

Setting Priorities

President Camille N. Johnson, Relief Society general president, was asked by the *Church News* to write an essay about accessing priesthood power. Her essay, titled “For Women, Men to Have Access to Priesthood Power,” appeared in the *Church News*, 5 November 2022, p. 16.

When I read the essay I was tired, and while I realized that it was a significant essay, I also realized that I was not grasping the heart of her message. I set the paper down, opened to the essay, and reread it the next day when I wasn’t tired.

President Johnson quoted from President Russell M. Nelson’s October 2019 talk at the Women’s Session of general conference, and that led me to reread and ponder his talk. Here are some of the things he said that especially impressed me:

“Every woman and every man who makes covenants with God and keeps those covenants, and who participates worthily in priesthood ordinances, has direct access to the power of God.

* * *

“How do I draw the Savior’s power into my life?

“You won’t find this process spelled out in any manual. The Holy Ghost will be your personal tutor as you seek to understand what the Lord would have you know and do. This process is neither quick nor easy, but it *is* spiritually

invigorating. What could possibly be more exciting than to labor with the Spirit to understand God’s power—priesthood power?

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“So, I invite you to study prayerfully section 25 of the Doctrine and Covenants and discover what the Holy Ghost will teach you. Your personal spiritual endeavor will bring you joy as you gain, understand, and use the power with which you have been endowed.

“Part of this endeavor will require you to put aside many things of this world. Sometimes we speak almost casually about walking away from the world with its contention, pervasive temptations, and false philosophies. But truly doing so requires you to examine your life meticulously and regularly. As you do so, the Holy Ghost will prompt you about what is no longer needful, *what is no longer worthy of your time and energy.*” (Russell M. Nelson, “Spiritual Treasures,” *Ensign*, November 2019, p. 76, emphasis added.)

As I keep having birthdays, the words that are italicized at the end of President’s Nelson’s quote are becoming more and more important to me. As my abilities recede, I need to focus more and more on the things that matter most.

(On the subject of priesthood power, see also President Nelson’s talk, “The Price of Priesthood Power,” *Ensign*, May 2016, p. 66.)

—Leon Johnson