

045 Baptism of Fire, Precursor to 2nd Comforter
by Mike Stroud

Mike: Well good evening brothers and sisters and Merry Christmas to you. It's Sunday evening at about 5:30 pm, I hope you have a great Christmas holiday and that family and friends were brought together in love and harmony. This past week I had an opportunity to go to Holbrook, Arizona and witness the baptism of a little eight-year-old girl. Her father is familiar with the baptismal ordinance, proper doctrine affiliated with that baptismal ordinance, and that he gave a marvelous talk to the people that were there. The bishop was on hand and I was watching the bishop's face to see how he would respond to this information that is not well understood by the members of the church. In the bishop's presence, he stood there, and sat there, and nodded his head in agreement, as this father talked about the baptismal ordinance which has three different parts to it. Number 1, is a baptism of water by authorized mortals. Number 2, is the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. And number 3, that he mentioned in his talk, is the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. Now the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, brothers and sisters, the way it is understood throughout the church is... Is that when you have your hands laid upon your head during the confirmation part of the baptismal ordinance and the person officiating says "Receive the Holy Ghost"; the majority of the membership of the church think that that is the baptism by fire and the Holy Ghost. And at that point that is the command by the person who is officiating in the ordinance, a command that the Holy Ghost now becomes a constant companion of the recipient upon whose heads these hands are laid. Now the brethren of the church, especially Elder Bednar, are seeking to turn that around. And we talked about that in some details so I won't go into that tonight and you can look that up in the podcast. In a talk that was given in the New Jersey, Moorestown mission called the Baptism of Fire and the Holy Ghost, we laid out there according to doctrine and according to Elder Bednar's quotes there. What I would like to say to you tonight is that baptism by fire and the Holy Ghost is the precursor to receiving the second comforter. No one is going to receive the second comforter until they have had their baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. Now another thing that is taught throughout the church is that the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost is a process. And when I was giving that talk in New Jersey, people in authority, that were there, were quick to point out to the missionaries that this is a process and not an event. What I would like to say to you tonight is that that is not true doctrine. The baptism by fire and the Holy Ghost is an event and it is recorded in Scripture as such. Now like everything else in the gospel, everything proceeds from portions to fullnesses. So if you could liken the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost to a physical birth. Physical birth has a process of nine months that ends in a birth. The same is true with baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. It's a process of sanctification, of justification, of being cleansed step-by-step thru a process of repentance and the power of the atonement of Christ, but it has to end in an event. And what's more, it's a baptism and baptism in and of itself, the very word means to immerse. So baptism of water is a pattern of the baptism of Fire and the Holy Ghost. As you are totally immersed in water so in order for this to be a baptism you have to be totally immersed in heavenly fire. There is no such thing as a partial water baptism, and so likewise there is no such thing as a partial baptism of Fire and the Holy Ghost. If you don't get the baptism of Fire and the Holy Ghost you are not prepared to enter into a terrestrial realm... it's a prerequisite. The baptism of Fire and the Holy Ghost cleanses and renews and quickens your spirit. The baptism of Fire also has a renewing capability on the physical body but it quickens the spirit. After the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost your spirit is changed. The whole thing is a process to help prepare you and transform you to come into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Which means you're going to need to step up now and be prepared to go into a Terrestrial world. Keep in mind the whole purpose of these comforters, the Holy Ghost the first comforter, and the Holy Ghost is that God or comforter of the Celestial world... and his purpose is to change, transform, cleanse, purify you so that you can now become a terrestrial being and that's what happens when you have the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. You now become a Terrestrial being living in a Celestial world and now it's

prepared you to have an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ on a terrestrial level. Now the Lord Jesus Christ is the second comforter and his job, his purpose, is to transform... Further transform and prepare you to enter into the presence of the third comforter in the Celestial realms of glory, and that is the father. And I believe that there is even another comforter after that, and that is the fourth comforter, and I believe that that can be our heavenly mother. Now the third and fourth comforters are not referred to anywhere in the Scriptures, nor to my knowledge, in any of the writings of the latter-day Saints. But I don't think that anybody is going to have an encounter with heavenly mother unless they have been changed, transformed and prepared by the father himself to meet our heavenly mother. So this is just a movement from one place to another place, each being at each level, and that each state preparing you to enter into the next realm. So this baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost is recognizable in the Scriptures. Let's go over to Helaman chapter 5, and I will show you a couple of scriptural examples on this. We will go to Helaman chapter 5 and this is the story of Lehi and Nephi, Helaman's sons, and this is the Helaman of the 2000 stripping warriors, one of the sons of Alma the younger. And before we go there I want to take you to 3 Nephi. let's just go to 3 Nephi, first of all, and show you a couple of things here. 3 Nephi 9, this is during the three days of darkness that Christ is speaking to the Nephites after his death and resurrection. And we'd like to go down to verse 20. Here the Savior has said that he is going to do away sacrifice and burnt offerings and the new sacrifice will be in verse 20, *"And ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I "*, Christ, *"him will I baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, "* this part right here, *"even as the Lamanites,"* and that is what were talking about here in Helaman 5, *"because of their faith in me at the time of their conversion, were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and they knew it not."* I think you will see this is the Scripture that people use to point to the fact that you can have the baptism of fire in a process that you don't even know it's happened to you. And that is not understood correctly. When we look over here in chapter 5... they are going to say.... and your going to see that there is no way that these people or any other people who have experienced this event that accompanies the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost... That there is no way that they can't know that something has happened. It is not subtle. There is a huge event, now the nine months leading up to the mortal birth may be subtle, but you'll notice that as we get to the end of the nine months process of pregnancy that things began to happen. [10:10] There is a pattern for that. Everything intensifies and speeds up towards the end of this process of this birth and ends with an event... and that is the birth of the baby. Is the same thing with the baptism of fire. You can have things happening to you through the gift of the Holy Ghost and through the transforming power and sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost it's a definite time but if you draw nearer into this event you see things starting to speed up in your life. Many of you listening to this podcast are in that speeding place. Now if you can recognize what is happening to you then you can look forward with faith and anticipation to the blessed event. That would be called the birth of the baby, when you have your baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost you're going to be a newborn babe. Something is going to happen to you, you're going to go from a fallen, lost and hopeless adult state in a Terrestrial world to a newborn child in Christ where he becomes your father and you are a child. I want you to notice that one of the absolute criteria having your second comforter blessing is to become as a little child. The baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost makes you childlike, not childish, but childlike. You come out of that with attributes that have reversed the natural man's falling tendencies and placed you in a situation where you become a new born child in Christ and he is now your father. So when it says these Lamanites knew it not, the interpretation of that is they knew that something had happened because they could see that but they didn't know what to call it. They didn't have the words to explain it. It's not like you and I hear on this podcast tonight are talking about something called the baptism of Fire and the Holy Ghost. They didn't have that. As you'll see everybody in that prison were dissenters. Lets go over to Helaman chapter 5, and if you read closely you can see... we can see keys in this story here In this account that can tell us what to expect. You need to ask yourself the question as you listening to this podcast right

now, knowing that this is critical, all of you already have received baptism of water. I don't think there's very many people listening to the podcast that have not been baptized by someone in authority under Aaronic priesthood authority to baptize you by water and you've had hands laid upon your head, you been confirmed a member of the church of Jesus Christ, and have been given the priesthood injunction. An injunction is a command now, to go forth and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Very few people, very few, rarely do they obtained the gift of the Holy Ghost which is synonymous with the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. But when you put those two terms together because it means the same. So when you reset a receive the Holy Ghost what you're really doing is telling that person out to go forth and obtained a baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost... Same thing. Can it happen that baptism, yes. There are some accounts in the early history of the church where it happens but it is rare. A person may be baptized at age 8 and live most of their lives and not experienced the baptism of fire until later on in their lives when their older or they may be baptized at any time in their lifetime and die and never experienced the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. That is my concern. You will never experience this unless you understand it and seek for it with every fiber of desire, that you possess. This is not something that is going to automatically happen to you because mortals have laid their hands upon their heads and said received something. It's not going to happen. That's the problem right now we have in the church. We have a misunderstanding. We think that's what that means and so we been confirmed I think the whole baptism ordanance is complete. For most of the members of the church they are laboring under the illusion that their baptismal ordinances is complete and when in reality it's only halfway there. Remember that statement by Joseph, *"might as well baptize a bag of sand as to baptize somebody by water without the accompanying baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost."* And we talked about that before baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost is not performed by institutions. It is not performed by mortals. It comes under the direction and/or by the Lord Jesus Christ himself. [15:33] Notice over there in chapter 9, "I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost" So we need to ask yourself the question brothers and sisters, have I received the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost?" And how are you going to knows that. Because right now if you're listening to this podcast you probably have some serious doubts that you have received that and it's going to be more serious by the time we get through here in a minute when you see what this actually means from the Scriptures. How do you know if you've had the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. It's simple. You go to the Lord and you ask him. Do you think you're going to another mortal somewhere and say can you tell me if I've had the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost? I have seen where other people have said to others that you have received the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. Now how do you know that? You may be under the cleansing influence of that spirit, and it may be progressing you forward like the nine months of a pregnancy, but unless it ends in the event you haven't had it. Again 99% of the people are going to taste that it is a process and not an event. Do you know why they're teaching that? Because it's upsetting for them to think that if it's an event they haven't had it then they are in jeopardy. And so we call it a process never mentioning that it's an event because that salves are concerns. Makes us feel like I'm okay, I'm in the process. Well, how long does a pregnancy last? You had better get to the birth folks and have the event. You can tell when you're getting close because, here's the pattern again, when you're hearing the birth of the baby everything is escalating, there is more pain, there are signs along the way that that birth is imminent, water breaking, pains that are paced that are so much time apart, labor pains. I mean it is a great symbol. So let me just say that when you ask the Lord, have I had the baptismal fire and the Holy Ghost? And how important is this? Again I'll say it is the precursor to the second comforter, making your calling and election sure. You're not going to have your calling and election made sure unless the baptismal ordinance is completed in an event.

So let's go over here to Helaman chapter 5 for just a minute. The key to understanding this is, and you can look at the whole story in the background, Nephi and Lehi were a great missionaries. Nephi gave up the judgment seat to Thorum and he and his brother went out and started preaching the gospel to the

Nephites. And in verse 17 it says they were among those who were dissenters among the Nephites. And in 17 instead they had some great success and those that were converted return to the Nephite population and endeavored to repair the wrongs that they had done. And then verse 18 they go to the Lamanites. I want you to notice that in verse 18 at the bottom it says that when they preached they priest was such power and authority because they preached what was given to them by the spirit. That is called the gift of tongues. The gift of tongues doesn't always mean you're speaking in a foreign language or speaking the Adamic language. That can be it. As a missionary when I went to Germany, Boyd K Packer laid his hands upon my head and gave me, promise me, the gift of tongues. Without that language training mission, there within six months I was reading, writing and speaking German fluently. So that certainly is a manifestation of the gift of tongues. And you can also be endowed with the gift of tongues where you speak in an unknown language and there is an interpreter there that will interpret it and it's always a message from God. It's something that edifies and lifts the two persons who are involved, the speaker of the translator, and everybody else who is in the room. And if there is no edification, if there's no instruction you can check that... Check that is coming from the wrong source. If there's a person speaking in tongues and there's no interpreter, translator you can check that is coming from the wrong source. But another way that you can speak in tongues is that you speak as moved upon by the Holy Ghost. [20:01] You speak with the tongue of angels, wherefore you speak the words of Christ. So if you've ever had given to you, either in a talk, or a lesson, or in your prayers the words that you should speak before you spoke them, than your speaking in tongues. That is a manifestation of the gift of tongues. As a result of this in verse 9 there were 8000 Lamanites were baptized, convinced of the traditions of their fathers. They were having such success that Nephi and Lehi were taken and thrown into prison. The prison they were in was the same prison that Ammon and his brethren were cast into by the servants of Lemhi. Verse 22, let's look at some things. After many days without food they come to kill them and here we go. As they come into the prison they see Nephi and Lehi, second line, where circle about as if by fire. Now this is what is going to happen. Why should we expect when the Lord is teaching us about baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost and gives us examples of it out of the book of Mormon why should we expect to interpret it in some other way or look for some other manifestation other than what God has given us in his holy book. But that is exactly what we do because we haven't been encircled about as if by fire and because we haven't had the experience that were going to read about here, we want to wrest the Scriptures and use of other kind of manifestation to prove that we've had this kind of experience. Look at the bottom of verse 23, "they were standing in the midst of fire and were not burned." 24, second line, "they were encircled about with a a fire, and it burned them not, their hearts to take courage." They have not had this experience before. Nephi and Lehi has not had this experience. This is the first time that they have seen himself standing in the midst of fire, and you can gather from verse 24, that it was astonishing and disconcerting. And after a few minutes when they see they are not consume, but not only are they not consumed but they are filled with joy, then their hearts take courage. Now along with this you have got the earthshaking in the prison shaking, go down to verse 27, here is your key to understanding, why these... over in third Nephi 9 it says, they were baptized by fire and the Holy Ghost and they knew it not these are already... These people who are in prison with Lehi and Nephi, there in the cells, not the Lamanites who came in to kill them. The Lamanites who came in to kill them are standing dumbfounded and struck with fear because everything around them is moving and shaking and they're afraid they're going to be crushed to death. But there are 300 Nephites and Lamanites, look at the bottom of verse 27, "they that were in prison were Lamanites and Nephites," here right here, "who were dissenters." now what does that mean? That means that these are baptized members of the church who for one reason or another have walked away from activity in the church. Do we have anything like that today? These are people who have already been baptized by water, these are people who have already had hands laid upon their heads or the conferral of the gift of the Holy Ghost and the invitation and for some reason have walked away from that and find themselves in a tonight press. It is a key to

understand these people already have a foundation and have made covenants with the Lord. And I would venture to say, that at one time or another, have felt the spirit of the Lord and before their dissension were in a process, at least to one degree or another of moving upward, and then had been sidetracked, which happens in our day. Verse 29, look at this, a cloud overshadows and in verse 29, “there came a voice as if it were above the cloud of darkness, saying: repent ye, repent ye, and seek no more to destroy my servants whom I have sent unto you to declare good tidings.” what’s the good tidings to these people? Note, that they are sent to the dissenters. Nephi and Lehi, if you go up to verse 17 says, “that they did preach with great power, inasmuch that they did, found many of those dissenters” see they were out like our MLS missionaries today, MLS mission, if you get called out on and MLS mission your job is to go out and reclaim what they call in the mission field ‘low hanging fruit’. The ,\’low hanging fruit’ means you’re going to go out and talk to disenfranchise, dissenting members of the church, who have left the church for one reason or another. it’s not like you’re working with total strangers who have no foundation as the low hanging fruit; you don’t have to work as hard. You don’t have to get a ladder to climb up into the top of the tree to pick the fruit because you already got fruit on the lower branches. That means they’ve already been baptized, they make covenants, they have felt the spirit, and so what we do in MLS missionaries as we go out there and hopefully get them to where they feel the spirit of the Lord again. The good tidings that there sent to declare are: let us teach you what it means to complete the rest of the baptismal ordinance. You are operating under misunderstood doctrine. I’ll bet you there is no difference on these people than that there are now. I’ll bet you that many members of the church who left the church did not understand the doctrine of the completed baptismal ordinance. They were lacking the knowledge of the baptism of fire. I honestly believe that that’s the reason why we have so many people leaving the church today is because they think they have already obtained something and I don’t feel anything. You see that the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost is full of feeling. Lets go to verse 30, “they heard this voice, and beheld that it was a voice of thunder, neither was it a voice of a great tumultuous noise,” now this is interesting because all around they’ve got thunder and tumultuous noise, earthquakes, prison walls shaking but in the midst of all this, “ ... it was a still voice of perfect mildness, as if it had been a whisper, and it did pierce even to the very soul –“ notice this, “notwithstanding the mildness of the voice, behold the earth shook exceedingly, and the walls of the prison trembled ... and the cloud of darkness, which had overshadowed them, did not disperse” Verse 32, this is the second time. now this is three times. the second time, “the voice came again, saying: repent ye, repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand; and seek no more to destroy my servants.” What do you think it means The kingdom of heaven is at hand? When you obtained baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost you have now stepped up into the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven is terrestrial. The church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints is not the kingdom of heaven. It’s not even the kingdom of God that we teach. The kingdom of God is the physical kingdom that Joseph Smith is going to establish with the Council 50 was disqualified when the last member of the Council 50 died in 1949. And that was Heber J Grant. We have not built that up yet. So it comes out and says the second time for the kingdom of heaven is at hand that means you have the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost you’re going to enter into a newness of life and be with the book of Mormon calls alive in Christ. That’s the good news, the good tidings that Nephi and Lehi are bringing all these people. You want to know what their preaching over in verse 18 when they had 8000 people joined the church, that’s what they were preaching, and they were given what they should say. Verse 33, “and also again the third time the voice came, and did speak unto them marvelous words which cannot be uttered by a man;” see this right here, brothers and sisters, those who were listening to these words are now in the final stages of the nine-month pregnancy. They are about to give birth. And they’re hearing the words, do you sense in this experience here in escalation of things. There was a man there who was in Nephi who becomes a facilitator’s name is in verse 39 is Aminadab. And the people were concerned. And I want to backup and look at one more, look of verse 36. This is also one of the keys of baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. But only are they hearing this

voice but look at 36 “and it came to pass that he turned them about, and the hold, he saw through the cloud of darkness the faces of Nephi and Lehi;” put you here, because when this happens to you this is you. The faces of Nephi and Lehi “they did shine exceedingly, even as the faces of Angels.” when you have your baptism of fire, and if there is a witness their that could describe what he is witnessing when you are having this experience... this is what you will see. You will see fire and your faces will shine. [30:01] “and he beheld that they did lift their eyes to heaven; and they were in the attitude as if talking or lifting their voice to some being whom they held.” Now the Lamanites asked the question in verse 38, “who is it with whom these men do converse?” And Aminadab who is a dissenter, and Aminadab says they do converse with the angels of God. Then I believe that and I know that because you’re going to see Angels here in just a minute. Angels always accompanied the baptismal fire and the Holy Ghost. If you look up in verse 36 it says they were in the attitude of as if talking or lifting their voices to some being whom they beheld. And I think that is the truth, I think what they’re doing is talking with God. And there are angels present, but Nephi and Lehi now, even though their present bodies are in that prison, they are there. They are in another place. And the person that they are speaking to his Christ. And they are now in to the terrestrial realm. All these people in the telestial world are observing this but they have not yet had the same experience. Verse 40 they say, “what shall we do, that this cloud of darkness may be removed from overshadowing us?” And brothers and sisters, that is the question that and I and all of us should be asking. Because until we have this baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, and if you’re still thinking this is a process and not an event, you are overshadowed with a cloud of unbelief. And you need to be asking the same question that these 300 Lamanites and Nephites ask, what shall we do that this cloud of darkness may be removed from overshadowing us? And Aminadab gives the answer, verse 41, “you must repent and cry unto the voice, even until ye shall have faith in Christ, who was taught unto you” see, these folks have a foundation . Alma, Amulek, and Zeezrom; they all heard those three men. this is wrong; They were also witnesses to Zeezrom’s conversion. Verse 42, “and it came to pass that they did all begin to cry “, Circle the word cry, ” unto the voice of him who had shaken the earth; yea, they did cry” circle that word again. “even until the cloud of darkness was dispersed.” It lifted. Verse 43, when the clouds up, they look at themselves, they look at each other, this is the 300 neophytes in Lamanites, look at the bottom of verse 43, “they saw that they were encircled about, yea every soul, by a pillar of fire.” This is the event of baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. it’s no wonder we call it a process. Out of the 15 million members of the church, how many do you think Experience this? I think there are some, but I venture to say that the percentages small. Why is it small? Because we believe a false doctrine. We believe the tradition that comes down. And I’m not saying it’s on purpose or that there is a conspiracy, I just know how difficult it is to preserve truth, restored in a telestial world. And now we’re hundred plus years away from the restoration and this is one of the areas that has been difficult to preserve. And so we slipped into this process and we totally have abandoned the event. We don’t like to talk about the event because that means that after all these years as a member of the church I have not had the completion of the baptismal ordinance. And that is disconcerting. Bottom of verse 43, “encircled about, yea every soul.” Look at 44, the worst encircled about; yea, they were as if in the midst of a flaming fire, yet it did harm them not, neither did it take hold upon the walls of the prison; and they were filled with” and here we go, “they were filled with that joy which is unspeakable” there is one thing, put your finger there and if you go over section 121 in the doctrine and covenants, now you may start to get a feel in verse 26, the word is ‘unspeakable’ look at verse 26 in section 121 “God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit gave by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost” put right in their baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, because that’s what it is.”that has not been revealed since the world was until now. Notice what else they In verse 44, Not only joy unspeakable but they are now full of glory. These 300 men are now prepared to have a second comforter experience. I don’t know how many have it, just because yyou have this this mean you’re going to seek for it. I would venture to say that there is a good percentage of these 200 men that never saw the second comforter experience because they didn’t know the doctrine. You have, brothers

and sisters, you have the baptismal fire and the Holy Ghost, you're knocking on the veil and the second comforter's experience is not far away. Why? Because you need to have this experience to stand in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, you need to be transformed so that you can abide his presence in the world of glory. Otherwise you wouldn't survive it would kill. No one cleaned the Dwell in the presence of God. The purpose of the baptism of fire is to transform. What I want you to know is it not only changes to physically but it also quick and sure spirit. Your spirit is not the same. Here is another thing. After you have had the second comforter experience the Lord wants you to come to him frequently. This isn't a one time thing, He wants you to come to him frequently. And every time you come to him, you will experienced the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. You are living in the telestial world, you can't be here and not being spotted to a degree. So that every time you have this experience and an encounter the back into the world where you pay your bills, and you attend school and you work at your career, and you feel the tugs and pulls of the telestial world, before you can enter back into his presence you are going to need to That cleansing again. No unclean thing, the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. So you need to be cleansed every time you go through. So as you return to him, after you have had your first encounter with him, the second comforter, you'll those things after that that you didn't know before that. So that it becomes more readily available to you, with his permission, but it's my feeling that he wants you to come once and to come often. And every time that you, you will need to be transformed from this telestial world that has its effect on you, you can't be here for an hour and have some effect, so every time you go into his presence are going to have this experience, the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. it's the precursor to your encounter with the Lord. Go back to verse 45, "the Holy Spirit of God did come down from heaven, and did enter into their hearts, and they were filled as it were with fire, and they did speak forth marvelous words." conversing with the Lord to the veil, "there came a voice unto them, yea, a pleasant voice, as if it were a whisper, saying: peace, peace be unto you, because of your faith in my well beloved, who is from the foundation of the world. And when they heard this, verse 48, they cast of their eyes as if to behold from plants the voice came; and behold," here is another indicator Of the baptismal fire. "they saw the heavens open;" you're going to look into heaven , "and Angels came down out of heaven and ministered unto them." now there is... your event, see. Verse 49," there were about 300 souls who saw and heard these things; and they were bidden to go forth and marble not, neither should they doubt." You could let the world pull you back away from this, and it's possible that if you do not stay on this path and press forward; it's possible for you to go backwards and lose this experience and begin to doubt what's happened to you. You wouldn't think that that would happen, but I've seen it. I've seen people who have had marvelous experiences and they let doubt and the words in the book of Mormon is let's not reasonable that such thing should happen. See, you live in a scientific world that says I won't believe it until I see it. You can take these choice spiritual experiences and because of the reasonableness of the telestial world, you can lose it all through doubt. 50, "and it came to pass that they did go forth," remember, when you have these experiences are you supposed to talk about them? If you have the baptismal fire and the Holy Ghost are you supposed to talk about it? Have you ever been told that we don't talk about these things because they sacred? Of course it sacred, we talked about the casting your pearls, you just don't do it to pigs. Here's another example of that, "declaring throughout all the regions round about all the things which they had heard and seen," there is your example... testify... and here is why you testify of this... "the more part of the Lamanites were convinced of them," look at this, "because of the greatness of the evidences which they had received."

[40:07] See you testify of these things. You have your second comforter experience, entertain an Angel, you testify of that. You become at this point when you have had that experience you become what our wrong I calls, those who have had baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, what Moroni calls 'the chosen vessels of the Lord'. And you go out and testify for what Moroni calls, this is in Moroni chapter 7, you go out and testify to the residue. See, you have to groups, the chosen vessels and the residue. Residue are those who haven't had this experience. And you testify what has happened to you with

such power but the evidence of your testimony convinces them. Then look what happens in verse 51, “as many as were convinced did lay down their weapons of war,” what are the weapons of war today, you hold a grudge, somebody hurt your feelings, somebody offended you, so your weapon of war is you’re going to hold a grudge. Why as long as that man is the Bishop I’ll never go back to church... on and on. Another weapon of war is that you don’t tell people that you love them. Another weapon of war is you don’t say, ‘I was wrong.’ here’s another weapon of war you don’t say the words, ‘can you forgive me?’ these are the weapons of war, and because of the evidence of those who have had the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost is so powerful it touches the hearts of the residue and they lay down their weapons war and also their hatred and the traditions of their fathers.” verse 52, “and it came to pass that they did yield up unto the Nephites the lands of their possession.” Yield is the key word, because yielding is the final step in spiritual aggression. Go over to Helaman chapter 3 and let me show you that word yielding. Yielding now ties in with what we call the law of consecration. Lets go to Helaman Chapter 3, and lets go to verse 34. Remember what these people did, they yielded up everything they had. They yielded up their possessions to the Nephites, and their lands they had... Probably stolen and taken in warfare, but nonetheless, they try to repair the things they had done when they had the baptism of fire. Verse 34, “they were lifted up in the pride, even to the persecution of many of their brethren. Now this was a great evil, which did cause the more humble part of the people to suffer great persecutions, and to wade through much affliction. Nevertheless” that means in spite of the persecutions and the much affliction, “they did fast and pray oft,” want some keys is how to obtain the baptismal fire here’s some, fasting once a month, by the way, is not fasting oft. And praying now once a day is not often and you’d better be praying at least three times a day as the Scriptures indicate. And then your prayers better move from foundational primary prayer to mighty prayer, and then even something holier and higher than that. “and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ,” these are the results of fasting and praying often in the midst of persecution and great reflection. “unto the filling their souls with great joy and consolation, “ remember what it said back there... They were filled with joy unspeakable. “yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification, because of their” Here right here – triple underline this, “yielding their hearts unto God.” so let me give you some things, just some things you can look for so you can recognize some characteristics of the baptism by fire. Characteristic number one, you are encircled by fire or a pillar of fire. The person whose writing this says like a column of light or plasma that surrounds them. I like that. It’s not the literal fire of the telestial kingdom, it’s a heavenly fire, and the reason that it is encircling them is that in order for it to be called a baptism it has to be a total immersion or there is no baptism. There is no partial baptisms here. It’s all in burst, one in water and the other in fire. Number two, the presence on ministration of Angels. Number three, you’re going to obtain a remission of sins, we’ve talked about a remission being different than forgiveness. A remission is a total transformation that involves not only the physical body but also the spirit, and all the effects of sin are removed. There is a healing and a wholeness that comes from the remission of sins that doesn’t have to come with the forgiveness of sins. Number five, speak with a new tongue... I skip to one, excuse me, four, purification of the heart by fire. See all the Savior wants from us, brothers and sisters, he doesn’t want your mind he wants your heart. There’s a man that had his second comforter experience and he stood before the Savior after he had witnessed the wounds in his hands and his feet and the Savior reached down and picked them up, facing face-to-face, he asked him one question. The one question was, where is your heart? Called him by name; Ralph, where is your heart? And Ralph said, I couldn’t answer the question. Well, Ralph would have never been at that encounter if he hadn’t prior to that had the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. So I think Ralph had a lot to learn even though his heart had to be right to a certain degree to have this experience. Five, speaking with the new tongue, speaking with the word of Angels by the power of the Holy Ghost; and six, sanctification. You become holy by being filled with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is a sanctifier. Sanctification according tomorrow night 10 verse 33 says that your made holy and without spot. That has to happen in order for

you to come into the presence of the Lord. Lets go over to third Nephi chapter 19 real quick and look one more. This is all just been on my mind this week because of baptism of this little girl that I saw and I was reminded because of that talk the father gave, he understood the complete ordinance. He told his little eight-year-old daughter, he gave a talk on the Holy Ghost, and he says now sweetheart the Holy Ghost is waiting for you to be your constant friend, the closest friend if you've ever had. He's waiting for you but you have to go find him. I thought, good for you dad. teaching that eight-year-old. And third Nephi 19, you know the story, if you read closely you get the feeling in all that there 2500 people there the first day and they spend all night and last night going out so in verse 19 we have the beginning of the second day there must've been thousands of people here. But if you look closely, we have a tendency what were reading about here in third Nephi 19 is happening to everybody. It is not. What you're reading about here in third Nephi 19 is talking about the 12. And if you look closely, and I know for years as I read about this I thought everybody is having this experience. No they're not. It's the 12 that's having this experience. Now let's go up and look at that and say in verse 11, "*Nephi went down into the waters and was baptized. And he comes up [48:07] out of the water and he began to baptize, And he baptized all those Jesus had chosen.*" That's the 12. "*And it came to pass that when they were all baptized,*" who? The 12, "*and they had come up out of the water, the Holy Ghost and fall upon them*", I want you to know, brothers and sisters, these people are already been baptized. This is not their first baptism. This is a re-baptism. And it was authorized by the spirit of the Lord's and they are re-baptizing and the purpose of their re-baptism is that there was a new covenant that they were entering into, and to a new commitment to serve Christ all the days of their lives. verse 13, "*the Holy Ghost fell upon them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost and with fire.*" here we go, who? the 12, so here you have how many thousands of people who are standing by witnessing this. They are seeing an example of the baptismal fire and the Holy Ghost; is not happening to them. I'm not going to say it didn't happen to others in these days that were there but you have 2500 people that had an eyewitness account where they did see, here and handle the Savior. The people on the second day that came that were there the first day didn't have that experience. But they are witnessing this. Verse 14, "*behold, they were encircled about if as by fire; and it came down from heaven, and the multitude did witness it*". See that is everybody else, that's everybody else looking at the 12. "*and Angels did come down out of heaven and did minister unto them.*" When the baptism of fire takes place in your going to have Angels that are visible, you're going to see Angels. Whether anyone else around you sees them, I don't know, but you who are having this experience will see, here and converse with Angels. 15, "*and it came to pass that while the Angels were administering unto the disciples, behold, Jesus came and stood in the midst and ministered unto them.*" now let's go over to another page, you can look at all this, but it is important to understand that we are talking about the disciples here; and the multitude is witnessing it. let's go to verse 24, Jesus prayed, and then the 12 were praying, and after he prays a little bit he come to them and in verse 24, [50:01] "*and it came to pass that when Jesus had thus prayed unto the father, he came unto his disciples,*", the 12, see you have just got to get a picture of this. Here is Jesus interacting with the 12, and you've got thousands of people standing around that are witnessing it, this manifestation, they are seeing it but they are not involved. They are not involved as the 12 are. "*he came unto his disciples, and behold, they did still continue, without ceasing, to pray*" and that is the definition of mighty prayer, "*and they did not multiply many words, for it was given unto them what they should pray, and they were filled with desire.*" Do you want to know what the next step is above fundamental, foundational, primary prayer... There it is. And by the way, in this prayer they are crying, they are crying unto the Lord. And this is your precursor to the baptism of fire, "*and it came to pass that Jesus less than as they did pray unto him; and his countenance did smile upon them,*" and here we go, "*and the light of his countenance did shine upon them, and behold they*", the 12 "*were as white as the countenance and also the garments of Jesus, and behold the likeness thereof to exceed all the whiteness, yea, even there could be nothing upon the earth so light as the whiteness thereof.*" That is the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. look a little bit further, he goes little ways off, he prays to the

father, and he says this, you want to know what the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost does, watch. *“father, I thank thee that thou hast,”* here we go, *“purified those whom I have chosen,”* who? The 12. *“because of their faith, and I pray for them,”* the 12 *“and also for them to shall believe”*, that’s the residue. See the 12 are chosen vessels. The residue now are going to witness and now have a testimony given to them, that the residue *“shall believe on their words, that they may be purified in me,”* who? The residue, *“through faith on their words”* whose words? the 12. *“, even as they [the twelve] are purified in.”* This is a plan said that between chosen vessels and the residue. Chosen vessels are ministered to by Angels and have the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. *“father, I pray not for the world, but for those whom thou hast given me out of the world,”* who’s that? The 12. what does it mean to be out of the world? It means you have been lifted from a telestial to a terrestrial plane where Jesus Christ is now your father and your God, and you are now being administered by the second comforter. *“because of their faith, that they may be purified in me, that I may be in them as thou, father, art in me, that we may be one, that I may be glorified in them.”* we talked about that, being made perfect in Christ. 30, *“when Jesus had spoken these words he came again unto his disciples; behold they did pray steadfastly, without ceasing, unto him;”* why? Why to him? Because he is now their God. Does that mean that they will never pray to the father again? no. That just means that he is there and something has happened because of his administration and he is the center focus of everything that has happened in their life. How appropriate that they should pray to him. And even the Savior says, father you behold how they pray unto me. They pray unto me because I am with them. that’s appropriate. There is nothing wrong with that. It doesn’t take anything away from the father. Do you think heavenly father and heavenly mother are displaced because they see these 12 praying unto their beloved son? Why, I think they would rejoice. Verse 30, *“and when Jesus had spoken these words he came again into his disciples;... they were white, even as Jesus.”* Bottom of verse 30. verse 32, *“... tongue cannot speak the words which he prayed, either can be written by man the words which he prayed.”* and I will tell you that whatever those 12 were saying is the same thing, you could write it down and you could testify of it, because those are the same words which Jesus would speak. Look at verse 33, *“... The multitude did hear and do bear record; and their hearts were open and they did understand in their hearts the words which pray. Nevertheless, so great a marvelous work words which he prayed that they cannot be written, you can they be uttered by man. And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of praying he came again disciples, and said unto them:”* look at this. This is so amazing. *“so great faith have I never seen among all the Jews;”* that includes the 12 and the first presidency. That includes Peter, James, and John and the 12, or the 11 at that point. *“so great faith have I ever seen among all the Jews; wherefore I could not show unto them so great miracles, because of their unbelief.”* what these Nephites are witnessing right here at the temple area around the Bountiful, has never been witnessed nor heard nor recorded in all of the house of Israel. Look at verse 36, *“verily I say unto you, there are none of them [of the Jews] that have seen so great things as you have seen; neither have they heard so great things as you have heard.”* here is a question. Did Peter James and John have the baptism of fire before Jesus left? Did they had the baptism of fire? The answer is no. when did they get it? Can read about it over in acts chapter 2 and 3 and that is after the 40 day ministry of Christ. So when he says I’ve never seen anything like this in all of my ministry among all of the Jews on the Eastern continent of what I’ve seen here among you. Is it any wonder that these people, the Nephites, were obliterated from the face of the earth? Go with me to Alma chapter 9, brothers and sisters, you have a record in your hand of the people who have obtained something from the gospel of Jesus Christ in priesthood power that no other society oor people have ever obtained on the earth. There are lots of people in different societies, Christ has ministered to them. They have their records, there are records of other societies and people in other lands where he went and ministered unto them because he is the God of the whole earth, and his sheep are on the whole earth and he is in there. But you never did have such a society, from Adam up unto today, what obtained what these Nephites did. Go with me to Alma chapter 9 and let me show you this truth. And isn’t it marvelous that of all of the records, and I testify to you, there are many records on

parchments and plates that are still hidden up in the earth in caves and hidden places that will come forth that we don't have. The Lord brought forth the record of one people that obtained something that no other people had obtained. What a tender mercy that is for us. Especially for us in this day who are seeking the face of the Lord, to have the baptism of fire, to make our calling and election sure, to have an encounter in the presence of Christ while still alive in the flesh. Let the record do you think would help you obtain that more than the book of Mormon? No wonder the church is under condemnation because we have treated lightly the things which we have received... which vanity and unbelief has brought the whole church under condemnation and will remain under that condemnation until we repent, and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon. This is a whole society which obtained life in Christ. Go with me to Alma 9 and let's see about the people whose record we are reading. I hope that after tonight you have a new appreciation of the book of Mormon and that you take the book of Mormon for to be your handbook on how you enter into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, and have your second comforter experience, and that you press forward Boldly for this. And that the book of Mormon now becomes a companion and the handbook on how to achieve that as you never seen before in your life before. Verse 18, "*behold, I say unto you that if he persist in your wickedness that your day shall not be prolonged in the land,*" and this is close at the door, now down a couple lines, they will visit you "with utter destruction;" 19, "for he will not suffer you that you shall live in your iniquities, to destroy this people. I say unto you, nay; he would rather suffer that the Lamanites might destroy all of his people", which they did, "who are called the people of Nephi, if it were possible that they should fall into sins and transgressions," See it's better, if an enlightened people be taken out rather than bring in generation and generation of gods children into a ripen fallen society where they have no chance because of the wickedness of their fathers. it's better to take them all out. Remember where much is given much is required, And he who sins the greater light receives the greater condemnation. These Nephites were wiped out. And look what it says at the bottom of verse 19, "*after having so much light and so much knowledge given unto them of their Lord their God; yea, after having been such a highly favored people of the Lord;*" we talked about that. "*yea, after having been favored*" here we go "*above every other nation, kindred, tongue, or people;*" here you go. ; That was from Adam up to present, look at your date's, which are date here what were looking at 82 BC. So from 4000 BC to 82 BC there have never been another people who have been a favorite of this. And I'll tell you there have never been another people since then that have been so favored... Including the latter-day Saints. "*after having had all these things made known unto them, according to their desires, and their faith, and their prayers, of that which has been, which is, in which is to come;*" see they had the urim and thumum. They also had priesthood signs in which they could inquire into the past, present, and future. 21, "*having been visited by the spirit of God; having conversed with Angels,*" the reason they do that is because of the baptism of fire. "*and have been spoken unto by the voice of the Lord;*" That is the more sure word of prophecy. "*and having the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of Revelation, and also many gifts, the gift of speaking with tongues, and the gift of preaching, and the gift of the Holy Ghost,*" And watch this "*and the gift of translation;*"

Another door that is opened with the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, brothers and sisters, do you want to be a part of the 144,000 That will go out in a coming day? When the day of the Gentile wraps up, you want to go from a period time when the Aaronic priesthood has been the functioning priesthood, that is the day of the Gentiles. Do you want to be passed over that? Do you want to be numbered among the house of Israel? Do you want to be the remnant of the house of Israel; that small little number who have repented of their sins and are numbered with the house of Israel? When we moved from the day of the Gentile to the date of Israel and start to see Melchizedek priesthood, patriarchal priesthood power poured out upon the earth. One of the gifts of that is translation. We are on the cusp of the ordinance and gift of translation being restored among those who have paid the price. I will tell you what, nobody is going to have to get to translation and that ordinance, that has not had the

baptismal fire and the Holy Ghost. Absolutely not. 22, *“yea, and after having been deliberate of God out of the land of Jerusalem, ... Etc., etc., etc. down to 23, ”and now behold I say unto you, that if this people , who have received so many things from the hand of the Lord, should transgress contrary to the light and knowledge which they do have, I say unto you that if this be the case, but if they should fall into transgression, it would be far more Tolerable for the Lamanites than for them.”* but skip over to Mormon chapter 5verse 17 let me show you another one that is fantastic. See, brothers and sisters, Christ is the God of the terrestrial world; father is a God of the celestial world. You can access the father while you are here in this telestial world. There are people who are visiting with the father and the son, and with mother. Now go with me to Mormon chapter 5 verse 16. *“... Behold, the spirit of the Lord has already ceased to strive with their fathers;”* this is Comorra, this is what is happening with *“their fathers; and they are without Christ and God in the world; and they are driven about as chaff before the wind.”* This is the fulfillment of Alma 9. when it says, when they get to that point of degeneracy and then there wiped out, where much is given, he who sins against a greater light received the greater condemnation? Look at verse 17, *“they were once a delight some people, and they had Christ for their shepherd;”* you can take that literally now. that’s the second comforter. *“yea, they were led even by God the father.”* that means the God of the celestial world was no by these people. And they were taking through the processes that we’ve talked about tonight from the Holy Ghost and angels into the presence of the son, who took them into the presence of the mother and father in heaven. And they knew them, *“but now,”* verse 18, here is the sad part. *“behold, they are led about by Satan, even as chaff is driven before the wind, or as a vessel is tossed about upon the waves, without sale or anchor, or without anything wherewith to steer her; and even as she is, so are they.”* Look at this, *“and behold, the Lord has reserved their blessings, which they might have received in the land, for the Gentiles who shall possess the land.”* That is our day. That started with Joseph Smith and is about ready to end. How have we done? We have had these blessings here, the blessings of this Nephi society, who were alive in Christ and send against it, those blessings were reserved for us. How have we done? How have we done as the Gentile? Think members of the church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints. Don’t think people outside the church. The Gentiles, verse 22, *“and then, O ye Gentiles, how can you stand before the hands of God, except you shall repent and turn from your evil ways? Know ye not that ye are in the hands of God?”* this is to us. This is not speaking to nonmembers. This is to members of the church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints. We talked about this. *“Know ye not that he hath all power, and at his great command earth shall be rolled together as a scroll?”* that is pre-millennial. *“therefore, repent key,”* this is us, *“and humble yourselves before him lest he shall come out in justice against you,”* here we go, *“blessed a remnant of the seed of Jacob shall go forth among you as a lion, and tear you to in pieces, and there is none to deliver.”*

How are you going to escape the remnant of Jacob, how are you going to do that? And they are in our midst right now. I’ll tell you how you’re going to do that. You are now, as of tonight, you ask heavenly father, have I received the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. And I’ve given you scriptural examples, if the answer to your prayer is no, then you press forward, and you go for that with all your worth because that is the way that you will survive the ‘lion’. If you don’t have the baptismal fire and the Holy Ghost, and if you’re not foreordained for other purposes, because there will be nonmembers that will come through, but the Gentiles... Meaning the members of the church know better. We know better. And we been believing false doctrine, we have accepted false traditions; it isn’t taught on purpose, there is no conspiracy at the church level to deceive the Saints. It’s just that we have had a difficult time in preserving the truth that was restored from heaven. No fault finding, no finger-pointing, it’s just the way it is. Now, you and I, that no differently, we can make a difference and we can seek for this and obtain individually which may be more difficult institutionally. God bless us to seek for this unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost, which is the door through which we enter, into the presence of the Lord; and all of the blessings which are reserved for that remnant, 144,000 men and

women, who will have the gift and doctrine of translation, who will be able to go forth under the direction of the ministering of Angels and in authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and say people who otherwise are doomed. God bless is to do that. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the holy Messiah. amen.