

Blessings of Family History and Temple Service – of Doing the Lord’s Work

*****First, the list of blessing addressed specifically to the youth of the church who accept the call to begin their family history and temple work:***

"As you respond in faith to this invitation, your **hearts shall turn** to the fathers. The **promises** made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be **implanted** in your hearts. **Your patriarchal blessing**, with its declaration of lineage, **will link you to these fathers and be more meaningful to you. Your love and gratitude for your ancestors will increase. Your testimony of and conversion to the Savior will become deep and abiding.** And I promise you **will be protected against the intensifying influence of the adversary.** As you participate in and love this holy work, you **will be safeguarded in your youth and throughout your lives.**"

David A. Bednar, "The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn", *Ensign*, Nov. 2011

Listen to the blessings we are promised:

- *Become families of heaven:* Through the keys he would restore, promises made earlier to the fathers would be planted in the hearts of their latter-day children. Our hearts would then turn to our fathers, and, through this impelling promise, the sacred relationships of mortality could be extended forever. Families of the earth could **become families of heaven.**
J. Richard Clarke, "Our Kindred Family—Expression of Eternal Love," *Ensign*, May 1989, 60
- *Friends:* You are not just gathering names. Those you never met in life will become **friends you love.** Your heart will be bound to theirs forever.
Henry B. Eyring, "Hearts Bound Together," *Ensign*, May 2005, 77
- *Your heart will turn to your fathers and your children:* D&C 2
" 1 Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.
2 And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers.
3 If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming."
- *Greater love for our fellow man:* [it is] a **work that enlarges the soul of man, broadens his views regarding the welfare of his fellowman, and plants in his heart a love for all the children of our Heavenly Father.** There is no work equal to that in the temple for the dead in **teaching a man to love his neighbor as himself.**
Joseph Fielding Smith, Jr., *Church News*, October 24, 1970, p.3
- *Greater understanding:* "...**we accomplish a deep sense of alliance with God and a better understanding of his plan for the salvation of the human race.**"
Howard W. Hunter, "We Have a Work to Do," *Ensign*, March 1995, p. 65
- *Greater peace and comfort:* "May yours be the path of happiness in life! May your life be filled with the abiding joy of the rescue mission referred to by President Heber J. Grant:
I know of no work that **brings greater peace and comfort to the human heart** than the missionary work in the Church of Jesus Christ, at home or abroad, going out to proclaim the gospel, or sitting down and talking upon the gospel, or entering into the temples and doing work for our loved ones that have gone before."
Archibald F. Bennett, *Saviors on Mount Zion*

- *Uniting and redemption of the family of God:* 1. "...the **uniting and redemption of the family of God** was the divine plan before the foundations of the earth were laid."
Howard W. Hunter, *Ensign*, Dec 1971, p.72
2. "We are all concerned as never before with the binding of families here upon the earth, that they might be bound together in eternity. What more **marvelous experience** is there than for members of all ages in a family to **bind themselves together** in genealogical research?"
Boyd K. Packer, "The Family and Eternity," *Ensign*, Feb. 1971, 7
- *Lessens the power of Satan on earth:* "Every foundation stone that is laid for a Temple, and every Temple completed according to the order the Lord has revealed for His Holy Priesthood **lessens the power of Satan on the earth, and increases the power of God and Godliness, moves the heavens in mighty power in our behalf, invokes and call down upon us the blessings of the Eternal Gods, and those who reside in their presence.** There is something **cleansing and clarifying** about the spiritual atmosphere of the temple."
George Q. Cannon
- *Helps children resist temptation:* "If this promise is planted in our children's hearts, we have given them a powerful source of **strength to resist the temptations of Satan and the vain things of the world.** They will want to be prepared to enter the temple and secure these blessings for themselves and then secure them for their ancestors."
S. Michael Wilcox, *The House of Glory*, p.120
- *Miracles:* Moroni 7:35-37 "...has the day of miracles ceased? Or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? Or has he withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? ...
"Behold I say unto you, Nay; for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; wherefore, if these things have ceased wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain."
- *Increased spirituality and understanding of the priesthood:* 1. "Implicit in the building of temples is the principle of regular temple attendance by the Saints. Nothing **builds spirituality and our understanding of the priesthood principles** more than regular temple attendance."
Spencer W. Kimball, *Ensign*, May 1982, p.4
2. "The abounding love of the living for the dead comes to a person when he gives himself a little every day to **thoughts** of the dead and labor for the dead; and I suspect it can come in no other natural way. If we will proceed, through out Zion, in every household, to give daily thought and labor in behalf of records and temple work, our temple work will be greatly encouraged, to more souls will be brought the possibility of salvation, and we ourselves would be to the temple more frequently and grown in spiritual power."
John A. Widstoe 1920, 11:102
- *Increased knowledge, wisdom and capacity to obey:* "The Lord will **increase our knowledge, wisdom, and capacity to obey** when we obey His fundamental laws."
Ezra Taft Benson
- *Increased personal revelation and lifted thoughts:* "I promise you that, with increased attendance in the temples of our God, you shall receive increased personal revelation to bless your life as you bless those who have died."
Ezra Taft Benson, CR April 1987, *Ensign* 17 May 1987
- *A closer relationship with the Lord:* "Several things are accomplished by our attendance at the temple -- we comply with the instructions of the Lord to accomplish our own ordinance work, we bless our families by the sealing ordinances, and we share our blessings with others by doing for them what they cannot do for themselves. In addition to these, **we lift our own thoughts, grow closer to the Lord, honor our priesthood, and spiritualize our lives.**"
Howard W. Hunter, Manchester England Area Conference 1971, p. 100

- *Understanding of the Lord's concern over and love for us:* "As we participate in this work, we too come to **understand the depth of the Lord's concern and share his compassion for each individual soul.**"

S. Michael Wilcox, *The House of Glory*, p.122

- *Spiritual perspective:* "When members of the Church are troubled or when critical decisions weigh heavily upon their minds, it is a common thing for them to go to the temple. It is a good place to take our cares. In the temple we can **receive spiritual perspective.** There, during the time of the temple service, we are put 'out of the world.' ... There is something **cleansing and clarifying** about the spiritual atmosphere of the temple."

Boyd K. Packer, *The Holy Temple*, pp.180-81

- *Solutions to problems and answers to prayers:* 1." I believe that the busy person . . . can **solve his problems better and more quickly** in the house of the Lord than anywhere else. If he will leave his problems behind and in the temple work for himself and for his dead, he will confer a mighty blessing upon those who have gone before, and quite as large a blessing will come to him, for at the most unexpected moments, in or out of the temple will come to him, **as a revelation, the solution of the problems that vex his life.** That is the gift that comes to those who enter the temple properly, because it is a place where revelations may be expected."

John A. Widstoe, *Saviors on Mount Zion*, Chapter 36.

2. "Temples are places of personal revelation. When I have been weighed down by a problem or a difficulty, I have gone to the House of the Lord with a prayer in my heart for answers. These **answers** have come in clear and unmistakable ways."

Ezra Taft Benson, "What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children about the Temple," *Ensign*, Aug 1985, p.8

- *Sustain the soul in times of distress:* "Baptism for the dead is the only way that men can appear as saviors upon Mount Zion. The proclamation of the first principles of the gospel was a means of salvation to man individually, but men, by actively engaging in rites of salvation substitutionally, become instrumental in bringing multitudes of their kin into the kingdom of God. . . . This doctrine appears glorious inasmuch as it exhibits the greatness of divine compassion and benevolence in the extent of the plan of human salvation. This glorious truth is well calculated **to enlarge the understanding, and to sustain the soul under troubles, difficulties, and distresses.** . . . This doctrine presents in a clear light the wisdom and mercy of God in preparing an ordinance for the salvation of the dead being baptized by proxy, their names recorded in heaven, and they judged according to the deeds done in the body. This doctrine was the burden of the scriptures. Those Saints who neglect it, in behalf of their deceased relatives, do it at the peril of their own salvation."

Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons* 2:577-78.

- *Happiness and joy:* "God help us to do all that we can...that when we have finished our labors in life, we may receive a glorious welcome from those whose eyes are turned toward us, who will be full of blessings upon our heads. **If you want to have a glorious end to your life, to robe immortality about you, and to lie down to sweet rest with a hope, with joy in your heart,** do something for your kindred dead, and I promise you that you will take the sting of death out of your hearts. You will fill the last days of your life with joy and happiness, and you will be building for your eternal joy and happiness."

Sermons and Missionary Services of Melvin J. Ballard, by Bryant S. Hinckley

- *Understanding your place in Heavenly Father's plan:* "Temple work ... gives a wonderful opportunity for **keeping alive our spiritual knowledge and strength....** The **mighty perspective of eternity is unraveled before us** in the holy temples; **we see time from its infinite beginning to its endless end; and the drama of eternal life is unfolded before us.** Then I see more clearly **my place amidst the things of the universe, my place among the purposes of God; I am better**

able to value and to weigh, to separate and to organize the common, ordinary duties of my life so that the little things shall not oppress me or take away my vision of the greater things that God has given us."

Elder John A. Widtsoe, *Ensign*, Mar 1995, p.65

- *Vision of the divine nature*: "One of the most important phases of gospel activity is associated with the temples. Upon intelligent, constant genealogical research, vicarious temple work is wholly dependent.

"Genealogical research is not only a function of the **priesthood**, but also a **responsibility** of every family.

"When conscientiously performed it **contributes to unity in the home and permits us to catch the vision of the divine nature.**

"Therefore, let us as a church and as a people labor with all our might to qualify as **Saviours on Mount Zion.**"

David O. McKay, *Improvement Era*, November 1963, p.924

- *Unity in the home!!!!* (see above)

- *Grace*: "**Grace** is a '...divine means of help or strength, given through the bounteous mercy and love of Jesus Christ....through the grace of the Lord... individuals... **receive strength and assistance to do good works that they otherwise would not be able to maintain if left to their own means. This grace is an enabling power....**'" (Bible Dictionary p. 697)

- *Mercy*: "Blessed [are] the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7

Role models: "In their search for **personal identity**, Latter-day Saints need not look beyond their own ancestry to find "**wonderful role models** whose high standards are more than adequate," Elder Monte J. Brough declared at the priesthood session Saturday evening.

Quoting President Howard W. Hunter, Elder Brough of the Presidency of the Seventy said, "The greatest search of our time is the search for personal identity and for **human dignity.**"

The search for personal identity, Elder Brough continued, "is essentially a search for role models that become instructive in the conduct of one's lifestyle."

As an alternative to the often disappointing icons in athletics, entertainment or commercial music, he recommended a "modest search" into the lives of one's ancestors to find role models.

Sharing a few stories and examples from ancestors' lives, Elder Brough said, "These are a few great examples of role models which are available to all of us as we learn of our own family history."

He told of meeting with an executive of a large entertainment corporation, a woman of Jewish ethnicity. She had toured the Church Family History Library and asked Elder Brough why the Church is so interested in genealogy.

"I responded, 'Let me answer you by asking you the same question: Why are Jews interested in their genealogy?'

"She answered, a little surprised by my query: 'Why? It is of ultimate and profound importance. It is how we **obtain and maintain our identity. It is how I know who I am.** The history and lives of our ancestors are the glue that holds the entire Jewish community together.' She concluded, 'How else would you know who you are?'

"I responded to her, 'That is one of the reasons why our Church is interested in genealogy.' "

Elder Brough asked, "My brethren of the priesthood, how do we answer this centuries-old question: Who am I?"

"First of all, we are sons of God created in His image. We are members of the Church. . . . Our connection and identification with the Church has been maintained by many of our members for more than a century and a half. Without question, the environment of our homes and families is the single greatest influence in our identity as individuals. This was true of our parents' families and

their parents' families before them. We need not look beyond our own family to find wonderful role models whose high standards are more than adequate in our search for personal identity.””

Elder Monte J. Brough, “Family History Replete with Role Models”, *Church News*, April 8, 1995, p.16

- *Helps us to recognize our strengths and weaknesses*: “The question may arise in one’s mind, Why should I spend my time searching out my ancestors? How can they contribute anything to me? Why should I evidence more than passing interest in their welfare? We are largely a product of our progenitors, **their strength sustains us, their weaknesses, if any, warn us of traits and tendencies to curb and avoid**. Their love and devotion bring to fulfillment the Savior’s great law of love with combined loved ones and families joyfully together in time and throughout eternity. We owe them [our ancestors] much more than we can ever repay. A **noble heritage** has always been regarded as one of life’s greatest treasures.”

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 161

- *Increased bonds of appreciation and affection in our families*: “Since my earliest childhood memory, the spirit of the temple has blessed our home. I remember as a little boy seeing my mother bending over the ironing board pressing long strips of white cloth, with beads of perspiration on her forehead. I asked her why. She answered, ‘These are temple robes, my son. Your father and I are going to the temple in Logan.’ She then put the old flatiron on the stove, drew a chair close to mine, and told me about temple work. I learned how vitally important it is to go to the temple and to participate there in sacred ordinances. Every time my parents returned from a visit to the temple, the experience brought renewed love and strength to our family circle.

“I love the temple with all my heart and soul. Nearly every week, my beloved wife, Flora, and I receive the ordinances in the temple for a loved one.

“The temple is an ever-present reminder that God intends the family to be eternal. We should share with our families our love of our forebears and our gratitude to be able to help them receive the saving ordinances, as my parents did with me. As we do so, **increased bonds of appreciation and affection will develop within our families.**”

Ezra Taft Benson, Come Unto Christ

- *Love your family more than ever before*: “You will **receive the spirit of Elijah, which will turn your hearts to your spouse, to your children, and to your forebears. YOU WILL LOVE YOUR FAMILY WITH A DEEPER LOVE THAN YOU HAVE LOVED BEFORE. You will be endowed with power from on high** as the Lord has promised.”

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p.254

- *Bridges built between the generations*: “Brethren and sisters, family history and temple work are the eternal family keepsakes that build bridges. **They build bridges between the generations of our families, bridges to activity in the Church, and bridges to the temple.** It is my desire that each of us will recognize the great keepsakes we have received from those who preceded us and our own personal responsibility to pass them on to future generations.”

Dennis B. Neuenschwander, “Bridges and Eternal Keepsakes,” *Ensign*, May 1999, 83

- *Welded links tying us together for eternity*: “Every thought or word or act we direct at this sacred work is pleasing to the Lord. Every hour spent on genealogical research, however unproductive it appears, is worthwhile. It is pleasing to the Lord. It is **our testimony** to Him that we accept the doctrine of the resurrection and the plan of salvation. It **draws us close to those who have gone before**. It **welds eternal links** in family associations and **draw us closer to Him who is our Lord.**”

Boyd K. Packer, The Holy Temple, p.255

- *Tempering influence*: “Family history work has the power to do something for the dead. It has an equal power to do something to the living. 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, their living family here with those who have gone before. In one sense [it] would justify itself even if one were not successful in clearing a names for temple work. The process of searching, the means of going after those names, would be worth all the effort you could invest.... [In this process] our interest turns our hearts to our fathers—we seek to find them and to know them and to serve them. **In doing so we store up treasures in heaven.**”

Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, August 2003, p. 17

- *Lose interest in the riches of the world:* If] “the veil were lifted off the face of the Latter-day Saints,” [and they] “could see and know the things of God as they do who are laboring for the salvation of the human family who are in the spirit world ..., this whole people, with very few, if any, exceptions, **would lose all interest in the riches of the world**, and instead thereof their whole desires and labors would be directed to redeem their dead.”

Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, p.152

- *Peel off our selfish shells:* “Most of our temples could be much busier than they are. In this noisy, bustling, competitive world, what a privilege it is to have a sacred house where we may experience the sanctifying influence of the Spirit of the Lord. The element of selfishness crowds in upon us constantly. We need to overcome it, and there is no better way than to go to the house of the Lord and there serve in a vicarious relationship in behalf of those who are beyond the veil of death. What a remarkable thing this is. In most cases, we do not know those for whom we work. We expect no thanks. We have no assurance that they will accept that which we offer. But we go, and in that process we attain to a state that comes of no other effort. We literally become saviors on Mount Zion. What does this mean? Just as our Redeemer gave His life as a vicarious sacrifice for all men, and in so doing became our Savior, even so we, in a small measure, when we engage in proxy work in the temple, become as saviors to those on the other side who have no means of advancing unless something is done in their behalf by those on earth. “And so, my brothers and sisters, I encourage you to take greater advantage of this blessed privilege. It will refine your natures. It will peel off the selfish shell in which most of us live. It will literally bring a sanctifying element into our lives and make us better men and better women.”

Gordon B. Hinckley, “Closing Remarks”, *Ensign*, Nov 2004, 104.

- *Help in all affairs of life, not just in family history:* 1. "The Lord will bless us as we attend to the sacred ordinance work of the temples. Blessings there will not be limited to our temple service. We will be **blessed in all our affairs**. We will be eligible to have the Lord take an interest in our affairs **both spiritually and temporal.**"

Boyd K. Packer, *The Holy Temple* pg. 18

2. "Those who give themselves with all their might and main to this work receive help from the other side, and not merely in gathering genealogies. Whoever seeks to help those on the other side receives **help in return in all the affairs of life.**"

John A. Widstoe, *Utah Genealogical & Historical Magazine* July 1931 pg. 104

3. “Whosoever seeks to help those on the other side receives **help in return in all affairs of life**. I can think of no better preparation for one’s labor on the farm, in the office, wherever it may be, than to spend a few hours in the temple, to partake of its influence and to give oneself unselfishly for the benefit of those who have gone beyond the veil.”

John A. Widstoe, *Improvement Era*, October 1952, p. 719

- *Power of enlightenment, of testimony, and of understanding:* The environment in the temple is intended to provide the worthy member of the Church with the **power of enlightenment, of testimony, and of understanding**. The temple endowment gives **knowledge that, when acted upon, provides strength and conviction of truth.**

David B. Haight, “Temples and Work Therein”, *Ensign*, Nov 1990, 59

- *Peace of mind and spirit:* The moment we step into the house of the Lord, the atmosphere changes from the worldly to the heavenly, where **respite from the normal activities of life is found**, and where **peace of mind and spirit is received**. It is a **refuge from the ills of life and a protection from the temptations that are contrary to our spiritual well-being**. We are told that “he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even **peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come.**” ([D&C 59:23](#).)

David B. Haight, “Temples and Work Therein”, *Ensign*, Nov 1990, 59

- *Better perform our duties in life:* “It is not to be expected that the temple ceremonies can be comprehended in full detail the first time a person ‘goes through’ the temple. Therefore, the Lord has provided a means of repetition. Temple work must be done first by each person for himself or herself; then it may be done for one’s dead ancestors or friends as frequently as circumstances will allow. This service will open the doors of salvation for the dead and will also **help fix upon the mind of the living the nature, meaning, and obligations of the endowment**. By keeping the endowment fresh in mind, we shall **better able to perform our duties in life** under the influence of eternal blessings.”

John A. Widstoe, “Looking Toward the Temple,” *Improvement Era*, Jun 1967, p.144

- *Hear things so beautiful they cannot be written down (by attending the temple):* “... Occasionally we read of people who are shown truths or are taught principles they are forbidden to reveal or write down. Jesus prayed with the Nephites, for example, and ‘the things which he prayed cannot be written.’ (3 Nephi 17:15) The moment was sacred, too holy and profoundly beautiful to commit to paper.

“As an English major, I used to wish I could **see or hear something so wonderful it could not be written**. Then, one day, the Spirit whispered, ‘You have, many times, in the Lord’s house.’ The endowment and other ordinances are too sacred to be written down for all to see.”

S. Michael Wilcox, *House of Glory*, p. 20

- *Receive mysteries of the kingdom:* “But unto him that keepeth my commandments I will give the mysteries of the kingdom, and the same shall be in him a well of living water, springing up unto everlasting life.” D&C 63:23
- *Blessed with abundance:* 1. JST Matt 6:33 “...seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness and **all these things** shall be added unto you.”
2. 1 Kings 17 “...Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and...make me...a little cake first...and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD...the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail...and the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah...”
- *Time expanded:* “[The Lord] has promised you this: ‘But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’ That is a true promise. When we put God’s purposes first, He will give us miracles. If we pray to know what He would have us do next, He will **multiply the effects of what we do in such a way that time seems to be expanded.**”
(Henry B. Eyring, “Education for Real Life,” CES Broadcast 6 May 2001, p. 4-5.)
- *Prepared to commune with angels:* 1. “The Kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed. The mustard seed is small, but brings forth a large tree, and the fowls lodge in the branches. The fowls are the angels. Thus angels come down, combine together to gather their children, and gather them. We cannot be made perfect without them, nor they without us; when these things are done, the Son of Man will descend, the Ancient of Days sit; **we may come to an innumerable company of angels, have communion with and receive instruction from them**. Paul told about Moses’ proceedings; spoke of the children of Israel being baptized. (1 Cor. 10:1_4.) He knew this, and that

all the ordinances and blessings were in the Church. Paul had these things, and we may have the fowls of heaven lodge in the branches, etc.”

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Section Four 1839–42, p.159

2. “We talk about going back to build up the centre stake of Zion; it is the burden of our daily prayers... that the time may soon come when the centre stake of Zion shall be built up and the people be prepared to go back and inhabit that land.... We are, as it were, in a school where we are to be taught of God, and prepared for the great events that are coming on the earth.... We expect when that day shall come that **we will be a very different people** to what we are today. **We will be prepared to commune with heavenly beings**... We expect that a society will be organized there that will be a pattern of heavenly society, that when Jesus and the heavenly beings who come with him are revealed in the clouds of heaven, their feelings will not be shocked by the change, for a society will be organized on the earth whose members will be prepared through the revelations of God to meet and associate with them, if not on terms of perfect equality, at least with some degree of equality.”

George Q. Cannon, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol.11, p.336 p.337, March 3rd, 1867

- *Protection*: 1. “The temple ceremonies are designed by a wise Heavenly Father who has revealed them to us in these last days as **a guide and a protection throughout our lives**, that you and I might not fail to merit exaltation in the celestial kingdom where God and Christ dwell.”

Harold B. Lee, “Enter a Holy Temple,,” *Improvement Era*, Jun 1967, p.144

2. “Many parents, in and out of the Church, are concerned about protection against a cascading avalanche of wickedness, which threatens to engulf the world. There is a power associated with the ordinances of heaven, even the power of godliness, which can and will thwart the forces of evil, if we will but be worthy of those sacred covenants made in the temple of the Lord. **Our families will be protected, our children will be safeguarded** as we live the gospel, visit the temple, and live close to the Lord.”

Ezra Taft Benson, *Receive of His Fulness*, videocassette

3. “No work is more of a **protection** to this Church than temple work and genealogical research which supports it. No work is more **spiritually refining**. No work we do **gives us more power**. No work requires a higher standard of righteousness. Our labors in the temple cover us **with a shield and a protection both individually and as a people**.”

Boyd K. Packer, *The Holy Temple*

4. “We must gain some feeling for why we build temples, and why the ordinances are required of us. Thereafter we are continually instructed and enlightened on matters of spiritual importance.... This becomes a great **protection** to us—to each of us personally. It is a protection also for the Church.

No work is more of a protection to this Church than temple work and the genealogical research which supports it. No work is more spiritually refining. No work we do gives us more power. No work requires a higher standard of righteousness.

Our labors in the temple cover us with a shield and a protection, both individually and as a people.

It is in the ordinances of the temple that we are placed under covenant to Him—it is there we become the covenant people.

If we will accept the revelation concerning temple ordinance work, if we will enter into our covenants without reservation or apology, the Lord will protect us. We will receive inspiration sufficient for the challenges of life.”

Boyd K. Packer, Holy Temple Pamphlet, last pg.

- *Guardian angels*: “I promise you that all who faithfully attend to temple work will be **blessed beyond measure**. Your **families will draw closer to the Lord, unseen angels will watch over**

your loved ones when satanic forces tempt them, the veil will be thin, and great spiritual experiences will distill upon this people.”

Vaughn J. Featherstone

“When you attend the temple...certain blessings will come to you:

- **You will receive the spirit of Elijah, which will turn your hearts to your spouse, to your children, and to your forebears.**
- **You will love your family with a deeper love than you have loved before.**
- **Your hearts will be turned to your fathers and theirs to you.**
- **You will be endowed with power from on high as the Lord has promised.**
- **You will receive the key of the knowledge of God. (D&C 84:19.) You will learn how you can be like Him. Even the power of godliness will be manifest to you. (D&C 84:20)**
- **You will be doing a great service to those who have passed to the other side of the veil in order that they might be "judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."** (D&C 138:34.)

Ezra Taft Benson, “What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children about the Temple”, 17 May 1984, Logan Temple Centennial, *Ensign*, Aug 1985, p10

“Men and women who turn their lives over to God will discover that **He can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He will deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, strengthen their muscles, lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, raise up friends, and pour out peace.**

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p.361

****For an even more wonderful list straight from the Lord, read D&C 109.**

Now ponder this: Pres. Howard W. Hunter

...”there are some members who engage in temple work but fail to do family history research on their own family lines. Although they perform a divine service in assisting others, they lose a blessing by not seeking their own kindred dead as divinely directed by latter-day prophets....I have learned that those who engage in family history research and then perform the temple ordinance work for those whose names they have found will know **the additional joy of receiving both halves of the blessing**. Furthermore, the dead are anxiously waiting for the Latter-day Saints to search out their names and then go into the temples to officiate in their behalf, that they may be liberated from their prison house in the spirit world. All of us should find joy in this magnificent labor of love....This aspect of temple work is an unselfish work. Yet whenever we do temple work for other people, there is a blessing that comes back to us.”

“A Temple-Motivated People,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1995, p.4-5

“This restoration was accompanied by what is sometimes called **the Spirit of Elijah—a manifestation of the Holy Ghost bearing witness of the divine nature of the family.**”

Russell M. Nelson, “A New Harvest Time,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 34