

The First Principles and Ordinances of The Gospel

D&C/Church History: Lesson 7

Article of Faith #4:

We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Faith

Faith is strengthened gradually over time, not through a single experience. We must nurture our faith constantly to keep it strong.

Examples of Faith

- Joseph Smith—History 1:11–14
- Joseph Smith—History 1:29
- D&C 10:46–52

Strengthen our Faith

- D&C 19:23
- D&C 88:118
- Alma 32:27

Warning about lack of Faith

- D&C 8:10

Blessings of Faith

- D&C 35:9
- D&C 42:48–51
- D&C 63:9–11
- Moroni 7:33

Showing our Faith

- D&C 20:69
- James 2:14–17

Repentance

Throughout the D&C The Lord teaches the doctrine of repentance and repeatedly emphasizes the need to repent. He promises great blessings to those who repent—and punishments for those who do not.

Repentance Defined

- D&C 58:42–43
- Alma 5:13

Our need for the Atonement

- D&C 18:11–13
- D&C 19:16–19
- 2 Nephi 2:6–9

Consequences of Not Repenting

- Alma 7:14
- D&C 1:33
- D&C 19:17–18
- D&C 29:17

Blessings of Repenting

- D&C 1:32
- D&C 58:42
- D&C 109:53

Quotes about Repentance

President Ezra Taft Benson:

Repentance means more than simply a reformation of behavior. ... True repentance is based on and flows from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way. True repentance involves a change of heart and not just a change of behavior

Elder Neal A. Maxwell

Repentance requires both turning away from evil and turning to God.

Repentance is a rescuing, not a dour doctrine. It is available to the gross sinner as well as to the already good individual striving for incremental improvement

Baptism

Faith and repentance lead to baptism, the first ordinance of the gospel. In the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord revealed the purposes, qualifications, and instructions for baptism. Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, John the Baptist restored the priesthood authority that is necessary to perform this ordinance.

Purpose of Baptism

- D&C 18:22
- D&C 49:13–14
- 2 Nephi 9:23
- 2 Nephi 31:10–13, 17
- Mosiah 18:17

Why Immersion

- D&C 20:72–74

Qualifications of Baptism

- D&C 20:37
- Mosiah 18:8–10

Baptism Symbolism

- D&C 76:51
- John 3:3–5
- Romans 6:3–4

Baptism Authority

- D&C 22

Age of Accountability

- D&C 20:71
- D&C 29:46–47
- D&C 68:25
- Moroni 8:9–12

Holy Ghost

The Prophet Joseph Smith said, "Baptism by water is but half a baptism, and is good for nothing without ... the baptism of the Holy Ghost"

Member of Godhead

- D&C 130:22
- D&C 20:77

Receiving Holy Ghost

- D&C 33:15
- D&C 35:5–6
- D&C 20:41

Enlightens Us

- D&C 11:13
- D&C 76:10

Comforter

- D&C 39:6
- John 14:16

Testifier

- D&C 42:17; 100:8
- John 15:26
- Alma 5:46

Sanctifies Us

- D&C 84:33
- 3 Nephi 27:20

Teacher

- D&C 18:18; 39:6; 42:14; 75:10; 79:2
- John 14:26; 16:13;
- 1 Nephi 10:19
- Moroni 10:5

Leads, Guides and Inspires

- D&C 11:12
- D&C 31:11; 75:27; 84:85

Quotes about The Holy Ghost

Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Manifestations of the Holy Ghost are given to lead sincere seekers to gospel truths that will persuade them to repentance and baptism. The gift of the Holy Ghost is more comprehensive. ... [It] includes the right to constant companionship, that we may 'always have his Spirit to be with [us]'

Elder Bruce R. McConkie

He compared the manifestations of the Holy Ghost that a person can receive before baptism to flashes of lightning that "[blaze] forth in a dark and stormy night." He compared the gift of the Holy Ghost that a person receives after baptism to "the continuing blaze of the sun at noonday, shedding its rays on the path of life and on all that surrounds it"

President Joseph Fielding Smith

The Holy Ghost will not dwell with that person who is unwilling to obey and keep the commandments of God or who violates those commandments willfully