

The Ultimate Journey

Coming unto Fatherⁱ

[Parenthesis, Italics and/or brackets are incorporated for clarity]

Christ came to earth to teach mankind how to come unto His Father as He did! This journey for most begins and ends by coming unto Christ first. Most people (not all) do this through the “forms and structures” of organized religion. This usually begins with baptism in water and receiving the outward gift of the Holy Ghost and other ordinances and ceremonies of organized religion and becoming members of a church fellowship. This fulfills the “letter of the law” from a scriptural perspective. The purpose of the “letter of the law” is to **awaken** “fallen” man and “carnal” man so that he or she can see and understand the “spirit of the law,” which is the only personal sanctifying journey to Christ and ultimately to Father.

The scriptures quoted below (to mention a few) will show you the “spirit of the law” and how the “spirit of the law” works independently from all organized religions. The “spirit of the law” is available to all people with or without complying to the “letter of the law.” The “spirit of the law” always ensures that the promises of God [Romans 4: 13-16; 2:14-15*] are available to all if they choose it with all their heart, mind and strength [D&C 137]. This does not make the “letter of the law” void or unimportant to any living mortal. It merely shows us that the “letter of the law” is here to **awaken** those who slumber.ⁱⁱ

“While the bridegroom tarried, they ***all slumbered and slept***”... “A cry was made” [Matt 25:5-6] ...

“**Be ye therefore perfect**, even as **your Father** which is in heaven is perfect.” (New Testament | Matthew 5:48)

Perfection can and will never be found in the “letter of the law,” [Hebrews 9,10, 11] it is only found in living ***in*** the “spirit of the law!” You may ask, “what are we to be “perfect” in?” Verses 43-47 of Matthew 5 describe exactly what we are to be perfect ***in*** and that this perfection is available to all co-equally and co-eternallyⁱⁱⁱ:

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the **children of your Fatherⁱ** which is in heaven:
(New Testament | Matthew 5:43 - 45)

Christ developed that kind of “love.” So, his example is supreme: “Yea, **come unto Christ, and be perfected in him**, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace^v [divine nature] sufficient for you, that by his grace [divine nature] ye may be perfect **in** Christ; and if by the grace [divine nature] of God ye are perfect **in** Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God [godliness].

33 And again, if ye by the grace [divine nature] of God are perfect **in** Christ, and deny not his power [the power of divine nature **innate** to you], then are ye sanctified **in** Christ by [divine nature] the grace of God, through the shedding [shedding meaning: letting go of all our fallen and carnal nature] of the blood of Christ, which is **in** the **covenant of the Father** unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot.”
(Book of Mormon | Moroni 10:32 - 33)

“According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious promises**: **that by these** ye might **be partakers of the divine nature** [this partaking is a moment by moment cognitive experience, an immersion into godliness], having escaped [giving up] the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be **in you**, and abound, [**“in you”**] they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ [the image of godliness].

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off...”
(New Testament | 2 Peter 1:3 - 9)

The call here is to “**Awake, awake...**” [Isaiah 52] “**come unto Christ, and be perfected in him.**” The journey to Father is the same as it is to Christ, ***if seen*** through the “spirit of the law,” which is done “**without hands,**” and “**without money**” [Isaiah 52: 1-3] which symbolizes transcending all “forms and structures^{vi}” of organized religion “made with hands.” How does one do this? By immersing our conscious and sub-conscious mind, thoughts and words we speak and actions into “divine nature,” the “attributes of godliness,” which is true “holiness of character.” This can only be developed within the living “temple of the living God,” [2 Corinthians 6: 16] “made without hands” [Mark 14: 58; Colossians 2: 11] and “without money.” This gift must be opened and used daily [moment by moment], hence symbolizing the “gift” of the “Holy” Ghost [the “spirit of the law”] which is available to every man, woman and child who has ever come to earth and received a mortal body. The promises from Father is to **all** humanity and this has never changed:

“For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore **sanctify yourselves** [How? Through “divine nature,”] and ye shall **be holy**; for I *am* holy:”
(Old Testament | Leviticus 11:44)

“Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall **be holy**: for I the LORD your God *am* **holy.**”
(Old Testament | Leviticus 19:2)

The beautiful thing about the “letter of the law” for ancient Israel and modern Israel today, is that it is pure “symbolism,” if we have eyes to see and ears to hear. I love and embrace symbolism in all its “forms and structures,” I just do not choose to use it, to judge others by. Symbolism really shows God’s great unconditional love for humanity in whatever state of dis-belief or sin they may be in. Every creation of God in nature, and in all revealed “forms and structures” of organized religion shows and teaches the “spirit of the law,” if we will just **awaken** [Isaiah 52] and let go of our pride, judgment and ego [fallen and carnal nature]!

In the “letter of the law” fallen and carnal man can easily become “captivated” in the veils, walls and partitions as the “only” path to God. In the “spirit of the law” there is no veils, walls and partitions, nor is there any judgment, fault finding, deceit or lies. It is pure truth that saves us in Father’s kingdom! [John 8:32; John 17*].

The greatest scriptural example of symbolism started in the Garden of Eden [which symbolizes that we [individually] are the “Garden of Eden” and within us is the choice to partake of the “tree of life” or the tree of “knowledge of good and evil.” Then outside the Garden was the first “altar” ever built and then the first “temple” ever built by man, all “made with hands.” These are beautiful symbols of the truth. Finding the “truth” in these symbols is the “mystery into godliness” that “few” ever come to see and understand, in the ultimate journey to Father.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, **which temple ye are.**

18 **Let no man deceive himself.**” [This is exactly what happens when we don’t see the symbolism and get caught up in the “forms and structures” of religion thinking that is the only way to salvation]. (New Testament | 1 Corinthians 3:16 - 18)

“for **ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; [how does God do that? There is only one way; through the attributes of godliness, “divine nature,” the “spirit of the law”] and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; [the unclean things are not only the sins of the flesh but the false beliefs that damn us and these are always connected to the “forms and structures” “made with hands” we worship] and I will receive you,

18 And will be **a Father unto you**, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (New Testament | 2 Corinthians 6:16 - 18)

Another scriptural example of getting “captivated” in the “letter of the law” is the practice of “circumcision” in ancient Israel, [Romans 2: 25-29*] which symbolizes and points to the “spirit of the law” found in the “circumcision of Christ” [Colossians 2:11] “made **without** hands.”

In today’s world, it is no different than it was for Ancient Israel; (for example) getting “caught up” in “baptisms” [D&C 22] for the living or the dead has the same symbolism implied [D&C 128]. It is so important to teach what these beautiful symbols are revealing to us and that the truth is potentially found within each person; [Luke 17:20-21] and if understood, we are then **awakened** to the “spirit of

the law,” which is freely offered to every soul who hungers and thirsts for this righteousness.

What I mean by getting “caught up” or “captivated” by the “letter of the law” is making the “outward” form and structures of religion more important than the “spirit of the law,” or thinking it is the **only way** one can make it back into the presence of the Father. It is this idea of thinking and judgement that the “letter of the law” does “kill,” meaning it stops our forward progression to Father, which keeps one captivated in what the scriptures call “dead works,” which has no power to purify or sanctify a single soul. The “spirit of the law” gives “life” and “real meaning” to any “divine” relationship of oneness with Christ and our Father in Heaven; and so, it should be with every relationship we have with each other here in mortality! The truth is that the “letter of the law” really is pure “symbolism” if we are **awake** to see it clearly [I Corinthians 15:34; 2 Corinthians 3:6]. The “spirit of the law” is the ONLY law that is **“made without hands”** and offered to everyone **“without money;”** [Isaiah 52:3; Alma 1:20; 3 Nephi 20: 36-40] it is because of this integrity that it is available innately to every soul who will embrace it completely.

I will share a dream I had just before October 2020 General Conference which taught me much about this symbolism.

I was on the shore of a vast ocean and I saw Christ way out there, standing on the water, as seen from my perspective on shore. There were many people on the shore and there were boats all along the shore line representing the religions of mankind. The boats were small, with enough room for only one person to get in, with two paddles to row with. I got in a boat which represented the faith I was born into (Mormonism) and started paddling toward Christ. As I was paddling, I came into a strong current that started taking me in a large circle around Christ and I could not get out of the strong current that captivated my boat and rowing. An inner voice told me to put the paddles in the boat and put my hands in the water and immediately when I did this, my boat started moving toward Christ. When I took my hands out of the water the boat was captured by the strong currents and began circling Christ again. I put my hands back into the water and the boat profoundly started moving toward Christ again. As I looked into the water, I saw that the water was a representation of the “waters of life,”^{vii} which I was told were the very attributes of godliness and holiness. As long as I kept my hands in the water I eventually came right to Christ.

As I approached Christ, I noticed that He was standing above the water and I was impressed to get out of my boat and stood on the “waters of life.” I turned and saw the boat I was in, drift back into the currents of the Ocean, circling Christ. Christ held open his arms and I was drawn up to Him. As I was with Christ, I saw others come unto Christ in their boats of choice. I saw a few come right unto Christ just by swimming in the “waters of life.” This was my individual experience with Christ and being one with Him in character and attribute. As I stood there in the air with Christ, I saw Father much further out in the Ocean, and I mentioned to Christ my desire to go to Him. Christ explained to me the challenges I would face and the importance of keeping myself always aware of breathing in and breathing out “divine nature” in all the experiences of life and especially on my journey to Father. He explained to me that “divine nature” was the Holy Spirit or fruits of the Spirit, the very attributes of godliness that I was to continually keep myself aware of, and if I did, I would make it back to Father.

He warned me that there would be many storms and tempests (which were the “winds” of false doctrines [Ephesians 4:14]) that would and could distract me from my journey to Father. I gave Christ a big hug and started my journey through the air, just off the water. I kept my focus on Father and continually did as Christ instructed, breathing in and out “divine nature” as I went forward to Father. Storms and tempests did come and the “winds of doctrine” began to swirl around me and caught me unawares and I became lost [I could not see Father anymore]. I remembered that Christ had told me to always breath in divine nature and to breath out divine nature in all my experiences in life and as I did this, Father came into view and I continued on the journey, which was a journey of pure peace and joy for me. I was soon in Father’s presence and embraced Him with exceeding gratitude and thanksgiving. I saw others on the same journey I was on and some of them got so lost, that they found themselves back in their boat circling Christ again. That was the end of my dream.

I have learned since my dream that “breathing in divine nature and out divine nature” is what “the breath of life^{viii}” meant to Adam and Noah. God instructed them, in the importance of centering their lives in the attributes of godliness so that he and his family [the human race] could become like Him and return back to Him again. It is this “breath of life” that gives “life” to the soul and frees one from spiritual death (sin) in all its forms.

In closing this short essay, I wanted to leave you with the **“doctrine of Jesus Christ”** found in Lectures on Faith which will bring any soul thirsting for the truth directly to **our Father in Heaven!**

“Faith being the first principle in revealed religion, and the foundation of all righteousness, necessarily claims the first place in a course of lectures which are designed to unfold to the understanding **the doctrine of Jesus Christ”** [Lectures on Faith 1:1].

“Let us here observe, that after any portion of the human family are made acquainted with the important fact that there is a God who has created and does uphold all things, the extent of their knowledge, **respecting his character** and glory, will depend upon their diligence and faithfulness in seeking after him, until like Enoch the brother of Jared, and Moses, **they shall obtain faith in God, and power with him to behold him face to face”** [Lectures on Faith 2:55].

“It is scarcely necessary here to observe what we have previously noticed: That the glory which the Father and the Son have, is because they are just and holy beings; **and that if they were lacking in one attribute or perfection which they have, the glory which they have, never could be enjoyed by them; for it requires them to be precisely what they are in order to enjoy it:** ... These teachings of the Savior must clearly show unto us the nature of salvation; and what he proposed unto the human family when he proposed to save them—That he proposed to make them like unto himself; **and he was like the Father, the great prototype of all saved beings: And for any portion of the human family to be assimilated into their likeness is to be saved;** and to be unlike them is to be destroyed: [or stopped in your progression] and on this hinge turns the door of salvation” [Lectures on Faith 7:15-16]¹

These are some of my favorite scriptures about the “spirit of the law” that teach about the attributes of godliness we are to develop in our lives and become “one” with [John 17].

¹ Edited 11/25/2021 see other essays by Kenneth A Card on this website: www.MarriageAndPolygamy.com

2 Peter 1: 4-10* Galatians 5: 22-25* D&C 121: 40-46* Article of Faith #13* Lectures on Faith 1-7 and then look up the word “Holiness” in the LDS Bible Dictionary and it will make it clear!

ⁱ Coming unto Father (John 17: 11 whole chapter)

ⁱⁱ Slumber, to be in a state of negligence, sloth or inactivity.

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/Slumber>

ⁱⁱⁱ First part <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1971/04/the-king-follett-sermon?lang=eng>

Second part <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1971/05/the-king-follett-sermon?lang=eng>

^{iv} “Holy Father” (Christ came to bring us to “Father” [John 17:11 whole chapter**])

^v Meaning of “grace” (to become divine in attribute and character)

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/grace>

^{vi} LDS Bible Dictionary “Holiness” <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bd/holiness?lang=eng>

^{vii} “Water(s) of life” Revelation 21:6; 22:1; 22:17; Alma 5:34; 42:27; D&C 10:64-66

^{viii} “Breath of life” Genesis 2:7; 6:17; 7:15*; 7:22; Moses 3:7,19; Abraham 5:7