ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In making these articles available to my brothers and sisters, I have a desire to acknowledge the help I have had in preparing them.

First and foremost is the teachings and example of my husband, under the direction of the Lord, in the Law of Satisfaction as taught by Bró. Elden, and the practice of the same in our home.

Secondly, there are within these articles bits of knowledge that have come through inspiration over the years to me and my husband as we needed or strove for them.

Then there have been ideas and help from various other such as my daughters, teenagers that have worked for us and their mothers.

I would also like to acknowledge the Spirit and inspiration of the Lord in organizing all these things in such a way that would make them available to others.

If just one parent or child is helped because of these things, it will be well worth the effort.

Carol Brown
IN THE WAYS OF THE LORD

To train up a child in the ways of the Lord, to be a staunch member of the Kingdom, we have to have a pattern. What better pattern do we have than the "Law of the Gods" or the "Law of Satisfaction". One of the beauties of this law, is that it can be applied to all ages and in all circumstances. In all my experiences, I have leaned upon it greatly and so, with God's help, I will attempt to suggest some practical ways to give a child a foundation in the law.

In considering the necessary qualities to accomplish this, there seems to be no definite separation between the temporal and spiritual sides of life. To clarify the meaning, I'll list some of them separately.

OBEEDIENCE in the law is spiritual, but has to be proved by temporal things. We also know that to be obedient to laws of the land, rules of a game, laws of a business system, and many, many more is necessary to be successful in anything.

RESPECT & FAITH without questioning the one above, we know is spiritual and yet they too, are practiced between employer and employee in business, leader and follower in any part of a successful temporal life that is orderly.

RESPONSIBILITY sounds temporal but how much greater can a responsibility be than that of Christ for His Kingdom. And HE is spirituality itself. Also the way a man takes responsibility for his family and a mother for her child, determines their spiritual value. We all know the temporal side of responsibility and the difference in the success of a person who has learned it and one who hasn't.

REASONING & SELF CONTROL are powers of the mind, but are so necessary to a persons success in the law or his temporal life, that I will include them as well.

HUMILITY is usually linked with a spiritual person but a humble person gets farther in all walks of life, because he is liked better and learns more than an arrogant one.

Other important qualities that effect both the spiritual and temporal sides of life are: APPRECIATION, THANKSGIVING, PUNCTUALITY, LOYALTY, DEPENDABILITY, and HONESTY.

We should first consider the training of a child at the time of conception when his life on this earth begins. This is our first opportunity to allow Christ's power, through alignment, to penetrate our child. Science tells us that the first 3 months after conception, the mind makes great strides of growth. Surely, if the parents are aligned in the law, it will make a difference upon the character as well as the spiritual potential of a child at this critical time. Mothers especially should make sure they are not "shedding innocent blood" toward their husbands. And just as surely we can begin at this time to teach by our example.

This same alignment in the law by the parents and their example can effect a child's development, mentally, morally and spiritually throughout his entire life.
Obedience to the one above is the very first thing a child must learn in order to continue to receive that vital power. Three or four months old is a good time to start, because it's about then that he usually starts to reach out for things. When he reaches for something like your plate at the table, and you say "no no" and give him a slap, it won't mean much to him at the time but he'll draw back his hand and probably cry. In a way, he has obeyed. With constant repetition this becomes reflex training or penetration of the subconscious mind. After a time the slap can be eliminated and you'll get the desired obedience with the word alone. This method is used even by animal trainers to produce obedient performances.

Another good method is to hold a young infant tightly, while you repeat the command in a modified tone. Then when he gets a little older, up to toddler and preschool age, hold his hands tightly, get down to his eye level and look at him directly, while firmly instructing him what to do or not to do. Be persistent till you get the desired result.

There are almost as many ways to accomplish this training as there are personalities. And with a little effort, each mother can find a good one that works for her child.

To illustrate the results of reflex training, I'll relate an incident my sister Barbara told me. She was explaining to her daughter Sally the importance of such training for Sally's children. Sally was reluctant to hurt or punish them. To convince Sally, Barbara asked why, as a teenager, Sally hadn't accepted a date with a certain boy. Sally said "Because you told me not to." Barbara asked, "Why didn't you go away anyway?" Sally's response of "Mother, I just couldn't," made Sally realize she had responded to the reflex habit of obedience. If a child has this kind of training, he will have the benefit of that spiritual life stream early enough for his spiritual growth to have a solid foundation, before he reaches his difficult or teenage years. He will listen to the advice of those above him, in making his most important decisions without too much floundering around, because it will have become a subconscious habit.

Just as any accomplishment is brought by persistance or daily practice, this training for obedience should be too. It's very important at toddler age and older to follow through and make certain all the "no no's" or "do's" are obeyed. If you let him get away with it once, your task will be harder. Be sure though that you don't give him so many commands in one day that it confuses or tires little minds, or makes him run from you or try to hide his deed. Keep most of the no no's out of reach and keep him occupied as much as possible with permissables.

When a small child deliberately does wrong, he should be punished at the time of the act, while he knows what it's all about. He forgets quickly, THEN punishment confuses him. All these things should be mixed well with love and praise for doing good whenever you see a chance without giving in.

If there comes a time when you don't seem to be able to get any results, the "no no's" are probably becoming too much of a routine to him and need to be enforced occasionally with a sound spanking or some other form of punishment that gets results. The severity to be increased with age and with the seriousness of the
act. It's a good idea to stay one jump ahead and occupy busy minds with something they like and is permissible, like educational toys.

It's especially hard for a mother to keep from making her do's and don'ts too constant. They tend to lose importance to the child if she isn't careful. Whenever he can, the father should step in and back her up. Not only does his voice carry more weight but the infrequency of his commands make the child take more notice. This is usually the father's first opportunity to teach his child to respect his mother (or the one directly above the child in the law.) Also it lets the child know that mama and daddy stand together and he can't pit one against the other. This principle of the father backing the mother up is the same as the Lord backing a man up in what he is trying to accomplish.

RESPECT

Respect for the one above should be taught early as well.

We should never allow a child to talk back to us disrespectfully. Sometimes a child will try you out in this field before he can actually say any words and you'll have to recognize his or her 'sassy' tone of voice. Usually a gentle but firm "Little boys don't talk to Mama's that way," will plant the idea. Then with increased firmness to match his persistence, you'll finally win this contest too, that is if you are always on the alert for a disrespectul tone. Don't ever let him know how 'cute' you think it is, because HE knows what he's doing. Also, example of the parents will go a long way. It wouldn't be so good if, when he gets older he remembers Mama talking back to Daddy.

Just as you can detect a child's attitude by his expression or tone of voice, he gets the feeling of yours. Studies have found it a necessity for an infant to hear the soft sounds of a loving mother's voice as she cares for it. The expression in her voice continues to convey more than words throughout life. This fact can help you considerably if you use it right. Sometimes a sharp tone of voice is all you need to correct a child, and occasionally it becomes necessary to show your displeasure by raising your voice. Don't allow it to become a habit though, because a shouting, nagging mother will produce shouting, nagging children.

Even though a child will balk or throw a tantrum when you're trying to get him to do something, you shouldn't let it sway you, but should show him you are firm in your decision. If he finds he can get his way by coaxing or persisting, it not only hinders discipline and order, but he will gradually lose respect for you if you continue. We have heard many times of teenagers in trouble who say they wish their parents had been stricter and couldn't have been swayed so easily. Children need a solid anchor and will have more respect for a parent who is one. On the other hand, a parent who is too strict and doesn't give and respect certain rights of the children, will defeat the purpose of discipline. So try to know your child. Know his goals and desires, and help him toward the worthy ones.

Another side of respect is caring for their belongings, surroundings, and the rights and feelings of others. Help a child understand that quarreling is lack of respect for the other person. The
law of DO UNTO OTHERS AS WE WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO US fits right in. It takes two to quarrel and one to stop it. Both are wrong when they do.

FAITH

Faith is a quality that a little child gains through his dependence on his mother and her consistancy in caring for his needs and wants. We would do well to follow his example here and have enough faith in our Heavenly Father to depend on Him more for our care. As a child grows older we need to watch for each opportunity to strengthen his faith in us as parents. Always keep your word to him when possible. If you can't possibly keep it, explain why. Be sure and instill in his mind that his Heavenly Father can care for him more completely than we. Watch for daily examples he can understand. For instance, when he is fearful, help him to trust you and his Heavenly Father.

APPRECIATION

Appreciation can be brought about by allowing a child to go without some of the nicer things of life and even a few necessities occasionally. It's a little extreme to let a boy wear his shoes after he can feel the ground through a hole in the bottom, or has to put cardboard inside to protect his feet, but you can bet he'll appreciate a new pair just a little more because of it. They should last him a little longer too.

If you watch his attitude as he grows up, you should know when to apply this method. With a reason so genuine as saving to help the work of the Lord, none of us should let the opportunity pass by to teach this lesson. And the method of waiting a little longer for some new shoes, is also an opportunity to teach the value of money. Also, in 1940, Bro. I told us to use caution in pushing too hard for something we want from the one above us. As parents we can make it easier for our children to learn to ask without pushing. We have to be careful and not give them things they don't need, such as too many toys, too many clothes and too much, or too little of our time and attention. We have to be a good judge of how much is good and when to say NO with meaning without allowing him to push us.

The Lord impressed me several years ago with this thought. EVERYTHING TEMPORAL YOU ALLOW A CHILD TO HAVE THAT HE HASN'T SPIRITUALLY EARNED OR DOESN'T TEMPORALLY NEED, WILL ADD TO THE PRICE HE HAS TO PAY TO OBTAIN SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OR BLESSINGS IN LATER LIFE. Let's not give them a bigger price to pay then they can take, by showering them with gifts and clothes. Also, it builds character and admiration of others, if a child can learn to be 'different' in a good way from the crowd and be proud of it.

Bro. Ortell has told us about his experiences in the Army when he didn't allow himself to go along with the crowd and how his buddies, who at first ridiculed him, eventually wanted more than anything to be like him. If your child can watch other children have nicer clothes, more spending money, and other similar things, and learn to withstand teasing or ridicule, it will help give him the qualities he will need to follow Bro. Ortell's example in these experiences. Of course we have to have good judgement as to how far to go in these things, because we don't want to be an ex-
ample of poverty either.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is expressing appreciation and this is a VERY important spiritual law, I have noticed in the scriptures that thanksgiving is repeatedly referred to in connection with other laws to obtain blessings. I think we all have much to learn in this line, and should set an example for our children whenever we can and voice our thanks continually to the Lord and our Brothers and sisters, as well as the children. Then expect them to do the same.

SELF CONTROL AND SACRIFICE

Self control and sacrifice are automatically instilled while teaching appreciation because while a child goes without something he sees his friends have, he feels the sacrifice, and if he is told he's doing it to help the Lord's work along, he develops self control. This helps him to be able to withstand the temptations of 'going along with the crowd' in his school years. As long as we have to send our children to outside schools, it's a necessity that they be different to stay away from the low morals of the world. Another important part of self control is accepting peaceably whatever comes from above, and one way we can help prepare our children for this is to allow them to be exposed to disappointment. We all know that in our daily lives, circumstances beyond our control, (because we are subject to changes from above), change our plans quite often. If disappointment occurs we should not shield our children from it (if it involves the children); then instead of trying to make it up to them, we should help them understand why disappointments should be accepted. If practiced as soon as they can understand, this will help prepare them for bigger personal disappointments if they come, when they are seeking direction for marriage and other important decisions. It's also important to an adult's well being mentally and physically, to be able to control emotions and not let them overwhelm his life. If emotions are indulged to excess while in your youth, you have habit as well as emotion to contend with as an adult.

RESPONSIBILITY

If a child can be made to feel needed by giving him a small responsibility, it can be started as soon as his position as baby is replaced by a younger brother or sister, or when he's about two years old. As most mothers know, the little errands a toddler can perform, make him very happy. This can be considered a responsibility although he has to be guided for a long time yet. If we gradually increase his duties as he gets older, he'll learn what is expected of him. As soon as he is old enough to understand when he's told to "pick up your toys" see that he does it right and GETS IT FINISHED even if you have to help him at first. Some children have to be encouraged with help a lot longer than others. Just don't give him more to do than he will accomplish without too much fuss. Then when you know he can do it, insist on it. He'll probably have to have reminders until well into his teens before you can say, "This is your responsibility, I want you to keep it done." Be sure you don't tell him to do something if you don't intend to carry it through. Because this ties in with respect and obedience and he has to know you still expect him to obey you.
It's very important to continue to increase his responsibility as he can handle it. It will make him feel that he is progressing, and with encouragement, will give him self respect and a feeling of being needed. It won't be long either till you have some very useful help. Too much play and not enough work will have the opposite effect. It will gradually make him feel unimportant, left out of things and worthless. Work and play have to be properly balanced according to age and personality.

LOYALTY, DEPENDABILITY AND HONESTY

These qualities are taught through example, explanation and praise of success in taking responsibility. They grow also when the love and desire comes to please the one above. And they are a measuring stick for advancement in responsibility.

PUNCTUALLITY

When a child becomes a part of any experience that involves time, the importance of being ON TIME should be explained. Late comers always miss out on something that could be important. The early experiences of our people show many times when the Lord insisted they be on time. In the scriptures, the Lord also set the ELEVENTH HOUR as a deadline for gaining our salvation. This shows He knows the importance of being on time.

REASONING

Reasoning is a mental process that comes more naturally to some than others, but can definitely be encouraged in the very young child by allowing him to figure out small problems by himself during his play or early school work. Just a suggestion now and then may be needed. This develops self reliance and assurance and should be encouraged wherever merited. More important still, is the fact that true spiritual knowledge can be drawn into the mind through a reasoning process along with striving for it.

When a child begins to show the ability to reason (usually about 7 or 8 years) let him know, in a way that won't scare him, that the Lord EXPECTS him to choose right from wrong. He can reason it out and make a decision for himself whether he should tell a lie, or take something that doesn't belong to him, or mind his parent, or throw a tantrum. Anything that you have already taught him is simple enough to make him feel some responsibility for, in his own actions. As long as he knows he is expected to follow rules and has a good example before him, you can gradually increase his right to make his own choice, but encourage him to come to you for advice. If the basic law of satisfaction has become a way of life in the home, he'll always have it to fall back on when he needs a definite rule for making decisions.

When he has reached mid teens he should be able to choose right from wrong in most experiences, if a parent who he respects will advise him. He should be taught, though, that when he is uncertain and feels the need of help, he has the privilege of turning a decision concerning himself over to a parent (by request) if he is willing to accept and act upon that decision. Knowing that when he does ask for a decision to be made for him, he is obligated to act on it or lose out. It's better not to ask than to turn down your answer.
It's very important to continue to increase his responsibility as he can handle it. It will make him feel that he is progressing, and with encouragement, will give him self respect and a feeling of being needed. It won't be long either till you have some very useful help. Too much play and not enough work will have the opposite effect. It will gradually make him feel unimportant, left out of things and worthless. Work and play have to be properly balanced according to age and personality.

LOYALTY, DEPENDABILITY AND HONESTY

These qualities are taught through example, explanation and praise of success in taking responsibility. They grow also when the love and desire comes to please the one above. And they are a measuring stick for advancement in responsibility.

PUNCTUALITY

When a child becomes a part of any experience that involves time, the importance of being ON TIME should be explained. Late comers always miss out on something that could be important. The early experiences of our people show many times when the Lord insisted they be on time. In the scriptures, the Lord also set the ELEVENTH HOUR as a dead line for gaining our salvation. This shows He knows the importance of being on time.

REASONING

Reasoning is a mental process that comes more naturally to some than others, but can definitely be encouraged in the very young child by allowing him to figure out small problems by himself during his play or early school work. Just a suggestion now and then may be needed. This develops self reliance and assurance and should be encouraged wherever merited. More important still, is the fact that true spiritual knowledge can be drawn into the mind through a reasoning process along with striving for it.

When a child begins to show the ability to reason (usually about 7 or 8 years) let him know, in a way that won't scare him, that the Lord EXPECTS him to choose right from wrong. He can reason it out and make a decision for himself whether he should tell a lie, or take something that doesn't belong to him, or mind his parent, or throw a tantrum. Anything that you have already taught him is simple enough to make him feel some responsibility for, in his own actions. As long as he knows he is expected to follow rules and has a good example before him, you can gradually increase his right to make his own choice, but encourage him to come to you for advice. If the basic law of satisfaction has become a way of life in the home, he'll always have it to fall back on when he needs a definite rule for making decisions.

When he has reached mid teens he should be able to choose right from wrong in most experiences, if a parent who he respects will advise him. He should be taught, though, that when he is uncertain and feels the need of help, he has the privilege of turning a decision concerning himself over to a parent (by request) if he is willing to accept and act upon that decision. Knowing that when he does ask for a decision to be made for him, he is obligated to act on it or lose out. It's better not to ask than to turn down your answer.
HUMILITY

If I were to single out any one of the qualities touched upon, as being the most important, I think I would choose humility. If a child can develop into a teenager knowing the feeling of being humble and does not have a know-it-all attitude (as they have been led by the world to think they are supposed to have), his chances of becoming a diligent servant of the Lord are increased many times over. Phycologists have told us we have to be careful lest we suppress a child and give him an inferiority complex. But I once heard an LDS conference speaker say, "The Lord blessed me with an inferiority complex." The audience laughed. Then he said, "It has made me humble."

A humble person will almost always have a desire to improve himself, so is most likely to follow the advice of someone successful. So while you are disciplining your children and instilling all the other qualities, it's necessary to help them see their mistakes and to know that they are not perfect. This has to have good judgement for balance with praise also, but if I am not capable of perfect balance, I would much prefer to give my children an inferiority complex than to have them become self satisfied to the point of not listening to those above, including the Lord. They should never be led to feel so inferior though, that they reach a point of complete discouragement and see themselves as incapable of improvement and say, "What's the use of trying."

There are many situations in life, outside of our control, that can produce humility, so now and again we will see a successful person come from a family that doesn't seem to have much visible training at all.

We should never allow a child to think of himself as better than his brothers and sisters in the work. No matter who they are, what name they have or how they act. A parent never should be guilty of this kind of discrimination. Reflection of a parent's attitude shows up when our children work together and play together. Even a toddler will reflect his parents views and feelings about others, and they don't hesitate to make it known. In a group of children, it's the scapegoat who actually come out ahead, because of being made to feel low or humble. So we should teach our child that it's much better to be picked on and take ridicule from others than to be the one to find fault with or to ridicule others. Christ set the example in this law too, and we should tell the children about it.

Humility opens the door for self improvement and success.

Each one of these qualities of character I have mentioned seem so much a part of another, that it's hard to instill one without another. Sometimes though, we are able to leave one out.

The importance of example of the parents in all these phases of training, can't be stressed too much. A child always looks up to an ideal. Since the most important time of mental development is in the first 3 months after conception and the first 4 years of life, it's the parents or an older brother or sister, that becomes the ideal during those periods. It pays many times over for young parents to be successful in training their firstborn, because he or she DOES become an example, good or bad, to younger
children.

Many times I have explained to a child (old enough to understand) that I am correcting him or enforcing a rule because as his mother it is my obligation to his father and the Lord to do my best to train them in these things. It gives more meaning to a lot of situations if a child sees that his mother is determined to do the same thing she is trying to get him to do, by pleasing the one above. At the same time it lets him know that she has a strong force standing behind her. On the other hand if she definitely goes against Father's wishes when he's away, who is to blame if a child follows her example when out of her sight.

When a child is upset or angry, it's best to explain or correct it immediately. Take every opportunity to bring in the Spiritual side of life while a child is troubled. Encourage him to talk out his troubles while he is fairly young (7 or 8) and he'll be more apt to when he gets older. But you should respect his right to tell you only what he wants to. Never make light of what he tells you and don't make it seem too outstanding. Try to make him see where he is wrong and make every effort to make him feel humble by bringing in the Spirit of the Lord. If he learns to solve his problems this way, he'll seek the Lord through prayer and scriptures when he's troubled later on. Sometimes to dispall anger you can merely replace it by making the child feel love for something entirely unrelated to his problems. I remember one incident when my 12 yr. old was angry over some differences with her sister. I happened to have my baby in my arms, so I took the baby to her, layed it in her arms, and asked her to kiss the baby. She was puzzled but did it and the anger began to slip away.

There has to be a continual trend toward the spiritual side of life both in example set for young children and in correcting them. The basic way of life in the home has to be spiritual if we expect our children to think spiritual thoughts and have spiritual desires.

By basic way of life, I mean every day living experiences, for example:
Always let a child know that your decisions and explanations are, to the best of your ability, the way the Lord would want them.
Bring out the spiritual side to as many everyday occurrences as possible. Whenever it will fit what you are doing, talk about things that happened in the beginning of the order, how the young people worked and played and were enthused in what they were doing because they were doing it for the Lord. Don't use these things to compare but more to tell a story or to reminisce.
Explain the effect of what we do, on the Order and our brothers and sisters.
Help the children see a spiritual side to the temporal things they do, while they are in the act of doing.
While they are small, tell them that a spiritual place is a happy place where good things happen, possible miracles or magic. Things that cause them to look forward to it and have a desire to work for it.
Use an adult they admire as an example.
Let them know that their father, their leader and others they know have the privilege of 'talking' with the Lord and 'listening' to what He says. Teach them that they can do the same if they put forth the effort and have the desire.
Be sure they understand that they have an equal opportunity
with others to EARN the privilege of seeing the Savior. The
Savior has made that promise to everyone.
Always talk about things in an easy, comfortable manner at a
time when they fit in. Don't frighten them with threats of what
will happen if they are bad.

Family gatherings are good to draw a family together and to
talk of these things, but do not supply the spiritual or character
lesson at a time when it will penetrate and be remembered the most.
The time to get the best penetration of memory for learning any less-
on, is at the time of a mistake or wrong doing. Scripture reading
or "preaching" have their place too, but can easily push a child
the wrong way. If used too much, will cause rebellion or a feeling
of "What's the use, I'm not that good."

I hope I have not made it seem complicated to Bring up a Child
in the Ways of the Lord. But I know that to most young parents a
good many of these things come naturally, because of what they have
received from their parents and it wouldn't be so hard if they could
use just one idea to add to their own. Some of you might not find
anything new to you. I feel I have only touched the high points.

There are many parents among us who are getting good results
in bringing out these qualities in their children. Young parents
should never allow the time to slip away, that is so important in
training their children when they are young, just because they are
inexperienced. The know-how is all around us and available for the
asking. And as I said before, there are almost as many ways to train
children as there are personalities in parents. As long as you
bring out the qualities it takes to cause our young people to turn
to the Lord, learn of His ways and His love, and follow His Direc-
tion, YOUR method is a good one. If you are not getting good results,
seek the advice of someone who is. The most important thing to do
is to keep your proper place of alignment in the law, so you will
have the benefit of that life giving Power of the Lord, to help
and direct you.
THE LAW OF SATISFACTION

to me

The Law, to me, is like a huge tree turned upside down, with its lower branches, trunk and roots extending into the spirit world, where God, Christ, and all the prophets dwell. Just as the sap flows from the roots, through the trunk, to the very smallest branch of a tree, so the spirit power or life sustaining blood of our spirit flows from Christ, through proper channels, to every person belonging to God's Kingdom.

This blood, or spirit, flows freely, if we keep our place, and we receive all its blessings and growth. One of the great blessings is the power behind us. Just as we can plug an electrical appliance into a circuit and have all the power available from the source of generation, as well as the boosters along the way, so it can be for us when we step into our proper place and become connected with all those above us that generate spiritual power. Christ is our generator and all the prophets and servants of the Lord are boosters. Keeping our place also opens the door to knowledge from above.

But the very minute we displease, or question the purposes of, or disobey the one placed above us, we cause a break, like a cut in the bark of a tree, and lose a portion of this blood, which takes extra effort to regain. If we lose too much, just as with a branch of a tree when it loses sap, we will cause our spiritual death. Also we are shedding the innocent blood of those above us, which is flowing clear from Christ to us. There, "Ascent unto His death" as Bro. Elden quoted and it tells us in the Doctrine & Covenants.

When we question the purposes or instructions of the one above us, we question his portion of that spirit power flowing from Christ, and it's the same as questioning Christ. Because we have no way of knowing who gave the instruction to start with, him, the one above him, or even up to Christ. Also, he was placed in his position over us, because he had earned it and has the backing of Christ in whatever he does. As long as he is sustained in his position above you, the mistakes of the one directly over you, are none of your business, so, as far as you are concerned, he is as perfect as Christ. If he needs correcting, it will be done WHEN the one above him decides it's time to correct him. If he cuts himself off by losing too much blood, and YOU have been diligent in obedience, the gap will be closed and you will receive your life giving substance through someone else.

This, then is the way we bind Satan. When we do as the one above us instructs, we are absolutely doing right. There is no other decision that the most intelligent person could make and still be right. Three of the main ways to respond to contact with the one over you are:

1- The one over you comes to you with a definite instruction. This is very plain and you should follow his instructions to the smallest detail.

   Bro. Elden said "If you want to prove me wrong, the quickest way to do it is to follow my instructions carefully, then I can see the results.

2- You have a problem and take it to the one over you. You should be prepared to do as he says, because if you ask his advice you are obliged to take it. Sometimes, if he thinks it should be your responsibility, he will leave the final decision to you.

3- You want something and ask his permission. This is the type of contact that Bro. Elden said we had to be very careful of. We should accept the first answer and not try to push him
for what we want because even the Lord will give us something we're not ready for if we push too hard. If we get something this way, it will only hinder our progress.

Once we learn how to properly receive instructions from above without knocking the sides off our path, or puncturing the bark of our branch and losing our blood, Satan can't touch us, for he is bound, and we will grow with the tree or Kingdom.

It's very important to know WHO is directly over you. Mothers are over their children, except when they appoint someone else. Husbands are over wives. Master-Stewards are over some men, and Bro. Ortell over all on the earth at this time. There is an order of numbers in each level of the law that should be followed as a general pattern. The first born has a right to blessings first, unless he forfeits them in some way. The others receive rights as they earn them or according to their age. The same order is followed when the parent is absent. The first one automatically has the authority to take charge, unless the parent has appointed another who is better qualified. This same pattern should be followed on the levels concerning wives, and men according to their number. Women do not have a right to direct anyone outside of her husband's family unless she is appointed by someone over her, then the right extends only to the job or duty to which she is appointed. Any time you go from your home to a job, you are under the steward, or his foreman, or helper in charge, and HE or SHE is feeding you your life giving spirit while on that job. A steward does not have the right to direct your personal life unless you ask him to. Your personal or spiritual life are guided by the head of your family and his leader.

We are not always dependant on the one above us. In fact many times we are on our own, so to speak. This is our best opportunity to learn to know the Spirit of the Lord and how He directs us. I say "best opportunity" because I have found by experiencing many times, the difference in how the Lord seems to respond to my striving for knowledge when I have daily contact with the one over me, and when I am left to direct my family myself. By trial and error, I have found that in most cases, when I go to the Lord for an answer and my husband is readily available, He will not respond, regardless of the effort and striving I put forth. But when I have been left on my own or (as I have come to feel) in the Lord's hands, His Spirit is much easier to discern. This would naturally apply to all levels of the Law, as most parts of the Law do. To children who were left caring for others, to wives who were left to direct their families, and to stewards who were placed away from direct contact with their leader, like being on the farm in Idaho. I'm sure the various salesmen on the road can verify this to be true.

Whenever we by-pass the person DIRECTLY over us and go to someone above him for instructions, we deprive the one directly over us of the growth of a portion of that blood flowing through him to us, and also make it very hard for him to run his stewardship right. How can we sing a beautiful song together, if we consult Bro. Ortell about how to sing instead of Sis. Jeanne, when she is leading us? How can a Sunday School teacher teach her class and know where to make improvements if her pupils go to Bro. Carl with their wants and complaints? Or how can a man control his family and make it successful if its members go to someone else for instruction without his full knowledge? We not only deprive the one over us of his growth and make it hard for him to succeed, but we put a greater strain or responsibility on the higher one we go to. It's our privilege to do this, but in order for the tree to grow in the proper propor-
tions, and the responsibility to be spread out, we should only do it when it's absolutely necessary. Tree branches break, with too much weight and without a balanced growth, and so will a branch of the Kingdom. Let's not break down our leader with too much weight.

Anyone with a responsibility of having someone below them, has the privilege of instructing any or all of them, no matter at what level. So a father can instruct his children, as well as a mother. Our leader can step in anywhere along the line and give an instruction as does the Lord. If your mother gives you a job and your father doesn't know it, and gives you one too, just tell him about the first job and he will decide which one to do first, and your mother will agree with his decision. If we make things of this nature known to all concerned, it avoids misunderstanding and conflict of work.

Whenever YOU are put in charge of a job by anyone above you, no matter how small, you automatically have the keys of power and authority, or the right to a portion of that spiritual blood flowing through you, to whatever or whomever you are in charge. No matter how young or how old you are, you will have that power to help you, if you will let it. You have to be very careful to stay humble and treat those under you as you would like to be treated, if you want this extra spirit power flowing THROUGH you, and not just TO you, to make you grow spiritually, have more freedom and gain a higher place. You have to be tolerant of his shortcomings, and do things that will gain his love and respect so that he will obey BECAUSE of love and respect and not because he feels forced. You have to allow him a certain amount of free agency or room to 'grow', and at the same time keep a firm hand on your responsibility over him. If you abuse your position over someone else by mistreating them, you will lose your responsibility and all the blessings it brings, and it will be very hard to get it back again. So it isn't good to give a person responsibility before he is ready for it.

When in charge, you can EARN freedom to use your own ideas and ways of life. The Lord respects the authority of a person who has earned a position over someone else, and will not interfere with his decisions, up to a point judged by God's wisdom. This was shown to me very clearly by the Lord, in 1944, just four years after Bro. Elden had made this law known to the people of the order.

I had become quite upset with something Bro. Ray was expecting of me that, by every point of my reasoning was too much for me to do. Knowing I shouldn't refuse to do it, I went to the Lord in prayer to ask Him to help Bro. Ray see what it was doing to me. Before I could finish my prayer, my answer came so forcefully, I felt I had actually heard these words with my ears.

"You belong to Ray, he can do as he pleases with you." I felt the same as if I had been rebuked by a stern father. The Lord respected my husband's right to direct me in, or treat me his own way and I was expected to follow no matter what it was I had to do or how I felt about it. If a steward has proved faithful to those above him, he will have the keys of power to direct his stewardship. A man should be allowed to use his own ideas to direct his family. A faithful wife disderves to run her kitchen or stewardship as she pleases.

To prepare a child for this free agency (with wisdom), a parent should learn when to give a child a definite instruction and when to leave room for the child to develop his own mind
and abilities. Too much of one will stunt his growth of character and make him too dependant on you. Too much of the other will cause him to turn to someone else for knowledge and support.

When a child is born, he is sustained physically by his mother's milk for a period, then is taught by her how to sustain himself. If there is too much neglect or interference in this plan, he is stunted or even loses his life. The life of his spirit is also sustained by his mother for a time. He also has a period of time to learn from her and his father, how to sustain his spirit. Again, too much neglect or interference will bring spiritual stunting or even death.

If a parent begins to cut himself off from that life blood, he will also cut off the stream to those below him. If his family or anyone beneath him has not established enough growth to become self-sustaining, he will be the means of the spiritual death of his whole branch.

As soon as a boy or girl is old enough to understand these things and begins to have a desire to know right from wrong, he or she is old enough to begin to strive for the blessings that come with these laws. If they have a good, sound foundation of growth from their family, they WILL desire the things from above, enough to make the necessary sacrifices for progress. Anyone with these desires can strive for the spiritual progress and accomplishments such as learning to know the Spirit of the Lord and His direction, and taking the covenants with the Lord that Bro. Elden spoke of in 1940.

When a young person strives to know the spirit and learns to get direction for himself, it is the spirit power flowing from above that he learns to feel and hear, and he is not by-passing those directly over him in this world, but draws through them, even though there are no words spoken. This explains how Brother Elden would know, without being told, when anyone took the covenant with the Lord. He more or less would tune in, on the power flowing in its natural course through him.

It is a law of eternity, that as long as there is obedience and RESPECT to parents or a superior, no matter in what walk of life, there will be growth, advancement and success. We can see it in schools, businesses, sports, and music to name just a few. And when a person steps out of place in the law of the Kingdom, he will cut the spiritual substance that is as vital to the life of his spirit and character, as blood is to the life of his body. This, then, is the cause of the lack of spirituality and morals in the world today. People as a whole are cutting themselves off from their spiritual lifeline.

A person can start living this law with little seemingly unimportant things and thereby gain strength and good habits to sustain him when the tests of life and spirituality come along. The results can be wonderful. The Lord gave me an experience that is a testimony to me of the power of the Law. I had had, since childhood or birth, a slight deformity in my spine at the base of my neck, that caused my neck to protrude forward. It hadn't bothered me too much while I was young, but it became harder and harder for me to keep my head up without cramping my neck. In the Spring of 1957 the Lord brought upon me a condition of complete mental despair (which was not related in the least to my neck condition.) I tried every way I knew to gain power over this mental state. I couldn't reach the Spirit of the Lord so I went to my husband to ask what I should do. He told me to offer myself to the Lord. I had already tried
this, so as a last resort I said to my husband, "I'm yours, YOU give me to the Lord." I have never experienced any greater Spiritual love and power than came over me as I uttered aloud this submission to the Law. I had also given my consent to have the one above me take over my life. I felt this Power that I knew streamed from Christ, because a short while afterward I realized my deformity had disappeared. The bone in my neck was normal and straight and I was ½ inch taller than I had been. I had felt Christ's healing power.

This experience not only gave me a testimony of what the Law could do for me, but gave me direct evidence that the one above me, and above him, in their order clear to Christ were all perfectly aligned at that time, as Christ asks us to be, One with Him.
THOUGHTS FOR TEENAGERS

What is the purpose of life on this earth? To choose right from wrong. Is our ultimate goal in life Spiritual or Temporal? We have to consider each little thing that confronts us daily, as a chance to make a decision in the direction we chose, because the repetition of little things produces our habits and the way we handle big decisions.

The Order, or Co-op in the beginning was formed of individuals who had already made a decision, as to which path they wanted to take. And the training the Lord gave them in the first years might be compared to a schooling. After a while we could imagine the successful ones as teachers in a school, with Bro. Elden, followed by Bro. Ortell as principles.

There is no better place to learn how to become a lawyer than in a law school, or a doctor than in a school of medicine. And there is no better place to learn how to become qualified to become immortal, like Christ, than in God's school, or the Order.

Our parents or the law of the land can force us to go to school, to give us the opportunity to learn to read and write, but no one except ourselves can do the learning, pass the tests to prove our intelligence, and get the rewards. We can just as easily be forced into the Order by birth (at least we can't remember choosing to come) but no one except ourselves can do the learning so we can pass the test, prove our Spiritual intelligence, and gain the blessings. If we decide we don't want to learn, we can flunk out in either school. We can't be forced to learn temporally or spiritually. It's up to the individual to decide how far he wants to go.

If we can see the Order as a school we can also see the Statement as a report card. It shows very clearly how much we are willing to sacrifice temporal things enough to help the Lord's work. These little sacrifices are like daily problems, preparing us for a test. At the end of the year, it counts most of all. Did we pass? Or do we have to start over again?

DOES OBEDIENCE TO THE ONE ABOVE RESTRICT YOUR LIFE?

In the Law, the one above does not interfere with the decisions of a person he has put in charge of something, unless that person makes a request to have him do so, or gets too far out of line. This applies to all levels of the Law. The Lord respects your free agency and will put you in charge of your own life. He will guide or advise you and teach you, according to your willingness and desire to learn. But when you ASK Him to make decisions for you, that gives Him the right to do so, without taking away your free agency. Most of us will ask the Lord to help us make our decisions, especially the important ones, but we always include that big OUR. It's much different when we say, "Lord, YOU make the decision for me," and really mean it. If you are genuine and ready for the answer when you ask, it will usually come quickly. The Lord wants and expects you to ask Him, but He also knows you have to be ready to abide by what He has for you, no matter WHAT it is. If you ask the Lord for His decision and don't accept it, you are MUCH WORSE off than not having asked. This fact should be stressed when children are taught to go to their parents or the Lord in this manner. A parent should also be willing to take the responsibility of directing a child when that child is genuine in asking him to do so.

If you have earned the right, by obeying and respecting
those above you, you should be allowed to make most of your own decisions as a young adult (about 16). When you come of age, you are on your own. Seeking the advice of your parent or the Lord is strictly up to you. Also, it's up to you whether or not you still enjoy that lifegiving power of Christ by being aligned with those above you.

Parents have the right, given by the Lord, to set rules and guide lines to restrict you as long as you remain in their home, but they cannot teach you anything in your teen years unless you have a desire to learn from them. The teen years are the most critical years of your life, because you are deciding, by your actions, whether you want to follow a temporal life or a spiritual one. Think about it! Your parents have the experiences behind of a lot of life situations that could save you time and heartache. And the knowledge is yours for the asking, but you have to want it. You cannot expect the Lord to come to your aid when you're in trouble or have an important decision to make, if you don't know how to allow Him to be close to you and guide you.

Look around you! What about the young adults that remain in the Lord’s work? How did they act as teenagers? Were they trying to learn to know the Spirit of the Lord, as teenagers? If the Lord is guiding them now, they made an effort to get acquainted with the Lord earlier in their lives.

If you don't know how to get acquainted with the Lord, the best thing to do is to ask someone who’s life shows he knows the Lord. A person who never seeks never finds, and a man who never asks advice or seeks knowledge of others is a foolish man. Bro. 1 was always full of questions. Also asking question of your parents or anyone, is one of the best ways to create a bond or a good feeling between you.

ARE YOU DISSATISFIED WHERE YOU ARE?

We all know that life runs in cycles, some up and some down. One of the cycles that has to do with life and its progress, is a seven year cycle. The first seven years is on a physical plane. What is a baby or small child most interested in? To eat! To be warm and dry, which is physical pleasure. Gradually, he works into the next plane with the separation coming at about seven years old. Now what is most important? Why, to have fun, of course, which is mental pleasure. Now, by the time he is fourteen, he feels the need of something more. If he hasn't begun to turn to spiritual things, he goes from one thing to another, looking for more and more fun and never really finds what he wants. Which is typical of worldly teenagers. During this second or mental cycle the Lord and your parents watch you become intelligent and expect you to start choosing right from wrong. Your mind, which is somewhat like a computer, is programmed, by the Lord, to grow spiritually, at about fourteen. Your thoughts begin to register stronger, and the Lord 'reads' you more. Your foolish thoughts come through just as clear as your sensible ones.

This doesn't mean you aren't expected to have any more fun after fourteen. On the contrary, if the Lord thinks you have earned it, He'll help you have some fun, even arrange it for you. This means that by the time you are about half way between fourteen and twenty-one, the spiritual things of life should have become the most important to you, and you can lay aside the other things if necessary. By the time you reach twenty-one, if you have allowed the cycles to take their natural course, you'll merit your "diploma" and be ready for the responsibilities in
the ways and laws of the Lord as well as temporal responsibilities. To have a balanced life, you still enjoy eating, having fun and know when to strive spiritually.

If you don't progress with your years, it becomes harder and harder to stay in the work of the Lord, because you can't find what you want and become dissatisfied. Dissatisfaction tends to make you look to the outside, then as your search becomes broader, you are gradually drawn completely out.

DO YOU WALK LIKE A DUCK?

If you walk like a duck, quack like a duck, and wear feathers like a duck, could you blame people for calling you ducky? Do you like what people are calling you? People who count most to you? If you don't it's time to take a look at yourself and find out why you have acquired your name.

If you want to gain the admiration of the people around you, study the situation and decide what kind of a person you want to be. Then begin to act, talk, and dress like that person in your mental picture. Look into the future 5 or 10 years. How do you see yourself? What kind of a job will you have? How will you look? Will you still be in the Co-op? Will people look up to you? Will you be married? If so, what type of mate will you have? Are you doing anything now to earn or attract that kind of mate, or to become what is in your picture? If you have to make a change someday to become what you want to be, you have a pretty difficult job. It isn't easy to change and the longer you put it off the harder it will be. To make it easier, start now! Then you can take one thing at a time and can build from there. Saying "Some-day" gets you no-where because it never comes.

There is one fact that cannot be changed. You can NOT stay the same. You will either improve with years or back slide, both mentally and spiritually. Why not use your most wonderful and progressive years to become what you'd REALLY LIKE TO BE. DON'T put it off.