

Discipleship as a Covenant Journey

We did not come this far to only come this far

Definitions

A **journey** is the process of moving from one place or condition toward another. It unfolds over time through experiences, choices, challenges, learning, and change. It has direction, but it emphasizes the process rather than merely the arrival.

Discipleship is the process of becoming and living as a disciple of Jesus Christ. A disciple learns from Him, follows Him, orders life according to His teachings, and becomes more like Him. A disciple does not merely agree with the Teacher; a disciple goes with Him.

Conversion begins something. Baptism and temple ordinances matter profoundly, but the journey is what happens as we live the covenants we have made through repentance, forgiveness, worship, service, sacrifice, love, and continued learning. A covenant journey gives discipleship both a path and a relationship.

Walk with Me

“Walk with me.” —Moses 6:34

“And Enoch walked with God.” —Moses 6:39

God does not merely point toward a distant destination and say, “Go there.” He says, “Walk with me.” The covenant journey is about who we are walking with and who we are becoming as we walk with Him. The invitation becomes the way Enoch lives.

The Mountain Journey

At first, you may question why you are going. The climb is difficult, but gradually it becomes more enjoyable. You discover strength in your body and mind and find satisfaction in doing something hard with the people beside you. You reach a false summit, and perhaps another. Finally, you arrive. It is exhilarating. Then you realize the summit was only halfway. You still have to travel home.

“The path of discipleship often resembles climbing a mountain. The shortest path to the top is not always the most appropriate and often not the safest either. Thus, we must choose the firm and safe path, even if it is sometimes the longest and most demanding one. Jesus Christ and His restored gospel constitute that safe path that leads us to the true summit.” —Elder Eduardo F. Ortega

Light for the Path

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” —Psalm 119:105

Ponder your own life’s journey: Where have you been? Where are you now? Where are you heading? What has God provided to help you stay on His path?

A Relationship with Jesus Christ

Each of us needs the personal journey of knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior and Redeemer. Healing does not always remove the difficulty; sometimes Christ heals by giving us strength. We belong in the Lord’s Church because we belong to Him. The gospel is about relationships, not merely requirements. Have more faith in the Savior than doubt in yourself. Rely wholly upon Him who is mighty to save.

—President Parke

Jacob's Covenant Journey

Jacob fled from home frightened and alone. God found him there. His journey away from home became a covenant journey with a God who promised to accompany him, keep him, and bring him home.

“Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”
—Genesis 28:15

Covenants Bind Us to Him

“The covenants God offers to His children do more than guide us. They bind us to Him, and, bound to Him, we can overcome all things.” —Elder D. Todd Christofferson

“Lifelong discipleship is an essential aspect of the doctrine of Christ. ... For Christ's Atonement to have its full, transformative effect in us requires that we continue in this covenant path—the path of discipleship—to the end of our mortal lives.” —Elder D. Todd Christofferson

“The doctrine of the temple is the majestic doctrine of Christ in its fullness. A fullness of faith in Jesus Christ. A fullness of repentance. A fullness of the love of the Savior in our lives.” —FC Temple President Baker

Journeys of Becoming

“Faith builds on the past but never longs to stay there. Faith trusts that God has great things in store for each of us.” —Jeffrey R. Holland

“‘Come as you are,’ a loving Father says to each of us, but He adds, ‘Don’t plan to stay as you are.’ We smile and remember that God is determined to make of us more than we thought we could be.”
—Jeffrey R. Holland

“What should we be tomorrow that is different, more effective, and more efficient than we were yesterday? ... Failure to act can be disastrous.” —Verlander

Farther Along the Journey

“Our minds being now enlightened, we began to have the scriptures laid open to our understandings, and the true meaning and intention of their more mysterious passages revealed unto us in a manner which we never could attain to previously, nor ever before had thought of.” —Joseph Smith—History 1:74

The Destination

“When he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” —1 John 3:2

A discipleship journey is a covenant journey with Jesus Christ in which, by walking with Him, we come to know Him, trust Him, and become like Him—until at last we can stand in His presence and see Him as He is.

The Lord will deliver us from our trials if we are on His errand and understand that “the escape will almost never be out of the trial; it will usually be through it.” And in the process, He will change us.

—Henry B Eyring

References Genesis 28; Psalm 119; Moses 6; 1 John 3:2; Joseph Smith—History 1:74; Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Best Is Yet to Be” and “Songs Sung and Unsung”; Eduardo F. Ortega, “Christ—Author and Finisher of Our Faith”; D. Todd Christofferson, “Why the Covenant Path” and “Lifelong Disciples of Jesus Christ”; Henry B. Eyring, To Draw Closer to God; Verlander, The Practice of Professional Consulting (2012), xvi; Come, Follow Me, Aug. 31–Sept. 6, 2026; Fort Collins Stake Conference, Sept. 12–13, 2026.