

# THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

## Growing Up

As a young mother, I remember that my children didn't always react well when new ideas or new situations were introduced to them. For example, "giving up the bottle" wasn't easy.

The experience of giving up one thing and moving on to another can be unsettling, to adults as well as children. It often evokes feelings of anger, frustration, and fear. Consequently, we try very hard to keep the status quo, often preferring things to remain unchanged, rather than having to deal with new people, new places, or new ideas. There's even a physical law that relates to this emotional one: A body at rest tends to remain at rest, and a body in motion tends to remain in motion.

Even so, we seem to have to go through the process of change time and time again:

The child must leave the security of home to attend kindergarten.

The teenager leaves the security of childhood to become a young adult.

The young adult leaves the security of school and home to make his way  
in the world.

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Even though stability is eventually reestablished, the passage from security into insecurity is almost always viewed as something that will never end. For some reason, this experience distorts our perception of time as we journey through life. Again and again, the child-within asks “Are we there yet?”

*“It’s like this,”*

says Our Father in Heaven;

*“A ray of light travels out from the sun. It has to travel through the darkness of space before it encounters a planet...and, there, the essence of its being causes things to grow.”*

We are like those rays of light. We practice traveling across the darkness of space every time we leave the security of one home on route to another. We are practicing to be like the Light of God; and, by the Grace of God, He is helping us to make things grow.

(July 11, 1994)