

Confidence in the Presence of God

By President Russell M. Nelson

President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Te ti'aturira'a i mua i te aro o te Atua

Nā te peresideni Russell M. Nelson

Peresideni nō Te 'Ēkālesia a Iesu Mesia i te Feiā Mo'a i te mau Mahana Hope'a nei

April 2025 general conference

As we diligently seek to have charity and virtue fill our lives, our confidence in approaching God will increase.

My dear brothers and sisters, I am grateful to speak to you today in this important general conference. My eyes continue to get older. Thank you for your understanding as I deliver my message.

We live in a day of great momentum in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am filled with joy as I see progress in so many areas.

I am especially inspired by our youth. They are giving service in large numbers. They are seeking their ancestors and performing ordinances in the temple. Our young men and women are submitting applications for missionary service in record numbers. The rising generation is rising up as stalwart followers of Jesus Christ.

Recently I met a new great-granddaughter. When I contemplate the challenges she will experience in her life, I feel a great desire to help her build faith in Jesus Christ. Living His gospel is essential for her future happiness.

She, like each of us, will face challenges. We all will experience illness, disappointment, temptation, and loss. These challenges can knock our self-confidence. However, disciples of Jesus Christ have access to a different kind of confidence.

When we make and keep covenants with God, we can have confidence that is born of the

'A 'imi ai tātou ma te itoitō 'ia fa'a'i i tō tātou orara'a i te aroha mau 'e i te maita'i mōrare, e rahi atu ā tō tātou ti'aturira'a i te ha'afātatarā atu i te Atua.

E au mau taeāe here, e au mau tuahine here, 'oā'oa iti rahi tō'u 'ia paraparau atu ia 'outou i teie mahana, i roto i teie 'āmuira'a rahi faufā'a. Tē rū'au noa atu ra tō'u nā mata. Māuruuru nō tō 'outou fa'a'oroma'ira'a 'a vauvau ai au i tā'u parau poro'i.

Te ora nei tātou i roto i te hōē tau nō te haerera'a rahi i mua i roto i Te 'Ēkālesia a Iesu Mesia i te Feiā Mo'a i te mau Mahana Hope'a Nei. Tē 'oā'oa nei au 'ia 'ite au i te haerera'a i mua i roto i te mau tuha'a e rave rahi.

Ua fa' auru-ta'a-ē-hia vau e tō tātou feiā 'āpī. Tē tāvini rahi nei rātou. Tē 'imi nei rātou i tō rātou mau tupuna 'e tē rave nei i te mau 'ōro'a i roto i te hiero. E rave rahi o tō tātou mau taure'are'a tamāroa 'e tamāhine 'o tē fa'atae nei i te parau anira'a nō te tāvinira'a misiōnare. Tēti'a mai neite u'i 'āpī 'e pipi ha'apa'o maita'i nā Iesu Mesia.

'Aita i maoro a'enei 'ua 'ite au i te hōē hina tamāhine. 'Ia feruri ana'e au i te mau fifi tāna e fa'aruru i roto i tōna orara'a, e tupu te hina'aro rahi i roto iā'u 'ia tauturu iāna 'ia patu i tōna fa'aro'o ia Iesu Mesia. E mea faufā'a roa te orara'a i tāna 'evanelia nō tōna 'oā'oa a muri a'e.

E fa'aruru 'oia i te mau tamatarā'a mai ia tātou tāta'itahi. E ro'ohia tātou pā'ato'a i te mā'i, te hepohepo, te fa'ahemara'a, 'e te mo'era'a. E nehenehe teie mau fifi e fa'a'ino i tō tātou ti'aturira'a ia tātou iho. Terā rā, e nehenehe te mau pipi a Iesu Mesia e fāna'o i te hōē ti'aturira'a huru tā'a 'ē.

'Ia rave ana'e tātou i te mau fafaura'a 'e te Atua 'e 'ia ha'apa'o ana'e tātou, e nehenehe tā tātou e

Spirit. The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that our confidence can “wax strong in the presence of God.” Imagine the comfort of having confidence in the presence of God!

When I speak of having confidence before God, I am referring to having confidence in approaching God right now! I am referring to praying with confidence that Heavenly Father hears us, that He understands our needs better than we do. I am referring to having confidence that He loves us more than we can comprehend, that He sends angels to be with us and with those we love. I am referring to having confidence that He yearns to help each of us reach our highest potential.

Now, how do we gain such confidence? The Lord answers this question with these words: “Let thy bowels ... be full of charity towards all men, ... and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God.”

There’s the key! In the Lord’s own words, charity and virtue open the way to having confidence before God! Brothers and sisters, we can do this! Our confidence can truly wax strong in the presence of God, right now!

Let’s consider both charity and virtue.

First, charity. Two years ago, I called upon us, as covenant followers of Jesus Christ, to be peacemakers. I repeat what I said then: “Anger never persuades. Hostility builds no one. Contention never leads to inspired solutions.”

True charity towards all men is the hallmark of peacemakers! It is imperative that we have charity in our discourse, both public and private. I thank those of you who took my previous counsel to heart. But we can still do better.

The present hostility in public dialogue and on social media is alarming. Hateful words are deadly weapons. Contention prevents the Holy Ghost from being our constant companion.

fa’ari’i i te ti’aturira’a o te fānauhia e te Vārua. ’Ua parau te Fatu i te peropheta Iosepha Smith ē, e nehenehe tō tātou ti’aturira’a e « pūai roa i mua i te aro o te Atua ». A feruri na i te tāmāhanahanara’a o te ti’aturira’a i mua i te aro o te Atua !

’Ia parau ana’e au nō ni’a i te ti’aturira’a i mua i te Atua, tē fa’ahiti ra ia vau i te ti’aturira’a ia ha’afātata i te Atuai teienei! Tē parau nei au nō te purera’a ma te ti’aturira’a ē, tē fa’aro’o mai nei te Metua i te ao ra ia tātou, e mea māmaramama a’e oia i te mea e titauhia nō tātou, ia tātou iho. Tē parau nei au nō te ti’aturira’a ē, ’ua here oia ia tātou hau atu i tā tātou e nehenehe e hāro’aro’a, ’e ’ua tonono mai oia i te mau melahi ia pārahi i pīha’i iho ia tātou ’e i te feiā tā tātou i here. Tē parau nei au nō te ti’aturira’a ē, tē hina’aro nei oia e tauturu ia tātou tāta’itahi ia nae’a i tō tātou aravihi teitei a’e.

I teienei, nāhea tātou i te fāna’o ai i taua ti’aturira’a ra ? Tē pāhono nei te Fatu i teie uira’a nā roto i teie mau parau : « ’Ia ’i noa ato’a ho’i tō ’oe ’ā’au i te [aroha mau] i te mau tā’ata ato’a [...] ’e ia fa’ā’una’una noa te [maita’i mōrare] i tō ’oe ferurira’a i te mau taime ato’a ;’ei reiratō ’oe ti’aturira’a e pūai roa ai i mua i te aro o te Atua. »

Terā te tāviri ! ’Ia au i te mau parau a te Fatu iho, e ’iriti te aroha mau ’e te maita’i mōrare i te ’ē’a nō te ti’aturira’a i mua i te Atua ! Te mau taeā’e te mau tuahine, e ti’a ia tātou ia nā reira ! E nehenehe mau ā tō tātou ti’aturira’a e pūai roa i mua i te aro o te Atua, i teienei !

Feruri ana’e i te aroha mau ’e i te maita’i mōrare.

’A tahi, te aroha mau. E piti matahiti i ma’iri a’enei, ’ua pi’i au ia tātou, ’ei pipi nō te fafaua’a a Iesu Mesia, ia riro ’ei feiā fa’atupu hau. Tē fa’ahiti fa’ahou nei au i tā’u i parau i taua taime ra : « ’E’ita te riri ’ū’ana e tāparu. E’ita te [au ’ore] e patu i te hōē tā’ata. E’ita roa atu te mārō e arata’i atu i te mau rāve’a fa’auruhia. »

Te aroha mau ’e te ti’a, i te mau tā’ata ato’a, o te tāpā’o ia nō te feiā fa’atupu i te hau ! E mea fa’ufa’a roa ia fa’ā’ite i te aroha mau i roto i tā tātou mau a’ora’a, i mua i te hui’atira ’e i te vāhi ’ōmō’e. Te ha’amāuruuru nei au ia ’outou o tei ha’apā’o pāpū i tā’u a’ora’a nā mua atu. Terā rā, e nehenehe tātou e rave maita’i atu ā.

E mea ha’amata’u te au ’ore o teie nei tau i roto i te mau āpara’ura’a i mua i te hui’atira ’e i ni’a i te mau rāve’a ha’apararera’a tōtiare. E mauha’a ha’apohe te mau parau ’ino. Nā te mārōra’a e tāpe’a i te Vārua Maita’i ia ’ore ia riro ’ei hoa

As followers of Jesus Christ, we should lead the way as peacemakers. As charity becomes part of our nature, we will lose the impulse to demean others. We will stop judging others. We will have charity for those from all walks of life. Charity towards all men is essential to our progress. Charity is the foundation of a godly character.

Let us plead with our Heavenly Father to fill our hearts with greater charity—especially for those who are difficult to love—for charity is a gift from our Heavenly Father for true followers of Jesus Christ. The Savior is the Prince of Peace. We are to be His instruments for peace.

Now, let us speak of virtue. The Lord tells us to garnish our thoughts unceasingly with virtue. Imagine the boost you will receive to any positive thought when you enhance it with virtue. Virtue makes everything better and happier! On the other hand, imagine what will happen when you add virtue to an impure thought, a cruel thought, or a depressing thought. Virtue will drive away those thoughts. Virtue will free you from anxious, troublesome thoughts.

Brothers and sisters, as the world grows more wicked, we need to grow increasingly pure. Our thoughts, words, and actions need to be unfailingly virtuous and filled with the pure love of Jesus Christ towards all men. The great opportunity before us is to become the people God needs us to be.

Regular worship in the house of the Lord increases our capacity for both virtue and charity. Thus, time in the temple increases our confidence before the Lord. Increased time in the temple will help us prepare for the Second Coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We do not know the day or the hour of His coming. But I do know that the Lord is prompting me to urge us to get ready for that “great and dreadful day.”

As we diligently seek to have charity and virtue fill our lives, our confidence in approaching God will increase. I invite you to take inten-

tamau nō tātou.

’Ei pipi nā Iesu Mesia, e mea ti’a ia tātou ’ia arata’i ’ei feiā fa’atupu i te hau. ’A riro ai te aroha mau ’ei tuha’a nō tō tātou nātura, e mo’e tō tātou hina’aro e fa’a’ino ia vetahi ē. E fa’aea tātou i te ha’avā ia vetahi ē. E fa’a’ite tātou i te aroha mau nō te tāata nō te mau huru orara’a ato’a. E mea faufa’a roa te aroha mau i te mau tāata ato’a nō tō tātou haerera’a i mua. E niu te aroha mau nō te huru paieti.

Tāparu ana’e i tō tātou Metua i te ao ra ’ia fa’a’i i tō tātou ’āau i te aroha mau ’e te rahi a’e—nō te feiā iho ā rā e mea fifi roa ’ia here. E tao’a hōro’a ho’i te aroha mau nō ’ō mai i tō tātou Metua i te ao ra, nō te feiā ’āpē’e mau ia Iesu Mesia. O te Fa’aora te Ari’i o te hau. Ei mauha’a nō te hau tātou nāna.

I teienei, e paraparau tātou nō te maita’i mōrare. Tē parau mai nei te Fatu ia tātou ’ia fa’a’una’unanoai tō tātou ferurira’a i te maita’i mōrare. ’A feruri na i te fa’aitoitōra’a tā ’outou e fa’ari’i nō i te mau mana’o maitata’i ato’a ’ia fa’arahi ana’e ’outou i te reira i te maita’i mōrare. E fa’ariro te maita’i mōrare i te mau mea ato’a ’ei mea maita’i a’e ’e ’ei mea ’o’ao’a a’e ! I te tahi a’e pae, ’a feruri na e aha tē tupu mai te peu e ’āmui atu ’outou i te maita’i mōrare i te hō’e mana’o vi’ivi’i, te hō’e mana’o ’ino, ’aore ra te hō’e mana’o hepohepo. E fa’a’ore te maita’i mōrare itauamau mana’o ra. E fa’ati’amā te maita’i mōrare ia ’outou i te mau mana’o ahoaho ’e te fifi.

E te mau tae’a e te mau tuahine, ’a rahi noa ai te ’ino o te ao nei, tītauhia ia tātou ’ia rahi noa i te ateate. Tītauhia te maita’i mōrare hape ’ore nō tō tātou mau mana’o, mau parau ’e mau ’ohipa, ’e ’ia ’i ho’i i te here ateate o te Mesia i te mau tāata ato’a. Te rāve’a rahi i mua ia tātou, ’o te rirora’a ia ’ei tāata tā te Atua e hina’aro ia tātou ’ia riro.

Nā te ha’amorira’a tāmau i roto i te fare o te Fatu e fa’arahi i tō tātou ’aravihi nō te aroha mau ’e te maita’i mōrare. Nō reira, e fa’arahi te taime i roto i te hiero i tō tātou ti’aturira’a i mua i te Fatu. Nā te fa’arahira’a i te taime i roto i te hiero e tau-turu ia tātou ’ia fa’aineine nō te Tae-Piti-Ra’a mai o tō tātou Fa’aora, ’o Iesu Mesia. ’Aita tātou i ’ite i te mahana ’e ’aore rā te hora o tōna haerera’a mai. Terā rā, ’ua ’ite au ē, tē fa’aitoitō mai nei te Fatu iā’u ’ia a’o ia tātou ’ia fa’aineine nō taua « mahana rahi ’e te ri’ari’a ra ».

’A ’imi itoitō ai tātou i te fa’a’i i tō tātou orara’a i te aroha mau ’e i te maita’i mōrare, e rahi atu ā tō tātou ti’aturira’a i te ha’afātatarā’a atu i te Atua.

tional steps to grow in your confidence before the Lord. Then, as we go to our Heavenly Father with increasing confidence, we will be filled with more joy, and your faith in Jesus Christ will increase. We will begin to experience spiritual power that exceeds our greatest hopes.

We are grateful to the Lord for the acceleration of temple-building in recent years. Under His direction, today we announce plans to construct a temple in each of these 15 locations:

Reynosa, Mexico
Chorrillos, Peru
Rivera, Uruguay
Campo Grande, Brazil
Porto, Portugal
Uyo, Nigeria
San Jose del Monte, Philippines
Nouméa, New Caledonia
Liverpool, Australia
Caldwell, Idaho
Flagstaff, Arizona
Rapid City, South Dakota
Greenville, South Carolina
Norfolk, Virginia
Spanish Fork, Utah

I testify that Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of Israel, leads this, His Church. He is preparing to come again. May we likewise prepare to receive Him. For this I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Tē ani manihini nei au ia 'outou 'ia rave ma te 'ōpuahia i te mau ta'ahira'a nō te fa'arahi itō 'out-outi'aturira'a i mua i te Fatu. I muri iho, 'a haere ai tātou i tō tātou Metua i te ao ra ma te ti'aturira'a rahi a'e, e fa'a'ihia tātou i te 'o'aoa rahi a'e, 'e e rahi atu ā tō 'outou fa'aro'o ia Iesu Mesia. E ha'amata tātou i te 'ite i te mana pae vārua 'o tei hau atu i tō tātou mau tia'ira'a rahi roa'e.

Tē māuruuru nei tātou i te Fatu nō te vitiviti o te patura'a hiero i te mau matahiti i ma'iri a'e nei. I teie mahana, i raro a'e i tāna arata'ira'a, tē fa'aara atu nei mātou i te mau 'ōpuara'a nō te patu i te hō'e hiero i teie e 15 vāhi tāta'itahi :

Reynosa (Mēhiko)
Chorrillos (Pērū)
Rivera (Urutue)
Campo Grande (Peretīria)
Porto (Pōtiti)
Uyo (Nītēria)
San Jose del Monte (Firipino)
Nouméa (Taratonī)
Liverpool ('Auterāria)
Caldwell (Idaho)
Flagstaff (Arizona)
Rapid City (South Dakota)
Greenville (South Carolina)
Norfolk (Virginia)
Spanish Fork (Utah)

Tē fa'a'ite pāpū nei au ē, tē fa'atere nei Iesu Mesia, te Tāra'ehara o 'Īserā'ela, i teie 'Ēkālesia tāna. Tē fa'aineine nei 'oia nō te haere fa'ahou mai. 'Ia fa'aineine ato'a tātou nō te fāri'i iāna. 'O tā'u nei ia pure, i te i'oa o Iesu Mesia, 'āmene.