

Saturday Morning Session

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Hymn: [How Wondrous and Great](#) - Hymn 267

Conducting: Henry B. Eyring

Hymn: [Now Let Us Rejoice](#) - Hymn 3

Invocation: Elder [Kent F. Richards](#) of the Second Quorum of the Seventy

Talk: [President Thomas S. Monson](#) - **President of the Church**

Themes of talk:

- Church membership hit 15 million a couple of weeks ago
- Massive growth in service over the past year due to the change in the missionary age requirement. 80,333 missionaries serving full-time today
- there is no more binding instruction in the scriptures than “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”
- The greatest and most important duty is to preach the Gospel
- Every member a missionary - David O. McKay
- Now is the time for members and missionaries to come together, to work together to bring souls unto the Savior.
- He has prepared the means for us to share the gospel in multiple ways.
- He will assist us in our labors if we act in faith.
- We come here to be instructed and inspired.
- May we be filled with the spirit as we listen and learn.
- *No temples announced :((yet :))*

Hymn: [Israel, Israel God is Calling](#) - Hymn 7

Talk: [Robert D. Hales](#) - **Quorum of the Twelve Apostles**

Themes of talk:

- Wherever we are in this world, however we receive these proceedings, we are at His General

Conference.

- Conferences have always been a part of The Church of Jesus Christ
- Adam, Moses, the Savior and ... Conferences in our day
- Conferences are always under direction the Lord, guided by His Spirit
- Topics are not assigned... fasting and prayer
- Why does inspiration come more easily?
- The Lord told Oliver Cowdrey, They study it out in their minds
- Conference messages come to us after prayerful preparation through the Holy Ghost
- This is true of all members of the church as prepare to participate in meetings
- As conference time arrives, we put aside other things of this world and we gather our families as King Benjamin
- If you will listen you will feel the spirit well up within you. The Lord will tell you what He wants you to do with your life.
- Conference talks can be personal to those that listen
- We go to Conference to learn. We go home to act.
- We are all given personal direction
- the Holy Ghost carries the word to our hearts
- Conferences fortifies our faith
- I note what the Spirit is telling me
- Through conference our faith is fortified, our testimonies deepened.
- Oh how we need General Conference.
- We stand strong against the fiery darts of these days.
- The world is moving away from the Lord faster and farther than ever before. The adversary has been loosed on the earth.
- The world is moving away from the Lord faster than ever before
- The Family: A Proclamation to the World was given long before we ever knew the assaults on the family. They were prepared before the need .
- We may not know why the speakers speak their topics.
- "The only safety we have....is to give heed to the word...."??? Harold B. Lee???
- You may not like what comes from the leaders of the church, it may contradict your social views. But if you will listen and obey the Lord will disperse the powers of darkness from before you.
- with patience and faith, the promise is the gates of hell will not prevail against you
- The greatest blessings of general conference come after the conference is over when we return to homes to live them.
- If we listen and obey the prophets now, we will be strengthened and protected
- We gather to hear the words of the lord and we return home to live them.
- We accept the Savior's invitation when we ponder and pray on the message of every talk.
- Start going to work on changing behavior as soon as conference is done.
- "When I go home from this General Conference, there are many areas of my life I can perfect..."
President Kimball
- In addition to personal and family study, Heavenly Father wants you to study what you hear in general conference everyday.
- 97 percent of the church membership can hear these messages in their own languages.

- General conference being watched in 197 countries and heard in 95 languages
- within 2-3 days talks will be available on lds.org (*or read the talk on this google doc*)
- The talks are now available within days of conference instead of the weeks or months it used to take.
- Parents can access lessons/resources online (via lds.org) to help their strengthen their home/families.
- *Why can't they add home teaching reporting to the LDS Tools app?*
 - *My ward uses google docs to help report between the district leaders and eq presidency*
 - *We do something similar in my ward. We have a google form to report and use email distribution to get updates out...nothing new but it works, for now*
 - [LDSPlan App](#) if enough are tech savvy.
 - *Looks promising...*
 - *We use returnandreport.org, but it's not perfect.*
 - *The problem with all these is they don't tie into MLS so you get a report so you can go to the church and enter it into MLS.*
 - *Yup. That's why I really wish the Church would include HT in the LDS Tools app, or even somewhere online.*
 - *According to tech.lds.org the reason we don't have it is HT/VT is stored on the local PC and not sync'ed to HQ. From what I see, it appears there is work on a separate HT/VT app...*

Talk: [Ulisses Soares](#)-Presidency of Seventy

Themes of talk:

- Controlling your temper may be a challenge
- "Meekness is the fruit of the spirit...." The Apostle Paul
- Those who possess this attribute are willing to listen and learn from the Spirit.
- "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your father in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48
- Christlike attributes are a gift from God.
- Being weak does not mean weakness....
- Meekness is vital for us to become more Christlike.
- Learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart. the Savior said
- It is our duty to try to be perfect....to look on our course last week and improve upon it this week.
- Christ asked us to take up our cross daily.
- *It is our duty to try and improve daily. Each day we need to try and be better than the previous.*
- Another important step to becoming meek is controlling our temper.
- Think for a few seconds how you react when someone doesn't comply with you right away.
- What is your response when someone does not immediately agree with you?
- By controlling our reactions, and our tempers we come a step closer to obtaining the gift of meekness.
- The humble are meek and walk hand in hand with the Lord.
- Story of Moses Mafungo (sp) who discovered the Book of Mormon in 1968 but was prohibited from joining the church because of the laws of the country. He and his family would listen to church meetings through a window that was left open for this purpose. Moses, his family, and friends would eventually join the church once the laws were changed.
- Thanks to His love, it is possible to change. It is possible to leave our weaknesses behind.

- He gave us the perfect example and gave us an invitation to become like Him.

Talk: [Carole M. Stephens](#) - First Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency

Themes of talk:

- Divine nature and destiny.
- To achieve this divine destiny we need priesthood ordinances.
- We need baptism. We need the gift of the Holy Ghost, through that gift we have direct access to the Spirit of God.
- Every man or woman who has been baptized has right to revelation - President Wilford Woodruff
- Everyone has a right to revelation and the Spirit of God over those whom they preside over.
- We need to receive the temple endowment.
- The endowment is literally a gift of power, the priesthood power.
- We need to receive the temple endowment.
- The endowment is literally a gift of power and ordinances are performed by both men and women.
- Priesthood authority has been restored so we can seal families eternally.
- We renew all covenants when we partake the sacrament
- "Priesthood ordinances and covenants arms sons and daughters of God with power." Priesthood ordinances arm God's children with power, His power...made possible through Christ's Atonement
- There is a great need today for men and women to respect the priesthood.
- He has a plan for us and when we exercise faith in His plan, our reverence for Him and His priesthood power will be strengthened.
- Every woman in the church needs to know she has a bishop, an elder's quorum president, a home teacher and other priesthood leaders who are willing to come into her home and give blessings (Elder Ballard)
- Our Heavenly Father is generous with His power
- Sons of God need daughters of God, and daughters of God need sons of God. We have different gifts and strengths...
- 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12
- Do you show respect for women, motherhood, and womanhood?
- Sons of God:
 - Do you know who you are?
 - Do you know what you have?
 - Are you worthy to exercise in the priesthood?
 - Do you show respect for women, mothers and motherhood?
- Do we show respect for man, fathers, and fatherhood?
- Daughters of God:
 - Do you know who you are?
 - We we embrace our responsibility as mothers
 - Do we show respect for man, manhood and fatherhood?
 - Do we have faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement?
- We are beloved sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father who has a divine destiny for us.
- Today, Thomas S. Monson hold all the keys of the priesthood.

- God will keep His promises to you as you honor your covenants with Him.

Hymn: [There is Sunshine in My Soul Today](#) - Hymn 227

Talk: [Edward Dube](#)-First Quorum of the Seventy

Themes of talk:

- Story of accomplishment as a boy with Edward Dube's mother.
- ***Never look back, look at what we still have to do!***
- *Look ahead and believe*
- The covenant we made with the Lord when we were baptized is a life-long commitment.
- Those who have been baptized has set their feet on the path of discipleship. - President Uchtdorf
- The Lord through his servants calls us to various callings which we accept with total commitment
- We joyfully accept callings knowing in the service of our Lord it does not matter where you serve, but how.
- We have never served enough
- He is not weary in what he is doing because he knows he is a part of the Lord's work.
- We all should be engaged in a good cause....
- The past is to be learned from but not lived in
- Faith is always pointing us to the future.
- "The past is to be learned from but not lived in....Look ahead and remember that faith is always pointing toward the future." [Jeffrey R. Holland](#)
- In 1846, more than 10,000 people left Nauvoo....they didn't know exactly where they were going....or what the future had in store for them....but they looked ahead in faith.
- They knew they were being led by the Lord.
- He that is faithful in tribulation the greater is his reward in heaven.
-for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
- "As we look ahead and believe, we need this same teamwork in hastening the work of salvation."
- "May we all unite in a common objective."
- If we follow the example of our Savior Jesus Christ and raise our hand to the square in support of our prophet we shall find peace and joy in the last days.
- In the sight of the Lord it is not so much what we have done or where we have been but where we are willing to go.

Talk: [David A. Bednar](#)-Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Themes of talk:

- Two important lessons about the law of tithing
- First Lesson: Blessings that come to individuals and families as they obey the law of tithing.
- Second the lesson of tithing about the growth of the Church in all of the world
- Significant but subtle blessings
 - Sister Bednar's mother
 - Kept family financial records using very simple ledgers

- As we live the law of tithing we often receive significant but subtle blessings that can easily be overlooked and not what we expect
- Help comes from the windows of heaven as testified in [Malachi 3:10](#)
- Windows allow natural light to enter into the building. In like manner spiritual illumination and perspective are poured out into our lives as we honor the law of tithing
 - A blessing that we receive is a spiritual gift of gratitude
- A grateful person is rich in the spirit of contentment. An ungrateful person is rife with the spirit of discontentment.
- One blessing may be a greater determination to search for a job that other people won't be willing to do.
- "Eyes and ears of faith are needed however to recognize the spirit of discernment..."
- Increased capacity to do more with less.
- We may want to receive a greater paycheck, but the windows of heaven will help us to change our own circumstances rather than expect our circumstances to be changed by someone else
- Stripling Warriors....
- God granted the faithful warriors assurance that He would deliver them and peace to their souls.
- Assurance, peace, faith and hope are the blessings the valiant young men needed to press forward and progress physically and spiritually.
- We may not received the blessings we want but we'll received the blessings we need
- Sometimes we may ask God for success and he gives us physical and mental stamina....
- I promise that as you and I observed and keep the law of tithing, indeed the windows of heaven will be open that there will not be room enough to receive them.
- The Lord has said, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways ..." [Isaiah 55:8-9](#)
- The Simplicity of the Lord's way
- Attended the first council of the disposition of tithes in 2004
- Basic Financial Law of the Church:
 - [D&C 119](#)--all members should pay 1/10th
 - [D&C 120](#) The disbursements shall be a council of the First Presidency, Bishop (Presiding Bishopric), High Council (Quorum of the Twelve) and by mine own voice.
- These sacred funds are used in a rapidly growing church to maintain buildings, support missionary work, funding religious education, and others...
- Clarity and brevity of these two revelations (D&C 119 and 120)
- This is the Lord's Work
- In the first council meeting he was impressed by the simplicity of the principles that guided their decisions.
- Financial Principles of the Church:
 - First, the church lives within its means and does not spend more than it brings in.
 - Second, the portion of the annual income is set aside for contingencies and unanticipated needs.
- Wishing that all members of the church could practice the simplicity, the clarity, the orderly of the disbursement of the church
- My gratitude and reverence of the Lord's pattern has grown each year.

- Your faith strengthens my faith. Your devotion makes me more devoted. And your goodness and willing obedience to the law of tithing inspires me to be a better husband, father and church leader.
- The leaders of the Lord's church feel a tremendous responsibility with the disbursement of the tithing funds of the church.
- [The Widow's Mite](#) Mark 12:41-44
 - *What can those for whom tithing is not "giving the widows mite" give up their mites? What's the "widows mite" equivalent for those who have been blessed with financial security?*
- I acknowledge the voice and hand of the Lord in sustaining His ordained servants in fulfilling the duty to represent Him
- The honest payment of tithing is much more than a duty it is an important step in personal sanctification
- By living the law of tithing, the windows of heaven will be open to you.
- To those of you who are not paying your tithing, I invite you that aren't paying tithing to repent.
- Please do not procrastinate the day of your repentance.
- The blessings of paying tithing are subtle but significant.

Hymn: [Keep the Commandments](#) - Hymn 303 & Childrens Songbook 146

Talk: [President Dieter F. Uchtdorf](#)-Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Themes of talk:

- Once there was a man that dreamed he was in a great hall with all the religions in the world
- Do you pay your people for all the work they do?
 - No they offer their time freely. Every 6 months our church members watch 10 hours of General Conference.
- How long are your weekly church services?
 - 3 hours
- Do members of your church do what is said?
 - Yes.
- Now I'm confused. Why would anyone want to join such a church? (*we're crazy*)
 - We thought you would never ask.
- In addition to regular church services there are meetings, activities, home teaching, visiting teaching, seminary, temple work, missionary work, etc., that members take part in.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is one of the fastest growing churches in the world
 - *The last ten years we've grown at about 2-2.5% per year. The ten years prior we grew at 3-4%. Our growth rate is slowing but most other large religions are shrinking.*
- A few reasons for church growth:
- **First**, this church was restored in our day by Jesus Christ himself.
- Here you find the authority to act in His name; to baptize for the remission of sins
- Members can feel his power in their lives when they receive the ordinances of the gospel
- God speaks to mankind again.
- Those who join this church wish to feel the Savior's love and hear His words.
- The church provides opportunities for people to feel good.
- The members want to put their faith into practice. They want to roll up their sleeves and become

engaged in this great cause.

- Because we have no paid clergy, the members perform the work of ministry themselves. They are called by inspiration. Sometimes we volunteer. Sometimes we are volunteered.
- Walking the path of discipleship leads to precious blessings.
- We see assignments not as burdens, but as opportunities.
- Those who follow this path faithfully avoid many of the pitfalls sorrows and regrets of life.
- Those who suffer or grieve find healing here.
- Our daily walk with Jesus Christ leads to peace and joy in this life and blessings and eternal life in the next.
- The search for truth has lead millions to the Church
- Why would anyone leave the church?
- Sometimes we assume it is because they have been offended, lazy or sinful. It's not that simple.
- There's not one reason. Some struggle with questions.
- Why would anyone leave? It is not so simple. There is not one reason.
- Some of our dear members wrestle for years whether they should separate themselves from us.
- Some struggle with unanswered questions with things that have been done or said in the past.
- It breaks our hearts when a beloved member separates themselves from us, but we honor their right to do so.
- There have been some things said and done that can cause people to question. We simply don't have all of the information and we need a little patience.
- When the whole truth will be made known, some things will be solved to our satisfaction.
- *This is the second talk in as many conferences that focused on questions and doubts (Elder Holland). Obviously a concern of the brethren. People are letting doubts overcome faith.*
- What creates doubt in one may create deeper faith in another.
- There have been times when members and leaders have simply made mistakes.
- *I suppose the church would only be perfect if it were run by perfect beings.*
- **God is perfect and His doctrine is pure.**
- Title page of the Book of Mormon
 - Condemn not the things of God that you may be found spotless at the judgement seat of Christ.
- It is unfortunate that some stumble because of the mistakes of man.
- The eternal truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ is constant, true and correct.
- I bear solemn witness that no decision of significance is ever made without honestly seeking guidance from our Eternal Heavenly Father.
- God will not allow His church to drift from its eternal course.
- To those who have separated themselves from the Church. My dear friends there is yet a place for you here. Come and add your talents gifts and energies to ours.
- What about my doubts? It is natural to have questions.
- There are few members of the church who have not wrestled with questions.
- Faith is to hope for things which are not seen but which are true.
- Therefore please my dear friends, ***first doubt your doubts before you doubt your faith.***
- Doubt should not hold us prisoner from our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- You fit in better than you suppose. We all have yearnings, struggles, and hopes similar to yours.
- *We need your unique talents and perspectives.*

- "The diversity of persons and people all around the globe is a strength of this church."
 - *We need diversity in the church so we can save those who have different opinions and backgrounds. Diversity is a good thing and we need more of it*
- I don't think I can live up to your standards. All the more reason to come.
- "The church is designed to nourish the imperfect, the struggling, and the exhausted."
- Some might say, "I know a member of your church who is a hypocrite. I could never join a church who has someone like him as a member."
 - If that's what a hypocrite is then we are all hypocrites if we aren't perfect in our religious worship.
- None of us are quite as Christlike than we know we should be.
- There is room for you in our church.
- The Church seems to attract the kind and the caring, the honest and the industrious.
- If you expect to find perfect people here, then you will be disappointed.
- If you seek the pure doctrine of Christ. The word of God that heals the wounded soul.
- Here you will find a people who yearn to know Christ by serving our fellow men. just like you. Come join with us.
- Will we like Peter, hold fast to the words of eternal life. If we want to transform faith into action.
- If you're looking for a place of belonging, Come join with us!
- If you have left the faith, Come join with us!
- I plead with all who read these words. Come join with us!!
- Take up your cross and follow Him, Come join with us.
- Here you will find what is precious beyond price.
- Here you will find the way to eternal life, the road to redemption, pathway to peace and happiness.

Hymn: [Come Ye Thankful People Come](#) - Hymn 94

Benediction: [Matthew O. Richardson](#), 2nd Counselor, General Sunday School Presidency