

OCTOBER 2016 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 2016 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.



Joy Is Key to Our Spiritual Survival

When the focus of our lives is on God’s plan of salvation . . . and Jesus Christ and His gospel, we can feel joy regardless of what is happening—or not happening—in our lives. . . .

“ . . . His joy is constant, assuring us that our ‘afflictions shall be but a small moment’ [D&C 121:7] and be consecrated to our gain. . . .

“ . . . As in all things, Jesus Christ is our ultimate exemplar, ‘who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross’ [Hebrews 12:2]. Think of that! In order for Him to endure the most excruciating experience ever endured on earth, our Savior focused on *joy!* . . .

“If we look to the world and follow its formulas for happiness, we will never know joy. . . . Joy is a gift for the faithful.”

President Russell M. Nelson, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Joy and Spiritual Survival,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2016, 82, 83, 84.

PROPHETIC PROMISE



TWO THINGS THAT FAITH CANNOT DO

1. “Our Father in Heaven . . . will not force anyone to choose the path of righteousness. God did not force His own children to follow Him in the premortal world. How much less will He force us now as we journey through this mortal life?

“God will invite, persuade. God will reach out tirelessly with love and inspiration and encouragement. But God will never compel—that would undermine His great plan for our eternal growth. . . .

2. “Faith cannot . . . force our will upon God. We cannot force God to comply with our desires—no matter how right we think we are or how sincerely we pray. . . .

“No, the purpose of faith is not to *change* God’s will but to empower us to *act on* God’s will. Faith is trust—trust that God sees what we cannot and that He knows what we do not.”

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “Fourth Floor, Last Door,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2016, 16, 17.