



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 25

Priesthood: "The Power of Godliness"

"Therefore, all those who receive the priesthood, receive this oath and covenant of my Father, which he cannot break, neither can it be moved." (D&C 84:40)

D&C 84:33-44; 121:34-46; 107

A study of this lesson will help us gain a greater understanding of the priesthood and seek the blessings that come from using it righteously.

Priesthood: "It is power and authority God has given to man to prepare him and those to whom he ministers to receive the greater power, authority, and blessings of the Melchizedek Priesthood." (Encyclopedia of Mormonism, p1)

Joseph Smith: "Its institution was prior to 'the foundation of this earth, or the morning stars sang together, or the sons of God shouted for joy,' and is the highest and holiest priesthood, and is after the order of the Son of God, and all other priesthoods are only parts, ramifications, powers and blessings belonging to the same, and are held, controlled, and directed by it. It is the channel through which the Almighty commenced revealing his glory at the beginning of the creation of this earth, and through which he has continued to reveal himself to the children of men to the present time, and through which he will make known his purposes to the end of time." (TPJS, pp166-167)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "The oath is the solemn attestation of Deity, his sworn promise, that those who keep their part of the covenant shall come forth and inherit all things according to the promise." (Mormon Doctrine, p480)

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "The covenant on man's part is that he will magnify his calling in the priesthood, and that he will live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God, and that he will keep the commandments.

"The covenant on the Lord's part is that if man does as he promises, then all that the Father hath shall be given unto him; and this is such a solemn and important promise that the Lord swears with an oath that it shall come to pass." (CR, Apr 1970)

President Marion G. Romney: "Now, I do not think this means that all who fail to magnify their callings in the priesthood will have committed the unpardonable sin, but I do think that priesthood bearers who have entered into the covenants that we enter into--in the waters of baptism, in connection with the

law of tithing, the Word of Wisdom, and the many other covenants we make--and then refuse to live up to these covenants will stand in jeopardy of losing the promise of eternal life." (CR, Apr 1972)

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "I think we all know that the blessings of the priesthood are not confined to men alone. These blessings are also poured out upon our wives and daughters and upon all the faithful women of the Church. These good sisters can prepare themselves, by keeping the commandments and by serving in the Church, for the blessings of the house of the Lord. The Lord offers to his daughters every spiritual gift and blessing that can be obtained by his sons, for neither is the man without the woman, nor the woman without the man in the Lord." (CR, Apr 1970)

Elder Rudger Clawson: "How extremely sacred is the Holy Priesthood, which is nothing more nor less than divine authority committed unto man. . . . 'Whoso, (meaning any man and every man), 'is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling,' will enter into the possession of all things, for he will become a joint heir with Jesus Christ, the Lord, in such possession. Now, I ask you, what more could a faithful high priest receive than the promise of this blessing? Could he receive any more if he were an apostle? Could he receive any more if he were a counselor in the Presidency of the Church? Could he receive any more if he were the President of the Church, than a promise which gives to him a joint heirship in all things? No, he could not. And so it is with the faithful seventy, and so with the faithful elder in the Church.

"There is no need for envy. There is no need for overweening ambition. There is no need to reach out and try to grasp that to which we are not entitled. The essential thing is that every man should see to it, that he obtains the High Priesthood. If he advances no further than the office of an elder but is faithful in the magnifying of his calling, he will enter into his glory and exaltation and will receive the fulness of which the record speaks." (CR, Oct 1917)

Next Week's Reading Assignment
Review the Class Member Study Guide