

Is Podcast 007 Tokens and Signs

By Mike Stroud

Mike: I would like to talk to you tonight about something... I had experienced this week ... I had one of grandsons that came up and spent three days with me. He is 16 years old. And he is having some difficulty with his mother in the home. It's the difficulties teenagers and moms have sometimes, but times 10. Sometimes gets pretty heated and pretty contentious even to the point that the laying on of hands takes place, and this one grandson was pushed to the edge where he said he didn't know if he could restrain himself from hitting his mother. So he came up and I pulled them into my office; we have a good relationship and I talk to him a little bit; and his father has forbid him doing that. And has spent considerable amount of time talking about the consequences of something if you were to give into his anger and frustration and do that. And basically it is forbidding and threatening on what you had better not do or else. So what we did, I sit down and talk to him. And he did not need to hear that one more time from grandpa. And, as I pondered what I was going to say to him, the following things developed in my mind and was this: saying by Bruce R McConkey that " true doctrine understood changes behavior faster than a discussion of behavior will change behavior." And so, I took it upon myself that I was going to teach him some true doctrine. I was not going to threaten him. I was not going to talk about the dire consequences. I was not going to talk about, you know, forbidding you to do this. We just went at it a different way. And so I sat down in the spirit begin to unfold the following things... And I ... I don't know if I get it exactly for you but you will get the gist of it. This story leads into what I want to share with you tonight. It has to do with tokens and signs... Tokens and signs. Now, these are two words that Latter Day Saints understand but have very little meaning outside of the restoration doctrines restored through Joseph Smith. So I want to talk to you a little bit about tokens and signs.

On with the story. I told him there was something within every man that is a part of his core value, his nature, that is to protect women. Every man has something, when they come into this life, that part of their nature that comes from their father in heaven is to protect women. And the most opposite thing that you can do against your nature is to harm a woman in any way. Whether it is physical or verbal or especially physical that were talking about here, or sexual in any way, that goes against the man's nature. In a woman, there is also a part of her core nature, that wants to be protected by a man. These are things that are placed within us by our heavenly father. And I told my 16-year-old grandson, you may not understand this now but you will later when you become a husband and a father. And these feelings begin to mature in there. But take my word for it now you have something in you, given to you by God, that is designed to provide protection for women. If you go against that... If you go against that the consequences are not what I want to talk to. I want to talk about the damage that it will do to you Because you have gone opposite of your nature. And if you do that it may be something that you will have a very hard time getting over or you may not get over it at all in your life. It may be something that you will do, that you will carry with you for the rest of your life. That is the goal against, in this way, physical violence, against your very core nature given to you by your heavenly father. And we chatted a little bit about that. And I asked him if he understood that. And he said he thought that he did. But let's go a step further.

What is the most precious, precious metal on earth? He quickly set gold. I said, gold when you first find it, unless it is an nugget form, is usually in the form of gold ore... Gold ORE. and in gold ore you will find a percentage of the gold in the ore mixed with other things, other metals, and other types of things that have to be separated from the gold, otherwise the gold remains valueless in its ore state. It cannot be used for jewelry. It cannot be used for coins. It cannot be used for anything until there is some kind of a process that separates the gold that is in the ore from the other elements that are not as valuable as the gold. And I asked him, I said, do you know what the process is to separate the gold from

the ore so that you get that precious metal out of there? And he immediately said yes, it's heat and pressure. And I was impressed that he knew that. And I said, that is much like us. In our natural state, in our fallen state, that we find ourselves in, we are much like gold ore. There is something precious and valuable and divine inside of us but it is mixed up in our natural man state with things that are not godly and we need to be able to separate those things out. Now you're in a situation where you get angry at your mom and she gets angry at you.

Did you ever stop to think that that situation you wish to go away, and that you didn't experience did you stop to think that that is the very situation that God has allowed you to be in so that under heat and pressure the gold that is a part of your nature can be released from the other things and can become precious and valuable and in no other way than by heat and pressure? And I said you understand what I'm saying. And he said yes. I said I want you.. Now here's the difference... The difference is not in what is happening... The differences and how you view what is happening. And so, what I want you to do... I said to my grandson... I want you to develop a different view of what is taking place in your life. Instead of something to forsake, escape, or physically react to, I want you to view it as perhaps one of the best laboratories you could ever be involved in to process gold that is a part of you. Because there is gold in you and a part of you that can only be released by heat and pressure. The greater the pressure, the greater the heat, the quicker the refinement. The quicker the refinement and he pondered these things and we talked back and forth and I said your view now needs to look at this differently as a blessing from your heavenly father and instead of you asking to be delivered from it you may be asking to be removed from the very thing that is the most important, valuable lessons and laboratory that you could ever be and at this point in your life. So rather than being asked to be delivered from it, ask the Lord to strengthen you, change your view of it so that something that can become a positive experience and refine the gold that is in your nature and separate it from the dross that the natural man brings into the equation. And I asked him to understand that. And he said Yes, and we talked back and forth and then I told him the story.

I want you to take the word gold and I want you to use that as a token. In other words what you get in a situation that's trying and you feel like you're going to lose your temper that did things you know you should do but go against your very nature I want you think of the word gold and use that as a token... as a token to remind you of the view you should take instead of the way you have looked at it in the past. So if I'm down there and you get into trouble, in a challenging situation arises, I want you to call me and as we talk I will say one thing. I'll say, 'Sammy'. You'll say, 'what grandpa?' I'll said, 'gold'.[\[10:06\]](#) and that you... When you hear that one word he will understand what were talking about. That becomes a token of something you can hang on to, to help you have a different view.

Now, I told him the story of when I was attending church here in Eager at the Assembly of God, one time and a friend of mine, he parishioner there, <pastor>, t got up and gave a lesson in the Assembly of God and he said this, "the difference between life and death is 14 inches." And I thought, well that's awful interesting wonder what he meant. And then he did this: he pointed up to his head and then he pointed to his heart; and the distance between the head and the heart is 14 inches. The difference between life and death is 14 inches. In other words, what we have in our head if we never have that seek down into our heart then we will never achieve what God wants us to do. In the LDS vernacular, up in the head we Testimony, but down in the heart we have conversion. As long as the latter-day saint remains with testimony and is never is converted, they are always vulnerable to leaving the church and being distracted and deceived by wind of doctrine. Those who are truly converted never will fall away. And so, brother Ering has talked about... from head to heart and he makes this motion, finger at your head... And then it goes down to your heart... That is a sign. And that sign is teaching us something. It is a key to unlock knowledge that changes the way we think and can eventually change your very

nature.

When I was working on the ranch down at Arivaca with a bunch of boys that were headed for prison, one of them was a man... A boy by the name of Josh Harris. He was Jewish. And we had many a good talk about the gospel, about Christ, about the old testament, about the Jewish law when we were riding horses back out in that Sonora desert country... Many a good talk. And one of the things that Josh and I had was... I taught him, I said Josh, unless you get what you know that's truth from your head down into your heart you are never going to be the man that God wants you to be. You have to be heart centered and not head centered. So Josh and I developed this and every time we would see each other, when we would leave, he would go like this, you touch his head and then he would touch his heart and no words were spoken. And no words need to be spoken because that became a sign of that doctrine... From head to heart. And until it gets to your heart it really doesn't do the job it's posted to in changing and transforming you. So, I called my grandson that same thing. Now Josh is in Israel right now, and he lives there, and this month he is going into the Israeli Defense force and will be a commando soldier. The other day he called me from Jerusalem and as we finish the conversation I said Josh it was so good to see you again and he said... He called me big Mike, because that's what they called me down there. He says big Mike, 'I love you and I'm thankful for our friendship' and then he this, without saying a word he touched his head and he touched his heart and he said, 'I love you' and that was all that was necessary. Nothing needed to be spoken, the message was there, we understood perfectly well the feelings, the doctrine, and the thoughts associated with that sign. And so I told that to my grandson... This is the sign. What you're doing is you're in a laboratory, and where if you will allow what God will take something that is appear in your head and help you move that down into your heart. And as you do that all of these difficulties that you are experiencing in your home will take care of themselves and you will be able to have a great experience and become the man that God wants you to be, because of the pressure and the heat involved in this learning laboratory. So we gave him a token, and the token is gold; and the sign is a move from head to heart. He now has a token and a sign to help him... To help him in this difficult challenging situation that he is in.

So, brothers and sisters, as we look at tokens and signs... Tokens are not, if you look in the topical guide, is not a word that is used a whole lot. But I will tell you that all tokens are associated with covenants. All signs are associated with covenants. In the temple we have five things: we have a law that is given to us first; following the law we are given a covenant, God gives us a covenant and invites us to enter into a covenant associated with the law. The law comes first, then an invitation to enter into a covenant. Remember, that man does not initiate covenants. Covenants always are initiated by the father through his son. All man does is when a coveted invitation is given, man exercise his agency to accept the covenant or reject it. Covenants with God never begin with man. Now, man can enter into vows and make vows and promises, but covenants come from God by invitation, you either accept or reject. These covenant now, once you enter into a covenant, there is a token that is always involved with the covenant. And there is a sign. And then the fifth thing is there is a name.

Anciently, these five things were involved in all ancient societies that had any vestments of gospel truth within their framework; law, covenant, token, sign, and name. Now these things were restored by the prophet Joseph Smith. Much of it was found within the Abraham papyrus. And Joseph received much of what he restored in the endowment ceremonies in the Joseph Smith brick store house starting in 1842, made of... No... Ya in May of 1842, and were contained on and some of these... Some of these ordinances were performed in the mansion house, in the red brick store house, some of them are performed out in the open nature. But all of them had their beginnings through Revelation and much of what he found in the endowment came from from the Abraham papyrus and then Revelation.

So let's take an ordinance for just a minute and see what we've got. Let's take the first covenant that we enter into as members of the church. What is the first covenant that we enter into? is it church centered or is it temple centered? What is the first covenant that we enter into?

Student: baptism

Mike: okay it's baptism, the first covenant that your invited to enter into his baptism. Is that correct?

Student: yes

Mike: and that is administered to by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through Aaronic priesthood. That's an Aaronic priesthood ordinance. Is that correct?

Student: yes

Mike: okay, so when John the Baptist restored the Aaronic priesthood, he restored the gospel of repentance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, the ministry of Angels. Okay, that's all Aaronic priesthood. Now, What is the token ordinance of baptism? You know what the law is... The law is: if you're not baptized you cannot enter the celestial world. The covenant of baptism is found in Mosiah 18. Let's look at it, go to Mosiah chapter 18. The law is: "*except a man be born of the water and the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*".. That's the law. Now let's look at the covenant. Mosiah 18 and let's look at verse 8. Now versus 8 and 9 spell out the covenant that you are invited to enter into that is associated with baptism. "*And it came to pass that he said unto them:*" now this is Alma, some of the elder. "*behold, here are the waters of Mormon (for thus they were called) and now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God,*" that's 1, you have to have desires, 2 "*and to be called his people,*" 3 "*and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light;*" 4 "*yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea,*" and 5 "*and comfort those that stand in need of comfort,*" 6 "*and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that you may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be number with those of the first resurrection, that you may have eternal life – now I say unto you, if this be the desires of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before him that you have entered into a covenant with him, that you will serve him and keep his commandments, that he may pour out his spirit more abundantly upon?*" That is the baptismal covenant.[21:10]

So what is the token? We have now got the law, 'except a man be born of the water in the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God', that's the law; we just read the covenant; what is the token? What is the token of baptism?

Student: you have to be dunked into the water

Mike: that's right. So the token is: you go down into the water, under the water, and are brought forth out of the water. That's the token of baptism. What is the sign?

Student: <???

Mike: it is and arm raised to the square. That is the sign. What is the name?

Student: Jesus Christ

Mike: it is. You now take upon yourself the name of Christ.

Student: yeah

Mike: interesting.

Let's take another... Let's take another ordinance that is performed. What is one of the most sacred ordinances performed in the church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints?

Student: the sacrament

Mike: the sacrament, right? So let's look at the sacrament. There is a law of there. The Lord issued that law and he said "*this do in remembrance of my body and all of my blood*". What is the covenant?

Think of the prayer. You take upon yourself the name of Christ, always remember him, and keep his commandments... Is that right? Is that the the covenant?

Student: yes

Mike: and if you do that the other side of the covenant is: you have his spirit be with you. Is that covenant? What's the token?

Student: the taking of the water and bread

Mike: that's right, and so the emblems of the token become the bread and water. Okay? You go through all of these different things and you will see that every ordinance has tokens and signs involved. What is the sign of the sacrament? What is the sign of the sacrament? When you look up there, every Sunday, what do you see up there? Before they speak the words of the covenant, what do you see up there?

Student:<??>

Mike: you see a table, don't you?

Student: yeah

Mike: okay. And what does that table have on it?[23:48] it has the emblems, the tokens, right? The bread and water and it's covered with a white cloth. Have you ever wondered what that thing represents? What's the sign of the sacrament?

Student: the white cloth? Is still high cloth all

Mike: it is a funeral bier with a shrouded body. If you look up there, you look at that, it becomes an altar with the body of Christ on it. And if it's covered with a white cloth it resembles a body being covered with a white cloth. Interesting sign, interesting symbol, interesting emblems, interesting tokens all pointing towards what? The death, ministry, and resurrection, and atonement of Christ.

Student: it is interesting. I never thought of that.

Mike: so everyone of these things... if you look you will see, some of them you have to search a little bit for. Let's go to the law of Moses. Okay? Because they rejected the higher law they were given a schoolmaster law. But it still had laws and covenants. When you get down to the law of Moses what was the token of the law of Moses? There were lots of laws and there were covenants involved, was the token associated with the law of Moses? Did you know what it was? If you look up token in the topical guide it will take you Exodus and say that the blood of animals shed on those alters was the token of sacrifice. Blood was a token. When the destroying angel passes through the land of Goshen what is the token of deliverance? How did the Israelites escape the death of the firstborn which was the 10th plague... How did they do that? There was a token that was given for them to escape the destroying angel and Exodus tells us what was. What was it?

Student: the blood on the door

Mike: yes it was the blood across the lintel and the posts of the door. If you had that token of sacrificial blood on your door, the destroying an Angel passed over you and did not destroy those within that house.

Student: is a miracle

Mike: so you can have some fun with this, and I'm telling you this now so you can take this into your temple worship. Because in the temple is where you really start to see where this comes alive. Let's look at another token. The Abraham a covenant. There was a law given to Abraham. He was invited to enter into a covenant where certain promises were made by God that if he was faithful then he would enjoy such things as posterity, the blessings of the gospel, a land of inheritance. Okay, the blessings of the priesthood. And Abraham accepted that and God... And here's the token of the covenant that you have made with me. I gave you this. I invited you to enter into it. You have accepted it now token of the Abrahamic covenant. What was it?

Student: Circumcision

Mike: yes! It was circumcision. And all the males that time, nobody had been circumcised at that time... Young man or older man had not been circumcised. And Abraham was commanded to take everybody who entered into and accepted into that covenant and to be circumcised. Now, that circumcision is a token in your flesh reminding you of something. Now there is a sign that accompanies that anciently; and the sign anciently was upraised hands. Ancient symbols that go all the way back to

Adam. And there were also names associated with that. So all through the Scriptures we can see tokens and signs that were used to help us successfully fulfill the covenants and reap the blessings associated with the covenants that God offers us. So they become reminders. The tokens then are then physical... in many cases physical reminders that point you and remind you of the covenant that you have entered into with God to help you remain faithful and true to that covenant. The garment that we wear as a result of our temple experience is a token. The Garment is a token of the covenant. And every time that you put that garment on its to remind you of the covenants that you made with God and holy places and to help you have the power to maintain faithfulness in your part of the covenant.

Let's go to the book of Mormon, Moroni. Think of General Moroni. Can you see a token of the covenant General Moroni... remember the covenant, 'that we will remember in defense of our families, of our lands, of our religion, our this that the other ... Right. Remember the covenant? What was the token?

Student: flag... Title of liberty

Mike: it was the title of liberty. And another one if you will read in Alma 46, when the people were invited to join into that, they came forth rending their clothes as a token of the covenant that they were entering into. Isn't that interesting?[30:24]

student: yes

Mike: now every token that we take upon ourselves as members of the latter-day Saints has a... Very meeting... a superficial meaning followed by increasing deeper meanings as the Lord reveals them to you.

Tokens that we use our gestures that we use are designed to teach us something and to help us remember the promises, and covenants and obligations, that we have entered into as we have accepted the covenant relationship when God is offered it to us. So to token to my grandson is he is to think of gold. I could have a gold piece, I could show him a gold ring, anything that is made of gold, I could put that claim, hold up put that on a Skype, without a person without saying a word, I could hold up a piece of gold and he would understand exactly what I am talking about. He would think of our discussion. I would not have to say anything. I would simply hold up this piece of gold and not say a word and he would understand exactly what we were talking about. That is the same as tokens.

Student: did he get a gold nugget

Mike: I ought to find one... I should have to get something that I could use is that.

Student: get a Krugerrand For it

Mike: geez, I can't afford that. Ha ha. You're talking \$1200 there. That's too expensive of a lesson.

Now signs... Signs in the temple... Signs are used to identify, to discern, or as keys that unlock or open spiritual doors. Think of these tokens and signs around us all the time, I mean we use them all the time, we don't think of them; then take that pattern and apply it to your spiritual devotion. Especially, when it pertains to temple worship and I think you're going to see a whole new world opened up to you that you haven't seen before.

In section 129, let's go there for just a minute... In the Doctrine and Covenants the Lord gives us a sign.

Student: we never did get to Moroni... Why do you show us Moroni

Mike: in Moroni was the title of liberty. That's over there in Alma 46. So the title of liberty becomes a token of the covenant that there are willing to go into... they're willing to give their lives, in remembrance of their wives, their children, their lands, their God and everything else. So see, that becomes a token. And Rending their garments, see, is a sign accompanying that token that they are willing to enter into that... That relationship. They commit themselves. You became a sign that if you toward your garments and aligned yourself with that token, that title of liberty, that you, without speaking a word, no one had to say anything, it was understood you will give your life for this cause.

And you go over to section 129 and go to verse 7. If you have a messenger that comes to you, you are to ask him to shake hands with you. You are seeking for some kind of a sign that he is a true messenger. Okay? If you go to the temple, and I can't go anymore under this, but in the temple to talk about the tokens and the sign. The handshake is the token part, and then there is the sign that accompanies that and you can determine whether or not the messenger is a true messenger or it's a counterfeit from the devil.

Student: you're saying that the shake your hands... The handshake is the sign?

Mike: no. The handshake is the token. And there is an accompanying sign that goes with it. When you go to the temple, you can look at that and it's the sign... Is the token and sign given to Adam before he's cast out of the garden of Eden. I find that interesting, that he receives that before he goes into the lone and dreary world. In the lone and dreary world he finds himself completely behind the veil, forgets everything in the terrestrial garden of Eden. And when Lucifer appears again in the terrestrial world... He says ... Who are you I mean telestial world, he says, "who are you?" It's all forgotten, who are you? But in the terrestrial world they have a free discussion, both Adam and Eve, but in the telestial world they are behind the veil and so God gives him a sign so that he can determine and detect, a token and sign, to detect evil from good. Look at verse 9 in section 129, by these three, "*these are three grand keys*" and here is what the Lord says, "*keys whereby you may know whether any administration is from God.*" So tokens and signs that you receive in the temple are keys. Those are keys. It used to be, I'm old enough to remember, before there were some alterations made in the endowment ceremony that they had a lecture at the veil. After you have gone through the endowment there was a lecture at the veil where they repeated the whole endowment ceremony in a short form. And they referred to the signs and the tokens that you received in the endowment as the keys of the priesthood. These are the 'keys of the priesthood'. And they also referred to them as the 'mysteries of godliness'.

Student: now, can I ask you a question?

Mike: yeah

student: okay, let's say tomorrow a messenger comes to you; you are really ask him, you would really ask him to find out if he was one of us?

Mike: well, I would do this: I would say that if I received any kind of administration from behind the veil, the first thing I would say is, 'who are you?' That's the first thing I would say. And if he comes out and says I'm a messenger from God; I would say, 'how can I know that you are messenger from God?'

Student: so you would ask

Mike: yes. And I would repeat what you were taught in the temple word for word. Because he cannot give you the token and sign... He can't do that. He may try to deceive, you may try to give you a false sign, but what you received in the temple is godly. So I would say, 'who are you?' He would say I'm so-and-so... I would say, 'how I know that's who you are?' And then I would wait for his response. If he is a true messenger, he would probably say something like this: 'by me giving you the token and the sign that you've have already received.' If he doesn't do that, I would immediately have my radar up and I'd be looking for an impersonator.

Student: I kind of thought so, but I wanted to ask you.

Mike: yeah. Now section 129 talks about that if it is the devil you will stretch forth his hand and you won't feel it and etc. etc. There is more to it than that. But I will just say that I would memorize that what you learn in the temple, the whole dialogue that has to do with receiving messengers and I'd make sure you understand that, because that is a godly inspired dialogue and you need to be able to do that exactly. He may try to stretch forth his hand, you may not feel it, but the dialogue is what you want you want to make sure that there is a token and a sign. See, in section 129 it's only talking about the token. In the temple there is a token and a sign; and you want to do that.

Student: okay

student: does it matter what sign me give you?

Mike: it does. They need to give the sign that determines a true messenger from a false messenger. And

you need to go back and listen in the temple, how do I know that you are a true messenger, Adam says. And you need to listen to that dialogue, and memorize that dialogue. That dialogue cannot be duplicated, and the token and sign that is given at that time cannot be impersonated or duplicated.

We have some people over here in this country that were doing some prayer circles out in the desert. And a... And a group of them got together, and they dressed in their temple cloths and they built an altar and they went out and they offered up the signs and tokens... Offered up the signs of the priesthood not the tokens... The signs of the priesthood And Joseph Smith appeared. It is a group of men and women and Joseph Smith appeared. And one of them said, let me shake your hand and this person who was Joseph Smith said 'we don't need to do that, that is for less enlightened individuals, [40:41] obviously you're out here practicing the true order prayer and offering up the signs of the priesthood. Your more advanced we don't need to do that... That's for people who are less advanced. He didn't give his hand and they accepted his administration. And a whole group of people left the church and went to Manti, Utah and began that little church in Manti that's still up there. These were all in endowed members. And I can only assume that this person who appeared took upon himself the appearance of Joseph Smith because that's what they thought who it was. This person who appeared there look like Joseph Smith. These spirits can apparently do those kind of things, see, you have to be really careful.

Do remember that thing I read to you here a few weeks ago where Joseph talked about how you discern true from false spirits and he listed eight things. He said this, *"no man can do this without the priesthood and having knowledge of the laws by which spirits are governed, for as no man knows the things of God but by the spirit of God, so no man knows the spirit of the devil is power and influence but by possessing intelligence which is more than human and having unfolded through the medium of the priesthood the mysteries, operations of his devices..* And he lists eight things, listen to this; *without knowing the angelic form, the sanctified look and gesture, the zeal which is frequently manifested him by the glory of God, together with the prophetic spirit, gracious influence, godly appearance, and the holy garb which are so characteristics of his proceedings and mysterious windings...* He is describing Lucifer appearing as an Angel of light. That all sounds godly but it is not.

So you need to have knowledge of tokens and signs in order to discern what is true and what is false; that is with the temple is teaching us. The temple wants us to be like Adam and Eve. The temple wants us to receive messengers, the temple wants you to have angelic ministrations either seen or unseen. The Scriptures want you to do that. But when you open the veil, you open it to both good and evil. That goes with veil piercing... When you pierce the veil, you open it to both the dark and the light. That should not scare you because you have been given the tools to discern the one from the other.

These Angels and messengers, brothers and sisters, have information for you that you need that you can't get any other way that is reserved for you. And yet it comes also with the price, and that price is the opposite of what God wants. So you have to be able to tell. And that little quote by Joseph Smith says, "it's the power of the priesthood that governs the laws pertaining to these ministering spirits, and the Lord will teach you"<student> you have a comment?

Student: where was that quote taken from, exactly where Joseph Smith or the teachings of Joseph Smith

Mike: and me give you the exact reference on that. But will do is will put it on the dropbox if you like it. You do that?

Student: yeah

Mike: Teachings of the prophet Joseph Smith, that was April 9, 1842; teachings of the prophet Joseph Smith. It's also in Doctrinal History of the Church, DHC, volume 4 page 587 [44:28] I'll have Marty

put that up for you. The name of this quote is 'discerning of spirits by the power of the priesthood'.

Student: thank you

Mike: there's another part of this, it says this *"a man must have the discerning of spirits before he can drag into daylight the hellish influence and unfolded it unto the world in all its sole destroying diabolically and horrid colors"*, and then this part, listen *"for nothing is a greater injury to the children of men than to be under the influence of a false spirit when they think they have the spirit of God."* Tricky stuff.

Student: well I... Brother Stroud... I know you taught us that... That this... That the adversary cannot duplicate the spirit of peace and comfort... You know the peace that we know of that gift... So that's helpful to know.

Mike: that's another one, and that's such a valuable thing to know. That's another quote by the prophet Joseph Smith, and also from the words of Oliver Cowdrey, that the things that accompany the true manifestations of the spirit of God are peace, and joy, and the whole desire that you have to do good. Those are the three things. And you're right <student>, is those are things that Lucifer cannot duplicate. But I will tell you he will try to. And you have to be on your toes. My feeling is, especially today, as we move closer and closer to the culmination of prophetic events, that he is going to become more and more devious, more and more cunning, and his impersonations are going to be more and more... Look more and more like the truth than ever before and we have to take the knowledge, information that comes with the priesthood, it's laws, its covenants, it's tokens, it signs, and names. We need to know that stuff so that we are not drug off and find ourselves in strange roads. Because It's tricky, it's really tricky.

Student: but it's... Brother Stroud... It doesn't seem like it would be tricky if... If he can't... If the adversary can't duplicate joy and in trying to have the spirit of helpfulness... Or, you know... the spirit of trying to do what is right... That has to be a ?? Thing

Mike: but, do you know what? The you know what, <student>, it's not tricky to you because you've been taught true doctrine. You understand that. You have that in your mind. But millions of latter-day Saints are not familiar by that quote by the prophet Joseph, where he came back from the dead, and visited the Brigham Young years after he died and said, teach the people this. Teach them of this. Teach them this. See, you are in possession of that knowledge. And once you're in possession of that knowledge, then we can sit back and say, 'rightly so, it doesn't seem like it would be too tricky to me. But if you are not in possession of that knowledge, which the majority of the latter-day Saints are not, then it becomes a tricky, slippery slope. Does that make sense?

So this is again an instance of where knowledge is power and where Joseph said without knowledge a man cannot be saved without knowledge. *A man is saved only as fast as he gains knowledge*. So think about the keys that you are in possession of. Now in closing, I have a quote that comes from, and I'm just going to refer to it... I am going to it tonight... But it was given in the Nauvoo Temple in the 70s book and it teaches us about tokens and signs of the priesthood. Go to section 124... Let's see 124 in the Doctrine and Covenants, now, we want to go to verse 95. When Oliver Cowdrey apostatize from the church, Hiram Smith was called by revelation to take his place. And we want to go to verse 95... Let's go to verse 94. 124 verse 94, and what were talking about here now is what you receive in the temple. Okay, this is a reference to something that you have already received in the temple. Now the date of section 124 is 1841. So the Lord is just beginning now to open up the depth of the temple endowment. The first endowments were given in May of 1842... This was given in 1841... And the Lord is going to refer to something here that Joseph and Hiram have that every Latter-day Saint can have access to as they go through the temple. Go to verse 94, are you there?

Student: yeah [49:55]

Mike: *"and from this time forth I appointment through him"* Hiram *" that he may be a prophet, and a*

seer, and a revelator unto my church, as well as my servant Joseph; that he may act in concert also with my servant Joseph; and that he shall receive counsel from my servant Joseph, who shall show unto him" watch this right here, this is the part you want to tripple underline... Joseph will show unto Hiram " the keys whereby he may ask and receive," and that right there you ought to triple underline. Now, if you receive these "keys whereby he may ask and receive, and be crowned with the same blessing, and glory, and honor, and priesthood, and gifts of the priesthood, that once were put upon him that was my servant Oliver Cowdrey;" now there's something here that is beyond prayer. Notice he calls it... There's 'keys' on how to ask and receive answers. Those keys are in the form of tokens and signs of the priesthood. You have already, through your endowment experience, received keys in the form of signs that allow you to ask about things in the past, that teach you how to ask about things in the present, and that teach you how to ask about things to ask the future. You have already received that in the endowment. Those are the kind of things the Lord is talking about. This is the voice of God speaking here in these verses. This is God speaking to Joseph, speaking to Hiram through Joseph.

Student: when you say God... God the father?

Mike: ha ha... That's another discussion. Let's just say this is being received from... from God. These are the words of God.

Now look down at verse 97, "*that my servant William law also received the keys by which he may ask and receive blessings;*" William Law was a member of the first presidency, see, at this time. William law became a conspiratorial and was one of the main reasons why Joseph Smith was shot to death in Carthage. These men were given very, very sacred keys that pertain to the past, present, and future that are part of the temple endowment in the form of signs that the Lord wanted them to have and the Lord wants you to have. So what I am saying to you tonight, brothers and sisters, according to what we have in writing we have received some very, very sacred keys that are designed to open up doors so that the Lord can give us knowledge that you can't get any other way. If you will take that, now, and let that be a part of your temple worship, and ask the Lord to show you by revelation, what's really going on there especially when you get to the prayer circle area prior to going through the veil. Ask the Lord to reveal to you... Tell him that you want to know what's going on.

Tonight's lesson is that there are, with every covenant, you have a law, a covenant, token, signs and name. All of these things are ancient. They go back to the garden of Eden. All of the ancient patriarchs, all of the great men and women of time, and every dispensation when there has been a restoration truth of had these keys, and signs, and tokens. Their very sacred. They are only to be used as the Lord directs and confirmed by the spirit as you're talking the temple. The temple... In Summing up things here... The temple is teaching you things about how to communicate and establish connection with the other side of the veil of and to do it while you are here. The Lord wants you to penetrate the veil. He wants us to receive information, either seen or unseen, by messenger that he has for us in waiting for us there.

Student: Jeremy Didn't talk that

Mike: what's that?

student: Jeremy doesn't talk about that in Penetrating the Veil

Mike: no, he doesn't. So, these are things that come from documents that are available to you. I can give you one such source here... it is the December 28, 1845, Instructions of Brigham Young from the General Records of the 70s, book 3. Three other records of these instrucionts are: William Clayton Minutes, Heber C Kimball Diary, William Clayton and John D Lee Diaries; they were all given by Brigham Young in the Nauvoo period.

And what I talk to you about tonight comes from those documents. I'm not going to go into it anymore than that because it's temple bound to make covenants not to talk about that.

Student: is that out of the hope sanctuary?

Mike: yes. Yes. So, brothers and sisters, I hope that is helpful when we consider and talk about the tokens and signs and what they're designed to do. I'm sure that there is much more that I don't understand. But that might sure has helped me in my own personal devotion, and my seeking the face of the Lord, which I'm commanded to do.

Go to section 101 as we close... And here's the commandment, section 101 verse 38, "*and seek the face of the Lord always,*" the Lord is on the other side of the veil. "*That in patience you may pose as your souls,*" interesting statement, you need to ponder that. And the third part of this verse is, "*and ye shall have eternal life.*" There's three things there. As you seek for and obtain the face of the Lord, you will in patience possess your souls, and that will result in you obtaining eternal life. Interesting little statement there. The commandment is 'seek the face of the Lord always'. And what the temple is doing is giving us keys and knowledge on how we can come to that point. Comments? Any questions, thoughts?

Student: that was 101 want? That was 101...

Mike: section 101 verse 38. Was it 38 or 39, I turned it down.

Student: 38

Mike: section 101 verse 38

student: thank you

Mike: thanks, brothers and sisters, our time is up we've used an hour... And will go ahead and post this and we will be online next week at this time. Anybody want to give us closing prayer?

References:

Mosiah 18:3-9

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D&C 129:9

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