

**Ryan and Kelly Thoughts:** When we were studying last week we came across several scriptures and sections of Teachings of the Prophet of Joseph Smith regarding revelation, the Holy Ghost, Gifts of the Holy Ghost, and distinguishing between true revelations and false revelation. For us it seems like the world is becoming more and more harsh and the attacks on the Fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are brutal. There are days when we feel like we have been caught in the whirlwind of the adversary and we see casualties in our wards and neighbors. We have felt the need to cry out in prayer for our family, friends and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints all the time. We long for New Jerusalem and wanted to have a fireside that builds upon the common desire to become more Christ-Like every day until we are in the New Jerusalem. We picked the quotes for this fireside and pray that you can follow the commitments contained in this fireside.

### **1. Gifts of the Spirit (p.243)**

“We believe in the gift of the Holy Ghost being enjoyed now, as much as it was in the Apostles' days; we believe that it [the gift of the Holy Ghost] is necessary to make and to organize the Priesthood, that no man can be called to fill any office in the ministry without it; we also believe in prophecy, in tongues, in visions, and in revelations, in gifts, and in healings; and that these things cannot be enjoyed without the gift of the Holy Ghost. We believe that the Holy Ghost, and that holy men in these days speak by the same principle; we believe in its being a comforter and a witness bearer, that it brings things past to our remembrance, leads us into all truth, and shows us of things to come; we believe that "no man can know that Jesus is the Christ, but by the Holy Ghost." We believe in it [this gift of the Holy Ghost] in all its fullness, and power, and greatness, and glory; but whilst we do this, we believe in it rationally, consistently, and scripturally, and not according to the wild vagaries, foolish notions and traditions of men.”

Ryan and Kelly Thoughts: In all of these quotes we found there to be an example of gifts of the Spirit from God and those led by some other source. In this paper we have highlighted the qualities or definitions of one group in yellow and the contrasted group in green.

The first thing that stood out to us in this quote is the importance of the principle of organization in the Priesthood. This is so critical to understand! All Priesthood Power is organized and follows the revelations that have been revealed.

Why is it so important to have those who are officiating to understand the role of the Holy Ghost? Holy Ghost in organization and Priesthood as described in Doctrine and Covenants (**to make and to organize the Priesthood**)

### **Doctrine and Covenants 107:10, 30-31**

10 High priests after the order of the Melchizedek Priesthood have a **right to officiate** in their own standing, under the direction of the presidency, in administering spiritual things, and also in the office of an elder, priest (of the Levitical order), teacher, deacon, and member.

Spiritual Gifts

30 The decisions of these quorums, or either of them, are to be made in all righteousness, in holiness, and lowliness of heart, meekness and long-suffering, and in faith, and virtue, and knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity;

31 Because the promise is, if these things abound in them they shall not be unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord.

In verses 30 and 31, we are commanded to develop the characteristics highlighted in yellow. We are also given a promise that if those characteristics are present in us that we will not be unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord.

## **2 Peter 1:5–8**

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 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.

What does it mean to be fruitful in the knowledge of the Lord?

Can we follow celestial law and join those in New Jerusalem or Zion without knowledge of the Lord?

As we go through this list you might be prompted to look at your spiritual journey and life. We encourage you to pay close attention to the promptings of the Spirit and identify which characteristics does the Lord need you to develop.

- ... I pray that these qualities and attributes of the Savior may abound in us so that when we stand at the Judgment and He asks each one of us, “What manner of man are you?” we can raise our heads in gratitude and joy and answer, “Even as thou art.”

We know that as you prayerfully approach the Lord, He will provide an answer to what characteristics you should dedicate time . We know that by consecrating all parts of your life to develop more like Christ you will be blessed. Will you do everything possible to have more of Christ’s characteristics in your life? Will you give away any parts of your life to become more like Christ? We know that as you diligently become more like Christ you will come to a greater knowledge of the Lord.

**Lindley’s Thoughts:** The first example I wanted to start out with from the scriptures is in Luke chapter 9.

Luke 9:49 ¶ And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us.

50 And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us

I want to emphasize the difference between those who have the light of Christ and those who have the gift of the Holy Ghost. As Christ pointed out these groups are on the same team. All of us start out with the light of Christ and all good things come from Him. But there is order to God's house and more gifts to be given.

Moroni 10:8 And again, I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God. And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God who worketh all in all; and they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit of God unto men, to profit them.

9 For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom;

10 And to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

11 And to another, exceedingly great faith; and to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

12 And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles;

13 And again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things;

14 And again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits;

15 And again, to another, all kinds of tongues;

16 And again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues.

17 And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ; and they come unto every man severally, according as he will.

18 And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that every good gift cometh of Christ.

19 And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men.

One of the great truths we have been given by the prophet Joseph is the reminder that God is the same for us as he is with others, yesterday today and forever.

Micah Thoughts: The very first things I would say is that if I had said this and didn't immediately say "that was a quote from Joseph Smith Jr" they would be lighting their hair on fire and exclaiming, "Oh! This is why I can't stand Micah, why does he have to use this tone?" Half the time I'm afraid that people are okay with Joseph's tone (and those of the early brethren) because they don't understand what's being said! But what scares me even more is a growing number of people who understand what is being said and say things like "Yeah, and I don't like them either! I wouldn't have joined the Church in the 1830s, 40s, 50s etc." I would add my testimony to that of Joseph's here that one has to gain this knowledge through the revelations set forth by the Priesthood and its keys (first order) and not by the vagaries of men with their spirit-o-meters. A lot of people in the Church today view the Holy Ghost exactly like Presbyterians and

the dogmas of the Christian world. Members either A) spend too much time listening to Christian radio stations or/and B) are converts that haven't shed the false traditions of their childhood.

"In God's eternal plan, salvation is an individual matter; exaltation is a family matter." (President Nelson, April 2008)

Many people tie the Holy Ghost to exaltation and use it to mean "salvation and exaltation is entirely between me, the Holy Spirit and the Lord." They don't understand the difference between salvation and exaltation.

### **Moses 4:22**

22 In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children, and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

President Boyd K. Packer described that identifying mark of the true Church this way: "Revelation continues in the Church: the prophet receiving it for the Church; the president for his stake, his mission, or his quorum; the bishop for his ward; the father for his family; the individual for himself." (Boyd K. Packer, "We Believe All That God Has Revealed," Ensign, May 1974, 95.)

The temple video used to say that women should hearken unto their husbands as their husbands hearken to the Lord, I was personally sad when this was removed because it taught a divine truth that is sorely needing to be taught to the membership of the Church regarding the Holy Ghost, the setting up of the Priesthood keys etc.

### **D&C 45:3-5**

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.

Salvation is an individual matter, exaltation is a family matter. We cannot be made perfect without our ancestors nor they without us. The family is to hearken unto the father as the father hearkens to his father and as he hearkens to his bishop and as he hearkens to the prophet etc etc. Lower keys cannot overrule higher keys. This was a huge part of the fireside last week as well as my talk breakdown I published the same Sunday, I Love to See the Temple. A lot of people want to view exaltation as a million different strings connecting a million different people directly back to the Father, whereas the truth of the matter is that exaltation in the eternities acts more like a Ponzi scheme but in this case "there is no end to matter, there is no end to space." There is no skip go and collect \$200, there is no go directly back to God and obtain everything He has... We learn to be like God by living in a family and we take that family and all the families connected to us to Christ and then Christ adopts us into His family and then Christ grafts us in

with the Father. If it was “every man for himself” with no divine structure or order it would be chaos, it would be madness, literally the opposite of how God describes where He lives- which is a place of order, a place of laws etc.

## **2. False Spirits in the Church (p.213)**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has also had its false spirits; and as it is made up of all those different sects professing every variety of opinion, and having been under the influence of so many kinds of spirits, it is not to be wondered at if there should be found among us false spirits.

Soon after the Gospel was established in Kirtland, and during the absence of the authorities of the Church, many false spirits were introduced, many strange visions were seen, and wild, enthusiastic notions were entertained; men ran out of doors under the influence of this spirit, and some of them got upon the stumps of trees and shouted, and all kinds of extravagances were entered into by them; one man pursued a ball that he said he saw flying in the air, until he came to a precipice, when he jumped into the top of a tree, which saved his life; and many ridiculous things were entered into, calculated to bring disgrace upon the Church of God, to cause the Spirit of God to be withdrawn, and to uproot and destroy those glorious principles which had been developed for the salvation of the human family. But when the authorities returned, the spirit was made manifest, those members that were exercised with it were tried for their fellowship, and those that would not repent and forsake it were cut off.

At a subsequent period a Shaker spirit was on the point of being introduced, and at another time the Methodist and Presbyterian falling down power, but the spirit was rebuked and put down, and those who would not submit to rule and good order were disfellowshipped. We have also had brethren and sisters who have had the gift of tongues falsely; they would speak in a muttering, unnatural voice, and their bodies be distorted like the Irvingites before alluded to; whereas, there is nothing unnatural in the Spirit of God. A circumstance of this kind took place in Upper Canada, but was rebuked by the presiding Elder; another, a woman near the same place, professed to have the discerning spirits, and began to accuse another sister of things that she was not guilty of, which she said she knew was so by the spirit, but was afterwards proven to be false; she placed herself in the capacity of the "accuser of the brethren," and no person through the discerning of spirits can bring a charge against another, they must be proven guilty by positive evidence, or they stand clear.

There have also been ministering angels in the Church which were of Satan appearing as an angel of light. A sister in the state of New York had a vision, who said it was told her that if she would go to a certain place in the woods, and angel would appear to her. She went at the appointed time, and saw a glorious personage descending, arrayed in white, with sandy colored hair; he commenced and told her to fear God, and said that her husband was called to do great things, but that he must not go more than one hundred miles from home, or he would not return; whereas God had called him to go to the ends of the earth, and he has since been more than one thousand miles from home, and is yet alive. Many true things were spoken by this personage, and many things that were false. How, it may be asked, was this known to be a bad angel? By the

color of his hair; that is one of the signs that he can be known by, and by his contradicting a former revelation.

We have also had brethren and sisters who have written revelations, and who have started forward to lead this Church. Such was a young boy in Kirtland, Isaac Russell, of Missouri, and Gladden Bishop, and Oliver Olney of Nauvoo. The boy is now living with his parents who have submitted to the laws of the Church. Mr. Russell stayed in Far West, from whence he was to go to the Rocky Mountains, led by three Nephites; but the Nephites never came, and his friends forsook him, all but some of the blood relations, who have since been nearly destroyed by the mob. Mr. Bishop was tried by the High Council, his papers examined, condemned and burned, and he cut off the Church. He acknowledged the justice of the decision, and said "that he now saw his error, for if he had been governed by the revelations given before, he might have known that no man was to write revelations for the Church, but Joseph Smith," and begged to be prayed for, and forgiven by the brethren. Mr. Olney has also been tried by the High Council and disfellowshipped, because he would not have his writings tested by the word of God; evidently proving that he loves darkness rather than light, because his deeds are evil.

Ryan and Kelly Thoughts: The first section was very focused on the Holy Ghost and gifts of the Spirit. In this section we are cautioned about false spirits or false revelation. We have found Satan is attacking the Gospel of Jesus Christ and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. We need to be aware of how to quickly identify an attack from the adversary. In this section the Prophet Joseph Smith gave us several keys to know a revelation is wrong

Keys to identifying false revelations:

- 1) Satan can appear as an angel of light. a. This means that an appearance can be deceiving, for example wolves in sheeps clothing. Also, the Lord testifies in our heart and mind so it will never be just the appearance of light.
- 2) Many true things were spoken by this personage, and many things that were false. a. The Lord and the Holy Ghost testify of truth with concerts of clarity. We must know the scriptures and what has been revealed to notice truth mixed with lies. b. Is this one of the reasons that President Nelson is begging us to Hear Him!
- 3) By contradicting a former revelation. a. We will never receive an angel of light or revelation that goes against the Scriptures or Prophets and Apostles. We are not that special. :)

“The contention in heaven was—Jesus said there would be certain souls that would not be saved; and the devil said he could save them all, and laid his plans before the grand council, who gave their vote in favor of Jesus Christ. So the devil rose up in rebellion against God, and was cast down, with all who put up their heads for him.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith [Deseret Book Co., 1968], p. 357.)

Satan attempts and goals are always to take us farther away from the Light and Truth.  
ALWAYS!

- 1) Deceive
- 2) Blind
- 3) Lead them captive
- 4) Those who would not hearken unto the voice of the Lord

“What of those who will see the Lord reign in the Millennium? Who are those Saints who have developed Christ’s characteristics and follow true revelations? Will you and your family be ready temporally and spiritually?”

President Nelson: “Are you willing to let God prevail in your life? Are you willing to let God be the most important influence in your life?”

“When your greatest desire is to let God prevail, to be part of Israel, so many decisions become easier. So many issues become nonissues! You know how best to groom yourself. You know what to watch and read, where to spend your time, and with whom to associate. You know what you want to accomplish. You know the kind of person you really want to become.”

Examples of steps for Letting God prevail:

- 1) Am I being deceived by one of Satan's tactics?
  - i. Does the revelation contain truth and lies?
  - ii. Does it generate the appearance of God but go against previous revelations?
  - iii. Am I spiritually blind or hard of heart to Hearing him?
  - iv. Am I hearkening unto the voice of the Lord by following the revelation?
  - v. Am I choosing to let God prevail over my pride (or knowledge, opinion)?
  - vi. Does this revelation increase my capacity to be filled with the gifts of the Spirit?
    1. All righteousness, in holiness, and lowliness of heart, meekness and long-suffering, and in faith, and virtue, and knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity

Are you willing to meek as a child to all that God commands including President Nelson? If you immediately answered something other than yes, be very careful. We don’t know what you are resisting and not following with the meekness of a child but you do and more importantly Your Heavenly Father does.

We know that as you ask the Lord to Prevail in your life, decisions will become easier because the Lord’s will becomes the full desire of your heart. We know that as you set aside yourself and become a new creature in Christ, you will know when you are being deceived. We know that one of the hardest things to pray is “Lord, is it I that will betray you”?

Will you pray and ponder your meekness to the Lord and the counsel of his Prophet President Nelson?

We know that as you approach the Lord in mighty prayer, He will reveal His love to you and change your heart to desire Israel.

**Lindey's Thoughts:** The problem with Satan is that he's old and smart and he gains our trust before he pulls the rug out from under us.

### **Moses 5:12-14**

12 And Adam and Eve blessed the name of God, and they made all things known unto their sons and their daughters.

13 And Satan came among them, saying: I am also a son of God; and he commanded them, saying: Believe it not; and they believed it not, and they loved Satan more than God. And men began from that time forth to be carnal, sensual, and devilish.

14 And the Lord God called upon men by the Holy Ghost everywhere and commanded them that they should repent;

In the talk "The Great Imitator" President Faust said

"I think we will witness increasing evidence of Satan's power as the kingdom of God grows stronger. I believe Satan's ever-expanding efforts are some proof of the truthfulness of this work. In the future the opposition will be both more subtle and more open. It will be masked in greater sophistication and cunning, but it will also be more blatant. We will need greater spirituality to perceive all of the forms of evil and greater strength to resist it."

**Micah's Thoughts:** After reading Kelly and Ryan's comments there isn't really anything I want to add and what little I'd want to add I will probably said while reading the quote.

### **3. The Kingdom and Its Fruits (p.274)**

There is a difference between the kingdom of God and the fruits and blessings that flow from the kingdom; because there were more miracles, gifts, visions, healings, tongues, &c., in the days of Jesus Christ and His apostles, and on the day of Pentecost, than under John's administration, it does not prove by any means that John had not the kingdom of God, any more than it would that a woman had not a milkpan because she had not a pan of milk, for while the pan might be compared to the kingdom, the milk might be compared to the blessings of the kingdom.

John was a priest after the order of Aaron, and had the keys of that priesthood, and came forth preaching repentance and baptism for the remission of sins, but at the same time cries out, "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose," and Christ came according to the words of John, and He was greater than John, because He held the keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood and kingdom of God, and had before revealed the priesthood of Moses, yet Christ was baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness; and Jesus in His teachings says, "Upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." What rock? Revelation.

Again he says, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God;" and, "heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." If a man is born of water and of the Spirit, he can get into the kingdom of God. It is evident the kingdom of God was on the earth, and John prepared subjects for the kingdom, by preaching the Gospel to them and baptizing them, and he prepared the way before the Savior, or came as a forerunner, and prepared subjects for the preaching of Christ; and Christ preached through Jerusalem on the same ground where John had preached; and when the apostles were raised up, they worked in Jerusalem, and Jesus commanded them to tarry there until they were endowed with power from on high. Had they not work to do in Jerusalem? They did work, and prepared a people for the Pentecost. The kingdom of God was with them before the day of Pentecost, as well as afterwards; and it was also with John, and he preached the same Gospel and baptism that Jesus and the apostles preached after him. The endowment was to prepare the disciples for their missions unto the world.

Ryan and Kelly Thoughts: What are the **fruits (faith)** of those who have the keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood?

### **JST, Genesis 14:26–36**

26 Now Melchizedek was a man of faith, who wrought righteousness; and when a child he feared God, and **stopped the mouths of lions, and quenched the violence of fire.**

30 For God having sworn unto Enoch and unto his seed with an oath by himself; that every one being ordained after this order and calling should have power, by faith, **to break mountains, to divide the seas, to dry up waters, to turn them out of their course;**

31 **To put at defiance the armies of nations, to divide the earth, to break every band, to stand in the presence of God; to do all things according to his will, according to his command, subdue principalities and powers; and this by the will of the Son of God which was from before the foundation of the world.**

Examples of those **lacking faith (fruit)**?

### **Ether 12: 5- 8**

5 And it came to pass that Ether did prophesy great and marvelous things unto the people, which they did not believe, **because they saw them not.**

### **Alma 13:3–4**

4 And thus they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, **while others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds,** while, if it had not been for this they might have had as great privilege as their brethren.

### **Ether 15:19**

19 But behold, the Spirit of the Lord had ceased striving with them, **and Satan had full power over the hearts of the people; for they were given up unto the hardness of their hearts, and the blindness of their minds** that they might be destroyed; wherefore they went again to battle.

## Doctrine and Covenants 78:10

10 Otherwise Satan seeketh to turn **their hearts away from the truth**, that they **become blinded** and **understand not the things** which are prepared for them.

## Doctrine and Covenants 84: 54-59

54 And your minds in times past have **been darkened because of unbelief**, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received—

55 Which **vanity and unbelief have brought the whole church** under condemnation.

56 And this **condemnation** resteth upon the children of Zion, even all.

57 And they shall remain under this condemnation **until they repent** and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written—

58 That **they may bring forth fruit** meet for their Father's kingdom; **otherwise there remaineth scourge and judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion**

59 For shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.

**Lindley's Thoughts:** I don't find myself complimenting Satan very often but I will give him credit for being a hard worker. While we are just walking up he's hitting his stride. When I think about the state of the so called active members of the church and how many we have lost in just the last few years to ordain the women, the false narratives being taught about church history, gay pride, let alone how many just find it easier to not to after picking up more lazy habits during covid, I start to wonder how we come out of this at all. I know we haven't even passed the will you do what the prophet urges you to do test even if it goes against your personal views. Let alone the much harder Abrahamic test that's coming.

President Faust continued in his talk to remind us that we can and do have the power to combat Satan. He said

"We of this church are the possessors and custodians of these commanding powers which can and do roll back much of the power of Satan on the earth. We believe that we hold these mighty forces in trust for all who have died, for all who are now living, and for the yet unborn."

If by our fruits they can tell the difference between a servant of God or a servant of Satan, I would ask you to think about what fruit you personally have produced.. Not what calling or tool you have been given. No body will care you stood by in the vineyard or that you were given 5 baskets to fill instead of one or if you brought the best tool for picking grapes, if at the end of the day all you did was stand there when your shiny new tool and your baskets are empty.

At the beginning of the summer I was reminded that I need to sharpen my own sword and remember the book of Mormon as one way we can prepare for the second coming of our Savior and he'll turn the tide of this ongoing battle. I've been reading every morning with my kids and

looking for parallel between the events in the lives of the nephites and lamanites and the events that will and are proceeding the second coming of our Lord. The prophets have told us we are living in the last days and the evidence is apparent. What a blessing the book of Mormon is to us and our children. If you have somehow gotten out of the habit or know someone who isn't reading it daily. I urge you to pick it up and rededicate your life to living by it's precepts. I know that as we put more effort into reading it and sharing it with others we will be prepared to do that which only faithful members holding the Gift of the Holy Ghost can and will do. That we will rend the veil of unbelief, we will have the faith as the brother of Jared we will be Co-workers with the angels and we will prepare the world for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Micah's Thoughts: The only thing I want to add here is:

Moroni 7:25-38

25 Wherefore, by the ministering of angels, and by every word which proceeded forth out of the mouth of God, men began to exercise faith in Christ; and thus by faith, they did lay hold upon every good thing; and thus it was until the coming of Christ.

26 And after that he came men also were saved by faith in his name; and by faith, they become the sons of God. And as surely as Christ liveth he spake these words unto our fathers, saying: Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold, it shall be done unto you.

27 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, have miracles ceased because Christ hath ascended into heaven, and hath sat down on the right hand of God, to claim of the Father his rights of mercy which he hath upon the children of men?

28 For he hath answered the ends of the law, and he claimeth all those who have faith in him; and they who have faith in him will cleave unto every good thing; wherefore he advocateth the cause of the children of men; and he dwelleth eternally in the heavens.

29 And because he hath done this, my beloved brethren, have miracles ceased? Behold I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men.

30 For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness.

31 And the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance, and to fulfil and to do the work of the covenants of the Father, which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him.

32 And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men.

33 And Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me.

34 And he hath said: Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved.

35 And now, my beloved brethren, if this be the case that these things are true which I have spoken unto you, and God will show unto you, with power and great glory at the last day, that they are true, and if they are true has the day of miracles ceased?

36 Or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? Or has he withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? Or will he, so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved?

37 Behold I say unto you, Nay; for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; wherefore, if these things have ceased wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain.

38 For no man can be saved, according to the words of Christ, save they shall have faith in his name; wherefore, if these things have ceased, then has faith ceased also; and awful is the state of man, for they are as though there had been no redemption made.

Many get upset at the milkpan for not having milk in it and then when the pan says it is your job to put milk in me they become wroth and declare that the milkpan is a fallen milkpan, but in here note the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a true milkpan, the only true and living milkpan and it is our job to put milk in it. And when the milkpan tells us that we are lazy learners and lax disciples and as such we will never fill the pan with milk many become wroth and declare the milkpan to be fallen

#### **4. The Second Comforter (p.150)**

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, 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, 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.

Ryan and Kelly Thoughts: In this section we wanted to focus on

- 1) Hungering and thirsting after righteousness,
- 2) living by every word of God,
- 3) the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted.

“... after any portion of the human family are made acquainted with the important fact that there is a God, who has created and does uphold all things, the extent of their knowledge respecting his character and glory will depend upon their diligence and faithfulness in seeking after him, until, like Enoch, the brother of Jared, and Moses, they shall obtain faith in God, and power with him to behold him face to face.” (Lectures on Faith, no. 2, N. B. Lundwall, compiler and publisher, p. 23.)

### **Doctrine and Covenants 88:63**

63 Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

We know that by hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God that the Lord will soon say unto you, Son, thou shalt be exalted.

Will you hunger and thirst after righteousness? Will you live by every word of God?

We know that at times you can feel alone, an outcast, or rejected by others but as you seek after righteousness and live by the word of God you will be exalted.

## **Lindey's Thoughts:**

### **2 Nephi 32:2-6**

2 Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost?

3 Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.

4 Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.

5 For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do.

6 Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and there will be no more doctrine given until after he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh. And when he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh, the things which he shall say unto you shall ye observe to do.

I know that some people have seen the Lord face to face, and have received this witness. I don't expect him to show up in my bedroom but I do expect him to return to his temple, to Zion, to the isles of the sea and then to the whole earth in glory and power. I'm working on being prepared to meet him whether it's today tomorrow or after I'm dead. It used to strike me as odd that Ammon said he was planning on dwelling among the Lamanites for a time yea and perhaps until the day I die.(Alma 17:23) but as I read it the last time I felt a stronger desire to be like Ammon and be a better missionary not just for a time yea perhaps until the day I die.

## **Micah's Thoughts:**

- Zion or Bust- not just a catch phrase
- What are you willing to give?
- 10 jumping jacks once again
- First law of heaven is obedience

### **5. Calling and Election (p.298)**

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.

#### Ryan and Kelly Thoughts: **President Benson (Do Not Despair, October 1974)**

“Therefore, what manner of men ought ye to be?” asked the Master, and he answered, “Verily I say unto you, even as I am.” (3 Ne. 27:27.) Now there is a lifetime goal—to walk in his steps, to perfect ourselves in every virtue as he has done, to seek his face, and to work to make our calling and election sure. Yes, life is a test; it is a probation; and perhaps being away from our heavenly home we feel sometimes, as holy men in the past have felt, that “they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” (See D&C 45:13.)

In 2019, I had been struggling with a severe illness for the past few years. This experience brought me to despair on my knees to the point I felt my family would be better off without me. I learned that a General Authority was coming to speak at a special session in our area. He invited all those who were encountering discouragement, trials, and tribulations to attend. He spoke of his blessing to be an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. Near the end of the session, he rose and gave a blessing unto all and testified that Jesus Christ was our Savior and He was the Redeemer of the World. I do not remember the words that were spoken after that, I only remember the Apostle saying “Jesus will heal your hearts this evening”.

At that moment, I felt years of pain, sorrow, and depression leave and I started to cry uncontrollably. The Holy Ghost testified to me that I was Healed, that I had passed my trial of the past few years. As we sang the closing hymn, my eternal companion sat beside me and cried the same tears of joy.

We knew at that moment that Jesus Christ was our Saviour, that The Apostle had granted a blessing and we were healed from pain and sorrow. We did not see Jesus Christ that day, but every part of my soul testified He was as real that day as anything else. We know beyond a

shadow of a doubt that He Lives, President Nelson is his prophet, and the Second Coming of the Lord draws near.

In his holy name, Amen

**Lindley's Thoughts:** I want to close with Alma's hope for his brethren the hope for us all

And now, my brethren, I wish from the inmost part of my heart, yea, with great anxiety even unto pain, that ye would hearken unto my words, and cast off your sins, and not procrastinate the day of your repentance;

28 But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name, and watch and pray continually, that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long-suffering;

29 Having faith on the Lord; having a hope that ye shall receive eternal life; having the love of God always in your hearts, that ye may be lifted up at the last day and enter into his

**Micah's Thoughts:**

“Those members of the Church who devote themselves wholly to righteousness, living by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God, make their calling and election sure. That is, they receive the more sure word of prophecy, which means that the Lord seals their exaltation upon them while they are yet in this life” -Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, 109

Making our calling and election sure is an important quest of mortal life.

1. The elect of God are those who hear His voice and obey Him (see D&C 29:7).
2. To make our calling and election sure requires diligence and effort in developing godlike attributes (see 2 Peter 1:10–12; Mosiah 5:15; 2 Timothy 4:7–8).
3. While many are called of God to receive His blessings, comparatively few become worthy of them (see Luke 13:23–24; Matthew 22:11–14; D&C 121:34–40).
4. We are free to choose for ourselves (see 2 Nephi 2:27; 10:23; Helaman 14:30).

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/doctrines-of-the-gospel-student-manual/19-eternal-life?lang=eng&para=p34#p34>

Bear testimony and commit