

LESSON 7 *by Dennis N. Roberts*

“The First Principles & Ordinances of the Gospel”

(Objective: to help members understand blessings of First Principles)

Welcome / Intro / Historical Background

Fourth Article of Faith is door to many blessings

1- 1st Principle = Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ?

D&C 19:23; 88:118 How can we strengthen our faith?

What are some circumstances that require the exercise of faith?

D&C 20:69 How can we demonstrate our faith?

D&C 8:10 What can we accomplish without faith?

D&C 35:9;42:48-51;63:9-11 What can we accomplish with faith?

2- 2nd Principle = Sincere repentance brings blessings

D&C 58:42-43 What is repentance?

Supplement #1 President Ezra Taft Benson

D&C 18:11-13 What about the Savior's love for us?

Why is faith in Jesus Christ necessary for repentance?

Supplement #2 Elder Neal A. Maxwell

3- 1st Ordinance = Baptism is an essential ordinance

D&C 18:22; 49:13-14 What is the purpose of baptism?

Supplement #3 Purposes of baptism

D&C 20:37 What are qualifications for baptism?

D&C 76:51 What does baptism symbolize?

4- 2nd Ordinance = Confirmation brings gift of Holy Ghost

D&C 130:22 Who is Holy Ghost?

What is difference between manifestation and gift of HG?

Supplement #4 Elder H. Oaks

Supplement #5 Functions of Holy Ghost

5- Endure to the end in faith to receive eternal life

D&C 14:7 What does 'endure to end' mean?

D&C 24:8 What does 'enduring to end' require?

How does this apply to me?

How can I personally benefit from the 1st Principles and Ordinances?

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LESSON 7 SUPPLEMENTS *by Dennis N. Roberts*

SUPPLEMENT #1 President Ezra Taft Benson

“Repentance means more than simply a reformation of behavior. True repentance is based on and flows from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way. True repentance involves a change of heart and not just a change of behavior. (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson [1988], 71)

SUPPLEMENT #2 Elder Neal A. Maxwell

“Repentance is a rescuing... It is available to the gross sinner as well as to the already good individual striving for incremental improvement.”
(General Conference Oct, 1991)

SUPPLEMENT #3 Purposes of Baptism

- 1- Showing commitment to Savior
- 2- Receiving remission of sins
- 3- Becoming members of the church
- 4- Entering the path leading to exaltation
- 5- Preparing to receive Holy Ghost

SUPPLEMENT #4 Elder Dallin N. Oaks

“Manifestations of the Holy Ghost are given to lead sincere seekers to gospel truths that will persuade them to repentance and baptism. The gift of the Holy Ghost is more comprehensive... It includes the right to constant companionship...”
(General Conference Oct, 1996)

SUPPLEMENT #5 Functions of Holy Ghost

- 1- D&C 18:18; 39:6; 42:14; 75:10 ----- Teacher
- 2- D&C 39:6 ----- Comforter
- 3- D&C 42:17; 100:8 ----- Testifier
- 4- D&C 11:12 ----- Leads us to do good
- 5- D&C 11:13; 76:10 ----- Enlightens our mind
- 6- D&C 84:33 ----- Sanctification
- 7- D&C 31:11; 75:27; 84:85 ----- Inspires

SUPPLEMENT Elder Boyd K. Packer

“The shield of faith is not produced in a factory, but at home. The ultimate purpose of all we teach is to unite parents and children in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore our leaders press members to understand that what is most worth doing must be done at home. Some still do not see that too many out-of-home activities, however well intended, leave too little time to make and fit the shield of faith at home.”
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Lord restored gospel to JS line upon line, precept upon precept. Some of the first were first principles and ordinances. Why call them the "first" principles and ordinances?

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Fourth Article of Faith is door to many blessings

Which of the first principles started the restoration?

Does faith affect our desire and our ability to do good works?

1- 1st Principle = Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ? ----- Why important that we center our faith in JC?
 D&C 19:23; 88:118 How can we strengthen our faith? ----- Does faith comes with one experience? Faith needs to be nurtured.
 What are some circumstances that require the exercise of faith? ----- How can faith in Christ strengthen our relationship with others?
 D&C 20:69 How can we demonstrate our faith? ----- Walk different if we walked with God? / Whose been to Holy Land or Sacred Groove?
 D&C 8:10 What can we accomplish without faith? ----- What does this mean? I can do lots of things without faith, right?
 D&C 35:9;42:48-51;63:9-11 What can we accomplish with faith? ----- (don't read scriptures) How can we work toward increasing our faith?

2- 2nd Principle = Sincere repentance brings blessings

D&C 58:42-43 What is repentance? ----- Process of becoming cleansed & receiving forgiveness through atonement
 Supplement #1 President Ezra Taft Benson ----- What is difference between changing a behavior and repentance?
 D&C 18:11-13 What about the Savior's love for us? ----- Why do we need atonement to repent?
 Why is faith in Jesus Christ necessary for repentance? ----- Why is it sometimes hard to forgive ourselves?
 Supplement #2 Elder Neal A. Maxwell ----- Repentance can be difficult but brings much joy as a reward

3- 1st Ordinance = Baptism is an essential ordinance

Faith and repentance lead to baptism

D&C 18:22 What is the purpose of baptism? ----- Why is baptism called the first ordinance of the gospel?
 Supplement #3 Purposes of baptism ----- Who remembers their baptism? What did it mean to you?
 D&C 20:37 What are qualifications for baptism? ----- What covenants do we make?
 D&C 76:51 What does baptism symbolize? ----- 1- Death and burial of Christ / 2- burial of old self and rebirth

4- 2nd Ordinance = Confirmation brings gift of Holy Ghost

D&C 130:22 Who is Holy Ghost? ----- No body, but a member of the godhead
 What is difference between manifestation and gift of HG? ----- How precious is the gift of the HG?
 Supplement #4 Elder H. Oaks ----- Bruce R. McConkie "flashes of lightning vs continuous sunlight"
 Supplement #5 Functions of Holy Ghost ----- How important is companionship of member of godhead?

5- Endure to the end in faith to receive eternal life

D&C 14:7 What does 'endure to end' mean? ----- What blessings awaits if we do?
 D&C 24:8 What does 'enduring to end' require? ----- How can we remain faithful during difficult times?

How does this apply to me?

How can I personally benefit from the 1st Principles and Ordinances?

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