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### **Becoming a Disciple-Scholar**

As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints attending Brigham Young University, we strive to become “disciple-scholars.” This compound word embraces the spiritual and moral aspects of being a true disciple of Jesus Christ, as well as the mental and academic goals associated with being a scholar. The primary attributes associated with becoming a disciple-scholar are 1) seeking correction, 2) expecting and overcoming resistance, 3) making and keeping commitments, 4) working hard, and 5) helping others.

#### **Seeking Correction**

Most people cannot see all of their own faults and weaknesses. Therefore, we should ask others what we need to improve, and how to do things correctly. Correction is feedback that will help us to change for the better. It can be accepted negatively or positively. If we want to become better people, we need to actively seek correction and react positively to the correction we receive. We need to be humble and sincerely desire to improve. As we follow this pattern of seeking correction, we will improve ourselves. Most importantly, if we seek correction from the source of all truth, who is Jesus Christ, we can eventually become perfect, through His Atonement.

Often I just try to solve problems by myself, but if I ask for help I can receive useful feedback. Others may be able to see the cause of my problems and know how to solve them more effectively than I can on my own.

#### **Expecting and Overcoming Resistance**

As we try to work hard, we can expect resistance: to get to the top of a hill, you must climb upward. But how we react to that resistance is a test of how dedicated we are to our goals. Do we keep climbing, or give up? Or even go back down? Resistance is opposition, which is part of Heavenly Father’s plan. We have agency, and are enticed by good and evil choices that surround us. Often we fall

as we choose the path of temporary least resistance. We can't overcome resistance until we have laid all our burdens before the Lord, whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light. This is repentance. For we will make mistakes along the way, as we give in to resistance. But as we turn to the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we empty our packs, so to speak, of all our mistakes. Our burden becomes lighter, and it is easier to climb to the top.

I try to fix my mistakes. So many times I say to myself that I wish I had done something differently. But that's what repentance is for. It's not always the easiest thing to do, but it is the best thing to do, and in the long run the way becomes easier.

### **Making and Keeping Commitments**

Commitments are promises we make to ourselves or others. When we commit to do something, we promise "on our honor" that we will follow through. Making and keeping commitments is a vital part of the Gospel, and of life. Keeping commitments makes us better people. We often have to do hard things, which we wouldn't do had we not promised to. Therefore, we're constrained to do hard things, which build us in various areas of our life. Examples of commitments include church activity, class attendance, and friendships.

I recently made a list of goals I want to work on, leading up to my mission. The list includes physical, social, and spiritual goals. These goals are commitments I've made to myself, based on my commitment to God to prepare for my mission. It's not always easy, but I try to keep up with my goals.

### **Working Hard**

The ability to work hard consistently is a quality that can be hard to obtain. Nevertheless, it's extremely useful and important. It is especially difficult to learn to work hard when there are so many distractions and sources of entertainment in these latter days. But if we don't work hard, we will get few things done. We could be several times more productive if we all learned to work hard.

I have a tendency to be lazy when it comes to doing work. I like to waste time. But I'm working on improving; I know that I can't ask for help in prayer on things like tests and exams if I don't try my best to learn what I can.

**Helping Others**

There are many ways to help others. Most notably, we can offer of our time, money, and talents without asking for anything in return. The Savior spent His whole life in the service of others; in fact, His entire life was given completely selflessly to serve Heavenly Father and to help each of us obtain eternal life. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has given significant service to people around the world, in development and relief for needy communities, through its humanitarian programs.

I try to help others, though most often I help them when it's convenient or easy. I need to go to more service projects around BYU, and I need to perform more significant service – this is a way I can contribute, by give meaningful service and helping others.

**Conclusion**

To become a disciple-scholar is a demanding task. But it is not impossible. As we strive to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, we can turn to Him to take away our weaknesses in these areas, and replace them with strengths. We can become what we should become. It just takes time and effort. Each of these goals is a worthy objective. I'm working on them, and, someday, maybe I will succeed.