

## The Doctrine of Christ

In Third Nephi in the Book of Mormon, our LORD taught His **doctrine** first, then His **gospel**, and finally what His **church** is. In five simple words, He said it is to “**repent** and **come unto me**” (see D&C 10:67-68; 1 Ne. 10:18-19; 2 Ne. 9:23-24; 28:31-32; Jacob 1:7; Alma 5:33-34; Ether 4:7-19; Mor. 7:34; D&C 93:1; 3 Ne. 9:14, 22, 51; 11:14; 12:19-20, 23-24; 27:5-21; 30:1-2). In D&C 66:2, God stated that “mine everlasting covenant” is “*the fullness of my gospel.*” It involves embracing *five* steps on “**the way**” to redemption or salvation at Christ’s hands. It results in partaking of the sweet white fruit at the Tree of Life (God’s love in His glorious presence). The five steps of salvation are:

1. Develop strong **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ – the **FIRST** principle and ordinance of His gospel, **not** faith and trust in men or things - like the church itself. The LORD Jesus is the father of our salvation.
2. Sincerely **repent**, forsaking sin – by turning our hearts fully to God in complete submission to **Him**, doing so with a “**broken heart** and a **contrite spirit**”
3. Enter the **waters of baptism** by covenant. Be “**baptized unto repentance**” in His name. It is not about joining a church, but instead making a covenant with God, to remember the LORD Jesus and keep His commandments. The Sacrament prayers remind us of this covenant.
4. Receive *the second spiritual baptism from God* - **the baptism of fire** and the gift and power of **the Holy Ghost** in our lives. Such are then placed through the gate and onto the path or “**the way**” to eternal life. **Christ is the gate** to this pathway. **There is no other way.**
5. The wise ones who are “**born again**” in Christ may possess the companionship of the Holy Ghost. With it they are encouraged to then hold onto the iron rod tightly (direct revelation), eventually arriving at the Tree of Life, where they **receive God Himself** as their Second Comforter or guide (see also Moses. 6:57-68). They then have full redemption and the promise of eternal life here (real salvation), symbolized in the sweet, white fruit of the Tree of Life. Nothing is more joyful.

There are a number of clear and useful statements with related scriptures tied to “**the doctrine of Christ**” as presented hereafter. Alma stated that the Spirit told him to, “Cry unto this people, saying ‘**Repent** ye, and prepare **the way** of the LORD, and walk in his paths, which are straight . . .’” (see also Alma 41:8). Jacob, the younger brother of Nephi added, “enter in at the strait gate and continue in **the way** which is narrow, until ye shall obtain eternal life” (Jacob 6:11). Eternal life is the gift at the end of “**the way**,” granted by God. He said, “I am **the way**, and the truth, and the life.” No one makes it to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). Six individuals are quoted hereafter to explain the misunderstood event known as the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost; (1) Christ the LORD, (2) Moses, (3) John the Baptist, (4) the Prophet Joseph Smith, (5) Nephi and (6) Alma the Younger. We begin with our Savior.

**1. Jesus Christ** Speaking to Nicodemus, a learned Rabbi who came to him at night, our LORD said, “except a man be **born again** he cannot **see** the kingdom of God...Except a man be born of water, *and* of the Spirit [fire], he cannot **enter** into the kingdom of God” (John 3:3-6). Nicodemus came in *the dark of night*, and *left that way*.

**2. Moses** In Joseph’s inspired translation of Genesis we read of Moses’s account of Adam’s fiery baptism. In it we read **two times** that it is a **commandment** that we **teach these things to our children** (vs. 57-58). Not only is it the doctrine of Christ, but it is the covenant of the Father, later called “the new and everlasting covenant.”

Moses stated, “Wherefore teach it unto your children, that **all men, everywhere, must repent**, or they can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God, for no unclean thing can dwell there, or dwell in his presence; for, in the language of Adam, Man of Holiness is his name, and the name of his Only Begotten is the Son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous Judge, who shall come in the meridian of time. Therefore I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children, saying: That by reason of transgression cometh the fall, which fall bringeth death, and inasmuch as ye were born into the world by **water**, and **blood**, and **the spirit**, which I have made, and so became of dust a living soul, even so ye must be **born again** into the kingdom of heaven, of **water**, and of the **Spirit**, and be cleansed by **blood**, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye might be **sanctified from all sin**, and enjoy *the words of eternal life in this world*, and eternal life in the world to come, even immortal glory;

For by the **water** ye keep the commandment; by the **Spirit** ye are justified, and by the **blood** ye are **sanctified**; Therefore it is given to abide in you; *the record of heaven; the Comforter [or the Holy Ghost]; the peaceable things of immortal glory; the truth of all things*; that which *quickeneth* all things, which *maketh alive* all things; that which *knoweth* all things, and hath *all power* according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice, and judgment.

And now, behold, I say unto you: This is **the plan of salvation** unto all men, through the blood of mine Only Begotten, who shall come in the meridian of time. And behold, all things have their likeness, and all things are created and made to bear record of me, both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath: all things bear record of me.

And it came to pass, when the LORD had spoken with Adam, our father, that Adam cried unto the LORD, and he was caught away by the Spirit of the LORD, and was carried down into the **water**, and was laid under the water, and was brought forth out of the water. And thus he was baptized, and **the Spirit** of God descended upon him, and thus he was **born of the Spirit**, and became **quickeneth in the inner man**. And he heard a voice out of heaven, saying: Thou art baptized with **fire**, and with the Holy Ghost. This is the record of the Father, and the Son, from henceforth and forever; And thou art after the order of him who was without beginning of days or end of years, from all eternity to all eternity. Behold, thou art one in me, a son of God; and thus may all become my sons. Amen” (Moses 6:57-68).

**3. John the Baptist** “I indeed baptize you with water, *upon your repentance*; and when he of whom I record cometh, who is *mightier* than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear, (or whose place I am not able to fill,) as I said, I indeed baptize you before he cometh, that when he cometh **he may baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire**. *And it is he of whom I shall bear record*, whose fan *shall be* in his hand, and he will thoroughly **purge** his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but *in the fullness of his own time* will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Thus came John, preaching and baptizing in the river of Jordan; bearing record, that he [Christ] who was coming after him **had power to baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire**” (JST Mat. 3:38-40).

**4. Joseph Smith** “The baptism of water, without the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost attending it, is of no use . . . They are necessarily and inseparably connected. An individual **must be born of water and the spirit** in order to get into the kingdom of God... You might as well baptize a bag of sand as a man, if not done in view of the **remission of sins** and **getting of the Holy Ghost**. *Baptism by water is but half a baptism, and is good for nothing without the other half*—that is, the baptism of [fire and] the Holy Ghost” (HC, 6:316). Men’s dead works mean little in comparison to being “alive in Christ” (see 2 Ne. 25).

In one of the last public sermons of the Prophet Joseph Smith, known as the King Follett discourse (General Conference, April 7, 1844, two months before his murder), Joseph quoted Moses 6:59-60, and then said, “A man must be born of water *and* the Spirit in order to get into the kingdom of God. In the German Bible is found a text that bears me out the same as the revelations which *I have given and taught for fourteen years* about baptism. My testimony has been true all that time. You will find it in the declaration of John the Baptist... Here, I can render an even plainer translation: **I Baptize you with water, upon your repentance**, but when Jesus Christ – of whom I bear record – comes, who has the power and keys, **He will administer the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost.**” This later amalgamated account of the King Follett Discourse was pieced together from four sources; William Clayton, Willard Richards, Wilford Woodruff, and Thomas Bullock. The Prophet Joseph’s official re-translation of Matthew 3:38-40 (quoted earlier) was completed in the early 1830’s, and is worded differently.

Continuing with his April 7 (1844), General Conference (King Follett) address, Joseph added, “Now where is all the sectarian world? If this testimony is true, they are all damned a clearly as any anathema ever was. I know the text is true. I call upon all you Germans who know that it is true to say, Aye. (Shouts of “Aye.”) Alexander Campbell, **how are you going to save people with water alone? For John said his baptism was good for nothing without the baptism of Jesus Christ, that is, the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost**. Many talk of any baptism not being essential to salvation, but this would lay the foundation of their damnation. The Apostle [Paul] tells us, “Therefore not leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And we will go on unto perfection, if God permit” [Heb. 6:1-3]. There is one God, one Father, one Jesus, one hope of our calling, one baptism; that is, all three baptisms make one” [water, fire, and blood, see Moses 6:57-68 & JS History 1:73-74].

**5. Nephi** "...know the gate by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is [1] repentance and [2] baptism by water; and [3] then cometh **a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost**. And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by **the gate**; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; and ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by **the way** ye should receive...Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is **the way**; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is **the doctrine of Christ**, and **the only** and **true doctrine** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen" (2 Ne. 31:17-18, 20-21).

"Wherefore...feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, **the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do**. Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by **the way**, and receive the Holy Ghost, **it will show unto you all things what ye should do**. Behold, **this is the doctrine of Christ...**" (2 Ne. 32:5-6).

**6. Alma the Younger** "... I have repented of my sins, and have been **redeemed** of the LORD; behold I am **born of the Spirit**. And the LORD said unto me: Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be born again; yea, **born of God**, changed from their carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness, being **redeemed** of God, becoming his sons and daughters; And thus they become **new creatures**; and unless they do this, they can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God...Nevertheless, after wading through much tribulation, *repenting nigh unto death*...**I am born of God** (Mos. 27:24-28).

The Book of Mormon is full of "born again" scriptures, the "plain and precious things" taken out of the Bible.

#### **Born Again Spiritually Scriptures - New Heart / Justified / Made Perfect in Christ**

1 Sam. 10:9 / New heart	Christ / "Born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:3-5)
Jer. 24:7 / A heart to know me	Joseph Smith HC 6:316 / "the remission of sins"
Ezek. 11:19, 18:31, 36:26-27 / New heart & Spirit	and "getting the Holy Ghost"
John 3:3 / All men must be born again	Mos. 5:7 / Born of Him, become His sons & daughters
John 5:24 / Those made new have everlasting life	Mos. 27:25 / Must be born again, born of God,
Rom. 12:2 / Renewed mind	"being redeemed of God," on "the path to
2 Cor. 5:17 / A new creature	eternal life" (2 Ne. 31:17-18)
Eph. 2:15 / A new man	Alma 5:12-13 / The mighty change of heart
1 Peter 1:3 / God hath begotten us	Alma 5:14 / Have ye spiritually been born of God
1 John 2:29 / The righteous are born of Him	5:1- 16, 26-28, 49; 7:14
1 John 3:9, 5:18 / Born of God not commit sin	Alma 19:33, 36:23, 38:6, 50:28 / Hearts changed
1 John 4:7 / Those who loveth are born of God	Moses 6:59 / Born again into Kingdom of Heaven
Rev.2 1:5 / I make all things new	Moses 6:65 / Born of Spirit, the inner man quickened
Enos 1:8 / Thy faith had made thee whole	D&C 76:69 / Such are just men made perfect in Him
Mosiah 3:19 / Put off natural man, become a Saint	Gal. 3:24 / Such are justified in Christ the LORD
Mosiah 4:13 / Have no mind to injure one another	2 Ne. 31:17-18 / Baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost,
Mosiah 5:2 / No more desire to do evil	"entered in by the gate or the way"

The Book of Mormon is full of "born again" scriptures. They are the "plain and precious things" taken out of the Bible. The first portion of the Doctrine and Covenants has clear words from the LORD (1828-31) addressing this same fullness of His doctrine, gospel, and church (the two baptisms and the gifting of the Holy Ghost). Later Sections in the D&C do not feature this doctrine.

"And behold, whosoever believeth on **my words**,  
 they will I visit with the manifestation of **my Spirit**;  
 and they shall be **born of me**, even of *water* and of the Spirit."

D&C 5:16, 1829, *March 1829*

“Yea, repent and be baptized, every one of you, for a remission of your sins; yea, be baptized even by **water**, and then cometh the baptism of **fire** and of **the Holy Ghost**. Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, **this is my gospel**; and remember that they shall have **faith in me** or *they can in nowise be saved*; And upon **this rock** I will build **my church**; yea, upon **this rock** ye are built, and **if ye continue**, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you. And ye shall remember the church articles and covenants to keep them. And whoso having faith you shall confirm in **my church**, by the laying on of the hands, and **I will bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost upon them**. And the Book of Mormon and the [JST] holy scriptures are **given of me** for your instruction; and the power of **my Spirit** quickeneth all things. Wherefore, be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may **be ready** at the coming of the Bridegroom.”

D&C 33:11-17, *Oct. 1830*

“And this is **my gospel** – repentance and **baptism by water**, and then cometh **the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost**, even the Comforter, Which **showeth all things**, and teacheth the peaceable things of the kingdom”

D&C 39:6, see also verse 11, *Jan. 1831*

The chart below features potential *signs* that often follow believers being “born again” with their related scriptures.

**Signs tied to being Born Again in Christ – they follow Believers**

Signs Follow Believers	Hel. 5	2 Ne. 31-32	Alma 5	Alma 18 /19	Alma 36	3 Ne. 17 / 19	Mosiah 5
Faith in Christ	41, 47	13	4-7, 15	41	17, 18	8	8, 10 (4:5, 20)
Repent, Cry for Mercy	29, 32	11	32-34, 49-52	41	18	2	
Heavens Open	48	15		/34, 48	22	24 / 14	
See God				/13	22	25 / 15	
Spirit Sent Down	45	12, 15, 18		/6	24	/13, 20	3
Quickening / HG given						/9,13, 20-21	
Fire Present	44, 45	13, 14		/43-45	24 /14	/13-14	
Angels Minister	39, 48			/34, 48	24 /15	/14	
Joyful Praise (see also Alma 5:26-34)	44, 45	13	26	/14, 30, 33	20, 21, 22, 28	17, 18	3
Gift of Tongues	45	13, 14		/30, 45	13, 14	/ 24	3
Fall Down - Submission				42 /15, 16	7, 11		(4:1) 1
Reborn, Sins Remitted Heart purified, gifted with charity (see Mor. 7:48)	50, 51	17	12-14, 19	/51	5, 23	/ 33	2, 7, 15

**The way of salvation** of our God, or **redemption** – is clearly presented in God’s word, but not in traditional church instruction and teaching manuals. It has become nearly foreign there. Satan and evil, designing men (some in secret combinations) have removed these *plain* (simple) and *precious* (sacred) truths from us for the sake of gain (D&C 93:39; 1 Ne. 22:23; Moses 5:29-31). The Book of Mormon does a good job of re-introducing them to us (and the early part of the D&C). Search the Word and feast upon His truths. They preach Christ and salvation in Him. There is no other way. Our LORD said:

“I am **the way, the truth, and the life**:  
no man cometh unto the Father, but **by me**.”

John 14:6