

## Tempering Expectations

### **Course Description**

In lectures on faith, Joseph Smith taught that “three things are necessary in order that any rational and intelligent being may exercise faith in God unto life and salvation”. The second of the three is “A *correct* idea of his character, perfections and attributes.” This is such a key component because of the italicized word. If we don’t have a correct understanding of God and of the promises He has made, we can’t exercise “faith unto salvation”. This course seeks to differentiate between blessings we hope will come from keeping commandments and ones that have actually been promised. The class will vote on which topics are most meaningful and study a variety of course materials to help us determine what promises have actually been made concerning specific commandments.

### **Objectives**

- 1) Students will gain a more correct understanding of the nature of God and His promises and commandments.
- 2) Students will learn to be better students of the scriptures and words of the prophets to identify blessings they are seeking and how to obtain them.
- 3) Students will gain a greater sense of peace and confidence in obtaining desired blessings from Heaven.

### **Curriculum**

#### **Career**

“If I go to school, I will have the job of my dreams someday”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics/education?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/inspiration/the-value-of-your-education-as-a-daughter-of-god?lang=eng>

[https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/prophets-and-apostles/unto-all-the-world/education-is-a-commandment.?lang=eng&\\_r=1](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/prophets-and-apostles/unto-all-the-world/education-is-a-commandment.?lang=eng&_r=1)

“If I work really hard, I will move up through the ranks and land in my perfect spot”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/life/career-development-making-a-plan-to-meet-your-career-goals?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/life/managing-my-career?lang=eng>

“If I am enjoyable to be around, I will have great relationships with my coworkers.”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/topics/pef-self-reliance/live/build-trust-in-work-relationships?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2018/08/building-meaningful-relationships?lang=eng>

## **Spouse**

“If I try to be the best Christlike person I can be, I will be blessed with a Christlike spouse who has worked as hard as I have to be a good person”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2002/09/choosing-and-being-the-right-spouse?lang=eng>

“If I am married in the temple, my marriage will be successful”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/teachings-spencer-w-kimball/chapter-18?lang=eng>

“If my spouse and I practice gospel habits, there will never be a challenge we can’t overcome”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/marriage-and-family-relations-instructors-manual/part-a-strengthening-marriages/lesson-4-responding-to-challenges-in-marriage?lang=eng>

“If my husband works hard and we are faithful, we will have enough money for me to be a stay at home mom”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2007/04/mother-come-home?lang=eng>

## **Kids**

“If I raise my children in truth and righteousness, they will stay on the covenant path”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2002/09/hope-for-parents-of-wayward-children?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2016/10/no-greater-joy-than-to-know-that-they-know?lang=eng>

“If I teach my sons the importance of missionary service, they will serve full-time missions”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/the-latter-day-saint-woman-basic-manual-for-women-part-a/women-in-the-church/lesson-19-preparing-and-encouraging-missionaries?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2018/08/parents-help-them-to-prepare?lang=eng>

“If I faithfully attempt to build a family, I will be blessed with healthy children”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2019/06/young-adults/planning-your-family-according-to-gods-plan?lang=eng>

## **Health**

“If I keep the word of wisdom, I will be protected from serious illness”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist/uk/beliefs/word-of-wisdom#:~:text=The%20blessings%20of%20living%20the,89%3A18%E2%80%9320>  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1996/04/the-word-of-wisdom-the-principle-and-the-promises?lang=eng>

“If I have enough faith when someone gets really sick, they will be healed”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2009/12/why-me?lang=eng>  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2015/10/when-my-mom-was-sick-we-fasted-and-prayed-for-her-but-she-died-anyway-how-can-i-make-peace-with-that?lang=eng>  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/broadcasts/article/ces-devotionals/2013/01/that-we-might-not-shrink-d-c-19-18?lang=eng>

## **Finances**

“If I pay my tithing, I will never have to worry about money”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2011/06/the-blessings-of-tithing?lang=eng>  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2019/09/eur-eng-local-pages/local-news-001?lang=eng>  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/2020/12/digital-only/the-subtle-blessings-of-tithing?lang=eng>  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2002/10/tithing-a-test-of-faith-with-eternal-blessings?lang=eng>

“If I pray before making financial decisions, they will always work out for my benefit”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2007/09/one-for-the-money?lang=eng>  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/the-gospel-and-the-productive-life-teacher-manual/4-managing-financial-resources-wisely?lang=eng>

“If I work hard now and earn and save as much as I can, I will not have to worry about finances down the road”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2006/08/financial-freedom-on-any-income?lang=eng>

## **Housing**

“If I am faithful, the Lord will tell/show me where He wants me to live”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2014/02/living-a-life-of-peace-joy-and-purpose?lang=eng>

“If I am frugal and live within my means, I will be able to afford the house I really want”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2011/08/latter-day-saint-voices/should-we-sell-our-dream-home?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2007/07/before-you-lose-it-all?lang=eng>

<https://latterdaylight.com/boyd-k-packer-stepping-into-the-darkness-to-find-the-light/>

“If I am prayerful before buying a home, the Lord will bless my with a safe neighborhood and good friends”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2000/04/random-sampler/commonsense-safety?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1997/10/creating-places-of-security?lang=eng>

### **Transportation**

“If I pay my tithing, my vehicle will be taken care of and I won’t be faced with expensive repairs”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2004/09/money-matters?lang=eng>

“If I am living righteously, I will always have a working vehicle”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1993/04/some-lessons-i-learned-as-a-boy?lang=eng>

### **Friends**

“If I am a good friend, I will have good friends”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2016/10/true-friendship?lang=eng>

“If I am an honest person, my friends will not betray me”

<https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/articles/highlights-from-documents-volume-7-the-reconciliation-of-joseph-smith-and-william-w-phelps>

Luke 22

“If I am good and kind and forgiving, I will avoid serious contention with my friends”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1978/04/no-time-for-contention?lang=eng>

### **Family**

“If we are faithful to our covenants, we will not have significant drama in our family”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/duties-and-blessings-of-the-priesthood-basic-manual-for-priesthood-holders-part-a/personal-and-family-responsibilities/lesson-20-settling-family-problems-harmoniously?lang=eng>

“If we get together often, we will have genuine care and concern for what is going on in each other’s lives”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2014/12/staying-connected?lang=eng>

“If family members make choices I wouldn’t make, enough prayer and faith will keep those choices from coming between us”

[https://www.google.com/search?q=family+members+choices+lds&rlz=1C5GCEM\\_en&oq=family+members+choices+lds&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAQIRigATIHCAUQIRifBTIHCAQIRifBTIHCAcQIRifBTIHCAgQIRifBTIHCAkQIRifBdIBCDU5MTFqMGo0qAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#ip=1](https://www.google.com/search?q=family+members+choices+lds&rlz=1C5GCEM_en&oq=family+members+choices+lds&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAQIRigATIHCAUQIRifBTIHCAQIRifBTIHCAcQIRifBTIHCAgQIRifBTIHCAkQIRifBdIBCDU5MTFqMGo0qAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#ip=1)  
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/inspiration/navigating-family-differences-with-love-and-trust?lang=eng>

## **School**

“If I put the Lord first and don’t do homework on Sunday, I will be blessed with good grades”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2014/09/instant-messages/studying-on-a-different-day?lang=eng>  
[https://ph.churchofjesuschrist.org/claiming-the-promised-blessings-of-honoring-the-sabbath#:~:text=In%20the%20scriptures%20we%20learn,\(Isaiah%2058%3A14\).](https://ph.churchofjesuschrist.org/claiming-the-promised-blessings-of-honoring-the-sabbath#:~:text=In%20the%20scriptures%20we%20learn,(Isaiah%2058%3A14).)

“If I pray enough, the Lord will show me what school to go to”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2014/09/the-college-decision?lang=eng>

“If I pray enough, the Lord will tell me what my major should be”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1989/10/learning-to-recognize-answers-to-prayer?lang=eng>

“If I go to the right school, I will find ‘the one’”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/eternal-marriage-student-manual/mate-selection?lang=eng>

## **Church**

“If I am active in the church, I will love my ward”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/same-sex-attraction-church-leaders/how-can-i-help-those-in-my-ward-feel-loved?lang=eng>

“If I support and sustain my leaders, I will agree with their decisions and see the wisdom of their actions”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/2021/09/digital-only-young-adults/how-to-disagree-without-being-disagreeable?lang=eng>

“If I have a strong testimony, I will always enjoy going to church”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/inspiration/why-dont-i-feel-like-i-fit-in-at-church?lang=eng>

“If the church is true, I will never encounter anything to shake my faith or make me question my testimony”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ya-weekly/2021/11/how-can-i-be-strong-enough-to-choose-faith-in-a-faltering-world?lang=eng>

### **Life in general**

“If I keep the commandments, I will have a wonderful, easier life”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2015/10/keep-the-commandments?lang=eng>

“If I am faithful, I wont have any major struggles as the Lord promises to protect the righteous”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2013/10/the-key-to-spiritual-protection?lang=eng>

### **Prayer**

“If I have faith, my righteous desires will be granted unto me”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/2022/07/digital-only/what-if-my-prayers-dont-seem-to-be-answered?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/same-sex-attraction-individuals/why-isnt-god-answering-my-prayers?lang=eng>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckuIXECbB5E>

[John 14:13](#) [John 15:7](#) [1 Ne. 15:11](#) [Alma 22:16](#) [D&C 18:18](#) [3 Ne. 18:20](#) [D&C 6:11](#)  
[D&C 46:30](#) [D&C 50:30](#)

\*\*\* [Hel. 10:5](#) (this is specific counsel given to those with sealing power, proving instruments in the Lord’s hands)

\*\*\* [Alma 37:37](#) (notice the promise)