Becoming Like Jesus Christ



President Uchtdorf explains what it means to develop Christlike qualities.

BY PRESIDENT DIETER F. UCHTDORF

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

esus Christ instructed His Apostles at the beginning of His mortal ministry, "[Come,] follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). We need to "follow Him," and as we do this, the Savior will bless us beyond our own capacity to become what He wants us to be.

To follow Christ is to become more like Him. It is to learn from His character. The Savior invites us to learn His gospel by living His teachings. Ancient and modern prophets described it with three words: "Keep the commandments"—nothing more, nothing less.

The scriptures describe a number of Christlike attributes we need to develop during the course of our lives. They include knowledge and humility, charity and love, obedience and diligence, faith and hope. Christlike attributes are gifts from God. They cannot be developed without His help. The one help we all need is given to us freely through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Having faith in Jesus Christ and in His Atonement means relying completely on Him—trusting in His infinite power, intelligence, and love. When we have faith in Christ, we trust the Lord enough to follow His commandments—even when we do not completely understand the reasons for them. In seeking to become more like the Savior, we need to rely, through the path of true repentance, upon the merits of Jesus Christ and the blessings of His Atonement.

As we develop Christlike attributes in our own lives, step-by-step, they will "bear [us] up as on eagles' wings" (D&C 124:18). Both faith and hope will carry us across oceans of temptations, over mountains of afflictions, and bring us safely back to our eternal home and destination.

From an October 2005 general conference address.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- 1. The scriptures help us learn what Jesus is like. What is one of your favorite scripture stories about Jesus?
- 2. Jesus was humble and faithful. What are some other words that describe Him?
- 3. We learn to be like Jesus step-by-step. What is one thing you can do to show your love for a friend or a member of your family?

