

“If, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: . . .

“Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”<sup>5</sup>

We who have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior must rely wholly on the merits of Christ. He will save us after all we can do. When we courageously exercise our faith and when we go forward relying on the merits of Christ, He will bless us and guide us in all of our efforts. He will strengthen us and bring us peace in the time of our trials. “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”<sup>6</sup> I pray that each of us can better learn to put our trust in the Lord and to increase our faith in Him.

### President Hinckley is a living seer

Now, brothers and sisters, in closing I wish to mention one other topic. Over the past years I have been blessed to be able to observe President Hinckley closely, and I want to remind you that President Hinckley

is not only a living prophet but also a living seer. He sees things that others do not see. He has the gift of discernment; he is an optimist and a realist. I wish to express my gratitude to the Lord for preserving President Hinckley’s life and permitting him and his noble counselors to lead the Church for these past 10 years. Through President Hinckley’s divine guidance, the Church has received many far-reaching blessings, many that are not obvious. I strongly encourage each of you to more closely follow his counsel and guidance, for truly “a seer hath the Lord raised up unto his people.”<sup>7</sup>

Jesus is the Christ. Joseph Smith is the prophet of the Restoration. President Gordon B. Hinckley is our living prophet. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### NOTES

1. Proverbs 3:5–6.
2. 1 Nephi 3:7.
3. Matthew 5:4.
4. John 14:27.
5. 1 Peter 2:20–21, 23.
6. 2 Corinthians 5:7.
7. Moses 6:36.

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The choir and congregation sang  
“Sweet Is the Work.”

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## Sister Kathleen H. Hughes

### The importance of Christlike friends

A few weeks ago my husband and I attended a temple session. As we entered, we were greeted by a temple worker, a dear friend from our ward. That greeting began a remarkable experience for us. We were met and served, more than any time I remember, by many people we knew: friends from previous wards, friends from the community, men and women we had served with in various callings. The last person I encountered was a young woman I didn’t recognize. She was lovely, and when she be-

gan to speak, I immediately remembered: Robin, one of the young women in my Laurel class when I was first a Young Women president. As we visited and exchanged memories and life updates, she told me how much that time had meant to her. I felt the same way.

I left the temple feeling moved by so much kindness, aware how important friends have been to me throughout my life. The Lord has touched my spirit time and again, and more often than not, His touch has reached me through the hand of a friend.

### A father's example of friendship

Thirty-eight years ago this month, Dean and I, then newlyweds, traveled to New Mexico to visit my parents. While we were there, my father took us on a day trip into the mountains in the northern part of the state. In the afternoon we encountered a car stranded on the roadside with a flat tire. The driver told my father that his spare was also flat and he needed a ride to the nearest town to get the tire fixed. My father, seeing the man's family inside the car, said to him, "You'll never be able to get to town and back before dark. But listen, you have the same size wheel as mine. Take my spare, and the next time you come to Albuquerque, bring it back to me."

The stranger, shocked by the offer, said, "But you don't even know me."

Daddy's response, typical for him, was, "You're an honest man, aren't you? You'll bring the tire back."

A few weeks later I asked my dad about the spare tire. He told me that it had been returned.

My father, now in his 90th year, still goes about his life the same way. Most people his age *receive* meals-on-wheels, but my dad *delivers* food to the "aged." He's often at the bedside of friends who are ill or dying. He goes out with his chain saw, helping the Rotary club with their annual cleanup efforts. As I think of Daddy's life and actions, I'm reminded of President Boyd K. Packer's thought: he's "active in the gospel" (in Conference Report, Apr. 2003, 87; or *Ensign*, May 2003, 82). His life, as the hymn suggests, touches lives for good, and in the touching, all are enriched (see "Each Life That Touches Ours for Good," *Hymns*, no. 293). My father understands friendship.

### Recognizing the love of the Lord

As a Relief Society presidency, we sometimes hear women say that they don't feel the love of the Lord. But perhaps they

would feel more of His love if they looked for His hand in the actions of those who care for them. It may be a member of their branch or ward, a neighbor, or even a stranger who blesses them and manifests Christ's love. Elder Henry B. Eyring instructed us: "You are called to represent the Savior. Your voice to testify becomes the same as His voice, your hands to lift the same as His hands" (in Conference Report, Oct. 2002, 80; or *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 76). If we can lift others in Christ's name, surely we can also be lifted.

One home teacher I know faithfully made monthly visits to an elderly widow. More than just visit, however, each fall he winterized the sister's air conditioner and checked the filter on her furnace. Was that God's love or the love of the home teacher? The answer, of course, is both.

What greater gift dost thou bestow,  
 What greater goodness can we know  
 Than Christlike friends, whose gentle  
     ways  
 Strengthen our faith, enrich our days.  
 [*Hymns*, no. 293]

### Treasured friends

I have been blessed throughout my life with Christlike friends—from friends of my youth to the many people who have blessed our family in all the wards we have lived in. Their faith and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ, their service, their wise and gentle instruction have enriched our lives. Some of my friends are very different from me. We disagree about things, and we can even irritate each other. But friendship allows for differences—in fact, it embraces them. I love to visit stakes made up of people from a variety of backgrounds, ages, and ethnic origins.

I'm experiencing right now a special dimension of sisterhood and friendship as I serve with Sisters Parkin and Pingree and the other women in the auxiliary presidencies and boards. These are *good* women.

Oh, how I love them. After three years together, my dear sisters in the presidency know me well. They know my faith and testimony, but they also know my insecurities and worries. They know that when I'm tired after a long training trip, I'm not my best self. But I feel their love and patience, and I know they still think the best of me. Their testimonies and prayers bolster me. Their laughter brightens my day. In every sense we are sisters.

I have had similar experiences with my own family. One of my younger sisters has been struggling with cancer the past few months. We don't live close, but phone calls bring her near. We have shared love, prayers, memories, and tender testimonies as she has gone through this difficult ordeal. My sisters are treasured friends. So are my brothers, my dear husband, my children, and my grandchildren (no matter how noisy those grandchildren are).

### **Overcome hurt feelings and become one**

In the early years of the Restoration, new members gathered to create Zion. Zion was both a place and purpose—a spirit. We no longer gather in the same way. Our branches and wards are now our Zion. But they take on the spirit of Zion only when members care for one another. Sadly, we sometimes hear of women and men who have had their feelings hurt and become alienated by other Church members. If you are on either side of this dilemma—the offender or the one who has been offended—seek forgiveness; see your own part in the fault. Remember Christ's admonition to us: "I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine" (D&C 38:27).

### **Joseph—friend to humanity and the Lord**

I recently had the opportunity to speak to a woman who asked me about Joseph Smith. She was clearly skeptical about his calling and mission. As I spoke to her, the

words of the Lord to Oliver Cowdery came to me: "Stand by my servant Joseph, faithfully" (D&C 6:18). I hope that on that day, and at every moment in my life, it can be said of me, "She stood by Joseph." I want to be his friend.

Joseph Smith himself was a great friend to many. He said, "Friendship is one of the grand fundamental principles of 'Mormonism'; [it is designed] to revolutionize and civilize the world, and cause wars and contentions to cease and men to become friends and brothers" (*History of the Church*, 5:517).

And yet he knew that friendship was more than an abstraction. He learned one day that a brother's house had been burned by enemies. When Church members said they felt sorry for him, the Prophet took some money from his pocket and said, "I feel sorry for this brother to the amount of five dollars. How much do you . . . feel sorry [for him]?" (in Hyrum L. Andrus and Helen Mae Andrus, comps., *They Knew the Prophet* [1974], 150).

Do we feel about friendship as the Prophet Joseph did? Do we turn our good feelings into practical assistance? God knows the needs of His children, and He often works through us, prompting us to help one another. When we act on such promptings, we tread on holy ground, for we are allowed the opportunity to serve as an agent of God in answering a prayer.

### **Be a friend to the Savior**

Brothers and sisters, if we are friends to the Prophet Joseph, then we are friends to the Savior as well. Do we live lives that proclaim "devotion to the Savior's name"? (see *Hymns*, no. 293). Joseph Smith did, and in this year as we honor the man who ushered in the dispensation of the fulness of times, we should remember not only his friendship to humanity, but his friendship and dedication to the Lord. The Prophet said: "I will try to be contented with my lot, knowing that God is my friend. In Him

I shall find comfort” (*The Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, comp. Dean C. Jessee [1984], 239; spelling and punctuation standardized).

It should be obvious to each of us that our ultimate friendship should be with our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. The Savior has affectionately said to us, “I will call you friends, for you are my friends” (D&C 93:45). His greatest desire for us, His brothers and sisters, is to bring us back to our Father. And the way for us is clear: Develop in our lives, to the degree that we can, the qualities and attributes of Christ; obey His commandments, and do His work and His will.

As I think back to the day I was greeted in the temple by so many I loved, I like to imagine that our daily lives can be equally blessed. I felt a love that seemed a glimpse of the pure love of Christ—the charity that should fill our hearts. I picture

wards and branches where friends of all ages and backgrounds stand together and model their lives on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

I bear you my testimony today that Christ lives. I give thanks for Him. I pray that I may always be His friend and that in doing so, I will be your friend as well. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### President Hinckley

We shall now hear from Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. The choir will then sing “We Ever Pray for Thee.”

Following the singing, it will be my privilege to address you. The choir will then sing “Praise to the Man,” and the benediction will be offered by Elder Shirley D. Christensen of the Seventy. The concluding session of this conference will begin at 2:00 this afternoon.

## Elder Henry B. Eyring

### A message for converts

My message is to those who are converts to the Church. More than half the members of the Church today chose to be baptized after the age of eight. So you are not the exception in the Church. To you I wish to say how much the Lord loves you and trusts you. And even more, I wish to tell you how much He depends on you.

You felt His love at least to some degree when you were baptized. Years ago I took a young man, 20 years of age, into the waters of baptism. My companion and I had taught him the gospel. He was the first in his family to hear the message of the restored gospel. He asked to be baptized. The testimony of the Spirit made him want to follow the example of the Savior, who was baptized by John the Baptist even though He was without sin.

As I brought that young man up out of the waters of baptism, he surprised me by throwing his arms around my neck and whispering in my ear, tears streaming down his face, “I’m clean; I’m clean.” That same young man, after we laid our hands on his head with the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood and conferred on him the Holy Ghost, said to me, “When you spoke those words, I felt something like fire go down from the top of my head through my body, all the way to my feet.”

Your experience will have been unique to you, but to some degree you felt the magnitude of the blessing which came to you. Since then, you have felt the reality of the promises made to you and the promises you made. You have felt the cleansing that came from your baptism, because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. And you have felt the change in your heart as the