

Elder Eyring Oct 23

Quote #1 (crucial)

“As we pray and then heed the Spirit’s promptings, we gain greater insights and blessings to guide us through the increasingly difficult days ahead.

We have heard again President Russell M. Nelson’s warning that “in coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost.”

That prophetic warning has led me to ponder what I might teach my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren about how to have that crucial guidance in the difficult days ahead for them.”

crucial: pivotal, critical, a deciding factor

Possible discussion questions: How crucial is it to have the Spirit? Elder Eyring and President Nelson are giving us prophetic guidance about the near future; what is it? (accept all reasonable answers - increasingly difficult days ahead and cannot survive spiritually without the constant influence of the Holy Ghost) What are your favorite ways to bring the Spirit into your life?

Quote #2 (daily)

Possible engagement tool: This is a long quote because it includes story-telling. You might help people engage with this quote by asking something like, "As we read this quote by Elder Eyring, he includes an important story from the Book of Mormon. Listen for similarities in their situation, and compare it to our day."

“I would start them to think about and pray about Helaman’s sons, Nephi and Lehi, and the other servants of the Lord laboring with them. They faced fierce opposition. They were serving in a wicked place and had to deal with terrible deceptions. I take courage, and you could, from this one verse from the record of Helaman:

“And in the seventy and ninth year there began to be much strife. But it came to pass that Nephi and Lehi, and many of their brethren who knew concerning the true points of doctrine, having many revelations daily, therefore they did preach unto the people, insomuch that they did put an end to their strife in that same year.”

“This account encourages me, and it could encourage you. Helaman’s sons were taught and guided by a series of experiences with the Holy Ghost. This assures me that we can be taught by and learn from the Spirit line upon line, receiving what we need, and then when we are ready, we will receive more.”

Lessons from this quote:

- take courage
- know the *true points of doctrine***
- have revelations daily
- teach people the gospel
- seek the Spirit
- follow through on the experiences and teachings
- receive more

Possible discussion questions: In what ways can you relate to Nephi and Lehi? -OR- Did you notice similarities between Nephi and Lehi's time and today? What message stood out for you from this quote? How can we know the true points of doctrine? (study the scriptures, reread general conference talks, prayer, Spirit). Is it possible for you to have several revelations daily? How can we have more revelations? What do you think Elder Eyring meant by "when we are ready, we will receive more"?

Quote #3 (courage)

Possible engagement tool: Ask the class to describe what courage means to them. Then, invite them to listen to how Elder Eyring uses that word.

courage: bravery, daring, fortitude, grit, heroism, valor

“I have been encouraged in the same way by the account of Nephi being asked to go back to Jerusalem for the plates of Laban. You remember the choice he made. He said, “I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded.”

“Nephi’s experience with the Holy Ghost on that errand has given me courage many times when I have embarked on tasks I knew were assignments from the Lord but which seemed far beyond my past experience and beyond what I saw as my capacity.”

Possible discussion questions: Do the Spirit and gifts of the Spirit help us accomplish things we might not on our own? Does anyone have an example of this? Why is Nephi's statement, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded," so admired and quoted? Have you ever received an assignment that felt like it was beyond your capacity, or you did not know how to accomplish it? Does anyone have an experience like this?

Quote #4 (purity)

“We need, and you will need, the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost. Now, we desire it, yet we know from experience that it is not easy to achieve. We each think and say and do things in our daily lives that can offend the Spirit.

“When that happens, as it will, we may feel disapproval from the Lord. And we may be tempted to feel we are alone. It is important to remember the sure promise we receive each week as we repent and partake of the sacrament: “That they may always have his Spirit to be with them.”

“If you have felt the influence of the Holy Ghost today, you may take it as a sweet evidence that the Atonement is working in your life.”

Possible discussion questions: Who is Elder Eyring referring to when he says, "We each think and say and do things in our daily lives that can offend the Spirit"? Have you ever felt like the heavens are closed to you? When that happens, are we really alone? How does the Sacrament help us? (accept all reasonable answers - it's like a cleansing and a reset button.) How did you feel about General Conference? What was your favorite talk?...did you feel the Spirit during that talk? What was it like?

Quote #5 (lost and found)

“As Elder Jeffrey R. Holland has said: “Whenever these moments of our extremity come, we must not succumb to the fear that God has abandoned us or that He does not hear our prayers. He does hear us. He does see us. He does love us.”

“That assurance has helped me. When I feel distant from the Lord, when answers to my prayers seem delayed, **I have learned to follow the counsel of President Nelson to review my life for opportunities to repent. He reminds us, “Daily repentance is the pathway to purity, and purity brings power.”**

>> It's easy to conclude that the heavens are closed to us or that our prayers are bouncing off the ceiling. That somehow we're not worthy of that kind of attention. Those are Satan's whispers of discouragement and despair. A repentant sinner's words always pierce the cloud cover.

¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto

heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (Luke 18:10-14)

Repentance is a powerful process that brings great opportunities and blessings.

Possible discussion questions: President Eyring pairs an unusual word, "opportunities," with repentance. Why is the word "opportunities" relevant? What is one of the best ways to feel close to God and the Spirit? (accept all reasonable answers - quality prayer and heartfelt review and repentance, renewal, progress.) What would you tell a friend who feels Heaven does not hear or answer their prayers? Do you believe in the power of prayer?