



## Faith Precedes the Miracle

*Spencer W. Kimball*

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Understanding the gospel, concern for people, love for the Savior: these form the underlying theme of Faith Precedes the Miracle. In nearly three decades as a General Authority, President Kimball has spoken forthrightly to members of the Church, warning of the deceits of Satan and pointing out the road back for those who have erred and who yearn for reconciliation with the Lord. This book is based on some of his sermons and messages, but each one has been edited and revised to a reading style while retaining the basic, highly personal mode of expression. The subjects reflect a genuine concern for how Latter-day Saints can find joy and happiness through living gospel principles, including testimony and revelation, marriage and the family, morality and repentance, righteousness, and the restored church. Each message is an important, direct statement of gospel principles.

## Faith Precedes the Miracle Details

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## From Reader Review Faith Precedes the Miracle for online ebook

### **Melinda says**

Considering her obsession about miracles and such (and telling me that faith is not a part of it), I really think this book would benefit. And all the other principles covered would be helpful, too. I may have to consider buying my own audio copy so she can listen and not wait upon someone to read it to her. I've wanted to read it for myself anyhow.

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### **Meg says**

I enjoyed this book, however I was expecting another book like "The Miracle of Forgiveness". This book is a collection of talks given by Spencer W. Kimball. Although all the talks are good I was disappointed that it wasn't one solid book.

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### **Greg says**

Sequel to Spencer W. Kimball's seminal work, *The Miracle of Forgiveness*. Based on some of his writings and sermons, he addresses topics such as family, marriage, testimony, personal revelation, and morality. Through it all runs the thread of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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### **Jana Hill says**

This took me a long time to work my way through, but I liked it a lot. As always with Pres. Kimball he just lays it right out there, doesn't beat around the bush about what we're supposed to be doing. And it never ceases to amaze me how even though his (and other apostles) writings were decades ago, they seem so perfectly applicable today.

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### **Carol says**

President Kimball wrote this book in stories and examples to help us understand the many different ideas and concepts of faith, and how we can use it in our life. I recommend this book as an excellent tool to help understand faith, and how it applies in our lives.

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### **Kelly says**

I really enjoyed this book! After reading this book I wish I could remember Spencer W. Kimball as a prophet. He died when I was young and I don't remember him at all. This book helped me to get to know him

a little better. It served as a great reminder that faith is such an important principle of the Gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

It is through faith that all great things come to pass. Spencer W. Kimball was an amazing prophet and a very good writer. I loved how he went through so many aspects of the Gospel explaining how faith was so important to each and every part.

I would have given it 5 stars, but at the very end he went on a little soap box about Native American's. He had a point and he definitely illustrated that point well. I thought it went on a little too much and started feeling a little like a soap box.

I highly recommend this book to any member of the Church. It is a great reminder of the gospel's core principles. I would also encourage any new convert to the church to read this book. President Kimball does a really good job explaining so many basic principles.

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### **Ruth says**

was a really good book. basically a collection of the discourses of SWK.. a little bit outdated (one chapter was about how we shouldn't hate against the native americans and another one was on the issue of blacks not being able to hold the priesthood), but overall, a fantastic read. my second time reading it! :)

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### **Annika Paxman says**

My husband and I decided to read this in the evenings together. I believe every one of us at some point in our live has sought a miracle. The first chapter of this book delves immediately into the religious aspects of asking God for a miracle, and the role faith has in such a request.

We are immediately taken into the Old Testament and shown examples of prophet showing their faith before receiving their miracle.

The most moving example for me personally, was being that of Abraham and Isaac. Kimball points out that it wasn't until Abraham showed his faith in the Lord by placing Isaac upon the altar before the angel appeared as well as the ram in the thicket.

Not only does this work cover the topic of faith, but prayer, obedience, marriage, prejudice, and more. In turn, my husband and I enjoyed some very good religious discussions concerning these subjects. This is one that I would recommend to anyone seeking for something uplifting, and enlightening.

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### **Chrisanne says**

I liked it. I was surprised at the continuity-- I was expecting the regular compilation but it seemed to flow really well. Of course, if you've read/listened to his previous works you might find some repetition. But it had been a while so it didn't bother me.

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## **thethousanderclub says**

Adam C. Zern offers some thoughts . . .

"In the Latter-day Saint culture, Spencer W. Kimball's *The Miracle of Forgiveness* is legendary. Spencer W. Kimball, the 12th President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is known for his bold and forward speaking and writing style. *The Miracle of Forgiveness* has no shortage of 'straight talk,' and *Faith Precedes the Miracle* is no different. Less well-known and less read among Latter-day Saints than Kimball's other book, *Faith Precedes the Miracle* is a good addition to any Latter-day Saint's library, albeit it's not as memorable as other spiritual works.

Like most books of its kind, *Faith Precedes the Miracle* is marred by the presentation and organization of the book. In fact, using the term 'book' may be a little generous to describe what it is. Rather than being a book it's a collection of his many speeches on various topics bound together between two covers. I never really care for that kind of a setup simply because the chapters seem so disconnected from one another. I prefer to read a book specifically designed to be so, which I believe lends importance and purpose to the message conveyed. *Jesus the Christ* by James E. Talmage is a good example of what I'm referring to.

Having said that, there is plenty to love in *Faith Precedes the Miracle*. It's a great reference book since President Kimball covers so many topics in this one book. His remarks on family life are, in my opinion, especially poignant and even controversial compared to today's societal standards. His unapologetic conviction is refreshing and honorable.

There is much to love, yes, but it's not really all that necessary to buy this book since most of his remarks can be found through other means. I had already listened to many of President Kimball's talks and, therefore, I was 're-leaning' large portions of the book. *Faith Precedes the Miracle* is great as a reference but not as a stand-alone book."

<http://thethousanderclub.blogspot.com/>

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## **Heather says**

It was good to read this book again. It is wonderful to read President Kimball's testimony and teachings of Christ and the importance of having faith in Him and His plan. Really each of these chapters are different teachings on several different principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ, but they really all tie back into faith in Christ. We must have faith in Him and trust in Him. Here are a few of my favorite quotes/ideas from this time reading through:

"Faith is needed as much as ever before (page 10)."

"If revelations cease, either men are unresponsive and in the darkness of apostasy or God is dead (p. 22)."

We "must labor and so live as to obtain the Holy Spirit, for without this you cannot build up the kingdom (p. 25)."

"There has never been a single minute since 1830 when the people were left without the revealed guidance of

the Lord (p. 46)."

"Can God have limitations (p. 53)?"

"To know is not enough. One must do (p.85)."

"The Lord is omnipotent, with all power to control our lives, save us pain, prevent all accidents, drive all planes and cars, feed us, protect us, save us from labor, effort, sickness, even from death, if he will. But he will not.... The basic law of the gospel is free agency and eternal development. To force us to be careful or righteous would be to nullify that fundamental law and make growth impossible (p. 96)."

"Despite our limited view his purposes will not fail (p. 106)."

"Love is far more than physical attraction. It is deep, inclusive, and comprehensive...there must be faith and confidence and understanding and partnership. There must be common ideals and standards. There must be great devotion and companionship. Love is cleanliness and progress and sacrifice and selflessness (p. 158)."

"Prayer is not an optional activity; it is basic to our religion (p. 200)."

"Do we express gratitude to Him who gives us all? Paul asked that we pray 'for kings, and for all that are in authority.' This will help develop loyalty to community leaders and concern for the Lord's influence on them. We pray for the poor and needy, and at the same time remember our obligation to do something for them.... We pray for the missionaries.... We pray for our enemies (p. 202)."

"Pray in faith....there can be no deception. The Lord knows our true condition.... Do we offer our supplications in modesty, sincerity, and with a 'broken heart and a contrite spirit'? (p. 207)"

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. (Heb. 10:35-36 and p. 249)."

I also really enjoyed *Chapter 27: Render...Unto God* that talks about tithing and "seeking first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all things shall be added unto you (Matt. 6:33 and p. 288)."

This life is but a small moment. We must remember the bigger picture of our Heavenly Father's plan....and have faith in that that we can't always see, but that we know is right. He lives and will lead us. There are miracles as we have faith in Him and His power in our lives.

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### **Erin says**

I love President Kimball's bold speech. Things are very black and white when he talks about them. You are either on the Lord's side or you are not. There is power in his words. At first I had the thought that some things really do not apply to "today's society", most of these selections were written/given from the 1950's to the 1970's; however, gospel truth is eternal truth. Sometimes we have a great ability to "rationalize" what we do not like to hear. but like the title indicates, Faith and obedience to all that is true whether we like it or not, is what brings the miracles. This is not a in depth book about what the doctrine of faith is or means to us. It is a sampling of stories and examples where living the true commandments brings forth the type of faith that then results in the miracle. It would take a lot of faith to live as President Kimball suggests.

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### **Amanda says**

I did not realize when I picked this up that it is not technically a book written by President Spencer W. Kimball, but a compilation from his discourses. I felt that some of the chapters were put together strangely, bounced around from topic to topic, and were hard to follow. It was mostly in the first few chapters and I almost gave up reading the book altogether. There is a lot in this book and some of it is outdated. (For example, it was put together before the change to allow the black members of the church to receive the Priesthood.) However, I am glad that I kept with it. There were a few chapters in the middle that I enjoyed immensely and found myself marking something on almost every page. I had felt compelled to read this book and not give up before I was through and I definitely found messages that spoke specifically to me and things that I have been thinking about recently.

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### **Nathalie S says**

I wanted to read this book because of a brother in my ward who had an enormous health challenge and after re-reading this book (and a lifetime of dedicated faith no doubt) did receive his amazing healing miracle. It so impressed me that I finally decided to read it after nearly 40 years since joining the LDS Church. President Spencer W. Kimball was the prophet when I joined the Church. It is based on his discourses, which means that I had heard or read many portions of this book over the years. It was like stepping back in time for. It brought back a lot of the feelings of living in the 1970's. The challenges are the same but now amped up by the use of technology and the further decline of society's mores but the process of healing is the same, more than ever. I didn't learn anything new but this book reinforced that indeed, faith must precede the miracle. It takes steady and committed spiritual preparation and a lot of faith. I didn't get my miracle yet but I am just getting started.

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### **Heather says**

Very great read. It's kind of like the Priesthood/Relief Society manuals on the Presidents of the Church in that each chapter is a compilation of his words on a particular topic. I really enjoyed it, and appreciated his insights. My one complaint is that I read it because of the title, and the title ended up having very little to do with what it was actually about. Still very glad I read it, though.

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