first hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ and coming into the faith. Surely that is why Jesus's final charge to the Twelve was just that basic—to “go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Then, and only then, can the rest of the blessings of the gospel fully come—family solidarity, youth programs, priesthood promises, and ordinances flowing right up to the temple. But as Nephi testified, none of that can come until one has “enter[ed] into the . . . gate.” With all that there is to do along the path to eternal life, we need a lot more missionaries opening that gate and helping people through it.

From every man, young and old, who bears the priesthood, I ask for a stronger and more devoted voice, a voice not only against evil and him who is the personification of it, but a voice for good, a voice for the gospel, a voice for God. Brethren of all ages, unbind your tongues and watch your words work wonders in the lives of those “who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it.”

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Master, amen. ◼

**NOTES**

2. “We Are All Enlisted,” *Hymns*, no. 250.
3. Doctrine and Covenants 84:44; see also Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4.
5. 1 Nephi 8:28.
6. 2 Nephi 31:18.
Then came the Savior of the world
And sought out one named John,
To be baptized by this same power
And mark salvation's dawn.

In latter days this selfsame power
Was again restored to earth,
That gospel truths from first to last
Might in one's soul find birth.

Aaronic Priesthood, truth sublime,
In preparation come—
That redemption might be had
Through God's Beloved Son!

And he who ministers these powers—
'Tis not a mere boy that can.
With priesthood mantle on him fixed
We say, "Behold the man!" 9

"The power and authority of the . . . Aaronic Priesthood, is to hold the keys of the ministering of angels, and to administer in outward ordinances, the letter of the gospel, the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, agreeable to the covenants and commandments." 10 President Boyd K. Packer has observed: "We have done very well at distributing the authority of the priesthood. We have priesthood authority planted nearly everywhere. . . . But distributing the authority of the priesthood has raced, I think, ahead of distributing the power of the priesthood." 11 For the everlasting welfare of God's children, this must be remedied.

Our prophet has told us how this can be done. Quoting George Q. Cannon, President Monson said: "I want to see the power of the Priesthood strengthened . . . I want to see this strength and power diffused through the entire body of the Priesthood, reaching from the head down to the least and most humble deacon in the Church. Every man should seek for and enjoy the revelations of God, the light of heaven shining in his soul and giving unto him knowledge concerning his duties, concerning that portion of the work . . . that devolves upon him in his Priesthood." 12

What can a deacon, teacher, or priest do to receive the spirit of revelation and magnify his calling? He can live so as to enjoy the cleansing, sanctifying, and illuminating power of the Holy Ghost.

The importance of this is found in these words from Alma: "Now I say unto you that this is the order after which I am called, . . . to preach unto . . . the rising generation . . . that they must repent and be born again." 13 When one is born again, his heart is changed. He has no appetite for things evil or unclean. He feels a deep and abiding love for God. He wants to be good, to serve others, and to keep the commandments. 14

President Joseph F. Smith described his experience with this mighty change: "The feeling that came upon me was that of pure peace, of love and of light. I felt in my soul that if I had sinned . . . it had been forgiven me; that I was indeed cleansed from sin; my heart was touched and I felt that I would not injure the smallest insect beneath my feet. I felt as though I wanted to do good everywhere to everybody and to everything. I felt a newness of life, a newness of desire to do that which was right. There was not one particle of desire for evil left in my soul. I was but a little boy, it is true, . . . but this was the influence that came upon me, and I know that it was from God, and was and ever has been a living witness to me of my acceptance of the Lord." 15

So we call upon you wonderful young brethren to diligently strive
to be “born again.”16 Pray for this mighty change in your life. Study the scriptures. Desire more than all else to know God and to become like His holy Son. Enjoy your youth but “put away childish things”.17

Shun profane and foolish chatter.
Flee all evil.
Avoid contention.
Repent where needed.18

This will help you rise to the noble stature of your manhood. The qualities of courage, trustworthiness, humility, faith, and goodness will be yours. Friends will admire you, parents will praise you, brethren in the priesthood will depend on you, and the young women will adore you and become even better because of you. God will honor you and endow your priesthood

Your diligent efforts to “watch over the church always”23 will be fruitful.

Your unpretentious manner will disarm the most unbelieving heart and loosen the adversary’s grip. Your invitation for others to come to church with you, to partake of the sacrament with you, and to serve with you will become a welcoming balm for those lost in the shadows where the gospel light is but a dim ember or glows not at all.

Oh, my beloved young brethren, “neglect not the gift that is in thee,”24 which you received when the Aaronic Priesthood was conferred and you were ordained.

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”25

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord... Be thou partaker of the... gospel according to the power of God;

Your service in caring for the less fortunate engages us in His holy work and helps us to retain the forgiveness for our own past sins.21

As you “visit the house of each member,”22 be not fearful or bashful. The Holy Ghost will supply you in the very moment the words to say, the testimony to bear, the service to render.

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