

There is another body of water found throughout the Church today. I speak of the pool of prospective elders in each ward and each stake. Picture in your mind a river of water gushing into the pool. Then consider a trickle of water emerging from that stagnated pool—a trickle which represents those going forward into the Melchizedek Priesthood. The pool of prospective elders is becoming larger and wider and deeper more rapidly than any of us can fully appreciate.

It is essential, even critical, that we study the *Aaronic Priesthood pathway*, since far too many boys falter, stumble, then fall without advancing into the quorums of the Melchizedek Priesthood, thereby eroding the active priesthood base of the Church and curtailing the activity of loving wives and precious children.

What can we as leaders do to reverse this trend? The place to begin is at the headwaters of the Aaronic Priesthood stream.

—Thomas S. Monson, “The Priesthood—Mighty Army of the Lord”
Ensign, May 1999, p. 48

Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence.

—*Doctrine & Covenants 107:99*

Duties of a Teacher

- 53 The teacher's duty is to watch over the church always, and be with and strengthen them;
- 54 And see that there is no iniquity in the church, neither hardness with each other, neither lying, backbiting, nor evil speaking;
- 55 And see that the church meet together often, and also see that all the members do their duty.
- 56 And he is to take the lead of meetings in the absence of the elder or priest—
- 57 And is to be assisted always, in all his duties in the church, by the deacons, if occasion requires.
- 58 But neither teachers nor deacons have authority to baptize, administer the sacrament, or lay on hands;
- 59 They are, however, to warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ.

—*Doctrine and Covenants 20:53-59*
