

Chapter 19

Why Mortality?

If you have not had a chance to read the essay by Eugene England on “Why the Church Is As True As The Gospel,” you should. Here is the link:

http://eugeneengland.org/wp-content/uploads/sbi/articles/1999_e_004.pdf

The essay reminds me of what the Prophet Joseph Smith said about “experiences:” “all these things [meaning everything we do in mortality] shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good” (Doctrine and Covenants | Section 122:7). If we make the right choices. If we make the wrong choices, it can still be for our good if we repent and change our thinking.

What the Prophet Joseph Smith taught when he was alive is different from what the LDS Church claims today with respect to D&C 132, which is diametrically opposed to D&C 42: 22-26 and D&C 49:15-17 which has created many offshoots and paradoxes. I’ve been a member all my life and am still a temple going member at 72 and believe that the Prophet Joseph Smith never received D&C 132, it was a construct of Brigham Young’s fallen nature according to the laws taught in the ten commandments.

My focus and testimony over the years has evolved from the “letter of the law” (which gives us experiences) with all its ordinances and ceremonies (which I have learned is all symbolism and part of our test in mortality); to the “spirit of the law,” which is co-equal and co-eternal to all, for “Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in **every** nation he that feareth (loveth unconditionally) him, and worketh righteousness, [virtue and holiness of character] is accepted with him” (New Testament | Acts 10:34 - 35).

I think the best theological explanation for why we are here in mortality is from the LDS Bible Dictionary under the word, “Holiness,” look it up, it is beautiful! “Life” is not about *formalism or idolatry*, it’s about having experiences that test our character, to see what we choose to “become inside.” Overcoming our own ego will be the greatest challenge for some. For me, Celestial Glory with Father, is my focus and I know it is the potential of every person who chooses to “become” a manifestation of holiness, a “temple of the living God!” [1 Corinthians 2: 16-18]. Which is all about “becoming” in character and attribute, a holy virtuous person! It’s not about absolutism to the “letter of the law” [*formalism*] and the competition

and prejudices found in races, and religions. unless we want a Terrestrial or Telesial “experience” [D&C 76] in my opinion.

I love the simple gospel truths found in the Sermon on the Mount and the two great commandments [Matthew 22: 37-40] because it can develop a godly character of holiness and virtue; and this can be so true for everyone, in every nation, no matter what race or religion one belongs too!

This essay is for informational purposes only and is the opinion of the author.

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