

Good afternoon on this beautiful Sunday afternoon in Eager, AZ. I'd like to talk to you about 'the doctrine of election'. The doctrine of election answers this question: "Why is it, if we are children of God, and God loves his children, why is there so much inequality and inequity and injustice in this world?" Elder Packer once gave an analogy to life and our existence, at least as far as it's revealed in church doctrine, being like a 3-act play. Act 1 is the premortal life. Act 2 is this world, and act 3 is the post-mortal world. He makes the statement that, in act 2, with no knowledge of act 1 or act 3, you'll never hear the words in act 2, "They lived happily ever after". Those words will come in act 3 and after that, indicating that it's like going in to a theater in the middle of a play. You walk in, in the 2nd act, not having seen the 1st act, and not knowing the script, then, you try to figure out what's going on in act 2, that's playing itself out on the stage up in front of the audience. What's more, he goes on, and he says, "They pull you up and you become an actor, and you are told to act your part. You did not see act 1, and you have no knowledge of act 3, and what's worse, you have no script." You can imagine how difficult that would be. Well, that's where most people find themselves in the telestial world. That's the purpose of the great missionary effort of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It tries to provide some answers to the quandaries that we see all around us, and why things seem to be so unfair. Of course, the script for the act for the play is called the 'scriptures'. We are really fortunate. I think about the scripture over in D&C 123 where the Lord says, 'There are many upon the earth who would love to embrace the truth, but they simply don't because they know not where to find it'. Of course, that's a great motivation for us who have so much, and are so blessed, to go out and share with others.

This inequality and injustice is part of a plan, and is according to a doctrine that the Lord calls, 'the doctrine of election'. Let's go to our Bible Dictionary to pg. 662. We have some information here. It would be good for you to read the whole thing on 'Election', but I want to pull out just a part of it. Go down to this part: "*An "election of grace" spoken of in [D&C 84:98-102](#) and [Rom. 11:1-5](#) has reference to one's situation in mortality; (Double underline that! Act 2- the temporal physical world:) *that is, (Here we go) being born at a time, at a place, and in circumstances where one will come in favorable contact with the gospel. (This part I have triple underlined:) This election took place in the premortal existence. Those who are faithful and diligent in the gospel in mortality receive an even more desirable election in this life and become the elect of God. These receive the promise of a fulness of God's glory in eternity ([D&C 84:33-41](#)).**

So, what it boils down to is this: If we look at patterns, and we want to see how things were and how things will be, if we want to see the past and the future, take a look at what's going on in the present. This has been a great tool for Margie and I, to discern the mysteries of God. For example, in the church, we have no problem of teaching that, in this world, the decisions you make, what you do, and who you become, and where you're at in your progression, as you leave this world through death, determines who you will be, where you will be, and what you will be in the next world. We have no problem teaching that. 'If you keep the commandments of God, then you will have this...and this...promise...blessing, or advantage in the next world'. We have no problem with that. To understand 'election', back it up one estate. We have no problem going from the second estate (the telestial world) into the next estate (the terrestrial/millennial world). But, if you want to get a feel for why things seem to be so inequitable and unjust in this world, go back one more estate. So, what you did in the premortal life, who you became, and where you were at the time when you were to exit that estate and enter a new one, has everything to do with the circumstances that you come up against in this life: the environment you're born in, the circumstances of your birth, the circumstances of your life, opportunities--or the lack of, and I like that statement that said in the definition under 'Election', it says, "*being born at a time, at a place, and in circumstances where one will come in favorable contact with the gospel.*" That's not to be interpreted as 'everybody who is born into poverty, or everyone who is born into less than ideal circumstances, that they are less than valiant before they came here'. Because, God knows the beginning from the end, and all things are done in the wisdom of Him who knoweth all things. So, it may well be that a person who was valiant and had achieved a high status and spirituality in the pre-mortal life, may be born at a time and in circumstances that appear, on the outer surface, to be unfavorable. But, generally speaking, you look at yourself, for example, look at the things that we're talking about right now. Look at the people who are listening to this podcast, who are members of the church, who access to the temple blessings... and I was talking to one man the other day who's had an awakening, and said, "Why have I had to wait all my life (he's an older man) in order to find these things we're talking about, and have the Spirit confirm them upon my soul?" I said, "It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter when you come into contact. That's in the wisdom of the Lord. What matters is, that you have come into favorable contact with these things. They're blessing your life at a time that God knows is most eventful for you.

Not much happens by way of coincidence. And, God, who lives in the eternal 'nows', sees all things past, present and future. All decisions are done according to His eternal wisdom." So, we don't second guess it, we just accept it. And the more you come into contact with these things, the more blessed you really are. What a wonderful blessing, and you sit there, if you're like Margie and I, and we've traveled into places where I've seen women selling their baby for \$5-10-15, in order to have a meal, or to keep themselves alive! Emaciated women with emaciated babies, and offering them for sale, probably to save the baby's life, and also to get a meal and some food to save the woman's life. I look at that, and I think about my life growing up in Sandy, UT. By the way, if you look at me you'll know, I have never been truly hungry! But, I've been in

places, on missions, where I have seen starvation. And, I look at that mother sitting on the curb, in the central Philippines where we served, and I saw that woman with that baby, and 2 thoughts went through my mind. That is a daughter of God, with divine potential. Why is she in the circumstance she's in, and I have been blessed with the circumstance that I'm in? We don't have to look far, in the world, for those comparisons. You'll see that the majority of the world, by far, wonder what they're going to eat from one meal to the next. I've never had any of that. I've been blessed with a wonderful family, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren that, at least, like Grandpa, and some of them even love him! I wonder, as I look at my favorable conditions, and not only that, but I have the Priesthood of God, I've been able to serve missions in the world, I have knowledge that's been given to me by the holy word of God, scriptures preserved, and not everybody in the world has access to even the minimal Christian scriptures that you and I have, found in the Holy Bible.

Whole civilizations are kept from the knowledge by governmental, dictatorial means. And, here I am, able to go to church on Sunday, able to do my home teaching, able to give and receive blessings, blessed to go to the temple and receive my temple blessings, serve in the church, have wonderful association with men and women who are not starving to death, who are not wondering how they can shelter themselves from the elements of nature. It's no wonder that people can look at that stark comparison between these two, and they say, "You believe in a God that you call 'Father' and that these are His children? You really believe that after what you've seen?" And, if I didn't have the knowledge that I do, especially the knowledge of 'the doctrine of election', why, I'd be hard-pressed to believe in such a divine being. I can understand very well, where they come from.

With that in mind, let me read just one other thing to you. Truly we are most blessed, and we need to do everything we can to relieve the suffering and lift and improve the circumstances of our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate than we are. I want to read to you a little statement that was sent to me this week. It's really good, and I had seen it before, but it had been a long time and I had forgotten about it. It's called, 'Election/Believing Blood', by Bro. Bruce R. McConkie. It's in the book, The Millennial Messiah under: "The Second Coming of Jesus Christ". He said this, "Israel, the Lord's chosen people, were a congregation set apart in the pre-existence." Think about that for just a minute. Recently, I said, "There are eternal terms that are used in eternity, and are eternal, that are not begun, or have their origin, with this world. Some of those terms are: atonement, zion, Israel. These are all terms that are used in the vocabulary of the Elohim in every system that they create/organize."

(Here is the download from Dropbox:

Election/Believing Blood/McConkie

One thing I heard you mention, which as been of a lot of interest to me yesterday was how there were spirits in the beginning who progressed beyond others. I believe you used Abraham as your example. There is a quote I'd like to share that I found last year that has completely changed the way I think about the House of Israel. "Israel, the Lord's chosen people, were a congregation set apart in the preexistence. In large measure, the spirit children of the Father who acquired a talent for spirituality, who sought above their fellow, to do good and work righteousness - and all these were foreordained to be born in the house of Israel. They were chosen before they were born. This is the doctrine of election. They were true and faithful in the pre-mortal life, and they earned the right to be born as the Lords people and to have the privilege, on a preferential basis, of believing and obeying the word of truth. Believing blood, the blood of Abraham, flows in their veins. They are the ones of whom Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I have given to them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man put them out of my hand...their numbers were known and the days of their mortal probation were selected in advance..."

Bruce R. McConkie, The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of Man)

So, in our premortal world, with our particular family unit, and all of the children who are destined to come to this earth for probationary experience, were a congregation. There was a chosen group out of all of those, the Lord's chosen people, that were a congregation, 'set apart', (that's your key word) in the pre-mortal life, and they were called Israel. "*In large measure, the spirit children of the Father who acquired a talent for spirituality, who sought above their fellow, to do good and work righteousness - and all these were foreordained to be born in the house of Israel.*" Now, Paul says, in Romans, that not all Israelites are Israel. So, even within this house of Israel, you have varying degrees and strata of righteousness and spiritual excellence. But, there is a group that acquired a talent for spirituality and sought above (looked to do more) than their other brothers and sisters, and they were foreordained to be born into the house of Israel. There are sometimes when being an Israelite is an advantage, over other times. For example: the golden age of David would have been a blessed age to be a part of the house of Israel. If you were a Jew, and born in Germany in 1936, and not everybody was able to get out, being an Israelite, may not have been seen as a great blessing, if you were killed in the Warsaw ghetto, or perished in one of the concentration camps. It goes on: "*They were chosen before they were born. This is the doctrine of election. They were true and faithful in the pre-mortal life, and they earned the right to be born as the Lords people and to have the privilege, (catch this part) on a preferential basis, of believing and obeying the word of truth.*" That kind of goes against the grain with a lot of people, because they want to say, 'well, God is no respecter of persons'. That's true, but he does favor those who love him and keep his commandments. You can be a 'no respecter of persons' and yet, favor those who are obedient and keep the commandments. And, if you are really in a place where God favors you, you are referred to as 'highly favored'. It says..."*on a preferential basis, of believing and obeying the word of truth. (This part right here is interesting) Believing blood, the blood of Abraham, flows in their veins. They are the ones of whom Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I have given to them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man put them out of my hand...their numbers were known and the days of their mortal probation were*

selected in advance..." So, how does this fit in today? It fits in rather nicely, in that, you make a comparison on what's happening to you in your life. Let's just take the people who choose to listen to these doctrines. There's a group out there, that when they hear these things, this resonates. That's a good word. For example, what we're talking about right here. Some people will hear this and say, "I've always known that." I've talked to people who are new investigators, I've talked to them, for example, about pre-mortal life. Their churches don't teach that. In fact, they teach against it. So, as a missionary, I'll say, "You lived before you came to the earth. It's called a pre-mortal life, and you were a spirit son or daughter of your Heavenly Father". I've seen lights go on in their eyes. I've seen their countenance light up, and they'll say something like, "You know what, Elder Stroud, I have always believed that. My church doesn't teach it, but I have always believed that." They embrace that, and they have no problem. That's "believing blood". "Believing blood" means that you have within you a spirit, if you will--a spiritual DNA--that when you hear these truths, it's not new to you. It's like the B of M says, "has a familiar spirit", it's as if the voice of warning is crying out of the dust. You know these things, but you've never heard it taught before. It just makes sense. That has to do with who you were, and what you were, and what you did before you came here. That's the only answer. All of these things we talk about: *deja-vu* and things like that, are all hearkening to our pre-mortal life experience, to the life before you came here. It's all a part of that. It's a system and a plan based on the agency of man that was active in the pre-mortal life, that's active in this life, and will be active in the Terrestrial Millennial world, and will be active in the celestial world, and is found throughout eternity. There is no place anywhere, where there are intelligent beings in a state of progression, where agency is NOT in play. It's an eternal principle. So, when God says, 'In the day that I gave man his agency', it's just that that man has been behind a veil and has forgotten something, and God is re-explaining to him the doctrine of agency, something he already knew, but as a part of his progression, has been caused to 'forget'. I can tell you something else, too, brothers and sisters. All this stuff you've been hearing on this podcast, it's not new to you. You know this stuff. It's just that our memory has been blocked. We have *telesial* amnesia. But, when that veil starts to thin, and you hear these things, and you have words like: 'that feels right', 'that resonates with me', 'that distills upon my soul', 'I feel like I already know that'...the reason you feel that way, is because you always have known it. It's not learning something new, as far as doctrine, and there is something new to be learned as far as experience, but, as far as doctrine, there's nothing that you're learning here that's new. It's just re-learning what you've been caused to forget. That's a part of the process in the *telesial* school room. So, if you look at yourself at any stage in your life, aside from the adversity that you've had that seems to knock your socks off periodically, get past that, and look at your overall blessings. If you feel that you are a truly blessed man or woman, know this. There is no 'chance' behind that. That is because of who you were, and what you were, and what you did, before you came here. The doctrine of election is the rewards or advantage in this world for what you obtained in the world before. That's what the doctrine of election is. You have earned the right to have privileges. 'Earned' is not a doctrinal principle. You've 'merited' the right, through your obedience, through your faithfulness, in order to come into contact with advantages in this world. It's really not hard to understand. If we look at what we teach, the advantages in the next world are going to be exactly because of what you are doing, the decisions you make, the agency you exercise here and now. This is the doctrine of election.

There are some groups of people, that because of the choice they made before they came here, are not going to, even after they come into contact with the doctrines of the Kingdom, are not going to accept them. Hence, the scriptures talk about whole groups of people, the heathen nations that we've talked about before, that will inherit a terrestrial world, and the Lord simply says, 'It will be well with them'. Melvin J. Ballard said, "They are getting all they are entitled to". That was a general conference talk. Isn't that interesting? 'Entitled' is what you did with what you got. If you're going to ditch or skip class, and go out with your sweetie in the parking lot, rather than be in Seminary class, down the road, you're going to reap the advantage or disadvantage of those choices. You can't escape them. This is why it's important to understand that every decision that we make, I mean every decision that you make in this life, you are either obtaining or losing light. The amount of light that you have accumulated, (the Parable of the Ten Virgins talks about oil in the lamp) the amount of light that you're in possession of, when you finish your probationary experience, is going to be a doctrine of election for you in the world to come, which means you will be born at a time and in a place and in circumstances where one will come into favorable contact with the gospel. Same thing, just a different estate. That's the doctrine of election. It's absolutely fair and just. I want to mention, also, that within the parameters of this doctrine, justice and mercy have a role to play. Mercy will claim far more than what justice does. But, justice will claim the amount required, in order for God to be considered to be perfectly just, and yet merciful also. That's why mercy can't rob justice. So, everything's fair. Know this, that what you're doing right now, is going to have an eternal effect on your life 'in the next room'. We're moving from one estate to the next, that's what it is. It's like school. The pattern for progress in eternity, is the pattern you see 'going to school in this world'. You attend the class, you complete the curriculum, there's knowledge that you have to have, you're given a test, and if you pass the test, then you can move on to the next grade. That's the way it is. If you ditch the class, if you sleep through the class, if you cheat on the material, any of those things, it will have an effect on you in the next estate. And, if you are able to squeak through, and go there, you won't have the advantage that others had, who were faithful. You will go there disadvantaged, and it will take a toll on you. So, you can look again, and see where you're at, and see what's happening to you in your life, and you get a pretty good feel for who you were and what you were doing before you came here. Again, I'm not saying that

people born in impoverished areas or people who struggle for this, that and the other, are not valiant. I'm not saying that at all. But, in a general situation, you can look at the favorability of your circumstances in this life, and understand that they come as a reward for obedience and sacrifice and valiancy in the world before. I hope that makes sense. It's a great doctrine, and the LDS Church, because of restorational truths and information, it comes to us through the restoration. We are really the only ones that have a good feel for that. There may be some people who are not members of our church listening to this podcast, who hear that, and disagree, but they don't know the doctrines of the restoration. Paul talked a little bit about that. If you want to read this for yourself, read in Romans 8 & 9. I don't want to take time to go into that right now. But, every time that Paul talks about predestiny, change that. That's a poor translation. Change the word from predestinate to foreordained. You'll get a better feel for what Paul's talking about in the doctrine of election.

Now, brothers and sisters, I've come to a feeling, as I've chatted with you, and as we've talked on the phone, or if we've corresponded back and forth, that there's some questions on the doctrine of 'calling and election made sure'. We've hit on that a little bit in various podcasts, but I think we'll talk a little bit more about that tonight. Basically, making your calling and election sure is about obtaining the promise of eternal life, from God. That can come direct from God, or it can come through his agents, and it's even possible for you to obtain that promise from mortals, who are authorized. I know of one man who shared with me his calling and election experience and said that he had received that from under the hands of mortals who laid their hands upon his head, and pronounced a Priesthood blessing for it. In that Priesthood blessing, the pronouncement was made of his calling and election made sure. That aligns itself with information in the restoration. Let me give you a couple of examples of that. In The History of the Church we had a whole branch of the church (the Colesville Branch) that were sealed up to eternal life. In 1831, Joseph said this, from D&C 68:12, "*12 And of as many as the Father shall bear record, to you shall be given power to seal them up unto eternal life. Amen.*" Look how early that is, in the history of the Church. Being sealed up to eternal life was done as early as 1831. Those were words of the Lord, to Joseph Smith. So, inherent within the Priesthood that was restored, with the keys pertaining to it by Peter, James and John, inherent within that, was the power to seal up INDIVIDUALS to eternal life, because the sealing up of husband and wife, as a couple, doesn't come until later, much later, when we get into the Nauvoo period. But, as early as 1831, the Prophet Joseph Smith had power to seal individuals up to eternal life. One group was a whole branch of New York saints that moved out into Missouri. It was the Colesville Branch, and they were from Colesville, NY. The prophet sealed up the whole branch to eternal life. There are different sealing powers. Not all sealing power is the same. The sealing power that you see in the temple, that we've all experienced, that was exercised when you and spouse were sealed together, if you've had your temple marriage sealing, and that you witness being done vicariously for the dead, is not the same sealing power that you see in the hands of Nephi that you see over in Helaman 10. There are different kinds of sealing powers, but I don't want to go into that tonight. The sealing power you get in the temple from a temple sealer comes under the direction of the President of the Church, who holds the keys to that sealing power. But, there is a sealing power that can be given to persons who come up through these various steps: baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, making your calling and election sure, and obtaining the second comforter. You can obtain a sealing power from God that is just as powerful and as potent, but a different level for different purposes than the sealing power that we see in the temple. I just want to emphasize that not all sealing power is the same. Obviously, Joseph has a sealing power that came through as a result of the ordination from Peter, James and John in June of 1829, that is not the same sealing power that we refer to that Elijah brought back to the earth in 1836 in the Kirtland Temple. So, we've got different things here. In my studies, I've been able to identify for sure, 3 different kinds of sealing powers, and maybe 4. Maybe we'll have a little talk on that, but it's not all that important. The important part is, that Joseph was sealing up individuals and congregations as early as 1831, but not husbands and wives.

Let me read to you a couple other things here that has to do with this. We talk about having your calling and election made sure. Another word is, 'to obtain a promise from God, for myself, that I shall have eternal life'. Joseph was once asked the question of 'what is the definition of having your calling and election sure?' He said, "It is to obtain a promise from God for myself, that I shall have eternal life." The most sure way to obtain this, is from the mouth of God. There are other ways to do it as well. It can be done by servants or individuals or angels. For example, over in D&C 77 Question: *11 Q. What are we to understand by sealing the one hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel—twelve thousand out of every tribe?* The answer is: *A. We are to understand that those who are sealed are high priests, (By the way, these are not the High Priests that we see in HP Quorum meetings in the church. These are H.P.'s after the Holy Order, what Joseph called 'the anointed quorum' in his day.) ordained unto the holy order of God, to administer the everlasting gospel; for they are they who are ordained out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, (here we go) by the angels to whom is given power over the nations of the earth, (here we go) to bring as many as will come to the church of the Firstborn.* That's 'calling and election'. You do not have membership in the church of the Firstborn, unless you've had your calling and election made sure. It can be done by mortals, by angels, it can be done by God, himself, and there is also a Priesthood ordinance that we'll talk about just a little bit, that we've talked about at other times.

In Section 88, the Lord gave this statement. This was in the school of the prophets, in the Newel K. Whitney store, Dec. 27, 1832. There were 9 men present when the Lord gave this revelation. This is called 'olive leaf'. What a tremendous revelation it is. You might be interested in who these 9 men were: Joseph Smith, Jr., Sidney Rigdon, Orson Hyde, Hyrum

Smith, Samuel Smith, Newel K Whitney (who owned the store where the school was upstairs), Frederick G Williams, Ezra Thayer, and John Murdock. So, in the first vs. the Lord says: *Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you who have assembled yourselves together to receive his will concerning you:* (That's these 9 men, who were being schooled in the doctrine of how to obtain angelic ministers, how to have the presence of God. Look at vs. 2) *Behold, this is pleasing unto your Lord, and the angels rejoice over you; the alms of your prayers have come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and are recorded in the book of the names of the sanctified, even them of the celestial world.* When you read that, your ears ought to perk up, because, something is coming now, that's going to tie into this doctrine of calling and election made sure.

3 *Wherefore*, (Wherefore comes because your names are recorded in the book of the sanctified, because of your prayers, and your names are recorded.) *I now send upon you another Comforter, even upon you my friends, that it may abide in your hearts, even the Holy Spirit of promise; which other Comforter is the same that I promised unto my disciples, as is recorded in the testimony of John.* 4 *This Comforter* (The Holy Spirit of Promise) *is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life, even the glory of the celestial kingdom;* 5 *Which glory is that of the church of the Firstborn, even of God, the holiest of all, through Jesus Christ his Son—*

There you have it. These 9 men had obtained a promise and were 'sealed up to eternal life'. Their names were written in the Lambs Book of Life among the names of the sanctified of the Celestial World. This is what we're seeking for. When we say the term: 'calling and election made sure', this term was not used in the church at this point. Being 'sealed up to eternal life' was the terminology, and 'calling and election' comes later when Joseph discourses on the Epistle of Peter, where the only place in scripture, in 2 Peter 1, is the wording 'calling and election made sure'. It's the only place. We've talked about that. Now, let me read this blessing, as it concerns what we've just read in D&C 88, especially vs. 4-5. This blessing was given to Vilate Kimball, the wife of Heber C Kimball, by Hyrum Smith, the Patriarch to the Church. It was given March 9, 1842. "*Beloved Sister: I lay my hands upon your head in the name of Jesus, and seal you unto eternal life*". (Now, interesting thing is that husband and wife sealings are still a year away. We don't get into husband/wife sealings until May 1843. This is March of 1842 in Nauvoo.) "*--sealed here on earth and sealed in heaven, and your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life never to be blotted out.* (This is Vilate Kimball's calling and election made sure, made through a priesthood officer, through the authority of the priesthood. I want you to know now, that as Patriarch to the Church, one of the prime responsibilities of the church patriarch was to seal men and women up to eternal life. A lot of people don't know that, but that's a fact, and that went right on down. We've had a church patriarch up until just 2 years ago when Eldred G Smith died. At that point, the office of patriarch was abolished, and will not be filled. We saw the end of an era when he passed away, and no direct line descendent, or anyone else was called into the position of General Church Patriarch. In fact, for many years, he was the Patriarch Emeritus. But, one of the purposes of the church patriarch is to do exactly as Hyrum Smith did here, to Vilate Kimball.) "*The same* (in other words, the sealing) *is mentioned and manifested to comfort your heart, and to be a comfort unto you henceforth all your days.* (Can you imagine? Put yourself in that. If you obtain this promise of eternal life, through whatever channel authorized: God, mortal man, angels, or a priesthood ordination, if it's sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise, think what a comfort that would be to you, with all the trials and adversity and temptations, and all the vicissitudes of the telestial world. Think what a comfort that would be, and a great blessing. Do you think that you would view life differently? Would you interact with your family differently? Would you serve your fellow man differently? If you knew that God had sealed you up to a place in the celestial world, that where He is, you may be also, wouldn't that comfort you? Would that set your mind at ease?) "*It is even a promise according to the mind of the Spirit, and the Spirit shall bear record of the truth;* (Look at this part right here.) *the same* (Meaning what he has done here, this comforter.) *is called the Second Comforter, not his presence, but his promise.* (That's something that a lot of people don't know, that the Second Comforter, according to Hyrum Smith, and I think he probably should know, that there is something called the Second Comforter of Promise, and there's the Second Comforter of Presence.) "*The same is as immutable as an oath by Himself, because there is none greater, and there is no greater promise nor no greater blessing that can be given, and no greater riches, it being the riches of eternity, which are the greatest riches of all riches.* (There's an example of a woman who had her calling and election made sure.)

Go with me to D&C 132 for some examples in the scriptures that I've alluded to. This is Joseph receiving his 'calling and election made sure'. 49 *For I am the Lord thy God, and will be with thee even unto the end of the world, and through all eternity: for verily I* (this is from God's mouth) *seal upon you your exaltation, and prepare a throne for you in the kingdom of my Father, with Abraham your father.* 50 *Behold, I have seen your sacrifices, and will forgive all your sins; I have seen your sacrifices in obedience to that which I have told you.* (This is Joseph) *Go, therefore, and I make a way for your escape, as I accepted the offering of Abraham of his son Isaac.*

Let's go to Mosiah 26:15. This is another example of 'calling and election made sure'. This is Alma's calling and election. 15 *Blessed art thou, Alma, and blessed are they who were baptized in the waters of Mormon. Thou art blessed because of thy exceeding faith in the words alone of my servant Abinadi.* (There's a lot of blessed's here. Skip on down...) 20 *Thou art my servant; and I covenant with thee that thou shalt have eternal life; and thou shalt serve me and go forth in my name, and shalt gather together my sheep.* (This is Alma, the father of Alma, the Second Comforter and his calling and election made sure.)

Let's go to one more. These are just some examples in the B of M of what we're talking about. Paul talks about it, Peter also. Helaman 10:4 *Blessed art thou, Nephi, for those things which thou hast done; for I have beheld how thou hast with unweariness declared the word, which I have given unto thee, unto this people. And thou hast not feared them, and hast not sought thine own life, but hast sought my will, and to keep my commandments. 5 And now, because thou hast done this with such unweariness, behold, I will bless thee forever; and I will make thee mighty in word and in deed, in faith and in works; yea, even that all things shall be done unto thee according to thy word, for thou shalt not ask that which is contrary to my will. (This is Nephi's calling and election made sure.) 6 Behold, thou art Nephi, and I am God. Behold, I declare it unto thee in the presence of mine angels, that ye shall have power over this people, and shall smite the earth with famine, and with pestilence, and destruction, according to the wickedness of this people. (There we go. Remember I talked to you that when you get to this point, you can have access to a sealing power.) 7 Behold, I give unto you power, that whatsoever ye shall seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven; and thus shall ye have power among this people.*

Joseph talked about this sealing power. Unfortunately, he was killed right at the time that he was starting to unfold these great mysteries of sealings and priesthood adoptions and sealings, in some cases men to men and families to different men. I was talking to someone today and they said their grandfather was sealed to John D. Lee and John D. Lee, through a priesthood sealing, and this man became a son of John D. Lee, and John D. Lee was sealed to Brigham Young, Brigham Young was sealed to Joseph Smith. So, we have these kinds of things going on, which I believe have to do with keys restored in the Kirtland Temple by Elias and Elijah that have to do with these kinds of things. But, unfortunately, we only have bread crumbs, and what little crumbs we do have, are coming from the Joseph Smith papers. There's a whole dimension of the Gospel here, that Joseph was not able to complete because of his death. He did say that once you have this power, go to and seal your wife and children, and as many as you can. I don't have any idea, other than that. He talked a little bit about it, but we don't have a lot of that information. Joseph said, *'We should obtain an assurance of salvation by an oath directly from God'*. He went on with this discourse, which was given in 1833, with this: *'Paul was careful to press upon his Hebrew brethren the necessity of continuing on until they, as well as those who then inherited the promises, (watch this right here) might have the assurance of their salvation confirmed to them by an oath from the mouth of him who could not lie; for that seemed to be the example anciently, and Paul holds it out to his Hebrew brethren as an object attainable in his day.'*

Here's another one by Joseph Smith: *"But will all this purchase an assurance for me, and waft me to the regions of eternal day, with my garments spotless, pure, and white? Or, must I not rather obtain for myself, by my own faith and diligence in keeping the commandments of the Lord, an assurance of salvation for myself? And have I not an equal privilege with the ancient Saints? Whenever you see that word 'assurance', talking about priesthood and sealings and eternal life, that 'assurance' word is a key word that's referring to making your calling and election sure. So, while he doesn't use the term 'calling and election made sure', he said that we must obtain this assurance of our salvation, directly from God. And that's what you want to do. You want to pursue after this, and obtain these blessings. Listen to this statement. This was given in his first public discourse on June 27, 1839, where he first used the term 'calling and election made sure', and Joseph used Peter's calling and election from 2 Peter 1. We have a lesson on that, so we won't go over too much, where Peter says, "10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

Listen to this statement by J. Smith, where he first uses this term. Keep in mind, it's used only place in the scriptures, and that's in the N.T. *"After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter; then let him continue to (1) humble himself before God, (You want the keys for receiving your calling and election made sure? Joseph gives it to us. Here is the first one--to humble yourself. You've all been baptized, you've all had your confirmation with hands laid on your head, so, now, what do we need to do?) (2) hungering and thirsting after righteousness. (I like what Joseph Smith said, "it is my meat and drink all the day long, to contemplate how to get the Saints to accept the rolling visions that are before me day and night". You have to have that kind of desire.) (3) and living by every word of God. (You see those 3 things? Those are the criteria for 'calling and election', according to the great seer.) *"and the Lord will soon say unto him, (Notice who is saying that. It comes from God.) Son, thou shalt be exalted. (I want you to think of this last statement:) When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter, which the Lord hath promised the Saints, as is recorded in the testimony of St. John, in the 14th chapter, from the 12th to the 27th verses....**

What did you think of that last part? ***"When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure"***. I want you to think, and when you go to the temple, and invited up to the veil the first time, the knock at the veil, and then the presenter says something to the Lord behind the veil. Think about what the presenter says, and then think about these words by Joseph. The first trip to the veil, watch this, 'conversing with the Lord through the veil represents making your calling and election sure'. You obtain from the Lord, through the veil, after you have been thoroughly proved, and found that you are determined to serve God at all hazards, you then converse with the Lord through the veil and obtain the promise of eternal

life. That is 'calling and election made sure'. Now, the fact that you're conversing with God and hearing his voice, but not seeing him, takes us into something else. This is the scriptural way that you make your c.a.e.m.s., and it's called 'through the more sure word of prophecy'. This discourse was given May 14, 1843. Joseph was talking about making c.a.e.m.s. and he said, 'there's a grand secret here'. We'll talk about that, but here is Peter, James and John, on the Mount of Transfiguration, and they heard an audible voice, and you can read about this in Matthew 17...there is Peter, James and John and the Savior and Moses and Elias and Elijah all appear. The Elias that appears there is John the Baptist, according to the J.S. translation. He appears on the Mount of Transfiguration, and they hear a voice. That voice said, 'This is my beloved Son.' In other words, they hear the voice of God making a statement. Now, back to the quote:

"Though Peter, James and John, on the Mount of Transfiguration heard an audible voice from heaven bearing testimony that Jesus was the son of God" (Now, this has to do with priesthood adoption and foreordination and the doctrine of election. Yet Peter says,) *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts"* (2 Peter 1:15-19). Now Joseph says, "Wherein could they have a more sure word of prophecy than to hear the voice of God say, 'This is my beloved son'?" That's not the more sure word of prophecy to Peter, James and John, that's the more sure word of prophecy to Jesus. Jesus obtained that more sure word, in essence, making Jesus' calling and election sure on the Mount of Transfiguration when the voice of God declares that. Joseph goes on, "Now for the secret and grand key, though they (Peter, James & John) might hear the voice of God, and know that Jesus was the Son of God, this would be no evidence that their calling and election was made sure, that they had a part with Christ and were joint heirs with him. They, then, would want that more sure word of prophecy." In other words, the more sure word means that you know, that you are sealed up unto eternal life. They were sealed in the heavens and have the promise of eternal life in the Kingdom of God. And Joseph says this, (same discourse) "I would exhort you to go on and continue to call upon God until you make your calling and election sure for yourself, (watch) by obtaining this more sure word of prophecy and wait patiently for the promise, until you obtain it." So, one of the ways you make your calling and election sure is through the more sure word of prophecy.

Oliver Cowdery said this, and it's interesting, as early as 1834, "The Saints 'make their calling and election made sure' when they obtain the promise from the Lord of Glory, ('hear his voice, and receive a promise from his mouth'), that their salvation was sealed that their election was sure". There is so much more to 'calling and election', but that's all I'm going to go into right now. That's some historical facts about it. What is it? It means that you know, in this life, before death, that you are sealed up to an inheritance in the celestial world, that there's a throne prepared for you, and that where God and Christ are, there you will be also. That is not a couple sealing. All of these discourses and examples we're talking about took place before husbands and wives were sealed up by a priesthood ordinance, it's called the second anointing, and became members of a quorum of men and women called 'the anointed quorum'--those in Nauvoo. They continued to cross the plains, under the direction of Brigham Young. They obtained these promises, and here's the key. It's not enough to obtain a promise from the mouth of a mortal man. I don't care if he's speaking to you by authority, or if it's a priesthood ordinance performed under the direction of a priesthood authority in a temple of God, it's not enough, and means nothing, unless that ordinance that is performed is ratified and sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise, which is the Holy Ghost. It's like we said before. You can lie to everybody in this world and get away with most of it, but you can't lie to the Holy Ghost. If you're trying to deceive and pull a fast one through these ordinances, then it's of no value, it's void. There is nothing happened there, because you can't lie to God. But, if this ordinance is received from God's own mouth with an oath, know that at the time that is received, it is already sealed in heaven. When God says I now prepare a throne for you in the presence of my father and your father, Abraham, then you know that is done. It's a done deal. The only way that that can be rescinded is if you commit the unpardonable sin, and that's something maybe we'll talk a bit about tomorrow. Second anointing blessings are performed in temples, under the direction of the President of the Church. That blessing is a husband/wife ordinance. These things that we've been talking about tonight, calling & election, are done individually, and were done before there was any information or doctrine restored concerning sealing a man & woman up to eternal life and receiving what we call the 'fulness of the priesthood'. The ordinance of the second anointing bestows something called the 'Fulness of the Melchizedek Priesthood'. Again, I want to emphasize that it's not something that's obtained individually. This is a husband/wife ordinance. You can have your calling and election made sure and obtain the promise of eternal life individually and singly. But, to continue the family unit in eternity, requires this ordinance or an ordinance similar to that, where husband/wife were sealed together as a family unit and continue on. They increase after the resurrection of the dead, and as Section 132 says, 'they continue'. You can have individuals who have a sealing up to eternal life, where they have the promise of an inheritance in the celestial world, but unless they go on, and have a sweetheart next to them--a husband or wife, then they cannot be like the Father and the Mother. The Father and Mother are just that, they're a couple. So, we have these kinds of things we discuss here, and in summary, let me just say this. There's a sequence here that we need to know, and we've spent quite a lot of time on 'Baptism of Fire and the Holy Ghost'. I've had some comments from some people where they were questioning about whether that's to be taken literally, and whether there's fire and there's angels and so on...let me just say that the word baptism comes from the Greek word baptizo, and it means 'to immerse'. You cannot have a baptism of any kind, whether it's water or fire, unless there's a total immersion. Think about what happens if you're witnessing a baptism of

water. We've got 2 witnesses there. What are those 2 witnesses for? There is never a baptism in this church, but what there isn't 2 Melchizedek Priesthood bearers that are called to witness that ordinance. Why? Because, if you go under and 1 hair of your head, or the toenail of your big toe sticks out of that water, those witnesses are to pick up on that, and that ordinance is to be redone. That is immersion, not partial immersion. There is no such thing as a partial baptism. There is no such thing as a partial water immersion. And likewise, there is no such thing as a partial baptism of fire. So, what we do is, we have a tendency, and I understand this, I've done this, and it's just recently that I've come to the conclusions that I'm teaching here. I know people who think they have had their baptism of fire, but there wasn't any fire present and they didn't see any angels. When the Lord gives us an example in the scriptures of the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, I want you to look at the examples that are given. Look at Lehi and Nephi in that Lamanite prison at Adoni. Look at that. If we could settle for partial anything, why would the Lord give us examples in the scriptures that show anything but partial, and show the whole thing. You want a portion or a fulness? I know that it's upsetting that we get to be 60 or 70 in our life, and all of a sudden it starts to dawn on us that what we think we've had maybe we haven't. Well, thank goodness you're still alive when that dawning and awakening takes place. It's not too late. I don't know about you, but my baptism of fire, I want accompanied by fire! I want to be immersed in heavenly fire. I want to see angels, and I want them to minister to me and teach me in the ways of life and salvation. Now, when you've had the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, the next step is to make your calling and election sure. There's a sequence here. And, once you've made your calling and election sure, by whatever means we've talked about, and we've discussed several different ways tonight, and they're all valid, as long as they are sealed and ratified by the Holy Spirit of Promise, which is the Holy Ghost. They are then valid in eternity and in time. And, the next step is to have the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ minister to you, and obtain your second comforter blessing.

I appreciate the visits I have with you. I am a student. I am learning from you. This week I've used 2 things I've learned on the podcasts in giving lessons and giving blessings. We're all in the process of learning. The key to remember is to take the Holy Spirit for your guide.

Just today I was discussing energy healing and body code with someone, and I believe that there's some truth and Godly science involved in this. I'm slow at this point in my life to reject, out of hand, anything that I don't understand, or that I don't embrace as 'my truth'. I'm learning to not do that. Yet, at the same time, I'm wondering, 'how can I discern truth from error?' We're involved in that kind of existence here. I mentioned that, that the powers of evil are so well organized. You take the best-run corporation in this world. You could take the Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS...or you could take Mobil/Exxon or any corporation and see how organized it is, and how well it functions. You could take the best-run corporation in the telestial world, and it will not match the organization that Lucifer has behind the veil, to destroy God's children. It wouldn't come close. And, he takes everything that God does and duplicates that, mimics that, camouflages it. If you think you can discern his duplicates for God's truth, without God's help, I testify to you, that you don't stand a chance. Because he is so cunning and so crafty, that you need to rely upon the powers of heaven to get you through. You just can't do it by yourself. These areas that are not mainstream healing skills, and I'm not saying they aren't true, I actually believe in a lot of these things, and I also believe that there's truth. But, I also believe that they are easily counterfeited. All of us need to be careful. We need to get in the habit now, of whenever we're looking at something, whenever we're doing something, or making a decision that we don't know about, or that we're not sure of, take a moment right there and ask Father, "Is this from Thee? Is this true, or is this false?" I'm talking about things that pertain to your eternal salvation, in a day of deception that's never been seen like this in the history of the world. This is the time for us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. So, maybe we need to involve the Lord more, so that we don't become distracted by a fraction, and don't end up traveling hundreds of miles out of the way.

I love you guys, and glad that you find this information helpful.

The Dropbox quote:

Election/Believing Blood/McConkie

One thing I heard you mention, which as been of a lot of interest to me yesterday was how there were spirits in the beginning who progressed beyond others. I believe you used Abraham as your example. There is a quote I'd like to share that I found last year that has completely changed the way I think about the House of Israel. "Israel, the Lord's chosen people, were a congregation set apart in the preexistence. In large measure, the spirit children of the Father who acquired a talent for spirituality, who sought above their fellow, to do good and work righteousness - and all these were foreordained to be born in the house of Israel. They were chosen before they were born. This is the doctrine of election. They were true and faithful in the pre-mortal life, and they earned the right to be born as the Lord's people and to have the privilege, on a preferential basis, of believing and obeying the word of truth. Believing blood, the blood of Abraham, flows in their veins. They are the ones of whom Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I have given to them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man put them out of my hand...their numbers were known and the days of their mortal probation were selected in advance..." Bruce R. McConkie, The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of Man