

My Eternal Identity and Purpose

- I am a child of Heavenly Parents, who love me more than I can comprehend.ⁱ They love me, not because of my actions, my obedience, or my worthiness, but because of their goodness.ⁱⁱ
- I have the spiritual DNA of a god and am destined to become like my Heavenly Parents based on my faithfulness. I am “a god in embryo.”ⁱⁱⁱ
- I have a close personal relationship with my Heavenly Parents and my Savior Jesus Christ that has been developed over eons of close personal interaction and exposure. I have been personally taught and tutored by them. They have abundantly prepared me for all the trials I will face on earth.^{iv}
- In my pre-earth life, I developed righteous habits and talents that have shaped my character.^v
- Even before coming to this earth, I consistently exercised faith in Jesus Christ and repented of my sins. Repentance and growth through Christ’s atonement are hallmarks of my eternal character.^{vi}
- I participated in the councils in heaven where my Father outlined His plan to save me and my family. I voted for His plan and voted to sustain Jehovah as my Savior and Redeemer.^{vii}
- I fought courageously in the war in heaven. I overcame Lucifer and his servants through my testimony and through my faith in Christ’s infinite atonement.^{viii}
- I was faithful in the premortal realm (kept my first estate), entitling me to a temporary body on earth and a resurrected body in the eternities.^{ix}
- My gender is a characteristic that I brought with me from my pre-earth life and that will continue with me after death.^x
- I finished my time in the pre-mortal life free of sin. Because of my faith in Jehovah and His inevitable atonement, I was made pure and spotless before I came to this earth.^{xi}
- I was foreordained/foreappointed to perform a great work on the earth by a loving Father in Heaven who has complete faith in me.^{xii}
- I was reserved to come to earth in the latter days when the battle against evil would be most difficult.^{xiii}
- I was chosen to be born in the covenant lineage of the House of Israel and am an heir of all the promises made to Abraham and Sarah.^{xiv}
- I was selected to be born with access to the fullness of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.^{xv}
- I was chosen to be a leader through my membership in God’s kingdom (the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) while I am here on this earth.^{xvi}
- I made sacred promises with my Father in Heaven while still in my pre-earth life.^{xvii}
- I am privileged to be one of the very, very few who can undertake my own saving ordinances in the flesh. I have the opportunity to be a savior on Mount Zion as I do temple work vicariously for others.^{xviii}
- The price of my sins has already been paid by my loving Savior. He has experienced my deepest trials and understands perfectly how to help me – He loves me and is eager to help.^{xix}
- I have covenanted to be a living witness of my Savior; He trusts me to be a witness of Him at all times, in all things, and in all places.^{xx}
- I have been promised the constant companionship of a member of the Godhead through the rest of my life if I will live worthily and consistently repent.^{xxi} Even if I cannot always feel His presence, I know He is there.
- I have already completed ____% of the earthly ordinances essential for my salvation. I have the opportunity to complete the rest of my essential ordinances and stand to inherit all that God has.^{xxii}
- I am privileged to participate in a weekly ritual (the sacrament) that cleanses me from my sins through the atonement of Jesus Christ if I consistently repent with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.^{xxiii}
- I have already completed ____% of my mortal journey. I am on the covenant path, and although not perfect, I am progressing. My trials help me grow spiritually.^{xxiv}
- I have unlimited access to my Father in Heaven through prayer. I am one of the small minority of people who truly know how to pray.^{xxv} I have been promised that I will be given answers and blessings in response to my prayers.^{xxvi}
- I am under covenant to work hand-in-hand with Jesus Christ in the salvation of all of God’s children.^{xxvii}
- I am on earth to be taught, tutored, tried, tempted, and tested. *MY* Heavenly Parents did not send me to earth to fail. *MY* Savior and Redeemer, who loves *ME* dearly, has a plan for *MY* individual salvation. He is powerful enough to save *ME* and *MY* family, and I trust Him. HE IS MIGHTY TO SAVE!

ⁱ The Family: A Proclamation to the World, September 1993; Statement of the First Presidency, *Improvement Era*, Mar. 1912, p. 417; The First Presidency [Joseph F. Smith, John R. Winder, and Anthon H. Lund], in James R. Clark, comp., *Messages of the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 4:203; Robert C. Oaks "Your Divine Heritage" CR May 2008.

ⁱⁱ See 1 John 4:19; Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 345–46; M. Russell Ballard, "God's Love for His Children," CR May 1988; "Divine Love," Russell M. Nelson, Ensign February 2003.

ⁱⁱⁱ See *The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball (1982), 28; "Man – A Child of God" Marion G. Romney, CR May 1973; Teachings of Presidents of the Church: John Taylor, Chapter 1: The Origin and Destiny of Mankind; "Our Identity and Our Destiny," Tad R. Callister, BYU Devotional August 14, 2012; Acts 17:29; Romans 8:16; Hebrews 12:9.

^{iv} See D&C 138:56; Romans 8:29–30; Eliza R. Snow, "O My Father," in *Hymns*, no. 292; Russell M. Nelson "Decisions for Eternity" CR November 2013; Ezra Taft Benson, "Jesus Christ—Gifts and Expectations," in *Speeches of the Year, 1974*, Provo: Brigham Young University Press, 1975, p. 313; Bruce R. McConkie "The Seven Deadly Heresies" BYU Devotional, June 1, 1980.

^v See "The Great Plan," Dallin H. Oaks, April 2020; Alma 13:3–4, 10.

^{vi} See Alma 13:3–4, 10; Revelation 12:7–11.

^{vii} See Abraham 3:22–27; "The Great Plan of Happiness" Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign November 1993; Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:57; D&C 121:32.

^{viii} See Revelation 12:7–11; Ether 3:6–16.

^{ix} See Abraham 3:26; "The Great Plan of Happiness" Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign November 1993; Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:65–66.

^x "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," September 23, 1993.

^{xi} See Alma 13:11–12; D&C 93:38; Tad R. Callister, *The Infinite Atonement*, Chapter 11 "Infinite in Time".

^{xii} See "Bound to the Savior Through Covenants," David A. Bednar, Liahona February 2022; "The Great Plan of Happiness" Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign November 1993, 72; Spencer W. Kimball "The Role of Righteous Women," *Ensign*, Nov. 1979, 102; Neal A. Maxwell "Premortality, A Glorious Reality" CR November

1985; Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 365; Neal A. Maxwell "A More Determined Discipleship" [an address] delivered at Brigham Young University, 10 October 1978] Ensign, February 1979; Jeremiah 1:5.

^{xiii} See *The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* [1988], 104–5; Russell M. Nelson "Decisions for Eternity" CR November 2013.

^{xiv} See Acts 17:26; D&C 132:31.

^{xv} See David O. McKay, *Home Memories of President David O. McKay*, 228–30.

^{xvi} See Abraham 3:23; Alma 13:1–12; Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 365; Russell M. Nelson "Decisions for Eternity" CR November 2013.

^{xvii} See Spencer W. Kimball, "Be Ye Therefore Perfect," Devotional Address, Salt Lake Institute of Religion, 10 Jan. 1975, p.2; Neal A. Maxwell, *Brigham Young University*, 10 October 1978; Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses* 7:314–15; Henry D. Moyle CR, October 1952, p. 71; "The Great Plan of Happiness" Dallin H. Oaks, Ensign November 1993; "The Great Plan," Dallin H. Oaks, April 2020.

^{xviii} Obadiah 1:21; D&C 128:18; Joseph Smith, *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 472–73; Gordon B. Hinckley "Closing Remarks" *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2004.

^{xix} See 2 Nephi 9:21; Mosiah 3:5–7; Alma 7:11–13; D&C 19:16–19.

^{xx} See Mosiah 18:8–10; D&C 20:77, 79.

^{xxi} See D&C 121:46; Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 199; Parley P. Pratt, *Key to the Science of Theology*, 61–62; Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:40.

^{xxii} See D&C 84:38.

^{xxiii} See 3 Nephi 18:1–11; JST Matthew 26:24.

^{xxiv} 2 Nephi 2:2.

^{xxv} See 3 Nephi 13:5–15.

^{xxvi} See Mormon 9:21; D&C 19:38; James 1:5–6.

^{xxvii} See D&C 138:56; John A. Widstoe "The Worth of Souls," *The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine*, Oct. 1934, p. 189, quoted in David B. Haight, "Temples and the Work Therein" CR November 1990, p. 59; Spencer W. Kimball "Be Ye Therefore Perfect," Devotional Address, Salt Lake Institute of Religion, 10 Jan. 1975, p.2.

"As man now is, God once was, as God now is, man may be."

— Lorenzo Snow