

**Raising the Bar:  
Attributes of the Stripling Warriors  
Mike Baird June 2003**

**The bar has been raised**

- Missionary service
  - Elder Ballard:  
"Please understand this: the bar that is the standard for missionary service is being raised." ("Greatest generation of Missionaries", Oct Conf 2002)
  - Elder Ballard
- Youth in general
  - Young Women
    - This applies to you
    - Substitute "Young Woman", daughter for sons in quotes and scriptures
- Parents too
  - Elder Ballard:  
"if we are "raising the bar" for your sons to serve as missionaries, that means we are also "raising the bar" for you. If we expect more of them, that means we expect more of you and your wife as well." ("Greatest generation of Missionaries", Oct Conf 2002)

**What does raising the bar really mean?**

- Elder Ballard:  
"We don't need you to just fill a position; we need your whole heart and soul. We need vibrant, thinking, passionate missionaries who know how to listen to and respond to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit. This isn't a time for spiritual weaklings. We cannot send you on a mission to be reactivated, reformed, or to receive a testimony. We just don't have time for that. We need you to be filled with "faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God" (D&C 4:5)." ("Greatest generation of Missionaries", Oct Conf 2002)
- Elder Ballard – reference to the 2000 Stripling warriors
  - Elder Ballard:  
"While we are profoundly grateful for the many members of the Church who are doing great things in the battle for truth and right, I must honestly tell you it still is not enough. We need much more help. And so, as the people of Ammon looked to their sons for reinforcement in the war against the Lamanites, we look to you, my young brethren of the Aaronic

Priesthood. We need you. Like Helaman's 2,000 stripling warriors"  
("Greatest generation of Missionaries", Oct Conf 2002)

- It is the same message as Saturday's Warriors!

### Attributes of the Stripling warriors

- (1) – Alma 53:16 (Unity)  
"did assemble themselves"
  - Don't stand alone – look at the Cooper Mountain Ward youth around you
  - Steven Ambrose – Band of Brothers
    - Trusted your buddy
- (2) – Alma 53:17 (Covenants)  
"they entered into a covenant to fight for the liberty of the Nephites"
  - Why are covenants important?
  - What covenants have you made?
  - Baptismal covenant
    - Us:
      - Always remember him
      - Take upon us the name of Christ
      - Keep his commandments
    - In return:
      - D&C 33:11
        - "Yea, repent and be baptized, every one of you, for a remission of your sins; yea, be baptized even by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost."
  - Sacrament covenant
    - renewal of baptism covenant
    - D&C 20:77
    - ". . . that they may always have his Spirit to be with them"
  - **There is spiritual power in making and keeping covenants**
- (3) – Alma 53:17 (All cases to keep their covenant)  
"they would fight in all cases to protect the Nephites "
  - Always be true no matter what the circumstance or what may be around us

- (4) – Alma 53:19 (Prophet is leader)  
"they would that Helaman should be their leader"
  - Who is your leader?
  - Has the Prophet asked us to raise the bar?
  
- (5) – Alma 53:20 (Valiant)  
"exceedingly valiant for courage"
  - What does it mean to be valiant?
  - Why do we need to have courage?
  
- (6) – Alma 53:20 (True)  
"were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted"
  - How do we be true at all times?
  - What does it mean to have integrity?
  
- (7) – Alma 53:21 (Men of truth)  
"they were men of truth and soberness"
  - Are you honest in all things?
    - Is it OK to be not honest in certain things?
  - What does it mean to be "sober"?
  
- (8) – Alma 53:21 (upright)  
"walk uprightly before him"
  - "Walking with God"
  
- (9) – Alma 57:21 (Obedient)  
"they did obey and observe to perform every word of command with exactness"
  - Note "every word"
    - We can't pick and choose
  
- (10) – Alma 57:27 (Trust in God)  
"their minds are firm, and they do put their trust in God continually"
  - What do we get from this?
  - How do we put our trust in God continually?

- (11) – Alma 58:24- (Remember God daily)  
"they are strict to remember the Lord their God from day to day"
  - How do we remember God daily?
    - Keep his commandments

Summary of attributes of Stripling warriors:

1. Unity
2. Make covenants
3. Keep covenants in all cases
4. Prophet is our leader
5. Valiant
6. Be true at all times
7. Men of truth
8. Upright
9. Obedient
10. Trust in God
11. Remember God daily