

Alma 59:9

- 1 It is better to prepare and prevent, than to repair and repent.
The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson [1988], 285.

Alma 59 – Conclusion

- 2 I believe that the real reason for the crisis of our time is . . . an exhaustion of the soul. This spiritual apathy is described by the word *acedia*, a word which comes from the Greek *a* (‘not’) plus *kedos* (‘care’)—hence, not caring, boredom, or apathy. . . .

But *acedia* signifies more than just spiritual laziness or even indifference. It connotes misplaced priorities, a darkening of the soul, a hatred of the good, a death of the heart. It leads to spiritual paralysis, leaving its victims ‘past feeling’ (1 Ne. 17:45).

Alexander B. Morrison, “A Caring Community: Goodness in Action”, *Ensign*, February 1999, p. 16

- 3 I don’t deny the struggle—it is the essence of Eden; but personal progress is what this life is about. We must begin at once to work our plan of life, deciding to whom and to what we will give our fullest attention, our highest loyalty, our deepest commitment.
 Elaine Cannon

President Harold B. Lee taught:

- 4 The power of Satan will increase; we see it in evidence on every hand. . . .
 Now the only safety we have as members of this Church is to do exactly what the Lord said to the Church in that day when the Church was organized. We must learn to give heed to the words and commandments that the Lord shall give through his prophet, “as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me; . . . as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith.” (D&C 21:4-5.) There will be some things that take patience and faith. You may not like what comes from the authority of the Church. It may contradict your political views. It may contradict your social views. It may interfere with some of your social life. But if you listen to these things, as if from the mouth of the Lord himself, with patience and faith, the promise is that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name’s glory.” (D&C 21:6.)
 Conference Report, Oct. 1970, 152; or *Improvement Era*, Dec. 1970, 126

