Katy 1st Ward Spiritual Message #64

It seems each conference there is one or two things that are said that keep going over and over in my mind. Often I type them out and put them on my mirror next to my computer in my office. Here are some examples from recent past conferences:

"A distraction doesn't have to be evil to be effective"
(Bradley D. Foster April 2010)

"Stay on the Covenant Path"
(President Nelson Jan 2018)

"We can rationalize all we want, but there is not a right way to do a wrong thing"
(Becky Craven April 2019

I remember years ago Elder Packer gave a talk about starving deer. I was amazed to hear Elder Owen repeat that story again in this conference because I had forgotten about it. But I was especially amazed at how he tied it to youth who leave the church.

Here is the story he told if you have not read it or heard it before:

"Years ago, President Boyd K. Packer told of a herd of deer that, because of heavy snowfall, was trapped outside its natural habitat and faced possible starvation. Some well-meaning people, in an effort to save the deer, dumped truckloads of hay around the area—it wasn't what deer would normally eat, but they hoped it would at least get the deer through the winter. Sadly, most of the deer were later found dead. They had eaten the hay, but it did not nourish them, and they starved to death with their stomachs full. …..It is possible for young people to be raised in a Latter-day Saint home, attend all the right Church meetings and classes, even participate in ordinances in the temple, and then walk away "into forbidden paths and [become] lost."5 Why does this happen? In many cases it is because, while they may have been going through the motions of spirituality, they were not truly converted. They were fed but not nourished."
Elder Stephen W. Owen
Young Men General President
Oct 2019 General Conference

So now I have another one on my mirror:

"They starved to death with their stomachs full"
(Elder Owen quoting Elder Packer)

Brother Vail