

### Principles Guide Us in Making Decisions

President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, said:

“A principle is an enduring truth, a law, a rule you can adopt to guide you in making decisions. Generally principles are not spelled out in detail. That leaves you free to find your way with an enduring truth, a principle, as your anchor” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1996, 22; or *Ensign*, May 1996, 17).

### Separate Principles from Detail

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said:

“As you seek spiritual knowledge, search for principles. Carefully separate them from the detail used to explain them. Principles are concentrated truth, packaged for application to a wide variety of circumstances. A true principle makes decisions clear even under the most confusing and compelling circumstances. It is worth great effort to organize the truth we gather to simple statements of principle” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1993, 117; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 86).

### If You Would Receive the Blessing, Then Obey the Commandment

President Harold B. Lee said:

“Listen to some of the Lord’s beacon lights pointing the way to safety.

“If you would have the windows of heaven opened and have blessings poured out ‘that there should not be room enough to receive’ them, then ‘bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house,’ as the Lord commanded through His prophet Malachi. (Malachi 3:10.)

“If you would keep yourself and your own ‘unspotted from the world,’ the Lord said you should ‘go to the house of prayer and offer up thy sacraments upon my holy day.’ (D&C 59:9.)

“In other words, keep the Sabbath day holy!

“If you would qualify so that in times of trouble you could call and the Lord would answer, that you could cry and the Lord would say, ‘Here I am,’ the Lord gave the way through His prophet Isaiah: You must observe the fast day of the Lord and deal out ‘thy bread to the hungry . . . that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh.’ (Isaiah 58:9, 7.)

“If you would escape from the devastations when God’s judgments descend upon the wicked, as in the days of the children of Israel, you must remember and do what the Lord commands: ‘. . . all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings’—meaning keep His great law of health, known as the Word of Wisdom—and in addition thereto walk ‘in obedience to the commandments,’ which would include honesty, moral purity, together with all the laws of the celestial kingdom, then ‘the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them.’ (D&C 89:18, 21.)” (*Stand Ye in Holy Places* [1974], 23–24).

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