

# President Nelson Oct 23

## Quote #1 (invitation)

“Here is the great news of God’s plan: the very things that will make your *mortal* life the best *it* can be are exactly the *same* things that will make your life throughout all *eternity* the best *it* can be! Today, to assist you to qualify for the rich blessings Heavenly Father has for you, I invite you to adopt the practice of “thinking celestial”! Thinking celestial means being spiritually minded.

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“Mortality is a master class in learning to choose the things of greatest eternal import. Far too many people live as though this life is all there is. However, your choices today will determine three things: where you will live throughout all eternity, the kind of body with which you will be resurrected, and those with whom you will live forever. So think celestial.

**Possible discussion questions:** What are some gospel-taught habits that make your life better? Is life better with prayer and scriptures? Is life better as a peacemaker? How do you feel about life when your spiritual habits are in order? President Nelson names three things that are affected eternally by our choices in life. What are they? (where you live eternally, what glory of body you will have eternally, and whom you will live with eternally) Why does that matter to you?

## Quote #2 (think celestial)

**Possible engagement/invitation:** Encourage listeners to notice if something comes up that they need to think about in more celestial terms.

“When you make choices, I invite you to take the long view—an eternal view. Put Jesus Christ first, because your eternal life is dependent upon your faith in Him and in His Atonement. It is also dependent upon your obedience to His laws. Obedience paves the way for a joyful life for you today and a grand, eternal reward tomorrow.

“When you are confronted with a dilemma, think celestial! When tested by temptation, think celestial! When life or loved ones let you down, think celestial! When someone dies prematurely, think celestial. When someone lingers with a devastating illness, think celestial. When the pressures of life crowd in upon you, think celestial! As you recover from an accident or injury, as I am doing now, think celestial!

**Possible discussion questions:** What does "think celestial" mean to you? By a show of hands, did something come up for you that needs more celestial thought? Does anyone mind sharing something? What's an example of taking the short vs. long view in your life? How is obedience a part of thinking celestial?

## Quote #3 (mini-quotes)

### Quote A

A - As you think celestial, your heart will gradually change. You will want to pray more often and more sincerely. Please don't let your prayers sound like a shopping list. The Lord's perspective transcends your mortal wisdom. His response to your prayers may surprise you and will help you to think celestial.

...Our prayers can be—and should be—living discussions with our Heavenly Father.

**Question A:** What is the difference between a shopping list prayer and a living discussion with Heavenly Father? What have you found that helps your prayers be powerful and effective in your life? Has anyone felt more resolve and strength after a deep, heartfelt prayer?

### Quote B

B - As you think celestial, you will find yourself avoiding *anything* that robs you of your agency. Any addiction—be it, gambling, debt, drugs, alcohol, anger, pornography, sex, or even food—offends God. Why? Because your obsession becomes your god. You look to *it* rather than to *Him* for solace. If you struggle with addiction, seek the spiritual and professional help you need. Please do not let an obsession rob you of your freedom to follow God's fabulous plan.

**Question B:** Addictions are prompts that something unpleasant is happening deep down. How can we turn to God instead? What have you replaced bad habits with, that worked for you? Has anyone ever defeated an addiction with God's help? What did you do?

### Quote C

C - Thinking celestial will also help you obey the law of chastity. Few things will complicate your life more quickly than violating this divine law. For those who have made covenants with God, immorality is one of the quickest ways to lose your testimony.

“Many of the adversary's most relentless temptations involve violations of moral purity.

**Question C** - What violations of moral purity surround us? Why is it essential to defy the gravity of those? What are some ways you have resisted those temptations?

## **Quote #4 (voices)**

“As you think celestial, you will view trials and opposition in a new light. When someone you love attacks truth, think celestial, and don’t question *your* testimony. The Apostle Paul prophesied that “in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

“There is no end to the adversary’s deceptions. Please be prepared. Never take counsel from those who do not believe. Seek guidance from voices you can trust—from prophets, seers, and revelators and from the whisperings of the Holy Ghost, who “will show unto you *all* things what ye should do.” Please do the spiritual work to increase your capacity to receive personal revelation.

**Possible discussion questions:** Why is it essential to be aware of the amount of opposition and false information that surrounds our society and culture? What are some positive ways you've found to respond to attacks on your faith by those you love? (accept any reasonable answer; mine is to establish a boundary and show love.) What are some ways we can increase our capacity to receive personal revelation? (Personally, I've found studying President Nelson's general conference talks for the last few years has a lot of great, specific advice about personal revelation.)

## **Quote #5 (tithing)**

“As you think celestial, your faith will increase. When I was a young intern, my income was \$15 a month. One night, my wife Dantzel asked if I was paying tithing on that meager stipend. I was not. I quickly repented and began paying the additional \$1.50 in monthly tithing.

“Was the Church any different because we increased our tithing? Of course not. However, becoming a full-tithe payer changed *me*. That is when I learned that paying tithing is all about faith, not money. As I became a full-tithe payer, the windows of heaven began to open for me. I attribute several subsequent professional opportunities to our faithful payment of tithes.

“Paying tithing requires faith, and it also *builds* faith in God and His Beloved Son.