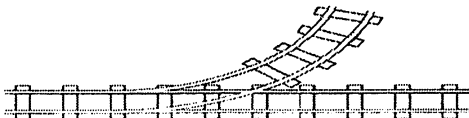


Gospel Doctrine Lesson 34: "Keep the Ordinances, As I Delivered Them"

(I Corinthians 11-15)

LESSON GOAL: To help us recognize the importance of living according to the doctrines of the gospel.



Elder Gordon B. Hinckley: "Many years ago I worked in the head office of one of our railroads. One day I received a telephone call from my counterpart in Newark, New Jersey, who said that a passenger train had arrived without its baggage car. The patrons were angry.

"We discovered that the train had been properly made up in Oakland, California, and properly delivered to St. Louis, from which station it was to be carried to its destination on the east coast. But in the St. Louis yards, a thoughtless switchman, careless of his instructions, had moved a piece of steel just three inches. That piece of steel was a switch point, and the car that should have been in Newark, New Jersey, was in New Orleans, Louisiana, thirteen hundred miles away" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1972, 106-7; or *Ensign*, Jan. 1973, 91).

1. Husbands' and wives' relationships with each other and with the Lord

President Marion G. Romney: "A husband and wife] should be one in harmony, respect, and mutual consideration. Neither should plan or follow an independent course of action. They should consult, pray, and decide together. ... Remember that neither the wife nor the husband is the slave of the other. **Husbands and wives are equal partners**" ("In the Image of God," *Ensign*, Mar. 1978, 2, 4).

Stephen Covey: "When we love God and Christ first, we will love our spouse more, not less--with more true love, more wisdom, and more charity.... **Divine-centeredness is the key to a celestial relationship.** If we are true and faithful to the covenants we make with the Lord, we will have the security, guidance, wisdom, and power to deal with problems in the marriage" (*The Divine Center*, 90-91).

Rodney Turner: "Obviously, a wife's righteous submission to her husband should stem from her husband's righteous submission to Christ. When this occurs, a **divine triangle exists with Christ at its apex.** Husband and wife are one flesh with each other because they have become one flesh with Christ. **This is the foundation of all eternal unions.**" (Robert L. Millet, ed., *Studies in Scripture, Vol. 6: Acts to Revelation* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1987], 117 - 118.)

APPLICATION: As Heavenly Father and Christ are unified, so should husband and wife be.

2. The purpose of the sacrament

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland: "With so very much at stake, [the sacrament] should be taken more seriously than it sometimes is. It should be a powerful, reverent, reflective moment. It should encourage spiritual feelings and impressions. As such it should not be rushed. It is not something to 'get over' so that the real purpose of a sacrament meeting can be pursued. This is the real purpose of the meeting" (Conference Report, Oct. 1995, 89).

Joseph Fielding Smith Jr.: "If any of the members are not in good standing; **if they have in their hearts any feeling of hatred, envy, or sin of any kind, they should not partake of these emblems.** If there are any differences or feelings existing between brethren, these differences should be adjusted before the guilty parties partake; otherwise they will eat and drink unworthily and bring upon them the condemnation spoken of by Paul. (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol.2, 343)

Spencer W. Kimball: "That is the real purpose of the sacrament, to keep us from forgetting, to help us to remember. I suppose there would never be an apostate, there would never be a crime, if people remembered, really remembered, the things they had covenanted at the water's edge or at the sacrament table and in the temple. I suppose that is the reason the Lord asked Adam to offer sacrifices, for no other reason than that he and his posterity would remember-remember the basic things that they had been taught. **I guess we as humans are prone to forget.** It is easy to forget. Our sorrows, our joys, our concerns, our great problems seem to wane to some extent as time goes on, and there are many lessons that we learn which have a tendency to slip from us.... I remember a young Navaho boy returning from his mission who was supported largely by a seventies quorum in the Bonneville Stake. I happened to be present the day he made his report and as tears rolled down his face, he said, 'Oh, if I could only remember **always just how I feel now.**'" (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, edited by Edward L. Kimball [1982], 113).

President David O. McKay: "The partaking of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is one of the most sacred ordinances of the Church of Jesus Christ. Associated with it are principles fundamental in character building and essential to man's advancement and exaltation in the kingdom of God. Too few communicants attach to this simple though sublime rite the importance and significance that it merits. **Unfortunately, the form of worship is frequently an outward—compliance without the true soul acknowledgment of its deep spiritual significance**" (*Gospel Ideals*, 71).

Bruce R. McConkie: "The Spirit will not come to a man unless and until he is prepared by personal righteousness to have the companionship of that member of the Godhead. Thus to be worthy of baptism men must "witness before the church that they have truly repented of all their sins" (D. & C. 20:37), and precisely the same thing is involved in their preparation to partake worthily of the sacrament. In other words, as a result of worthy baptism men stand clean before him if they fulfill the full law involved in partaking of the sacrament, for in each instance they are rewarded with the companionship of the Spirit, **which companionship they cannot have unless they are cleansed and purified from sin.** (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 297).

The major purpose of our gathering in Sacrament meetings is to partake of the Sacrament. These verses suggest three great purposes for the Sacrament.

1. I Corinthians 11:25—"This do ye . . . in remembrance of me." The Sacrament is a **MEMORIAL.**"
2. I Corinthians 11:26. We partake to "shew the Lord's death till he come." The Sacrament is a **TESTIMONIAL.**"
3. I Corinthians 11:28-30. "But let a man examine himself . . ." The Sacrament is an **EXAMINATION.**

APPLICATION: By examining our worthiness to partake of the sacrament, we make this ordinance more meaningful in our lives.

3. The importance of all spiritual gifts

1 Corinthians, D&C 46, and Moroni 10 all give lists of gifts of the spirit, but those lists are not comprehensive.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "These gifts are infinite in number and endless in their manifestations because God himself is infinite and endless, and because the needs of those who receive them are as numerous, varied, and different as there are people in the kingdom. **All saints are commanded to seek earnestly the best gifts.** Chief among them are the testimony of Jesus, a believing spirit, divine wisdom, heavenly knowledge, faith in the Lord, the working of miracles, prophecy, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits, the discerning of spirits, tongues and their interpretations, the gift of preaching, administrative ability, and the insight to discern and recognize all of the gifts of God, lest there be confusion or deception in the Church. (*A New Witness for the Articles of Faith*, 270 -271).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "Above all the attributes of godliness and perfection, **charity is the one most devoutly to be desired.** Charity is more than love, far more; it is everlasting love, perfect love, the pure love of Christ which endureth forever. **It is love so centered in righteousness that the possessor has no aim or desire except for the eternal welfare of his own soul and for the souls of those around him.**" (*Mormon Doctrine*, 121)

Jeffrey R. Holland: "It is an immensely satisfying thing to be needed in the body of Christ. Whether I function as an eye or arm is irrelevant; the fact is I am needed in this most majestic organism, and the body is imperfect without me. A popular singer made a small fortune reminding us that 'people who need people are the luckiest people in the world.' In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—the restored ecclesiastical body of Christ—people do need people and everyone is welcomed. This includes (in Paul's assertion) not only the attractive, talented, 'comely' members, but those of us who seem to have fewer gifts and face greater challenges, those who receive less honor and attention. In the Church of Jesus Christ 'more abundant honor' is given to these. **Every member matters, and the less favored member most of all** (1 Cor. 12:23–24)." ("Belonging: A View of Membership," *Ensign*, Apr. 1980, 27-28).

Carlos E. Asay: "I find it significant that God has given us more than a casual invitation to obtain spiritual gifts. **There are seven very pointed and command-like statements that remind us of the absolute necessity to seek these gifts.** In a sense, God has given us a commission to seek, a requirement to obtain, and a responsibility to share these spiritual gifts. Study the following declarations and notice the words italicized; each denotes action on our part:

1. '**Seek ye earnestly** the best gifts' (D&C 46:8).
2. '**Lay hold upon** every good gift' (Moroni 10:30).
3. '**Covet earnestly** the best gifts' (1 Corinthians 12:31)
(*'covet earnestly'* means *'ardently desire'*).
4. '**Desire** spiritual gifts' (1 Corinthians 14:1).
5. '**[Be] zealous** of spiritual gifts' (1 Corinthians 14:12)
(*'zealous'* means *enthusiastic*).
6. 'This is thy gift; **apply unto it**, and blessed art thou' (D&C 8:4).
7. '**Ask of God**, who giveth liberally.... He that asketh in the Spirit, asketh according to the will of God' (D&C 46:7, 30).

"The injunction is to 'seek earnestly,' 'lay hold upon,' 'covet earnestly,' 'desire,' 'be zealous of,' 'apply unto it,' and 'ask of God.' It isn't a proposition of, 'If you have the time, do it,' or, 'If you have the inclination, try it.' It isn't that at all. **We are commanded to seek and cultivate gifts of the Spirit!**" (*In the Lord's Service: A Guide to Spiritual Development* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1990], 124.)

(Please turn to the last page of this handout.)

THE ATTRIBUTES OF CHARITY---1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Suffereth long	Is not easily provoked
Is kind	Thinketh no evil
Envieth not	Rejoiceth not in iniquity
Vaunteth not itself	Rejoiceth in the truth
Is not puffed up	Beareth all things
Doth not behave itself unseemly	Believeth all things
Seeketh not her own	Hopeth all things
Endureth all things	

Neal A. Maxwell: "Whereas the natural man is filled with greed, the men and women of Christ 'seeketh not [their] own' (1 Corinthians 13:5)... One of the last, subtle strongholds of selfishness is the natural feeling that we 'own' ourselves. Of course, we are free to choose and are personally accountable. Yes, we have individuality. **But those who have chosen to 'come unto Christ' soon realize that they do not 'own' themselves. Instead, they belong to Him!** We are to become consecrated along with our gifts, our appointed days, and our very selves. Hence there is a stark difference between stubbornly 'owning' oneself and submissively belonging to God. **Clinging to the old self is a mark not of independence but of indulgence.**" (*Men and Women of Christ* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1991], 14).

Orson Scott Card: "A paraphrase: And though I attend all my meetings faithfully, and fulfill all my callings, and make a home teaching visit during the first week of the month; and though in all ways I am an active Church member, **yet if I do not spend time in love and service for others, then I am not yet a Saint**, for I do not yet love the Lord with all my heart, might, mind, and strength; and I do not love my neighbor as myself." (Orson Scott Card, "Sunday Meetings: A Preparation for Work," *Ensign*, Jan. 1978, 63).

TO DEVELOP GREATER CHARITY, LISTEN TO MORMON:

"**But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever;** and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love,** which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; **that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.**" (Moroni 7:47-48)

APPLICATION: To understand and choose charity opens the door to the obtaining of all other spiritual gifts.

4. The Resurrection and the degrees of glory

Robert J. Matthews: "The resurrection is something the world cannot relate to by observation; it has to be understood by faith and by the Holy Ghost. Consequently it is not readily accepted or believed in the world. Paul's magnificent statement about the resurrection recorded in 1 Cor. 15 apparently was written to convince the intellectuals of his day, those who trusted in reason, that the resurrection was logical, scriptural, and necessary. He said that his knowledge of the resurrection came by revelation but that the doctrine was reasonable even so. **The testimony of the scriptures and of the Holy Spirit is that the resurrection of Jesus, and eventually of all mankind, is literal, historical, and factual truth.** It really did happen to Jesus, it has already happened to many, and it will yet happen to many more. Everyone who has lived upon this earth is destined to come forth in the resurrection." (*A Bible! A Bible!* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1990], 198 - 199).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "By one degree of obedience or another, **all men, in this life, develop either celestial, terrestrial, or telestial bodies** (or in the case of those destined to be sons of perdition, bodies of a baser sort). In the resurrection all men receive back again "the same body which was a natural body," whether it be celestial, terrestrial, or what have you. That body is then quickened by the glory attending its particular type, and the person receiving the body then goes automatically, as it were, to the kingdom of glory where that degree of glory is found." (DNTC, 1:196)

The true disciple must place the natural man on the altar of sacrifice on a daily basis in order to truly submit to the Father's will. Paul's argument is that placing the Lord first on a daily basis is a waste of time if there is no hope of a resurrection.

APPLICATION: Know that without the resurrection, there is no need for Jesus Christ to come and save us.

Henry B. Eyring: "I can recall thinking, at the student stage of life, of consecrating my life in one grand, heroic gesture. But as life progresses, **our moments for consecration are specific, finite, and simple... We should be ready to consecrate our talents to the task at hand,** whether or not it is a task we have envisioned for ourselves. **Consecration is not a once-in-a-lifetime event; it is a daily devotion.** As Paul says, we 'die daily' in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:31)." (*On Becoming a Disciple Scholar* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995], 78).

"There Are Many Gifts" by Marvin J. Ashton

General Conference, October 1987

One of the great tragedies of life, it seems to me, is when a person classifies himself as someone who has no talents or gifts. When, in disgust or discouragement, we allow ourselves to reach depressive levels of despair because of our demeaning self-appraisal, it is a sad day for us and a sad day in the eyes of God. For us to conclude that we have no gifts **when we judge ourselves by stature, intelligence, grade-point average, wealth, power, position, or external appearance is not only unfair but unreasonable.**

From D&C 46:11–12, we have this truth: "For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God. To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby."

Let us review some of these less-conspicuous gifts: the gift of **asking**; the gift of **listening**; the gift of **hearing** and **using a still, small voice**; the gift of **being able to weep**; the gift of **avoiding contention**; the gift of **being agreeable**; the gift of **avoiding vain repetition**; the gift of **seeking that which is righteous**; the gift of **not passing judgment**; the gift of **looking to God for guidance**; the gift of **being a disciple**; the gift of **caring for others**; the gift of **being able to ponder**; the gift of **offering prayer**; the gift of **bearing a mighty testimony**; and the gift of **receiving the Holy Ghost**.

Every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God. It is our **right and responsibility** to accept our gifts and to share them. God's gifts and powers are available to all of us. Time will permit my emphasizing only a few of these God-given gifts.

1. The Gift to Ponder

As I study the scriptures, I am challenged and moved by the word *ponder* used so frequently in the Book of Mormon. Dictionaries say that *ponder* means to **weigh mentally, think deeply about, deliberate, meditate**. When Jesus Christ came to teach the Nephites, he said, "Therefore, go ye unto your homes, and ponder upon the things which I have said, and ask of the Father, in my name, that ye may understand, and prepare your minds for the morrow, and I come unto you again" (3 Ne. 17:3).

By pondering, we give the Spirit an opportunity to impress and direct. **Pondering is a powerful link between the heart and the mind.** As we read the scriptures, our hearts and minds are touched.

2. The Gift to Look to God for Direction

How often have we ourselves said or have heard others exclaim in times of crisis or trouble, "I just don't know where to turn"? If we will just use it, the gift of looking to God for direction is an avenue of strength, comfort, and guidance.

"Behold, I am the law, and the light. **Look unto me, and endure to the end**, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life" (3 Ne. 15:9). **Our capacity to see and comprehend is increased only in proportion to our willingness to look.** God becomes more approachable as we look to him.

3. The Gift to Hear and Use the Small Voice

Still, small heavenly voices penetrate the heart with their gentle, convincing declarations:

"And it came to pass that while they were thus conversing one with another, they heard a voice as if it came out of heaven; and they cast their eyes round about, for they understood not the voice which they heard; and it was not a harsh voice, neither was it a loud voice; nevertheless, and notwithstanding **it being a small voice it did pierce them that did hear to the center**, insomuch that there was no part of their frame that it did not cause to quake; yea, it did pierce them to the very soul, and did cause their hearts to burn" (3 Ne. 11:3).

Most often, hope, encouragement, and direction come from a soft, piercing voice. Small voices are heard only by those who are willing to listen.

4. The Gift to Calm

What a majestic gift it is to be able to calm others! We thank God for those who are calm instead of contentious.

"For verily, verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another" (3 Ne. 11:29).

Contention is a tool of the adversary. Peace is a tool of our Savior.

5. The Gift to Care

How grateful we should be for families, friends, and organizations who care! They, too, reap rewards in their Christlike caring when they serve **for the right reasons** and are interested in rendering **compassionate caring** for others.

"And to every man is given a gift" (D&C 46:11). This is true. **God help us to recognize, develop, and share our gifts that all may profit thereby is my earnest hope and plea.**