

To my Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren, My 'Jewels from Heaven'

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First I wish to let you know why our family has been blessed as it has. Blessings have come because Harold was such a faithful priesthood example. He valued the **scriptures** and made them the foundation of our home. He read from them daily, and taught from them continually. Our home was lighted by the lamp of faith contained in the Word of God as spoken by His Prophets. Harold led our family to the source of all Truth, he did this by example and he invited each of us to make the scriptures live in our lives. He asked every one of us to memorize the following scriptures: Doctrine and Covenants 121:33 – 46, The Articles of Faith, The Beatitudes, The Ten Commandments, and The Golden Rule. Have you memorized them? I want you to know that my great desire for each of you is to memorize these scriptures, repeat them often and apply the messages each day. I have worked hard myself to follow this counsel and I have been blessed. Please do not regard these words lightly – you need the **protection** these scriptures provide: “Let virtue garnish (your) thoughts unceasingly, than shall (your) confidence wax strong in the presence of God, ...”.

I want you to know that **prayer** works. I learned it early. One of my jobs was herding the cows to pasture in the mornings and bringing them back in the evenings. I would ride one of our two ponies: Tony or Peanuts. When my brother Don helped I had to ride Peanuts, he was quite old and he really put up a fight while he was going away from the barn but as soon as he was turned toward home he would begin a very rough trot that would bounce his rider up and down all the way home. One time I'll never forget. I was 10 or 11, we had just taken the cows to the pasture and the grass was tall. I had just gotten a pair of glasses (Mother had saved a long time to buy them) and just as we turned to go home Peanuts began his famous trot. I was not ready and as I began to bounce up and down my new glasses fell off and landed in the tall grass. I was really heart sick, I knew we did not have money enough to replace them, and by the time I got Peanuts stopped I did not know where my glasses might be. I remember thinking of prayer and with all the faith of a child I asked Heavenly Father to help me find those glasses and that they would not be broken. Following the prayer as I slide off Peanuts back, the sun broke through the clouds and looking in the direction we had come I saw a flash of light. I ran quickly to the spot, picked up my glasses and they were not broken. I remember offering a prayer of thanks for that immediate answer to my prayer. That experience has been a defining moment for faith in my life.

It was my prayers and I am certain the prayers of my parents and grandparents that led me to find and marry Harold. As a girl growing up I was shy and timid. I did not have many dates. My prayers were that I would be led to an active priesthood bearer and I really wanted to marry a returned missionary. Harold and I did get together and as our relationship became serious the Bishop invited Harold in for an interview. He asked if he still wanted to go on a mission as he had expressed many times in testimony meetings. He told the Bishop that he did. The Bishop asked how I would feel and Harold said that I would be delighted since I had always wanted to marry a returned missionary. Harold left on his mission supported by the Seventies Quorum and I gladly waited. I have reflected often on the consequences of our choice to marry after the mission. Today we have eight very faithful children, 60 wonderful grandchildren who are striving to serve the Lord, and 60 plus beautiful great-grandchildren. I love you all and I love the spouses you selected. I want all of you to know of **my faith** and **testimony**.

I want you to know that I have attempted to live by every word that Heavenly Father has given me. I love my Savior; I strive to be like Him. I know that He lives, that He loves me, and that He cares about me and about you, my family. I know my Savior died for me and for you, and that because He died for us we can be cleansed of all sin and stand pure before Him. I know that repentance is the process; that as we confess and then forsake our sins He takes upon Him our burdens and they become light and easy for us to bear. I have discovered that King Benjamin spoke the truth when he said: "...when you are in the **service** of your fellow beings you are only in the service of your God". As you put away your selfish desires and willingly serve others, you are blessed to know your Savior better because you are becoming like Him. Ultimately, we may be purified; my prayer is that each of you will be purified as he is pure.

Remember to memorize, repeat often and **apply** the scriptures named above. Remember to **pray** for the strength to overcome your weaknesses and to **repent**. Remember I love you very much. And remember what Helaman told his sons Nephi and Lehi in Helaman 5:12 "... it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds ... it shall have no power over you ... because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall."

Finally, I want you to know I love you, my prayers have always been for your success.