

Dear family,

Today is Ward Conference. The theme of our Conference has been "sharing our testimonies". We have now divided into groups (Relief Society, Priesthood, Young Women, and Primary) and our Stake Leaders have asked us to spend the next 30 minutes writing down our testimonies. We are dismissing 1 hour early, with the instructions to go home and copy the testimony which we've written, address envelopes and mail them to "every" family member (mother, father, brother, sister, children, aunts, uncles, etc.) So in keeping with what I've been asked to do... here is my testimony.

As I think back upon my life, I really can't remember having a miraculous or special moment when I "just knew" that the gospel was true. I think that my testimony has simply grown, as I've grown. I was blessed to have wonderful parents who took me to church every Sunday. They loved me, and taught me the gospel. My mother was my Primary teacher, for many years. I always had such a warm and special feeling, as I listened to her lessons. I "knew" the concepts she taught were true. Not because she was my mother and I loved her. But because I felt so warm and good.... kind of a tingling in my heart.

When my mother passed away, just a few months before my 13th birthday, I felt a great comfort from my Heavenly Father, which really strengthened my testimony. Of course, I was extremely sorrowful and very lonely. But I knew with all my heart that my mother was in heaven with many loved ones. That she missed us... but she was happy. When I would pray, I felt such a warm and loving spirit. Almost as if my mother was holding me and hugging me. I have a testimony, because of the gospel, that I will see her again. Now it's up to me to live my life worthy to be with her again. I can't imagine the sorrow to see her again, but not be worthy to be reunited. This has given me an added incentive to try with all my heart to live righteously so we can be an eternal family. Now that I am married and have children, my wonderful husband and my beautiful children have given me even more reason to strive with all my heart for an eternal family.

I do know that the Church of Jesus Christ is true. That our earthly life is a test. That it is so very important to pass our test of worthiness. I know that Jesus Christ, is my Savior. I am so grateful for his Atonement. That He was willing to provide a way for all mankind to return home to our Father in Heaven. I'm thankful for repentance. That it is possible for me to right my wrongs. So that Christ's Atonement can be affective in my life. Joseph Smith is a true prophet. He did see Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. He did restore the gospel to the earth.

I love my Heavenly Father, and I know that He loves me. There is power in prayer. I know that the gospel brings happiness.

I want to add, that I am so very grateful for all my family. I love each one of you very much! I do appreciate all you do for me and for my family. Thank you so much.

In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Joy Jacobson