

Inspired Priesthood Study

by Elder Jack Graham

What is our commission as servants of Jesus Christ?

Mat. 28: 17—19 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. Amen.

What should be the evidences that we fulfill this command?

Mat. 10: 1, 6—7 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick; cleanse the lepers; raise the dead; cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give.

Luke 10: 9 Seventy told to heal the sick into every town they entered, and preach that the kingdom of God has come nigh unto them.

Luke 4: 40 Jesus healed every one who was brought to Him to be healed

Acts 5: 14—16 multitudes added to the believers. They came from the cities round about and every one of them was healed

Acts 8: 6—8 Philip heals and casts out unclean spirits, causing the people to give heed unto his words with one accord

Acts 9: 32—42 Peter heals Aeneas of the palsy he had for 8 years. He then goes to the dead saint Tabitha, puts everyone out, kneels by her bed, prays, then stands and tells Tabitha to arise. She is raised from the dead and from this many believed in the Lord.

Sec. 17: 10a-c The Priests will preach, teach, expound, exhort, baptize, administer the sacrament, and they will visit the house of each member to teach them how to pray and to attend to all family duties. The home ministry is especially important and required of the Priest to magnify his calling before the Lord. The Priest may also ordain other Aaronic ministry, and he may preside in the absence of the Elder.

Sec. 17: 11a-d The Teacher is to watch over the church, and as such is a standing minister to the church. He is to be with and strengthen the body. He is to see there is no iniquity in the church, nor hardness amongst the members, and no lying, backbiting, or evil speaking. He is to ensure that the church meets together often, and that the membership fulfills their responsibilities. In the absence of the Elder or Priest, the Teacher may

preside over meetings. He is also to be assisted in all of his duties by the Deacon. Although the Teacher and Deacon are not authorized to perform any ordinances, they are to expound, exhort, warn, teach, and invite all to come unto Christ.

Sec. 83: 22 The Priests are authorized to travel, meaning they may minister outside of the body of Christ. The Teachers and Deacons are the standing ministers of the priesthood, being called specifically to minister to the church.

Sec. 104: 10 The Aaronic priesthood holds the keys to the ministering of angels. These keys serve to unlock angelic power, that help to bring people to a willingness to repent and be baptized in the name of Christ. This ministry also helps to prepare the people for the ministry that the Melchisedec may bring. This ministry is vital in preparing the hearts and minds of the people to receive the blessings of the Melchisedec ministry.

Should we expect this power in our ministry now?

Acts 4: 24—36 The disciples prayed thus... grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

It was their desire to have a capable witness of the power of Jesus in their lives, and thus they saw the need to ask that God would heal through their speaking His word. The result is recorded in scriptures that follow this passage, in that many were added to the believers because when the miracles were performed, power was given to their words unto the convincing of many of their sins and need for Christ.

Mark 16: 16—21 And ***these signs shall follow them that believe;*** In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and ***confirming the word with signs following.*** Amen.

Ephesians 4: 13 The ministry, both Aaronic and Melchisedec, are called to fulfill the purpose of bringing the people to the “unity of the faith”, and to bring the church to a knowledge of the Son of God, to perfect the Saints.

Why are these things not prevalent in our ministry right now?

Mormon 4: 75—96 ... miracles cease only when men dwindle in unbelief and depart from the right way.

Luke 9: 38—42 The disciples, previously charged with healing sick and casting out devils, unable to cast out devil out of young boy. Obviously it was the will of God to be done because Jesus then proceeded to cast the unclean spirit out of him. His answer to the inability of the disciples was “O faithless and perverse generation....” This fits with Mormon in the idea of departing from the “right way”, because perverse means “turned aside or distorted from the right”. This is a key. Our hearts must continually be examined (2 Cor. 13:5 Examine Yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?)

Sec 50: 6d—6f ...wherefore, he is possessor of all things, for all things are subject unto him, both in heaven and on the earth, the life, and the light, the spirit, and the power, sent forth by the will of the Father, through Jesus Christ, his Son; but no man is possessor of all things, except he be purified and cleansed from all sin; ***and if ye are purified and cleansed from all sin, ye shall ask whatsoever you will in the name of Jesus, and it shall be done: but know this, it shall be given you what you shall ask***, and as ye are appointed to the head, the spirits shall be subject unto you.

Sec. 38: 6a If the people are not united, they are not the Lord’s. The Teachers, assisted by the Deacons, must diligently work to keep contention out of the body.

3 Nephi 8: 47 As we are commanded to pray always, lest we be tempted and overcome, it is imperative that the Priest fulfill his duties of teaching the membership to pray.

We must have no doubt:

Mark 16:15 He that believeth ***and*** is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned.

Scripture indicates that belief is followed by action (James 2: 14—25 faith without works is dead, being alone). The works James speaks of here are not the works of the flesh, or the Law of Moses, but the works of righteousness.

What is our responsibility in seeking the Endowment of God?

Sanctify ourselves:

DC 85: 20a—21a ... sanctify yourselves; yea, purify your hearts, and cleanse your hands and your feet before me, that I may make you clean;...

DC 43: 3a—3d ... and thus ye shall become instructed in the law of my church, and be *sanctified by that which ye have received*... Purge ye out the iniquity which is among you; *sanctify yourselves before me*....

5. Sanctify: To cleanse from corruption; to purify from sin; to make holy be detaching the affections from the world and its defilements, and exalting them to a supreme love to God.

Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. John 17: 17

Mighty prayer:

Enos 1: 5 he cried unto the Lord for his own soul, all the day long and into the night. He then continued in “pouring out” his heart unto God for his brethren, and then even his enemies the Lamanites.

Alma 4: 6 children of God have been commanded to gather often in mighty prayer and fasting for the souls of those who know not God

Alma 6: 11 Alma “wrestled with God in mighty prayer”

[Sec 28:1a] Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Redeemer, the great I AM, whose arm of mercy hath atoned for your sins, who will gather his people even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, even as many as will hearken to my voice, and humble themselves before me, and call upon me in mighty prayer.

Fasting:

Esther 4: 16 Esther calls for a fast of three days and nights without food or drink for her, because in order to save the Jews she needed to approach her husband the king, but it was unlawful to approach him without being summoned. However, if he found favor with her he could choose to spare her and grant her audience. As a result of the fasting (and prayer) Esther was able to plead for the Jews and foil the plot against them.

Isa 58:6—7 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Jonah 3:5—10 ...the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast of abstinence of food or drink in their attitude of repentance and seeking of forgiveness. God honored this display of repentance and forgave them.

Mat. 6: 17—18 fast not to be seen of men, but of God and God will reward you.

Mosiah 11: 183 The people fasted and prayed for two days and nights that Alma might be lifted up, that he might speak. At the end of the time period Alma arose, and declared his conversion experience.

Hel 2: 31 Nevertheless, *they did fast and pray oft*, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God.

Fasting and prayer led to increasing humility and greater faith in Christ, which ultimately led to the purifying and sanctifying of their hearts as they yielded their hearts to God.

DC 131: 1a-b as a result of a general fast proclaimed by the church, Joseph Smith III was blessed by the presence of the Spirit just prior to the end of the fast and Section 131 was the resulting revelation.

Joel 2: 12 & 13 turn to God with all of the heart, and with fasting, and weeping, and mourning and rend our hearts rather than our clothes before Him.

Acts 10: 30—32 Cornelius had been fasting four days prior to the angel of the Lord appearing to him with instructions regarding Peter

Omni 1: 46—47 Come unto Christ and offer your whole souls unto Him; continue in fasting and praying and endure to the end and you will be saved.

3 Ne. 12: 14—15 disciples gathered together in prayer and fasting, and as a result Jesus appeared unto them to answer their question as to what they should name the church.

Study:

2 Tim 2: 15 Study to *show thyself approved unto God*, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

DC 10: 10a-d seek first to obtain the word of God, and then power shall be given for the purpose of convincing men

Sec 142: 4b It will be profitable for my servants of the eldership to *meet often for study*, under the direction of those having responsibility to teach, at such times and places as may be practicable, *in preparation for the greater endowment of spiritual power which has been promised and which awaits the time when they can receive it.*

Jer. 29: 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

John 5: 40 Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.

2 Ne. 13: 27 thru 2 Ne. 14: 12 ...feast upon the words of Christ...

Jacob 3: 3—8 ... Wherefore, we search the prophets; and we have many revelations, and the spirit of prophecy, and having all these witnesses, we obtain a hope, and our faith becometh unshaken, insomuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus, and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea...

Mat 24: 39 And whoso treasureth up my words, shall not be deceived.

Mat 6: 19—21 Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

A foundational example of the fruits of these principles:

Alma 12: 3—7 Sons of Mosiah: They had waxed strong in the knowledge of the truth. They had searched the scriptures diligently so that they might know the word of God, and thus they were men of a sound understanding. They had given themselves to much prayer and fasting...result was spirit of prophecy and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with the power and authority of God.

Waxed: to pass from one state to another. In this case from weak to mighty in the faith of Jesus.

Truth: is the Lord Jesus Christ

John 14: 6 ...the way, the truth, and the life.

Eth. 1: 107—108 Jesus is the truth of the world. (It is Jesus that speaks per verse 102)

Sec 90:1g—2b And I, John, bear record that I beheld his glory, as the glory of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth; ***even the Spirit of truth which came and dwelt in the flesh, and dwelt among us.***

And I, John, saw that he received not of the fullness at the first, but received grace for grace; and he received not of the fullness at first, but

continued from grace to grace, until he received a fullness; and thus he was called the Son of God, because he received not of the fullness at the first.

Sec 90:4c-e The Spirit of truth is of God. ***I am the Spirit of truth.*** And John bore record of me, saying, He received a fullness of truth; yea, even of all truth, and no man receiveth a fullness unless he keepeth his commandments. He that keepeth his commandments, receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth, and knoweth all things.

Sound: Founded in truth; firm; strong; valid; solid; that cannot be overthrown or refuted;

Power: In Scripture, right; privilege. John 1. 1 Cor.9.

Authority: 1. Legal power, or a right to command or to act; as the authority of a prince over subjects, and of parents over children. Power; rule; sway.