

Seeking Spiritual Strength and Safety for Families Quotes and Scriptures

(including the ones I cut)

“Famous Roots author, Alex Haley, once said: “In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage—to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still ... an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.” Through family history we discover the most beautiful tree in the forest of creation—our family tree. Its numerous roots reach back through history, and its branches extend throughout eternity. Family history is the expansive expression of eternal love. It is born of selflessness. It provides opportunity to secure the family unit forever.”

J. Richard Clarke, “Our Kindred Family—Expression of Eternal Love,” *Ensign*, May 1989, 60.

“This restoration was accompanied by what is sometimes called the Spirit of Elijah—a manifestation of the Holy Ghost bearing witness of the divine nature of the family.”

Russell M. Nelson, “A New Harvest Time,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 34.

“How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him”
1 Kgs. 18:21

“We believe that the first principles and ^aordinances of the Gospel are: first, ^bFaith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, ^cRepentance; third, ^dBaptism by ^eimmersion for the ^fremission of sins; fourth, Laying on of ^ghands for the ^hgift of the Holy Ghost.”

Articles of Faith 1:4

1 Kings 17

13 And **Elijah** said unto her, **Fear not**; go *and* do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring *it* unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall **not** waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day *that* the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she ^awent and did according to the saying of **Elijah**: and she, and he, and her house, did eat *many* days.

16 *And* the barrel of meal wasted **not**, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by **Elijah**.

“There is another way to look at your problem of crowded time. You can see it as an opportunity to test your faith. The Lord loves you and watches over you. He is all-powerful, and He promised you this: “[The Lord] has promised you this: ‘But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’ That is a true promise. When we put God’s purposes first, He will give us miracles. If we **pray to know what He would have us do next**, He will multiply the effects of what we do in such a way that **time seems to be expanded.**”

Henry B. Eyring, “Education for Real Life,” *Ensign*, Oct 2002, 14

“But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul.”

2 Nephi 32:9

“...Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. . . . “And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.” JSH 1:38-39

“It is tremendously significant to me that this declaration, this repetition of the wondrous words of Malachi concerning the work for the dead, was given to the boy Joseph four years before he was allowed to take the plates from the hill. It was given before he received either the Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood, before he was baptized, and well before the Church was organized. “It says much concerning the priority of this work in the plan of the Lord.”...“And without this work, the Lord indicated the whole purpose of creating and peopling the earth would be frustrated, would be wasted.”

Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Mar 1995, p.61.

“It was ... on the third day of April, 1836,” said President Joseph Fielding Smith, “that the [Jewish people], in their homes at the Paschal feast, opened their doors for Elijah to enter. [However,] on that very day Elijah did enter—not in the home of the Jews to partake of the Passover with them, but he appeared in the House of the Lord ... in Kirtland, and there bestowed his keys.” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1936, p. 75.)

David B. Haight, “Temples and Work Therein,” *Ensign*, Nov 1990, 59.

Promise 1 (A promised land): “Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

“For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever” (Gen. 13:14-15).

Promise 2 (A great posterity): “I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered” (Gen.13:16).

Promise 3 (Priesthood & gospel blessings): “I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee” (Gen. 17:7).

Promise 4 (A mission of salvation to others): “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 22:18). –[**Christ came through the line of Abraham, missionary work and family history & temple work**]

Kent P. Jackson, “The Abrahamic Covenant: A Blessing for All People,” *Tambuli*, Feb 1994, 43

Abraham 2

8 My name is Jehovah, and I know the end from the beginning; **therefore my hand shall be over thee.**

9 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee above measure, and make thy name great among all nations, and thou shalt be a blessing unto thy seed after thee, that in their hands they shall bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations;

10 And I will bless them through thy name; for as many as receive this Gospel shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as their father;

11 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee; and in thee (that is, in thy Priesthood) and in thy seed (that is, thy Priesthood), for I give unto thee a promise that this right shall continue in thee, and in thy seed after thee (that is to say, the literal seed, or the seed of the body) **shall all the families of the earth be blessed**, even with the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessings of salvation, even of life eternal.

“There must be this chain in the holy Priesthood; it must be welded together from the latest generation that lives on the earth back to Father Adam, to bring back all that can be saved and placed where they can receive salvation and a glory in some kingdom. This Priesthood has to do it; this Priesthood is for this purpose.”

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.623

Elder McConkie said, “The promises are the provisions of the Abrahamic covenant whereby the seed of the ancient patriarchs are entitled to receive the priesthood, the gospel, and eternal life (including celestial marriage). We are the children, and after we receive these blessings for ourselves, our attention turns almost by instinct to the well-being of our ancestors who died without a knowledge of the gospel. We are Abraham’s seed, and they were Abraham’s seed ... through Jacob, and through the house of Israel. It thus becomes our privilege, on the basis of salvation for the dead, to search out our ancestors—to whom the same blessings have been promised as have come to us—and to make these blessings available to them through the vicarious ordinances of the house of the Lord.”

Robert L. Millet, “The Ancient Covenant Restored,” *Ensign*, Mar 1998, 36.

“...there are some members who engage in temple work but fail to do family history research on their own family lines. Although they perform a divine service in assisting others, **they lose a blessing** by not seeking their own kindred dead as divinely directed by latter-day prophets. ... “I have learned that those who engage in family history research and then perform the temple ordinance work for those whose names they have found will know the **additional joy of receiving both halves of the blessing.**”

Pres. Howard W. Hunter , “A Temple-Motivated People,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1995, p.4-5.

**Blessing quotes in a separate documents (see webpage).

Archibald F. Bennett, a prominent genealogist, said: “Sister Susan Young Gates...once asked her father [Brigham Young] how it would ever be possible to accomplish the great amount of temple work that must be done. He told her that there would be many inventors of labor-saving devices, so that our daily duties could be performed in a short time, leaving us more and more time for temple work. The inventions have come, and are still coming but many simply divert the time gained to other channels, and not for the purpose intended by the Lord.”

Brigham Young quote, *Improvement Era*, Oct 1952

"Going hand in hand with this increased temple activity is an increase in our family history work. The computer in its various ramifications is accelerating the work, and people are taking advantage of the new techniques being offered to them. How can one escape the conclusion that the Lord is in all of this? As computer facilities improve, the number of temples grows to accommodate the accelerated family history work"

Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 4-5.

“The Lord has poured out knowledge about how to make that information available worldwide through technology that a few years ago would have seemed a miracle.”

Henry B. Eyring, “Hearts Bound Together,” *Ensign*, May 2005, 77.

“The Lord has poured out His Spirit upon His children—which is manifest in new technology, simplified procedures, and expanding resources, which enable us to accelerate our progress in the redemption of the dead. **“When we have conscientiously done all we can to locate records of our ancestors, the Lord will direct our attention to obscure records in unlikely places where ancestral information has been preserved.”**

David B. Haight, "Personal Temple Worship," *Ensign*, May 1993, 23.

“Now there’s one more way by which revelations may come, and that is by dreams. Oh, I’m not going to tell you every dream you have is a revelation from the Lord.... But I fear that in this age of sophistication there are those of us who are prone to rule out all dreams as of no purpose.... And yet all through the scriptures there were incidents where the Lord, by dreams, has directed His people. When we begin to understand that beyond sight, as Brigham Young said, **the spirit world is right here round about us, and if our spiritual eyes could be opened, we could see others visiting with us, directing us.** And if we will learn not be so sophisticated that we rule out that possibility of impressions from those who are beyond sight, then we too may have a dream that may direct us as revelation.”

Harold B. Lee, *Stand Ye In Holy Places*, p.142 143.

“And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good—to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted.”

Jacob 2: 19

“Whosoever seeks to help those on the other side receives help in return in all affairs of life. I can think of no better preparation for one’s labor on the farm, in the office, wherever it may be, than to spend a few hours in the

temple, to partake of its influence and to give oneself unselfishly for the benefit of those who have gone beyond the veil.”

John A. Widstoe, *Improvement Era*, October 1952, p. 719

“And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”

2 Kings 6:16-17

[Referring to his own ancestors, Elder Nelson said,] “My debt to them is reflected in these biblical verses: “One soweth, and another reapeth” that “both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.”” (John 4:37, 36)

Russell M. Nelson, “A New Harvest Time,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 34.

“I am indebted to my kindred dead who made it possible for me to live in this dispensation and to have the privilege of being a member of the “only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.” (D&C 1:30.)

David B. Haight, “Temples and Work Therein,” *Ensign*, Nov 1990, 59.

“For behold, this is my ^a[work](#) and my ^b[glory](#)—to bring to pass the ^c[immortality](#) and ^d[eternal](#) ^e[life](#) of man.”

Moses 1:39

“...**how would Satan strive to lead you from the path to happiness?** Surely he would not be successful by tempting you to commit serious transgression—at least not initially. **He would more likely fill your mind and heart with visions of many, many worthwhile things—none of which could be criticized as being wrong, but, taken together, they would so occupy your time that you would not do those things that are absolutely essential for eternal life...**Nephi warned of this approach: “And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell” (2 Nephi 28:21-22)

Richard G. Scott, “Finding Happiness”, BYU Education Week Devotional, 1997

“By the baptisms we perform in behalf of the dead, we testify that “as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. ... By identifying our ancestors and performing for them the saving ordinances they could not themselves perform, we are testifying of the infinite reach of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Christ “died for all.”

D. Todd Christofferson, “The Redemption of the Dead and the Testimony of Jesus,” *Ensign*, Nov 2000, 9-11.

“We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, **all mankind** may be saved, by obedience to the laws **and ordinances** of the Gospel.”

Articles of Faith 1:3

“[Jesus Christ] died, was buried, and rose on the third day to make the atoning sacrifice **for all mankind so that death would not hold permanent power.** Because of that act, all would rejoice and enjoy mortality.” L. Tom Perry, “

The Great Plan of Our God,” *Ensign*, Feb 2009, 62-66.

“...There is a much greater key—a key which each one of us earnestly seeks to obtain and which will open the locks to the treasure houses of the knowledge which we desire to acquire. That key is the key of faith. In this work, no lock will open without it.

“I testify that when we do all we can to accomplish the work that is before us, the Lord will make available to us the sacred key needed to unlock the treasure which we so much seek.

“The oft-quoted epistle of James was not meant exclusively for investigators. It was meant for you and me as well: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”

“Should any obstacles be encountered, one must seek the companionship of the Holy Spirit for guidance to solve the problem faced. I testify that the Spirit will come, the way will be opened, and the key will be provided. ...

“We need the key of faith. No locked door can withstand its opening capacity. Faith is a requisite to this work. There is within our grasp the key which will unlock to our view that which we earnestly seek. ...

“The key of faith can be ours. May we use it wisely, thus opening to the view of those who have gone before us that great vision of their opportunity in the kingdom of our Heavenly Father.”

Thomas S. Monson, “The Key of Faith,” *Ensign*, Feb 1994, 2.

Elder Widtsoe quote: **“In our preexistent state, in the day of the great council, we made a[n] ... agreement with the Almighty.** The Lord proposed a plan. ... We accepted it. Since the plan is intended for all men, we became parties to the salvation of every person under that plan. We agreed, right then and there, to be not only saviors for ourselves but ... saviors for the whole human family. **We went into a partnership with the Lord. The working out of the plan became then not merely the Father’s work, and the Savior’s work, but also our work.** The least of us, the humblest, is in partnership with the Almighty in achieving the purpose of the eternal plan of salvation. ... “That places us in a very responsible attitude towards the human race. By that doctrine, with the Lord at the head, we become **saviors on Mount Zion**, all committed to the great plan of offering salvation to the untold numbers of spirits. To do this is the Lord’s self-imposed duty, this great labor his highest glory. Likewise, it is man’s duty, self-imposed, his pleasure and joy, his labor, and ultimately his glory.” (“The Worth of Souls,” *The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine*, Oct. 1934, p. 189.)

David B. Haight, “Temples and Work Therein,” *Ensign*, Nov 1990, 59.

The Prophet Joseph wrote: “But how are they to become saviors on Mount Zion? By building their temples, ... and receiving all the ordinances, ... ordinations and sealing powers upon their [own] heads, [and] in behalf of all their progenitors who are dead, and redeem them that they may come forth in the first resurrection and be exalted to thrones of glory with them; and herein is the chain that binds the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, which fulfills the mission of Elijah.” (*History of the Church*, 6:184.)

David B. Haight, “Temples and Work Therein,” *Ensign*, Nov 1990, 59.

“For me, knowing that turns my heart not only to my ancestors who wait but to the missionaries who teach them. I will see those missionaries in the spirit world, and so will you. Think of a faithful missionary standing there with those he has loved and taught who are your ancestors. Picture as I do the smile on the face of that missionary as you walk up to him and your ancestors whom he converted but could not baptize or have sealed to family until you came to the rescue. I do not know what the protocol will be in such a place, but I imagine arms thrown around your neck and tears of gratitude.

“If you can imagine the smile of the missionary and your ancestor, think of the Savior when you meet Him. You will have that interview. He paid the price of the sins of you and all of Heavenly Father’s spirit children. He is Jehovah. He sent Elijah. He conferred the powers of the priesthood to seal and to bless out of perfect love. And He has trusted you by letting you hear the gospel in your lifetime, giving you the chance to accept the obligation to offer it to those of your ancestors who did not have your priceless opportunity. Think of the gratitude He has for those who pay the price in work and faith to find the names of their ancestors and who love them and Him enough to offer them eternal life in families, the greatest of all the gifts of God. He offered them an infinite sacrifice. He will love and appreciate those who paid whatever price they could to allow their ancestors to choose His offer of eternal life.”

Henry B. Eyring, “Hearts Bound Together,” *Ensign*, May 2005, 77.

"Here are my eyes; together we will look upon the beauty of the Lord's house. Here are my ears; let us hear the words of eternal life. Here are my lips; we will make sacred covenants. Here are my hands; together we will receive the gifts of life everlasting. Here are my knees; kneel with me at the altars of salvation, there to become one with all those we both love. I will remember you."

“Prayerfully determine what you should do for your ancestors. Many factors affect this—what other family members might have done already, your own abilities and interests, the time you have available. But it is important that you do something.”

David B. Haight, "Personal Temple Worship," *Ensign*, May 1993, 23.

“Our effort is not to compel everyone to do everything, but to encourage everyone to do something.”

Dallin H. Oaks, “Family History: ‘In Wisdom and in Order’,” *Ensign*, Jun 1989, 6.

“Where much is given, much is required. After you find the first few generations, the road will become more difficult. The price will become greater. As you go back in time, the records become less complete. As others of your family search out ancestors, you will discover that the ancestor you find has already been offered the full blessings of the temple. Then you will have a difficult and important choice to make. You will be tempted to stop and leave the hard work of finding to others who are more expert or to another time in your life. But you will also feel a tug on your heart to go on in the work, hard as it will be.

“As you decide, remember that the names which will be so difficult to find are of real people to whom you owe your existence in this world and whom you will meet again in the spirit world. When you were baptized, your ancestors looked down on you with hope. Perhaps after centuries, they rejoiced to see one of their descendants make a covenant to find them and to offer them freedom. In your reunion, you will see in their eyes either gratitude or terrible disappointment. Their hearts are bound to you. Their hope is in your hands. You will have more than your own strength as you choose to labor on to find them.”

Henry B. Eyring, “Hearts Bound Together,” *Ensign*, May 2005, 77.

Brigham Young quote: “What do you suppose the fathers would say if they could speak from the dead? Would they not say, ‘We have lain here thousands of years, here in this prison house, waiting for this dispensation to come?’ ... What would they whisper in our ears? Why, if they had the power the very thunders of heaven would be in our ears, if we could realize the importance of the work we are engaged in. All the angels in heaven are looking at this little handful of people, and stimulating them to the salvation of the human family. ... **When I think upon this subject, I want the tongues of seven thunders to wake up the people.**”

Russell M. Nelson, “Young Adults and the Temple,” *Ensign*, Feb 2006, 12–17

“I believe the youth are not only willing and able to do genealogical research, but they are a good means of giving life to the whole program. How often have the youth actually been driven away by those who would close the door on genealogy to them, or at the best, insist that they must “drink milk” when they are ready for the “meat”.”

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 163

“Blessed with youthful vigor, mental alertness, and scholastic training denied many of their parents and grandparents, there is much that can be done by youth.... “The future of genealogical research rests squarely upon the shoulders of youth.”

Archibald F. Bennett, *Saviors on Mount Zion*, p. 145

“The home is to be God’s laboratory of love and service.”

Russell M. Nelson, “Salvation and Exaltation,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 7–10.

“With that doctrine [the doctrine of the Abrahamic covenant] implanted deeply within our souls, the sting of death is soothed and spiritual protection is provided. Children of the covenant will be blessed—here and hereafter—I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.”

Russell M. Nelson, “Children of the Covenant,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 32

“[John the Baptist] He said that this priesthood of Aaron “holds the keys of the ministering of angels.” It is a tremendous thing to have the right to the ministering of angels. ...

“I am convinced that the Lord would not have given it to us had He not desired that we have it so that we might enjoy the wonderful gifts, guidance, and protection which come therefrom. ...

“When you, as a priest, kneel at the sacrament table and offer up the prayer, which came by revelation, you place the entire congregation under covenant with the Lord. Is this a small thing? It is a most important and remarkable thing.

“Now, my dear young brethren, if we are to enjoy the ministering of angels, if we are to teach the gospel of repentance, if we are to baptize by immersion for the remission of sins, if we are to administer to the membership of the Church the emblems of the sacrifice of our Lord, then we must be worthy to do so (from *Ensign*, May 1988, 46).”

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Words of the Prophet: ‘Upon You My Fellow Servants’,” *New Era*, May 2002, 4.

“Our chief responsibility at that time [when he was on the Priesthood Genealogy Committee] was to convince the membership of the Church that they need not be specialists, **they need not be in their eighties**, they need not be exclusively genealogists in order to understand the responsibility which rests upon each member of the Church to seek out his or her kindred dead and to perform the work which must necessarily be accomplished in their behalf. I believe there is and has been a feeling that family history research is for a select few and not for the general membership of the Church.”

Thomas S. Monson, “The Key of Faith,” *Ensign*, Feb 1994, 2.

“We as children of the covenant are highly favored. In our hearts have been planted the promises made to Fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Lord has said: “Ye are lawful heirs, according to the flesh, and have been hid from the world with Christ in God. ... “Therefore, blessed are ye if ye continue in my goodness, a light unto the Gentiles, and through this priesthood, a savior unto my people Israel.” D&C 86:9, 11. This life is the time to prepare for salvation and exaltation.²⁶ In God’s eternal plan, salvation is an individual matter; exaltation is a family matter.”

Russell M. Nelson, “Salvation and Exaltation,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 7–10.

“And now, my dearly beloved brethren and sisters, let me assure you that these are principles in relation to the dead and the living that cannot be lightly passed over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their ^a[salvation](#) is necessary and essential to our salvation, as Paul says concerning the fathers—that they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made ^b[perfect](#)”

D& C 128:15

“[The Lord’s] purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay his hand.”

D&C 76:3

“And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!”

D&C 18:16