

by the Comforter, in the Spirit of truth, doth he preach it by the Spirit of truth or some other way?

“And if it be by some other way it is not of God” (D&C 50:17–18).

When we are called to a position in the Church as a leader or a teacher, our commission is to teach the word of God by the Spirit of God, not by “the philosophies of men interlaced with a few scriptures.”³ Like Enoch, Nephi, and Lehi, we too can receive help from on high through the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

We might conclude that having heard or read information concerning a doctrine or principle will suffice. But such an approach reflects a failure to recognize that a deeper comprehension of principles comes through personal revelation (see Job 32:8). Consider this inspired observation by Hyrum Smith, brother of the Prophet: “Preach the first principles of the Gospel—preach them over again: you will find that day after day new ideas and additional light concerning them will be revealed to you. You can enlarge upon them so as to comprehend them clearly.”⁴

Following the Savior’s Example

Our greatest example in all things is the Lord Jesus Christ, of whom it is written:

“And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

“For he taught them as one having



authority, and not as the scribes” (Matthew 7:28–29; see also Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 7:36–37).

Alma, the great Book of Mormon prophet, exemplified this approach: “And now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else, which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God” (Alma 31:5).

When entrusted with the sacred responsibility to teach the gospel, let us follow the example of the Savior and declare with Him, “My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me” (John 7:16). ■

NOTES

1. In scripture, our “fear” toward Deity relates to the concept of “reverence.” President David O. McKay (1873–1970) provided insight into this divine characteristic, stating, “Reverence is profound respect mingled with love” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1967, 86).
2. In scripture, “ordain” and “set apart” are used interchangeably (see D&C 20:67; 25:7; see also Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 3:106).
3. Jeffrey R. Holland, “A Teacher Come from God,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 26; see also Mosiah 18:19–22.
4. Hyrum Smith, in *History of the Church*, 6:323.



BEING SET APART

“The setting apart is an established practice in the

Church and men and women are ‘set apart’ to special responsibility, in ecclesiastical, quorum, and auxiliary positions. . . .

“To some folk the setting apart seems a perfunctory act while others anticipate it eagerly, absorb every word of it, and let their lives be lifted thereby.

“The setting apart may be taken literally; it is a setting apart from sin, apart from the carnal; apart from everything which is crude, low, vicious, cheap, or vulgar; *set apart* from the world to a higher [plane] of thought and activity. The blessing is conditional upon faithful performance.”

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), *The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball (1982), 478.

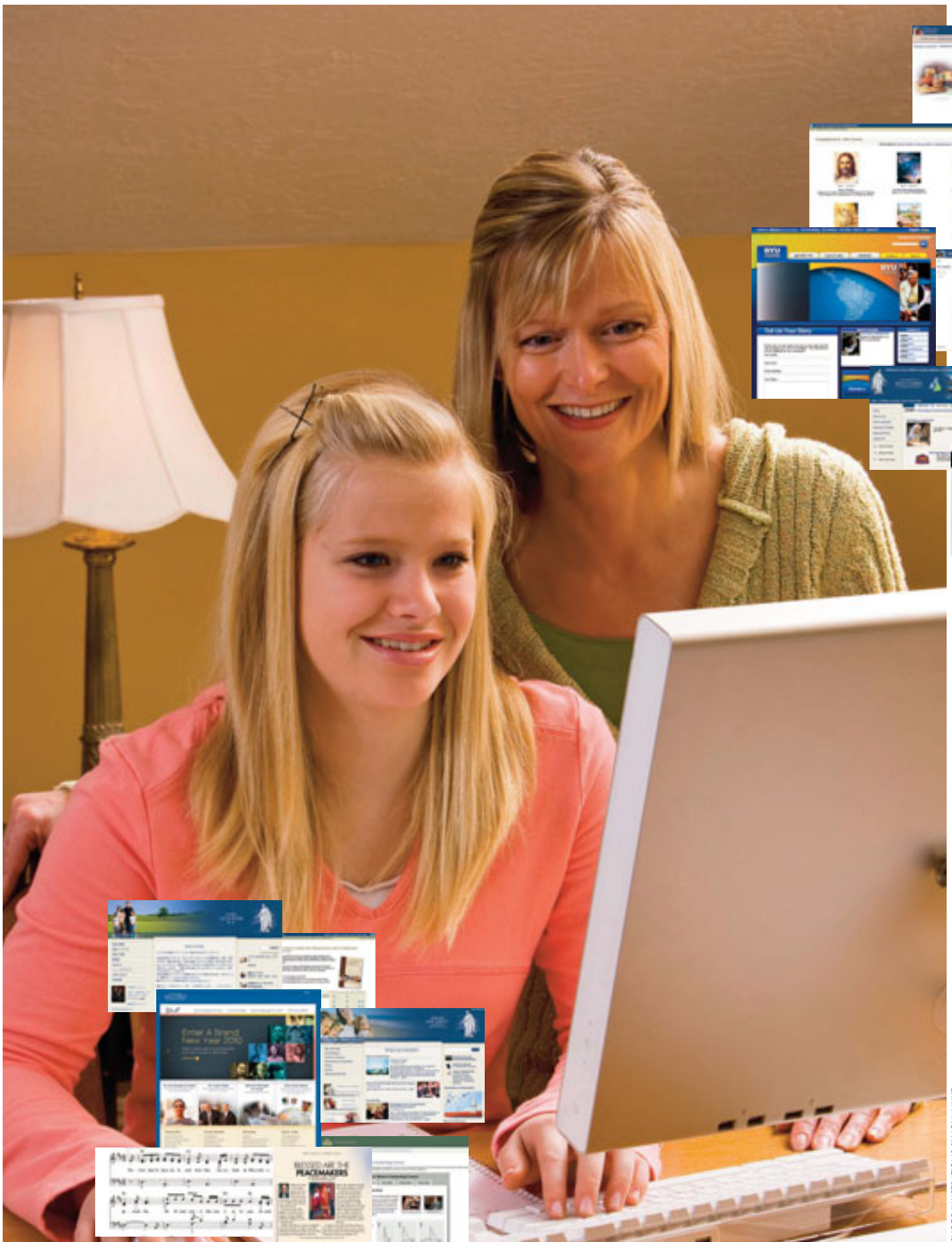


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POSITIVE USES OF THE INTERNET

The Internet allows instant access to many resources that can strengthen and enrich our lives. Many spiritually uplifting Web sites give direction and inspiration. The following ideas can help you stay connected to reality without completely disconnecting from the good things the Internet has to offer.

Limit Your Time

Rebecca Renfroe, from Idaho, USA, used to blog and read others' blogs almost daily. Her mind was always in "compose" mode—mentally writing a blog about what she did with her children instead of just doing things with them. She realized there had to be a balance.

She says, "The Spirit helped me to recognize that having a blog was not the problem—devoting too much of my time and energy to it was. I had literally been giving portions of my life away: trading away quality time with my children and my husband, trading away time for serious, in-depth study of the

scriptures, and even trading away hours of sleep that affected my ability to serve others, to be sensitive to the Spirit, and to maintain a healthy lifestyle."

Sister Renfroe learned not to let good things get in the way of better things, as Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles counseled: "Just because something is *good* is not a sufficient reason for doing it. . . . Of course it is good to view wholesome entertainment or to obtain interesting information. But not everything of that sort is worth the portion of our life we give to obtain it. Some things are better, and others are best."¹

Choose Uplifting Media

Amy Paulsen of Washington, USA, appreciates Web sites that other mothers have created that provide lesson ideas and activities for teaching children gospel principles. When she needs visual aids, she finds art online to print out. When she needs ideas, she finds links to Church magazine articles, conference talks, and online manuals.



THE BEST CHOICE

Make sure that the choices you make in the use of new media are choices that expand your mind, increase your opportunities, and feed your soul.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Sharing the Gospel Using the Internet,” *Liahona*, June 2008, N2; *Ensign*, July 2008, 60.

“The Internet has helped my husband and me prepare meaningful family home evenings for our children,” Sister Paulsen says. “It’s also comforting to know that there are so many other mothers out there who also ‘teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord’” (D&C 68:28).

Use the Internet to Share the Gospel

One member, Lin Floyd of Utah, USA, created a family history Web site with ancestors’ photos and histories. His Web site and others like it have helped people learn more about the Church and its doctrine. Some have desired to be baptized or have returned to Church activity. Others have found helps for doing family history, fulfilling callings, and strengthening marriages.

There are many positive things we can do with the Internet. As you establish guidelines for Internet use—making sure that the sites you visit expand your mind, increase your opportunities, and feed your soul—the Internet can be a great resource for enriching your personal life and strengthening your family. ■

NOTE

1. Dallin H. Oaks, “Good, Better, Best,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 104, 105.

CHURCH WEB SITES

Church Web sites provide excellent resources for learning and teaching the gospel. From conference talks to Church history to help with your calling, the Church sites are designed to help members easily access gospel material. The following is a sampling of official Church Web sites available in different languages:



Using Church Web sites, you can share the gospel, prepare lessons, and engage in family history work.





- **LDS.org:** Research conference talks, read the latest news of the Church, and connect to many other Church resources. To find materials in your language, go to languages.lds.org.
- **Mormon.org:** Refer your neighbors, family, and friends to this site designed for those who want to learn more about the Church. The site explains our basic gospel beliefs, including the nature of God, eternal families, and the plan of salvation. Available in many languages.
- **JesusChrist.Lds.org:** Read testimonies of the apostles and prophets about the Savior Jesus Christ. Available in English and Spanish.
- **Liahona.Lds.org:** Find your favorite articles from the *Liahona* as well as Web extras such as photo galleries and activities for children.
- **ProvidentLiving.org:** Learn about self-reliance topics such as food storage, employment, and Church humanitarian efforts. Available in English, with some material in German, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- **LDSjobs.org:** Search for jobs, find information about schools, connect with job seekers, and learn how to help those in your ward or branch who are looking for employment. Available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- **YouTube.com/MormonMessages:** Watch short audiovisual presentations about gospel principles. Available in English and Spanish.
- **Temples.Lds.org:** View information about and pictures of temples around the world. Available in English, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- **New.FamilySearch.org:** Research your family line, and submit information about your ancestors. Prepare names for temple work. Available in Chinese, English,



French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

- **FamilySearchIndexing.org:** Volunteer to help digitize and index Church family history resource records. Available in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.
- **Countries.Lds.org:** Many countries have their own Church Web site. For example, on Denmark's site you can watch videos showing the Copenhagen Denmark Temple. On the Argentina/Uruguay/Paraguay site, members can sign up to receive inspirational quotes from Church leaders through e-mail. On Korea's site you can watch several Church films. Other countries' sites have similar features.
- **Languages.Lds.org:** Each language has a list of the translated material available on LDS.org. Most sites offer general conference talks and manuals online. Some offer additional resources.
- **Images.Lds.org:** Download gospel art images, Church history pictures, photos of temples, and more.
- **LDS.org/braille:** Find Braille texts in English and Spanish; they are downloadable and printable.
- **ByuTvInt.org:** Watch Brigham Young University programming online, or find out how to get it in your area. Available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- **Music.Lds.org:** Listen to and print hymns and other music. Available in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. (At www.music.lds.org, click on **Music**, then **Hymns**, and then choose a language.)