



## The Teachings of David O. McKay

By David Oman McKay, Mary Jane Woodger

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As President McKay taught, "Spirituality, our true aim, is the consciousness of victory over self and of communion with the Infinite. Spirituality impels on e to conquer difficulties and acquire more and more strength. To feel one's faculties unfolding and truth expanding in the soul is one of life's sublimest experiences." (Conference Report, October 1969, 8.)

Readers will appreciate this and many more of the prophet's teachings, many never before published, that have been gathered in timeless reference work.

"My desire in compiling this volume," writes Dr. Mary Jane Woodger, "is to reintroduce the prophetic declarations, beautiful language, and wisdom of David Oman McKay in a user-friendly format. My hope is that the counsel contained in this book will enlighten the understanding, increase the knowledge, and enrich the spirit of every reader."

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## **The Teachings of David O. McKay** By David Oman McKay, Mary Jane Woodger **Bibliography**

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**Editorial Review**

About the Author

About the Compiler

Dr. Mary Jane Woodger is an assistant professor of LDS Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University. A native of Utah, Dr. Woodger has always had a great love for teaching. After obtaining a B.S. in home economics education, Dr. Woodger taught home economics and American history for a number of years in Salt Lake city, where she received the Vocational Teacher of the Year Award from Jordan School District. In 1992, she completed her M.Ed., at Utah State University. In 1997, she received from Brigham Young University an Ed.D. in educational leadership, with a minor in Church history and doctrine.

In 1998, Dr. Woodger was honored by Kappa Omicron Nu, with an Award of Excellence for her dissertation research, "The Educational Ideals of David O. McKay." Dr. Woodger has authored and coauthored numerous articles on doctrinal, historical, and educational subjects. These articles have appeared in various academic journals as well as venues for the LDS audience, including Journal of Book of Mormon Studies, Deseret News Church News, and Religious Educator. Her current research interests include twentieth-century Church history, Latter-day Saint women's history, and Church education.

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FAITH

I think nothing in this world can give such consolation, such peace, to fathers and mothers, as to realize the fact that their boys and girls have faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. I may never be able...to leave my children, wealth. Many of you may be unable to offer your young sons, your young daughters...even a dollar to help them on their way; but I would rather live in poverty all the days of my life, I would rather be unable to give one...cent to my boys and girls when they start out in life, but be able through sacrifice, diligent attentions, [and] watchful care, to implant in their hearts a belief, a faith, in the gospel of Jesus Christ. [I would rather do this than] give them all the wealth and honor and distinction which the powers of man may bestow. I know that a testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the most sacred, the most precious, gift in our lives...

Boys and girls, you cannot bet that by following the paths of the world...You may get pleasure – momentary pleasure – by following the paths and enticements of the world.

"But treasures are lie poppies spread:  
You seize the flow'r, its bloom is shed;  
Or like the snow falls in the river;  
A moment white – then melts forever;  
Or like the borealis rays,  
That flit ere you can point their place;  
Or like the rainbow's lovely form  
Evanishing amid the storm.

-----(Burns)

(Conference Report, October 1919, 179-80.)

When Jesus called Simon "Peter" or "The Rock," he undoubtedly expressed in that name one characteristic which he desired to see in the faith of his disciples, and particularly in each of his apostles. He desired them to possess a faith that was unwavering – a faith that would make them steadfast in the truth regardless of miracles or the acts of men – a faith that would trust the Lord at all stances be what they may. Jesus knew that the Jews were easily influenced; that a miracle performed today might awaken a feeling in them that he was the King for whom they had been waiting, and that a truth tomorrow might arouse in them a feeling that he was an impostor. He wanted to lead them to God and to his gospel. He longed to have them comprehend the truths of life so they would live them after he was gone from their midst. (Ancient Apostles, 28)

All the scholastic scaffolding falls as a ruined edifice, before one single word – faith. (Ancient Apostles, 123.)

If you ask me where I first received my unwavering faith in the existence of a God, I would answer you: in the home of my childhood – when father and mother invariably called their children around them in the morning and at night, and invoked God's blessing upon the household and upon mankind. There was a sincerity in that good patriarch's voices that left an undying impression in the children's souls; and mother's prayers were equally impressive. (Conference Report, October 1922, 78.)

The most ominous threat to the peace and happiness of mankind in this the twentieth century is not the probable misuse of the atomic bomb, but the dwindling in men's hearts of faith in God. ("Quotes by President McKay," compiled by Clare Middlemiss, December 1962, McKay Scrapbook, no. 188.)

Faith is more potent in human endeavor even than judgment or experience. ("The Mormon Pioneers," Improvement Era, July 1965, 604.)

Who can dispute that faith is an eternal principle? You cannot live without it. It is as eternal as love; eternal, active, and may be as constant as the force of gravity that is acting every day. ("Man May Know for Himself," Instructor, October 1965, 382.)

Members of the Church have learned the truth that the everlasting gospel has been restored. What does this knowledge bring to them? It brings to all who have honestly and sincerely obeyed the principles of repentance and baptism, the gift of the Holy Ghost, which enlightens their minds, quickens their understanding, and imparts unto them a knowledge of Christ. They have a guide, a help, a means to assist in their acquisition of Truth, in their desire to know what their duty is – a guide that the world does not possess. And this guide is necessary; man cannot "find out" Truth – he cannot find God by intellect alone. It has been said that no man can find God by a microscope. Reason alone is not a sufficient guide in searching for Truth. There is another higher, surer guide than reason.

That guide is Faith – that principle which draws our spirits into communion with the higher Spirit which will bring all things to our remembrance, show us things to come, and teach us all things. To acquire that Spirit is the responsibility of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. ("What is Eternal Life?" Instructor, March 1968, 98.)

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