Spiritual 911

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President **Henry B. Eyring** asserts, “Most of us have thought about how to prepare for storms….But there is another even more important preparation we must make for tests that are certain to come to each of us. That preparation must be started far in advance because it takes time. What we will need then can’t be bought. It can’t be borrowed. It doesn’t store well. And it has to have been used regularly and recently. What we will need in our day of testing is spiritual preparation. As the forces around us increase in intensity, whatever spiritual strength was once sufficient, will not be enough. There is a better way to prepare, because great faith has a short shelf life.” (“Spiritual Preparedness: Start Early and Be Steady”)

Elder **Dallin H. Oaks** concurs: “A 72-hour kit of temporal supplies may prove valuable for earthly challenges, but, as the foolish virgins learned to their sorrow, a 24-hour kit of spiritual preparation is of greater and more enduring value. “Wherefore,” the Savior tells us, “be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may be ready at the coming of the Bridegroom” ([D&C 33:17–18](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/33.17-18?lang=eng#16)). (“Preparation for the Second Coming”)

**Sister Linda S. Reeves** points out the following: “We have made giant strides in discovering ways to communicate more effectively through electronic devices with loved ones, friends, teachers, and business associates. In this day of increasing communication with each other, some very important questions to ask might be: “How is our communication with our Father in Heaven? Do we speak with Him more often, or less?” (“In this Communication Age, How Effective Are Your Prayers?”)

**Elder Bednar** informs us well: “Let me suggest that holding fast to the iron rod entails, in large measure, the prayerful, consistent, and earnest use of the holy scriptures as a sure source of revealed truth and as a reliable guide for the journey along the strait and narrow path to the tree of life—even to the Lord Jesus Christ.” (“Lehi’s Dream: Hold Fast to the Rod”)

**Elder Gene R. Cook** cautioned the following: “If you have to choose between reading the scriptures with your family or doing other activities, remember that all the Scout outings, fishing excursions, athletic events, and so on will not even come close to what can be gained from the scriptures. While much can be learned from various activities, studying the word of the Lord has eternal consequences.” (Raising Up a Family to the Lord”)

**Elder M. Russell Ballard** continues this concern: “Some parents become so expert at filling every physical desire for their children that they begin to suppose that all is well in this life and that their eternal stewardship is progressing right on schedule….I believe that we must pause and take a careful inventory to determine how well our families are doing spiritually. We could ask how well are we feeding, nurturing, training, and exercising the spirits of our children; or how well have we taught, trained, loved, and inspired our children to build their spiritual muscles and strength? Remember, eternity is now, not a vague, distant future. We prepare each day, right now, for eternal life. If we are not preparing for eternal life, we are preparing for something else, perhaps, something far less.” (“Spiritual Development”)