

# OCTOBER 2014 CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

*“What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken; . . . whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38).*

As you review the October 2014 general conference, you can use these pages (and Conference Notebooks in future issues) to help you study and apply the recent teachings of the living prophets and apostles and other Church leaders.

## DOCTRINAL HIGHLIGHT



## Caring for the Poor and Needy

“A journalist once questioned Mother Teresa of Calcutta about her hopeless task of rescuing the destitute in that city. He said that, statistically speaking, she was accomplishing absolutely nothing. This remarkable little woman retorted that her work was about love, not statistics. . . . She said she could keep the commandment to love God and neighbor by serving those *within* her reach with whatever resources she had. . . . Soberly, the journalist concluded that Christianity is obviously *not* a statistical endeavor. . . .

“So how might we ‘do what we can’? . . .

“ . . . I pay a personal tribute to President Thomas Spencer Monson. . . . The image of him I will cherish until I die is of him flying home from then—economically devastated East Germany in his house slippers because he had given away not only his extra suit and shirts but the very shoes from off his feet.”

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Are We Not All Beggars?”** *Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 40, 41, 42.

## PROPHETIC PROMISE



## Heavenly Blessings

“Perhaps during [hard times], we might find ourselves asking, ‘Do

we really need to obey *all* of God’s commandments?’

“My response to this question is simple:

“I think God knows something we don’t—things that are beyond our capacity to comprehend! Our Father in Heaven is an eternal being whose experience, wisdom, and intelligence are infinitely greater than ours. [See Isaiah 55:9.] . . .

“Part of our challenge is, I think, that we imagine that God has all of His blessings locked in a huge cloud up in heaven, refusing to give them to us unless we comply with some strict, paternalistic requirements He has set up. But the commandments aren’t like that at all. In reality, Heavenly Father is constantly raining blessings upon us. It is our fear, doubt, and sin that, like an umbrella, block these blessings from reaching us.

“His commandments are the loving instructions and the divine help for us to close the umbrella so we can receive the shower of heavenly blessings.”

**President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Living the Gospel Joyful,”** *Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 121–22.

# Fill in the Blank

1. "When we \_\_\_\_\_ wrong choices, big or small, which are inconsistent with the restored gospel, we lose the blessings and protections we need." (Quentin L. Cook, "Choose Wisely," 48.)
2. "According to the world's standards, following the prophet may be unpopular, politically incorrect,

or socially unacceptable. But following the prophet is always \_\_\_\_\_." (Carol F. McConkie, "Live according to the Words of the Prophets," 78.)

3. "Lowering the Lord's standards to the level of a society's inappropriate behavior is \_\_\_\_\_." (Lynn G. Robbins, "Which Way Do You Face?" 10.)

4. "Absolute \_\_\_\_\_ exists in a world that increasingly disdains and dismisses absolutes. In a future day, 'every knee [shall] bow' and 'every tongue [shall] confess that Jesus Christ is Lord . . .'" (Philippians 2:10–11)." (David A. Bednar, "Come and See," 110.)

# A Toolbox for Your Home

Evaluate "your personal use of each tool; then seek the guidance of the Lord to determine how you could

make better use of each one of them." —Elder Richard G. Scott, "Make the Exercise of Faith Your First Priority," 93.

1. Prayer
2. Scripture Study
3. Family Home Evening
4. Temple Attendance



Answers: 1. rationalize; 2. right; 3. apostasy; 4. truth

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THE GOOD SAMARITAN, BY WALTER RANE, TOOLBOX PHOTOGRAPH BY SCOTT DAVIS