

The Term “Endowment” where do we get it?

Question of the week: “I was wondering if you could do a study on what has been called by some as ‘the endowment’. What is the endowment? Will we be endowed with ‘powers’ after Christ returns? If so, what powers? Did the endowment already occur? Is the endowment only mentioned in various latter-day revelation (that may or may not be inspired)? If so, which revelations?”

As alluded to, the English term “Endow” is not a very common word in the scriptures. It’s only found once in the Old Testament and it means to “obtain in exchange” “give a dowry”. “Endued” is found an additional 5 times in the scriptures and is used to convey that the Holy Spirit is given as a gift from God. As the questioner points out, purported revelations of Joseph Smith do mention they were to be endowed. To the point of one of the questions, during the time period when the Book of Mormon came forth the word “endowment” was used outside the church to reflect a gift or blessing by God.

Key verse:

[Luke 24 : 49](#) And, behold, I send the promise of my Father **upon you**: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be **endued*** with **power from on high**.

Strong's G1746 - *endyō*

Endued: array, clothe (with), endue, have (put) on.

Endue definition, to invest or **endow** with some gift, quality, or faculty.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/endue>

Endowment: That which is given or bestowed on the person or mind **by the creator**;

[Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language, 1828.](#)

[Genesis 30 : 20](#) And Leah said, **God** hath **endued** me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun.

[II Chronicles 2 : 12](#) Hiram said moreover, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, **endued with prudence and understanding**, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

[II Chronicles 2 : 13](#) And now I have sent a cunning man, **endued with understanding**, of Hiram my father's,



[James 3 : 13](#) Who is a wise man and **endued with knowledge among you**? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Purported Revelations from Joseph Smith

Book of Commandments chapter 40:

A Revelation to the churches in New York, commanding them to remove to Ohio, given in Fayette, New York, January, 1831.

28 Wherefore, for this cause I gave unto you the commandment, that ye should go to the **Ohio**: and there I will give unto **you** my law, and there **you** shall be **endowed** with **power from on high**, and from thence, **whomsoever I will shall go forth among all nations**, and it shall be told them what they shall do, for I have a great work laid up in store:

29 For **Israel shall be saved**, and I will lead them whithersoever I will, and no power shall stay my hand. 30 And now I give unto the church in these parts, a commandment, that certain men among them shall be appointed, and they shall be appointed by the voice of the church; and they shall look to the poor and the needy, and administer to their relief, that they shall not suffer; and send them forth to the place which I have commanded them; and this shall be their work, to govern the affairs of the property of this church. And they that have farms, that cannot be sold, let them be left or rented, as seemeth them good.

31 See that all things are preserved, and when men are **endowed** with **power from on high**, and are **sent forth**, all these things shall be gathered unto the bosom of the church.

(This is the first occasion that I find this word. Who was to be endowed and for what purpose?)

Book of Commandments CHAPTER 45.

A Revelation to the elders of the church, assembled in Kirtland, Ohio, given February, 1831.

1 O HEARKEN, ye elders of my church, and give ear to the words which I shall speak unto you:

2 For behold, verily, verily I say unto you, that ye have received a commandment for a law unto my church, **through him whom I have appointed unto you, to receive commandments and revelations from my hand.**

3 And this ye shall know assuredly, that there is none other appointed unto you to receive commandments and revelations until he be taken, if he abide in me....

14 Again I say, **hearken ye elders of my church**, whom I have appointed:

15 Ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach the children of men the things which I have put into your hands by the power of my spirit: and ye are to be taught from on high.

16 Sanctify yourselves and ye shall be **endowed with power**, that ye may give even as I have spoken.

17 Hearken ye, for behold the great day of the Lord is nigh at hand.

Historical Notes

Although it was not generally referred to as an **endowment** at the time, in retrospect, Latter Day Saints have viewed the [confirmation](#), first performed on April 6, 1830, and attendant outpourings of the [spiritual gifts](#), as an early type of endowment. ([Talmage \(1912\)](#), pp. 74–76) ([James E. Talmage](#), an apostle and theologian of the LDS Church, describing confirmation as an "endowment" of the [Holy Spirit](#)))

... In the theology of the [Latter Day Saint movement](#), an **endowment** refers to a **gift of "power from on high"**, typically associated with [Latter Day Saint temples](#). The purpose and meaning of the endowment varied during the life of movement founder [Joseph Smith](#). The term has referred to many such gifts of heavenly power, including the [confirmation](#) ritual, the institution of the [High Priesthood](#) in 1831, events and rituals occurring in the [Kirtland Temple](#) in the mid-1830s, and an elaborate [ritual](#) performed in the [Nauvoo Temple](#) in the 1840s

1831 Kirtland endowment: Conferral of the **High Priesthood**- general conference of the church was held from June 3 to June 6, 1831, in which a number of men were ordained to the "High" or "[Melchizedek](#)" **Priesthood** for the first time,^[11] which ordination "consisted [of] the endowment--it being a new order--and bestowed authority".^[12] Later that year, an early convert who had left the church claimed that many of the Saints "have been ordained to the High Priesthood, or the **order of Melchizedek**; and profess to be endowed with the same power as the ancient apostles were"

1833 Kirtland endowment: School of the Prophets; The 1836 Kirtland endowment; The Nauvoo endowment

Scriptural Examples of Past Future Endowments or Enduements

[III Nephi 10 :2-7](#) And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they **may build a city**, which shall be **called the New Jerusalem**; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, which are scattered upon all the face of the land, in **unto the New Jerusalem**. And **then shall the power of heaven come down among them**; and **I also will be in the midst**, and then shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily, I say unto you, At that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people; yea, **even the tribes which have been lost**, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name; Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father, among all nations, in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance.

[Jacob 3 :131-132; 140-142](#) **131** And ye shall not clear away the bad thereof, all at once, lest the roots thereof should be too strong for the graft, and the graft thereof shall perish, and I lose the trees of my vineyard.**132** For it grieveth me that I should lose the trees of my vineyard; wherefore, ye shall clear away the bad, according as the good shall grow, that the root and the

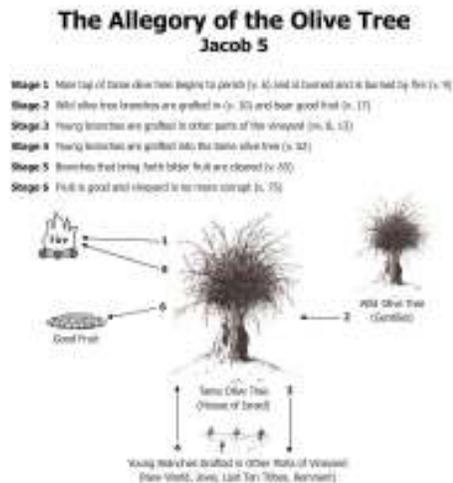
top may be equal in strength, until the good shall overcome the bad, and the bad be hewn down and cast into the fire, that they cumber not the ground of my vineyard;..... and thus will I sweep away the bad out of my vineyard. And it came to pass that the servants did go to it, and labor with their might; and the **Lord of the vineyard** labored also with them; and **they did obey the commandments of the Lord of the vineyard, in all things**. And there began to be the **natural fruit again in the vineyard; and the natural branches began to grow and thrive exceedingly**; And the wild branches began to be plucked off, and to be cast away; and they did keep the root and the top thereof equal, according to the strength thereof.

[III Nephi 13 :42-44](#) And **they are as the angels of God**, and if they shall pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus, **they can shew themselves unto whatsoever man it seemeth them good; Therefore great and marvelous works shall be wrought by them, before the great and coming day**, when all people must surely stand before the judgment seat of Christ; Yea, even among the Gentiles shall there be a great and marvelous work wrought by them, before that judgment day.

We know that all souls are precious unto God, with their convincing power, why aren't these three Nephites convincing their brethren and the Gentiles now in large Numbers?

[I Nephi 3 : 185-187](#) And after that thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren; behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb; And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation; And blessed are they which shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, **for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;**

[I Nephi 3 :227-234](#) **227** Nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, which were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; **228** And **their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore** which I saw. **229** And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, **to fight against the Lamb of God.** **230** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the **power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord**, which were scattered upon all the face of the earth; **231** And they were armed with righteousness and with the **power of God** in great glory. **232** And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth, **233** And as there began to be wars and rumors of wars among all the nations which belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spake unto me, saying, **234** Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots;



[II Nephi 14 : 2-3](#) But behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts? Do ye not remember that I said unto you, that after ye had received the Holy Ghost, ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels, save it were by the **Holy** Ghost? Angels speak by the **power** of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ.

[Isaiah 65 :23-25](#) **They shall not labour in vain**, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that **before they call, I will answer**; and **while they are yet speaking, I will hear**. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

All things will prosper that we apply our hand to during the Millennial Reign. How does this happen?