



OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE · SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

Take Upon Us His Name

Elder James G. O. Fantone · General Authority Seventy

Words to remember

- *“Taking upon us His name requires a lifelong determination to serve Him.”*
- *“I testify that He lives, that this is His restored Church, and that as we lose our lives in His service, we will find Him and we will find ourselves.”*

In Elder James G. O. Fantone's own words, from the talk.

After Elder James G. O. Fantone and his wife finished serving as mission leaders in the Philippines, their youngest daughter asked to complete 11th grade through a homeschool program. Elder Fantone went to the school office to submit papers. The registrar pointed to a line and asked him to write his daughter's name and sign. His mind was elsewhere, and he confidently wrote his own name, “James [Fantone],” and signed. A few seconds later he realized his mistake. “no big deal,” he thought. His daughter's name is Amanda Fantone, so he just added “Amanda” in front of his name.

Later, in a quiet moment, a question came to him: “The question: What's in a name?” And a scripture from King Benjamin: “There shall be no other name given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent.”

He saw a contrast. The Savior's invitation isn't just to add His name to ours like a badge of religious affiliation. The Savior warned that some “[Some] draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” He invites us to take upon us His name, to become more like Him by keeping covenants. The resurrected Lord asked, “Have they not read the scriptures, which say ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name?”

How do we do that? Moroni recorded that people were baptized only if they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end. And King Benjamin gave the divine key: “When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God”

Elder Fantone grew up in a modest three-bedroom bungalow: one room for him and his brother, one for his two older sisters, and one for his parents. His mother, a public school teacher, learned that a recent graduate couldn't continue his studies because his family couldn't afford housing near the school. His parents gave him the boys' room. Another time, the Relief Society president spoke of a vulnerable family whose children needed a safe place, and his parents opened the girls' room to some

of those children. Elder Fantone said that if Joseph had knocked on their door in Bethlehem looking for a place for Mary, his parents would have gladly given up their own room.

President Marion G. Romney taught, “Service is not something we endure on this earth so we can earn the right to live in the celestial kingdom. Service is the very fiber of which an exalted life in the celestial kingdom is made”

As a mission president, Elder Fantone often had new missionaries sit in his office in tears: “President, I am so sad, lonely, and homesick. The days feel so long and time is so slow; I don’t even know if I can last for three more months.” Yet they knelt, put on their name tags, and served anyway. A year later the same missionaries said, “President, I am so happy! I love the people, and I love this work. But time is moving too fast—I don’t want this to end!” Did time change? “Time did not change—the missionaries did. The work did not change—the workers did.” When we take Christ’s name by losing ourselves in serving others, we experience a mighty change of heart.

King Benjamin asked, “For how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?” Elder Fantone testified that as we lose our lives in His service, we will find him and we will find ourselves.

Scripture to look up: 3 Nephi 27:5. The Savior taught that we must take upon us the name of Christ, by covenant and a lifelong determination to serve.

Let’s talk about it

What did this talk teach us about the Savior? What is one small thing our family can do this week?

Kid-friendly summary in our own words · Read or watch the full talk: [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/44fantone](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/44fantone)