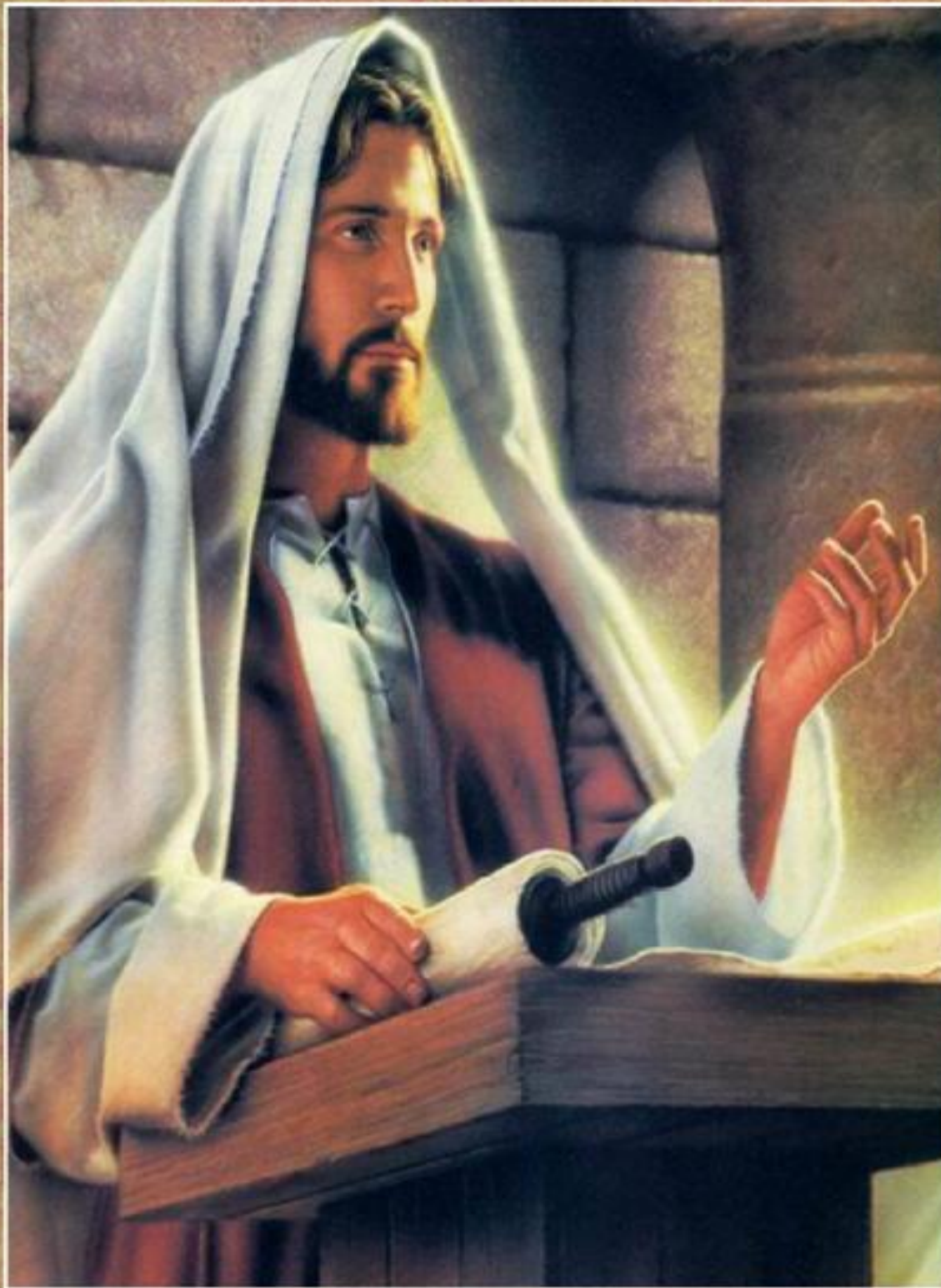


General Conference



No Ordinary Blessing

General Conference No Ordinary Blessing

By President DIETER F. UCHTDORF Second Counselor in the First Presidency



A fine member of the Church was talking with a neighbor who was not of our faith. When the topic of discussion turned to general conference, the neighbor asked, "You say you have prophets and apostles? And twice a year in a worldwide conference they reveal the word of God?" "Absolutely," the member replied with confidence. The neighbor thought about that for a moment. He seemed genuinely interested and then asked, "What did they say in the last general conference?" At this point the good member of the Church went from feeling excited about sharing the gospel to feeling embarrassed. Try as he might, he couldn't think of the details of a single talk. His friend found this troubling and said, "You mean to tell me that God speaks to man in our day and you can't remember what He said?" The brother felt humbled by this exchange. He vowed that he would do better to remember the words spoken by the Lord's servants in general conference.

We all know how hard it is to remember every message of general conference, and I'm confident that we need not be embarrassed if we don't remember everything. Nevertheless, there are messages in each general conference given as a gift and a blessing from heaven specifically for our personal life situations.

In preparation for general conference, let me suggest three basic concepts that may help us to better receive, remember, and apply the words spoken by the Lord's servants.

1. Members of the Church are entitled to personal revelation as they listen to and study the inspired words spoken at general conference.

As you prepare for general conference, I invite you to ponder questions you need to have answered. For example, you might yearn for direction and guidance by the Lord regarding challenges you are facing. Answers to your specific prayers may come directly from a particular talk or from a specific phrase. At other times answers may come in a seemingly unrelated word, phrase, or song. A heart filled with gratitude for the blessings of life and an earnest desire to hear and follow the words of counsel will prepare the way for personal revelation.

2. Don't discount a message merely because it sounds familiar.

Prophets have always taught by repetition; it is a law of learning. You will hear repetition in themes and doctrines in general conference. Let me reassure you: this is not due to a lack of creativity or imagination. We continue to hear messages on similar issues because the Lord is teaching and impressing upon our minds and hearts certain foundational principles of great eternal importance that must be understood and acted upon before we can move on to other things. A wise builder first lays the foundation before erecting the walls and the roof.

3. The words spoken at general conference should be a compass that points the way for us during the coming months.

If we listen to and follow the promptings of the Spirit, they will serve as a Liahona, guiding us through the unknown, challenging valleys and mountain that are ahead (see [1 Nephi 16](#)). Since the world began, God has raised up prophets who speak the will of heaven to the people of their times. It is our responsibility to listen and then apply the messages the Lord provides for us. Our merciful and loving Heavenly Father has not forsaken and will not forsake His children. Today, as well as in times past, He has appointed apostles and prophets. He continues to reveal His word to them. What a marvelous privilege it is to hear God's messages for each of us during general conference! Let us prepare well for this great blessing of divine guidance delivered by His chosen servants.

"I invite you to ponder questions you need to have answered."

[illegible]

Things That Touched Me

[illegible]

A professional headshot of a middle-aged man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a dark, neutral gradient.[illegible]

Henry B. Eyring


[illegible]


A professional headshot of a middle-aged man with short, graying hair. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a blue patterned tie. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gray.[illegible]

A portrait of a middle-aged man with short, graying hair, wearing glasses, a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gray.[illegible]

L. Tom Perry

[illegible]

A professional headshot of a middle-aged man with thinning hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.[illegible]

A portrait of a middle-aged man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a striped tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.[illegible]

A portrait of a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, wearing glasses, a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a mottled, dark grey.[illegible]

A professional headshot of a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair. He is wearing a dark pinstriped suit jacket over a white dress shirt and a red tie with a small, dark, repeating pattern. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.[illegible]

A professional headshot of a middle-aged man with receding hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling slightly against a dark, textured background.[illegible]

A portrait of a middle-aged man with short, light brown hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark navy blue suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a dark red tie with a small, repeating geometric pattern. The background is a mottled, dark grey-blue.[illegible]

A portrait of a middle-aged man with short, light brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a mottled grey.[illegible]

A portrait of a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, wearing glasses, a dark suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.[illegible]

A portrait of a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, wearing glasses, a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.[illegible]

A professional headshot of Dr. Robert A. Anderson. He is a middle-aged man with short, light brown hair, wearing glasses. He is dressed in a dark suit jacket, a white collared shirt, and a red tie with thin diagonal stripes. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a dark, mottled blue-grey.

[illegible]

Other Speakers

Name: _____

[illegible]

Other Speakers

Name: _____

[illegible]

Other Speakers

Name: _____

[illegible]

Other Speakers

Name: _____

[illegible]

My Thoughts and Testimony