

STAND AS TRUE MILLENNIALS



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I appreciate the message just given by Sister Benson. By way of information:

In this audience today we have Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964), we have the Generation X group which came after the Baby Boomers. Finally we have the Millennials. (With birth years starting in the 1980s and going until the mid 1990's to early 2000's) I find it rather amusing that there have been "names" given to the different generations over the years.

Sister Benson introduced our topic of "Stand as True Millennials" which comes from a talk given by President Russell M. Nelson. As I read this talk, I was impressed that **really** we are all Millennials as defined by President Nelson. He states, "The term millennial is perfect for you if that term reminds you of who you really are and what your purpose in life really is. A true millennial is one who taught and who was taught the gospel of Jesus Christ pre-mortally and who made covenants there with our Heavenly Father about courageous things – even morally courageous things – that he or she would do while here on earth.

A true millennial is a man or woman whom God trusted enough to send to earth during the most compelling dispensation in the history of this world. A true millennial is a man or woman who lives now to help prepare the people of this world for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and His millennial reign." Truthfully doesn't that describe everyone in this chapel?

While my comments are directed to the millennials as defined by society (those approximately 14 to 36 in age) I encourage all to listen as we are **all** millennials as defined by President Nelson.

The third point that President Nelson discusses is, "**Learn How to Access the Power of Heaven**". This may seem difficult as we journey through life. Life can be full of questions. We are all trying to learn, understand and recognize truth. The world is full of information and the

communication process has never been faster. We live in an age where we can read or hear in an instant of events that are taking place all over the world.

This can be overwhelming as we struggle to know what we should be doing with our lives. Some of the deeper questions that some of you might be asking yourself are, have you been forgiven of your sins? Who and where is my eternal companion? Why does the church do some of the things it does? Perhaps you do not know how to get answers to your prayers.

President Nelson states, “Our Heavenly Father and His Son stand ready to respond to your questions through the ministering of the Holy Ghost. But it is up to you to learn how to qualify for and receive those answers.”

So how do you start? Quite simply, begin by spending more time in holy places like the Temple or this chapel. You can make your apartment, dorm, home or room a holy place where you can safely retreat from the dark distractions of the world. Spend more time –much more time – in places where the Spirit is present.

As I prepared this talk and thought about Holy Places where the Spirit is present, I recalled a very special story that was told to me by a former Temple President. I feel impressed to share this story with you. This is a faith promoting experience.

The Temple President told me that he had a temple worker who was in charge of a temple session. This worker was standing in front of the room as the men and women filed in to the room and sat down. At some point he made eye contact with a young woman walking in and for a reason that he could not explain, he winked at her! He was mortified. The young woman smiled and sat down. The temple worker could not explain why he winked at her. Thoughts ran through his head like, she might think I am trying to pick her up and I can’t wink at women in the temple. Should I pull her out in the hall and apologize to her? Should I cancel the session? I was way out of line. He decided that after the session he would find her and apologize.

As the session concluded this worker found the young woman in the Celestial room and approached her. He said, “Sister, I owe you an apology. Did you see me wink at you?” She responded, “Yes, I caught your wink.” The worker said, “I am so sorry, I need to apologize. I have no idea why I winked at you.” The sister put her hand up and said, “stop, let me tell you what that wink means to me. In my family when we were in a room but could not speak to each other, we would wink at each other across the room. This wink would mean that *all is well*. About two weeks ago my father passed away and I came to the temple today looking for some peace and comfort. When you winked at me, I knew my father was letting me know that *all is well*.”

This young woman was troubled and where did she go? She went to a holy place for inspiration and personal revelation. Do you think she accessed the power of Heaven? The Temple

President told me that these kind of sacred experiences happen all the time. We have family on the other side of the veil that love us and pray for us as we love them and pray for them.

Brothers and Sisters, another way that we can Access the Powers of Heaven is by spending more time with friends or people who are seeking to have the Spirit with them. Surround yourself with good friends. Spend more time on our knees in prayer, more time in the scriptures, more time in family history work, and definitely more time in the temple.

As helpful as Google, Twitter, and Facebook may seem, they simply do not provide answers to your most important questions!

Revelation from the Lord to His servants is a sacred process, and so is your privilege of receiving personal revelation as you seek guidance from our Heavenly Father.

President Nelson says, "My dear brothers and sisters, you have as much access to the mind and will of the Lord for your own life as we Apostles do for His Church. Just as the Lord requires us to seek and ponder, fast and pray, and study and wrestle with difficult questions, He requires you to do the same as you seek answers to your own questions."

The final point that President Nelson speaks about in his talk is, "Follow the Prophets."

Prophets see ahead. They see the harrowing dangers the adversary has placed or will yet place in our path. Prophets also foresee the grand possibilities and privileges awaiting those who listen with the intent to obey.

The Lord has promised us that He will never allow the prophet to lead us astray. President Harold B. Lee declared: "You may not like what comes from the authority of the Church. It may contradict your political views. It may contradict your social views. It may interfere with some of your social life. But if you listen to these things, as if from the mouth of the Lord Himself, with patience and faith, the promise is that the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name's glory. (D&C 21:6)

Brothers and Sisters these are the last days. Our Father in Heaven needs us to be a light unto the world. We must stick together, strengthen each other, strengthen our testimonies and be true Disciples of Christ.

In closing, I would like to share one final thought as we ponder what it means to be a true millennial.

A few weeks ago during High Council meeting, President Esplin was reading from the Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 14.

In chapter 14, an angel is telling Nephi of the blessings and cursing's to fall upon the Gentiles. That there are only two churches: the Church of the Lamb of God and the church of the devil.

In verse 10 we read, “And he said unto me: Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations.....

In verse 12, “And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and **its numbers were few**, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, **were also upon all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small**..... (It is interesting to note in this scripture that our numbers are few and we are small. We will never be the biggest church on earth. While we are growing at a tremendous rate, relatively speaking our numbers will be small. However, we will cover all the face of the earth)

Finally in verse 14 we read, “And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; **and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great Glory**. (What a wonderful thing to know that we are armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great Glory.)

Brothers and Sisters as true millennials we were all foreordained by God to do a remarkable work – to help prepare the people of this world for the Second Coming of the Lord!

It is time for all of us to drill down and set our foundations strong. The winds of opposition are upon us. The Lord will always be there for us if we will strive to Access the Powers of Heaven, Listen to our Prophet, and Strengthen our Testimonies. As Nephi states, we have been armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great Glory.

May we go forth with faith in God and thanksgiving in our hearts for all that we have been blessed with is my prayer.

In the name of Jesus Christ, AMEN.