
*Parenting the Next Generation
President Meyer Comments for October 14th Special Event*

QUOTE: *“Our dear young brothers and sisters,*

We love you and we have confidence in you. You are truly among Heavenly Father’s choice spirits, sent to earth at this time to do important things.

There may be times when you don’t feel strong or capable. That’s normal. Especially in those moments, turn to the Savior. He is the “strength of youth.”

This guide will help you build a solid foundation for making choices to stay on the covenant path. It will help you prepare to make sacred covenants in the temple, prepare to serve a mission, and find joy in following Jesus Christ throughout your life. We hope you feel that you belong in the Savior’s Church and have power from Him to fulfill His purposes for you.

We know God lives. It is our prayer that you will stay firmly on the covenant path that leads back to your Father in Heaven. As you do, you will be an influence for good, sharing the gospel joyfully and preparing the world for the Second Coming of the Savior.

The First Presidency”. ENDQUOTE – This is the Preface to the recently updated “For the Strength of Youth: A guide for making choices” released at general conference 2 weeks ago.

It covers the following key topics:

- *Making inspired choices*
- *Jesus Christ will help you*
- *Love God, love your neighbor*
- *Walk in God’s light*
- *Your body is sacred*
- *Truth will make you free*
- *Find Joy in Christ*

1. I'd like to draw out two key principles taught in this inspired instructional document.
2. One of them matches the key promptings that originated the planning for this Special Event...
3. Quote: *"While others can help you, your spiritual growth is personal. It's between you and the Lord. He knows your heart, and only He can be the ultimate Judge."* - For the Strength of Youth.
4. To me this means that:
 - a. A parent is best aligned with Heavenly Father when we... teach, show, and assist our children to practice actual communication, directly between them and God.
 - b. When we teach, show, and assist our children in experiencing personal revelation. Not just revelation that is worthy of a once or twice in a lifetime spiritual communication... but more akin to a daily, comfortable, friendship-like communication with their Heavenly Father.
 - c. When we teach, show, and help our children become so confident in Trusting the Lord, that we are no longer an element needed for our children in this equation.
5. **The two essential teachings that helps sustain a covenantal relationship between our children and God are the following:**
 - a. QUOTE: *"Jesus Christ is your strength. He has done everything necessary for you to have joy in this life and forever. By choosing Him and His gospel, YOU are choosing eternal joy."* ENDQUOTE. – For the Strength of Youth
6. Secondly, the teaching that helps sustain a life-long covenantal relationship between our children and God is that:
 - a. QUOTE: *"Rejoice in the gift to do better and be better. Even when it is not easy and takes longer than you'd like, never stop trying. Keep working and trusting in the Lord. The Savior will help you every step of the way."* ENDQUOTE. – For the Strength of Youth
7. These two inspired teachings, both quoted from the revised For the Strength of Youth, are twin pillars in helping our children to be covenant keepers.

8. If I was to go back 30+ years, I would gratefully and humbly exchange all the structured family home evenings, and the myriad of youth activities and instead... CENTER and FOCUS on these two pillars:
 - a. Create experiences where my children would KNOW, really KNOW that Jesus Christ is their strength and KNOW this through personal and frequent experience with revelation... and
 - b. Two... Create experiences where my children would KNOW, really KNOW, how to rejoice in the gift of repentance... and KNOW this through personal and frequent experience with repentance.

9. Imagine if every 16-year-old knew how to answer the following question, without hesitation:
 - a. Can you share your most recent experience in hearing the Word of the Lord?
 - b. Can you share how you know if God has forgiven you?
 - c. Can you share how you find answers to gospel related questions?
 - d. Can you share how you have faith in and a testimony of God, the Eternal Father, His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost?
 - e. Can you share how you have a testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ and of His role as your Savior and Redeemer?
 - f. Can you share how the Lord has blessed you recently?

10. Imagine if every 16-year-old knew how they personally FIND JOY IN CHRIST?

11. Imagine, if as parents, we unequivocally concurred with the First Presidencies very initial statement to the Youth of Zion:
 - a. QUOTE: *"We love you and we have confidence in you. You are truly among Heavenly Father's choice spirits, sent to earth at this time to do important things."* ENDQUOTE -For the Strength of Youth.

12. Share Testimony and leave a blessing for parents.