

Mike Stroud Podcast 062 (transcribed by Ann Postak)

Brothers and sisters,

I have not thought to have the opportunity to talk to you again, but circumstances have presented themselves in such a way that it makes this possible. Speaking for Margie and me, I want to thank you for the outpouring of love and support that we have received from you since our last podcast announcing an end to the podcast lessons. There have been so many of you that have expressed your love and appreciation for both of us and have said that you pray for us and have asked the Lord's choicest blessings to be upon us. We feel those prayers, and certainly, the Lord has blessed us with an abundance of His mercy and grace.

There are some things that I need to address in this final podcast, and I pray that the Spirit of the Holy Ghost will be my companion and that I will be directed by the Holy Spirit and guided in my thoughts and words. Turn with me to *Doctrine and Covenants 63:64*:

*Remember that that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit; and in this there is no condemnation, and ye receive the Spirit through prayer; wherefore, without this there remaineth condemnation.*

As we close the podcast lessons we have been studying, it remains for me to make a final comment and observation. Even though I have sought with all of my heart to do that which is acceptable to my Father and my Savior, there have been times when more wisdom and prudence could have and should have been practiced, especially when it comes to sensitive doctrines and my own experiences and opinions. The doctrines of the Second Comforter, calling and election made sure, translation and the calling of the 144,000 are among those specific sacred concepts that should have been spoken with more care and constraint of the Spirit. There have been times when I have not followed the revelatory counsel given in *Doctrine and Covenants 63:64* and I have taught and said things that were outside of the protective umbrella of priesthood keys and inspired direction. It was inappropriate for me to teach:

1. That person should seek to be translated or seek an ordinance of translation and become members of the 144,000 spoken of in scripture.
2. That temple ordinances, specifically the use of alters should be practiced outside of the temple
3. That the Church of Latter-day Saints is Aaronic in nature and preparatory to the Melchizedec Priesthood institution referred to in scripture as the Church of the Firstborn.
4. That people should seek Priesthood ordinations outside of the ordained channels found within the Church.
5. That priesthood healings and ordinances should be practiced using prescribed format and that they can be performed over the phone.

For this, I humbly apologize and ask for your forgiveness. How grateful I am for this opportunity to express the feelings of my heart. I have learned, and am learning so much about humility, meekness, lowliness of heart, and the love of my Savior is boundless charity. It is a great blessing

to willingly and cheerfully submit. I thank all of those who have assisted me in this process and feel that I am a better man for it.

No one listening to these words needs assume that there was any coercion, any threatening, any force involved in these observations and comments. Those who have counseled me have done so in the spirit of love and according to the directions given in [Doctrine and Covenants 121:36](#):

*That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.*

Look at verse 41:

*No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; [42] By kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile—*

Those who have talked to me have done so in the spirit of love and kindness. I was able to place myself in their shoes, with the help of the Holy Spirit and can testify that if I were in the same situation, that I would counsel in exactly the same way. I am grateful for their love and their kindness and for their sustaining. There have been many times in the podcasts where we have talked about the challenges, the trials, the adversity and the tests that come to us in the telestial world. We have talked about “bad things happening to good people,” and we decided that there is no such thing as “bad things happening to good people.” It’s just life, and how we respond to the challenges that come to us is what’s important. Either you can respond in a negative way and find fault and accuse and condemn and line yourself with the dark side which brings misery and death, or we can choose to look with favor and kindness and love given to us through the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Ghost, and view those that we are working with as teammates on the same team, all of us seeking to bring about the establishment of Zion and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Are we going to be bitter or are we going to be better? I choose to submit and yield as we are counseled to do in the Book of Mormon in Mosiah 3:19 when moved on by:

*The enticing of the Holy Spirit, ...and becometh as a child, ...willing to submit, ...even as a child doth submit to his Father.*

This is the choice I’ve made. It has been confirmed by the Holy Spirit and the whisperings of the Holy Ghost. Once again, I give my witness through the power of the Holy Ghost that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord’s Church. His hand is in it, and He guides and directs it through inspired priesthood leaders. I fully support the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as those anointed, holding keys and designated by the Lord to guide His Church in fulfilling its divine mission. I encourage all to do the same. May the Lord bless us all is my hope and prayer in the sacred name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Messiah, Amen.