

TO THE POINT

If I was faithful in the premortal life, why is it so hard to be so now?

All people who come to earth chose in the premortal life to follow Heavenly Father's plan and to accept Jesus Christ as the Savior. But that doesn't mean that obedience and righteousness in this life will be easy. Because Heavenly Father's plan intends for this life to be a true test of how we use our agency, our memories of premortal life have been removed. Also, as part of His plan, we have received physical bodies, which are subject to appetites, lusts, and temptations we did not know as spirits. This makes us more easily enticed by things that are "carnal, sensual, and devilish" (Moses 5:13), which is why "the natural man is an enemy to God" (Mosiah 3:19).

A person can overcome these challenges only if he or she "yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord" (Mosiah 3:19). It isn't easy, but Jesus Christ will strengthen you and transform you as you listen to the Spirit, make good choices, and come unto Him. ■

What should I do if I question something a prophet has taught?

When the restored Church was organized, Joseph Smith received a revelation telling the early Saints, "His [the prophet's] word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith" (D&C 21:5).

Joseph Smith also said that "a prophet [is] a prophet only when he [is] acting as such."¹ This means that "a statement made by one leader on a single occasion often represents a personal, though well-considered, opinion, not meant to be official or binding for the whole Church."² It's usually obvious when the prophet is "acting as such," such as addressing Church members in an official capacity.

It is our privilege to ask Heavenly Father for our own witness "about whatever His prophet has proclaimed."³ If we don't receive a witness, then we should study what other prophets have said about the matter and choose a course of action. The best course of action is to follow the combined, consistent counsel of the prophets "in all patience and faith." As we do, we will be blessed (see 1 Nephi 2:11, 16, 19). ■

NOTES

1. Joseph Smith, in *History of the Church*, 5:265.
2. D. Todd Christofferson, "The Doctrine of Christ," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2012, 88.
3. Russell M. Nelson, "Becoming True Millennials" (worldwide devotional for young adults, Jan. 10, 2016), lds.org/broadcasts.

