

"Son,

Thou Shalt

Be Exalted!"

Dennis Short

Christmas, '76

"SON, THOU SHALT BE EXALTED!"

(A brief introduction to the doctrine of making one's Calling & Election Sure.)

Only a relatively small portion of the human family will go into the next world and there have the Savior lay His hands upon their heads and say, "Son, daughter, thou shalt be exalted!" Even fewer of the sons and daughters of God take the full Gospel program seriously enough, and so live as to enjoy this greatest of all blessings while in this life. That one can and should embrace the Fulness of the Everlasting Gospel as revealed and restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith, and never cease hungering and thirsting after righteousness and the truths of eternity until he has the personal assurance of the Savior--to him personally!--that he will be exalted is the sum and substance of the doctrine of making one's Calling & Election Sure. To successfully overcome the trials and temptations of this world and become sanctified (through the Gospel's regenerating principles, laws & ordinances) to a point where we can part the veil and enjoy the personal ministration of the Savior is to receive a guarantee of *Eternal Life* and to enjoy the culmination of all that the Gospel was intended to bestow upon mortal man here in the flesh.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie, in one of the best talks ever printed in the *Improvement Era*, had this to say concerning the necessity of *personally* receiving such a testimony:

Thus we learn that any man who obeys the law entitling him to receive revelation shall see and hear and know for himself. Revelation for the Church comes through those

who are prophets, seers, and revelators to the Church, but personal revelation, revelation for the guidance of the individual, revelation which says to a man and a woman, "Son, daughter, thou shalt be exalted; thou shalt have part and lot in my kingdom," this revelation comes to them as individuals, alone and apart from all others.

Improvement Era, December 1969, p. 85

Concerning this doctrine, it was the Prophet Joseph Smith who literally pleaded with the Saints: "Oh! I beseech you to go forward, go forward and make your calling and your election sure." (TPJS, p. 366) The Prophet further told the Saints:

I would exhort you to go on and continue to call upon God until you make your calling and election sure for yourselves, by obtaining this more sure word of prophecy, and wait patiently for the promise until you obtain it.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 299

Notwithstanding Joseph's constant exhortations and continual working with the Saints, there were few in those early days who availed themselves of the full Gospel program and attained to this lofty end. In a revelation given through the Prophet Joseph Smith the Lord had this to say concerning His Saints:

"...inasmuch as you strip yourselves from jealousies and fears, and humble yourselves before me, for ye are not sufficiently hum/

ble, the veil shall be rent and you shall see me and know that I am--not with the carnal neither natural mind, but with the spiritual.

For no man has seen God at any time in the flesh, except quickened by the Spirit of God.

Neither can any natural man abide the presence of God, neither after the carnal mind.

Ye are not able to abide the presence of God now, neither the ministering of angels; wherefore, continue in patience until ye are perfected.

Let not your minds turn back; and when ye are worthy, in mine own due time, ye shall see and know that which was conferred upon you by the hands of my servant Joseph Smith, Jun.

Doctrine and Covenants 67:10-14

Succeeding prophets have faired no better when it came to admonishing the Saints to not only aspire to but also attain this greatest of all Gospel objectives. Just one year after the Prophet's martyrdom, President Brigham Young had this to say to the Latter-day Saints of his day:

Look, O ye Latter-day Saints, at the nations of the earth, Christendom, look at them; but look at ourselves (although we have received a great deal) yet who is there here that has seen Jesus Christ, that have beheld angels, that have conversed with the spirits of just men made perfect, and the assembly of the Church of Enoch, and with God the judge of all? Who is there here that has been caught up to the third heavens and gazed upon the order and glory of the celestial world? Don't you see brethren we have

yet a great deal to learn, but is it not our privilege to be filled with all the fullness of Godliness? When you receive all that is for you, you will say, "O the blindness of Christendom! O the ignorance of the world!" Even the Latter-day Saints that have assembled themselves together at the April Conference in the year eighteen hundred and forty-five, will say, "What am I?"

Times & Seasons, 1 July 1845, 6:954-955

The doctrine of making one's calling & election sure was a constant theme of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and more especially during his latter years. While commenting on the first chapter of II Peter, Joseph had this to say to the assembled Saints in Nauvoo:

...add to your faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity; "for if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Another point, after having all these qualifications, he lays this injunction upon the people "to make your calling and election sure." He is emphatic upon this subject--after adding all this virtue, knowledge, etc., "Make your calling and election sure."

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 305

Though using the New Testament as his text Joseph was quick to point out that this teaching was even

more applicable to the Latter-day Saints of this dispensation. The Prophet maintained:

We have no claim in our eternal compact, in relation to eternal things, unless our actions and contracts and all things tend to this. But after all this, you have got to make your calling and election sure. If this injunction would lie largely on those to whom it was spoken, how much more those of the present generation!

And then the Prophet went on to explain three important keys pertaining to this doctrine, viz:

1st key: Knowledge is the power of salvation.
 2nd key: Make your calling and election sure.
 3rd key: It is one thing to be on the mount and hear the excellent voice, etc., and another to hear the voice declare to you, you have a part and lot in that kingdom!"

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 306

In order for a person to attain such a state certain prerequisites must be met. In his most classic and oft-quoted statement concerning this the Prophet delineated the price which must be paid and the reward which may be expected for those who truly aspire to making their calling & election sure:

After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost, (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter, then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after

righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted. When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter which the Lord hath promised the Saints.

Now what is this other Comforter? It is no more nor less than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself; and this is the sum and substance of the whole matter; that when any man obtains this last Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time, and even He will manifest the Father unto him, and they will take up their abode with him, and the visions of the heavens will be opened unto him, and the Lord will teach him face to face, and he may have a perfect knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God....

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 150-51

Joseph strengthened his position by citing many examples from sacred history and the scriptures. To the brethren assembled in the School of the Prophets he taught:

All things were in subjection to the Former-day Saints, according as their faith was. By their faith they could obtain heavenly visions, the ministering of angels, above knowledge of the spirits of just men made perfect, of the general assembly and Church of the First Born, whose names are written in heaven, of God the

the judge of all, of Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and become familiar with the third heavens, see and hear things which were not only unutterable, but were unlawful to utter.

Lectures on Faith, No. 7

One of the most powerful statements dealing with the need to never cease striving til one is worthy to have the Savior personally appear and seal one up to *Eternal Life* was given at the calling and setting apart of the 12 Apostles in February of 1835 when Joseph Smith had President Oliver Cowdery deliver a "Charge" to the Twelve Apostles, a portion of which is as follows:

The ancients passed through the same experience. They had this testimony--that they had seen the Savior after he rose from the dead. You must bear the same testimony; or your mission, your labor, your toil, will be in vain.

* * *

You have been indebted to other men, in the first instance, for evidence; on that you have acted; but it is necessary that you receive a testimony from heaven for yourselves; so that you can bear testimony to the truth of the Book of Mormon, and that you have seen the face of God. That is more than the testimony of an angel. When the proper time arrives, you shall be able to bear this testimony to the world. When you bear testimony that you have seen God, this testimony God will never suffer to fall, but will bear you out; although many will not give heed, yet others will. You will therefore see the necessity of getting this testimony from heaven.

Never cease striving until you have seen God face to face. Strengthen your faith; cast off your doubts, your sins, and all your unbelief; and nothing can prevent you from coming to God. YOUR ORDINATION IS NOT FULL AND COMPLETE TILL GOD HAS LAID HIS HAND UPON YOU. We require as much to qualify us as did those who have gone before us; God is the same.

History of the Church, DHC, 2:192-198
Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt, p. 123-126

The above "Charge" was, in the first instance, specifically directed to the 12 Apostles; however, in a more general sense its challenge has wide-spread application---even to the "least" Saint---according to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Said he: "God hath not revealed anything to Joseph, but what He will make known unto the Twelve, and even the least Saint may know all things as fast as he is able to bear them!" (TPJS, p. 149). On another occasion the Prophet reinforced this idea by stating: "Fellow sojourners upon earth, it is your privilege to purify yourselves and come up to the same glory, and see for yourselves, and know for yourselves. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (DHC, I:284).

The idea of the Savior actually coming down and ministering to mortal man (not merely through a dream or vision, but by an actual visitation-in person!), and bestowing upon him a higher ordination than that which he can receive from the hands of any living man, seems almost incomprehensible to some. With a sweep of his hand Joseph parted the veil and swept away such ideas and notions when he stated: "All the Prophets had the Melchizedek Priesthood and WERE ORDAINED BY GOD HIMSELF." (TPJS, p. 181).

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that there are 3 Grand Orders of Priesthood. The first two (Aaronic & Melchizedek) are conferred upon men BY men; while the third order is reserved fro those who are willing to sacrifice all things for the Gospel's sake & who have made their calling and election sure---this order of Priesthood is received only from a ministration from the other side of the weil. (See, *TPJS*, p. 322-323). Concerning this President Brigham Young is credited with having taught that:

There are in the Church two Priesthoods, namely, the Melchizedek and the Aaronic, including the Levitical Priesthood (D & C 107: 1). But there is additonal Priesthood that has never been delegated to the Church. The Lord Himself handles this Priesthood and gives it to whom and when He pleases. Man does not call another man to this order, neither does man secure it by the request or selection of any man on earth. The call comes by messenger from heaven requesting designated individuals into the House of God (and it is known to Latter-day Saints as the second anointing), preparatory to receiving the Second Comforter, which completes their ordination. Sometimes this second Comforter is given while in the Temple. Often it does not come until years after, even just at death. But they who have had their second anointings can see the face of the Lord and live, even though being in the flesh, as one sees and talks to another.

*A Priesthood Issue, p. 8
(See also: J.D., 9:87)*

In the early history of the Church it was some-

times possible to tell which of the Apostles had made their ordination complete by a careful observance of the way in which they performed certain ordinances. If an Apostle had enjoyed the ministering of the Savior to him personally, and had the Lord lay His hands upon his head, then this Apostle would say, *"Having authority given me of Jesus Christ...."* If an Apostle had not made his ordination complete he would perform the ordinance in the conventional manner, i.e.: *"Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I...."* A good case in point is given below:

Prayer by President Orson Hyde. Following members of the board of the United Order were baptized by President Erastus Snow and confirmed by President Hyde. The following ceremony being used at the baptism: "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ I baptize you for the remission of your sins...." Then followed Apostle C.C. Rich, "Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ I baptize thee for the remission of thy sins, etc."

Diary of Milando Pratt, Sept. 4, 1886

This same idea is beautifully brought out and taught by the Savior Himself while ministering among the Nephites here on the Western Continent. See, *III Ne. 11:17-26* for complete account.

Concerning this idea of a Saint progressing to the point where he can rend the veil and enjoy personal communion with God face-to-face, the Prophet Joseph Smith had this to say:

It is the privilege of every Elder to speak of the things of God; and could we all come together with one heart and one mind in perfect

faith the veil might as well be rent today as next week, or any other time...

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 9

Therefore, sanctify yourselves that your minds become single to God, and the days will come that you shall see him; for he will unveil his face unto you, and it shall be in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will.

Doctrine and Covenants, 88:68

We consider that God has created man with a mind capable of instruction, and a faculty which may be enlarged in proportion to the heed and diligence given to the light communicated from heaven to the intellect; and that the nearer man approaches perfection, the clearer are his views, and the greater his enjoyments, till he has overcome the evils of his life and lost every desire for sin; and like the ancients, arrives at that point of faith where he is wrapped in the power and glory of his Maker and is caught up to dwell with Him.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 51

Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am.

Doctrine and Covenants, 93:1

Before we take a look at several examples wherein the Savior actually appeared to and ministered to individuals in our own dispensation, let us consider the following remarkable spiritual experience which fell short of this but which will begin to give us some idea of what unspeakable joy & happiness awaits those who live lives worthy of parting the veil.

BORN OF THE SPIRIT

The following experience is related to the ERA by an elder who prefers his identity to be unknown, as he considers the incident of too sacred a character to be coupled with his name:

It may be interesting to some, to read, in connection with this, the 46th verse of the 76th section of the Doctrine and Covenants, in which the Lord says that he gives to some a momentary view of the torments of the condemned, but immediately closes the vision. If he shows that side of the hereafter to some, why should it not be consistent to think that he would reveal its opposite to others, for their benefit? The writer thinks that the 9th and 10th verses of the second chapter of First Corinthians could be taken as a direct statement to that effect: "But, as it is written, eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

At a period in this elder's life, when he was making determined efforts to overcome his weaknesses and perform certain duties required of him, being worried and troubled, he had an experience which he could scarcely class as a vision, or as a dream, though it occurred in his sleep, in the quiet of the night.

He thought he saw himself in a kneeling posture with his face turned heavenward as though engaged in prayer, when there gradually stole over him a feeling of calm contentment, an utter forgetfulness of trouble, and an obliviousness to mortal surroundings. This sense of satisfaction increased to one of joy until his soul was wrapped in exquisite happiness, such as he had never experienced before in his most favored hours.

There was borne in upon his mind, taking possession of and quickening his heart, a sense of supreme possession. It was as if every righteous desire were granted, every good thing wished for in life were given; there was a fulness of realization overwhelming in its nature.

It seemed that he was aglow throughout his entire body with a warmth that was heavenly: even now, after years have passed, he can feel the thrill in his breast of the glorious light that seemed to illuminate him.

Then the climax of the experience commenced, as the flame in his heart burned brighter, and it seemed that every nerve in his body was alive and quickened into inde-

pendent vibration. His blood seemed to leap through his veins, his heart throbbed tumultuously, as if about to burst its walls, as forces, strange, powerful, yet heavenly, held him in sweet yet awful control. He could almost feel himself being consumed by an inward fire, and finally, as the sensation became still more strongly intensified, he thought he felt his spirit leaving his body, which was apparently unable longer to endure under the influence that possessed him. In an agony of joy, no other term will express it, he cried aloud, "O Lord, withhold thy blessings, I can endure no more!" Then he awoke, the tears coursing in torrents from his eyes, and his body quivering in every part, a glorious sense of a wonderful experience in his heart!

In quiet thought and contemplation over what had occurred to him, there came as the most logical and reasonable explanation of it, the conclusion that for a vrief period he had been permitted to taste, through the power of the Holy Spirit, celestial happiness; and an explanation, to some extent at least, was therein found of the scripture quoted that man cannot see nor hear, nor understand, the extent of God's blessings; for this elder knows now, to his complete satisfaction, that man not only cannot know and describe the extent of this divine joy and happiness, but he could not endure its fullness while in mortality. He can sense now, the effect of the Spirit upon the sense of man, is light and warmth and fire.

The milder form of the happiness felt is such as he thinks only those the most favored in temperment, and most blessed of God, can enjoy in mortality.

He makes this experience known, only for the reason that it may stand as a testimony of God's love and mercy toward His children, and, therefore, comfort the hearts of those who need and believe.

The result to himself was not one of self gratulation, but one of fervid desire; for, to have that experience continued, with the power to endure and fully appreciate it, is such a reward that the gold, the jewels, the power, the magnificence, the dominions, of the earth, would dwindle as the tallow dip in comparison to the flaming sun at noon day.

*The Improvement Era, Vol. 8,
June 1905, p. 623-625.*

Since the beginning of time men have had held out before them the great goal of living righteously enough so as to part the veil and walk and talk with the Lord and to enjoy His companionship and ministrations from time to time. Such men as Adam, Enoch, Seth, Abraham, Noah, Moses & Nephi fully attained to this great spiritual level and could not be kept within the veil owing to their great faith. Such notables continued to seek after truth and prevailed in loving the Lord and His righteousness more than the things of the world until they had proven themselves in all things and had made their calling and election sure to Eternal Life and Glory!

Among those who complied with the law of righteousness here revealed was the brother of Jared, a prophet who lived some 2,000 years before our Lord's birth into mortality. Of the vision which he saw, Moroni says: ...because of the knowledge of this man he could not be kept from beholding within the veil; and he saw...the Lord; and he had faith no longer, for he knew, nothing doubting.

"Wherefore, having this perfect knowledge of God, he could not be kept from within the veil; therefore he saw Jesus; AND HE DID MINISTER UNTO HIM." (Ether, 3:19-20).

Improvement Era, December 1969, p. 85

Let us now turn our attention to just a few of the great men and women of our own dispensation, besides Joseph Smith, who accepted this great challenge and, putting all on the altar of sacrifice, strove earnestly until they were allowed to enjoy the ministrations of Jesus Christ to them personally.

JOHN TAYLOR

When President Taylor came of out his room about eight o'clock of the morning of September 27, 1886, we could scarcely look at him on account of the brightness of his personage.

He stated, "Brethren, I have had a very pleasant conversation with Brother Joseph." I said, Boss, who is the man that was there until midnight?" He asked, "What do you know about it, Lorin?" I told him all about my ex-

perience. He said, "Brother Lorin, that was your Lord."

Questions on Plural Marriage, Short, p. 66

GEORGE Q. CANNON

I rejoice exceedingly in the testimonies that have been borne during this conference. I know that this is the work of God. I know that God lives. I know that Jesus lives; FOR I HAVE SEEN HIM! I know that this is the Church of God, and that it is founded on Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. I testify to you of these things as one that KNOWS---as one of the Apostles of the Lord that He lives and that He will live, and will come to reign on the earth, to sway an undisputed sceptre.

*The Deseret Weekly, Vol. LII,
No. 20. Oct. 31, 1896, p. 610*

L. JOHN NUTTAL

President George Q. Cannon and I have seen the Savior Jesus Christ and conversed with Him face to face and He has talked with me.

L. John Nuttal Diary, April 20, 1893

JOHN W. TAYLOR

I know our Savior lives because I have seen Him face to face!

Family Kingdom, Taylor, p. 121

LORENZO SNOW

One evening when I was visiting Grandpa Snow in his room in the Salt Lake Temple, I remained until the doorkeepers had gone and the night-watchman had not yet come in, so Grandpa said he would take me to the main, front entrance and let me out that way. He got his bunch of keys from his dresser.

After we left his room and while we were still in the large corridor, leading into the celestial room, I was walking several steps ahead of Grandpa when he stopped me, saying: "Wait a moment, Alice. I want to tell you something. It was right here that the Lord Jesus appeared to me at the time of the death of President Woodruff. He instructed me to go right ahead and reorganize the First Presidency of the Church at once and not wait as had been done after the death of the previous presidents, and that I was to succeed President Woodruff."

Then Grandpa came a step nearer and held out his left hand and said: "He stood right here, about three feet above the floor. It looked as though he stood on a plate of solid gold."

Grandpa told me what a glorious personage the Savior is and described his hands, feet, countenance, and beautiful white robes, all of which were of such a glory of whiteness and brightness that he could hardly gaze upon Him.

Then Grandpa came another step nearer me and put his right hand on my head and said: "Now granddaughter, I want you to remember that this is the testimony of your grandfather, that he

told you with his own lips that he actually saw the Savior here in the temple and talked with Him face to face.

Then we went on and Grandpa let me out of the main, front door of the temple.

Deseret News, April 2, 1938

SARAH ANN TURNBOW

(The following is from Sister Turnbow's Patriarchal blessing.)

Sister Sarah Ann I lay my hands upon thy head to seal upon thee a Father's blessing which shall be sealed and ratified in the Book of Life. Thou shalt have the gift of discernment and wisdom, that leads to eternal life, great shall be thy reward and understanding for thou art of Joseph and a lawful heir to the fulness of the Priesthood with thy companion and a numerous posterity on the earth. Thou shalt have an inheritance in Zion with all the redeemed, and shalt help to redeem thy Father's household. Thou shalt go into the Temple of the Lord, the place called the Holy of Holies and converse with angels AND BE ORDAINED A QUEEN BY THE HAND OF YOUR REDEEMER AND THY COMPANION A KING AND PRIEST! No good thing shall be denied thee, and I seal upon you these blessings of powers, dominions, and eternal lives forever and ever. Amen.

Genealogical and Blessing Book--
Samuel Turnbow, p. 15, Feb. 12, 1862

ALEXANDER NEIBAUR

Shortly before his (Alexander Neibaur's) death, his son said to him: "Father, you have been telling us of your long and hard experience and we have listened with intense affection and interest. But let me ask you, is it worth it all? Wouldn't you have been better off if you had remained with your people? Is the Gospel worth all this sacrifice?"

The glow of testimony and of truth lit up the torches in the dimming eyes of that ancient Hebrew prophet and poet and he lifted up his voice in firm and lofty assurance as he said:

"Yes, yes! and more! I HAVE SEEN MY SAVIOR! I have seen the prints in His hands. I know that Jesus is the Son of God. I know that this work is true, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. I would suffer it all and more, far more than I have suffered for that knowledge, even to the laying down of my body on the plains for the wolves to devour!"

*From Judaism to Americanism,
by Wenonal Shirley
(See also: J.D. 11:279)*

MELVIN J. BALLARD

Away on the Fort Peek Reservation where I was doing missionary work with some of our Brethren laboring among the Indians, seeking

Lord for light to decide certain matters pertaining to our work there, and receiving a witness from Him that we were doing things according to His will, I found myself one evening in the dreams of the night in that sacred building, the temple. After a season of prayer and rejoicing, I was informed that I should have the privilege of entering into one of those rooms, to meet a glorious personage, and as I entered the door, I saw seated on a raised platform, the most glorious being my eyes have ever beheld or that I ever conceived existed in all the eternal worlds. As I approached to be introduced, he arose and stepped towards me with extended arms and smiled as he softly spoke my name. If I shall live to be a million years old, I shall never forget that smile. He took me into His arms and kissed me, pressed me to His bosom and blessed me until the marrow of my bones seemed to melt! When He had finished, I fell at His feet and, as I bathed them with my tears and kisses, I saw the prints of the nails in the feet of the Redeemer of the world. The feeling that I had in the presence of Him who hath all things in His hands, to have his love, his affection, and his blessings was such that if I ever can receive that of which I had but a foretaste, I would give all that I am, all that I ever hope to be, to feel what I then felt!

Melvin J. Ballard, *Second Comforter*, REVELATION, Lewis J. HARMEN, pp. 165-166, as recorded in his diary for May 14, 1917, also in Hinckley, *Melvin J. Ballard*, p. 66

BRIGHAM H. ROBERTS

Some few years later this was corroborated to me by the fact that I spoke to, or had a long conversation for about four hours with, B. H. Roberts. He was then head of the Quorum of the Seventy in the Church. For two or three hours he skirted around things and didn't come quite to the point until finally he said, "Well, I am very discouraged with the Church, the officials and the way things are going, and they know it because I have told them. But I want to say this to you--I have gone in to Centerville Canyon, and I've fasted many days by a little stream of water." Now I know what he means, because I've been lost in Centerville Canyon, in the middle of the night. And the brush at that time was very thick, and the only way to get up there at that time was to find deer trails.

Brother Roberts went on, "After many days, when I was so discouraged and felt like I just couldn't go another day, I started out of that canyon. THE SAVIOR APPEARED TO ME, AND HE LAID HIS HANDS UPON MY HEAD, AND HE SAID, "BROTHER ROBERTS, THOU SHALT HAVE A PART AND A LOT IN MY KINGDOM."

So, I just want to witness these things to you because it is the truth. He (B.H. Roberts) said, "EVERY MAN IN THIS CHURCH WHO DOES NOT RECEIVE THIS CONFIRMATION, HAS NOT OBTAINED ANYTHING IN THIS KINGDOM WHATSOEVER: HE MUST OBTAIN THIS. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST NECESSARY THINGS IN THE WHOLE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!"

Reminiscences of John W. Woolley &
Lorin C. Woolley, v. 1, Rhea Kunz, p. 6

Speaking as one who truly knew, Brother Roberts testified that it is the privilege of every worthy Saint to never cease striving until this same experience is theirs. Even as the Prophet Joseph Smith told the Saints of his day in a pleading injunction: "Oh! I beseech you to go forward, go forward ~~and~~ make your calling and election sure!" (TPJS, p. 366).

Again, the doctrine of making one's calling and election sure, and those blessings which attend its fulfillment, is not reserved for a select few such as Joseph Smith or those who are called to the Apostleship. In the words of the Prophet, "even the least Saint may receive these things as fast as he is able to bear them!" (TPJS, p. 149). Brother McConkie best sums this up by stating:

Revelations are not reserved for a limited few or for those called to positions of importance in the Church. It is not position in the Church that confers spiritual gifts. It is not being a bishop, a stake president, or an apostle that makes revelation and salvation available. These are high and holy callings which open the door to the privilege of great service among men. But it is not a call to a special office that opens the windows of revelation to a truth seeker. Rather it is personal righteousness; it is keeping the commandments; it is seeking the Lord while He may be found.

God is no respecter of persons. He will give revelation to me and to you on the same terms and conditions. I can see what Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon saw in the vision of the degrees of glory--and so can you. I can entertain angels and see God, I can receive

an out pouring of the gifts of the Spirit--and so can you.

There are goals to gain, summits to climb, revelations to receive. In the eternal scope of things we have scarcely started out on the course to glory and exaltation. The Lord wants His Saints to receive line upon line, precept upon precept, truth upon truth, revelation upon revelation, until we know all things and have become like Him.

Let us press forward in making our callings and elections sure, until, as Joseph Smith said, we shall have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend us, or to appear to us from time to time, and until even He will manifest the Father unto us. (See T.P.J.S., p. 151).

Improvement Era, December 1969, p. 85

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For further light on this topic the reader is referred to:

Hyrum L. Andrus, *Principles of Perfection* (Salt Lake City, Utah, 1970), chapter 13 & 14.

Ogden Kraut, *Principles or Personalities* (Dugway, Utah, 1973), chapter 10, p. 182.

Making Your Calling and Election Sure, Taped transcript of a talk given by Hyrum L. Andrus at BYU, Feb. 18, 1970.