

THE PRIESTHOOD MUST BE USED WORTHILY

Heavenly Father gives a portion of His power and authority to worthy male members of the Church. This delegated authority is called the priesthood. Those who hold the priesthood are authorized to act in the Lord's name in leading His Church, teaching the gospel, blessing the sick, and performing the sacred ordinances necessary for salvation.

The priesthood must be used worthily because, as the Lord revealed to Joseph Smith, “the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and . . .

the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness” (D&C 121:36). Thus, there is a difference between the authority and the power of the priesthood. “Priesthood authority, which is the authorization to act in God's name, . . . is given by the laying on of hands. The power of the priesthood comes only when those who exercise it are worthy and acting in accordance with God's will.”¹

Because the priesthood is God's power, He sets the standards of worthiness for its use and reveals

those standards to His prophets and apostles. Priesthood holders become worthy by repenting of their sins and living in harmony with the gospel and commandments of Jesus Christ. The companionship of the Holy Ghost in their lives can help them know of their worthiness. ■

For more information, see Doctrine and Covenants 121:34–46; Thomas S. Monson, “Priesthood Power,” *Ensign*, May 2011, 66–69.

NOTE

1. M. Russell Ballard, “This Is My Work and Glory,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 18–19.

SAFEGUARD AND LIVE WORTHY OF THE PRIESTHOOD



“Our behavior in public must be above reproach. Our behavior in private is even more important. It must clear the standard set by the Lord. We cannot indulge in sin, let alone try to cover our sins. We cannot gratify our pride. We cannot partake of the vanity of unrighteous

ambition. We cannot exercise control, or dominion, or compulsion upon our wives or children, or any others in any degree of unrighteousness.

“If we do any of these things, the powers of heaven are withdrawn. The Spirit of the Lord is grieved. The very virtue of our priesthood is nullified. Its authority is lost. . . .

“ . . . [The priesthood] serves as a

guide by which to live our lives. In its fulness, its authority reaches beyond the veil of death into the eternities that lie ahead.

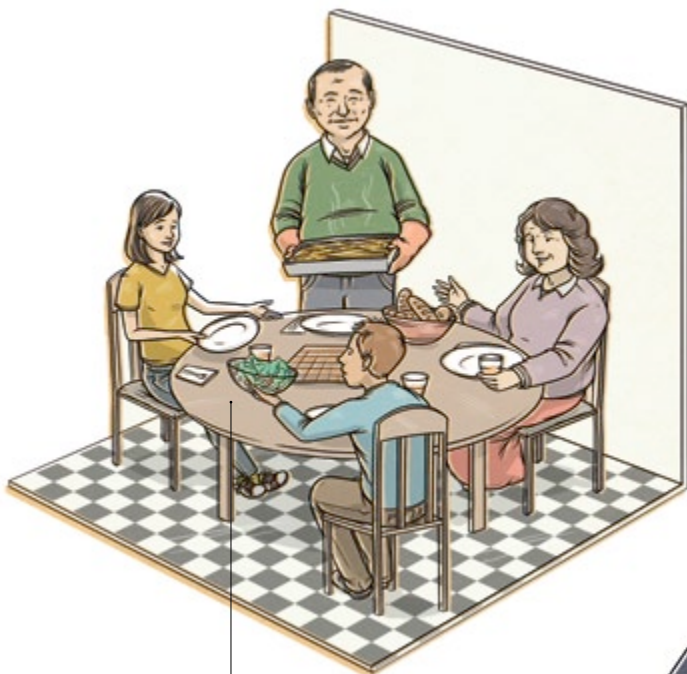
“There is nothing else to compare with it in all this world. Safeguard it, cherish it, love it, live worthy of it.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), “Personal Worthiness to Exercise the Priesthood,” *Ensign*, May 2002, 52, 59.

Priesthood holders gain power in the priesthood through faith and obedience:



Worship in the temple.



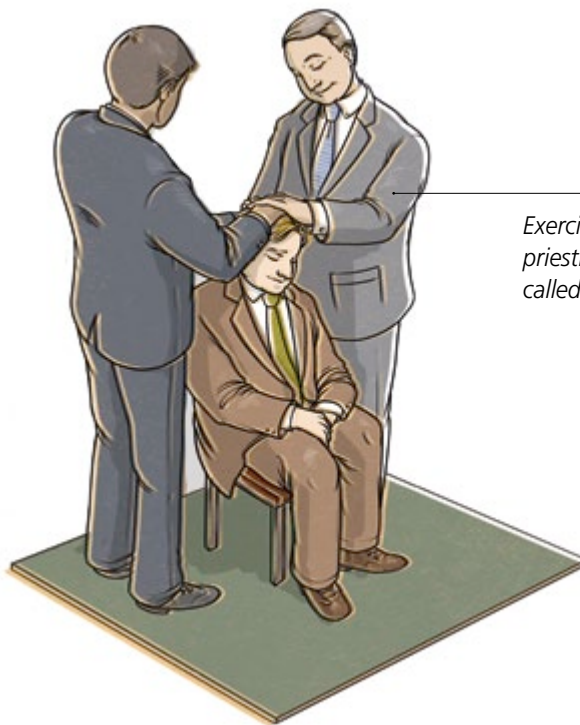
Treat your wife, children, and others kindly.



Serve faithfully in your calling.



Take the sacrament worthily.



Exercise the priesthood when called upon.