

Religions & Symbolism

Parentheses added for clarity and understanding

All organized religions are endowed with symbolism. Why symbolism? For the same reason the Lord spoke in parables.

“Therefore, speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

16 But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

17 For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.”

(New Testament | Matthew 13:13 - 17)

I love what the Lord said: “many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.” I hope to share with you what I see and hear. Each of us will see and hear what we are ready to live for.

Symbolism is manifest through the ordinances, ceremonies, and rituals of religious worship. Therefore, it is manifest in Priesthoods, Shamans, Buddhas, Prophets, Apostles, Bishops, Clergymen, Gods of Nature, Pastors, Rabbi's, Temples, Chapels, Churches, Synagogues, Mosques, etc. All these types and shadows [and offices] of earthly “form and structures” [organized religions] have a divine purpose! That purpose is simply and profoundly to awaken our innate spiritual potential which will show us “how” to become “one” with god/God! The “how” and “what” “to worship,” [D&C 93:19] not the “who” as you will come to understand from [John 4: 22-23]. To understanding this essay, the small “god” is the god seed or potential in all individuals and the capital “God” is symbolic of not just the person who has become God but more importantly, the concept of godliness, holiness, divine nature, infinite divine love and divine morality! If mankind does not come to see or understand this symbolism, then the symbolism

found in their organized religion becomes the object of worship and its true purpose will not be completely fulfilled within the heart and mind of that man or woman. “Seeing, they see not and hearing, they hear not” [Ezekiel 12: 2].

When this takes place, no matter the name of the religion, it leads its followers into what the scriptures call “idol worship” or its predecessor, “formalism.” For example, in ancient Israel or in Modern Israel today, there are “things,” or “places,” “ordinances and ceremonies,” “*made with hands*” that are called “holy,” or “sacred.” In seeking these “things” or “places” or “ordinances and ceremonies” for the living or the dead, without understanding or internalizing their symbolic meaning is fulfilling the law of “dead works” [Hebrews 6, 9, 10, D&C 22:1-4] and its followers lose their perspective and their path back into the presence of gods/Gods fulness! God, the person has always tried to get Israel, Ancient and Modern to become, (individually) that “holy” and “sacred” place, “*made without hands*,” even a “temple of the living God” themselves! There is a huge difference between those things “*made with hands*” and those things “*made without hands*.” The difference will be seen and found in the separation of the glories, Celestial, Terrestrial and Telestial (D&C 76)!

The reality of “pure and undefiled religion” [James 1:27] is to recognize that *every person* who has come to this earth regardless of their birthright, religion, or bloodline is a son or daughter of God, having the innate potential, power and authority themselves to become “*again*” a son or daughter of god/God by applying their “*faith*” and *immerse themselves into the “divine” and “holy.”* These are not trite words. The real literal “*work*” we are to perform is our immersion into “*divine nature*” [A Holy Spirit] and this is indeed the exact “*work*” and “*will*” of the Father and Christ we need to perform; this “*will*” flows “*in*” them and they are passing this glorious information on to us. “*Words*” themselves become symbols and always create images in our minds; the pure in heart come to understand this by seeking *an immersion into them righteously*.

Imagine what it would be like to immerse yourself, in thought, word and deed into these scriptural phrases and really feel it and become it, inside yourselves! You would become “one” with god/God via: “*divine nature*” [2 Peter 1:4-9]. “*Be Holy for I the Lord your God am Holy*” [Leviticus 19: 1-5]. “*Sanctify yourselves*” [Leviticus 11: 44; 20:7; 2 Chronicles 31:18; D&C 43: 11]. “*Put on the New Man*”

[Ephesians 4:19-25; Colossians 3: 8-16]. Be “partakers of his promises in Christ” [Eph 3:6] Become “the mystery of Christ” [Eph 3:4]. “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...” [Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 5: 9]. “By their fruits ye shall know them” [Matthew 7: 15-20]. Become “The fulness of Christ” [Ephesians 4: 13] “Receive the Holy Ghost” [John 20:21-22; Acts 1:2; Moroni 10: 5] “Be one” [D&C 20: 28; Mark 12: 29-33; John 17: 11, 21-22; Jacob 2:27, 5: 68; 3 Nephi 19:23; D&C 38:27]. “Abide in me” [John 15: 4-14; Moses 6: 34].

We are living in the days called the fulness of times, when all things will be revealed to the honest of heart, even the meaning of religious symbols, the “plain and precious things” of the gospel of Christ; yet many will “see and see not and hear and hear not,” the sacred message whispering in them.

I will share a few examples of religious symbolism: and ask yourself, “where is my focus?” Do I see the symbolism, do I feel it? Do I desire it?

1. **Baptism:** When we are baptized in water, it symbolizes our desire to be immersed completely into “*divine nature.*” That we might become like Christ in character and attribute and become a true son or daughter of God again! I say “again” because we all became sons and daughters of God in our *first estate* by this very process of becoming inwardly as they are, and most have forgotten what took place in us there. Here on earth, this is the whole meaning of the spirit of Elijah, in turning the “hearts of the Fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” (D&C 128: 17). The “*heart*” is the scriptural symbol of “divine nature.” Hence baptism always implies a complete immersion into several elements that will lead us to god/God. From a mortal perspective, the first “element” of mortal birth is (the womb of water) and it is the path that all men and women who have come to earth, have been completely immersed in (a womb of water) thus all are “born of water,” fulfilling the scripture [John 3:5, etc.]. The second baptism is spiritual, it is to be “born of the Spirit,” [John 3:6,8] which is to be baptized in “*divine nature*” or in other words, “born of god/God/*godliness.*” Hence to be “born of God” or “born again” is the scriptural symbol for being immersed into “*divine nature*” in thought and in our words, and thus our actions become a manifestation of pure godliness; thus, we are truly “*born of God!*” Every person has the potential to do this regardless of what race, religion or bloodline they are a part of. “For man is spirit [we are spiritual beings]. The elements [physical and spiritual] are eternal, and spirit and element,

inseparably connected, [in godliness and holiness] receive a fulness of joy; And when separated, [from godliness and holiness] man cannot receive a fulness of joy. The elements [of our spirit body and physical bodies] are the tabernacle of God; yea, man is the tabernacle of [god] God, *even temples*; and whatsoever *temple* is defiled [through a fallen and carnal nature], God shall destroy that temple,” [meaning, the “god/God” potential in man cannot be fulfilled when man or woman has “defiled” there temple body] through anger, frustration or immorality, etc. (Doctrine and Covenants | Section 93:33 - 35).

2. **Authority:** Authority is not ego for the pure in heart; it is pure godly faith! When hands are laid on our head in all the ordinances of the gospel, it symbolizes that our heads are the sacred place where our “*thoughts*” are born, which actually creates our nature and our character. It is through godliness and holiness of character that we truly become like Christ and a true son and daughter of God *again!* Authority does not come from priesthood or the laying on of hands, [that is pure symbolism] it only comes from [righteousness] holiness of character and *virtue* and every other divine attribute of godliness. Priesthood is symbolic of [D&C 121:39-46]. If every man or woman were following that path, they would be doing the works of Christ.

3. **Marriage.** When one is married, following “Gods” sacred pattern [Deuteronomy 17: 14-20; D&C 42:22-26; 49:15-17]. It becomes a sacred unbreakable covenant between “one man and one woman” ...to become equally yoked in the “faith” and “works” of “divine nature,” encouraging each other another in this sacred relationship of becoming Christ-like and becoming *again* true sons and daughters of God. When children come into this sacred union, they are taught this symbolism and what it means to “be one” with god/God. God’s plan of salvation is available to all innately. We are each accountable ourselves to awaken to these truths. Which bring us to the ultimate marriage ceremony. Christ [symbolizing] the groom and we [the people of holiness and moral virtue] are the bride. (Matthew 25:1-13... Parable of the 10 virgins). The oil in the lamps is *divine nature* manifest in us!

4. ***“Ye are gods”*** [Psalms 82:6; John 10:22-42]. The words themselves are symbols and the ***thoughts*** which created the words are symbols. These words and thoughts create images in our minds. The realization of these symbols: “ye are gods,” is the “work” of becoming like god/God from the inside, out; fulfilling the first great commandment, to love god/God with all our might, mind and strength [Matthew 22:34-38]. It is never too late in time or eternity to transcend the symbols if we desire to enter Fathers presence and behold his face and be one with Him. Be thankful and grateful for the “god” potential in each person, in yourself! Do we see it and respect it and honor the god in each person and in ourselves? It is the hope and prayer of God that we each come to understand the fulness of that reality ourselves! Loving our neighbor as ourselves is fulfilling the second great commandment [Matt. 22:39-40]; and where the two great commandments become “one” within our souls is fulfilling the law of god/Godliness.

5. ***“Without hands.”*** Daniels interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. “A stone cut out ***without hands***” symbolizes the spiritual kingdom which is the church of the Firstborn that is gathering members of all races and religions who are truly ***“born of God,”*** or ***“born again”*** ***in godliness and holiness of character.*** (Daniel 2:34,35; D&C 65:2-3; Lectures on Faith 1-7 is key to understanding what it means to be ***“born again”*** or ***“born of God”***). When Christ spoke of a “temple” ***“made without hands”*** (Mark 14:58) He was speaking to each of us individually if we have ears to hear. And when Paul taught of a circumcision ***“made without hands,”*** he too was speaking in symbolic language, in ***“putting off the body of sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ”*** (Colossians 2:11-23) godliness of character!

6. ***“Ye are the temple of God”*** (1 Corinthians 3:16). The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints builds temples [these are symbols] of clay [stone], iron, brass, silver and gold. To those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, those temples of clay and stone and its works will be broken down according to [Nebuchadnezzar’s dream] and replaced with a ***“new”*** understanding of the ***body temple*** [*****1 Timothy 1:4; Colossians 2*****]. Today most people have forgotten to teach the real purpose or symbolism of the temple. It is not for

the work of the dead, [“endless genealogies” (1 Timothy 1:4) and ordinances that “touch not; taste not; handle not; which are all to perish with the using” (Colossians 2)]. True Temple work is the **“inner work”** of godliness on both sides of the veil! It is for our baptism by immersion into the **“waters of life,”** [which is divine nature] it is our personal immersion into **pure unfeigned love** [2 Corinthians; 1 Peter 1:22; D&C 121:41-46]. It is **for the living who understand** that to be immersed in water **symbolizes** not only mortal birth but as the Prophet Joseph Smith taught, going down into the grave [meaning, leaving our dead works of sinful natures and lusts buried forever and coming forth in translation (being born of God, born again) while here in mortality or afterword’s, in the resurrection, for those who die a mortal death] (D&C 128: 11-18). “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? [Does God require tithes or money to enter the true body temple? NO] “He [Christ] poured out the changers’ of money...[formalism] make not my Father’s house a house of merchandise” [John 2:13-16]) meaning a requirement for temple worship! He only requires a **“broken heart and a contrite spirit.”** **“For ye are the temple of the living God;** as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefor come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; [don’t get caught up in formalism] and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and my daughter, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:16-18). Understanding symbolism is a key to becoming one with god/God. <https://www.compellingtruth.org/temple-cleanse.html>

7. **“Be Holy.”** “According to the Old Testament, things or places were holy that were set apart for a sacred purpose; the opposite of holy is therefore common or profane ([1 Sam. 21:5](#); [Ezek. 22:26](#); [42:20](#); [44:23](#); [48:13–15](#)). Similarly, a holy person meant one who held a sacred office. The Israelites were a holy people because they stood in a special relationship to Jehovah. Under the guidance of the [true] Prophets it was seen that what distinguished Jehovah from the gods of the heathen was His personal character [godly morality and divine nature]. The word *holy* therefore came to refer to moral character [virtue] ([Lev. 11:44](#); [19:2](#); [21:8](#); [Isa. 6:3–8](#)). Israel must be holy in character because the God of Israel was holy ([Jer. 7:4–7](#); see also [Matt.](#)

5:48). The Law of Holiness ([Lev. 17–26](#)) shows how the *attempt* was made by means of ceremonial observances to secure this holiness of character. The attempt failed [*it always will*] because the later Jews observed the letter and neglected the spirit; [*so it is with modern day Israel today*] they attached more importance to the ceremonial than to the moral; and the result was [and is] a lapse into formalism [a type of idol or image worship]. But in the writings of the [true] Prophets it is clearly laid down that *the value of worship in the eyes of God depends upon the personal character of the worshipper*" (LDS Bible Dictionary, Holiness).

8. *Book of Life / Tree of Life / Kingdom of God / Kingdom of Heaven*: More symbolism...

“If the Kingdom of Heaven is within you, then the King of heaven is also within you. If the King of heaven is within you then all that the King possess is within you also. The King's possessions include the Tree of Life, the Waters of Life, and even the Book of Life. If all these things are within us, including the record of heaven and the truth of all things - then why have so few ever found this inner Kingdom of Heaven? Is it because the Kingdom of Heaven is contained in the tiny seed which has never sprouted in our *hearts*? That seed has simply been a thought of glory with no *heart* or soul to enliven it so that it will grow and fill our entire beings! With all the potential of celestial glory embedded in our souls, *we seem to look elsewhere to find heaven*. We look on the outside. We judge others. We judge churches. *We want them to nourish us* instead of allowing the King of Glory *within* [divine nature] to cause His seed to grow.” [Ye Are Gods, Chapter 22].

Another name for this seed is "The Word." “In the beginning was the *Word*, and the *Word* was with God, and the *Word* was God” [John 1:1]. This applies to each one of us individually if we are to truly become like God. Think of yourselves as an eternal spiritual being, having no beginning and no end [D&C 93:23] for this is truly who we really are! However, you are now here in mortality having this experience for a purpose. Our *thoughts* are our creator,

you alone will create who you choose to become, no one else can do this for you, no person, place or thing! A call to action, try this experiment in your own mind: “In the beginning [hear, now, today] was the [thought or idea]. And the thought or idea is with [godliness and holiness of character which is about the god potential/seed within, that you might become like or “one” with] God. And the Word [or thought and idea] was [or became] god/God [godliness and holy as God is holy]. This is a true formula in becoming a god/God, if we can learn to immerse every thought, word or idea in holiness, virtue, and pure love before we act! This is available to any who hunger and thirst for it, regardless of race, religion.

9. “*With all thy heart*” and “*with all thy mind.*”

The “*heart*” scripturally has always symbolized “divine nature,” the [pure love of (god/God) Christ]. The “*mind*” of mortal man has always symbolized the ego, or the fallen and carnal nature of man. However, the “*mind*” of god/God is just the opposite; it symbolizes being *born of god* [godliness]; and this literally takes place when the mortal mind and heart become “one” in a divine relationship. It is then that there is no more conflict in us, because the mind and heart are “one” in “holiness and virtue.” There is only harmony [peace and joy] with the mind and heart of a godly person. This is the ultimate potential achievement for mankind. It is why we came to earth! To bring our *minds and hearts* together, immersed in holiness, divine love, divine morality and divine nature. In so doing there is no more conflict, strife, fear, anger, frustration or depression. “Be one: and if ye are not one ye are not mine” [D&C 38: 26-27].

“And let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practice virtue and holiness before me.

25 And again I say unto you, let every man esteem his brother as himself.

26 For what man among you having twelve sons, and is no respecter of them, and they serve him obediently, and he saith unto the one: Be thou clothed in robes and sit thou here; and to the other: Be thou clothed in rags and sit thou there—and looketh upon his sons and saith I am just?

27 Behold, this I have given unto you as a parable, and it is even as I am. I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine.

(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 38:24 - 27) This parable transcends religion, race and bloodlines. It is how God sees us all.

Our own “hearts” and “minds” must become “one” with no conflict inside if we are to enjoy a “face to face” with Christ, which experience will put us in the realm for a “face to face” with our Father in Heaven. That is his promise to all of us regardless of race or formalized religion.

10. Father God, Christ and the Holy Ghost

These proper names, our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are Spiritual beings of light, truth and intelligence. We to are Spiritual beings of light, truth and intelligence. Father and Christ are actual beings who have always existed as we have (Abraham 3:18) and as the Prophet Joseph taught in the King Follett Sermon. They have not always been “Gods” but they have always had the potential to become one. The word “**God**” is a *word* that denotes what they have achieved by becoming “Holy” in thought, word and deed within themselves! We are on that same journey today if we choose it. They sanctified themselves through this process just as we must! “Sanctify yourselves and ye shall be holy, for I am holy” (Leviticus 11:44). This process of personal sanctification is symbolically called being filled with the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost. It is our personal Spirit or Ghost that is being purified and sanctified as we immerse ourselves into the attributes of godliness and holiness of character. It is when our heart and mind are “one” in these divine attributes that we become sanctified and holy! Hence the Prophet Joseph called the Holy Ghost the “**same mind**” and “will” of God [Lectures on Faith 5; Philippians 2:6] a “personage of Spirit” [D&C 130:22-23]. “Personage” for the Prophet Joseph was and is defined as the “character” of an individual (character assumed and character represented). We have lost that meaning today. [<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/personage>].

What “personage” are we embracing? Are we putting on the character of god/God or hanging on to our ego, our fallen and carnal nature [beliefs that damn us]?

11. Grace / is the image of godliness [god/God]

Grace¹ is another symbolic word that defines the nature and character of god/God. It defines our innermost “holy of holies” where our “mind and heart” become “one,” in godliness and true holiness, this is grace! Hence it truly is “by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” [2 Nephi 25:23; Romans 4: 13-16; Ephesians 2].

Symbolism will teach us the mysteries² of godliness if our hearts are open and receptive to the truth which will set us free, by becoming a manifestation of the pure love of Christ/godliness [Moroni 7:45-48*]. Our “mind” and “heart” must be completely “immersed in,” “rooted and grounded in” and “abide in” godliness of character! Then we will be “purified even as He is pure” [Moroni 7]. When this takes place inside us, we are truly created in the image of God³. It is not the “forms and structures” that defines us, but what we do inwardly that defines⁴ us and this is how the “promises of God”⁵ are truly made “sure to all the seed”⁶ of mankind. It is how the City of Enoch was created! It is the stone cut out of the mountain without hands and is the church of the Firstborn⁷ being prepared for Christs return.

12. Sealing / Sealed / Seal / Covenants / It's All Symbolism

The “seal of the living God” is for all those who have immersed themselves in a covenant of righteousness, [divine nature] so that every thought and atom of their soul [body and spirit] is in the divine realm of holiness. The fallen and carnal nature is completely gone. All sealings done in the temples of brick and mortar symbolize this experience. It is a covenant of righteousness created within our souls, with our “god” potential, in our own “holy of holies,” where our “mind and heart” are one in the most sacred temple ever created; and each of us are the creators of our own body temple! This is being sealed up in righteousness. And the opposite is also available when a person “seals themselves up in” unrighteousness by holding on to false beliefs (a “fallen nature” symbolizes “false beliefs”) and a carnal nature. There are many false beliefs, false tradition and false assumptions which creates a “fallen

¹ D&C 93: 11-20 “you shall receive grace for grace” meaning you shall partake of one divine attribute and then another until you receive [partake of] a fulness of them.

² 1 Nephi 10: 17-19; D&C 10: 64-70; 11:7; 42:61; 63:23; 76:5-8

³ Genesis 1:27; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Alma 5:19 “having the **image of God** engraven upon your countenances”

⁴ Matthew 7:21-23 “I never knew you” See IV Matthew 7:32-33 “Ye never knew me”

⁵ Galatians 3

⁶ Romans 4:16

⁷ Hebrews 12:23, D&C 76:54, 71, 94, 102; 77:11; 78:21; 88:4-23; 107:19

nature.” And then there is the obvious “carnal nature” that separates one from god/God [godliness].

“Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

9 *Cometh* this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that ***faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.***

10 How was [or is] it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision [the form and structure of organized religion], or in uncircumcision? ***Not in circumcision***, [made with hands] ***but in uncircumcision*** [made without hands].

11 And [yet] he received the sign of circumcision, ***a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised***: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness [divine nature] might be imputed unto them also:

12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith [made without hands] of our father Abraham, which *he had* being *yet* uncircumcised.

13 ***For the promise, [of godhood]*** that he should be the heir of the world, *was* not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but ***through the righteousness [of divine nature] of faith [made without hands].***”

(New Testament | Romans 4:8 - 13)

Thus the “***sealing of the children to their parents***” (D&C 138: 48) or ***turning the hearts “of the fathers to the children”*** (Malachi 4:5-6) and vice versa is always about becoming the temple of the living God, of “divine nature” “made without hands” of “holiness,” of “virtue” of godliness... this is the righteousness of Abraham, the faith of Abraham and of the City of Enoch, even the Church of the Firstborn and is available to any other person who so becomes a manifestation of it in purity, on either side of the veil! Every outward and inward covenant and sealing is based on, ***“if you are true and faithful”*** to God (to your own divine nature) “made without hands,” this is the promise of god/God to all.

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