

Doctrines Taught in the King Follett Discourse

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All references in [brackets] are from this Essay in the link above

These are Principles of the Celestial Kingdom, Celestial thinking and are not the beliefs of the Terrestrial or Telestial Worlds & thinking

1. **"God is a self-existent being."** [Pg.11:2]. In other words, He has always existed as a Spirit being [having no beginning and no end] and has progressed from a Sprit being to Mortal being, and then on to becoming a God. He has always had this potential and power and authority to become a god by His own choice; by overcoming completely the fallen and carnal nature through the divine and holy nature of godliness, innate to himself. **"Man is also a self-existent being"** having the same innate potential power and authority to become as God is by his own choice. That is what a "self-existent" being is. A person having the ability to choose to be a God through the "effects of faith" alone, or a Devil or something in-between [Terrestrial or Telestial]. "In my Father's house are many mansions" (John 14:2). "Come, follow me" (Luke 18:22), in other words, "become like me." God is asking us to "be holy; for I am holy," (Leviticus 11: 44-45) an invitation to become like Him in every way, because it is our potential to do so if we choose it.
2. **Both God and Man are "coequal":** [Pg.11:3] meaning both have the innate potential, power and authority through the "effects of faith" alone to become a God in the full sense of the word. To deny this is to deny our potential to become like Him. "What manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I

am” (3 Nephi 27:27). Christ would not have said this if we did not have the potential to become as He is. “Ye [meaning you and I] were also in the beginning with the Father; that which is Spirit, even the Spirit of truth” (D&C 93: 23).

3. **Our Spirit has always existed**, (Abraham 3:18) we were not created or made by anyone. Our Spirit being did not come into existence by pro-creation, that concept is a false belief. “God never had the power to create the Spirit of man at all. God Himself could not create Himself,” [Pg. 11-12:4] that is impossible.
4. **Man is also a self-existing being**, having the innate potential to become a god/God. To understand our potential, we must first comprehend the “character of God” so that we know how to become like God. **“There are few beings in the world who understand rightly the character of God. If men do not comprehend the character of God, they do not comprehend their own character,”** [Pg. 6:2] therefore, if they do not truly understand what their potential is, they must seek to learn it or remain in ignorance until they are taught or awakened (D&C 131:6). Knowledge is the key to enlightenment and the knowledge of God’s character is taught perfectly in Lectures on Faith 1-7.
5. Gods life is called “eternal life” because He has learned how to become one with the innate principles of godliness within himself [Pg. 6:4-5] by casting out the fallen and carnal nature within.

“Here then is eternal life—to know the only wise and true God. You have got to learn how to make yourselves Gods in order to save yourselves” [Pg.8:2]. We individually have got to learn how to make ourselves holy [as God did] and the only way to do that is to comprehend our godly character and immerse ourselves into it completely. There is no other way! We really do save ourselves when we seek god/God in this way. It becomes a sanctifying process. “For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy” (Leviticus 11:44). The promises of god/God live within us all, but we have to believe in it, discover it and become one with it! (John 17) “That they [you and I] may be one, even as we (Christ and Father) are one; I in them, and thou (Father), [meaning the attributes of godliness] in me, that they (all of us) may be perfect in one” (John 17:21-23) through the attributes of godliness and holiness of character!

6. We all come into this world and are indoctrinated into the “letter of the law” in various ways. If we do not understand the language of symbolism found in the gospel or the symbolism in the NAME of god/God we remain asleep until we choose to awaken. All the glories, including the Terrestrial and Telestial are part of the many mansions in heaven who have not awakened fully and will remain in that state of mind until they choose differently. The scriptures say they are “blinded by the craftiness of man” (D&C 76: 75; 123: 12) and are “some of one and some of another—some of Christ and some of John...” (D&C 76: 100-101). All the outward commandments and ordinances of the gospel, ancient and modern are all part of the “letter of the law” and the truths

taught in the “letter of the law,” “are revealed to us in the abstract” [Pg. 12: 3] [through symbolism]. The eternal truths of godliness are always taught to our Spirit in the language of symbolism and in saving our Spirit we are then able to save the body as Christ did. If our Spirit is not awake, we will not see the symbolism which the outward law is teaching us in “view of eternity” [Pg. 12: 4] as God sees (D&C 29: 34-35).

7. **Why have we been commanded to seek after our dead?** This is not about the temporal law of genealogy work that so many get caught up in, it is about another eternal principle of turning our hearts [divine nature] to all. “Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than **godly edifying which is in faith; so, do**” (1 Timothy 1: 4). Working for the dead is about [praying for them] that they may awaken to their divine potential and become as God is. In other words, we teach them by example the knowledge that they are **self-existing beings**, endowed with the potential to become divine and holy in their nature so they can become one with God and like god themselves and have salvation “in common with” the Gods [Pg. 13: 1]. “If a man has knowledge [of who he really is, his divine potential] he can be saved” [Pg. 13:3] with the God’s. “Speaking unto you that you may naturally understand; but unto myself my works have no end, neither beginning; but it is given unto you that ye may understand, because ye have asked it of me and are agreed. Wherefore, verily I say unto you that **all things unto me are spiritual**, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal; neither any man, nor the children of men; neither Adam, your father, whom I created [“created,” meaning taught and instructed]. Behold, I gave unto him that he should be an agent unto himself; **and I gave unto him commandment, but**

no temporal commandment gave I unto him, for my commandments are spiritual; they are not natural nor temporal, neither carnal nor sensual.

(Doctrine and Covenants 29:33 - 35). The language of symbolism is essential to understanding who we are in relationship to Christ and the Father.

8. The “outward law” has a purpose. To awaken! To open our spiritual eyes and ears, so that we do not remain in darkness and deaf to the truth. You may think it is absolutely necessary to go through all ceremonies and ordinances to become a God. Think again, in light of who we really are: “self-existing beings,” it makes perfect sense to know and understand that we are all spiritual of light, truth and intelligence. The power and authority to become a “God” does not come from a religion, it is innate to me and everyone else. Hence if we learn to view the temporal laws and commandment that God has given mankind through all the ages of time, as metaphors and symbols of the “divine” within. Awe, it is then that we can really begin to transform ourselves and sanctify ourselves. It is the great weight of “judgement” that chains people down to the “letter of the law” and to their religion; it has caused more wars and bloodshed, more heartache and misery than anything else. We all have the potential to let go of these judgements (to not use the “letter of the law” as a tool to judge others by) and therefore; we can all embrace the “spirit of the law,” which makes us all co-equal and co-eternal with each other and the gods/Gods. This is a paradigm shift in thinking. It is thinking outside the box of organized religion, it is seeing the truth from gods/God’s perspective and not man’s thinking.

9. The King Follett Sermon and Lectures on Faith teach the higher law of atonement [at-one-ment with godliness]. Hence the self-existent nature of God and Man. The language of symbolism is the key to understanding these truths. One of the divine attributes of God's character is that He is **no respecter of persons** and if man were to embrace this same divine attribute, he would find that what saves him is the **"effect of faith"** alone! "No sooner are the minds of men made acquainted with the truth on this point, that He [God] is no **respecter of persons**, than they **have authority by faith** [alone] **to lay hold on eternal life the richest boon of heaven**, because God is no **respecter of persons, and that every man in every nation has an equal privilege**" (Lectures on Faith 3: 23). In other words, every man has an equal privilege to become as God is. It is not based in what religion you belong to or how many times you are baptized; "although a man should be baptized a hundred times it availeth him nothing, for you cannot enter in at the gate by the law of Moses, neither by your dead works" (D&C 22:2-3). Salvation is based on what you choose to **become** in character and attribute; **this knowledge insures** that **"every man in every nation"** has the same potential to become one with god/God in whatever religion he belongs to. That is a beautiful and true thought! Most religionists do not comprehend this concept and truth for it could take away from their coffers and supposed authority as they suppose (D&C 121:34-46). "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: and if the Savior gives this glory to any others, he must do it in the very way (Lecture on Faith 7:15). ***This doctrine proves and testifies of our self-exiting nature!*** “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” (Lecture on Faith 7: 16). “Who cannot see, then, that salvation [Exaltation] is the effect of faith? for as we have previously observed, ***all the heavenly beings work by this principle***; and it is because they are able so to do that they are saved: ***for nothing but this could save them***. And this is the lesson which the God of heaven, **by the mouth of all his holy prophets**, has been endeavoring to teach to the world” (Lecture on Faith 7: 16). ***This ensures*** that the promise of godhood with the Gods might be **sure to all the seed of mankind regardless of race or religion**. Truly “the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:20-21). Are you awake to this divine potential?

10. The “unpardonable sin” of denying the Holy Ghost is when one chooses to deny that they are a self-exiting being, having the potential, power and authority to become as God is through the attributes and character of godliness and then turn and fight against that very belief and sin against themselves and become the opposite of godliness and holiness. **“All sin shall be forgiven**

except the sin against [self, ones own potential Holy Nature/Spirit, which is] the Holy Ghost [Pg. 14:1-4]. The word “Holy” is an adjective describing our Spirit or Ghost. Hence the sin against the Holy Ghost is a sin against oneself and there is no forgiveness in this world or the world to come **as long as we are in this state of mind**. As the Prophet Joseph Smith taught it is our “own mind that damns us” [Pg. 13:4].

11. How do I explain Christ or Father to you? ... They are independent beings of light, truth and intelligence, having become a manifestation their greatest potential, “a god/God.” We may also fulfill that same potential by becoming like Them in attribute and character... in thought, word and deed... this is a most wonderful journey because you are becoming purified and sanctified in the process. The spiritual desire in this process is to share this knowledge with others, so they too can enjoy this gift that must be opened within. Like any “gift,” if left unopened it is never realized or perceived! If you don’t believe in it, it will never happen to you.

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Thoughts by Kenneth A Card on the King Follett Discourseⁱ

ⁱ Last Edited 12/22/2020

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