

## **The Church of the Firstborn, Calling and Election Made Sure, the Second Comforter**

I will be going over in this paper The Church of the Firstborn, Calling and Election Made Sure, the Second Comforter.

But before going over any of these, members need to understand this:

President Joseph Fielding Smith taught, “Our right to guidance from Holy Ghost. We have the right to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, but we cannot have that guidance, if we wilfully refuse to consider the revelations that have been given to help us to understand and to guide us in the light and truth of the everlasting gospel. We cannot hope to have that guidance when we refuse to consider these great revelations which mean so much to us both temporally and spiritually.

Now if we find ourselves in this condition of unbelief or unwillingness to seek for the light and the knowledge which the Lord has placed within our reach, then we are liable or in danger of being deceived by evil spirits, the doctrines of devils, and the teachings of men. And when these false influences are presented before us, we will not have the distinguishing understanding by which we can segregate them and know that they are not of the Lord. And so we may become prey unto the ungodly, to the vicious, to the cunning, to the craftiness of men.” (Doctrines of Salvation, p.43)

There are those that do just this. They don't read the revelations that have been given to us, they do not read the Book of Mormon, they do not read the Doctrine and Covenants, they do not read the teachings of the prophet Joseph Smith etc. They then go online, and listen to individuals who proceed to share with them their opinions, hearsay, rumors, etc. These members then claim by the power of the Holy Ghost that what they heard in the form of opinions, hearsay, rumors etc is true. President Joseph Fielding Smith clearly said of such, because you haven't focused on the revelations and put in the work that you are supposed to, you don't even qualify for the Holy Ghost.

With that said, be careful where you place your testimony and/or understanding of key doctrinal points- they should be coming primarily from the keys and the closer the keys are to Joseph Smith the better.

Let's begin.

### **The Church of the Firstborn**

#### **The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.12)**

##### **Every Man an Agent for Himself**

Every man lives for himself. Adam was made to open the way of the world, and for dressing the garden. Noah was born to save seed of everything, when the earth was washed of its wickedness by the flood; and the Son of God came into the world to redeem it from the fall. But except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. This eternal truth settles the question of all men's religion. A man may be saved, after the judgment, in the terrestrial kingdom, or in the

telestial kingdom, but he can never see the celestial kingdom of God, without being born of water and the Spirit. He may receive a glory like unto the moon, [i.e., of which the light of the moon is typical], or a star, [i.e., of which the light of the stars is typical], but he can never come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, unless he becomes as a little child, and is taught by the Spirit of God.

### **The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.320)**

#### **The Prophet's Remarks at the Funeral of Judge Higbee**

Had I inspiration, revelation, and lungs to communicate what my soul has contemplated in times past, there is not a soul in this congregation but would go to their homes and shut their mouths in everlasting silence on religion till they had learned something.

Why be so certain that you comprehend the things of God, when all things with you are so uncertain. You are welcome to all the knowledge and intelligence I can impart to you. I do not grudge the world all the religion they have got: they are welcome to all the knowledge they possess.

The sound saluted my ears--"Ye are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant" (Hebrew 12:22, 23, 24). What would it profit us to come unto the spirits of the just men, but to learn and come up to the standard of their knowledge?

### **New Testament Student Manual: Revelation 7:4–8. The Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand**

In Doctrine and Covenants 77:11 the Lord explained to Joseph Smith that **the number** 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7:4–8 is **the number** of representatives out of the twelve tribes of Israel who **will be** ordained to assist others in their quest for exaltation (see the commentary for Revelation 14:1–5). It is not, as some people believe, the total number of people who will be exalted. "The church of the Firstborn" refers to those who will be exalted and become joint-heirs with Jesus Christ (D&C 77:11). Members of the Lord's earthly Church—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—who live righteously and receive the ordinances of exaltation will become members of the Lord's heavenly Church—the Church of the Firstborn (see D&C 93:20–22).

#### **D&C 93:20-22**

20 For if you keep my commandments you shall receive of his fulness, and be glorified in me as I am in the Father; therefore, I say unto you, you shall receive grace for grace.

21 And now, verily I say unto you, I was in the beginning with the Father, and am the Firstborn;

22 And all those who are begotten through me are partakers of the glory of the same, and are the church of the Firstborn.

**Ergo: The Church of the Firstborn are all those who have their name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, they are all those who will be exalted in the highest degree of the Celestial Kingdom, or in the words of the Savior, "receive the fulness of the Father." The differences between the 144,000 and the Church of the Firstborn are laid out here. The 144,000 are a part of the Church of the Firstborn, but all members of the Church of the Firstborn are not part of the 144,000 (see my breakdown of the 144,000 in my Ten Tribes paper.) The doctrine of knowledge obtained being a prerequisite for the Church of the Firstborn is set forth. For those who have gone through the temple such knowledge should be self-evident.**

### **The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.63)**

#### **They Who Endure to the End**

And what shall others receive who do not labor faithfully, and continue to the end? We leave such to search out their own promises if any they have; and if they have any they are welcome to them, on our part, for the Lord says that every man is to receive according to his works. Reflect for a moment, brethren, and enquire, whether you would consider yourselves worthy a seat at the marriage feast with Paul and others like him, if you had been unfaithful? Had you not fought the good fight, and kept the faith, could you expect to receive? Have you a promise of receiving a crown of righteousness from the hand of the Lord, with the Church of the Firstborn? Here then, we understand, that Paul rested his hope in Christ, because he had kept the faith, and loved His appearing and from His hand he had a promise of receiving a crown of righteousness.

### **The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.237)**

#### **Highest Order of Priesthood Revealed**

Wednesday, 4.--I spent the day in the upper part of the store, that is in my private office \* \* \* in council with General James Adams, of Springfield, Patriarch Hyrum Smith, Bishops Newel K. Whitney and George Miller, and President Brigham Young and Elders Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards, instructing them in the principles and order of the Priesthood, attending to washings, anointings, endowments and the communication of keys pertaining to the Aaronic Priesthood, and so on to the highest order of the Melchizedek Priesthood, setting forth the order pertaining to the Ancient of Days, and all those plans and principles by which any one is enabled to secure the fullness of those blessing which have been prepared for the Church of the Firstborn, and come up and abide in the presence of the Eloheim in the eternal worlds. In this council was instituted the ancient order of things for the first time in these last days. And the communications I made to this council were of things spiritual, and to be received only by the spiritual minded: and there was nothing made known to these men but what will be made known to all the Saints of the last days, so soon as they are prepared to receive, and a proper place is prepared to communicate them, even to the weakest of the Saints; therefore let the Saints be diligent in building the Temple, and all houses which they have been, or shall hereafter be, commanded of

God to build; and wait their time with patience in all meekness, faith, perseverance unto the end, knowing assuredly that all these things referred to in this council are always governed by the principle of revelation. (May 4, 1842.) DHC 5:1-2

**President Joseph Fielding Smith (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2, p.7-9)**

ETERNAL LIFE IS GOD'S LIFE.

One more thought. I want to read you a verse or two from the 17th chapter of John: "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal," now here you get it, "this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

No man who does not receive the privilege of entering the celestial kingdom and coming face to face with the Father will be able to know what eternal life is, for he cannot know the Father unless he sees him and dwells with him, and partakes of the same life which the Father possesses for that is eternal life.

ETERNAL LIFE AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT COMPARED.

Now, again, my mind is called to another thought I do not want to lose before I close. In the 19th section of the Doctrine and Covenants we read of endless punishment. You know the idea of eternal punishment, endless punishment, had troubled the world; and because the scriptures speak of endless punishment and eternal punishment, men have stood before congregations of the people and said unto them, "If you don't repent, if you don't believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you shall be damned eternally; you shall go into a lake of fire and brimstone where you will be ever burning but never consumed"; and thus they tortured the minds of the people by teaching unto them such doctrine as that. The Lord has revealed unto us what is meant by eternal punishment, for he says: "For, behold, the mystery of godliness, how great is it! For, behold, I am endless, and the punishment which is given from my hand is endless punishment, for Endless is my name. Wherefore —

"Eternal punishment is God's punishment.

"Endless punishment is God's punishment. "

That is why it is called endless. Therefore, I say to you, eternal life is God's life; it is the life which he has, that which he possesses. Therefore, if he gives unto you that life which he has, you have eternal life, and you will not get it if you do not prove yourself worthy to enter into his presence. Now, that is the gospel of Jesus Christ, that is the great plan of salvation.

ETERNAL LIFE IS EXALTATION.

Now there is a difference between immortality and eternal life. Immortality is the gift to live forever. It comes to every creature. Eternal life is to have the kind of life that God has. All those

who become servants will have immortality, but they who become sons and daughters of God will have the additional gift of eternal life, which is the greatest gift of God.

Eternal life is life in the presence of the Father and the Son. Those who receive it become members of the "Church of the Firstborn" and are heirs as sons and daughters of God. They receive the fulness of blessings. They become like the Father and the Son and are joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.

What is eternal life? It is to have a continuation of the seeds forever and ever." No one receives eternal life except those who receive the exaltation. Eternal life is the greatest gift of God; immortality is not. The Lord says: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Everlasting life in this passage is the same as eternal life.

**President Joseph Fielding Smith (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2, p.40-41)**

**ENDOWMENT AND SEALING PRECEDE SONSHIP.**

The Lord has given unto us privileges, and blessings, and the opportunity of entering into covenants, of accepting ordinances that pertain to our salvation beyond what is preached in the world; beyond the principles of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance from sin, and baptism for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost; and these principles and covenants are received nowhere else but in the temple of God.

If you would become a son or a daughter of God and an heir of the kingdom, then you must go to the house of the Lord and receive blessings which there can be obtained and which cannot be obtained elsewhere; and you must keep those commandments and those covenants to the end. . . .

The ordinances of the temple, the endowment and sealings, pertain to exaltation in the celestial kingdom, where the sons and daughters are. The sons and daughters are not outside in some other kingdom. The sons and daughters go into the house, belong to the household, have access to the home. "In my Father's house are many mansions." Sons and daughters have access to the home where he dwells, and you cannot receive that access until you go to the temple. Why? Because you must receive certain key words as well as make covenants by which you are able to enter. If you try to get into the house, and the door is locked, how are you going to enter, if you haven't your key? You get your key in the temple, which will admit you.

I picked up a key on the street one day, and took it home, and it opened every door in my house. You cannot find a key on the street, for that key is never lost that will open the door that enters into our Father's mansions. You have got to go where the key is given. And each can obtain the key, if you will; but after receiving it, you may lose it, by having it taken away from you again, unless you abide by the agreement which you entered into when you went to the house of the Lord.

**ALL MEN TO BE EITHER SERVANTS OR SONS.**

You know what it says about servants in the scriptures. Those who become servants are those who are not willing to receive these blessings in the house of the Lord and abide in them. They

are not sons; they are not daughters. They are children of God, it is true, for all men are his children. But they do not inherit, and therefore they remain servants throughout eternity, because they were not willing to receive that which they might have received, and the gift which was bestowed upon them or offered to them. They not only rejected the gift, but also the Giver of the gift. There will be a great many servants, but there will not be many heirs, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

**Ergo: Enduring to the end is a huge determiner of the Church of the Firstborn admittance. The doctrine of obtaining the highest order of priesthood and sealing oneself to the breath of lives for a continuation of the seed is set forth as prerequisites for membership in the Church of the Firstborn (see my *Celestial Law* and *The Second Chance Theory* papers). A line of connection established all the way to Adam is also set forth as part of the Church of the Firstborn's structure. So basically it is one family tree. Differences between immortality and eternal life/exaltation is set forth- everyone born will be resurrected and made immortal while only those who have complied with the requirements will be given exaltation/membership in the Church of the Firstborn. It's important to understand that only members of the Church of the Firstborn are noted as being present in Revelation 7 (and remember that the 144,000 are members of the Church of the Firstborn) and the prerequisite for membership in the Church of the Firstborn includes celestial marriage, is it any wonder that in that day "seven women will cling to one man"? All those who desire to be at the event (Revelation 7, Daniel 7 etc) must be members of the Church of the Firstborn. Therefore, they are not virgins and they are all sealed.**

**President Joseph Fielding Smith (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2, p.41-45)**

THE CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN

EXALTED BEINGS BELONG TO CHURCH OF FIRSTBORN.

Those who gain exaltation in the celestial kingdom are those who are members of the Church of the Firstborn; in other words, those who keep all the commandments of the Lord. 41.19 There will be many who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who shall never become members of the Church of the Firstborn.

The higher ordinances in the temple of God pertain to exaltation in the celestial kingdom. . . . In order to receive this blessing, one must keep the full law, must abide the law by which that kingdom is governed; for, "He who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory."

So being ordained an elder, or a high priest, or an apostle, or even President of the Church, is not the thing that brings the exaltation, but obedience to the laws and the ordinances and the covenants required of those who desire to become members of the Church of the Firstborn, as these are administered in the house of the Lord. To become a member of the Church of the Firstborn, as I understand it, is to become one of the inner circle. We are all members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by being baptized and confirmed, and there are many who seem to be content to remain such without obtaining the privileges of exaltation.

## HOW TO JOIN CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN.

The Lord has made it possible for us to become members of the Church of the Firstborn, by receiving the blessings of the house of the Lord and overcoming all things. Thus we become heirs, "priests and kings, who have received of his fulness, and of his glory," who shall "dwell in the presence of God and his Christ forever and ever," with full exaltation. Are such blessings worth having?

I have said that only one man at a time on the earth holds the keys of this sealing power of the priesthood, but he may, and does, delegate power to others, and they officiate under his

direction in the temples of the Lord. No man can officiate in these sealing ordinances until he receives the authority to do so by being set apart by the one who holds the keys, notwithstanding he may hold the priesthood. All the authority exercised in the temples is then, after all, the authority centered in one man. He has the power and calls upon others to officiate, and they seal upon us the keys and powers which, through our obedience, entitle us to become sons and daughters and members of the Church of the Firstborn, receiving all things in the kingdom. This is what we can get in the temple, so that we become members of the family, sons and daughters of God, not servants.

## THE PATH TO EXALTATION

EXALTATION OFFERED TO ALL. The Lord does not desire that the people should suffer. He is pained when a man does wrong and needs to be punished and fails to receive the crown or reward that is offered to those who are faithful and true. The Lord would have every man receive a crown, every man become exalted, every man become a son, and every woman become a daughter unto him. But this cannot be done, except on principles of righteousness and free agency.

Therefore, every soul has the right to choose for himself that which he will do. This is the gospel of merit. Every man shall receive that which he is entitled to receive. Every soul shall be blessed according to the diligence, willingness, and integrity put forth in the service of the Lord. The man who will not keep his commandments, the Lord will not exalt. The woman who rejects the light and refuses to abide by the doctrines of our Redeemer shall not be exalted. Those who will be exalted shall be crowned with glory, immortality, and eternal life in the presence of our Father.

In order to obtain the exaltation we must accept the gospel and all its covenants; and take upon us the obligations which the Lord has offered; and walk in the light and the understanding of the truth; and "live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God."

## CELESTIAL MARRIAGE ESSENTIAL TO EXALTATION.

Another thing that we must not forget in this great plan of redemption and exaltation, is that a man must have a wife, and a woman a husband, to receive the fulness of exaltation. They must be sealed for time and for all eternity in a temple; then their union will last forever, and they cannot be separated because God has joined them together, as he taught the Pharisees.

Parents will have eternal claim upon their posterity and will have the gift of eternal increase, if they obtain the exaltation. This is the crowning glory in the kingdom of God, and they will have no end. When the Lord says they will have no end, he means that all who attain to this glory will have the blessing of the continuation of the "seeds" forever. Those who fail to obtain this blessing come to the "deaths," which means that they will have no increase, forever. All who obtain this exaltation will have the privilege of completing the full measure of their existence, and they will have a posterity that will be as innumerable as the stars of heaven.

If you want salvation in the fullest, that is exaltation in the kingdom of God, so that you may become his sons and his daughters, you have got to go into the temple of the Lord and receive these holy ordinances which belong to that house, which cannot be had elsewhere. No man shall receive the fulness of eternity, of exaltation, alone; no woman shall receive that blessing alone; but man and wife, when they receive the sealing power in the temple of the Lord, if they thereafter keep all the commandments, shall pass on to exaltation, and shall continue and become like the Lord. And that is the destiny of men; that is what the Lord desires for his children.

**ONLY EXALTED BEINGS GAIN FULNESS OF FATHER.** No man can obtain that exaltation without receiving the covenants that belong to the priesthood. No woman can obtain this great honor and glory without receiving the blessings of faith, repentance and baptism, confirmation, and obedience to the covenants that are promised her and her husband in the temple of the Lord. Otherwise, there would be no progress, that is, to the fulness.

No man who is not willing to continue, even though he be a member of the Church, in receiving these covenants, and taking upon him these blessings and powers which the Lord has offered unto him by covenant, will ever reach the fulness. All such will be barred. There will come a certain place which they cannot pass. The fulness of knowledge, and understanding, and wisdom, by which men may become perfect even as God is perfect, can only be gained by a strict adherence to those eternal laws upon which this great blessing is based.

We fall short through lack of faithfulness if we refuse to receive covenants and take upon ourselves obligations that pertain to the exaltation. There will be a bar that will prevent us from continuing to that fulness.

**Elder Bruce R. McConkie (Mormon Doctrine, p.131)**

### **Church of the Firstborn**

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who so devote themselves to righteousness that they receive the higher ordinances of exaltation become members of the Church of the Firstborn. Baptism is the gate to the Church itself, but celestial marriage is the gate to membership in the Church of the Firstborn, the inner circle of faithful saints who are heirs of exaltation and the fulness of the Father's kingdom. (D. &C. 76:54, 67, 71, 94,102; 77:11; 78:21; 88:1-5; Heb. 12:23.) The Church of the Firstborn is made up of the sons of God, those who have been adopted into the family of the Lord, those who are destined to be joint-heirs with Christ in receiving all that the Father hath. "If you keep my commandments you shall receive of his fulness, and be glorified in me as I am in the Father; . . . And all those who are begotten through



me are partakers of the glory of the same, and are the church of the Firstborn." (D. & C. 93:20-22; Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2, pp. 9; 41-43.)

**Ergo: I believe Elder Bruce R. McConkie and President Joseph Fielding Smith summarize what the Church of the Firstborn is, how one enters into it, what are the requirements one must maintain, etc perfectly in line with the doctrine that has been revealed. Those who are not sealed as a couple are not members of the Church of the Firstborn and thus being sealed is clearly set forth as a prerequisite for the Second Comforter which we will discuss later.**

## **Calling and Election Made Sure**

### **Bible Dictionary**

#### **Election**

The concept held by many that God unconditionally elected some to be saved and some to be damned without any effort, action, or choice on their part is not correct, for the scriptures teach that it is only by faith and obedience that one's calling and election is made sure (2 Pet. 1; D&C 131:5). See also Abraham, covenant of.

#### **Elder Bruce R. McConkie (Mormon Doctrine, p.200-201)**

Actually, if the full blessings of salvation are to follow, the doctrine of election must operate twice. First, righteous spirits are elected or chosen to come to mortality as heirs of special blessings. Then, they must be called and elected again in this life, an occurrence which takes place when they join the true Church. (D. & C. 53:1.) Finally, in order to reap eternal salvation, they must press forward in obedient devotion to the truth until they make their "calling and election sure" (2 Pet. I), that is, are "sealed up unto eternal life." (D. & C. 131 :5.)

#### **The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.149)**

#### **Doctrines of Resurrection and Election**

The Doctrines of the Resurrection of the Dead and the Eternal Judgment are necessary to preach among the first principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Doctrine of Election. Peter exhorts us to make our calling and election sure. This is the sealing power spoken of by Paul in other places.

"13. In whom ye also trusted, that after ye heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

"14. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory, that we may be sealed up unto the day of redemption."--Ephesians, 1st chapter.

This principle ought (in its proper place) to be taught, for God hath not revealed anything to Joseph, but what He will make known unto the Twelve, and even the least Saint may know all

things as fast as he is able to bear them, for the day must come when no man need say to his neighbor, Know ye that Lord; for all shall know Him (who remain) from the least to the greatest. How is this to be done? It is to be done by this sealing power, and the other Comforter spoken of, which will be manifest by revelation.

**President Joseph Fielding Smith (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2, p.46-47)**

**MAKING OUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE.**

Those who press forward in righteousness, living by every word of revealed truth, have power to make their calling and election sure. They receive the more sure word of prophecy and know by revelation and the authority of the priesthood that they are sealed up unto eternal life. They are sealed up against all manner of sin and blasphemy except the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost and the shedding of innocent blood. But the mere fact of being married for time and eternity in the temple, standing alone, does not give them this guarantee. Blessings pronounced upon couples in connection with celestial marriage are conditioned upon the subsequent faithfulness of the participating parties.

Peter tells how the saints may make their calling and election sure in these words: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. . . .

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts."

**The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.298)**

**Calling and Election**

Now, there is some grand secret here, and keys to unlock the subject. Notwithstanding the apostle exhorts them to add to their faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, etc., yet he exhorts them to make their calling and election sure. And though they had heard an audible voice from heaven bearing testimony that Jesus was the Son of God, yet he says we have a more sure word

of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed as unto a light shining in a dark place. Now, wherein could they have a more sure word of prophecy than to hear the voice of God saying, This is my beloved Son.

Now for the secret and grand key. Though they might hear the voice of God and know that Jesus was the Son of God, this would be no evidence that their election and calling was made sure, that they had part with Christ, and were joint heir with him. They then would want that more sure word of prophecy, that they were sealed in the heavens and had the promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God. Then, having this promise sealed unto them, it was an anchor to the soul, sure and steadfast. Though the thunders might roll and lightnings flash, and earthquakes bellow, and war gather thick around, yet this hope and knowledge would support the soul in every hour of trial, trouble and tribulation. Then knowledge through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the grand key that unlocks the glories and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

Compare this principle once with Christendom at the present day, and where are they, with all their boasted religion, piety and sacredness while at the same time they are crying out against prophets, apostles, angels, revelations, prophesying and visions, etc. Why, they are just ripening for the damnation of hell. They will be damned, for they reject the most glorious principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and treat with disdain and trample under foot the key that unlocks the heavens and puts in our possession the glories of the celestial world. Yes, I say, such will be damned, with all their professed godliness. Then I would exhort you to go on and continue to call upon God until you make your calling and election surer for yourselves, by obtaining this more sure word of prophecy, and wait patiently for the promise until you obtain it, etc.

### **The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 305-306)**

#### **Calling and Election to Be Made Sure**

Contend earnestly for the like precious faith with the Apostle Peter, "and add to your faith virtue," knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity; "for if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Another point, after having all these qualifications, he lays this injunction upon the people "to make your calling and election sure." He is emphatic upon this subject--after adding all this virtue, knowledge, etc., "Make your calling and election sure." What is the secret--the starting point? "According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness." How did he obtain all things? Through the knowledge of Him who hath called him. There could not anything be given, pertaining to life and godliness, without knowledge. Woe! woe! woe to Christendom!--especially the divines and priests if this be true.

Salvation is for a man to be saved from all his enemies; for until a man can triumph over death, he is not saved. A knowledge of the priesthood alone will do this.

#### **The Devil's Punishment**

We have no claim in our eternal compact, in relation to eternal things, unless our actions and contracts and all things tend to this. But after all this, you have got to make your calling and

election sure. If this injunction would lie largely on those to whom it was spoken, how much more those of the present generation!

1st key: Knowledge is the power of salvation. 2nd key: Make your calling and election sure. 3rd key: It is one thing to be on the mount and hear the excellent voice, etc., and another to hear the voice declare to you, You have a part and lot in that kingdom. (May 21, 1843.) DHC 5:401-403.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 131:1-6**

1 In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;

2 And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];

3 And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.

4 He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase.

5 (May 17th, 1843.) The more sure word of prophecy means a man's knowing that he is sealed up unto eternal life, by revelation and the spirit of prophecy, through the power of the Holy Priesthood.

6 It is impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance.

### **Elder Bruce R. McConkie (Mormon Doctrine, p.111)**

Making one's calling and election sure is in addition to celestial marriage and results from undeviating and perfect devotion to the cause of righteousness. Those married in the temple can never under any circumstances gain exaltation unless they keep the commandments of God and abide in the covenant of marriage which they have taken upon themselves.

### **Elder Bruce R. McConkie (Mormon Doctrine, p.332)**

Even if a person progresses to that state of near-perfection in which his calling and election is made sure, in which he is "sealed up unto eternal life" (D. & C. 131 :5; 132:18-26), in which he receives "the promise ... of eternal life" (D. & C. 88:3-4), in which he is "sealed up unto the day of redemption" (D. & C. 124: 124; Eph. I: 13)-yet with it all, these great promises are secured only if the "performances" are sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise.

**Ergo: Being sealed is not enough, but it is set forth as a requirement for having one's calling and election made sure as it is a requirement for the highest degree of the celestial kingdom. Revelation is given to us via the Holy Ghost, and the revelation that we are hitherto seeking is that after we have fulfilled all of the requirements for exaltation, we seek for the Holy Spirit of Promise to validate and approve of our actions, which is our calling and election made sure. We will not obtain the Holy Spirit Promise, sealing our actions via revelation to us, until we have perfected ourselves in Christ as described by Peter and fulfilled all of the requirements of exaltation. Knowledge is set forth once again as a requirement, so what one believes matters so much as the knowledge that one possesses (or the lack of knowledge one possesses) directly feeds into having one's calling and election**

made sure. For a more in depth breakdown of this perfecting and choice making process, see my *Agency in Progression* series.

**The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 321)**

**Covenants of the Fathers Revealed**

Four destroying angels holding power over the four quarters of the earth until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads, which signifies sealing the blessing upon their heads, meaning the everlasting covenant, thereby making their calling and election made sure. When a seal is put upon the father and mother, it secures their posterity, so that they cannot be lost, but will be saved by virtue of the covenant of their father and mother.

**The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 338)**

**Sealing on Earth and in Heaven**

Let us suppose a case. Suppose the great God who dwells in heaven should reveal himself to Father Cutler here, by the opening heavens, and tell him, I offer up a decree that whatsoever you seal on earth with your decree, I will seal it in heaven; you have the power then; can it be taken off? No. Then what you seal on earth, by the keys of Elijah, is sealed in heaven; and this is the power of Elijah, and this is the difference between the spirit and power of Elias and Elijah; for while the spirit of Elias is a forerunner, the power of Elijah is sufficient to make our calling and election sure; and the same doctrine, where we are exhorted to go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, &c.

**Ergo: Once again the spirit of Elias, the lesser ordinances of the kingdom, are not sufficient to make one's calling and election made sure; the spirit of Elijah, the sealing power and keys of the temple are required to make one's calling and election made sure. Once again, simply being sealed in the temple isn't enough, one must press forward until they obtain the more sure word of prophecy, the Holy Spirit of Promise, sealing them via revelation. Revelation can flow through any of the authorized channels of keys with this information.**

**The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 366)**

**Salvation for the Dead**

I am going on in my progress for eternal life. It is not only necessary that you should be baptized for your dead, but you will have to go through all the ordinances for them, the same as you have gone through to save yourselves. There will be 144,000 saviors on Mount Zion, and with them an innumerable host that no man can number. Oh! I beseech you to go forward, go forward and make your calling and your election sure; and if any man preach any other Gospel than that which I have preached, he shall be cursed; and some of you who now hear me shall see it, and know that I testify the truth concerning them.

**Ergo: The 144,000 is a specific number that man very much could number. It is a specific number. Both the 144,000 as well as all members of the Church of the Firstborn have had their calling and election made sure.**

**The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.322)**

The sacrifice required of Abraham in the offering up of Isaac, shows that if a man would attain to the keys of the kingdom of an endless life; he must sacrifice all things

**The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 150)**

After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost, (by the laying on of hands), ...then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted.

When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure...

**The Prophet Joseph Smith (Lectures on Faith 6:7)**

Let us here observe, that a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation; for, from the first existence of man, the faith necessary unto the enjoyment of life and salvation never could be obtained without the sacrifice of all earthly things. It was through this sacrifice, and this only, that God has ordained that men should enjoy eternal life; and it is through the medium of the sacrifice of all earthly things that men do actually know that they are doing the things that are well pleasing in the sight of God. When a man has offered in sacrifice all that he has for the truth's sake, not even withholding his life, and believing before God that he has been called to make this sacrifice because he seeks to do his will, he does know, most assuredly, that God does and will accept his sacrifice and offering, and that he has not, nor will not seek his face in vain. Under these circumstances, then, he can obtain the faith necessary for him to lay hold on eternal life.

**Doctrine and Covenants 101:4-5**

4 Therefore, they must needs be chastened and tried, even as Abraham, who was commanded to offer up his only son.

5 For all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me, cannot be sanctified.

**Ergo: The requirements for “being proved in all things” to have one’s calling and election made sure is set forth.**

**The Second Comforter**

**The Prophet Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 150)**

**The Second Comforter**

The other Comforter spoken of is a subject of great interest, and perhaps understood by few of this generation. After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost, (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter, ... [after one makes their calling and election made sure], **then** it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter, which the Lord hath promised the Saints, as is recorded in the testimony of St. John, in the 14th chapter, from the 12th to the 27th verses.

Note the 16, 17, 18, 21, 23 verses:

"16. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

"17. Even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

"18. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.\* \*

"21. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

"23. If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

Now what is this other Comforter? It is no more nor less than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself; and this is the sum and substance of the whole matter; that when any man obtains this last Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time, and even He will manifest the Father unto him, and they will take up their abode with him, and the visions of the heavens will be opened unto him, and the Lord will teach him face to face, and he may have a perfect knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God; and this is the state and place the ancient Saints arrived at when they had such glorious visions--Isaiah, Ezekiel, John upon the Isle of Patmos, St. Paul in the three heavens, and all the Saints who held communion with the general assembly and Church of the Firstborn.

**President Joseph Fielding Smith (Doctrines of Salvation, volume 1, p.55)**

If a man gets knowledge enough to have the companionship of the Son of God, the chances are his call and election would be sure.

The Holy Spirit of Promise is not the Second Comforter.

**Ergo: The Second Comforter is in addition to the first Comforter, in addition to having one's calling and election made sure, it is in addition to the Holy Spirit of Promise; it is our Savior Jesus Christ.**

**There is only one thing left that we have to button down, which is "when does the actual acceleration of your judgement come?" Does it occur at having one's calling and election made sure or at the events of receiving the Second Comforter? This is hard to narrow in on because there are only a few people modernly who have attempted to talk on this subject- Elder Bruce R. McConkie and President Joseph Fielding Smith being two such people,**

both of which did not differentiate that much between the two because both viewed the two as happening in close enough proximity that differentiating was not deemed necessary. However, we do know of such individuals such as Heber C. Kimball who had his calling and election made sure clearly before having the Second Comforter. I believe the key to unlocking this is to understand two things: 1. If the judgment is to be accelerated, then all aspects of judgement need to be fulfilled, ergo, we need to understand what takes place at the judgment. 2. We need to understand what Joseph Smith taught takes place during calling and election made sure vs. the events of the Second Comforter. If we understand what takes place at the judgment and we understand what Joseph taught takes place when ones' calling and election is made sure vs. what happens at the Second Comforter, we will be able to clearly identify where the acceleration of judgment actually takes place.

The most concrete scriptures detailing the judgment are as follows:

**D&C 45:3-6**

- 3 Listen to him who is the advocate with the Father, who is pleading your cause before him—
- 4 Saying: Father, behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself might be glorified;
- 5 Wherefore, Father, spare these my brethren that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have everlasting life.
- 6 Hearken, O ye people of my church, and ye elders listen together, and hear my voice while it is called today, and harden not your hearts;

**So what takes place at the judgment of the righteous?**

- 1. God is there
- 2. Christ is there
- 3. We are there

That is the actual judgment. It is why we call the Savior “our advocate with the Father”, it is why it is called “the atonement.”

**So what happens at each step?**

**Do This:**

**Get This:**

Keep our first estate	Given the Light of Christ when born
Heeding the Light of Christ	Given further light and truth and be led to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Have faith in Jesus Christ, repent, baptized	Given gift of the Holy Ghost



Heeding the Holy Ghost	Given further light and truth and be led to the temple
A temple recommend, washings, anointings	Gives you the endowment
Sealed to companion in temple	Given the promise that if you remain faithful you will receive the fulness of the Father
Perfect yourself and are thoroughly proved	Your Calling and Election is made sure through revelation given by the Holy Spirit of Promise
Continue on path and wait patiently	The Second Comforter

The quote that we need to focus in on here is Joseph Smith saying “[after one makes their calling and election sure] *then* it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter...[who is] no more nor less than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself... and even He will manifest the Father unto him, and they will take up their abode with him.”

What is that describing? When does D&C 45:3-6 take place? When does the Son mediate between the individual and the Father?

Based off of the knowledge of what takes place at the judgment and based off of Joseph Smith’s teaching of what takes place at when one’s calling and election is made sure vs. the events tied to the Second Comforter, I believe that one can safely conclude that the in actual fact acceleration of judgment does not occur until the Second Comforter or until we are brought back to the presence of the Father by the power of the Son.

In conclusion, it is also important to note that individuals can see angels, Jesus Christ, etc, in some form but that is not synonymous with having one’s calling and election made sure and the receipt of the Second Comforter. There is a different between the calling of prophets and the starting of dispensations and having one receive the Second Comforter. The purpose of the visit needs to be taken into consideration.

If you are curious still about the process of the Second Comforter, may I suggest reading the story of the apostles in the Ancient Americas when Christ was with them after His resurrection.

Brothers and Sisters, may we press forward with faith and increase line upon line, precept upon precept with the goal of “the kingdom of God or nothing!” We can perfect ourselves to a degree, line upon line, precept upon precept, until we are able and worthy to have these blessings. Tribulations, tests, Abrahamic sacrifices, etc, are all growing experiences, they are all difficult, but when understood in their proper context which is to “purify us as silver” and to get us to the point in time where we can receive these blessings, it will allow us to pass through them in love and patience.

God bless, God speed, keep the faith, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

### **Other References**

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