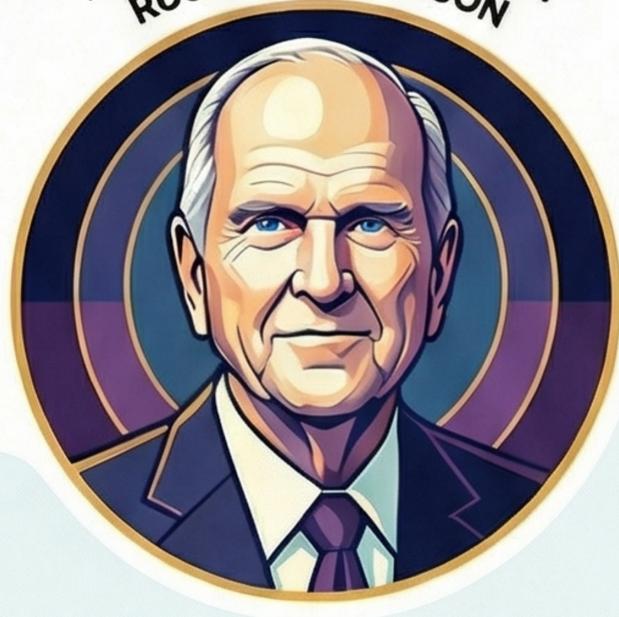


When Leaders Speak on Doubt: A Critical Look at Modern Mormon Teachings

THE PROPHET'S COUNSEL: RUSSELL M. NELSON



Analyzing recent talks by Mormon Prophet Russell M. Nelson and Church Historian Kyle S. McKay, highlighting teachings on faith and doubt viewed as manipulative, anti-intellectual, and aimed at controlling beliefs and information access.



The "Heads I Win, Tails You Lose" Fallacy

When prayer stopped rain, it was faith.

When it didn't, faith was needed to persevere.



"Lazy Learners and Lax Disciples will always struggle to muster even a particle of faith."

This dismisses doubters, contrary to studies showing they are often highly educated and engaged.



Advice: "Stop increasing your doubts by rehearsing them with other doubters."

This is a tactic to isolate members and shut down critical thinking.



THE HISTORIAN'S WARNING: KYLE S. MCKAY



Admits there are "compelling reasons to doubt" the church's claims.

His counsel is to ignore these reasons and "choose to believe," promoting willful ignorance.



"What did you think Satan would throw up? Flimsy, easily dismissable reasons to doubt? No."

This frames sincere questions as satanic attacks, using fear to manipulate members.



"Finding answers to these perplexing questions ultimately is not the solution."

This anti-intellectual stance, told to college students, is a form of explicit thought control.