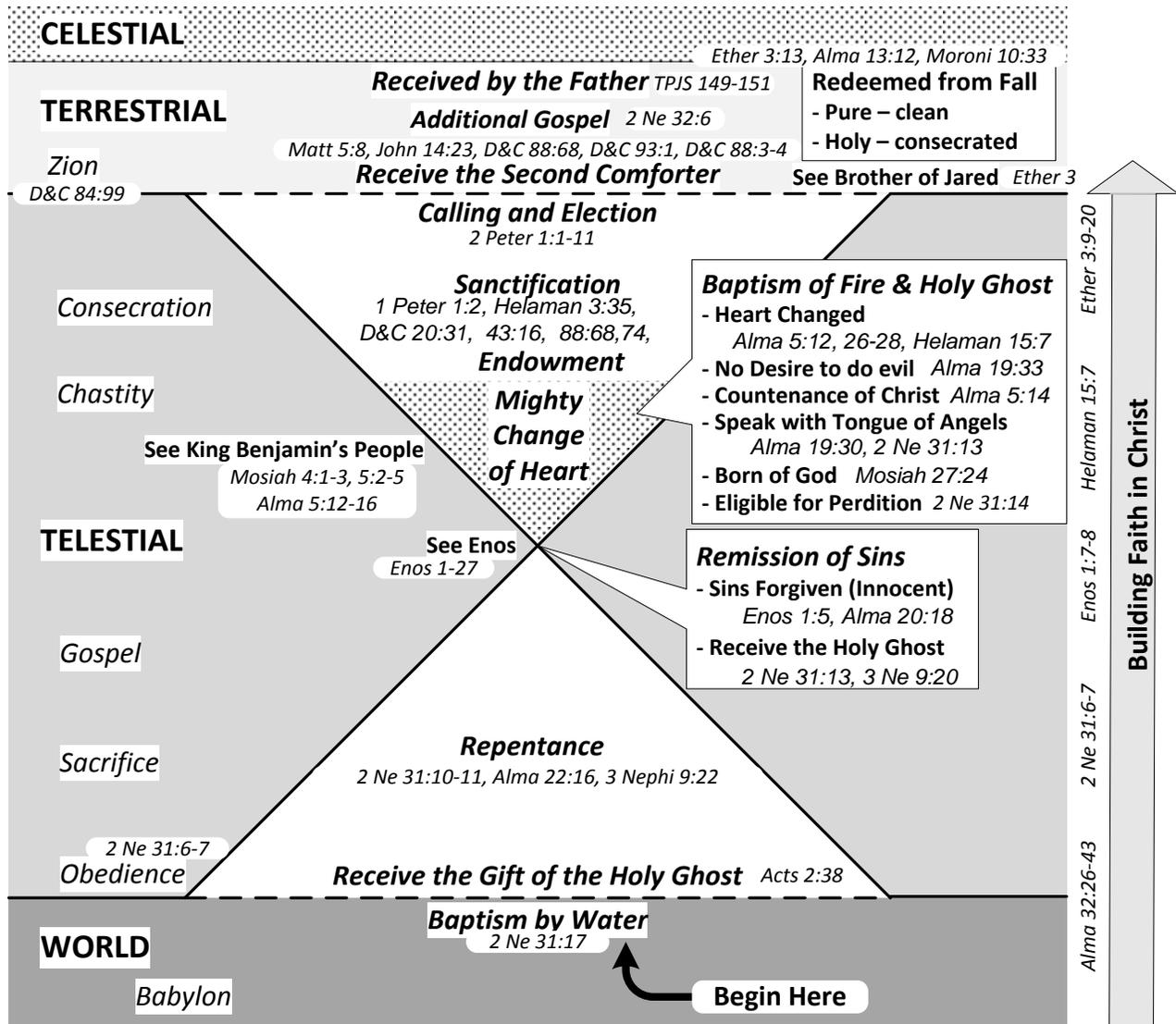


Strait and Narrow Way

Matt 7:14



Also known as the Doctrine of Christ

2 Ne 31-32

Roald E. Peterson, Jr. 22 Feb 2015

Path to Exaltation

- Discipleship saves us, not membership
- Spiritual change, not just ordinances

Changes We Must Make

- Take upon ourselves the name of Christ
- Repent of our sins
- Become innocent (without guilt)
- Experience mighty change of heart (born again)
- Have no desire to do evil
- Become obedient and follow Christ in all things
- Become pure
- Become Holy (Consecrated)
- Look upon sin with abhorrence
- Take upon ourselves the countenance of Christ

Tools of Change

- Atonement - Our sins have already been paid for – but we must exercise sufficient faith in Christ.
- Scriptures - Teach us how to become like Christ and come unto him. Especially the Book of Mormon.
- Living Prophets - Teach us and exercise keys of salvation and exaltation in our behalf.
- Priesthood - Ordinances enable us and teach us godliness. Practice godliness by acting in his name.
- Holy Ghost - Lead us to Christ, sanctify us, give us spiritual gifts necessary to make this journey.

- Temples - Ordinances & learn mysteries of godliness.
- Prayer - Communicate with our creator.

Remember Straight vs. Strait

Doctrine of Christ

... For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost. And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; ... (2 Nephi 31:17-18)



Enter the Gate

... Father said: Repent ye, repent ye, and be baptized in the name of my Beloved Son.

... the voice of the Son came unto me, saying: He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do. (2 Nephi 31:11-12)

Receiving the Holy Ghost

... if ye shall follow the Son, with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism ... then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel. (2 Nephi 31:13)

Remission of Sins – Enos

I, Enos, ... will tell you of the wrestle which I had before God, before I received a remission of my sins.

Behold, I went to hunt beasts in the forests; and the words which I had often heard my father speak concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints, sunk deep into my heart.

And my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication for mine own soul; and all the day long did I cry unto him; yea, and when the night came I did still raise my voice high that it reached the heavens.

And there came a voice unto me, saying: Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed. (Enos 1:1-5)

And I, Enos, knew that God could not lie; wherefore, my guilt was swept away.

And I said: Lord, how is it done?

And he said unto me: Because of thy faith in Christ ... wherefore, go to, thy faith hath made thee whole.

... when I had heard these words I began to feel a desire for the welfare of my brethren, the Nephites; wherefore, I did pour out my whole soul unto God for them.

... my faith began to be unshaken in the Lord; and I prayed unto him with many long strugglings for my brethren, the Lamanites. (Enos 1:6-11)

Lamoni Becomes Innocent

Now the father of Lamoni commanded him that he should slay Ammon ... But Lamoni said unto him: I will not slay Ammon ... when his father had heard these words, he was angry with him, and he drew his sword that he might smite [Lamoni] to the earth. But Ammon ... said unto him: Behold, thou shalt not slay thy son; nevertheless, it were better that he should fall than thee, for behold, he has repented of his sins; but if thou shouldst fall at this time, in thine anger, thy soul could not be saved. And ... if thou shouldst slay thy son, he being an innocent man, his blood would cry ... to the Lord his God, for vengeance to come upon thee; and perhaps thou wouldst lose thy soul. (Alma 20:14-18)

Spiritual Rebirth & Mighty Change

... I ask of you, my brethren of the church, have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts?

Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you? Do you look forward with an eye of faith, and view this mortal body raised in immortality ... to stand before God to be judged ... can you imagine ... that ye hear the voice of the Lord, saying ... Come unto me ye blessed, ... your works have been the works of righteousness (Alma 5:14-16)

King Benjamin & Mighty Change

- Mighty change follows the reception of the Holy Ghost, which follows the remission of sins

- King Benjamin’s speech (Mosiah 1-5)
- His people gathered to the temple with their families
- He spoke to them of Christ
- Benjamin = “son of the right hand” (title for Christ)
- All except little children received a remission of their sins and experienced the mighty change of heart

King Benjamin’s People

... when king Benjamin [finished] speaking ... the multitude ... had fallen to the earth, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them. And they had viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth. And they all cried aloud ... O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified; for we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth, and all things ... And ... the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy, having received a remission of their sins, and having peace of conscience, because of the exceeding faith which they had in Jesus Christ ... (Mosiah 4:1–3)

we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us; and also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually ... And we ... have great views of that which is to come; and were it expedient, we could prophesy of all things.

And it is ... faith ... that has brought us to this great knowledge, whereby we do rejoice with such exceedingly great joy.

And we are willing to enter into a covenant with our God to do his will, and to be obedient to his commandments in all things that he shall command us, all the remainder of our days ... (Mosiah 5:2–5)

And now, because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters; for behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name;

therefore, ye are born of him and have become his sons and his daughters.

And under this head ye are made free, ... therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives. (**Mosiah 5:7–8**)

Eligible to Fall to Perdition After Change

But, behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying: After ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and can speak with a new tongue, yea, even with the tongue of angels, and after this should deny me, it would have been better for you that ye had not known me. (2 Nephi 31:14)

Doctrine of Christ Continues

... after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask if all is done? ... Nay ... ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, ... Ye shall have eternal life ... this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved ... this is the doctrine of Christ... (2 Nephi 31:19-20)

- Endure to the end of life and end of the path.

Second Half of Journey to Christ

- Received the Holy Ghost (as commanded)
 - Constant guidance, not occasional
- Requires the Melchizedek Priesthood
 - Men ordained to higher priesthood
 - Men and Women must be endowed
- Become Sanctified
 - Holy Ghost is Sanctifier
 - Become Pure (Clean, without spot)
 - Become Holy (Changed purpose)
- Prepare to receive the Second Comforter
 - “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

Sanctification

- Sanctification is process of becoming pure and holy
- Spirit and body both become pure and holy

- Intelligences in our spirit & body are changed to a higher level of glory
- Sanctification makes us Terrestrial beings

For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies. (D&C 84:33)

Laws of the Higher Journey

- Law of Chastity
 - Literal – No relations outside of legal marriage
 - Figurative – No relations with other gods – Be true to the Bridegroom (Christ)
- Law of Consecration
 - Change your purpose to God’s purpose
 - Everything belongs to God
 - You are a steward
 - Use your goods for God’s purpose

Calling and Election

- When your faith is sufficient...
- When you are fully sanctified...
- When you have proven your loyalty to God and his work...
- The Holy Spirit of Promise (Holy Ghost) will seal your salvation upon you
- You will be eligible to receive the Second Comforter (Jesus Christ)

Joseph Smith on the Second Comforter

“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.

(The Two Comforters, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, comp. Joseph Fielding Smith (SLC: Deseret Book Co., 1938), 149-151.)

Holy Spirit of Promise

... this is pleasing unto your Lord, ... angels rejoice over you ... your prayers have come up into the ears of the Lord ... and are recorded in the book of

the names of the sanctified, even them of the celestial world.

Wherefore, I now send upon you another Comforter, even upon you my friends, that it may abide in your hearts, even the Holy Spirit of promise; which other Comforter is the same that I promised unto my disciples, as is recorded in the testimony of John.

This Comforter is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life, even the glory of the celestial kingdom ... Which glory is that of the church of the Firstborn ... (D&C 88:2–5)

Brother of Jared & Second Comforter

... the brother of Jared [Mahonri] ... went forth unto the mount, which they called the mount Shelem, because of its exceeding height, ... and cried again unto the Lord, saying: ... I know, O Lord, that thou hast all power, ... therefore touch these stones, O Lord, with thy finger, ... that they may shine forth in darkness

... the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones one by one with his finger. And the veil was taken from off the eyes of [Mahonri], and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood; and [Mahonri] fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear. . (Ether 3:1–6)

... and the Lord said unto him: Arise, why hast thou fallen?

And he saith unto the Lord: I saw the finger of the Lord, and I feared lest he should smite me; for I knew not that the Lord had flesh and blood.

And the Lord said ... Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; for were it not so ye could not have seen my finger. Sawest thou more than this?

And he answered: Nay; Lord, show thyself unto me. (Ether 3:7–10)

And the Lord said ... Believest thou the words which I shall speak?

And he answered: Yea, Lord, I know that ... thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie.

And when he had said these words, behold, the Lord showed himself unto him, and said: Because thou knowest these things ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I show myself unto you.

Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ ... (Ether 3:11–14)

Entering Into Lord's Rest

19 And this greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God.

20 Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest.

21 And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh;

22 For without this no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live. (D&C 84:19–22)

Now this Moses plainly taught to the children of Israel ... and sought diligently to sanctify his people that they might behold the face of God; But they hardened their hearts and could not endure his presence; therefore, the Lord ... swore that they should not enter into his rest while in the wilderness, which rest is the fulness of his glory ... he took Moses ... and the Holy Priesthood also; And the lesser priesthood continued, which ... holdeth the key of the ministering of angels and the preparatory gospel; ... the gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins, and the law of carnal commandments ... (D&C 84:23–27)

... there were many who were ordained and became high priests of God ... on account of their exceeding faith and repentance, and their righteousness ... they were sanctified, and their garments were washed white through the blood of the Lamb.

... after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost ... being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence; and there were many, exceedingly great many, who were made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God.

... now, my brethren ... humble yourselves before God, and bring forth fruit meet for repentance, that ye may also enter into that rest. (Alma 13:10–13)

Second Comforter

Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth

my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am; (D&C 93:1)

Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him; for he will unveil his face unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will. (D&C 88:68)

The Next Gospel

- When you receive the Second Comforter, Christ will become your teacher

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. (2 Nephi 32:6)

Jesus Will Take You to the Father

The Second Comforter is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. “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” (D&C 88:3–4; 130:3; HC 3:381).

Source: LDS Bible Dictionary (see Comforter)

Path to Exaltation Taught Everywhere

- Layout of Solomon's Temple
- Endowment
- Lehi's journey to promise land
- Jaredite's journey to promise land
- Israelites journey to promise land
- Latter-day Saints journey to New Jerusalem
- Wise men's journey to find Jesus
- Entire Book of Mormon structure
- Throughout Scriptures, especially Book of Mormon
- Many more scriptures and places

Your Future – Or Not

- Following this path is essential to your salvation
- Following this path is essential to your survival of the last days

... the scriptures shall be given, even as they are in mine own bosom, to the salvation of mine own elect;

For they will hear my voice, and shall see me, and shall not be asleep, and shall abide the day of my coming; for they shall be purified, even as I am pure. (D&C 35:20-21)