



“The power and authority of the higher, or Melchisedec, priesthood, is to hold the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church; to have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven; to have the heavens opened unto them...” *Doctrine & Covenants 104:9*



Magnifying Our Calling

Priesthood Nature, Authority, Power, & Conduct

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“The power and authority of the lesser, or Aaronic, priesthood is, to hold the keys of the ministering of angels, and to administer in outward ordinances--the letter of the gospel--the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, agreeably to the covenants and commandments.” *Doctrine & Covenants 104:10*

Nature of our time together

- ◆ D&C 85:21b And I give unto you a commandment, that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom; teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that is expedient for you to understand;
- ◆ D&C 43:3a-b And now, behold, I give unto you a commandment, that when ye are assembled together, ye shall instruct and edify each other, that ye may know how to act and direct my church how to act upon the points of my law and commandments, which I have given; and thus ye shall become instructed in the law of my church, and be sanctified by that which ye have received, and ye shall bind yourselves to act in all holiness before me, that inasmuch as ye do this, glory shall be added to the kingdom which ye have received.



Priesthood Education

- ◆ In the matter of the education of the minister, **every minister stands, not in competition with a fellow minister, but with himself**—charged by God to take his talents and abilities and so develop and train them that his productive capacity approaches nigh unto the potential accomplishments with which Diety has endowed him.

(Source: *Priesthood Study Outlines; 1946* - The Education Of The Minister by Blair Jensen)



When we gather together according to the
Father's will, we have promises:



- ◆ Hearken, O ye elders of my church, who have assembled themselves together, in my name, even Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, the Savior of the world, inasmuch as they believe on my name and keep my commandments; again I say unto you, Hearken and hear and obey the law which I shall give unto you; for verily I say,
As ye have assembled yourselves together according to the commandment wherewith I commanded you, and are agreed as touching this one thing, and have asked the Father in my name, even so ye shall receive — Doctrine & Covenants 42: 1 a-c



Hastening Time - If Not Now-When?

- ◆ “I admonish the Church, and particularly those of the priesthood, that **the hastening time being upon us** there is great necessity for confidence in the men of the Church chosen for positions of great responsibility, and all should consecrate of their talents, abilities, and substance for the prosecution of the great work intrusted to us. Everywhere the demand for great activity exists, and for the accomplishment of our work the great essential is fraternal cooperation in service to man and devoted consecration to God and his work.”
(Doctrine and Covenants 132:3-4)

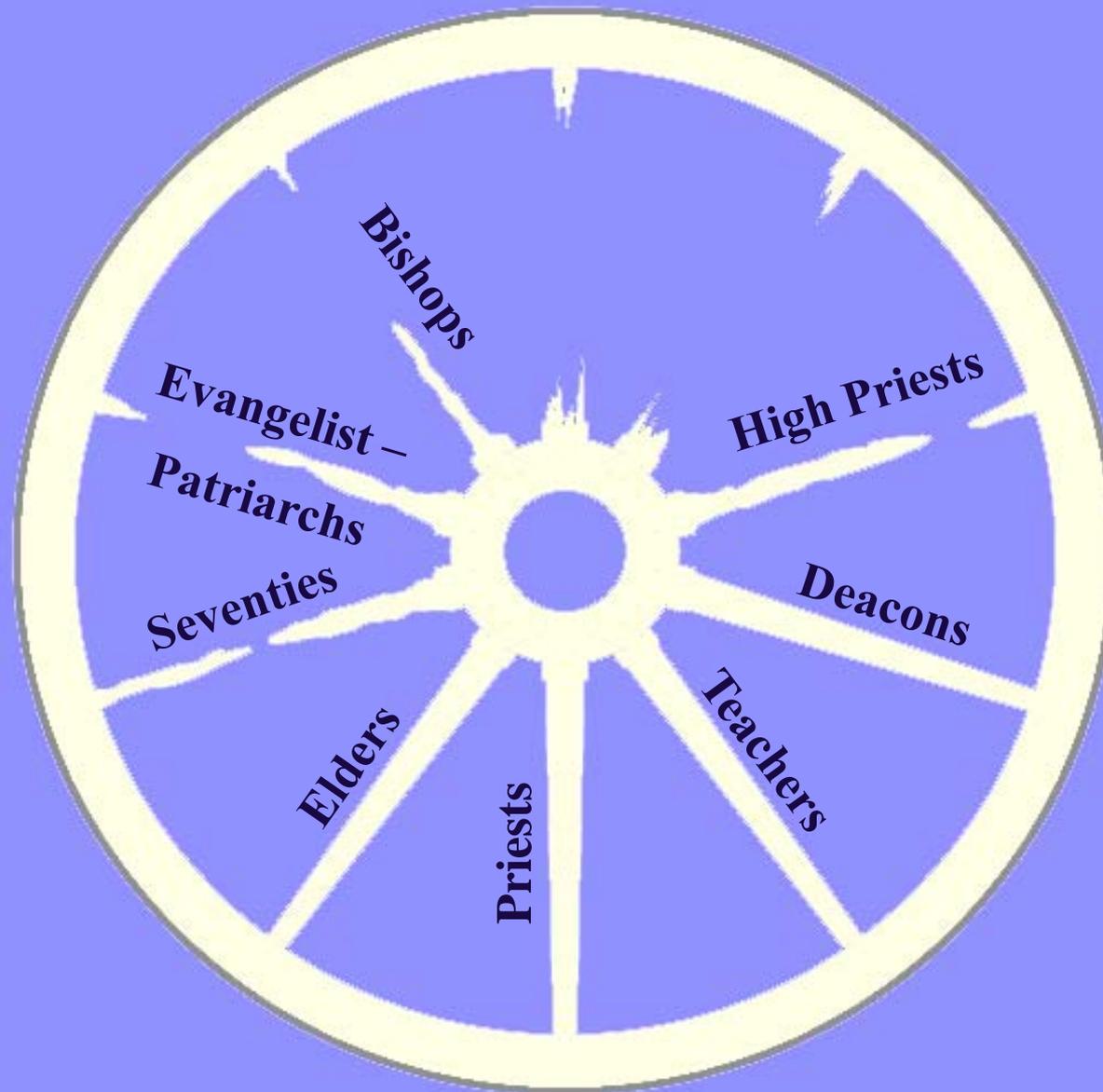
Source: Power Point Presentation by Elder Dayn Cederstrom



Priesthood Wheel as set up by Jesus for His Church



Source: Power Point Presentation by Elder Dayn Cederstrom



Current Priesthood Wheel of the Restoration





◆ *To the Elders of My Church,*

I am not well pleased with the condition of my elders. I speak to the whole body and not in particular. You have been given the keys to all of the spiritual blessings of the church. I have withheld blessing to my people because of your condition. Do not point to some other elder. Search your heart and confess before me your transgressions. **My people and the world wait upon you to "come unto me" with a humble heart and full of love.** Be not harsh with one another. You can only become one by my spirit, and if you are not one you are not mine.

Council to the Elders - received through Seventy Richard Neill
Sunday July 22, 2012



Our Focus Today

The hastening time being upon us:

- The demand for great activity exists and all should magnify their calling
- ◆ Why Priesthood? What is Priesthood?
- ◆ What is the Nature of Priesthood?
- ◆ What is Priesthood Authority and Power?
- ◆ What does it mean to Magnify our Calling?
- ◆ How should we Conduct Ourselves?



Why Priesthood? What is Priesthood?



God's Mission

Doctrine and Covenants 22:23b

...and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; **for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.**

What is “eternal life”?

John 17:3

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

How does this understanding relate to the need and purpose for priesthood?



Why Priesthood? - Alma 19:21-23



- ◆ Alma 19:21 And now, my son, I would say somewhat unto you concerning the coming of Christ.
- ◆ Alma 19:22 Behold, I say unto you, that it is he that surely shall come, to take away the sins of the world; yea, he cometh to declare glad tidings of salvation unto his people.
- ◆ Alma 19:23 And now my son, this was the ministry unto which ye were called, to declare these glad tidings unto this people, to prepare their minds; or rather that salvation might come unto them, that they may prepare the minds of their children to hear the word at the time of his coming.



Why Priesthood? Alma 9:63 – 64, 65



- ◆ And I would that ye should remember that the Lord God ordained priests, after his holy order, which was after the order of his Son, to teach these things [Plan of Salvation] unto the people;
- ◆ And those priests were ordained after the order of his Son, in a manner that thereby the people might know in what manner to look forward to his Son for redemption.
- ◆ And thus being called by his holy calling, and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God, to teach his commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into his rest,[Eternal Life]



Why Priesthood?

To Preach and Teach the Doctrine of Christ



3 Nephi 5:40-43

- ◆ And again I say unto you, **Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God.**
- ◆ **Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine;** and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them.
- ◆ And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them.
- ◆ **Therefore go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth.**

What is the purpose of God's priesthood?

“The powers of priesthood . . . Are confirmed for no other purpose than the salvation of man, and are continued only in the just exercise of them in the pursuit of this object; hence any act of any man called to this calling, performed with any other intent, or attended with a different result **is not authorized of God, and hence does not bind the powers of heaven.**” — Joseph Smith, III, *The Saints' Herald*, vol. 24, pg. 168.



Priesthood sets men apart to become One with Christ in His work

- 1) Priesthood is the power of God operating in men
- 2) chosen of him,
- 3) ordained and set apart according to the provisions of his law,
- 4) for the ministering of His gospel of salvation to mankind, in **word** and in **ordinance**.

This priesthood or power carries with it authority to act in Christ's stead, by faith in him, in any and all matters which are expedient according to his will.

— *The Nature of Priesthood* by Charles Fry



Some Question The Relevance of Priesthood As Part of Christian Ministry



- ◆ “If men could properly administer before the Lord in olden times without the authority of either the Melchisedec or the Aaronic priesthoods, why was the use of either established? The admission that God has at any time committed the priesthood as a means of authorizing, men to administer before him acceptably, must be taken as positive evidence of its necessity.”
- ◆ To put the question beyond all controversy that the Christian ministry was authorized by being placed in positions in the priesthood, we have but to refer to the language of Peter, as follows:— “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”—1 Peter ii.5.
...Peter is a false witness, or the priesthood was given to the Christian ministry. It would be folly to talk of a priesthood where there was none; and where there was a priesthood there was a priest’s office and a priest.

(Presidency and Priesthood, William H. Kelley)



Priesthood from the Beginning to the End

Genesis 6:7

- ◆ Now this same priesthood which was in the beginning, shall be in the end of the world also.

Doctrine and Covenants 83:2c-3a

- ◆ The holy priesthood, which he [Moses] received under the hand of his father-in-law, Jethro;...[which came down from Adam] which priesthood continueth in the church of God in all generations, and is without beginning of days or end of years.
- ◆ And the Lord confirmed a priesthood also upon Aaron and his seed throughout all their generations, which priesthood also continueth and abideth forever, with the priesthood which is after the holiest order of God.



Priesthood Belongs To God



- ◆ The offices of the priesthood are varied, bear distinctive names, and are made continuous. The occupants may be removed, but the offices remain, having been fixed by the hand of Deity.
- ◆ Those permitted to hold these several positions take the name of the office to which they are respectively assigned, not the office the names of the persons.
- ◆ No one can rightly assume to act in the offices of the priesthood until he is duly appointed by the great Author of the institution, and complies perfectly with the laws and usages governing such appointments.

(Presidency and Priesthood, William H. Kelley)



Priesthood Offices Not Dependent On Us

- ◆ **“The offices of the priesthood can exist with or without an occupant.**

The removing of the officer does not destroy the office any more than the death of the President of the United States destroys the office which he holds...So it is in all the essential offices of the government.

This is true of the kingdom of God or church of Jesus Christ. God designated men for the several offices of the priesthood. They were duly authorized to occupy them. When any one of them was removed, by death or otherwise, another was appointed to succeed him in the same office.

As precedents, we refer the reader to the instance of appointing Matthias to the “bishopric” or “office” held by Judas Iscariot. (Acts i.16-26.) Matthias was “numbered with the eleven apostles.”

(Presidency and Priesthood, William H. Kelley)



All Christian Ministry Must Be Authorized If It Is To Be Effective

John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world,
even so have I also sent them into the world.

“The primary value of ordination is that it makes clear that the authority of the minister is not his own. This authority comes to him from above. After he has been set apart, then in a very special sense he is no more his own man.”

— F. Henry Edwards, *Authority and Spiritual Power*, pg. 23



God Ordains and Confers Authority – Not Man



- ◆ **Romans 13:1** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power in the church but of God; the **powers that be are ordained of God.**
- ◆ **John 3:28** John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.
- ◆ **Mosiah 11:118** none received authority except it were by him (Alma) from God.



Christ was called and set apart to the Holy Priesthood after the Order of The Son of God



- ◆ Heb 5:4 And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.
- ◆ Heb 5:5 So also **Christ glorified not himself** to be made a high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.
 - Note: Christ did not take upon himself the calling of High Priest - God bestowed it upon him because he humbled himself - God declared first Christ's place in the Kingdom – “You Are My Son, today I have begotten thee” – the NIV interprets it to say – “Today I have become your Father” – this doesn't make sense because God was his Father always
- ◆ Heb 5:6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.



Christ called, and ordained the twelve after seeking council with God



- ◆ Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.
- ◆ Luke 6:13 And when it was day, he called his disciples; and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.
- ◆ Mark 3:13 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils.



Definition of Priesthood



“Priesthood on earth is the authority and order of God committed unto men, by which they are duly empowered and commissioned to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances thereof; namely, to baptize, lay on hands, bless, administer the Lord’s supper, ordain, and perform any and all other duties required in the administration of the government of His church, or kingdom, among men.”

—(*Presidency and Priesthood*, William H. Kelley)

The Nature of Priesthood



Priesthood Pattern

- ◆ Christ, as in all things, is our perfect example. He establishes the pattern – He exemplified the pattern

Pattern for Priesthood begins with
“Humility” and “Charity”



Satan

- ◆ Gen 3:1 And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying, That Satan whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning;
- ◆ Gen 3:2 And he came before me, saying, **Behold I, send me, I will be thy Son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely **I will do it; wherefore, give me thine honor.****



Christ

- ◆ Gen 3:3 But behold, my beloved Son, which was my beloved and chosen from the beginning, said unto me: **Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.**

Consider Christ's Example



- ◆ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;
- ◆ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God;
- ◆ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men;
- ◆ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
Philippians 2:5-8
- ◆ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. **John 15:10**
- ◆ For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.
- ◆ And I know that his commandment is life everlasting; whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak. **John 12:49-50**



Our Relationship with Christ and His Ministry

John 15:12-17

- ◆ This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
- ◆ Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
- ◆ **Ye are my friends**, if ye do whatsoever I command you.
- ◆ Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth; but I have called you **friends**; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.
- ◆ **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit;** and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.
- ◆ **These things I command you, that ye love one another.**



Jesus is the Compassionate Shepherd



Mark 6:35 And Jesus when he came out, saw much people, **and was moved with compassion towards them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd;** and he began to teach them many things.



Christ Is The Good Shepherd – John 10:10-17

- ◆ ...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. [His Purpose – More Life]
- ◆ I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. [What is required - Sacrifice]
- ◆ And the shepherd is not as a hireling, whose own the sheep are not, who seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth the sheep and scattereth them.
- ◆ For I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine [Tending to the flock]
- ◆ ...As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- ◆ And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. [Adding to the flock - Missionary]
- ◆ Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. [Give this life and to gain another]



Christ Is The Door To Salvation – John 10:1-9

- ◆ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. [Christ is the “Door” for the Shepherds]
- ◆ But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.
- ◆ To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice; and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.
- ◆ And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him; for they know his voice.
- ◆ And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him; for they know not the voice of strangers.
- ◆ Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheepfold.
- ◆ All that ever came before me who testified not of me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not hear them.
- ◆ **I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**



We Are Called To Be Co-Shepherds/Co-Laborers



Matthew 9:41-44

- ◆ And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and disease among the people.
- ◆ But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.
- ◆ Then said he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.



Christ is the Chief Shepherd and Lord –
His Servants are Shepherds, not Lords,
who serve under Him



1 Peter 5:1-4

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed;

- a. Feed the flock of God which is among you,
- b. taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly;
- c. not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
- d. Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.



A healthy flock starts with healthy sheep – A good shepherd is actively engaged in providing “Pastoral” ministry



- ◆ He sees that they are fed and cared for
- ◆ He sees that they are safe
- ◆ He sees that they feel assured
- ◆ He sees that they remain healthy
- ◆ He protects them from danger
- ◆ He drives out danger when it enters the flock
- ◆ He knows and cares for each sheep



“And the good shepherd knows his flock:

- ◆ Their strength and potentiality as well as their limitations and weaknesses.
- ◆ **And reveals their better to their lesser selfhood for such improvement as may be made**
- ◆ Inspires each to endeavor all he may become
- ◆ **Relates each to each for best growth in life.**
- ◆ And sees that each has opportunity to participate in group activity.
- ◆ **For in serving others and the cause, one realizes his best development in character as in life powers and graces.**
- ◆ “The good “overseers of the flock,” the elders, know their people so well they may “call them by name.” Nor no less do the “standing ministers,” the priests, teachers, and deacons, do for these same people, who are also their people.”

(Source: *Priesthood Study Outlines*, 1946 — Refinements Of Christian Character, by John F. Garver)

Two Shepherds = Two Folds – Alma 3:62-70

- ◆ Behold, I say unto you, that the good shepherd doth call you; yea, and in his own name he doth call you, which is the name of Christ;
- ◆ And if ye will not hearken unto the voice of the good shepherd, to the name by which ye are called, behold, ye are not the sheep of the good shepherd.
- ◆ And now if ye are not the sheep of the good shepherd, of what fold are ye?
- ◆ Behold, I say unto you, that the devil is your shepherd, and ye are of his fold; and now who can deny this?
- ◆ Behold, I say unto you, Whosoever denieth this, is a liar and a child of the devil; For I say unto you, that whatsoever is good, cometh from God, and whatsoever is evil, cometh from the devil;
- ◆ Therefore, if a man bringeth forth good works, he hearkeneth unto the voice of the good shepherd; and he doth follow him;
- ◆ But whosoever bringeth forth evil works, the same becometh a child of the devil; for he hearkeneth unto his voice, and doth follow him.
- ◆ And whosoever doeth this must receive his wages of him; therefore, for his wages he receiveth death, as to things pertaining unto righteousness, being dead unto all good works.





Unfaithful Shepherds - Ezek 34:1-8

And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

- ◆ Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel,...Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; 1) **Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?**
- ◆ Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed; but ye feed not the flock. (Priest Craft)
- ◆ 2) **The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken,** 3) neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but 4) **with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.**

[Consequence to the Sheep/Flock]



- ◆ And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd; and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.
- ◆ My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill; yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.



God's Response To The Shepherds - Ezek 34:9



Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord;

- ◆ As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord;

- ◆ Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves anymore, for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

God Is The Good Shepherd

- ◆ For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.
- ◆ As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where thy have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.
- ◆ And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.
- ◆ I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be; there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.
- ◆ I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God.
- ◆ I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.





The key to unlocking our priesthood is our ability
to exercise Humility and Charity—
the opposite is Priestcraft



2 Ne 11:106-108 He commandeth that there shall be no priestcrafts; for, behold, priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain, and praise of the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion.

Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing; wherefore, **the Lord God hath given a commandment, that all men should have charity, which charity is love.**

And except they should have charity, they were nothing: wherefore, if they should have charity, they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish.



Priesthood Authority & Power

By What Authority? - Christ's Example

- ◆ Matthew 21:21

And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, **by what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority?**

- ◆ John 7:16-17

Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.



Christ Has Both Authority and Power

- ◆ Mark 1:20 And they were astonished at his doctrine; **for he taught them as one that had authority,** and not as the scribes.
- ◆ Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine; **for his words were with power.**



If Christ Needed and has both Authority and Power – It follows that we need both as well



John 5:26-27 For as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; **And hath given him authority** to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of Man.

Mosiah 9:51 And it came to pass that Alma, **having authority from God**, ordained priests;

Alma 3:3 I, Alma, having been consecrated by my father Alma, to be a high priest over the church of God, he having **power and authority** from God to do these things...

Authority Defined



1.a) the power or right to give commands, enforce obedience, take action, or make final decisions; jurisdiction

b) the position of one having such power

2. such power as delegated to another; authorization

6.a) persons...having the power or right to enforce orders, laws, etc. (New World Dictionary, rev. 1980)

This type of authority can be referred to as
“Positional Authority” or **“Legal Authority”**



Positional Authority

A Person has **Authority & Power to Act** by virtue of holding a **Position**

- ◆ It is something that is usually conferred by another, but may be a role that is assumed by someone
- ◆ It usually involves the act of being “authorized”
 - Authorize
 - 1. To give official approval to or permission for
 - 2. To give power or authority to; empower; commission (New World Dictionary, rev. 1980)



Priesthood Represents a Unique Type of Positional Authority



So what is the unique providence of priesthood authority? “No one can rightly assume to act in the offices of the priesthood until he is duly appointed by the great Author of the institution, and complies perfectly with the laws and usages governing such appointments” — *Presidency and Priesthood*, Kelly, page 2

Example of Priesthood Positional Authority



◆ Aaron's Call

- Exo 28:1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office,
- **Exo 40:13 And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.**
- Num 18:7 Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the veil; and ye shall serve; I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift; and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.



When priesthood authority isn't there



- ◆ And it came to pass that King Limhi and many of his people were desirous to be baptized, but **there was none in the land that had authority from God** —
Mosiah 9:176
- ◆ Therefore, in the ordinances thereof the power of godliness is manifest; **and without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh**; for without this, no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live. — Doctrine and Covenants 83:3c



Saul had Positional Authority and Lost It



- ◆ Saul was **lawfully anointed** as Israel's first king and given authority of God to rule over her.
- ◆ Because Saul also sought to act in a sacred office [reserved for God's prophet, Samuel] to which he had never been called, God took the kingdom away from Saul and bestowed it upon David. Because of his disobedience, Saul also forfeited his life. **1 Samuel 13**

— *Presidency and Priesthood*, Kelly



Terms “Keys” & “Authority” are synonymous



- ◆ D&C 104:8c The bishopric is the presidency of this priesthood, and holds **the keys or authority** of the same. No man has a legal right to this office, to hold the keys of this priesthood, except he be a literal descendant of Aaron.



Priesthood Authority is limited/defined



- ◆ “Wherefore, now **let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed**, in all diligence.” *Doctrine and Covenants 104:44a*
- ◆ Every elder, priest, teacher, or deacon, is to be **ordained according to the gifts and callings of God** unto him; *Doctrine and Covenants Sec 17:12a*



Priesthood receives power in proportion to the work to be done



“The man of sin was revealed, and the authority of the Melchisedec priesthood was manifested and conferred for the first time upon several of the elders. **It was clearly evident that the Lord gave us power in proportion to the work to be done, and strength according to the race set before us; and grace and help as our needs required**” — *History of the Church*, Vol. 1, page 192



Positional Authority is Generally Relational

- ◆ Must have a minimum of 3 parties for every authoritative act:
 1. the institution bestowing the authority;
 2. the agent receiving the authority; and
 3. the parties under or needing to accept the authorized agent



Priesthood Authority is Generally Relational

– Authority being given by God

- **Jacob 1:17** Wherefore, I, Jacob, gave unto them these words as I taught them in the temple, having firstly obtained mine errand from the Lord

– Authority being accepted and embraced by the man called

- **Doctrine & Covenants 63:15a** Those who desire in their hearts, in meekness, to warn sinners to repentance, **let them be ordained unto this power**; for this is a day of warning, and not a day of many words.

– Authority being accepted by the Church

- **Doctrine and Covenants 17:16a** No person is to be ordained to any office in this church, where there is a regularly organized branch of the same, without the vote of that church;





Authority to act as agent/servant/disciple/ priesthood, must come from God to man



- ◆ (Matthew 3:34) “Why is it that ye receive not the preaching of him whom God has sent?” See also Mosiah 5:43
- ◆ (John 15:16) Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you,
- ◆ (D&C 68:1f) Go ye into all the world; preach the gospel to every creature, acting in the authority which I have given you, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;
- ◆ (Mosiah 9:50) whosoever was baptized by the power & authority of God was added to His church.

Source: The Nature and Stewardship of Priesthood – Elder Robert Gierz
Updated March 4, 2002.



Authority has to be accepted by the Man



- ◆ And again, verily I say unto you, Those who desire in their hearts, in meekness, to warn sinners to repentance, let them be ordained unto this power; for this is a day of warning, and not a day of many words — D&C 63:15a
- ◆ Nevertheless, I did harden my heart, for I was called many times and I would not hear; Therefore, I knew concerning these things, yet I would not know [Amulek] — Alma 8:8



Authority has to be accepted by the people

- ◆ If my people will respect the officers whom I have called and set in the church, I will respect these officers; and if they do not, they cannot expect the riches of gifts and the blessings of direction.

(Doctrine & Covenants 125:14c)

- ◆ Are we worthy of this respect?

Authority to act for/or on behalf of God transcends priesthood.



- ◆ Joseph Smith Jr. called and received authority to act as an agent of God before he was ordained - Visitations of the angel Moroni (1823-1827)
- ◆ Concept that authority was bestowed prior to ordination or organization of church – translation of the plates of the Book of Mormon established his credentials as a prophet, but such authority is implied because Smith never claimed that Moroni ever bestowed formal authority upon him. (See D&C 1:5d; 2:4-5; 3:1a-c)
- ◆ Smith's calling was implicit in his work, not the results of any ordination (D&C 5:3f . . . for you are not yet ordained) Smith's primary concerns during this time (prior to May, 1829) were his own status with God and the translation of the gold plates. He expressed no intent to organize a church or to confer authority upon others nor officiate in any ordinances.
- ◆ Almost 6 years passed from the initial visit of the angel Moroni until authority formally bestowed upon Smith (May, 1829) in a form that would later be referred to as **priesthood**.

Man called according to God's timing



- ◆ (Matthew 3:24,26) And it came to pass that Jesus grew up with his brethren, and waxed strong, and waited upon the Lord for the time of his ministry to come. And after many years, the hour of his ministry drew nigh.
- ◆ (Jacob 1:17) Wherefore, I, Jacob, gave unto them these words as I taught them in the temple, having firstly obtained mine errand from the Lord.
- ◆ (D&C 10:8a, 10a) Behold, I command you, that you need not suppose that you are called to preach until you are called: Behold, this is your work, to keep my commandments; yea, with all your might, mind, and strength; seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed;

Priesthood Calls and Ordination is the Means of Conferring Priesthood Authority

- ◆ Again I say unto you that it shall not be given to anyone to go forth to preach my gospel, or to build up my church, **except he be ordained by some one who has authority**, and **it is known to the church that he has authority**, and **has been regularly ordained by the heads of the church.** (Doctrine & Covenants 42:4)
- ◆ none received authority to preach or teach except it were by him (Alma) from God. (Mosiah 11:18)



God uses those who have Authority To Confer Priesthood Authority on Others



- ◆ and he is to be ordained by the power of the Holy Ghost which is in the one who ordains him.

Doctrine and Covenants Sec 17:12b

- ◆ **A Principal** - greater authority cannot be conferred upon others than that which is possessed by the original source of authority

Positional Authority is not Always Enough

- ◆ Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, **Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief;** for, verily, I say unto you, If ye have faith as as grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. **Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.** *Matthew 17:19-21*

Authority Defined Further

7. A person with much knowledge or experience in some field, whose information or opinion is hence reliable; expert 8. Self-assurance and expertness that comes with experience (New World Dictionary, rev. 1980)

This type of authority can be referred to as **“Functional Authority”** or **“Authority with Power”**



Authority with Power

Positional authority is something that is bestowed and involves having the **right to act**. “**Positional Authority**” can be thought of as “**Legal Authority**” to act.

Functional authority involves having the **ability to act**. “**Functional Authority**” can be thought of as “**Spiritual Authority and Power**” to act.

Both are needed to have “**Authority**” with “**Power**”



Authority with Power



- ◆ And they were astonished at his doctrine; **for His words were with power** — Lk. 4:32
- ◆ My preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of Power** — 1 Cor. 2:4
- ◆ And Stephen, **full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles** among the people — Acts 6:8
- ◆ And **he knoweth their faith**, for in His name could they remove mountains, and in His name could they cause the earth to shake, and **by the power of His word** did they cause prisons to tumble to the earth — Morm. 4:30
- ◆ And Christ hath said: **If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me** — Moi. 7:35



Authority must be Recognized and Accepted in order to have Power



- ◆ Luke 4:36 And **they were all amazed**, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with **authority and power** [Recognized] he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.
- ◆ Alma 21:69 Now Moroni **being a man who was appointed by the chief judges and the voice of the people, [Accepted] therefore he had power according to his will, with the armies of the Nephites, to establish and to exercise authority over them.**



We Must Always Remember That
Spiritual Authority and Power are
Conditional



Priesthood Accountability



- ◆ D&C 118:4c [. . . . Let no one deceive himself that he shall not account for his stewardship unto Me.] **is often misinterpreted as being applicable to temporal stewardship, but Joseph Smith, III in *The Saints Herald* of July 24, 1937 makes it plain that this is not the case. Speaking concerning this paragraph of Section 118, President Smith said: **“When priesthood is conferred upon anyone who is called, the ordination places a responsibility upon him for which he must answer directly to God.”****

(Source: *The Nature and Stewardship of Priesthood* by Elder Robert Giertz – Updated March 4, 2004)

Priesthood Hypocrisy & Priestcraft

◆ Accepting A Call

- But Doing Nothing With It, or
- Doing Something With It That Is Not Of God, or
- Doing Something Which Only Appears to Be Good but In Fact Is Not, or
- Doing Something With It For Personal Gain or Aggrandizement





Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint, and anise, and cummin; and have omitted the weightier things of the law; judgment, mercy, and faith; these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Ye blind guides, who strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel; who make yourselves appear unto men that ye would not commit the least sin, and yet ye yourselves, transgress the whole law.

Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup, and of the platter; but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Ye blind Pharisees! Cleanse first the cup and platter within, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but are within full of the bones of the dead, and of all uncleanness.

Even so, ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. *Matthew 23:20-25*



Behold, I the Lord have looked upon you, and have seen abominations in the church that professes my name; but blessed are they who are faithful and endure, whether in life or in death, for they shall inherit eternal life. But woe unto them that are deceivers, and hypocrites, for thus saith the Lord, I will bring them to judgment.

Behold, verily I say unto you, **There are hypocrites among you, and have deceived some, which has given the adversary power**, but, behold, such shall be reclaimed; but **the hypocrites shall be detected and shall be cut off**, either in life or in death, even as I will, and woe unto them who are cut off from my church, for the same are overcome of the world; wherefore, let every man beware lest he do that which is not in truth and righteousness before me.

Doctrine and Covenants 50:2-3



Priesthood authority not to be taken lightly



- ◆ Behold, it pleaseth me, that you have come up hither; but with some I am not well pleased, for they will not open their mouths, but hide the talent which I have given unto them, because of the fear of man. Woe unto such, for mine anger is kindled against them — D&C 60:1b



Authority Not Properly Maintained Can Be Suspended or Lost



- ◆ Inasmuch as ye do it not, it shall be taken; even that which ye have received — D&C 43:3c
- ◆ and in weakness have I blessed him, and I have given unto him the keys of the mystery of those things which have been sealed, even things which were from the foundation of the world, and the things which shall come from this time until the time of my coming, if he abide in me, and if not, another will I plant in his stead. - D&C 34:4f
- ◆ And it shall come to pass, if they are not more faithful unto me, it shall be taken away, even that which they have — D&C 60:2a



Authority Not Properly Maintained Can Be Suspended or Lost



“If the army of elders composing the priesthood have ever forgotten that they are men chosen for the accomplishment of a specific ensign had in view by Him who called them, that this calling gave no authority, and conferred no dignity not found in direct accord with the design, then has that army become deficient in the principal aid to their success; and every portion of it that persists in thus forgetting what they should certainly remember, disgraces this calling, and should be discharged from service.” — Joseph Smith, III, *The Priesthood Journal*, Vol. 9, October 1943, No. 4, page 13.



Use and Abuse of Authority & Power

- ◆ “. . . . The rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven: and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled, only upon the principles of righteousness, that they may be conferred upon us it is true, **but when we undertake to cover our sins, to gratify our pride, vain ambition, or to exercise dominion or compulsion over the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold the heavens withdraw themselves, the Spirit of the Lord is grieved, then amen to the priesthood, or to the authority of that man.**” — Joseph Smith Jr. - *Times & Seasons*, Vol. 1, pages 131-131 as quoted in *The Priesthood Journal*, July, 1934, page 24 under Standards of Priesthood.

Consequences of Breaking the Covenant of Priesthood



- ◆ Therefore, all those who **receive the priesthood receive this oath and covenant** of my Father, which **he cannot break**, neither can it be moved; but whoso breaketh this covenant, after he hath received it, and altogether turneth therefrom, shall not have forgiveness of sins in this world nor in the world to come — **D&C 83:6f-h**
- ◆ I command and **a man obeys not**, **I revoke and they receive not the blessing**; then they say in their hearts, This is not the work of the Lord, for his promises are not fulfilled. **But woe unto such, for their reward lurketh beneath, and not from above** — **D&C 58:6i**



Magnify Your Calling



- ◆ For **whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods** of which I have spoken, **and the magnifying their calling**, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies:
they become the sons of Moses and of Aaron, and the seed of Abraham, and the church and kingdom and the elect of God; (Doctrine & Covenants 83:6c-d)
- ◆ Verily, I say unto you, If these my servants will henceforth **magnify their calling in honor before me**, they shall become **men of power and excellent wisdom** in the assemblies of my people. (Doctrine & Covenants 117:5)



Functional Authority Has to do With “Magnifying Our Calling”



- ◆ “Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and **to act in the office** in which he is appointed, in all diligence.” D&C 104:44a
- ◆ He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy to stand, and he that learns not his duty and shows himself not approved, shall not be counted worthy to stand. Even so. Amen. D&C 104:44b



What It Means to “Magnifying our Calling”?

- ◆ Jacob 1:19 And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads, if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence;
- ◆ Jacob 1:20 Wherefore, **by laboring with our might**, their blood might not come upon our garments; otherwise, their blood would come upon our garments, and we would not be found spotless at the last day.



Sons of Mosiah Magnified their Calling & Received Power and Authority - Alma 12:3-7

- ◆ And what added more to his joy, they were still his brethren in the Lord; yea, and **a.) they had waxed strong in the knowledge of the truth**;
- ◆ For they were men of a sound understanding, and **b.) they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God**.
- ◆ But this is not all: **c.) they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting**, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God.
- ◆ And they had been teaching the word of God **d.) for the space of fourteen years, among the Lamanites**, having had much success in bringing many to the knowledge of the truth;
- ◆ Yea, **by the power of their words**, many were brought before the altar of God, to call on his name, and confess their sins before him.



Magnifying Our Calling Involves:



1. Searching the scriptures diligently
2. Given to much prayer and fasting
3. Reasoning together under the direction of the Holy Spirit
4. Keeping His Commandments
5. Teaching and serving His people
6. Sharing the Gospel
7. Sacrifice



Promises associated with “Magnifying Our Calling”



Verily, I say unto you, If these my servants will henceforth magnify their calling in honor before me, they shall become men of power and excellent wisdom in the assemblies of my people.

Doctrine and Covenants 117:5



Who can keep us from fulfilling our calling?

◆ No One but Ourselves

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Romans 8:38-39**



Brother Earl Curry speaks of conditions associated with spiritual authority and power as they relate to magnifying our calling. He said:

- ◆ “The finest blessings, the most gracious bestowal of more than pentecostal power, cannot come to men:
 - Whose trust is in worldly wisdom and the arm of flesh;
 - neither can it come to such men as are self-centered, or arrogant, or proud, or overcome with surfeiting,
 - or whose lives are filled with a multitude of interests which are of little lasting value;
 - nor can it come to any whose hearts are hardened and insensitive to spiritual guidance or whose spiritual perceptions are of low order, or are as mere crumbs from the bounteous table of the Lord.



Brother Curry continues:

It will not come to any number or set of ministers who in their own wisdom and counsel bring the ways and means and methods of the great and abominable Church or any of her worldly daughters and seek to substitute these for the simple, the unpretentious, but yet...deeply spiritual ways of the Lord.

It cannot come to those whose hearts are impure and whose lives are stained, sometimes very deeply with the sins of negligence or extreme preoccupation with the affairs of the world or failure to make the great concerns of the Lord their great concerns, or are light-minded, or are ignorant of the word of God, or know not the word of the prophets, nor see the starkly clear signs of approaching catastrophic crises.

It is impossible for it to come to men who, in this day—when the long foretold judgments of the Almighty are about to sweep over the earth—are concerned with little more than the Churches of the world....





Brother Curry concludes:



Yet, all who will, all who see, **may now prepare themselves.** Blessed are all such as shall draw close to the Lord in lowliness of heart, in great love, sacrificially, and in great faith. Such will be pillars of strength to God's people, and they shall be instruments of power in His hands...

If you are filled with a Godly concern, if you become of great faith, if you will call on Him in mighty prayer, if you will prepare yourselves, if you will go apart into the quietness of the woods or hills or desert places, or best of all, into the solemnities of holy sanctuaries—into places where you can listen for the still small voice—behold, **He shall wondrously show you what lies ahead. He will show it to the spiritually awake among you, be they aged or young. God would make you strong for these times. He would have you take such steps in preparation as only He can show you.”**

(The Endowment by Earl R. Curry, pp. 6-8)



Priesthood Standards, Ethics & Conduct



“Overall right action results not so much in determining what is wrong and avoiding it but rather in the field of consistent action in goodness already proved. The apostle Paul supports this view when he says: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

“The real minister is, therefore, duly concerned' with such things as development of talents, attitude toward temporal things, use of time, consideration of family, relationship with the church, association with fellow ministers, and obligation to people.” In all, the practice must not be divorced from the ideal expressed in precept. It is the business of the ordained man to live his religion at all times.”

(Source: 1964 Priesthood Manual pg. 52)



Questions About An Engaged Priesthood

- ◆ What does it mean for priesthood to be “actively engaged” in ministry?
- ◆ What constitutes an “active” or “inactive” priesthood member?
- ◆ What are reasonable expectations for priesthood?
- ◆ What are reasonable expectations for priesthood in magnifying their calling?

Standards of Priesthood -1964 Priesthood Manual pg.55



“Once a man is called of God, set apart, and ordained to an office in the priesthood, he immediately finds himself in the spotlight of public attention, and his personal standards become a matter of public concern. We have already discussed some of the qualities which are assumed relative to a man's calling and ordination to an office.

“These assumptions point toward high standards of conduct and daily living. (They are realistic standards ...attainable through dilligence and devotion and the grace of God”

It is assumed that he:

- ◆ believes in God and
- ◆ accepts him as the supreme authority in his life.
- ◆ accepts the church of Jesus Christ as God's divine organization on earth for ministry to men.
- ◆ accepts the authority of the word of God as contained in the scriptures.
- ◆ has turned his back upon the ways of the world and has set his mind upon the achievement of the will of God in his life.





Distinction between “keeping” the code, and “living” the code. –



Law of Moses vs. Liberty of the Gospel

- ◆ **Galatians 5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.
5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
- ◆ **James 1:25** But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.



Character

"Character is not reflected by what we say, or even by what we intend, it is a reflection of what we do." – Anonymous



How is it Revealed?

- ◆ “In the action you take to carry out the values, ethics and morals that you believe in.
- ◆ “Consistency between what you say you will do and what you actually do.
- ◆ “Moral strength. It takes moral courage to do what is right when it may cost more than you are willing to pay.
- ◆ “Who you are and what you do when no one is looking.”

(Source: Defining Values, Morals, and Ethics—Frank J. Navran)



A Minister's Code Of Ethics: A Higher Level Of Commitment And Conduct By James A. Reasons



- ◆ “In summary, a written code of ethics cannot affect a character change. Only internal integrity, the righteousness and the godliness of a minister, will chart his course through dark, murky waters.
- ◆ Even so, a code of ethics is a sieve through which gray areas with seemingly no clear delineation of right and wrong, are exposed to light. A code of ethics is extremely helpful in the minister's quest to do the right thing. Yet, without the basic, internal commitment of integrity to his calling, the code becomes only another set of rules to digest.”



Dealing with Ethical Dilemmas

“When duties to self, to his immediate family, and to the larger community conflict, how is the conscientious minister to know what to do?” *1964 Priesthood Manual pg.52*

Examples of Ethical Dilemmas

- ◆ Keeping confidences versus something potentially harmful
- ◆ Spending time doing the work versus spending time with the family
- ◆ Respecting authority versus personal values
- ◆ Appearance of impropriety versus something that's really not wrong



What process do you use to deal with ethical questions or dilemmas?

- ◆ How will this affect my ability to offer ministry?
- ◆ What would a reasonable person do?
- ◆ How will people that know me perceive my decision?
- ◆ How will what I do impact someone's faith?
- ◆ Will I sleep tonight?
- ◆ What will people I respect think?
- ◆ What are the intended and possibly unintended outcomes?



Ministerial Harmony Enjoined



- ◆ *The Spirit saith further: That the elders and delegates assembled in business capacity are counseled to **cease permitting the spirit of recrimination and accusation to find place in their discourse, either public or private**, as it tends to destroy confidence and create distrust not only in those present at councils where they occur, but to those to whom the knowledge of such a course of procedure comes by the voice of those who are present and witness what is said and done. **There should be harmony, and the Spirit enjoins it upon all, that the Master may be remembered as in meekness and due sobriety he carried on the great work to which he was called.**”
(Doctrine and Covenants 130:8)*



Ministerial Conduct and Promises



- ◆ And now I say unto you mine elders, apostles and high priests of my church, Continue ye in the ministry unto which you have been called; and if ye cannot fully agree on all the points of the law, be patient and be not contentious; so far as you can agree work together without heat, confusion, or malice.
- ◆ Ye are equal in worth of position and place in the work of the church; and if in honor ye shall prefer one another, ye will not strive for precedence or place in duty or privilege, and shall be blessed of me.
- ◆ Yea, verily, thus saith the Lord, unto the elders of the church: continue in steadfastness and faith.
- ◆ Let nothing separate you from each other and the work whereunto you have been called; and I will be with you by my Spirit and presence of power unto the end. Amen.

(Doctrine & Covenants 122:16-17b)



Ministerial Conduct and Promises



*“And again, verily I say unto you, that it is your privilege, and a promise I give unto you that have been ordained unto this ministry, **that inasmuch as you strip yourselves from jealousies and fears, and humble yourselves before me, for ye are not sufficiently humble, the veil shall be rent, and you shall see me and know that I am...wherefore continue in patience until ye are perfected.**”*

(Doctrine and Covenants 67:3a,3c)

Ministerial Conduct (I Timothy 3-7)

- ◆ A bishop then must be blameless,
- ◆ the husband of one wife,
- ◆ vigilant, sober, of good behavior,
- ◆ given to hospitality,
- ◆ apt to teach;
- ◆ Not given to wine,
- ◆ no striker,
- ◆ not greedy of filthy lucre;
- ◆ but patient,
- ◆ not a brawler,
- ◆ not covetous;
- ◆ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)
- ◆ Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
- ◆ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Ministerial Conduct (I Timothy 3:8-13)

- ◆ Likewise the deacons must be grave,
- ◆ not double-tongued,
- ◆ not given to much wine,
- ◆ not greedy of filthy lucre;
- ◆ Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
- ◆ And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.
- ◆ Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.
- ◆ Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses will.
- ◆ For they that have used the office of a deacon will purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.



Apply and Implement Your Calling



- ◆ **Have an eye single to the glory of God**

D&C 85:18 — no darkness, filled with light, mind single to God, can unveil His face to you

Luke 2:49 — I must be about My Fathers business

- ◆ **Learn your duty** Alma 2:26 — stir them up to a remembrance of their duties

D&C 104:44a — Learn your duty, act in the office in which you have been appointed

- ◆ **Stand in your own office**

D&C 83:21a — Stand in own office & labor in own calling

D&C 42.3c; 54:1b; 57:2, 3a; 58:9a; 80:1g — stand in office in which you are appointed

(Source: *The Nature and Stewardship of Priesthood* by Elder Robert Giertz – Updated March 4, 2004)



Apply and Implement Your Calling

- ◆ **Don't focus on “greater responsibility sometime later,” concentrate on the service required of you today** — Be concerned more where you are with the Lord, and less about your brother's position.
- ◆ **Labor in your own calling**
D&C 38:5c — Teach one another according to your office, practice virtue & holiness
- ◆ **Equal in worth and work in the Lord** (Inequality comes through satan & the practice of priestcraft)
D&C 122:16b — equal in worth of position and place in the work of the church
Alma 15:50 — inequality because of sin & transgression, cunning plans of the devil
2 Nephi 11:106 (Seek not for the welfare of Zion) — set themselves up for a light, to get gain

(Source: *The Nature and Stewardship of Priesthood* by Elder Robert Giertz – Updated March 4, 2004)



Apply and Implement Your Calling



- ◆ **The day of our willingness will be the day of God's power**

Numbers 25:11 “hath turned My wrath away while he was zealous for My sake.”

Helaman 3:115-120 “because thou hast done this with such unwearyingness . . . ye shall have power

- ◆ **Ask the Lord to consecrate your performance**

2 Nephi 14:12 — do nothing save you ask the Lord first

- ◆ **Risk, rather than playing it safe.** Souls are at stake. Price paid by Christ worth the sacrifice.

- ◆ **Seek to obtain “Spirit Directed,”** rather than “Book Learning” ministry

- ◆ **Intellect does not replace a steadfast faith and a willing heart**

- ◆ **Be a Self-Starter rather than a Slow-Starter** (Don't wait to be asked to serve)

(Source: *The Nature and Stewardship of Priesthood* by Elder Robert Giertz – Updated March 4, 2004)



Apply and Implement Your Calling



- ◆ **Set your own house in order first** — see Proverbs 25:28 [learn to rule over own spirit] - 1 Timothy 3:5 D&C 90:6e,f, 90:7; 90:8c; 90:9
- ◆ **Remove the “log” from you own eye before attempting to remove the “speck” from your brothers**
- ◆ **Increase your desire to serve others, rather than self**
- ◆ **View your service to God as continuous, rather than at specific times as occasion requires.**
- ◆ **Replace or restore that which is lacking in your ministry with those qualities that are needful**
- ◆ **Resist that which prevents effective ministry**
- ◆ **Be not a slothful servant** — lack of zeal; idle, lazy; hesitating, timid
D&C 58:6e-f [doeth nothing until commanded, receive a commandment with doubtful heart] - D&C 104:44b [learns not his duty, is not approved, not worthy] - Proverbs 19:15 [casts one into a deep sleep] Proverbs 24:30-31 [field of slothful servant overgrown with thorns]

(Source: *The Nature and Stewardship of Priesthood* by Elder Robert Giertz – Updated March 4, 2004)



Apply and Implement Your Calling

- ◆ **Nourish those you serve with Spiritual Food and Living Water.**
- ◆ **Prepare the minds of the people to receive Jesus Christ at His coming; cultivate the soil (heart) for planting**

D&C 65:1c-e — Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare for the Supper, make ready for bridegroom

Alma 19:23 — This was the ministry unto which ye were called

Alma 16:152ff — Book of Mormon version of the parable of the “Sower”

- ◆ **Declare the word of God in power** Be valiant in testimony of Jesus Christ - Preach; Teach; Reach
- ◆ **Repair the wounded, bruised and broken hearts**
- ◆ **Restore a hope in Christ**
Moroni 10:15,16 [We must have hope; if there is no hope there is despair]
Moroni 7:3 [obtain a sufficient hope by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord]
- ◆ **Plant the seed — Warn and bear witness**
- ◆ **Water and nourish as often you are directed — build up the testimony of others**

(Source: *The Nature and Stewardship of Priesthood* by Elder Robert Giertz – Updated March 4, 2004)



Apply and Implement Your Calling



- ◆ **Remember, God gives the increase**
- ◆ **Be an offender in nothing**
- ◆ **If you cannot fully agree on all the points of the gospel law, be patient and continue to work together for the sake of the brethren.**
D&C 98:6g “While they were at variance one with another they became very slothful, and they hearkened not unto the commandments of their Lord.”
- ◆ **Let nothing separate you from each other and the work whereunto you are called.**
- ◆ **Prefer one another at all times**
- ◆ **Exhort one another — be accountable one to another**
- ◆ **Live the Gospel at all times**
- ◆ **Be not weary of well doing**
- ◆ **Be like-minded, no divisions, no murmuring or disputations; no spirit of distrust**
- ◆ **Be about the task of freeing Zion from her bondage**
D&C 137:6b; D&C 138:3a

(Source: *The Nature and Stewardship of Priesthood* by Elder Robert Giertz – Updated March 4, 2004)



The Urgency of the Hour – If Not Now, When?



Our Latter Day Commission – D&C 1:1d & 2a-b

...The voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days, and they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.

Behold, this is mine authority, and the authority of my servants, and my preface unto the book of my commandments, which I have given them to publish unto you, O inhabitants of the earth;

wherefore fear and tremble, O ye people, for what I the Lord have decreed, in them, shall be fulfilled.



Latter Day Commission — D&C 1:2c-e & 3a-c



And verily, I say unto you, that they who go forth, bearing these tidings unto the inhabitants of the earth, to them is power given to seal, both on earth and in heaven, the unbelieving and rebellious; yea, verily, to seal them up unto the day when the wrath of God shall be poured out upon the wicked without measure; unto the day when the Lord shall come to recompense unto every man according to his work, and measure to every man according to the measure which he has measured to his fellow man.

Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear;

prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed;

and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people;



Latter Day Commission – D&C 1:4

Wherefore I the Lord, knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments, and also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things unto the world;

and all this that it might be fulfilled, which was written by the prophets;

the weak things of the world shall come forth and break down the mighty and strong ones, that man should not counsel his fellow man, neither trust in the arm of flesh, but that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world;

that faith also might increase in the earth; that mine everlasting covenant might be established;

that the fullness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple, unto the ends of the world, and before kings and rulers.



Latter Day Commission & Endowment

In Doctrine and Covenants 85:23a-b, the following understanding is shared, *"Therefore, tarry ye, and labor diligently, that you may be perfected in your ministry, to go forth among the Gentiles for the last time, as many as the mouth of the Lord shall name, to bind up the law, and seal up the testimony, and to prepare the saints for the hour of judgment, which is to come; that their souls may escape the wrath of God, the desolation of abomination, which await the wicked, both in this world, and in the world to come."*

While Section 85 does not specifically use the term "endowment," it does allude to it and provides some foundational understanding concerning the purpose of endowment as well as direction to the elders on the need to be perfected in their ministry. Since perfection can come only from a perfect source, the phrase, "that you may be perfected in your ministry," can only be interpreted as the elders being endowed from on high. The perfecting of their ministry, or being endowed, is for two purposes. **The first purpose is a call for the elders to go forth to the Gentiles for the last time.**

The second purpose is to prepare the Saints that they might escape the judgment that is to come.

(Source: A Study Guide – Preparing To Be Endowed, 2001 – Introduction by Vim Horn)



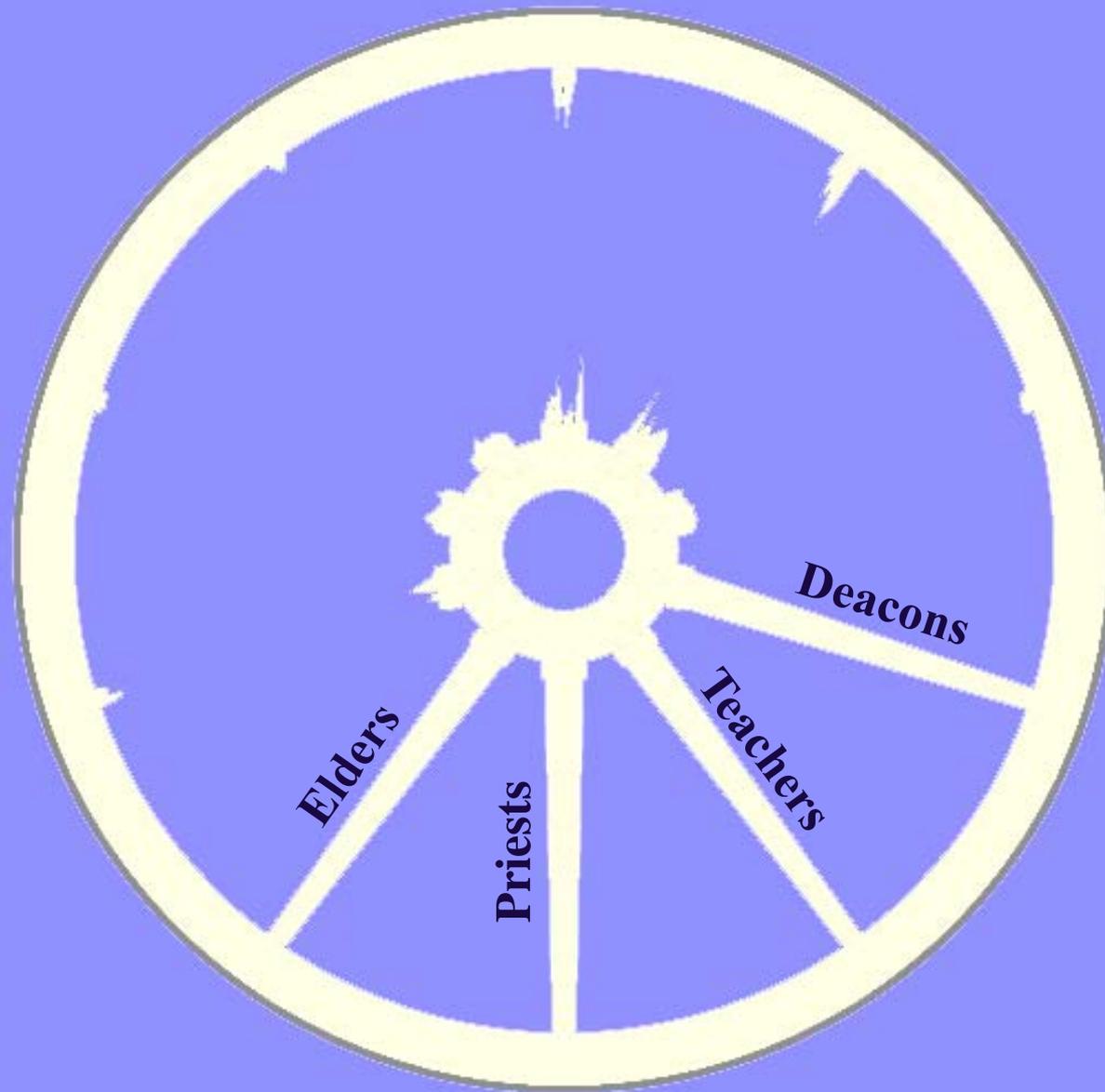
My servants -

must repent, cease to hesitate,
procrastinate, and wander in indecision
and lack diligence in your calling to my
work

My work is yet before you and awaits your
full commitment

Council given to the Church of Jesus Christ Oak Grove
Restoration Branch Priesthood through Elder James Cawley
– March 12, 2006

Source: Power Point Presentation by Elder Dayn Cederstrom



Future Priesthood Wheel of the Restoration



Urgency of the Hour – If not now, When?

“The hastening time is here and greater unity than ever before is necessary if the forces of opposition are to be met; and such unity will prevail if those holding the priesthood will remember their commission to preach the gospel, and each officer will strive to discharge his own duty and magnify his calling. The promise has been given that no power shall stay the hand of God in the accomplishment of his purposes among his people;”

(Doctrine and Covenants 135:2b-3a.)





Urgency of the Hour – If not now, When?

*“I admonish the Church, and particularly those of the priesthood, that the hastening time being upon us there is great necessity for confidence in the men of the Church chosen for positions of great responsibility, and all should consecrate of their talents, abilities, and substance for the prosecution of the great work intrusted to us. **Everywhere the demand for great activity exists,** and for the accomplishment of our work the great essential is fraternal cooperation in service to man and devoted consecration to God and his work.”*

(Doctrine and Covenants 132:3-4)