

PRIESTHOOD AUTHORITY with POWER

Lesson learning objectives: To understand...

- that Christ's ministry exhibited authority with power
- that there are two types of authority, *positional* authority and *functional* authority and that both types of authority are required to serve and offer effective ministry
- that positional authority is conferred and functional authority involves *magnifying our calling*
- that to exercise *authority with power* priesthood must be actively engaged in magnifying their calling
- that authority is relational—it involves three parties, God, the man, and God's people
- that priesthood authority and power can be lost if not used, or if abused and not used as God intends

1. 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...

✚ "Jesus demonstrated his calling by the exercise of spiritual power. Matthew says that he "went

about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom" and then he adds, significantly, that Jesus among the people." On another occasion he says that "men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"¹⁵ **Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956**

2. "Authority" Defined

✚ New World Dictionary, rev. 1980

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.

✚ This type of authority can be referred to as "Positional Authority" or "Legal Authority"

3. Positional Authority – Having a Commission

✚ 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**)

4. Priesthood Represents a Unique Type of Positional Authority

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.

✎ So, what is the unique providence of priesthood authority?

“The right understanding of this question is this; **priesthood is delegated authority from God**, and is given for a specific purpose, and while men are in the exercise of it within the province of this purpose, they are agents for him who has bestowed it; and whenever they transcend the province of that authority they cease to act for God. Nor is it that which is inherent in the man by which everything that he does is qualifiedly of the Lord; and it is only when and so long as men speak with the direct recognition of him who has sent them and within the province of the delegated authority, that they speak as agents for God.” **Source: Address to the priesthood, delivered by President Joseph Smith III. At the General Conference, Lamoni, Iowa, Friday, April 14, 1893. Supplement to The Saints' Herald. Lamoni, Iowa, July 22, 1893.**

✎ “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” — **Source: Presidency and Priesthood, Kelly, page 2**

5. Aaron's Call – Example of Priesthood Positional Authority

Exodus 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,

Exodus 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.

Numbers 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;

6. Three important meanings of “Authority” - the right to act, the right to govern, and the right to be heard.

- 1) “Authority in the sense of **the right to act** is of the type involved in performing a marriage ceremony, signing a legal document, or officiating at a baptism. This kind of authority depends primarily on the commission of the one acting. If his commission is not valid beyond all doubt, his right to act is in question.”
- 2) “Authority **to direct or to govern** is of the legal type possessed by the governor of a state, or the captain of a ship; or of the administrative type possessed by an apostle, stake president, or district president. This authority depends partly on commission and partly on ability. Those exercising it must have a clear right to do so. They must also have at least the minimum requirements in knowledge, training, experience, insight, and power demanded by their tasks.”
- 3) “Authority in the sense of **the right to proclaim and to be listened to** is the authority of the prophet, the doctor, and the teacher. We recognize it when we say that Dr. Jones is an authority, and mean that he knows what he is talking about in his field. His authority comes from his training, experience, and judgment. It arises from what he knows, what he is, and what he can do. Yet even here, where personal qualities are of primary importance, the commission is significant. It is a mark of official recognition and acceptance.”
Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956

7. “Authority” and “Keys” are often interchanged

Doctrine & Covenants 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.

8. “Authority” Defined Further

✎ **New World Dictionary, rev. 1980**

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

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

9. Functional Authority—Authority with Power

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

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

✎ Both are required to have **“Authority” with “Power”**

10. Examples of Priesthood Functional Authority

1 Corinthians 2:4 My preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of Power

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people

Mormon 4:30 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

Moroni 7:35 And Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me

11. Being “Commissioned” – having “Positional Authority” is Not Enough

✎ **“A minister must be properly commissioned. But, if he is to minister effectively, he must also be an informed and good and wise and humble man. His ministry must have ‘moral weightiness.’”**

“The ministry of Jesus gives us the supreme example of this moral weightiness. Both Matthew and Mark tell us that the chief priests and elders came into the temple as Jesus was teaching and asked: “By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?”¹⁵ They had legitimate concern about the legal status of the Master. They wanted to know who vouched for him. But the common people went to the heart of the matter when they commented among themselves that “He taught them as one having authority, not as the scribes.”¹⁶ His message carried conviction. It was, in fact, “the power of God unto salvation.”¹⁷ “Never man spake like this man.”¹⁸ Dr. George A. Buttrick says that Jesus had an authority born of meditation and of love and of life and of the power of God.¹⁹ **“Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956**

Matthew 17:19-21 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.**

12. “It is of the nature of authority that it shall be demonstrated in power.”

✎ **“In the field of religion, spiritual power is the clear and final evidence of divine commission.**

We may accept the authority of the minister officiating in the ordinances of the church on the basis of his commission. But if no spiritual gains accrue from obedience to the ordinances which he administers, then we lose confidence in both the minister and the ordinances. More dearly, perhaps, we tend to accept on the basis of their ordination those who are to direct the affairs of branches or districts. But after a time we reject and replace those whose record shows no evidence of power in action. And, to carry the principle yet further, we know in our hearts that the heralds of light and truth must demonstrate their calling. Their good news must be proclaimed with power, and in the Holy Ghost, and with heaven-sent assurance.”

Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956

✎ “In similar fashion, in the early days of the Restoration and of the Reorganization, the divine calling of the elders was demonstrated in their evident spiritual authority. This is what commended them to their generation, and to each other. They had moral authority derived from their persistent study of the Scriptures, their sacrificial devotion, and their pioneering spirit. But the necessary plus element, the thing that commended them, was their evident spiritual effectiveness. The Lord confirmed the work with signs following. They were men of authority because they were men of spiritual power.” **Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956**

13. When priesthood authority isn’t there – the work of the Gospel is frustrated

Mosiah 9:176 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.**

Doctrine and Covenants 83:3c 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.

14. “Magnifying Our Calling” has to do with Functional Authority

Doctrine & Covenants 104:44a Wherefore, **now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed,** in all diligence.

Doctrine & Covenants 104:44b 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.

15. Magnify Our Calling – Enhancing Our Ability to Exercise Our Authority with Spiritual Power

✎ Spiritual power and authority is the power of the gospel which makes for salvation.²³ It was with this in mind that the Apostle Paul wrote, “I magnify mine office; if by any means I ... might save some.”²⁴ A similar statement from modern revelation is enlightening:

*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.*²⁵

The thought is that, as the minister enters into the larger aspects of his calling, meeting its most exacting demands with courage and high expectation, so he is endowed with power from on high and men are saved from sin and to righteousness.

Our church is poorer today than she was in an earlier day because so many of us have lost the vision of the glory of salvation. We are content to think in minimums instead of maximums. Men who exercise priesthood after the order of the Son of God need an enlightened appreciation of what it means to be safe under God. It means, first of all, to be an integrated personality, to have no civil war within himself, to be committed unreservedly to the best that he can see and know and do. It means to be aware of power to the uttermost, and to be alive with that power for the achievement of

the best. It means to have a present sense of victory against the background of the ages.
Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956

16. Magnify Your Calling

Doctrine & Covenants 83:6c-d 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;

17. What It Means to “Magnify Our Calling”?

Jacob 1:19-20 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; Wherefore, **by laboring with our mights**, 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.

18. 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 ¹**the spirit of prophecy**, and ²**the spirit of revelation**, and when they taught, **d.) they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God**. And they had been teaching the word of God **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.

19. 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

20. Promise associated with “Magnifying Our Calling”

Doctrine & Covenants 117:5 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**.

21. Who can keep us from fulfilling our calling?



No One but Ourselves!

“What impedes and defeats the work of God in us is our self-will, our determination to run our own lives in our own way. This is why Jesus told his disciples, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.” *Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956*

Romans 8:38-39 “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.”

22. Authority must be Recognized and Accepted in order to have Redemptive 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.

☞ “As will be seen, recognition of authority on this level demands insight on the part of those for whom it is exercised. Jesus did his work among the chosen people and in the “meridian of time:”²⁰ He was not well received. At times his power to bless was limited by lack of faith among the people.²¹ But if no one of his generation had had the insight to recognize his spiritual majesty, he would not have been received at all. He did not do his work in a spiritual vacuum. The Spirit both prepared the hearts of his hearers and strove to quicken them into responsiveness.”

Unless there is moral perception among the people there will be little appreciation of the authority of moral weightiness, little communication of truth and power. But lack of receptivity on the part of needy men does not end the responsibility of godly men toward them. It is the business of the church, and especially of the elders, and most especially of the general authorities of the church, to create and preserve the moral climate in which spiritual values are known and loved for their own sake. Here is a goal worthy of the finest preaching ministry. To this purpose prayer and testimony meetings can contribute rich experiences in the sharing and refining of ideals and the development of spiritual sensitivity.”

Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956

23. Authority can be lost

☞ “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*” **Source: Presidency and Priesthood, Kelly**

24. Spiritual Authority and Power are Conditional

☞ “In the spiritual realm it is imperative that authority shall be more than legal. It must have what Dr. Williams calls “moral weightiness,”¹³ That is, it must commend itself to persons of moral caliber by virtue of its own soundness.

Negatively, this principle demands that a known evildoer shall not be permitted to administer the ordinances,¹⁴ that an arrogant man shall not be selected to lead, and that an ignorant and unwise man shall not be called upon to preach.

Positively, it demands that the ministry of one who serves at the table of the Lord shall be supported by his clean life, that he who leads in the affairs of the kingdom shall himself seek divine guidance, and that the ministry of preaching shall be exercised out of a background of sound understanding.”

Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956

25. Priesthood Authority is limited/defined

Doctrine and Covenants 104:44a 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 Sec 17:12a Every elder, priest, teacher, or deacon, is to be ordained according to the gifts and callings of God unto him;

26. Priesthood receives power in proportion to the work to be done

☞ (Joseph speaking) “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*

27. Pentecostal power is not given to incite Pentecostal emotions.

✎ But the distinguishing mark of the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of his ministry at its best, is that it is primarily power unto salvation. It is this power that deals with the heart of a man in its essential quality, with his moral strength and stature, with the way he stands among his fellows and before God. This kind of power is primary. Its accompaniment may be physical healing or mental poise or community well-being. Its goal and its justification is godliness. When men are being truly saved from the service of less than the best, and saved to the service of the best, then the power of God is being made truly manifest. Pentecostal power is not given to incite Pentecostal emotions. It is given to persuade men to undertake Pentecostal tasks; to make them sure and strong and able and resourceful, that the kingdom may be built. *Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956*

28. Manifestations of Spiritual Authority and Power in the Work

✎ “We are concerned in a gospel which has authority, because it comes to men in the power of the Holy Spirit with assurance born of that Spirit in both ministry and people. Such authority will be manifest in many ways. These cannot be charted since the Spirit “bloweth where it listeth,”³⁰ “dividing to every man severally as he will.”³¹ Nevertheless, there are certain characteristic manifestations of spiritual authority of commission needs to be augmented by the authority of power.”

“Spiritual authority and power are manifest,

- in rightly declaring the word of truth ;³²
- in administering the ordinances;³³
- in healing the sick;³⁴
- in exercising the gifts of the gospel;³⁵

- in judging the erring,³⁶ and in guiding the church.³⁷”

Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956

29. Priesthood Calls and Ordination is the Means of Conferring Priesthood Authority

Doctrine & Covenants 42:4 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.

Mosiah 11:18. . . . none received authority to preach or teach except it were by him (Alma) from God.

30. Ordination Confers Right to Act

✎ “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*

✎ Whenever an individual is called of God, as a matter of course he feels that he is authorized to teach, but it must needs be that there shall be recognition of this right to teach, and the church is that which as the human representative of the voice of God by which the authority is recognized and the right to act in it is sanctioned. “Many are called; but few are chosen,” and by the imposition of the hands of the church, and in the name of Christ who is the chief builder of the church, is the right to act for the church conferred upon the individual who is called of God. And they are not qualified by the laying on of hands alone; it is but the outward form of choosing, a recognition of that which is within them by virtue of the calling of God unto them and his gifts to them, for which they must answer unto God alone in the day of judgment. The church confers the right to act in the name

of the church and in the name of Christ as an officer of the church, and it can take this right from a man, but it can never absolve him from his obligation to God for that which God has bestowed upon him; for that he must answer before the court of heaven. It is a responsible thing, this right to act conferred upon a man, and I do not wonder that the Savior said even when he was but twelve years of age, "Know ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Every minister called of God should bear that in mind, and from the hour that he is consecrated by the laying on of hands and set apart to work in the ministry he must feel within himself the movings of that very Spirit which moved the Savior when he was a boy, and said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"
Source: Address to the priesthood, delivered by President Joseph Smith III. At the General Conference, Lamoni, Iowa, Friday, April 14, 1893. Supplement to *The Saints' Herald*. Lamoni, Iowa, July 22, 1893.

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

33. Authority is 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 relational as well and has 3 parties**

1) Authority to act must come from God to man

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

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, . . .

Doctrine & Covenants 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.

2) Authority has to be accepted and embraced by the man called

Doctrine & Covenants 63:15a 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

Alma 8:8 Nevertheless, I did harden my heart, for I was called many times and I would not

31. 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 I, Jacob, gave unto them these words as I taught them in the temple, having firstly obtained mine errand from the Lord.

Doctrine & Covenants 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;

32. God uses those who have Authority to Confer Priesthood Authority on Others

Doctrine and Covenants Sec 17:12b and he is to be ordained by the power of the Holy Ghost which is in the one who ordains him.

hear; Therefore, I knew concerning these things, yet I would not know [Amulek]

3) Authority has to be accepted by the people, 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;

Doctrine & Covenants 125:14c 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.

We must always ask ourselves, “Are we worthy of this respect?”

34. “Priesthood Accountability”

✎ **Doctrine & Covenants 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.”** *The Nature and Stewardship of Priesthood* by Elder Robert Giertz – Updated March 4, 2004

35. 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

36. Priesthood Authority Not to Be Taken Lightly

Doctrine & Covenants 60:1b 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

37. Authority Not Properly Maintained—Can Be Suspended or Lost

Doctrine & Covenants 43:3c Inasmuch as ye do it not, it shall be taken; even that which ye have received.

Doctrine & Covenants 34:4f 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.

Doctrine & Covenants 60:2a And it shall come to pass, if they are not more faithful unto me, it shall be taken away, even that which they have.

✎ “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.**

38. 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.

39. Consequences of Breaking the Covenant of Priesthood

Doctrine & Covenants 83:6f-h 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.**

Doctrine & Covenants 58:6i 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.**

40. Brother Earl Curry speaks of conditions associated with spiritual authority with power as it relates to those who are called to serve. 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.

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." **Source: *The Endowment* by Earl R. Curry, pp. 6-8**