

August 11–17
Doctrine and Covenants 88
“Establish... a House of God”



Historical Background

The Prophet received Section 88 during a conference in December of 1832. Joseph was using this conference to instruct the brethren on how to receive the blessings of heaven and the mind of the Lord.

The Prophet sent a copy of Section 88 to the Missouri Saints to give them a higher vision of the majesty of God and their responsibilities in building the kingdom.

In a letter written to William W. Phelps, the Prophet Joseph Smith called this revelation “the ‘Olive Leaf’ which we have plucked from the Tree of Paradise, the Lord’s message of peace to us.” (HC, 1:316)

Sanctification

D&C 88:1-5

What do you think the Lord means when He promises those present “another Comforter... the same that I promised unto my disciples [in] John”?

Bruce R. McConkie

“In a revelation to certain selected saints in this dispensation, the Lord said that the alms of their prayers were ‘recorded in the book of the names of the sanctified, even them of the celestial world’ (D&C 88:2), which is to say that they were among those who had ‘overcome by faith,’ and were ‘sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true.’ (D&C 76:53)....

“They now had the sure ‘promise... of eternal life’ (D&C 88:4), which eternal life is the name of the kind of life which God our Heavenly and Eternal Father lives, and they were prepared to receive the Second Comforter.” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:338–39)

John 14:16-23,26

16) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19) Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20) At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

21) He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22) Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

James E. Faust

“The right to enjoy the marvelous gifts of the Holy Ghost is conferred upon every member of this Church soon after baptism. This is in fulfillment of the promise of the Savior: ‘And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever’ (John 14:16).

“This powerful gift entitles the leaders and all worthy members of the Church to enjoy the gifts and companionship of the Holy Ghost, a member of the Godhead whose function is to inspire, reveal, and teach “all things.” (CR, April 1980)

David A. Bednar

“Recall how the Savior instructed His Apostles that He would not leave them comfortless. Not only would He send ‘another Comforter’ even the Holy Ghost, but the Savior said that He would come to them.” (CR, April 2005)

Joseph Smith

“The other Comforter spoken of is a subject of great interest, and perhaps understood by few of this generation. After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost, (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter, then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted. When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter....

“Now what is this other Comforter? It is no more nor less than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.... When any man obtains this last Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time.” (TPJS, pg. 149–51)

Sanctification

D&C 88:67-68

What do we learn about the blessing of be sanctified from theses verses?

What do you think the Lord expects us to do when He commands us to “sanctify yourselves”?

David A. Bednar

“The Savior also taught the people to come unto Him through sacred covenants, and He reminded them that they were ‘the children of the covenant’ (3 Nephi 20:26). He emphasized the eternal importance of the ordinances of baptism and of receiving the Holy Ghost. In a similar manner, you and I are admonished to turn toward and learn from Christ and to come unto Him through the covenants and ordinances of His restored gospel. As we do so, we will eventually and ultimately come to know Him ‘in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will’ (D&C 88:68).” (CR, Oct. 2007)

Harold B. Lee

"You may ask me, how does one sanctify himself, and make himself holy so that he is prepared to walk in the presence of the Lord?... Keeping [the] laws and ordinances are the ways by which we are purified and made holy. The keeping of every law that the Lord has given us is one step closer to receiving the right to enter one day into the presence of the Lord. He has given us in another revelation the formula by which we can prepare ourselves as the years pass. 'Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am' (D&C 93:1). Simple, isn't it? But listen again. All you have to do is to forsake your sins, come unto Him, call on His name, obey His voice, and keep His commandments, and then you shall see His face and shall know that He is." (The Teachings of Harold B. Lee, pg. 166)

Sanctification

D&C 88:40,49-50

How do you think that spiritual growth is accomplished by receiving wisdom, embracing truth, loving virtue, and cleaving to light?

Russell M. Nelson

“Brothers and sisters, the spirit that dwells within each of us can be enriched with enthusiasm and enlightened by the Almighty. The process of spiritual growth is revealed in the scriptures:... ‘That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day’ (D&C 50:24).” (CR, Oct. 1997)

John Taylor

“God is our Father; we are his children. He has brought us into his covenant, and it is our privilege to go on from wisdom to wisdom, from intelligence to intelligence, from understanding of one principle to that of another, to go forward and progress in the development of truth until we can comprehend God. For we are his children, we are his sons and daughters, and he is our Father. He has organized this Church in order that we may be educated in the principles of life, that we may comprehend those principles that exist in the bosom of God.” (JD, 21:91)

Sanctification

D&C 88:6-7,11-13

What do you think the Lord means when He tells us that “the light of Christ... quickeneth [our] understandings”?

Dallin H. Oaks

“Jesus Christ is the light of the world because he is the source of the light which ‘proceedeth forth from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space.’ His light is ‘the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world.’ The scriptures call this universal light ‘the light of truth,’ ‘the light of Christ,’ and the ‘Spirit of Christ.’ This is the light that quickens our understanding. It is ‘the light by which [we] may judge.’ It ‘is given to every man, that he may know good from evil.’...

“And so we see that Jesus Christ is the light of the world because he is the source of the light that quickens our understanding, because his teachings and his example illuminate our path, and because his power persuades us to do good.” (CR, Oct. 1987)

Sanctification

D&C 88:62-65

What has the Lord commanded us to do that will help us to “draw near” to Him?

How do we know how to ask the Father for things that are “expedient for” us?

Orson Pratt

“We must, in the first place, try to have light enough to discern what is right or expedient for us; in the second place, to ask God the Eternal Father in the name of his son Jesus Christ, for the things which we know he is willing to bestow upon us. Then we can ask in faith, for we have the promise that we shall receive.” (JD, 15:229)

Sanctification

D&C 88:117-120

In what ways do you think that temples help us to progress towards the blessing of sanctification?

David A. Bednar

“Temples are the most holy of all places of worship. A temple literally is the house of the Lord, a sacred space specifically set apart for worshipping God and for receiving and remembering His great and precious promises....

“A principal purpose of the temple is to elevate our vision from the things of the world to the blessings of eternity. Removed for a short time from the worldly settings with which we are familiar, we can ‘look to God and live’ by receiving and remembering the great and precious promises whereby we become partakers of the divine nature.” (CR, Oct. 2017)

Sanctification

D&C 88:121-126

In what ways do you think that charity can help us come closer to Christ?

Ulisses Soares

“Charity is... an attribute of the Savior and can become part of our character. It is not surprising that the Lord instructed us to clothe ourselves 'with the bond of charity,... which is the bond of perfectness and peace.' Without charity, we are nothing and we cannot inherit the place the Lord has prepared for us in the mansions of our Heavenly Father.” (CR, April 2023)

Sanctification

D&C 88:14-17

What do we learn about “the redemption of the soul” from these verses?

Charles W. Penrose

“It is stated that the spirit and the body make up the soul of man, and that the resurrection from the dead is the redemption of the soul.... It takes the spiritual part of man and the material or physical part joined together inseparably to obtain a fulness of joy. When the spirit is separated from the body, a fulness of joy cannot be obtained. When the spirit is joined to the body temporarily under a temporal law, under the law of death, it cannot receive a fulness of joy. The spirit and the body must be so joined together that both will be immortal, and in that condition man can receive a fulness of joy.” (JD, 21:220)

Sanctification

D&C 88:27-29

What change will take place to our “natural body” after we “rise again”?

Milton R. Hunter

“All of us have entered into a covenant that we will keep all of God's commandments. The Lord has promised us that if we do so and remain faithful to the end that someday we shall be quickened by a celestial power. At that time we shall rise as celestial beings, and enter into the presence of God. Then the righteous shall be sanctified through the blood of the Lamb and be worthy to dwell in the presence of the Lamb of God forevermore.” (CR, April 1958)

Sanctification

D&C 88:18-20,25-26

What do we learn from this passage about the future state of this earth?

Why is it necessary for the earth to be sanctified?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“The day will come when we will not have this world. It will be changed. We will get a better world. We will get one that is righteous, because when Christ comes, he will cleanse the earth....

“The earth will be renewed for a thousand years, and there shall be peace, and Christ, whose right it is, shall reign. Afterwards will come the death of the earth, its resurrection, its glorification, as the abode of the righteous or they who belong to the celestial kingdom, and they only shall dwell upon the face of it.” (CR, April 1952)

Next Week:

August 18–24

Doctrine and Covenants 89–92
“A Principle With Promise”

