



QUORUM OF TWELVE APOSTLES

Dear Young People of The Church of Jesus Christ,

The Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ greet you in the love of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this letter to you because of our great interest in your natural and spiritual welfare. Just recently we have written messages and letters to your parents, the ministry, and the members of the congregations of the Church that together we would be actively supporting and caring for you. In those communications, we suggested some goals, objectives, and specific church activities that will help you, as our children, attain success and live a life of happiness and joy in Christ.

First, you probably already know that as the young people of the Church, God cares for you and loves you very much. He desires that every day of your life is filled with successful experiences, joy, and hope. The concern of The Church of Jesus Christ is to do all that we can to help you reach your goals in life as well as obtain eternal salvation for your soul.

A DREAM ACCEPTED BY THE CHURCH IN OCTOBER, 2011

Recently, the Church received a revelation from God that has prompted us to personally write to you. By now, you may have heard the dream and the interpretation applied to it. The dream indicated to all of us in the ministry an urgent matter facing the Church regarding a great evil power in the world that could have negative effects for you as the young people of the Church. In the dream it is pointed out that even though some of our children were saved, some were lost to the power of evil. This is very disturbing to us, and brings great sadness to our hearts. We do not want any of our young people falling prey to the influence of evil and losing their way. Clearly, from the beginning of time, young people have had the challenge to choose between good and evil. In fact, when you read about the lives of young people in the scripture you will find that they also had similar kinds of challenges that you face today. Though Satan has great power, if you stay fixed on the ways of the Lord, and resist evil, you will not lose your way.

HOW TO STAY SAFE AND NOT LOSE YOUR WAY

There are two powers that exist in this world. One is God, who is good, most powerful, and loving. He provided for your eternal soul salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. In addition, God sent His Spirit to dwell within men, women, and children to help and lead them in the paths of righteousness. However, they need to have an open heart and mind and be obedient to His commandments. Part of the operation of His Spirit

is the ability to “discern spirits” which obviously can be very helpful toward a peaceful and successful life. To “discern spirits” means to be able to identify what is right and what is evil. Being continually prayerful, reading the scripture, learning about the Gospel, remaining close to the Church by attending meetings, and participating in the nurture of the brothers and sisters will help keep you safe and on the pathway of salvation.

The other power is Satan who is evil. His primary objective is to interfere with the plan of God which allows men, women, and young people like you to live righteously and obtain salvation for their soul. He will use various tactics such as lying, deception, temptation, and discouragement to affect your spiritual vision and possibly cause you to lose your way and end up lost. All of the reasons why this occurs can be attributed to Satan’s evil influence, because he is the source of all human disobedience to God’s commandments. However, what happens to an individual is ultimately because of their own actions. The following are many behaviors that cause people to stray from the pathway of righteousness: not reading the scripture, failure to obey the commandments, confusion, lack of attendance to Church services, not prayerful, falling into temptation, unbelief, hard heartedness, hate, pride, envy, worldliness, lust, sinfulness, dishonesty, sinful language, unrepentant attitude, unfaithfulness.

RECOGNIZING EVIL

Sometimes it becomes very difficult to recognize what is ultimately good or evil, and often times you may have discovered the need to consult with your parents, relatives, or the Church officers. Now, the challenge for you is to have the ability to recognize what is good and what is evil on your own. There are many obvious and recognizable indicators that can make it easy for you if you know the scriptures and the commandments written therein. Sometimes, though, what appears to be good is evil, and what is evil appears to be good. Satan has the ability to be deceptive and provide evil influence in regard to your thought processes and decision making ability. Essentially, anything or any activity that goes against the principles of the scriptures can be understood to be evil. So, you will need to earnestly pray to God to help you in these confusing circumstances, and then His Spirit will signal to you which way to go. In addition, your parents, the Church ministry, brothers and sisters of the Church can also be of assistance to advise and help you to make appropriate conclusions and decisions.

TEMPTATIONS AND YIELDING TO TEMPTATION

The temptations that are evil are those attractions that satisfy our human desires and are not approved by God. The temptations that cause you to think, plan, and to act upon evil deeds are the first steps to becoming lost. You need to understand that temptation of itself is not a sin, but yielding to it and engaging in those actions are what is sinful. Also, you must earnestly stay away from evil situations so that you will not be tempted to engage in that evil activity.

REPENTANCE

Repentance is feeling a sorrow for your sin. If you do commit a sin, in order to come back to a righteous standing before the Lord once again, you must ask God's forgiveness for that wrong and vow never to engage in that evil again. In addition, if you commit a sin that affects someone else, you will need to ask forgiveness of that person, as well.

USING THE SCRIPTURES TO WALK ON LIFE'S PATHWAY

Lehi's dream and Nephi's dream depict a visualization of life's journey (1 Nephi 8, 11:7-25, 12:16-18, 15: 21-36). Lehi's family is on the pathway of life toward the Tree of Life and along the way they meet many challenges. In the experience there are several symbolisms: a dark and dreary waste and a large and spacious field which represent the world; a mist of darkness which represents the temptations of the devil; a river which represents filthiness; a straight and narrow path which represents life's pathway; along the path is a rod of iron which represents the word of God; a tree with white and delightful fruit which represents the love of God. They passed through some fearful times, temptations, and persecutions. The rod of iron representing the scriptures provided steadiness and guidance allowing them to be determined to reach the Tree of Life.

As the scriptures relate, part of Lehi's family desired to taste of the fruit of the Tree of Life. They remained steadfast, focused and obedient to God's commandments and did eat of the fruit. However, two of his sons refused to do so; and because of their unwillingness to obey God's commandments, they lost their way. Consequently, they and many of their descendants refused to repent and live righteously. You would have to wonder why this happens, especially to people like them who had many experiences from God.

The fruit on the Tree of Life represents the love of God which provides eternal salvation for your soul through the redemption of Jesus Christ. Reaching the Tree of Life and eating of the fruit necessitates some first steps to take: faith, repentance, baptism. The ministry will then bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost upon you. It is very important from that point on that you follow the guidance of His Spirit. The lesson taught in these dreams is that if you obey God's commandments, remain faithful in serving Him, repent when you err, and endure to the end of your life you, will be successful in saving your soul and not lose your way.

We pray that the Lord will richly bless you and help you to make good choices.

Love in Christ,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles