

041 Entering into The Rest of The Lord Mike Stroud Podcast (transcribed by Pat Crisp)

In the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith they had a popular book that was read by the members of the Church and the Prophet Joseph Smith studied it himself. It was used as one of the textbooks for the early Latter Day Saints as they studied the New Testament and what took place in the New Testament era. It's called the Book of the Martyrs, by Foxx. It has historical depictions of what took place to the Christian martyrs all the way down through time. I'd like to just read some to you. There's a reason I want to do this, but I'd like to read to you, this under what they call the third persecution under Trajan, who was the Emperor of Rome and the date is about 108 AD. The Apostles of Christ that were martyred, the last of them were killed about 68 – 70 AD, Paul and Peter and some of those. "In the Third Persecution, Pliny II, a man learned and famous, seeing the lamentable slaughter of Christians and moved thereby with pity, wrote to Trajan, the Emperor, certifying that there were many thousands of them daily put to death, of which none did anything contrary to Roman laws worthy of persecution. (This is a little note at this particular time, Christians were involved both above ground and below ground. Above ground they were being butchered and slaughtered and killed and below ground they had caves and caverns that we call the catacombs of Rome, maybe some of you have been in those. I have. They lived down underneath the catacombs to escape persecution. They not only lived down there, they held their religious meetings and their dead were buried down there.) Back to the account, "The whole account they gave of their crime of error amounted to this, they were accustomed on a stated day to meet before daylight and to repeat together a set form of prayer to Christ as a God, and to bond themselves, by an obligation not in deed to commit wickedness. But on the contrary, never to commit theft, robbery, or adultery, never to falsify their word or to defraud any man, after which it was their custom to separate and to reassemble and partake in common of a harmless meal". This is what they did that they were found guilty of death under the Roman Emperors. "In this persecution suffered the blessed martyr Ignatius is held in famous reverence among so many. This Ignatius was appointed to the bishopric of Antioch, next right after Peter in succession". This is Peter's succeder. "Some do say, that he, being sent from Syria to Rome because he professed Christ, was given to the wild beasts to be devoured. It is also said of him that when he passed through Asia, being under the most strict custody of his keepers, he's strengthened and confirmed the churches through the cities which he went both with his exhortation and preaching of the word of God", (this part right here), "accordingly having come to Smyrna he wrote to the church in Rome exhorting them NOT to use means for his deliverance from martyrdom, less they might deprive him of that which he most longed and hoped for".

Now here's a quote from St. Ignatius; "Now I begin to be a disciple. I care for nothing of visible or invisible things so that I may win Christ. Let fire and the cross, let the companies of wild beasts, let the breaking of bones, the tearing of limbs, let the grinding of the whole body and all the malice of the devil come upon me be it so only if I win Christ Jesus". Even when he was sentenced to be thrown to the beasts such was the burning desire he had to suffer he spake what time he heard the lions roaring (he's saying he's about ready to be thrown to the lions). "I am the wheat of Christ, I am going to be ground with the teeth of wild beasts that I may be found pure bread".

Isn't that marvelous? And that's just one example, there are so many in this book and you can read about these if you'll go online and look up the Book of the Christian Martyrs by Foxx. It was studied by, as I mentioned before, the early members of the Church. They looked upon it and read these great stories, and I'm sure that what they read had an effect on the School of the Prophets in Kirtland, Ohio. Because, when they write the "Lectures on Faith", what the Christian martyrs experienced is quoted in the "Lectures on Faith". I'm sure that this was an inspiration to Joseph and the early brethren and sisters, and they read upon these things and the question must have come up: How is it possible for persons facing this kind of torture and terrible death and suffering, how is it possible for them to meet that kind of a death with such confidence, with such praise, and with such optimism in Christ? How could they do that? That's the purpose of tonight's lesson. To find out how they could do that and then to prepare us for anything that might come so that we can also have that confidence and that great forward looking optimism that they had. They knew something about a martyr's death. A person who dies a martyr's death obtains eternal life. Martyr's death reward is eternal life in the Celestial Kingdom of God. These people knew that, but knowing just more than that doctrine they had something more that they were involved in. Now this is what we call in the scriptures "entering into the Rest of the Lord". That's tonight's lesson. Entering into the Rest of the Lord.

Student comment about this martyrdom. Mike's Response: I'm saying that those who die in the cause of

Christ in any and all ages obtain the reward of eternal life. Let me give you one example of that. In the original Quorum of the 12 Apostles under Joseph Smith, one of the original members of the quorum was a man named David W. Patton. Brother Patton was a remarkable man of faith, performed miracles, had the gift of performing miracles, the gift of healing. Of the Twelve those days, he just stood apart in his faith and what he was able to accomplish because of faith. At one time he went to the Prophet Joseph Smith and he said; "Brother Joseph, I have requested of the Lord that he allow me to die a martyrs death". Joseph turned to brother Patton and said; "Brother David, your request saddens me. For when a man of your faith requests anything from the Lord, he generally gets it". Well, at Far West, Missouri when the saints had been driven out of Independence, out of Jackson County, out of Caldwell County, out of Davis County and they were up in Far West and the mobs and the persecutors were on them day and night, some LDS men were kidnapped by the mob and David Patton led the rescue group. David Patton had a moniker that the Latter-day Saints gave him. They called him Captain Fear-not and he led this group to rescue these hijacked and kidnapped latter day saint men. Brother Patton and this group found the mob camped on what is called Crooked River, Missouri, and the battle ensued. He was able to free the hostages. One Mormon man was killed, a mobster was shot to death, maybe two, I hadn't looked at the story before I tell it to you tonight. But Brother Patton was shot in the bowels and wounded horribly. What we would call "gut shot" and as they tried to make their way back to Far West he was in so much pain, he begged them to stop the litter and not move because just carrying him on a litter was so excruciating that he couldn't bear the pain. Word had gotten back to Far West and his wife. And his wife and some of the Latter-day Saints met his returning party with Brother Patton in tow. And he looked on his wife as she knelt at the litter and said; "whatever you do remain faithful and true"! And then he died on that litter. He became first Apostolic Martyr in the Latter Day Restoration. The interesting thing was, he requested that because he understood the doctrine. Now I'd like to go over to Matthew 11. Lets go there for just a minute and just look at some scriptures. Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest". What I'd like to propose for you tonight is this is much more than what we think. "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me". You see that, you've gotta have some knowledge here, In order for you to access what the Lord's going to promise in these verses, it's going to require you to have knowledge beyond what you ordinarily have. "For I am meek and lowly of heart and you shall find rest for your soul, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light". Now that's our first take-off scripture. That's a scripture that is famous throughout Christianity and is quoted hundreds and hundreds of times. To find the peace of the Lord in this life so that you can deal with and endure patiently persecutions and the things that take place in the mortal world. That's Matthew 11:28-30. but the Book of Mormon takes it further. The Book of Mormon gives us additional insight. Lets go to Alma 12. This is the terms for entering into the Rest of the Lord, except for one place in the New Testament, Hebrews 4: 1-10. This is almost exclusively Book of Mormon doctrine. Alma 12 is a great one that we kick off on and we want to go to verse 36. Alma 12:36 "And now my brethren I say unto you, If thou will harden your hearts, ye shall not enter into the Rest of the Lord".

Look at verse 35; "Whosoever will harden his heart and will do iniquity, behold I swear on my wrath, he shall not enter into my rest". Now down to verse 36 again, the middle of verse 36; "Therefore your iniquity provoketh him and he sendeth down his wrath upon you as in the first provocation, yea according to his word and the last provocation as well as the first to your everlasting destruction of your souls. Wherefore according to his word the last death as well as the first". The first provocation you can read about is in Exodus where the Lord wanted to take the Children of Israel up to a sacred place under Moses' direction, a temple place, up to the mountain and he wanted to bring them into his presence. He told them, we talked about this in the past, it takes 3 days to be sanctified yourself. He gave a list of things they should and should not do and be prepared on the third day to come up to the mountain and see God face to face. That's what he wanted to do. This first provocation means they provoked him to wrath when they refused his invitation. That's the first provocation. They provoked God, and because when a celestial heavenly being visits a mortal telestial world, when that being comes into this world and comes in glory and power and majesty and might, the physical elements of the telestial are going to react. There's going to be some convulsion, there's going to be some fire, some lightning, some thunder and that's what happened on the holy mountain. It scared the Children of Israel and they ran and stood afar off. They basically told Moses, "we don't want to talk to him, he scares us. You go talk to him and tell us what he said". Because of that, they provoked God to wrath. Now keep your fingers here in Alma 12 and we'll come back to him, let's go to D&C 84. Remember the key to stopping you from entering into the Rest of The Lord is all over, it says you 'harden your heart'. We'll come to what that means in just a minute. Section 84:23; "Now these things

Moses plainly taught to the Children of Israel in the wilderness and that diligently they might behold the face of God". Here's where we're at, we're in section 84:23 "Now this Moses plainly taught to the children of Israel in the wilderness, and sought diligently to sanctify his people that they might behold the face of God;" That was his goal, but here we go, watch, 24: "But they hardened their hearts and could not endure his presence; therefore, the Lord in his wrath, for his anger was kindled against them,(there's your first provocation that Alma 12 is talking about) swore that they should not (here we go) enter into his rest while in the wilderness, (and that's in this world see, that's in this world. Most of the people think about this doctrine of entering into the Rest of the Lord are pushing that into some place in the future, and that can be. But like we talked about so many other times, that's a default. So the rest of verse 24 says) which rest is the fulness of his glory". Now you want to mark that, you want to find out what the Rest of the Lord is. That just defined it right there. The Rest of the Lord is to enter into and obtain a fullness of his glory. We'll come back to that in just a minute. So now let's go back to Alma 12 again. So the first provocation was they rejected the invitation for a face to face meeting with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now, what's this second provocation? The second provocation is down into our day because that invitation has been extended again. You don't want to provoke Him. The way you provoke God is you trample under your feet the Holy One. In other words, He makes an invitation for you to make a covenant with Him and you make a conscious choice to reject that invitation. That provokes Him. The way He is provoked is, by law, He has to withdraw Himself from you. He will not force Himself on you. So, if He issues an invitation to you to do something like we're talking about tonight, to enter into His rest and you reject that for whatever reason, He withdraws His Spirit. And you now inherit a legacy of darkness and confusion instead of obtaining the promises of light and His presence and glory.

Alma 12:37 "And now, my brethren, seeing we know these things", (he's talking to his people in those days and we now bring that up to us.) "and they are true, let us repent, and harden not our hearts, that we provoke not the Lord our God"(you see it? We can do it and are doing it. If we reject these kinds of doctrines if we withdraw from the mysteries. If we harden our heart and withdraw from these mysteries, which Alma earlier in this chapter called the greater portion of the word, then watch) "to pull down his wrath upon us in these his second commandments which he has given unto us; but let us enter into the rest of God, which is prepared according to his word".

There's the invitation. Most people throughout history will reject Gods invitations. Most people will reject them. Let's look at a couple of other scriptures. Let's go to Alma 13. Alma is the ? in this one, this one follows on 12, it's in addition to what we just read. We want to go to Alma 13:12. Now a point of note for you brothers and sisters is this: the first 9 verses are talking about the pre-mortal life. Verse 10, you can see that verse 9 says; "and thus it is. Amen" that ends that discourse on the pre-mortal life and he's talking about obtaining promises in the pre-mortal life. Lets go back just a minute to verse 6, this is talking about men who are foreordained to the Holy Order of the Priesthood of God before they were born. Joseph Smith said; "that every man that ministers in this life with the priesthood was foreordained to that very priesthood before they were born". He says; "I suppose I was foreordained to the priesthood I have before I came here." Now, go to verse 6. Keep in mind that this is talking about the pre-mortal life.

6. "And thus being called by this holy calling, and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God", (in the pre-mortal life, not here) "to teach his commandments unto the children of men, that they also might (key word, future) enter into his rest". Pointing towards something that is coming into mortality. Now lets go on over and look at verse 12. Now we're in the telestial world. Now you have been reordained to this priesthood in the telestial world with a physical body. This priesthood that you were foreordained to before you came here. Verse 12: "Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, (speaking of men in this world) having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence; and there were many, exceedingly great many, who were made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God".

So what are some things we see there? What are necessary for us to enter into the Rest of the Lord? You look into verse 11, sanctified, their garments are washed white through the blood of the Lamb. Verse 12, sanctified again, being made pure and spotless, you don't look upon sin save it with abhorrence, and a mighty change of heart. And because of that, you are made pure, white, spotless, sanctified, and enter into

the rest of the Lord their God. Now that's in this life. This was the point I wanted to make to you, that's in this life. See? Look at verse 13; "And now, my brethren, I would that ye should humble yourselves" (here's another key word) "before God, and bring forth fruit meet for repentance, that ye may also enter into that rest".

Let's skip up to verse 16. See, this doctrine is heavy in the Book of Mormon. "Now these ordinances were given after this manner, that thereby the people might look forward on the Son of God, it being a type of his order, or it being his order, and this that they might look forward" (here we go, it's another prerequisite) "to him for a remission of their sins, that they might enter into the rest of the Lord". What's another thing required? You have to obtain something called a remission of sins. So, we are starting to get a pattern here. So let me ask you a question, here's something, with all of this Book of Mormon information that we have, here's the question: Is it possible for a person who is not a member of the church to enter into, what the Book of Mormon calls, the Rest of The Lord in this life in a telestial world? I am going to say that it is not possible. Here's why; remission of sins in verse 16 is absolutely a prerequisite of entering into the rest of the Lord. I want you to go with me to 3 Nephi. Let's get the scriptures going for us. Let's be scripture detectives, in order to have the remission of sins. I've said before that forgiveness of sins is different, you don't have to be a member to receive a forgiveness of sins. There are people throughout the Christian world that have faith in Jesus Christ that can have their sins forgiven through faith on him. The biblical narrative is clear on that. However, a remission of it is different. A forgiveness of sins puts you in a state of justification and leads towards or can lead towards covenant relationship ordinances. A remission of sins not only puts you in a position where you are not accountable for sins before the bar of God, but it heals all of the affects of sin. You are made whole, and all of the spiritual scars and effects of sin and transgression are removed through the remission of sins. Notice what it says in chapter 12. In 3 Nephi 12 it talks about the baptismal ordinance. We've gone over this a lot.

Go to the middle of verse 1, a big long verse, "Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you", (Are you all there? It is the first Beatitude on the Temple, Sermon at the Temple, which corresponds with the Sermon on the Mount. But this Beatitude is not in Matthew. This is only found here. This is very different. The Matthew one starts down in verse 3 where it says "blessed are the poor in heart", verse 4, "blessed are they who mourn". You see, that's Matthew, we can get that over in Matthew. But verses 1 and 2 are only found in 3 Nephi and it's the first Beatitude, it's the missing biblical Beatitude and in the middle of verse 1 he says) "Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you and to be your servants; (this part here) and unto them I have given power that they may baptize you with water" (that's the first half of the baptismal ordinance. We talked about that. It's water baptism. Joseph said if you don't go any further than this you might as well baptize a bag of sand, it means nothing. But it is necessary as the first step in the ordinance and watch what it says) "and after that ye are baptized with water, behold, I (Christ) will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost".

That completes the baptismal ordinances. There's three phases to the baptismal ordinance. Number one is water. Number two is confirmation by the laying on of hands. And number three is the baptism of fire by the Holy Ghost which is performed by immortals. The first half of the baptismal ordinance is performed by authorized mortal beings. They baptize you with water and with their hands they lay their hands upon you and confirm you. But the last part, the sealing, crowning part of the baptismal ordinance is baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost and Christ does that.

Now go down to 3 Nephi 12:2 "And again, more blessed are they who shall believe in your words because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am". (this is us, we weren't there at the Temple. So this is now talking to us, reading this account) "Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility and be baptized, (with water, that's all of us, we've done that) for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins".

Now go back to Alma 13 and you'll see in verse 16; that to enter into the Rest of the Lord you must have the complete baptismal ordinance done. The whole thing, not just by water, not just confirmed in a Sacrament meeting or after baptism, that you have to have the baptism of fire, which remits your sins, heals

the effects of sins, and makes you whole and complete. Isn't that great stuff? Comments?

Student comment about the terms 'seen me' and 'see me' in reference to this topic and these scriptures.
Mike: Good insight. I have not seen this before brother. What we're trying to do is, we're trying to find out the definition of entering into the Rest of the Lord. What have we got thus far? Baptism is necessary. If you are not baptized by authority and the complete ordinance, being made whole and complete, pure and cleansed, sanctified by the Holy Ghost and I've even taken a step further, that you are going to have to obtain promises from Gods' own mouth in order to enter into the Rest of The Lord in this life.

Lets go to Moroni 7. Moroni 7 gives us some more information. See again, I want you to understand that most people who look at this are looking at it, we in this telestial world want to push the lofty things off into the next world. We've talked about this before. We want to do that with this also. But here's the point. We started out this lesson by reading an account how early Christian martyrs could suffer what they did. I'm going to take you to the 6th Lecture on Faith in just a minute. How could they do this? Well they could do it because they had a knowledge that surpassed the veil. They had accomplished what we call, entered into the Rest of The Lord. And when you do that, what happens to you in this life and the physical body doesn't matter anymore.

Moroni 7:3 watch! "Wherefore, I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ", (now that right there tells you that we are in a very select group of people. These are people who have been baptized members of the church. Next) "and that have obtained a sufficient hope" (now we've talked about hope before, that's not the worldly hope of Lord willing and the creek don't rise, I hope I make it and everything will work out right. That's a hope that puts you out of control and it's based on wishing. The hope that Moroni's talking about here is a sure knowledge that can only come to you from revelation and I'm going to say higher revelation) "by which ye can" (here we go) "enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth," (from this time means in mortality forward) "until ye shall rest with him in heaven". Obtaining the Rest of the Lord in the Telestial world guarantees that you will have that rest in the world to come. It's a guarantee. You cannot have gained it here and not have it there. So now we are coming into areas where we talk about calling and election made sure. All the doctrines we have talked about, entering into the Rest of The Lord in this life means you know something above and beyond the veiled existence of the Telestial world. You've obtained something.

Now I'd like to take you into conclusion here to show you what we are talking about here and it kind of ties this all together. In the 6th Lecture on Faith, this is called the Law of Sacrifice. Now, if we were going to interpret and describe and define entering into the Rest of The Lord, I think we would say, that you've had your calling and election made sure, you have obtained something called the more sure word of prophesy, which in the temple is referred to as conversing with the Lord through the veil. That's making your calling and election made sure through a process called "the more sure word of prophesy". This is the Brother of Jared that obtained a sure promise from Gods own mouth, that gives him, here's a key word, the confidence necessary to rip that veil and with that confidence, demand that the Lord show Himself to him. And that's exactly what he did. The Lord said when he sees his finger, "Did you see more than this? "Nay Lord, show thyself unto me". That's the difference there. And he obtains that confidence because of promises he's gotten earlier by conversing with the Lord through the veil. Let me just read you a couple of things from the 6th Lecture on Faith. This is such a marvelous, this is one of my favorite lectures of all of them. 6 and 7, 5 I like but 6 is a great one. Starts out by saying; "Having treated in the preceding lecture the idea of the character perfection attributes of God we next proceed to treat of the, here we go, knowledge which persons must have that the course of life which they pursue is according to the will of God. For what purpose they may be able to exercise faith in Him to life and salvation". Now what this lecture is saying is each one of us must obtain for ourselves a knowledge from God that the course you're pursuing is according to His will. That's not a supposition or a gosh I hope I'm doing the right thing, I hope he's pleased with me; you have to know He is. When you start to get into this area of obtaining this knowledge you are now knocking on the door of entering into the Rest of The Lord. He goes on, he says in sentence two; "this knowledge implies an important place in revealed religion where it was by reason of this knowledge" (here we go, think about how we started out the lesson tonight, the Christian Martyr) "that the ancients were able to endure as seeing Him who is invisible" (see they hadn't obtained the second comforter yet). They had not seen and touched something, but they have heard something. They've heard the voice of God call them by their familiar name and have obtained promises by His own voice, from His own mouth, with an oath from Him that these promises are secured and will be realized in their lives. An actual knowledge to any person that the course

of life which he pursues is according to the will of God. It's essentially necessary to enable him to have the confidence in God without which no person can obtain eternal life. It was this that enabled the ancient saints to endure all of their afflictions and persecutions and to take joyfully the spoiling of their goods. Knowing, not merely believing, that they had a more enduring substance. Having the assurance", (think of that word assurance, the word right in the middle of assurance is sure) "that they were pursuing a course that was agreeable to the will of God. Knowing, not merely believing, that when this earthly house of their early tabernacle was dissolved they had a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens".

One of those Christian martyr stories is so touching. It took place under Nero, and it's a whole family that were brought into the coliseum arena. Now get a picture of this will you? These are baptized members of the Church, of the New Testament Church. They are in the coliseum. There's 60,000 people screaming around them and here's a mother and a father with their little children standing huddled with each other, with their arms around each other, standing in the middle of the arena and they open the arena doors and they let loose lions and tigers and bears that have been starved on purpose. These animals are starved and they are ferocious with starvation. And do you know what that father and that mother did? I can hardly talk about it. They sing a hymn as these animals come in and kill the whole family in front of 60,000 screaming Romans. Where did that father and that mother, where did they get that from? They got it from what we are talking about here tonight.

The New Testament saints obtained, brothers and sisters, the Church of the First Born. They had communion with the general assembly in the Church of Enoch. They were familiar with the spirits of the just men made perfect and translated beings who came down from the city of Enoch and ministered to them. They had that! They had entered into the Rest of the Lord. So like this one in verse 3 says here; "Knowing, not merely believing, that this earthly house of their tabernacle was dissolved they had a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in Heaven". Let me read to you something else the Prophet Joseph Smith said. It's all about views, how you view yourself in this world and your relationship with other people. Listen to what the Prophet Joseph Smith said. This is what happens when you come into this level of discipleship. "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". (This part right here) "The nearer a man or woman approaches perfection the clearer are his views" (that part right there), "and the greater his enjoyment until he has overcome all the evils of this life and lost every desire for sin".

Now think about these ancient saints as Joseph goes on; "and like the ancients arrived at a point of faith where he is wrapped in the power and glory of his maker and caught up to dwell with him". That's what we're talking about here. One last thing as we end tonight's lesson. From lecture 6, this is part 4. "such was and always will be the situation of the saints of God, that unless they have an actual knowledge, that the course that they are pursuing is in accordance with the will of God" (watch here) "they will grow weary in their minds and faith". This is what's happening to the tens of thousands of Latter-day Saints who are leaving church activity. I had a man this week ask me a question, "why I thought there were so many people that choose to leave the church?" In my mind there are lots of different reasons, and I outlined five or six of them, but number one in my mind is that they have not obtained the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. And the reason they haven't obtained it is because too many of them thought they got it when they were confirmed a member and somebody put their hands on their heads and said "receive the Holy Ghost". Why should you seek for something if you feel you have already obtained it? This is like last week the Lord said in Isaiah 5:13 "My people are destroyed for want of knowledge".

Going back to part 4; "they grow weary in their minds and think for such has been and always will be the opposition in the hearts of unbelievers and those that know not God against the pure and unadulterated religion of heaven the only thing which ensures, (look at the word in the middle), ensures eternal life". See, what we are talking about here tonight, brothers and sisters, is the pure and unadulterated religion of heaven. You have to get into the scriptures to know this. You can't be scripturally illiterate and not putting an effort to search God's word and expect to obtain these holy promises. You can't do it. Going on it says: "They will be persecuted to the uttermost, nothing short of an actual knowledge of their being the favorites of heaven". I love that statement. That ties in with another Book of Mormon doctrine that says; "being highly favored of the Lord". See, this is all talking about higher things here. None of this is the lesser portion of the word. This is the greater portion. These are the mysteries of God that you can have if you will ask, seek, and knock. "nothing short of an actual knowledge of their being the favorites of heaven and of their

having embraced (watch) that order of things, (the higher order of things. Higher order of knowledge, higher order of blessings, higher order of covenants, higher order of priesthood, higher order of promises); “their having embraced that order of things God has established for redemption of man will enable them to exercise that confidence in Him necessary for them to overcome the world and obtain that crown of glory which is laid up for them that fear God”. Fear/Reverence.

Then the rest of the lecture talks about how you obtain this is thru sacrifice. The whole 6th Lecture is on sacrifice. If you want to enter unto the Lord it is going to require sacrifice. If you want to have the blessings of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you're going to be required to sacrifice to the same extent they did, to obtain the place that they have. Neil A. Maxwell's book called, “The Disciple's Life”, is that what it is, “The Disciples Life”, I think. On the back of the dust cover is the one sentence, its about 560 pages, but on the back of that is this one sentence taken out of it. “If you want to be a true disciple of Christ he will eventually require of you the very thing that is the hardest for you to do”. That's the summary statement of that whole book on Neil Maxwell.

Sacrifice, remember one thing, the Lord will not require of you that which you are not prepared to offer and fulfill. He won't do it. One of the things you may want to consider in your prayers is; “What is required of me Father at this point to obtain these blessings of which I am learning”? Tonights blessing is “the rest of the Lord”. It's a summary of about 5 or 6 other podcasts on Holy Promises that God gives to those who will pay the price. There is a sacrifice called the Abrahamic Sacrifice. Each person that wants an inheritance with all of the Holy Fathers and with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the Holy Fathers who go no more out, any person who wants an inheritance with them will have to come up to the knowledge and pay the price through sacrifice required to enter in. I want you to know that when the Lord requires it from you, you are fully prepared to do it or He won't require it. He is not in the business of condemning and destroying his children. But if you want to be where he is, there is only one pathway to it. And sacrifice is emblazoned along the way.

Well tonights lesson will be called “Entering into The Rest of The Lord”. Do any of you have any comments?

Student: Basically then, when the Lord appeared to these people, they were taught all the principles of the Gospel. Now they had seen, now they had heard, now they had felt, and now they had entered into the Rest of the Lord, and this was why they were able to preserve themselves over two hundred years, is that what you're saying?

Mike: What I am saying is that to meet any of the tests that are coming, that's well said Jay, to meet any of the tests that are coming that are required for us, that we knew about before we were born, my friends, there is nothing happening to you in this life that you did not know about and agree to before you came here. This is your path. You knew about it, you researched it with heavenly beings, probably beings that had been on that path before you and could counsel you in wisdom because they had already traversed it. Counselors as you enter into the one room school house. Maybe some of them said; “that might be a little more for you at this time and this experience than you want to take on”. There must have been wisdom and prudence involved in those pre-school counseling sessions. Because again, the purpose is to succeed, not fail. Succeed, and this is where knowledge comes in. If you have the knowledge of this, this is the beauty of this, none of this was new to any of us. We knew all of this before we came here. We've just been caused to forget it and now we're experiencing something similar in this life to what we did in the pre-mortal life, only with a body. Don't think for a minute that you didn't have your trials and sacrifices, your anointings, your endowments, your blessings and ordinations before you came here. Everything that's taking place in this life is a pattern of the way things were before and the way things will be in the world to come. That's how you discern the mysteries of God, is by learning to seek for and understanding patterns. So yeah, they were able to.

What do you think it was that David W. Patton knew as a result of his time in the school of the prophets? Personal revelation, piercing the veil, having the ministrations of angels and the spirits of just men, communing with the assembly of the Church of the First Born? What do you think he learned through all that, that would enable him to go to Joseph and say: “Joseph, I have asked the Lord to allow me to die a martyrs death”. Certainly we don't think that that was just an off the cuff random statement. That statement comes because brother Patton had deep revealed knowledge of the mysteries of God. He understood something or he would have never made that request. So, yes Jay, all of these things, step by step. Brother Pontius, who, I love brother John Pontius' writing. I was listening to “The unblogged Reunion”. This

is where a bunch of the people gathered, before brother Pontius died. And as I was listening to this blog the other day, he said again: "God will never ask you or require you to do anything, but he doesn't prepare you for the task. And if you feel "called to a certain direction", know this, that you would not feel the call unless the preparation to fulfill that assignment accompanied it". Basically that's 1 Nephi 3:7, go and do the things the Lord's required and he won't require you do anything unless he prepares the way for you to accomplish what he commands, you see.

So, if you listen to any of these podcasts or anything that has to do with the restoration, if you feel impressed, if the Holy Ghost inspires you, enlightens your mind, and you have a new idea or you feel that's your future, or this is something I've heard before, that's part of preparing you to fulfill the very thing that's been revealed to you.

Well, thank you so much it has been fun to be with you tonight. I'll have Margie edit this for us tonight, then she'll have it up on the podcasts. I think this is number 40 if I'm not mistaken. 41, number 41 Margie says. So bless your hearts and God bless you, keep you safe and increase your faith until it becomes unshakeable.