



**By Elder
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HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE

May I offer my vision of you and your future. You enter a world caught in a steep slippery slide of diminishing moral values. Against that backdrop, your character and integrity will let you

stand out and shine like a lighthouse. You, your families, and your homes will become beacons of hope in a darkened world. Your **faith and optimism** will make you leaders in your communities, in your countries, and in the kingdom of God on earth.

It will be your privilege to **proclaim the gospel to the world.**

You will **place a high priority** on those two great commandments: to **love God** with all your heart, and to **love your neighbor** as yourself (see Matthew 22:37–39). You will continue to learn and build in yourselves an ever-increasing capacity to **serve others.** As you do so, you will find that your own lives have been enlarged and enriched.

When you serve your fellow men and women, you **serve God** and help to establish His Church in those lands where you live.

You will **be examples** to all with whom you associate—examples of **forbearance, of integrity, of controlling your tempers, appetites, and emotions,** as you **honor the priesthood and your sacred covenants.**

As you **adhere to the standards** of the Church, you will be in great demand. And you will find true joy in total obedience to God's laws. While some others

choose which commandments they will keep, you know the fallacy and danger of this approach. It will only lead to misery. You will gain protection and spiritual strength in **complete obedience.** After all, he or she who does not stand for something will likely fall for anything.

What will keep you joyful and safe, physically and spiritually? Obedience! Obedience to *all* of God's commandments will allow the Holy Ghost to be your constant companion. Such obedience will prepare you to be great leaders, great wives and husbands, great mothers and fathers. Such obedience will allow you to **become more like the Lord** (see 3 Nephi 27:27).

Prophets fervently warn that pornography, infidelity, and immorality are all tools of the adversary. They will destroy you, physically and spiritually. Satan's objective is to hook you and make you miserable, even as he is. **Shun these traps** now and your future will be brighter.

Remember, your goal is exaltation and eternal life. That goal is God's glory.

The Lord's vision for you as His elect children requires that you be **clean, virtuous, and qualified for eternal life.** *NE*

From a BYU–Hawaii commencement address given on April 9, 2011.



Share Your Experiences

Share your experiences in applying this principle and read the experiences of other youth by going to lds.org/go/83Prepare.

