

BOTH PARTS OF THE BLESSING



Temple attendance and family history are both important; when combined, they bring additional blessings.

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As you flip through the pages of the *New Era* this month, look at the wide variety of color combinations that bring a rich energy and vibrancy to each picture, painting, or design. Many of the colors were made possible because two of the primary colors—red, yellow, or blue—were combined to create a new color, one that couldn't exist if the primary colors were kept separate.

Family history and temple work share a similarity with those colors: you can receive more blessings by combining the two important works. That's because family history and temple work are actually two parts of a single work—the work of salvation. Of course you'll still receive great blessings by helping others with their family history and by attending the temple to do work for

people whose names are provided there. But you receive even greater blessings—enjoy the full palette of colors—when you combine the two parts and find *your own* family names and then perform the work for *your ancestors* in the temple.

As Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught:

“Temple and family history work is one work divided into two parts. . . .

“Father in Heaven wants each of us to receive both parts of the blessing of this vital vicarious work. He has led others to show us how to qualify. It is up to you and me to claim those blessings.

“Any work you do in the temple is time well spent, but receiving ordinances vicariously for one of your own ancestors will make the time in the temple more sacred, and even greater blessings will be received.”¹

So, what are some of the “greater blessings” that come when we receive “both parts of the blessing”? At right are several promises from modern-day Apostles.

NOTES

1. Richard G. Scott, “The Joy of Redeeming the Dead,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 93–94.
2. Boyd K. Packer, “Your Family History: Getting Started,” *Ensign*, Aug. 2003, 17.
3. Russell M. Nelson, “Generations Linked in Love,” *Ensign*, May 2010, 92.
4. David A. Bednar, “The Time Is Now,” lds.org/youth/family-history/leaders.
5. John A. Widtsoe, in Conference Report, Apr. 1943, 39.



A Refining, Spiritual Influence

“Family history work of Church members has a refining, spiritualizing, tempering influence on those who are engaged in it. They understand that they are tying their family together. . . . When we research our own lines we become interested in more than just names. . . . Our interest turns our hearts to our fathers—we seek to find them and to know them and to serve them.”²



Part of a Greater Work

“Spiritual connections . . . are formed. . . . When our hearts turn to our ancestors, something changes inside us. We feel part of something greater than ourselves.”³



A Safeguard against Temptation

“Each of us benefits from all of those who have gone before. Learning those stories helps us really understand who we are and where we came from. . . . Are you doing the research in your own family and helping other people with their research? That for a young person in the wickedness of the world in which we live today is one of the greatest safeguards against the temptations of the adversary.”⁴



Aid from the Unseen World

“Perhaps if we would do our work in behalf of those of the unseen world who hunger and pray for the work we can do for them, the unseen world would in return give us help in this day of our urgent need. There are more in that other world than there are here. There is more power and strength there than we have here upon this earth.”⁵



I FOUND A NAME

To prepare for a youth temple trip, our ward put together a Mutual activity to search for family names we could bring. I was sitting next to my friends and somewhat complaining that I could not find any names that needed ordinances done. After much searching on familysearch.org, I found a name. I was so excited!

"I quickly ran to our family history consultant and asked her what the next step was. She showed me how to save the name and print it out so I could do the temple work. She also said the woman was a real person and not just a name on a screen. I felt the Spirit and knew the person had been waiting for her work to be done and for me to find her. I was able to take her name to the temple. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve my ancestors and help bring them the joy of the gospel."

Leah G., New York, USA



What If I Don't Have Access to the Internet?

Although your family history names need to be submitted online in order to do temple work for them, you don't need to have Internet access at home. Gather names, information, and family stories from your living relatives, and then see if there's a local family history center where you can submit the names on familysearch.org.

In areas with limited Internet access, talk to ward or stake family history consultants about the resources they have for getting the data entered electronically for you.



Does That Mean I Shouldn't Go to the Temple If I Don't Have Family Names?

Not at all! Attending the temple brings rich blessings both for you and for those you are baptized and confirmed for, whether or not they are your ancestors. You should still attend the temple even if you don't have a family name. The First Presidency has taught: "Members with limited ability to do their own family history research are encouraged to perform vicarious ordinances with names provided by other members or by the temple" (First Presidency Letter, Oct. 8, 2012).



AN INVITATION FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

"When members of the Church find the names of their ancestors and take those names to the temple for ordinance work, the temple experience can be greatly enriched. . . . We especially encourage youth . . . to use for temple work their own family names or the names of ancestors of their ward and stake members."

First Presidency Letter, Oct. 8, 2012.