

Podcast 010 Channels of Light and Truth

by Mike Stroud

Mike: Let's start out tonight by saying I hope the Holy Ghost is with us tonight because really nothing gets done unless we do that that way and have that influence to help us out. A few weeks ago I was sitting in a Gospel essentials class and in the class they were discussing the gifts of the spirit... The gifts of the Spirit. Now the first questions if we were detectives your seekers after truth and we had more than a basic understanding the gospel doctrine we would say, 'what is the spirit there that were talking about when it says the spirit?' The first question is that, before we even discussed the gifts. Who or what is the spirit? And there are three places in the Scriptures where you can find the list of the gifts of the spirit. One of them is first Corinthians 12 versus 8 through 11; and another one is section 46. Let's go to Section 46 four just a minute. And I will kind of set the stage for the discussion that took place in the gospel essentials class that took place a week ago. Section 46 and when you look at verse 7, and you can ask a couple questions and in disgusting the gifts of the spirit... and these... verse 7 gives you a scriptural answer to the question, 'Why are these gifts necessary?' And to what end are they given? So there's one question we could answer, 'Why does God give these gifts?' So let's go to verse 7, Doctrine and Covenants 46:7. And we talked also about these gifts are missing among way to many of God's children simply because they are not asking for them. We are assuming that if God wants me to have it he will give it to me. When in reality, he wants you to have more than you can possibly comprehend, but is abound almost buy some principles and laws that questions unasked are frequently answered... infrequently answered. Look of verse 7, you're "*commended in all things*" here is, and if I was into double underlining anything in the first verse it would be '*to ask of God*'. You're commanded in all things to '*ask of God*'. Now these verses, are talking about the gifts of the Spirit, "*who giveth liberally*"; notice that. I don't know if you can even put a number to the how many of the gifts of the spirit there are. A General Authority, the few years back, I don't remember who it was, Marty who was it, who was it that listed all those... maybe it was Sterling W. Sill, and the talk said that 'there are innumerable gifts of the spirit, for every challenge, or situation in immortality, there is a gift that God has prepared to help you successfully have handled that challenge.' "*Ask of God who giveth liberally; and that which the Spirit testifies unto you even so I would that ye should do it all the holiness of heart, walking uprightly before me, considering the end of your salvation,*" those are things to ponder. We won't go into that. There are three things there, see; walk in holiness, Walk uprightly, considering that and of your salvation, doing all things with prayer and thanksgiving", and here's the purpose of the gifts of the spirit, this is your double underliner, "*that ye may not be seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men; for some or all of men, and anothers of devils*". If you have a question why as these gifts so abundantly available and he wants to give liberally, it is because you live in a world of deception is becoming more so if there was ever a time when we needed these gifts it is now, and between now and the coming of our Lord, the deception is only going to increase. So according to section 46 verse 7 the need for the gifts increases dramatically. Now look at verse 8, "*wherefore, beware lest you are deceived;*" see that "*and that you may not be deceived*" here we go, "*seek ye earnestly the best gifts, are always remembering what they are given;*" and what are they given for? To keep you from being deceived. Isn't that great? "*For verily I say unto you,*" the meaning the gifts, "*they are more given for the benefit of those who love me and keep my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do*" and that was the verse was quoted today in general conference. Okay? That... And I think that was brother Holland was that quoted that, "*that all may be benefited that seek or that asking me and not for a sign that they may consuming it upon their lust.*" And then goes and lists some of these gifts. And on through to first 26 are lists of some of these gifts. You just scan down there and take a look at those. So from verse 10 all the way through 26 you can see those; and especially from 17 to 26 you see some of these gifts. Now look at 26 so here's the question: 'Who ... Who has access to these gifts?' I've been a missionary long enough to have many people come up to me and say, 'that minister down the street is practicing the laying on of hands in his congregation and it appears like he's healing people

from the pretty serious sicknesses. What do You think about that brother Stroud?' I used to say, 'well the devil is counterfeitor, and I immediately went to the Darkside any time that would come up, now the thinking behind that is, even though it was subconscious that these gifts are already only truly available to Latter-day Saints those who make covenant with the Lord. And notice what he says in verse 26, "*All these gifts come from God, for the benefit of children of God.*" Now who is that? See...

student: everybody

Mike: see that's everybody isn't it? So were not limiting. So here's the first things, that as I taught in this discussion of the question came up, 'who is qualified to access these gifts? And the feeling kind of was that you needed the latter-day Saints to really tap into these resources. And that people outside the church can do some things by faith, and ya, its possible, I guess, that you could have a healing that come by faith; but Latter-day Saints are really what ... hesitant to allow anybody outside of church membership to have all of these gifts. And if you look at those you will see what it says. Verse 21, "*... to some is given the working of miracles*", 22, "*... prophecy*", 23, "*... discerning of spirits*", 24, "*...speaking with tongues*", 25,"*... interpretation of tongues*", on and on. And what ... What the Doctrine and Covenants is telling us is these gifts are all available to every one of God's children that seeks them and have the faith to access the power of these gifts. Let's go over to Moroni chapter 10. Moroni chapter 10 is another list of the gifts of the spirit, and these are duplicated over in Galatians. You can find them. Okay, in Moroni chapter 10 Has another list. Sister Stroud make a comment here. Sister Stroud brought her Scriptures and I want her comments

sister Stroud: Ariel brought it up, she says verse 16 also says down on D&C 46:16, "*and again, it is given by the Holy Ghost to some to know the diversities of operations, whether they be of God, that the manifestations of the spirit,*" and here it is, "*may be given to every man to profit withal.*"

Mike: thank you Ariel excellent point. That's good. Let's go over again that this evidence that this is available to all. Moroni chapter 10 and verse 8 is where it starts. So is Here's another list. And as the book of Mormon's wanting to do, it makes it even more plain, the book of Mormon is stated that the book of Mormon was playing to the understanding of man. You'll see here there is no questions, all of these gifts are available to every man and woman who have the faith. And Moroni chapter Chapter 7 says that if these gifts disappear, it is because of unbelief. And that's not limited to just the Latter-day Saints. [10:00]

So if you look at verse 8, "*... I exhort you, my brothern, that ye deny not the gifts of God, they are many; and they come from the same God. And these are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God who work at all in all; and they are given by the manifestations of the spirit of God unto men, to profit them.*" And then it is these things down here. Now it's my feeling, and from my experiences because it says men, this is one of those places where men refers to mankind, and that includes women also, because I've personally seen many of these gifts in an operative major way among women and sisters. Looking for verse 17, the summary Scripture. "*All of gifts come by the spirit of Christ.*" Now here's a key. That's a key, that we didn't get it to Scripture lists. So we call them the gifts of the spirit, the book of Mormon now tells us with that spirit is: it is the spirit of Christ; not what... not the Holy Ghost. "*And they come unto every man severally according as he will. And I would exhort you, my beloved brother,*" verse 18, "*and, that you remember that every good gift cometh of Christ.*" So we just answered some things there; that... If you look at that... Look at verse look at verse 14. Verse 14 is available to anybody "*and to another, the holding of Angels and the ministering of spirits;*" you see, Angels can appear to our Baptist friends, brothers and sisters. They can have dreams and visions, the Lord can show himself to them in dreams and visions. That is not that is not just something that is available to Latter-day Saints. Look at verse 11, the gift "*exceedingly great faith, the gifts of healing ... Work mighty miracles*" , etc. etc. So there again we have this list in book of Mormon that tells us comes from the Holy Spirit, the light of Christ, the spirit of Christ, the spirit of truth, the

light of truth. Man's conscience is the beginning step in every man and woman to lay hold upon these gifts. Every time... Here's how it works, and we heard a little bit about it in general conference from Pres. Monson when he talked about making choices. Every choice that you make either add or detracts light. So every decision you make, you either adding light and truth, and I'll put in two other words that are synonymous with those, glory and intelligence. All of those 4 things mean the same thing, light and truth, glory and intelligence. Every decision you make either add to your store of light and truth or you lose it. You either getting it or you're losing it. So that... that's kind of new doctrine to Latter-day Saints. And I venture to say that some of you that are listening to this podcast will have felt these kind of things were only available to members of the church in good standing and make covenants with the Lord. Any questions or comments on that before we go any further.?

Student: is that chapter Moroni is last chapter before and you'll notice that every chapter and every third or fourth verse will say I exhort you... I exhort you... I exhort you to read these things, I exhort you to follow these things, I would exhort you that you would believe the brother and the whole thing is an exhortation there some 15 of them in there. I think he's trying to tell us something. We need to be awake, we need to read to hear and see.

Mike: that's a good point <student> because it starts over there with most famous Scripture all Moroni 10 verse 3 through 5. And it starts out, "*I would exhort you*" and I happen to have those underlined and I looked through as you were saying that and I can count 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 times in the 10th chapter where he says I exhort you. Now before we leave this, I like to go to verse 19 and see what the stumbling block to the gifts are. What is it that denies us access to these gifts? <student> would you read verse 19 for us?

Student: sure. "*And I would exhort you, my beloved brother and, that you remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men.*"

Mike: would you go down to verse 24 also

student: sure, "*and now I speak unto all the ends of the earth – that if the day, but the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief.*"

Mike: okay, so what is the great stumbling block that keeps us from having these gifts? And remember what the purpose the gifts is what according to section 46?

student: to avoid deception

Mike: what? To avoid deception. So if we are not getting these to the degree that we don't have these gifts functional in our lives, to that degree you are vulnerable to the deception of the telestial world. What is unbelief?

Student: the lack of faith

Mike: hat is what we think, can we be more specific on that? Why don't we just say faithlessness? Why is it called unbelief? Why don't they just say faithlessness if it is the lack of faith?

Student: we're not willing to believe... Maybe our hearts aren't willing to believe.

Mike: okay, I have a friend that taught me, that was a mentor of mine, and he gave me this definition. The real core ... And all this is right that which you have said, but the real core of unbelief is that whatever we're talking about that God has for us we have no problem accepting that others can enjoy these gifts. But where we fail is when we think about us enjoying that gift. For example: unbelief would come into play when you read to brother of Mahonrimoriancomer story is seeing the Lord. And you say, 'yeah I believe that. I believe that.. I believe Moses saw. I believe Joseph Smith saw the father and the son in open vision. I believe that. Well do you believe that 15th men who are prophecies, Seers and revelators have that experience. And most members of the church would say, 'yeah, I believe that. I believe that. Do you believe that your stake president can have that experience? And here they do might hesitate my stake president is a spiritual man he probably could I have about your Bishop? Do you see what where doing here? You get down to your Bishop they may say yes or no. Then you come down

and say well of all of these people can have these experiences and you believe that, how about you? And then you look in the mirror and say, 'me having a personal encounter with the Lord, Christ?' Like's Ether chapter 3, and we look at that and say, 'no way'. And that's unbelief. I like that I like that. I like that.

student: self-imposed

Mike: yeah, and you is ...it is self-imposed on you. We got to this point in class and then I asked this question: I said, 'so if all of these gifts are available to all of God's children severally as he will according to their faith, and they don't consume it upon their lusts, what is the advantage of being a Latter-day Saint then? What's the advantage of being a Latter-day Saint, if all of this is available to anybody in the world, then what's the advantage of being a member of the church?

Student: you get baptized and given the opportunity to receive the Holy Ghost, if we put forth the effort to hear him and follow him and do the things that are important for us to move up

Mike: that's good <student> when I look at this list of the gifts and I say that I'm in possession of these gifts and enjoying those why would I even be concerned about the Holy Ghost?

student: that's where it came from, from Christ

Mike: okay, but tell me what advantage is the Holy Ghost, or the gift of the Holy Ghost, or anything past the reception of the Holy Ghost, to a person who has access to and enjoying these other gifts. The point is: what is the advantage of being a latter-day Saint, if you have access to all of these wonderful gifts.[20:05]

student: wouldn't it be... Wouldn't it be for protection? Are you looking... I'm not sure... is it protection from the deception and you're having it as a constant companion. We can have it as a constant companion.

Mike: okay... so I asked that in that class... That's a good comment <student > And I asked that that class it was kind of a dead... And nobody went anywhere, and I didn't answer the question. I just left it and I said... that they all looking at me and I said... just look at that. You're all Latter-day Saints and I just told you that all the things that we previously thought belong to us and our culture is now available to everybody in the world, so what is the advantage of being a Latter-day Saint? What more can you have? What's available to you through membership that you can't get in this list of gifts?

student: get you a recommend to the temple where you can learn how to come into the presence of the father.

Mike: all right.

student: and invite you through the veil, and if you're not a Latter-day Saint, you don't have the covenants, in you don't have all the blessings that come with the things that are given to you with the temple and they give you and a seal upon you, and the anointing... and these different things. That's what... That's we that gives us our pass, our membership and temple recommend gives us our pass to get to the place where we can learn these things.

Mike: very good. So, You brought up the temple. Let's go to the temple for just a minute and when the father and son are speaking to Adam and Eve in the Garden they make two words; that we will provide a way for them to come back into our presence and was us partake of eternal life and exaltation remember that phrase?

Student: yeah

Mike: the two things they mentioned that open the door for eternal life and exaltation. Notice it didn't say immortality. It says eternal life and exaltation, the two things are: the resurrection of the dead and the redemption of man. Now, you don't have to be a member of the church to be resurrected from the dead. But you did need to be a member of the church, and have made covenants, to get a more desirable resurrection. In other words, not all resurrections are the same. Everybody whose ever been born and was having a birth in mortality and has experienced a physical death sometime in their journey back to the father will resurrect but not all resurrections are to be desired. For example: sons of perdition, who sin against light to the degree that they become sons of perdition, they will resurrect

from the dead, they'll have a resurrection and that resurrection comes to even them because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Then you've got the majority of God's children who find themselves in a state of rebellion, ostracized by God from God because of the choices, who will resurrect into a telestial world. They will resurrect. And so with the terrestrial and so with the celestial. So not all of these are to be desired. So even the resurrection when we say that it's a free gift given to everybody that's true in a broad way. But for you to inherit the best resurrection is going to require something more than just living in an telestial world and dying there. So even when we use, technically, the gift of the resurrection, is a free gift to everybody, is not doctrinally completely correct. But the redemption is something else. To be redeemed from the fall and brought back into the presence of God and inherit with us eternal life and exaltation, as the father says to Adam and Eve, will require a covenant relationship with them. You cannot obtain that redemption outside of membership of his earthly church in our day. You can't do it.

student: instead of saying that... We the kind of become the fullness... Complete fullness begins in the church of the Firstborn so that we have to have the fullness.

Mike: and you're hitting on that. So what it boils down to this, people outside the church who enjoy all these gifts can only go to a certain point in their progress and then they hit a wall. If they don't ... If they're not able to get past that wall and progress pass that wall, then all the blessings of redemption in the celestial world with exaltation, eternal life in a resurrected celestial spiritual body are denied them. They will not get it. You can enjoy all the gifts of the spirit to keep you from being deceived but if you get to the point where the restoration is presented to you, and because of unbelief, and the precepts of man that you reject the invitation you can only go so far. And that's where covenants enter in. I liken it to this... this.. I liken it as a channel words light and truth can flow. Every one of God's children comes into this earth with a gift. We are all born with the light of Christ, and the basic function of the light of Christ is to teach us right from wrong, good from evil. If you hearken to that light and if you don't... if you're an unbeliever and you reject when Christ speaks to you through that channel, we could like unto a channel for a visual... we could's liking it unto a straw there is only so much water or so much liquid that can pass through a straw. If you want more liquid to pass through that channel you have to increase the size channel... you have to expand that channel. So you have to straw channel and then you go up for you have a river channel, called the Mississippi, and it's interesting that they call that word the river flows- the river channel. So depending on the width of the channel, depends on how much you can get through that. Every time... Here is a simple way to understand that... every time you are obedient when light and truth is sent to you by the gift of God through the spirit of Christ by your obedience to that it increases the channel in your ability to assume and collect more. You open the channel up. Now that channel can get to a pretty good point when you look at these lists that you're knocking on a wall unless you enter into a covenant. When you enter into a covenant that channel expands. When you have hands laid upon you and you have the confirmation ordinances performed and the gift of the Holy Ghost available is given to you it expands more. When the man is ordained in the priesthood expands more. When a man and a woman going to the temple and participate in those covenants it expands more. so every covenant that you make, beginning with baptism, every covenant you make expands the channel of light and truth, intelligences and glory, until it eventually the channel opens and you find yourself standing in the very presence of the gods in the world of glory and which case is there is no more channel. And that's the place that the brother of Jared finds himself in Ether chapter 3. He finds himself redeemed. Let's go to Either chapter 3 and I will show you a little secret in the Scriptures. The question is: 'What does it mean to be redeemed from the fall?' What does that mean? And if you were to ask that in a class you would get a lot of discussion on that. Well here in Ether 3 verse 13, Moroni answers that for us from the records of the Jaredites. You know the story. You have seen the finger of the Lord. The Lord said, "... *Sawest thou more than this?*" And he answered: " *...Nay; Lord, show thyself unto me.*" Verse 11, and "... *the Lord said unto him: believe is thou the words which I shall speak?*" Verse 12 , "... *I know that thou speak us the truth, for thou art God of truth, and canst not lie.*" And now look at

verse 13... Our question is a definition of redemption from the fall. *"And when he had said these words, behold the Lord"* this part ... *"showed himself unto him,"* now this is a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, " and he *"said: because thou knowest these things ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I show myself to you."* Now there is a definition of redemption from the fall.[\[30:11\]](#)

Most people, Latter-day Saints community, is my experience that the redemption of the fall will take place after death in the resurrection when we stand before God and a final judgment and every knee bow and every tongue confess. In here brother Jared says redemption from the fall is personal encounter from God in this life and be brought back into his presence while you're still a mortal. Now can you be redeemed in any other way? Sure. Is this the most desirable form of redemption from the fall? And the answer is...

student: what are the other ways? Are you there?

Mike: what are the other ways ... This takes place after you die and your spirit spends a sojourn in the spirit world, and your called forth out of paradise, and your are found worthy, this that the other, redemption the fall can take place after death. And I the venture to say that redemption from the fall being brought back into God's presence... Remember, that is the definition of it, right?

Student: Ya

Mike: that's going to happen... to prior to the final judgment. You're going to resurrect from the dead, which comes first, and then you're going to be brought back into the presence of Christ to be judged. So, resurrection precedes judgment according to the book of Mormon... And that's redemption from the fall. But there... but this one here is to be desired? Why would it be desirable to be redeemed from the fall in mortality rather than the wait for it to happen after death, resurrection, etc. etc.? What do you think?

Student: Mike, it's it to say once is because we have privileges.

Mike: so what would be some privileges? That would be some advantages? You're still a mortal. You're still living in a fallen world but you have been redeemed from the fall and you brought back, have had in that encounter with God and all of the things that have taken place in that encounter now have taken place on you, but you're still living in Arizona and you still got to make a living, you so got to your taxes etc. etc. so what's the advantage?

Student: well in Alma the great example example when he prayed that we would change

Mike: so you have an advantage in that you can now ask things from God, because you're now what lecture six, in the lectures on the articles of faith is called a favorite of heaven. And now because you're a favorite of heaven, the book of Mormon says, uses the term 'highly favored of the Lord'. These are the same things. When you hear that 'highly favored of the Lord' and you can read that the first verse reply 1 Nephi chapter 1 verse 1, he starts right up, what he is telling you there is... Nephi is telling you he had and counter with God and is redeemed from the fall. So it happens when he's writing those words in 1 Nephi chapter 1 verse 1, all these things that we have talked are talking about is taken place with him.

student: and wouldn't it be true that he was not have the pull of the world world like he did before... As you did before?

Mike: you would think so. You would think so.

student: yeah, I would think that's true.

Mike: go with me to 2 Nephi 4 , you would think that when you get to that point that you would be immune from the tugs and pulls of a fallen world. Would you? You would think, ' boy, I've got it made now.'

Student: well ...I don't think I don't think he had all of it... I think he would have the best in the Lord to certain point there.

Mike: so let's take a look at these things. Look at verse 15, 2 Nephi 4 verse 15, now when Nephi is writing this, he is an old man and he's has already had many, many encounters with the Lord, Angels

are a common occurrence, and all the blessings of the gospel, and the rights of the priesthood are fully active in Nephi's life. And we can read about them being fully active in Jacob's life. We don't read about them being fully active in Lehman and Lemuel's life. Look what he says, 'upon these plates', he's talking about the small plates, "...I write the things of my soul, and many of the Scriptures which were engraven upon the plates of brass. For my soul delighted the Scriptures, and my heart ponderous them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children. Behold, my soul delighted in the things of the Lord; my heart ponderous continually upon the things", here we go, "which I have seen and heard." And I would add touched. Now look at the next verse, verse 17 what's next word? "Nevertheless" what does that word meaning in the book of Mormon?

Student:??

Mike: put that into other words so we can understand. He just said all I have enjoyed these things, I've had these great blessings... Nevertheless...

student: however

Mike: 'in spite of all this'... 'in spite of all this'... look what he says, "*notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, and showing me is great and marvelous works, my heart exclaim us: O wretched man that I am!*" And then you read on and he mourns because he's living in a fallen world and cannot completely escape the tugs and pulls of this world and won't as long as he is in it. Now this is a man who has had all of these things ... This is a man that over in chapter 1 verse 1, Nephi says "*having been highly favored of the Lord*" Do you know who else that terminology is used for? You want to tune into this: 'highly favored'. Right over there in Ether chapter 2 and 3, the brother of Jared goes to him, or Jared goes to his brother, and he says, 'you go and approached the Lord because I know you are highly favored of the Lord'. He ever wonder why Jared always went to his brother? You ever wonder why Jared didn't go himself? He always went to his brother. Do you ever wonder why Nephi, who had mighty experiences, went to his father? Because these patriarchs had obtained something that put them in the category of being 'highly favored'. They had been redeemed from the fall and had entered into the 'rest of the Lord'... Which is according to section 84, the fullness of the glory of the Lord. They have been in his presence, in the world of glory, and seen and heard, and touched things, and then came back into this telestial school room and experience the tugs and pulls. Isn't that interesting. Any thoughts and comments on that?

Student: Jacob went to Nephi... Enos as you mentioned went to his father.. Moroni communicated with his father... they all seemed like everybody in personal performance that was writing and talking about the spiritual things... every one of them... use their father instead of the sons in most cases.

Mike: exactly and <student> said a minute ago, and I want to come back to that, one of the advantages of you obtaining this redemption, obtaining his status of favorability with the Lord, is that you now can ask for certain things, and because of your standing before the Lord, the Lord will honor you in those requests as long as they're not asked to consumed upon your lusts. And you probably won't do that because you're beyond that point. So when you're requesting things from the Lord, is probably given to you by the spirit before you verbalize the request, therefore, the request is always granted. So here we have Lehi, who is highly favored of the Lord, and even though it doesn't say it, if he has to rest of the record I'm sure that he prays for Lehman and Lemuel. So that the Lord sends an Angel in their case and they see that Angel face to face but I only see the Angel they hear the voice of God, and yet they're a couple of... what a l say... You ask the question, 'How do these two characters have these experience... Well it isn't because of them... It's because their dad is 'highly favored'. Go over to 1 Nephi chapter 1, let's look at verse 1. So yeah<student> you're right, and me as a father and I have a child that is struggling and and I have obtained this 'favorable status' with the Lord, [40:03] I can ask and receive from him, because he will honor me, the because of the status I have before him. Having been tried and proven in all things, and proved worthy and trustworthy, he will answer those prayers. Because my prayers will ask amiss. They will be asked by the spirit, because I'm in that form in that flow now. Look at verse 1, we've always read the first part to me the second part of verse one is the part that is the

greatest part. *"I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learnings of my father;"* now stop, and if you... If we apply what were talking to here, is Lehi has knowledge of things that he's obtained direct from God, through a personal encounter with Christ, and ordination to the order of the priesthood and a ministry that you get in no other way, Lehi is going to teach that to his obedient boys. He is not going to throw those pearls before Lehman and Lemuel. But Nephi is going to be taught *"somewhat in the learning of my father; and having seen many afflictions the course of my days,"* which is a prerequisite for being redeemed in the flesh in the telestial world. There is no way you're going to make until you have gone through hell. Joseph Smith said, *"the Lord will wrench your very heartstrings to see what you're made of and to see if he can trust you in all things"* Because if you fall from this place, in the fall from this redemption of the fall, perdition is the reward. And I can promise you the Lord is not in the business of consigning his sons to the state of perdition. He wants you to be exalted. But the only way he can know that is to you can do that is to put you through the ringer. Then he goes on, he says, *"nevertheless, in spite of all things"*, here we go *"having been your legal highly favored of the Lord"*, now you're never going to open the doors on these things until you get your mind and the spirit to a point where you have read... how many times before... how many times of the members of the church read 1 Nephi 1:1. How many times? How many times has those members stopped stopped and said, 'whoa, wait a minute what does this mean to be 'highly favored of the Lord? What does that mean?' Because the word 'highly' indicates there are degrees. it's like... It's like bad, good, better, best. All right? So there's degrees. To get to this 'highly favored' is going to have adversity and afflictions all the days that he is in this world. Then look what he says, *"ya having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God."* And that's what you get when you have these encounters with the powers of heaven that reside on the other side of the veil. When they come to you and when you Pierce that veil, and you start the knock on that, and they start to communicate with you, that's what you get. You get a great knowledge of the goodness of God and his mysteries. And you know what the greatest of all mysteries of God is? The Doctrine and Covenants calls it the 'mystery of godliness.' Do You know what it is? The key is in the term, the mystery of godliness? The mystery is: how does a fallen men in this world, a natural man whose an enemy unto God, become godly. That's the greatest of all mysteries. And Nephi had access to that. Thoughts or comments on any of that? So we want to seek for these things.[44:24]

So your advantage and then, through the covenants in the temple is that you are giving of fast-track information through ordinances and covenants on how to be read deemed from the fall. Even in the allegory itself, you're taking a ride up through ordinances, signs, tokens, covenants and laws, and names to where you are presented at the veil and invited to enter in. When you pass through the veil, brothers and sisters, in the temple what you're doing is being symbolically redeemed from the fall. At this redemption. Well okay, does that make sense?

Student: yes

Mike: comments or thoughts...[45:21]

Student: is Joseph Smith and all the things you've read in the Doctrine and Covenants to be highly favored?

Mike: yeah, because you can we go over to section 132 of the doctrine and covenants, and you can see from where that takes place there has to be an encounter with God... The vision in the first... The first vision, remember we talked about the importance of visions versus visitations. Visions is where you see and hear things but visitations is where you sear here in touch something. And Joseph said that... He Wants to give you the keys and you have not been redeemed said said until you touch something. You need to touch. Touch is a very important process in the redemption from the fall. There is a recognition ceremony that goes when you enter into the presence of the Lord. There is a recognition ceremony, and exact ceremony. You can see it hinted to in Luke 24 and in 3 Nephi chapter 11. In Luke 24 the Savior comes, and is resurrected being with the body of flesh and bone, and appears in that room without

going through the door. And he stands there and the 11 are there... or the 10 and he says, 'come up and do what? "Handle be and see." So what's happening there... there seeing, their hearing his voice and he invites them to do what... come up and touch me. And the recognition ceremony starts out with them touching the wounds in his hands, in his wrists, the feet, and is the last part is thrust their hands into his side. That's the recognition ceremony. It's my opinion, that when you have this encounter you will be invited to do that.

132, and let's look at verse, and here is Joseph Smith... look at the date of 132. Take a glance at that real quick.

student: 1843

Mike: okay, and you will see that, however, the information... if you go down there, the information given in this was as early as 1831. Do you see that?

Student: yes

Mike: so, go over to verse 49. "*...I am the Lord thy God, And be with thee even unto the end of the world, and through all eternity; for verily I seal upon you your exaltation, and prepare a throne for you in the kingdom of my father, with Abraham your father. Behold, I have seen your sacrifices, and will forgive all your sins; I have seen your sacrifices in obedience to that which I have told you. Go, therefore, that I made a way for your escape, for I accepted the offerings of Abraham of his son Isaac.*" This is Joseph calling and election made sure. That's where that's at.

Student: what verses that?

Mike: verse 49 and 50 section 132. 132:49 – 50, now I question comes up upon the dates, that happened in Nauvoo in 1843 or did this happen as the Kirtland area in 1831. And it really doesn't matter the point is, Joseph Smith had these blessings... 'Highly favored of the Lord'. Now he is a little different character of the rest of us, because of a foreordained mission, but nonetheless, he had to go through all the persistent Tatian's and trials and tests... Obviously. What did he say, it's been my what is said, 'it's been my lot in life to be in deep water... what is it... deep water is what I want to swim in all the days of my life.' The greater the blessings the greater the trials and diversity and the opposition. That's just the way it is. Now the brother talked about that today when they talked about adversity. So there was a number of things in general conference that had to do with these more significant doctrines of the gospel. We: generally discuss, but if you're aware of these, you listen to general conference, it is kind of perk up, "you say, ah ha" you listen to elder Holland talk about... Closest testimony. You know elder Holland has had this encounter. You know elder Holland has been redeemed from the fall. You know that. See, and you pick that up. you pick that up from some of the brethren and when you hear them... say refer to sacred things in really public places, but nonetheless they talk about it. Thoughts and comments?

Student: I was wondering.. And it seems those who are highly favored are not necessarily terrestrial beings

Mike: say that again.

student: those who are highly favored are not necessarily terrestrial beings

Mike: I believe they are terrestrial beings living in a telestial world.

Student: like you said they are???

Mike: right and there are some things the eventually won't see. For example: some of these people are not translated terrestrial beings. The doctrine of translation is the doctrine of the terrestrial world. And there are some keys to that. And one of them is that they have no more sorrow except for the sins of the world. And Nephi sorrow because of the sins of his own flesh, because of his weaknesses. You know what's up to you to decide where there at, but they certainly have reached a lofty place, someplace to be desired. One of the things that takes place when you have this encounter is also the word last question in your interview with him after you have obtained from him what he has in reserve for you. He will ask if you have any requests before he leaves and goes to the father. You'll say, what can I do for you

before I go to the father? Now in the temple that is alluded to by the statement, "What is wanted?" So, you are allowed in this encounter to make a request from him. And you can see in all those people who have achieved status from him this request that they've made. For Peter, James, and John... Peter and James required we want to come into thy kingdom as soon as our ministry on this earth is finished. If you take that literally they wanted to bypass their spirit world sojourn, and go right from mortality and pass through the process of death and be resurrected and come into the presence of the Lord. John, however, has a different request. And the Lord, by the way, grants Peter and James request... The same request that the nine disciples of in Nephi. We want to finish our ministry and when our ministry is over we want to come to you. So, he touches each one of them and when they reach the age of 72 the request is granted. The important thing is he gives them all an opportunity to make a divinely inspired request. Now, these requests are always going to be granted at this point. You know why they're always going to be granted?

Student: because it's good

Mike: because the request is given to them before hand, through Revelation, by the Holy Ghost. You're going to know what to ask and you need to know that before the encounter takes place. You don't get into his presence and he says, what you want? And you say...Naa, I just can't do that, sorry. You're going to get that request because it's revealed to you what the father and the son want you to request. For John it was, I want to stay on the earth as long as the Earth remains and bring souls to Christ. For the three Nephites it was the same. Now, Moses had this encounter, Joseph had this encounter, Adam had this encounter... I mean All of the great patriarchs... And so you may want to look at their stories and their lives and ask yourself the question, what is it that Moses would have requested? What is it that Joseph would have requested? When they had this encounter with the Lord and he said, What can I do for you before I leave? Because they on this opportunity. And if you'll ask that question and you look into the lives of these patriarchs you will find what it is they asked for and received.

So, brothers and sisters, we started out tonight in talking about the gifts of the spirit and what's available to everybody. Can you see that these things that were talking about here cannot be given to people that have not had the experiences in the temple? Because the experience in the temple, or the endowment, the allegory, the signs and tokens, the key words, the names, and laws and covenants are absolutely necessary knowledge for you to have, and ordinances to participate in in order to achieve redemption from the fall while in this life... see, while in this life. Does that make sense?

And what it is is they... It is a succession... It is a part I would like to... because after so many questions... You could ask the question.. Why is priesthood so important? And why is it so important? Why is temple endowment so important? Why is the gift of the Holy Ghost necessary? Why is... Why? And It has to do with each one of these things increase the channel between you and God, you in a fallen world and he in world of glory. It increases the channel so that more light and truth can flow to you and tell. Until you get to a certain point that the Lord can say, 'that's enough', and he steps through the veil and he says, 'I redeem you from the fall'. Notice that it was because... The brother of Jared, the Lord said because you know these things you are redeemed from the fall. See, it was he knew something that redeemed him and that the reward for that knowledge was the veil disappears and you stand in the presence of the Savior. You've got to ask yourself, what knowledge? *Because you know these things you are redeemed from the fall.* There are all kinds of things to ask. If we just have a cursory reading of the Scriptures were going to miss so much. We ought to train ourselves to go slowly. Comments or thoughts? We've been at it an hour... Over in hour.

Student: thank you

student: thank you brother Stroud

Mike: there are advantages to be in a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in our day, or the Church of Jesus Christ in the Meridian day, or belonging to the patriarchal order of the

priesthood from Adam up to Jesus Christ. There are advantages for those who enter into covenants through ordinances. Did you notice that one of the brother, I can remember who it was, that said that you are born again through the ordinances. Remember that? You can't obtain the mighty change of heart that Alma talks about without ordinances that are offered in the church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints. You can do other miracles, have dreams and visions, but you can't get to that that which Alma experienced and the sons of Mosiah experienced in which you read about in the Scriptures outside... Outside of the covenant relationship with Christ. If there's no questions or comments, with somebody like to give us closing prayer?

References: line

D&C 46: 7 – 9

Moroni 10:

D&C 132:49-50