

“Education, Integrity, and Trust”

*Elder Edward Dube
Of the Seventy*

Elder Dube: Welcome to the BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional. I’m honored to share my journey of faith, education, and perseverance. As I reflect on my life, I am reminded of the wisdom in Proverbs 4:7: “And with all thy getting get understanding.”¹

Education isn’t just about academics. It’s about character, resilience, and trusting in the Lord’s plan. Jesus Christ gives us an encouraging invitation: “Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.”² Having Jesus Christ at the center of our lives is the key to our success, including in education.

Growing up in rural Zimbabwe over six decades ago (oh, I am old!), education wasn’t just a luxury, it was a rarity — especially for a kid born to peasant farmer parents in a colonial era marked by segregation. But my parents, despite their humble means, understood the transformative power of education and made it a priority.

With that introduction, I’m happy to share my story. With me, I have three students — Latham, Luyanda, and Alfred — who have questions for me today. Welcome! You can fire your questions.

Alfred Tokotsi: Thank you, Elder Dube. My name is Alfred Tokotsi, and I come from the Soweto Stake. My field of study is business management with a minor in information technology. My question for you today is: What challenges did you experience with your own education, and how did you overcome them?

Elder Dube: Alfred, as I mentioned earlier, I grew up in a humble family where education was valued but not always accessible. It was a challenge trying to balance my studies with work to support my family from a young age. But I learned from experience that with determination, integrity, and faith, opportunities can unfold.

At 16, I faced a tough choice. A steel company in Zimbabwe offered a promising job, but only employees’ children were eligible. When someone suggested I use my uncle’s surname to get hired, my father strongly advised against it, even though it was common practice. I lost the opportunity but gained a valuable lesson in integrity.

My dear young friends, be who you are. Have integrity. Throughout my life, this has come in handy and served me well. I would advise you to stay focused, seek help when needed, and trust that the Lord will provide a way.

Latham Swartz: Thank you, Elder Dube. My name is Latham Swartz, and I’m from [the] Johannesburg South Stake. My field of study is applied technology, so my question is: How has education, combined with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, helped you and your family?

Elder Dube: Latham, education and faith are intertwined for me. Four decades ago, I learned a powerful truth from the Lord that has inspired me to constantly seek knowledge. “Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, [you] have so much the advantage in the world to come.”³

This scripture motivates me to prioritize learning, knowing it will benefit me eternally. My family and I have received blessings and witnessed miracles as we have prioritized faith and education. It has changed our perspective, strengthened our relationships, and deepened our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luyanda Mavuma: Thank you, Elder Dube. My name is Luyanda Mavuma, and I'm from the Johannesburg YSA Ward, and I major in professional studies. It is hard to get a job in some parts of the world, but God has commanded us to work. He has also told us that He will help us keep the commandments that He gives us. How have you seen God's help in helping you obtain employment?

Elder Dube: Luyanda, thank you for that great question. My experience is that when we do our very best, the Lord does His. As you observe to keep the judgments and the statutes and the commandments of the Lord in all things, the Lord will be with you, and you will prosper — including finding a job!⁴

Doing your very best in order to get a job in some parts of the world may require you to work on your accent. During a summer stroll in Palmyra, New York, in 2015, a couple approached my wife Naomi and me, curious about our accent. When I shared that we were from Zimbabwe, Africa, our then-15-year-old daughter Edith corrected me: “No, daddy! We are from Sandy, Utah!” She then quipped, “Daddy, if you are going to speak English, please speak English, not Shona English.”⁵

You need to do everything possible to ensure your prospective employer can clearly understand you. Some of us from African nations may need to learn and take time to practice American or British accents to understand and be understood during the interview process.

My advice is to seek guidance, be patient, and trust that the Lord is working behind the scenes. As we keep the commandments, He will help us find success and ways to save and provide.

Luyanda Mavuma: Thank you, Elder Dube. My other question is: What was your life like before joining The Church of Jesus Christ, and how did it change after you got baptized?

Elder Dube: Luyanda, four decades ago at age 22, I found my anchor after joining The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Baptism and confirmation brought a new beginning filled with purpose and direction, transforming me from a wandering soul to someone with a clear vision centered in Jesus Christ.

Alfred Tlokotsi: Thank you, Elder Dube, for the wisdom and experience that you shared with us today. My question is: What other advice do you have for us as students?

Elder Dube: BYU-Pathway is a God-sent program. It is a game changer, offering unparalleled opportunities. Grasp it with both hands, and make the most of this incredible chance to learn and grow. Stay curious, stay humble, and stay focused on your goals. Seek knowledge, serve others, and trust in the Lord's plan.

The Lord loves you. He knows what you are becoming. I love the Lord. I know that He lives and paid the price for us all that we may have joy, peace, and success in this world and in the world to come. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

¹ [Proverbs 4:7](#)

² [Doctrine and Covenants 6:36](#)

³ [Doctrine and Covenants 130:18–19](#)

⁴ See [2 Nephi 5:10–11](#)

⁵ The Shona are the largest ethnic group in Zimbabwe, and Shona is one of the country's most widely spoken languages.