

***“Strength from Grace: Faithful LDS Women
Rosa—An Example of Grace”***

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This address was given Friday, May 2, 2014 at the BYU Women’s Conference

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“I feel the love of God every day!”

These are Rosa’s words, one of our faithful pioneer sisters in Russia. They are her testimony of grace—the strengthening power of Jesus Christ that helps her rise above her trials and sorrows with a grateful heart. As I tell Rosa’s story, think about how your faith allows you to feel the love and power of the Lord every day in your life.

About 20 years ago, Rosa was returning home from work when she saw her neighbor talking to young men at the front door of their apartment building. Rosa’s friend introduced her by saying, “Let me tell you about these two young men who are angels from America, who have a message from God.”

Rosa, who believed in God, invited those two missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ to her home the very next day. The missionaries taught her, gave her a Book of Mormon, and invited her to come to church. Rosa accepted that invitation—she attended church, continued to be taught, and was soon baptized.

Although Rosa’s conversion to the gospel sounds easy and simple, it hasn’t been without trials and heartache. Her husband and grown children didn’t want anything to do with the Church, and they were opposed to Rosa’s decision to be baptized. To this day, her husband disapproves of her involvement with the Church; her children have disowned her and won’t allow her to have contact with her grandchildren.

To try to ease her heartache and sorrow, it could be natural for Rosa to turn from the Savior and His Church. But instead, Rosa says: “When Christ takes us by the hand, it is not hard. It would be hard if we were alone, but we are not alone.”

Rosa testifies that the Savior and His gospel have helped her have love and patience far beyond her own ability. Her patience, she said, is a “gift from God”—a gift of grace.

The light of the gospel shines in Rosa’s countenance and others take notice. Her nephew Yuri noticed something different about her. When he asked her what it was, she replied, “I was baptized.” He wanted the same thing to happen to him, and he went to church with her the next Sunday. That very Sunday he asked to be baptized, but was told that he had to be taught first. It wasn’t long before Yuri and his wife were baptized and confirmed members of the Church. They now have four children. At the time we were there, he was serving as the president of their branch.

Rosa finds joy in her association with Yuri and his family, who share her love for the Lord and His gospel. She carries in her heart the peace that comes from a priesthood blessing she once received in which she was told that there will be a place in heaven for her immediate family.

Sometimes our trials and worries become so overwhelming that they consume us. Our prayers seem to go unanswered. We allow doubt and fear to enter in. But fear and doubt are the opposite of faith. When we choose to live by faith, we increase in our ability to receive grace—the divine help and strength given through the mercy and love of Jesus Christ.

I bear testimony of the love of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. I bear testimony that because of Their love, we can experience the gift of grace every day—if we, like Rosa, will gratefully acknowledge it and partake of it. I am grateful that as daughters of God, we have so many opportunities to share His grace and love with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.