

Podcast 036- Glory

By Mike Stroud

Well, tonight, brothers and sisters, I have a topic that is... I pray that the Holy Ghost will help so that it can be presented in plainness and that it's readily understandable. That is my prayer tonight because it's a topic that I've pondered on for a number of years and this week had some personal experiences as I studied this area. This morning at 4 o'clock in the morning the Spirit of the Lord woke me up and said, "You need to teach that concept tonight." So, I pray for that direction. It's not an easy concept. It has to do with one of the ways in which the Gods, the Mothers and Fathers, progress. We've already had a lesson called Progression in Eternity. We talked about some of these things. I'd like to take it a little step further.

It is true that the Fathers and Mothers progress as their children come up and inherit all that they have. Those inheritances include kingdoms, thrones, principalities, powers, dominions, and exaltations. Notice at all those words are plural and that is the correct doctrine. As we've talked about before, there are many different levels of progression before and after the resurrection of the dead. One of these that I want to talk to you about tonight has to do with something called 'glory.' And the principle is a principal called 'glorification.' That's really an interesting subject because if you go on a word search on [LDS.org](https://www.lds.org), under the Scriptures, and just type in those two words: glory... you'll see that it comes up many, many times throughout all of the standard works. And its counterpart word: glorification, which describes a process, is also found under the word 'glorify.' So, if you look those two words up, glory and glorify, and do a little study on that compared with some of the things we'll talk about tonight, I feel that it will for you, do what it has done for me and give you some added information. Remember, whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, will rise with us in the resurrection. And if we... if a man gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he'll have so much the advantage in the world to come. I think it behooves us to look into and see all that we can about how the Gods, the Fathers and the Mothers, progress and continue to move up. There is no place in eternity where intelligent beings have reached a certain level of Godhood or Godliness... there is no place in eternity where they are not progressing. This was solid doctrine taught by Joseph Smith and by the early brethren in the church.

This principle of glory is an interesting one, so I'd like to just look at some scriptures. The first one is Moses 1, verse 39 and it's probably the one scripture mastery scripture that most members of the church can quote. *"For behold, this is my work and my glory--to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."* There's that word. Know that that word comes up in all kinds of different places. What I'd like to do is plug in some feelings and some thoughts with that. So, God's work and His glory is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. Immortality is accomplished through the resurrection of the dead. Eternal life is reserved for those who obtain the Celestial world, as a husband and wife, that are authorized by the Council of the Gods to move forward and do what those Mothers and Fathers do. That's eternal life. It is the God's life. It is the Mother and Father's life and everything that entails. Anything short of that, i.e. being a king or queen, places you in the position of a servant. So, in eternity, we have two groups of people. We have those who have obtained kingdoms and rule and reign over kingdoms, as kings and priests, queens and priestesses. And then all others are servants; separate and single in their saved condition. Saved either in a Terrestrial world, in a Celestial world without an exaltation. Exaltation, salvation... here's a quote, *"All of God's children will be saved in a kingdom of light, except the sons of perdition. They are the only ones upon whom the second death has any power."*

Brigham Young taught the second death after the resurrection, after judgment, is that these individuals go backwards and retrogress in darkness to a point where they lose their very identities

and go back into native element. And if ever able to come out of that again it will be through reorganization and it may take millions and millions of years to do that. That was taught by Brigham and Heber and the Pratt brothers and all of the early Brethren in General Conferences- the dissolution of the identity of a son of perdition. Now, glory is something that pertains to all intelligent beings that are saved in the kingdom of light. So, you would have glory at a Telesstial level, you would have glory at a Terrestrial level, and you would have glory in varying degrees and levels in a Celestial world. That still doesn't answer for us what it is, but it kind of gives us an idea that you'll find glory everywhere in eternity but in outer darkness. In outer darkness in which there is no glory, there is no light. Light has to be present in order for there to be glory. That's the first rule I want to talk about.

Now, let's go over to Abraham chapter 3 for just a minute and let's look at another Scripture and kind of build a platform and build a little bit of a case for what we want to do here. We're going to go to Abraham 3, verse 22. Abraham, in vision, looks into the pre-mortal, pre-earth life. Verse 22, "*Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences...*" –notice that that's plural- "*...that were organized before the world was;*" Now we can call these exactly what the scripture says: these are organized intelligences. This refers to the spirit offspring sons and daughters of the Mothers and Fathers in Heaven. This is that person who is inside your body. This is an organized spirit that has gender, that's male and female, according to the Brethren, come into existence through birth, according to what we've been taught (even though there's been controversy on this among the Brethren throughout the history of the church). The prevailing consensus is that these come into existence through a spirit birth and that the parents of these organized intelligences are resurrected men and women who have attained an exaltation in the Celestial world. Back to verse 22, "*...and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones;*" so now you've got two groups of people here. He has divided them into two groups. You have the organized intelligences, male and female offspring, and then within that group you have another group, I assume smaller in number, that he refers to as 'the noble and great ones.' Verse 23, "*And God saw these souls that they were good...*" It's interesting- if you'll stop for just a minute and go over to Section 88 in the Doctrine and Covenants and let me show you an interesting little thing here. We read this so often- we read it fast and we don't stop to take a closer look at it. Section 88, verse 15, The Lord reveals to the Prophet Joseph Smith the definition of soul. Now in the Book of Mormon, Alma and Amulek referred to the soul, but they did not have complete information. The way they use soul in the book of Mormon is referring to the spirit. In other words, these organized intelligences, most Christians when they refer to the soul of man are talking about his spirit. But the Doctrine and Covenants, in verse 15, gives us a very interesting truth. "*...the spirit and the body are the soul of man.*" So embodied spirits are souls. So, now when you go over here back to Abraham 3,...and among these organized intelligences which, are spirit beings, there is another group call the noble and great ones. "*And God saw these souls...*" Interesting! Are we to take that literally? That in the pre-mortal world there were not only spirit offspring but that there were also embodied persons that the Lord refers to as the noble and great ones? Can we look at it that way? Just something to look at. "*...and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These...*" -and 'them' are the noble and great ones... 'these' souls. And he said, "*... these...*" -these souls, the noble and great ones- "*...I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits...*" There's your big general group again- "*...and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: Abraham, thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born.*" Just something to think about.

Now let's skip on down and look at verse 24. I'll show you where I'm going with this.

Student 1: OK, so Mike, you said that something to think about are you going to address that?

Mike: No I'm going to leave that open because I can't pull anything from the scriptures that would back up or give us added information on it. It's something for you to contemplate and ponder. I'm just saying that is that just a mistake in the Abraham manuscript? Or are we talking about a group of

people that were embodied that God calls 'the noble and great ones?' He refers to one of them, interestingly, as *Abraham* "...*thou wast chosen before thou I wast born.*" Now obviously that doesn't fit in with our theology and what's been revealed to us in the restoration doctrine. So, what I'm trying to do here Sherry, is to show how if you slow down and look at things and if you can compare one scripture to the other it gets insight that you otherwise wouldn't get if you were in a rush reading. I'm not making any kind of conclusions here. But it's interesting anyway.

Student 1: ok

Mike: Verse 24, "*There stood one among them...*" -these Noble and great ones- "*...that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with him: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials...*" -we're going to find out in a minute that those materials are referred to as element. "*...and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell.*" Meaning these spirit offspring, these organized intelligences. "*And we will prove them...*" -these intelligences- "*...here with...*" -meaning on this new world- "*...to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them.*" So verse 25 gives you the core reason for earth life and our existence in the telestial world. This part in verse 26 is where I want to go tonight. "*And they...*" -meaning those who were spirits- "*...who keep their first estate, shall be added upon.*" Now the first estate refers to the life before the telestial world, whether you want to call that the pre-mortal life, or whether you want to go into the temple allegory and say that it represents a terrestrial world, the garden of Eden, before the fall- whatever you want to do there, it's before they come into this world. So, if they keep that first estate they shall be added upon. Now all of us kept that first estate. Meaning you did not come out in open rebellion and join in the warfare against the Father and the Son. In James Talmage's book *Jesus the Christ*, the first chapter under the pre-mortal world, (you can look this up) he said "*Those who did not join in open warfare and rebellion against the Father and the Son obtained a body. They were able to merit a birth.*" And that's the added upon. The physical body then becomes the added upon item that's added to your spirit. Now, watch the next one. "*...they who keep not their first estate shall not have...*" -here we go- "*...glory in the same kingdom with those who kept their first estate;*" Now, what this tells us is this, whatever glory is, brothers and sisters, you who kept your first estate, and you can tell that you did because you're here in the telestial world, clothed upon with a physical body...you've been added upon. What this verse is telling you is before you came here you obtained something called **glory**. You had it before you came here. Now that's an interesting concept. And you'll see how we add on that as we go. Now watch the rest of this. "*...they who keep their second estate...*" -which is the telestial world they're in- "*...shall have glory and added upon their heads for ever and ever.*" So, if you're faithful in the second estate and pass the second estate judgment, you'll obtain **additional** glory that will be added to the glory you already had before you were born into this world.

So, what we're talking about here is, if you successfully pass these estates and at the end of each estate (first, second, third...) at the end of each of these estates there is an estate judgment. If you pass that judgment you go into the next estate with more glory than you had before you came into the previous one. So, what we're seeing is that this progression from one place to another... one of the benefits, one of the side effects of being fit being faithful and true, and being qualified to enter into the next estate, (the next one for us will be the millennial third estate, the terrestrial world), you're going to take 2 estates worth of accumulated glory with you into that third estate. Questions or comments on that? We still haven't defined what glory is, but we're finding is you've already got some! So that spirit inside of you, that man or that woman, is a being of glory. Now when you're clothed upon with a body, it hides the glory. Now we'll see how that happens in just a moment.

Let's look at a couple other things. Let's go over to section 93 and see if we can get a definition of what this is. I just find it so fascinating that a term 'glory' and 'glorified' that is used so much and as you go into your [LDS.org](https://www.lds.org) scripture search you'll see just how much this is used. I'm just so fascinated

with it and we know so little about it. And yet, we are in possession of it and we are adding to it. Don't you think that if that's the case that we are to understand what's happening to us? Since we're in the process of it here... Let's go to section 93 and get a definition of it first of all. Section 93 verse 36, a very, very famous and oft used scriptural reference. In fact, it is written on the entrance walls to BYU. On one wall it says *'Enter to learn- Go forth to serve.'* And on the other wall it says, *'The glory of God is intelligence.'* So, let's look at that verse. *"The glory of God is intelligence, or..."* -OR, there's your keyword- *"...in other words..."* -in other words what? In other words other than glory and intelligence we've got synonymous words that mean the same thing. *"...or, in other words, light and truth."* So, now what have we got here? Here in that one little verse 36, we've got four words that the way that the Lord describes them, by using the phrase *"or in other words,"* tells us that the four words are synonymous with each one. So, for example if you want to define glory, according to verse 36 it would be easy by just looking at the other three words. Glory equals intelligence, light, and truth. If you want to define intelligence you would say intelligence equals glory, light, and truth, and so on. If you want to define light, light equals glory, intelligence, and truth. So there's your definition.

Now that just gives us four other terms to work with that are not really easy to understand. Let's take the intelligence part first of all. Let's skip over to verse 29 in the same section. Now section 93, in my mind, is the deepest, most poignant, doctrinally profound section in the doctrine and covenants. Now, I know 76 is great and I know 88 is great, but boy, when it comes to deep truths section 93 really is at the top. Hyrum Andrus used to call it the 'Holy of Holies' of the Doctrine and Covenants. So, look at verse 29, *"Man was also in the beginning with God."* Period. Just an interesting statement. You say, 'Who's man?' Well that's us. What's the beginning? Well, you have to discern these things. You have to say, 'Is the beginning the first estate where we organized as intelligent sons and daughters, male and female in gender? Organized intelligences?' But, then He goes on, look at this, *"...Intelligence, ..."* -comma- now look closely, *"...or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be."* Now, this becomes very confusing for Latter-day Saints. I know it was for me. And I'm not professing that I understand everything about it right now, but I'll share with you what I've learned. Look carefully at the wording. *"Intelligence..."* and here's your definition, *"...the light of truth."* Now, skip on over to verse 36. *"...intelligence, or, another words, light and truth."* So, you have two terms here now. One is 'light AND truth' and the other is 'light OF truth.' *"...was not created or made, neither indeed can be."* The intelligence referred to in verse 29, and is also having reference to it in verse 36, is what some people call the CIA of the human being. CIA meaning Central Intelligence Agency. It is that part of you that is truly intelligent. That Joseph Smith said is co-eternal with God, is without beginning of days and end of years and without mother or father and has always existed and was not created, nor made, neither indeed can be. That's intelligence. Now, Lecture 5 in The Lectures on Faith, is on the Godhead. This intelligence is referred to as 'the mind of man.' Now that's an interesting concept. I think that that is the part of us that allows us to reason. And that can be capacitated for further instruction. Listen to the statement by the Prophet Joseph Smith. He said this... This is The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith page 51. *"We consider that God created man with a mind..."* -think intelligence now. Not the organized spirits Abraham was talking about, but something inside of us that's not created, or made, or organized. It's always been there. It has no beginning and no end. *"...that God has created man with the mind capable of instruction and a faculty which may be enlarged in proportion to the heed and diligence..."* -listen to this- *"...given to the light communicated from heaven to the intellect."* This is what separates us, brothers and sisters: this mind, this intelligence of man. The mind of man. And it is also referred to as 'the mind of God.' We'll talk about that in a second. But the name of 'the mind of God' is called the 'Holy Spirit'. Very interesting things.

Student 1: Say that again.

Mike: I'll say that again. In God, the 'mind of God,' in Lecture 5, God's mind is referred to as the 'Holy Spirit.' It's interesting that Paul says in the New Testament, when the saints in the New Testament

obtained a certain level of excellency in their spiritual progression... Paul says that those who obtained this level of progression: we have 'the mind of Christ.' Isn't that interesting?

Student 1: And you said that the Scriptures teach that this mind, or intelligence, has no mother or father.

Mike: Right. That fits in with the Holy Spirit which is not a personage, but is a channel through which the Gods perform their work... a medium etc. And Lecture 5 says that the mind of the Father and the Son is the Holy Spirit.

OK, let me come back to this quote by Joseph Smith, *"God has created man with a mind capable of instruction and a faculty which may be enlarged in proportion to the heed and diligence given to the light communicated from heaven to the intellect."* So, here's what he just said there. This light, now, remember, the definition of glory is light. So, whenever we have light that comes from heaven into our mind, what it does is it enlarges it, increases its capacity for enlargement on gospel principles. Then the quote goes on like this, *"...But, the nearer man approaches perfection, the clearer are his views and the greater his enjoyments, until he has overcome the evils of this life and lost every desire for sin."* So now, brothers and sisters, when you get to a point where King Mosiah says "you have no more disposition to sin but to do good continually," the reason you have that is because you have obtained light and truth and intelligence and **glory**- even though it may not show while you're embodied. The reason you lose all disposition for evil is there's been an increase of glory in your being, even though you may not notice it while you are embodied in the telestial world, you ARE being added upon. And if you were this person who has obtained glory after glory, intelligence, light, and truth to the end of their life, they lay their body down and go into the spirit world, you're going to see a person who is on fire. That's why these persons when you go into the spirit world, it's an area of light. If you have the spirit of 'a just man made perfect,' he appears to you in glory because that's the only way he can appear because he doesn't have a body to enclose that glory of that spirit. I'll come do that a little bit further let me finish the quote, *"He arrives at that point of faith where he is wrapped in the power and glory of his Maker..."* -that's why you're still here in this earth. This isn't talking about after this earth. So it says, *"...The nearer a man approaches perfection, the clearer are his views, the greater his enjoyments, until he has overcome the evils of his life and lost every desire for sin. And like the Ancients, arrives at that point of faith..."* -while still alive- *"...where he is wrapped in the power and glory of his Maker and caught up to dwell with Him. We consider that this is a station to which no man ever arrived in a moment. He must have been instructed..."* -you want to know how to get there? *"...in the government and the laws of that kingdom by proper degrees until his mind..."* -think about what we're talking about verse 89 now- *"...until his mind is capable in some measure of comprehending the propriety, justice, equality, and consistency of the Saints."* Now, what have we learned here? What did we learn? You come here with glory. What is glory? It's intelligence, light, and truth.

Skip over to section 88 for just a minute and let me show you an interesting little statement. You start to put all these things together, it starts to put a magnificent picture together. Section 88, we want to go to verses 5, 6, and 7. This is talking about the *"...glory...of the church of the Firstborn even of God, the holiest of all, through Jesus Christ his Son-,"* So here we are talking about this glory. What's glory again? Intelligence, light, truth, and glory. So watch, verse 6, "He that ascended up on high..." -that's talking about Jesus in the previous verse. Remember it says, *"...through Jesus Christ his Son-,"* -DASH- verse 6, Christ is *"...He that ascended up on high, as also he descended below all things, in that he might comprehend all things, that he might be in all and through all things, the light of truth;"* Now watch, verse 7, *"Which truth shineth..."* Isn't that an interesting little statement? So, if you're to see a physical manifestation of truth, and a definition of truth is... Truth is the knowledge of

things as they were, as they are, and as they will become. It's knowledge! It's a principle of intelligence. If you were to see a physical manifestation of truth it would be manifest itself in light and it shines. Verse 7, *"Which truth shineth. This is the light of Christ."*

Let's go over and look at another thing here. Let's go to John, in the Bible, chapter 17 and start to see some things here about this glory. Now, my first principle that I want to teach you is that the obtaining of this glory, intelligence, light, and truth is the way the Gods increase and progress in the eternal worlds. One God, who is related to another, can add glory to one by what he does. One person can be glorified in the works of another so that the Father obtains this glory, He is glorified through the works of his Son. So in John chapter 17 we have something called the great intercessory prayer. This is the prayer that's spoken at the last supper just prior to them leaving the upper room and going into Gethsemane that evening. Let's just go to verse 1 and look at this. It's interesting! I read this for years and it just fascinated me, but I didn't understand it. This John 17 verse 1, *"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father the hour is come;"* –semicolon-Watch, *"...glorify thy Son, that thy Son may also glorify thee."* Now we're starting to hit on something here. Whatever the Son does, in the name of the Father, it adds glory to the Father. What is glory? Intelligence, light, and truth. How is it manifested in physical form? In light. Have you ever heard the story that God dwells in everlasting burnings? If you were to look into where God dwells it doesn't sound too compatible right now because what we think of is fire. But if you look into where God dwells, you're going to look into a fiery realm. The celestial world and the terrestrial world are estates of fire. They are fire based worlds. The telestial world is a water based world. The mean temperature of the water based telestial world is 70°. The mean temperature of a fire based terrestrial world, where the Son of God reigns, is 700°. The mean temperature of the celestial world, where the Father dwells in everlasting burnings, is 7000°. Just to kind a give you an idea of the differences in these three places. What makes the difference? Why is one more light? Why is one more fire based? Why is one hotter than another? We've got it all backwards. When we say, 'hot as hell,' we've got it backwards. Hell is cold. Heaven is hot. God dwells... Isaiah said it, and also in the Doctrine and Covenants, dwells in everlasting burnings. Verse 2 of John 17, *"As thou hast given him..."* -the Son- *"...power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee..."* -Christ speaking- *"...on the earth."* How did he do it? How did the Father receive glory because of the Son? It tells you in the last part of the verse, *"I have finished the work thou gavest me to do."* There's your key! So, the Father commands the Son to fulfill a mission. As the Son successfully fulfills that mission, not only is the Son glorified in the process and receives additional light, truth, and intelligence, but the Father also is increased. So upon completion of the mission of the Son, the Father is glorified to a greater degree than He was before. Verse 5, *"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."* That's the same for you and I, brothers and sisters. Back in section 93, (and also from Abraham 3) we learn that you came here with glory. And you're not only going to get that back, but whatever you accomplish in this life, in your righteous endeavors, is going to add to that. Go down to verse 9, *"I pray for them..."* -meaning the Twelve- *"...I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them."* That's the Twelve. And then he goes on and talks about all those who believe in the words of the Twelve, how it glorifies. You see that each stewardship, each assignment that's given to us, if we successfully complete that... You cannot complete that without adding glory, intelligence, light, and truth to who you are.

There's so much on this that all I'm thinking about is this – and I was pondering today this thought: every estate that we are in, whether it's the first estate pre-mortal life, or the second estate mortal telestial world, the Lord gives us opportunities to learn laws and commandments and enter into covenants and have ordinances performed. Now, in connection with all of this, I want to read to you this interesting, interesting statement from Joseph Smith in the King Follett discourse. He says this...

He's talking about creation- the term create versus organize. And if you've read the King Follett discourse and you know what I mean. He says, *"It means to organize the same as a man would organize and use things to build a ship. Hence, we infer that God himself had materials to organize the world out of chaos..."* –dash- *"-chaotic matter-..."* –dash- *"...which is element..."* And then this part right here, *"...and in which, dwells all the glory."* Now, that is just a statement that just blows my mind! And I've pondered and prayed on that. What he saying is that element is defined as 'chaotic matter.'

Now, go back to section 93 for a minute and let's look at a couple of things together just to show you how we can use the scriptures as kind of a guidebook to become kind of detectives. See, what's the Lord giving us here? Go to section 93, you want to go to verse 33. There appears to be at least two main building blocks in eternity that the Fathers and Mothers use to organize all things. Look at verse 33, *"For man is spirit..."* -there's your first element. There's your first building block: spirit. *"...The elements are eternal..."* -there's your second one- *"...and spirit and element, inseparably connected, receive a fullness of joy."* The way, according to the scriptures and the Book of Mormon, the way that you inseparably connect spirit an element together is through the resurrection of the dead. We've already talked about our spirit inside of us. The physical body is made up of element. Now, go back to what Joseph Smith said. He said that chaotic matter, chaos, is element. And, *"...in chaotic matter..."* -not ordered. Chaos. Not ordered- *"...dwells all the glory."* The next statement in the King Follett discourse, *"Element..."* -which is chaotic matter- *"...had an existence from the time He (God) had."* It's always been there. When you become a Creator, you will take this element... The temple refers to it as 'matter and organized.' It's chaotic. But in that, according to Joseph Smith, within that matter dwells glory. Which is what? Intelligence, light, and truth. The rest of the quote goes on like this, *"...The pure principles of element..."* -meaning chaotic matter- *"...are principles that can never be destroyed; they may be organized and re-organized, but not destroyed..."* Nothing can be destroyed. *"...They had no beginning and can have no end."* They exist eternally. That's element. Well, your body is made up of element. It's made up of the things the earth are made up of. It's organized now in a physical body and upon death it will become disorganized and go into a chaotic state. But it still element. And that element is assigned to you, through birth, no matter how it's reorganized through the processes of death; whether you're burned by fire, whether you fall overboard, or are eaten by a shark and your remains are scattered all over the ocean floor, -it doesn't matter. That pure principle of element that made up your physical body, has your identity to it and will not ever belong to another. That is yours. It belongs to you. And in the resurrection it will be re-ordered and come back into its full and perfect stature.

So, I pondered this whole thing about this element residing in glory, in chaotic matter, and here's some things that I've come up with. Now, I've given you doctrine here, now I'm just going to give you here... This is Mike Stroud chapter 26, verse 32. My thought is that this glory dwells within chaotic matter in a somewhat dormant state. It's not in a position to be added upon, or diminished from, which are the two opposites. It appears that these elements have at least, from what Joseph Smith said and others, a rudimentary ability to exercise some agency, but really limited in its unorganized chaotic state. It's alive! This intelligence, this light and truth, this glory is alive! But in order for it to come to a state where it can be added upon in intelligent beings, agency has to come into play and has to be acted upon. In other words, God said, 'Let there be plants, let there be animals, let there be the various things that comprise the earth,' and as He speaks this matter, this chaotic matter, obeys and goes from a rudimentary, fundamental state into something more sophisticated where it now can progress because it's been added upon. In our case, with a physical body; with a spiritual body first. So, we are what the brethren have called 'triune people.' Each one of us is a triune being, meaning that we're made up of three parts. One part never can have a beginning or an end and is without mother or father. It's without beginning of days or end of years. It's co-eternal with God. That is your primal life. That's the intelligence that's inside you. Another definition of that is glory, light, and truth. When it's added upon with the spirit body and you become an organized male or female in spirit form,

it's now capacitated, by being added upon, to now progress much further and gain additional light and knowledge and truth and glory that it otherwise couldn't in that rudimentary position. To be added upon again and have that spirit added upon with a physical body... This is your third- this is the third part of you. The central primal life. Some people have referred to it as 'the I am' that's in you. 'The I am.' It's your identity. It's your core. It's the mind of man added on first of all with the spirit, and then added again with the physical body; and with those three put together the door really opens wide, depending on how you use your agency. Whether you love light and truth, or whether you love darkness, depending on how you use your agency, you can really now be added upon with glory. That concept seems to fit with the other things that the scriptures have said.

Here's something else, too, that I found out. Anciently, element could be broken down into four general parts. This goes back into the ancient writings and different things like that. The four parts are earth, air, fire, and water. Those are your ancient definitions of element. Element is matter in its most basic form- simple and rudimentary. But, as Joseph said, when capacitated through agency it can come up and have the ability to dwell among the Elohim and be one of them. They are who they are, brothers and sisters, these people are who they are because they have something called 'a fullness of truth; a fullness of glory; a fullness of light.' How did they get that? We are learning the process here. I thought about covenants that are made in each estate. How do you keep from losing... If you come into this world with glory earned from the previous world, how do you keep it? Because it is possible to lose it. It's possible to go backwards. We don't want to go backwards. We want to be added upon. We want to go forward. We don't want to look back. And it's my feeling that that's the purpose of covenants and ordinances. The word ordinance is interesting because the word ordinance means 'to put in order.' Ordinances take chaos and confusion and brings them into order. Notice what the Lord says in section 132, (v. 8) "...*mine house is a house of order...and not a house of confusion.*" Well, it's ordinances and covenants and the corresponding doctrines and principles of the gospel that keep the order there. So, it seems to me that one way that we can maintain and **retain** and have added upon glory, is through proper observance and faithfulness to the covenants and ordinances that we enter into. The word ordinance comes from order. Ordinances are designed to take things in the state of confusion and bring them into a state of order. Think of all the ordinances that we go through. What's the purpose of it? Is the purpose of these ordinances to help us retain what we've earned in the previous places? So that we go forward and are added upon and not go backwards and are diminished? Or dwindle? Is that what this is all about? You look at all the statements of the Prophet Joseph Smith and you can see that that probably fits pretty well.

So, here are some thoughts: Our joy increases as we obtain glory. The more light and truth and intelligence and glory we obtain, the greater our joy. Something else that increases as glory increases is wisdom. The acquisition of Christlike attributes that are bestowed upon us through the atonement adds glory. All of this adds glory. Or in other words, intelligence, light, and truth. The Hebrew word for glory, I looked up, is brightness, splendor, magnificence, majesty of outward appearance. I wrote this little note as I was pondering this and I'll end with this. Again, these are my thoughts on this as I studied this. Agency is limited in an elementary, rudimentary state. Agency causes element to become ordered. Covenants and ordinances order element. Glory is activated as a result when the creature is added upon. Back to our first statement: "...*this is my work and my glory-- to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.*" God our Father and all of the Elohim are glorified in the salvation and exaltation of their children. As we come up and obtain what they have, it adds to who they are.

I love the gospel! As I pondered these things this week, I just bowed my head at my desk and I said, "Father I don't understand these things. What does this mean?" And I want to testify to your brothers and sisters that if you ask specific questions... Take a moment and order your questions. Give a little thought. Put some time and consideration into what question you're going to present to the Father in the name of His Son. And that time that you spend ordering that question, preparing it, will put you in

a position to receive greater light and truth and knowledge and intelligence and glory. And God will more readily answer your question because you took the time to present Him with a well thought out, ordered, pondered thought. Remember what Joseph said, and I'll end on this, *"The things of God are of a deep import."* You may ask yourself, so what? Why is this important? Well anything that God speaks of in his word, I think, is important for me to understand. And since glory is the term that is used so ubiquitously throughout the scriptures, it is everywhere, and yet how many times do we stop and say, what the heck is this talking about? And if you stop and start to ask questions like that I testify to you that the Father and the Son are anxious to share with you these things. And they do make a difference. If for no other reason, I can approach them in prayer using different language based on my new understanding that puts me in a position to more readily receive information from Them.

Well, God bless you all and I hope that you find this interesting. We'll call this podcast -guess what? Glory! How's that for original?! Any questions or comments or thoughts? How the mothers and fathers progress in eternity. This is at least one of those ways. Thank you.

Student 2: (addressing student 1) Oh no... You wanted to ask a question, but never did, so...

Student 1: I wanted to ask... give me the reference, if you would please, on the quote that talks about your intelligence always existing, no beginning no end, no mothers no fathers...

Mike: Yeah that's Joseph Smith. I'll dig that up for you and I'll have it is a drop-down for you. It's in verse 29 of section 93, *"Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be."* But there's another place where it says that it's without father and mother, beginning of days or end of years. Let me see if I can find it here real quick.

Student 1: Thank you!

Mike: Maybe I've got it right here. Here's a statement here by Spencer W. Kimball and it kind of ties in with it, and he says, *"Our spirit matter was eternal and coexisted with God, but it was organized in the spirit bodies by our Heavenly Father."*

Marian G. Romney of the first presidency, speaking of people's divine origin as children of God, stated, *"Through that birth process, self-existing intelligence..."* –now, that's not your organized spirit persons. That's that part of you that cannot be created or made. *"...self-existing intelligence was organized into individual spirit beings."*

Brother McConkie said this, *"Abraham used the name 'intelligences' to apply to the spirit children of our Eternal Father. The intelligence, or spirit element, became **intelligences** after the bodies were born as spirit beings."* So, that kind of fits in with what we're talking about. It's not the exact quote that you wanted Sherry. I'll dig that up for you and I'll find it and we'll put it on the Dropbox.

Here's one more that I want to give you. This all ties in with what we've talked about. Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet page 354, *"God Himself, finding He was in the midst of spirits and **glory**..."* -there it is again – *"...because He was more intelligent, saw it proper to institute laws whereby the rest could have a privilege to advance like Himself. That advancement is called being added upon. The relationship we have with God places us in the situation to advance in knowledge."* It's what we're talking about. So, if you ask what this is all about, why is this important? It's knowledge! *"...He has power to institute laws to instruct the weaker intelligences that they may be exalted with Himself, so that they might have one glory upon another..."* –See, there we go- *"...And all that knowledge, power, glory, and intelligence, which is requisite, in order to save them in the world of spirits."* What a

marvelous quote! And I'll see if I can get that one for you, Sherry, and we'll put it up. Any other questions?

Student 1: I have another question.

Mike: Ok, going ahead...

Student 1: You made reference to the fact that the telesial world has an assigned medium temperature and the terrestrial... and the celestial being 7000°, where can we reference that work?

Mike: That is Mike Stroud chapter 3 verse 16.

Student 1: Oh, ok.

Mike: hahaha!

Student 1: Alright, thank you!

Mike: What I'm doing is just illustrating that glorious light... truth shines and as you move up the light is going to get hotter and it's going to get brighter. So, I just put some Fahrenheit degrees to it to illustrate a point.

Student 1: I see. Thank you.

Mike: hahaha! I was wondering if anyone was going to pick up on that! I'll probably hear from a lot of people on that, from the podcast, saying, 'where in the heck did you get that?' Just to illustrate a point. Alright, thanks Brothers and Sisters! Love you all and we'll see you next week.