



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Book of Mormon - Lesson 16

Ye Shall Be Called the Children of Christ

“Yea, we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us; and also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.”

Mosiah 4-6

Joseph Smith, p314)

A study of this lesson will encourage us to seek and maintain the “mighty change” of heart that comes through exercising faith in Jesus Christ.

Brigham Young said that the Holy Spirit reveals heaven's treasures to its disciples: "It shows them things past, present, and to come. It opens the vision of the mind, unlocks the treasures of wisdom, and they begin to understand the things of God They comprehend themselves and the great object of their existence." (Journal of Discourses, 1:241)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "Since the fall, all men have become carnal, sensual and devilish by nature. (Moses 5:13; 6:49; Alma 42:10; Mosiah 16:1-4; D. & C. 20:20.) In this fallen state they are subject to the lusts, passions, and appetites of the flesh. They are spiritually dead, having been cast out of the presence of the Lord; and thus 'they are without God in the world, and they have gone contrary to the nature of God.' They are in a 'carnal state' (Alma 41:10-11); they are of the world. Carnality connotes worldliness, sensuality, and inclination to gratify the flesh." (Mormon Doctrine, p113)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "A person may get converted in a moment, miraculously. That is what happened to Alma the younger. He had been baptized in his youth, he had been promised the Holy Ghost, but he had never received it. He was too worldly-wise; he went off with the sons of Mosiah to destroy the church Alma was in this state, and then this occasion occurred when a new light came into his soul, when he was changed from his fallen and carnal state to a state of righteousness. In his instance the conversion was miraculous, in the snap of a finger, almost But that is not the way it happens with most people. With most people conversion is a process; and it goes step by step, degree by degree, level by level, from a lower state to a higher, from grace to grace, until the time that the individual is wholly turned to the cause of righteousness. Now this means that an individual overcomes one sin today and another sin tomorrow. He perfects his life in one field now, and in another field later on. And the conversion process goes on, until it is completed, until we become, literally, as the Book of Mormon says, saints of God instead of natural men." (From an address at BYU First Stake Conference, 11 February 1968, quoted in Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon)

President Marion G. Romney: "Somebody recently asked how one could know when he is converted. The answer is simple. He may be assured of it when by the power of the Holy Spirit his soul is healed. When this occurs, he will recognize it by the way he feels, for he will feel as the people of Benjamin felt when they received remission of sins. The record says, 'the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy, having received a remission of their sins, and having peace of conscience' (Mosiah 4:3)." (Conference Report, Oct 1963)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "Sins are remitted not in the waters of baptism, as we say in speaking figuratively, but when we receive the Holy Ghost. It is the Holy Spirit of God that erases carnality and brings us into a state of righteousness. We become clean when we actually receive the fellowship and companionship of the Holy Ghost." (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, p290)

President Spencer Kimball: "Work brings happiness It is the means of all accomplishment; it is the opposite of idleness. We are commanded to work. (See Gen. 3:19.) Attempts to obtain our temporal, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being by means of a dole violate the divine mandate that we should work for what we receive. Work should be the ruling principle in the lives of our Church membership." (Conference Report, Oct 1977)

Joseph Smith: "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 the Holy Ghost." (Teachings of the Prophet

Next Week's Reading Assignment
Mosiah 7-11

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