

Growing and Maturing in Self-reliance

Change from dependence to increasing self-reliance is a gradual one, and each age has its own capacities.

President Spencer W. Kimball said: "For the first decade of your life there were joyous, happy, irresponsible days. Your parents and family protected you, taught and fed you, clothed and sheltered you; but now in the second decade of your life there is some relaxation of control. Gradually you are developing your personality, making increased numbers of your own decisions. You are maturing and assuming responsibility" ("President Kimball Speaks Out on Planning Your Life," *New Era*, Sept. 1981, p. 47).

Assuming responsibility and becoming self-reliant is desirable and is what our Father in Heaven hopes for and expects. But this does not mean that we become independent of his direction in our lives or the sound counsel of parents or priesthood leaders. "The Lord is very generous with the freedom He gives us. The more we learn to follow the right, the more we are spiritually self-reliant, the more our freedom and our independence are affirmed" (Boyd K. Packer, "Self-reliance," *Ensign*, Aug. 1975, p. 89).

Prophet Joseph Smith gave a good definition of self-reliance when someone asked him how he governed the Saints. He said, "I teach them correct principles, and they govern themselves" (as quoted by John Taylor, *Millennial Star*, 13:339)

Coming Out

Some hatchings hurt...
And the new learning
softness

is so very tender.
It's frightening to be
nothing more
than palest puff
that peeps.

And so remember
and remember
clarion call
to shelter:

"I will gather ...
as a hen
gathereth
her chickens
under her wings ..."
A place to grow
in strength.

(Dianne Dibb Forbis, *New Era*, Dec. 1977, p. 7.)



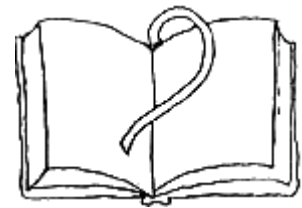
Scriptures

D&C 93:13-14

D&C 93:20

D&C 29:1-2

D&C 58:27-29



As we gradually become less dependent on others, we need to train ourselves to hear the clear direction, the "clarion call" of the Lord. We need to learn to govern ourselves by his principles. Our Father in Heaven, who encourages our growth, will also give us the strength to accomplish it.



Rate yourself from one to ten on each item, one being the lowest and ten being the highest.

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|---|----------------------|--|
| 1. Other people determine most of what I do. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 1. I can make a decision based on gospel principles, even though it may mean doing something different from what my friends are doing. |
| 2. I avoid housework and family chores. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 2. I recognize that I need to help with the work of the home and support my parents and family. |
| 3. I frequently fall behind in my assignments for school or need to be reminded to study. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 3. I manage my schoolwork and plan my study time. |
| 4. I don't earn any money; all that I have my parents give me. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 4. I am earning some of my own money. I can manage my money and plan for tithing and savings. I know how to make a wise purchase. |
| 5. When it is time to get up or time to practice my talents, I have trouble getting myself going. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 5. I am learning to discipline myself so that I arise on time to practice my talents. |
| 6. When things go wrong for me, I find an excuse or blame someone else. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 6. I take responsibility for my own mistakes or problems. |
| 7. I have no definite plans for what I want to do vocationally or educationally. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 7. I am developing some skills that will help qualify me for work and have some areas of study in mind. |
| 8. I rarely read the scriptures other than in formal classes. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 8. I have my own study plan and read the scriptures regularly. |
| 9. I am often late for classes or meetings. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 9. I can manage my time and am punctual. |
| 10. I rarely fast because I am so cross and hungry when I do. | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | 10. I fast when I have need of the Lord's help with special problems. |