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Dear Grandson:

There is no end of advice that a person could give with the hope that it would help throughout your growing-up years but I will attempt to give you just a little.

It seems to me that a person should constantly look back and look around and look forward. Let me elaborate on this a bit. All have received an inheritance from forebearers and you have some good ones, particularly your own parents. There will be times when you think that your father and mother are unreasonable and that they do not know as much as you. But this is something that everyone experiences in growing-up. You must place full confidence and faith in your parents.

You have many other worthy progenitors who have done much to bring you the heritage, particularly the Gospel, that you enjoy and which you will find to be a most important influence in bringing happiness to you and to those that you love.

In looking back, you will also see persons who are not your progenitors but who also bequeathed many blessings. Lord Macaulay said: "A people that take no pride in the achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants". Rambler said: "He that wishes to be counted among the benefactors of posterity must add, by his own toil, to the acquisitions of his ancestors".

I have learned these lessons too in my chosen field of science. It would be impossible to start from the beginning and learn chemistry on your very own. But by reading books and learning from the experience of others, I have learned in a relatively short time that which has taken thousands of previous scientists hundreds of years to discover. No one of us could live long enough to do anything entirely on our own. We must constantly take from the past. Did we write Handel's Messiah? Did we bring forth the Book of Mormon? Did we cross the plains, build the Salt Lake Temple, or fight at Valley Forge? Did we create ourselves or cause ourselves to be born?

As we look around in the time called today, we will also see that there are many living persons from whom we receive benefits and blessings. We ride in cars and planes, yet did we make them? We eat bread and meat and drink milk, yet did we produce them? We watch and enjoy Television, yet did we invent it? Because of daily blessings that we receive at the hands of our living fellow men and at the hands of those who have gone before, it becomes apparent that we have a responsibility to mankind both past and present that must not be neglected.

The words gratitude/ingratitude have relevance to what I have been saying. There are a number of quotations from the writings of Shakespeare that speak to this point: "Ingratitude, thou marble-hearted fiend! More hideous when thou showest thee in a child than the sea monster." "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child." "I hate ingratitude more in a man than lying, vainness, babbling-drunkenness, or any taint of vice whose strong corruption

inhabits our frail blood." "Blow blow thou winter wind, thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude." "Freeze freeze thou bitter sky, thine bite is not so nigh as benefits forgot."

In looking forward, you will become <sup>aware</sup> of your responsibility to those who follow. You must in this day and age make advance preparation for that which lies ahead. And that means education - both secular and spiritual. Our Father in Heaven has given each of us a body and a spirit which together have the capability of becoming an extremely sensitive, invaluable instrument, capable of doing all sorts of extraordinary, wonderful, and useful things. The training of this marvelous soul is primarily your personal responsibility as you reach the teenage years. Your own self discipline will be a major factor in this. Recognize your natural interests and abilities at an early age and set your goals to correspond with them. Then begin to learn, train, build, improve, and perfect within this framework.

The spiritual part of you, just as much as the physical, requires discipline and training. As a matter of fact, one cannot really separate the physical and the spiritual and they should be trained together. Many make the mistake of thinking that they will train themselves for life's everyday temporal work and then, after they have completed this training, go back and pick up the spiritual. This is dangerous, unsound thinking. I have such a natural interest in science that it is sometimes difficult to spend the appropriate time with the scriptures and other aspects of the Gospel that is necessary. Because of this, I carry a reminder in my wallet, a quotation from a pastor John A. Widtsoel:

"It is a paradox that men will gladly devote time every day for many years to learn a science or art; yet will expect to win a knowledge of the gospel which comprehends all sciences and arts, through perfunctory glances at books or occasional listening to sermons. The gospel should be studied more intensively than any school or college subject. They who pass opinion on the gospel without having given it intimate and careful study are not lovers of the truth, and their opinions are worthless."

Daniel, develop your testimony at an early age and do not neglect the Gospel of Jesus Christ in your studies.

Within the Church we have an opportunity that is particularly unique with regard to our predecessors. An ordinary person might find it possible to feel gratitude in his heart for the heritage left to him by those who have gone before, but he has no way to make this directly known. A Latter Day Saint, however, through the genealogy program, can perform ordinance work for the dead and express by thus doing, his gratitude for his heritage in a very personal and direct way. Of course, in order to do such work, he will have to spend some time seeking out the genealogies of his progenitors.

The day will come when you will have a very personal and challenging responsibility to those who will follow. That will come when you have children of your own. You cannot wait until that time, however, to prepare. You must, while you are young, develop the traits, habits, and testimony that will equip you to effectively train and develop the talents and abilities of your children. Also, of course, within the

Church, you will be called upon to teach others. In addition, you will always be teaching others by the personal example that you set.

In conclusion, let me finish as I began: it is important to continuously be aware of that which has gone before, of that which is currently about, and of that which is yet to come. Now that's a large order but the Lord has commanded us to do it. In this connection, as members of the Church, we have a special advantage and privilege which is of utmost importance. We have living prophets to interpret the past and literally foresee the future and on that basis help us in living now. If you are properly aware and appreciative of this situation, you will be well equipped to make life's proper decisions.

It might be well for me to state, because I have had a successful career in the field of science, that I have not had any conflict between the principles of the gospel and the things that I have come to know in the fields of science.

I would like you to know, too, grandson, that I have a strong and fervent testimony of the gospel and am greatly appreciative of my own parents and of progenitors before them who are responsible for my being brought into the Church and being taught correct principles. Everything that I cherish and consider of true value has been obtained because of my membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Daniel, I met you for the first time today and although you are only five months old it is obvious that you are a strong, intelligent, alert offspring of our Heavenly Father and are still blessed with the sweet innocence of having just left his presence. There are certain qualities of childhood that even adults should possess. Jesus said except we become as little children, we can in nowise enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Almost everyone as he passes through the teenage years is confronted with moral problems - specifically sexual immorality. I fully expect you to have the ability to overcome these serious temptations and maintain the innocence of youth in this respect. There are other qualities of your childhood that you should preserve including faith, obedience, teachability and wonder. These qualities should not be cast aside as manhood approaches.

I am certain that you have within you the capabilities to become anything that you are willing to work for and I call you to accept this challenge in the spirit of our Lord and Saviour who said, "Come, follow me for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

H. Tracy Hall