiencing at home, it was true. She taught from the scriptures, she taught with love. The Spirit entered my heart, and I believe her words. I also knew that my teacher knew it was true because I could see that she exemplified it. She kept the commandments. I could see her refinement, her demeanor, and her appearance. I could see her obedience in the way she interacted with her husband and with her children, with kindness, with love, and with respect. I thought, “This is what I want and if I’m going to have it, I’ve got to do something about it. I’ve got to act.” So I made a commitment that I would start to be a little nicer, especially to my younger siblings and try to build better family relationships. I decided that I would pray regularly and read my scriptures. No matter what else was happening, I would attend church every Sunday. I really believed that as I tried to do these things, it would help me gain the blessings that I so desired.

My personal struggles didn’t go away, but I began to feel a peace and a sense of direction in my life that was really important. I looked for exemplary women as role models. It was a wonderful time in many ways—difficult, but wonderful. I learned that obedience to the commandments blessed my life and prepared me to receive the blessings Heavenly Father had in store. Now don’t mistake what I’m saying here. I didn’t suddenly turn into a perfect teenager. I made plenty of mistakes and continued to do foolish things. But I learned the power of the Atonement to help me overcome weaknesses, to repent of sins, and to enable me to make changes in my life that helped me to progress. Maybe one of the sweetest experiences was to feel the love of God and to know that by the Atonement, the hurt in my heart could go away. I could be healed. I love the

commandments of God. I know that when we keep the commandments, we open to ourselves understanding that can come in no other way. We gain knowledge that comes directly by the Spirit as we seek to be obedient. Obedience opens the windows of heaven and blessings of knowledge and wisdom can be poured out upon us as we strive diligently to obey.

SISTER OSCARSON: That's beautiful. Thank you, Sister McConkie. I would like to read a scripture from Mosiah, chapter 2, verse 41 that really exemplifies this. It is really a testimony by King Benjamin to his people as much as anything. He said, "And moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it."⁴

What a great testimony that those who are obedient to the commandments of God are promised spiritual and temporal blessings in this life, and happiness in this life. I don't think happiness is deferred until the next life. We are meant to be happy in this life. Not only that, but we will have a place in heaven. Something we can help our youth understand is what Sister McConkie said, that obedience doesn't mean we'll never have problems in our lives. But it does give us a certain peace of mind and security that we know that the way we're living is acceptable to our Heavenly Father and that we can draw on His help through the hard times when we're doing what is right. President Monson, in his talk, emphasized the fact that we've all had hands laid upon our heads, and we've heard the words, "Receive the Holy Ghost." He encouraged us in the talk to open our minds and our hearts to the sound of that voice so that we can be more obedient.

SISTER MARRIOTT: Sister McConkie, I have a scripture too that I think really, really identifies you. It's Doctrine and Covenants 90:24, "Search diligently, pray always, and be believing, and all things shall work together for your good, if ye walk uprightly."⁵ It doesn't say all things are good. Divorce isn't good, but you searched diligently and it worked for your good. I think we can apply that in our lives every day. Bad things are going to happen. We are going to have to face it. If we can remember that *all things* . . . it doesn't say all things except divorce work together for our good . . . but *all things* work together for our good if we will search diligently, pray always and be believing. The reason they work together for our good is because of the Savior, Jesus Christ. He will carry us as we search for Him and believe in Him, and that's exactly what you've done, Carol.

SISTER OSCARSON: The last thing which President Monson talked about was endure. Sometimes we think the word endure has a little bit of a negative connotation. It kind of implies that we're just getting through a situation and enduring it in misery and hardship. That sounds kind of grim to me and I don't think that's what President Monson meant. He defined it as withstanding with courage and being true one day at a time. He makes the point that all of us can

endure one day at a time while going through hard times, that we can be true one day at a time. Then we can be true one more day at a time, and before you know it we've endured a lifetime.

My mother was a great example of enduring to me. Her way of enduring what could have been a hard situation was to find the good in things and to cheerfully move forward. So I kind of like that definition, cheerfully moving forward. Between the ages of nine and seventeen, my father's job caused us to move our family four different times. Anybody who has ever moved, especially a major move across the country, knows that it can be a really challenging and difficult situation. It's stressful to have to sell the house, find a new house, get children settled in school and all of the challenges with making new friends and finding your place in a new situation. It can be especially upsetting to children.

But my mother handled these moves like a pro. Each time my father would come home from work and announce that the family was moving to a new place, instead of making him feel miserable and saying, "What? Again? This is horrible," she would run to our bookshelf where we kept a large set of Encyclopedia Britannica. Remember, this was before Google, Internet and that kind of thing. So that was all we had. I know that is strange to some of you. She would take the appropriate encyclopedia off of the shelf and she'd say, "We're moving to Denver, Colorado. Let's see what there is to do in Denver, Colorado." She would open the encyclopedia and she would find the museums, theaters, parks and the scenery in the mountains and whatever was in Denver, Colorado. By the time she had read to us all of the exciting things there were to do in Denver, Colorado, we couldn't wait to get out of our current situation and get to Denver, Colorado! What a difference that made to our family that my mother didn't just grimly endure what could've been a hard situation—she cheerfully moved ahead. It couldn't have been easy for my mother and yet I never knew that. To me, my mother just handled these moves with such cheerfulness.

Another definition of endurance that I learned from my mother and my father was faithful diligence, and that's another good word for endure. Wherever we lived, wherever we moved, we knew that the first thing my mother and father would do would be to find out where the church was and to get involved. My parents lived consecrated lives. They served faithfully and diligently in whatever city we lived. They were committed to building the Lord's kingdom wherever we lived, whether it was a place like Denver, Colorado where the church was very strong and there were lots of members, or whether it was Nashville, Tennessee where when we moved there, there was one small branch that covered the whole city.

This example reminds me of the youth theme from 2013 which is "Stand ye in holy places and be not moved."⁶ In each of the places that my family lived, they made our home a holy place where we could stand. They made our home a place of prayer, service and love. Our house, especially at holidays and on Sundays, was always filled with college students, older people that had no other family, newlyweds, the missionaries, or new converts that needed a hand of

fellowship. They were consistent and firm in their commitment to living the gospel and in serving those around us. My parents didn't preach it, they lived it. That is, to me, endurance.

When my parents finally lived in a city close to a temple they showed by their example how important temple worship is. I know I keep coming back to it. In their older years, they attended the temple three times a week together. What a great example that has been for me, my children, and our grandchildren, that the temple is an important part of their lives. My father passed away while we were in Sweden, about a year and a half ago. I could imagine that when he passed to the other side, there were hundreds of people standing there waiting to greet him, people whose work he had done through the years.

My mother continues to show me by example how she is enduring to the end. She is now living in an assisted care center. She just turned 88 years old last week. She has to use a walker to get around, but that doesn't stop my mom. Tuesdays find her walking with her walker down the hall sneaking out a little side entrance into a van where they whisk her up to the temple. She attends a temple session every week even though she can hardly walk. The process of being faithful and diligent throughout our lives is a sanctifying process and my mother is enduring to the end.

SISTER MARRIOTT: I just want to say one thing about Bonnie's family. They moved a lot, but they were "not moved." When I think of your mother, I think of a hen with all of her little chicks around her, giving them reassurance no matter what comes. There is a scripture I love that I think goes along with this. It's Doctrine and Covenants 6:34. "Therefore, fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail."⁷ Again it's the Savior, is it not? No matter where we move or what we face, because we have built upon His rock, nothing combined against us can destroy us.

SISTER MCCONKIE: I love that scripture. How can we help our young women understand the importance of enduring to the end? For them, the end is the end of the school year or maybe it's the end of the day. President Monson quoted the Savior when He said "Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life."⁸

For our young women, eternal life may seem so far away that it's something we can worry about later. The truth is setting goals and doing what is required to achieve those goals is a pattern that we can begin to learn at a very young age. Personal Progress can help young women learn endurance. Young women and their mothers can sit down together and determine goals that they would like to achieve. Then, they establish a path, a journey if you will or a step by step process, where they reach the goal and then feel the joy of having obtained and succeeded in that goal.

One of the most marvelous opportunities they have is to read the Book of Mormon. That might seem a little overwhelming for a twelve-year-old, but as a young woman sets that goal and works with her mother or with another exemplary young woman, or if it's something she chooses to do on her own, she will have the great joy of feeling the spirit of that book in her life, and being

strengthened each and every day, and coming to a sure witness that it's true. That pattern can also be taught as a young woman has the responsibility to lead an activity. She sets a goal in mind and does what is required to achieve that goal. We want to show you a video where young women decided to attend the temple, and they learned to endure all that was required to achieve that goal. Let's watch:

[Show Video: *Always in Our Sights*]

SISTER OSCARSON: Isn't that a great video? These are young women who are catching the vision of believe, obey and endure. Their leaders help them enact the symbolic journey that ends at the temple. I'm guessing that for most of these young women, that symbol will be something they reflect back on again and again. Is my life leading me to the temple and the blessings that can be obtained there?

SISTER MCCONKIE: We can help our young women learn to endure to the end in many ways. We can help them learn to endure as they seek to overcome the world, to learn what it means to bridle their passions, and put the kingdom of God first in our lives and to repent. We can help them learn what it means to keep their covenants.

Enduring means to remember that they have taken the name of Christ upon them and that they will always remember Him and they will keep His commandments.

Enduring means to serve God, to bless others temporally and spiritually, to look out for other people, to see their needs, and to respond immediately to alleviate their burdens and serve them in the way the Savior would.

Enduring means learning how to preach the gospel always, to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things and in all places that they may be in until the end of their lives.

Enduring means to stand in holy places, come what may, so that they will always have the Spirit to be with them whether they are at high school or at church.

Endure means to be valiant in the testimony of Jesus Christ, to follow the Savior and to do what He would do, to give everything to building the kingdom, including attending the temple and making sacrifices.

Enduring means to sanctify ourselves, to come unto Christ and be perfected in Him, and to deny all ungodliness. We endure all things by the power of the Atonement of our Savior Jesus Christ. By the power of the Atonement we are healed, we are cleansed, we are enabled and we are loved. Through the Atonement of our Savior Jesus Christ, in our lives every day we are able to endure all and feel a sense of purpose in our mortality. As we endure in all things, we are prepared to receive the greatest of all the gifts of God, that of eternal life.

SISTER MARRIOTT: That is something we need to keep in front of us all the time. We can make it back. President Monson defined endure in several different ways. One was to withstand with courage. It's a good one, isn't it? When I think of withstand I think of having to hold back something, to withstand the temptation, to fight against it, to be firm. Then I think about these young women coming to class on Sunday maybe a little battle-scarred. What an opportunity for the young women leaders to heal them with their testimony of the Savior, to reassure them, to armor them again to go out on Monday back to school, back out into the fray. President Boyd K. Packer said that we live in enemy territory and that is true, especially, I think, for our teenagers. We can arm them and they can withstand with courage if we will model that example of courage, of testimony, of love of this gospel.

I love this gospel! It is the good news. Sometimes I think our young women may feel a little burdened or battered and down. Let's give them that cheer—this is good news! He will prevail. He is our Savior. He is mightier than all the earth. He is mightier than the peer pressure you're receiving or the temptations that surround you. They can do it and you can do it too. Withstand with courage.

SISTER OSCARSON: We all have a firm testimony that one way to believe, obey, and endure is to keep our eye on the temple. What kind of life do we need to be living that will lead us and help us be worthy to attend the temple? One thing that we can do with all of our youth is to sit down with them and read and study the standards that are described in *For the Strength of Youth*. These are the standards that will lead us to be worthy to enter the temple. Encourage your youth around you to live those standards. Encourage them to attend seminary. That is one thing that President Monson mentions in his talk is to encourage them to attend and participate in seminary, to read their scriptures, to pray daily, to attend their church meetings and for us to be good examples in all of these things.

We live, as Sister Marriott just said, in a very perilous world. Our young people are being exposed to unrighteous and unholy things at a younger and younger age. We, as mothers, aunts, grandmothers and young women leaders, have a tremendous impact on helping them navigate these treacherous shores. We can help our young women believe, obey, and endure as our prophet testified. We would now like to close by bearing our testimonies.

SISTER MARRIOTT: Sisters, I testify that the Holy Ghost stands ready to fortify us and all the young women in the world. I testify that He is loving, that He is comforting, and that He is near. I testify that you and I—all of us—have the power to invite the Holy Ghost into the relationships we have with the young women. I testify that as we do, their hearts will fill with that same warm glow I felt as a thirteen-year-old at camp. I testify that Jesus Christ is our Savior. I love Him. He is my hope. He is my king. He is the way I will return with my family through the temple ordinances back to Father in Heaven. I know He lives. I have felt His love. I know He is aware of every question, every concern, every doubt we may feel. I know that He is more powerful. I

know that He can carry us when we are in a difficult situation. I have felt that power in my life. I so testify He is our Savior. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SISTER MCCONKIE: I'm grateful to bear my testimony. I know that God is our Father. I testify that He knows our hearts, He loves us and He stands ready to bless us. I testify that Jesus is the Son of the Living God and that He is our Savior and Redeemer. I know that His Atonement is real. As we look to Him for strength, as we look to Him for forgiveness, as we look to Him to be healed from sorrows and from challenges, we feel the power of the Atonement every day. I love this scripture. The Savior says, "For I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up."⁹ Sisters, I testify that this is true. This promise is real. We can feel and know strength and power of God in our daily walk and talk, in our duties and responsibilities, in our homes and in our families and wherever the Lord will lead us. What love, what grace, what mercy.

I know that God the Father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith and restored the gospel to the earth. I testify that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the kingdom of God on the earth and we are blessed to be a part of this kingdom. We are led by a living prophet today. I am so grateful for the restoration of the priesthood and the priesthood keys. I'm grateful for faithful priesthood leaders who guide us and direct us and who bless our lives. I'm grateful for the priesthood ordinances and covenants that bless our lives. Baptism, the sacrament, and sacred temple ordinances strengthen, bless and enable us. They bring us to our Savior and back to the presence of God. I testify that these things are true and we are so blessed to be engaged in the work of the Lord. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

SISTER OSCARSON: We are so thrilled to be serving in these callings at this time in the history of the world. What a great privilege and blessing. We are already meeting these valiant and committed youth who are so impressive in their testimonies and in their desires to do what is right. We commend you as mothers and leaders who have done such a good job of preparing them. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless you in this righteous cause. We are committed to serving the young women of the church with all of our might in the coming years and we look forward to working with you parents, leaders and friends who also want your young women to return to the presence of your Heavenly Father.

I testify to you that this work is the work of saving souls. It is made possible through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. He is our Savior and our Redeemer. We have a Father in Heaven who knows each one of us personally by name. He knows our desires, He knows our trials. He knows our troubles. He has declared that His entire purpose is to bring us back to Him, to bring about our exaltation. May we all be blessed in helping Him in this great cause is my prayer. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

¹ "Beautiful Savior," *Children's Songbook*, 62.

² 1 Nephi 10:17.

³ Thomas S. Monson, "Believe, Obey, and Endure," *Ensign*, May 2012.

⁴ Mosiah 2:41.

⁵ Doctrine and Covenants 90:24.

⁶ 2013 Mutual Theme, Doctrine and Covenants 87:8.

⁷ Doctrine and Covenants 6:34.

⁸ 3 Nephi 15:9.

⁹ Doctrine and Covenants 84:88.