**Grandpa Thom Receives Patriarchal Blessing**

**Grandpa Thom and I were able to get a patriarchal blessing when we were pretty young. We were twelve years old.**

**What is a patriarchal blessing? If you wanted to go on a trip from Payson, Utah to Paris, Idaho, you would probably get out a road map and make sure you knew the best route to take. You would not want to get lost. A patriarchal blessing is like a road map. It is a special blessing from a priesthood holder that has permission from the Lord to give these types of blessings. He is called a Patriarch. In the blessing he can help you to know what your special talents and gifts are. There will also be wise counsel from the Lord that the Patriarch is inspired to say. Just like a road map that tells you about road conditions or what to expect, you might find certain warnings in a patriarchal blessing that will help you avoid problems in life.**

**Just like a road map keeps you on course, a patriarchal blessing helps you stay on the straight and narrow path that leads to our Heavenly parents where we want to live after this life. Grandpa Thom is there right now.**

**The patriarch that gave Grandpa Thom and I our blessings was a close friend of the family. When we spoke with him, we could tell that he was one of Heavenly Father’s special helpers here on earth.**

**One thing we learned in our blessings was that before Grandpa Thom and I came to this earth, we were very close friends as spirit children of our Heavenly Parents. I especially like the part in my blessing where it says that when it was time for your grandpa and I to come to earth, Heavenly Father called us to him. There he gave us each a fatherly kiss on our foreheads. Isn’t that cool?**

**I am sure that Grandpa Thom and I talked a lot about coming to earth and living together as twins. I bet we both agreed to do our best and to live the commandments. We loved our Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother and we wanted to return to live with them forever.**

**So, we came to earth. We were born just four minutes apart. And, we had parents that were kind, loving and always wanting nothing but the very best for us. The exact same way it is with your parents. That is such a wonderful blessing. Don’t ever forget how lucky you are and always be thankful for your parents. They love you and only want the best for you.**

**Grandpa Thom lived a good life. He obeyed the commandments. He did what was right. Because he did this, he was always happy. His patriarchal blessing helped him find his way and to do the right things. He would read his blessing often to know what the Lord wanted him to do.**

**Twin Power is always stronger when you have a patriarchal blessing to help you.**