

# **"TRUE TO THE FAITH?"**

**EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK:**

**"TRUE TO THE FAITH"**

**A Gospel Reference**

**Published by**

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**Am I Truly a Saint  
in these Latter Days?  
Is there Hope?**

By J Neil Evans

Comments and Questions?

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## **Forward by J Neil Evans:**

"Saint" is one of the main words used in the Bible to identify God's people. Many religions use the term, or similar ones, to identify their people. What does it mean and how does a person become one? Most religions have a list of standards or requirements for their "saints." Those lists vary significantly but all have in common that they contain beliefs and behaviors to which their "saints" must be true. Because they have "saints" in their name it is interesting to see what the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints requires of their followers. They publish a book titled: "True To The Faith" which lists numerous things their faithful members must do to be true to their faith.

The book makes me think about what I believe about being a "saint," and if I truly am one. I know that the churches with which I am familiar have both written and assumed standards for their followers. Most people are probably sincere in their attempts to follow their faith. But, is sincerity enough, and is there hope when we are not true to our faith?

**Be sure to read the Summary Comments on the last few pages of this booklet!**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY**

This book is designed as a companion to your study of the scriptures and the teachings of latter-day prophets. We encourage you to refer to it as you study and apply gospel principles. Use it as a resource when you prepare talks, teach classes, and answer questions about the Church. As you learn gospel truths, you will increase in your understanding of Heavenly Father's eternal plan. With this understanding as a foundation for your life, you will be able to make wise choices, live in harmony with God's will, and find joy in living. Your testimony will grow stronger. You will remain true to the faith. We are especially mindful of youth, young single adults, and new converts. We promise you that through regular personal prayer and study of the scriptures and the doctrines of the gospel you will be prepared to withstand evil influences that would deceive you and harm you. May this book strengthen you in your efforts to draw near to the Savior and follow His example.

## **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT p.5**

To be counted as Abraham's seed, an individual **MUST OBEY** the laws and ordinances of the gospel.....You have the right to the blessings of the priesthood and to eternal life, **ACCORDING TO** your **FAITHFULNESS** in receiving the ordinances of salvation and keeping the associated covenants.

### **Salvation from our sins p.18**

But we can be forgiven and cleansed from the stain of sin IF we "apply the atoning blood of Christ" (Mosiah 4:2). We **MUST** exercise faith in Jesus Christ, repent, be baptized for the remission of sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

### **The Gift of Eternal Life p.18**

... To receive this gift, we **MUST** meet certain conditions. We **MUST** exercise faith in Jesus Christ, repent of our sins, and **ENDURE** faithfully to the end. We **MUST** receive the ordinances of salvation: baptism, the gift of the Holy Ghost, Melchizedek Priesthood ordination (for men), and the temple endowment and marriage sealing. By receiving these ordinances and keeping the associated covenants, we come unto Christ and ultimately receive the gift of eternal life (see Articles of Faith 1:3).

## **BAPTISM**

### **Entering the Path to Eternal Life p.22**

We will receive eternal life IF we **ENDURE** to the end, keeping our covenants and receiving other ordinances of salvation.

### **Baptism in the Lord's Way p.22**

the ordinance **MUST** be performed by one having priesthood authority and that it **MUST** be done by immersion:

### **Promised Blessings of Baptism p.24**

This gift gives you the right to the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost AS LONG AS you are WORTHY.

... To receive a remission of your sins, you MUST exercise faith in Jesus Christ, be sincerely repentant, and strive always to keep the commandments.

... You “retain a remission of your sins” as you continue to humble yourself before God, call upon Him daily in prayer, remain steadfast in the faith, and serve those in need (see Mosiah 4:11–12, 26).

### **Enduring to the End p.25**

Now that you are baptized and have received the gift of the Holy Ghost, you MUST continue in righteousness, for these ordinances mark only the beginning of your journey back to dwell with your Heavenly Father.... p. 26 “Wherefore, ye MUST press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, IF ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and ENDURE to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life” (2 Nephi 31:19–20).

### **CONVERSION p.40**

#### **The Process of Conversion p.41**

Conversion is a process, not an event. You become converted as a result of your righteous efforts to follow the Savior. These efforts include exercising faith in Jesus Christ, repenting of sin, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end in faith.

### **DEATH, SPIRITUAL p.48**

Jesus Christ offers redemption from this spiritual death, but only when we exercise faith in Him, repent of our sins, and OBEY the principles and ordinances of the gospel (see Alma 13:27–30; Helaman 14:19; Articles of Faith 1:3).

### **ETERNAL LIFE p.52**

... it REQUIRES our “OBEDIENCE to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel” (Articles of Faith 1:3).

#### **Staying on the Path to Life Eternal P.52**

... after we have entered this “strait and narrow path,” we MUST ENDURE to the end in faith:

... p.53 “Wherefore, ye MUST press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a PERFECT brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, IF ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and ENDURE TO THE END, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life”(2 Nephi 31:19–20). Now that you have been baptized and confirmed, much of your progress toward eternal life DEPENDS on your receiving other ordinances of salvation: for men, ordination to the Melchizedek Priesthood; for men and women, the temple endowment and marriage sealing. When you receive these ordinances and keep the covenants that accompany them, you prepare yourself to inherit the highest degree of celestial glory.

#### **Within Your Reach p.53**

As you ponder your progress on the “strait and narrow path,” be assured that eternal life is within your reach. The Lord wants you to return to Him, and He will never require anything of you that you cannot fulfill. All His commandments are calculated to promote your happiness. When you exercise faith and serve Him with ALL YOUR MIGHT, He gives you strength and provides a way for you to do whatever He commands you (see 1 Nephi 3:7). Remember that as you give your GREATEST EFFORT and repent of your sins, the Atonement of Jesus Christ will compensate for your weakness and for the inequities, injuries, and pains you

experience in this life: “We know that it is by GRACE that we are saved, AFTER ALL WE CAN DO” (2 Nephi 25:23)

## **FAITH p.54**

### **Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ p.54**

In order for your faith to lead you to salvation, it MUST be centered in the Lord Jesus Christ (see Acts 4:10 –12; Mosiah 3:17; Moroni 7:24 –26; Articles of Faith 1:4). You can exercise faith in Christ when you have an assurance that He exists, a correct idea of His character, and a knowledge that you are striving to live ACCORDING to His will.

### **Increasing Your Faith p. 55**

Faith is a gift from God, but you MUST nurture your faith to keep it strong.... IF you desire to enrich your faith to the highest possible degree, you MUST keep the covenants you have made. You can also develop your faith by studying the scriptures and the words of Latter-day prophets.

## **FALL p.56**

### **Our Fallen Condition p. 57**

because of the fall our natures have become evil continually” (Ether 3:2). We need to STRIVE CONTINUALLY to overcome unrighteous passions and desires. Repeating the words of an angel, King Benjamin said, “The natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam.”

## **FAMILY HISTORY WORK AND GENEALOGY p.61**

### **Your Responsibilities in Family History Work p. 64**

The Prophet Joseph Smith declared that there are “principles in relation to the dead and the living that cannot be lightly passed over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and ESSENTIAL to our

salvation, as . . .they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made perfect” (D&C 128:15).

## **FORGIVENESS p.70**

### **Seeking Forgiveness From the Lord p.70**

Because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we can receive forgiveness for our sins through sincere and complete repentance.

### **Forgiving Others p. 71**

In addition to seeking forgiveness for our own sins, we MUST be willing to forgive others. ... of you it is REQUIRED to forgive all men” (D&C 64:9–10).

## **GOSPEL p.76**

The gospel is our Heavenly Father’s plan of happiness. The central doctrine of the gospel is the Atonement of Jesus Christ. The Prophet Joseph Smith said, “The first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Articles of Faith 1:4). In its fulness, the gospel includes all the doctrines, principles, laws, ordinances, and covenants necessary for us to be exalted in the celestial kingdom. The Savior has promised that IF we ENDURE to the end, faithfully living the gospel, He will hold us guiltless before the Father at the Final Judgment (see 3 Nephi27:16).

## **GRACE p.77**

(22 times in this section - 2 times in all other sections)

### **Salvation by GRACE p.77**

Our sins make us unclean and unfit to dwell in God's presence, and we need His GRACE to purify and perfect us "AFTER ALL WE CAN DO" (2 Nephi 25:23). The phrase "AFTER ALL WE CAN DO" teaches that effort is REQUIRED on our part to receive the fulness of the Lord's GRACE and be made worthy to dwell with Him. The Lord has commanded us to OBEY His gospel, which includes having faith in Him, repenting of our sins, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end (see John 3:3 –5; 3 Nephi 27:16–20; Articles of Faith 1:3 – 4). The prophet Moroni wrote of the GRACE we receive as we come unto the Savior and OBEY His teachings.

## **HOLY GHOST p.81**

### **Roles of the Holy Ghost p. 82**

Through His power, you are sanctified as you repent, receive the ordinances of baptism and confirmation, and remain true to your covenants (see Mosiah 5:1–6; 3 Nephi 27:20; Moses 6:64 –68). He is the Holy Spirit of Promise (see Ephesians 1:13; D&C 132:7, 18–19, 26). In this capacity, He confirms that the priesthood ordinances you have received and the covenants you have made are acceptable to God. This approval DEPENDS on your continued FAITHFULNESS.

### **The Gift of the Holy Ghost p. 83**

All honest seekers of the truth can feel the influence of the Holy Ghost, leading them to Jesus Christ and His gospel. However, the fulness of the blessings given through the Holy Ghost are available only to those who receive the gift of the Holy Ghost and remain worthy.

The gift of the Holy Ghost is different from the influence of the Holy Ghost. Before your baptism, you could feel the influence of the Holy Ghost from time to time, and through that influence you could receive a testimony of the truth. Now that you have the gift of the Holy Ghost, you have the

right to the constant companionship of that member of the Godhead IF you keep the commandments.

Full enjoyment of the gift of the Holy Ghost includes receiving revelation and comfort, serving and blessing others through spiritual gifts, and being sanctified from sin and made fit for exaltation in the celestial kingdom. These blessings DEPEND on your worthiness; they come a little at a time as you are ready for them. As you bring your life in harmony with God's will, you gradually receive The Holy Ghost in great measure. The Prophet Joseph Smith declared that the mysteries of God's kingdom "are only to be seen and under-stood by the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him, and PURIFY THEMSELVES before him" (see D&C 76:114 –116).

... the Spirit will dwell with you only when you keep the commandments. He will withdraw IF you offend Him by profanity, uncleanness, dis-OBEDIENCE, rebellion, or other sins. Keep yourself clean. Fill your life with goodness so you can be worthy of the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost.

## **HOPE p.85**

When we have hope, we trust God's promises. We have a quiet assurance that IF we do "the works of righteousness," we "shall receive [our] reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come" (D&C 59:23).

## **KINGDOMS OF GLORY p.92**

There are three kingdoms of glory: the celestial kingdom, the terrestrial kingdom, and the telestial kingdom. The glory you inherit will DEPEND on the depth of your conversion, expressed by your OBEDIENCE to the Lord's commandments. It will DEPEND on the manner in which you have "received the

testimony of Jesus” (D&C 76:51; see also verses 74, 79, 101).

### **Celestial Kingdom p. 92**

...it is the result of a lifetime of righteousness and constancy of purpose.

To inherit this gift, we **MUST** receive the ordinances of salvation, keep the commandments, and repent of our sins. For a detailed explanation of those who will inherit celestial glory, see Doctrine and Covenants 76:50 –70, 92–96.

To be exalted in the highest degree and continue eternally in family relationships, we **MUST** enter into “the new and everlasting covenant of marriage” and be true to that covenant. In other words, temple marriage is a **REQUIREMENT** for obtaining the highest degree of celestial glory. (See D&C 131:1–4.)

### **MARRIAGE p.97**

#### **The New and Everlasting Covenant of Marriage p. 98**

In our Heavenly Father’s plan of happiness, a man and a woman can be sealed to one another for time and all eternity. Those who are sealed in the temple have the assurance that their relationship will continue forever **IF** they are true to their covenants. ... The covenant of eternal marriage is necessary for exaltation. The Lord revealed through Joseph Smith: “In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees; and in order to obtain the highest, a man **MUST** enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage]; and **IF** he does not, he cannot obtain it. ... a couple **MUST** continue in **FAITHFULNESS** in order to receive the blessings of eternal marriage and exaltation.

### **MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD p.101**

p.102 Men in the Church **MUST** be worthy Melchizedek Priesthood holders in order to receive the temple endowment and be sealed to their families for eternity. ... and “live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God.” Those who keep this covenant will be sanctified by the Spirit and receive “all that [the] Father hath.” (See D&C 84:33 –44.)

### **MERCY p.102**

#### **Receiving God’s Mercy p. 102**

To receive the Lord’s forgiveness, we **MUST** sincerely repent of our sins.

### **OBEDIENCE p. 108**

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that **OBEDIENCE** to the commandments leads to blessings from God. He said: “There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—and when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by **OBEDIENCE** to that law upon which it is predicated” (D&C 130:20 –21). ... and **IF** they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never ending happiness.

### **ORDINANCES p.109**

In the Church, an ordinance is a sacred, formal act performed by the authority of the priesthood. Some ordinances are **ESSENTIAL** to our exaltation. These ordinances are called saving ordinances. They include baptism, confirmation, ordination to the Melchizedek Priesthood (for men), the temple endowment, and the marriage sealing. With each of these ordinances, we enter into solemn covenants with the Lord.

## **ORIGINAL SIN p.110**

Through the Atonement, the Savior paid the price for the transgression in the Garden of Eden (see Moses 6:53). He has given us the assurance of resurrection and the promise that, based on our FAITHFULNESS, we can return to dwell in the presence of our Heavenly Father forever.

## **PARADISE p.111**

a place of peace and happiness in the post mortal spirit world, reserved for those who have been baptized and who have remained faithful (see Alma40:12; Moroni 10:34). Those in spirit prison have the opportunity to learn the gospel of Jesus Christ, repent of their sins, and receive the ordinances of baptism and confirmation through the work we do in temples (see D&C 138:30–35). When they do, they may enter paradise.

## **PLAN OF SALVATION p.115**

### **Life After Death p.117**

The glory you inherit will **DEPEND** on the depth of your conversion and your **OBEDIENCE** to the Lord's commandments (see "Kingdoms of Glory," pages 92–95). It will **DEPEND** on the manner in which you have "received the testimony of Jesus" (D&C 76:51; see also verses 74, 79, 101).

## **PRAYER p.118**

### **Principles of Prayer p.119**

Your Heavenly Father is always ready to hear and answer your prayers. The power of your prayers **DEPENDS** on you.

To make your prayers meaningful, you **MUST** pray with sincerity and "with all the energy of heart" (Moroni 7:48). ... IF ye do these things,

ye shall be lifted up at the last day" (Alma37:36–37; see also Alma 34:17–26).

p.120 When you make a request through prayer, do all you can to assist in its being granted. Heavenly Father expects you to do more than merely ask Him for blessings. When you have an important decision to make, He often will require that you "study it out in your mind" before He will give you an answer (see D&C 9:7–8).

## **PRIESTHOOD p.124**

### **Exercising the Priesthood Righteously p.127**

You **MUST** be worthy in order to receive and exercise priesthood power. The words you speak and your everyday behavior affect your ability to serve. Your behavior in public **MUST** be above reproach. Your behavior in private is even more important.

## **PROPHETS p.129**

P.130 Your greatest safety lies in **STRICTLY FOLLOWING** the word of the Lord given through His prophets, particularly the current President of the Church. The Lord warns that those who ignore the words of the living prophets will fall (see D&C1:14 –16). He promises great blessings to those who follow the President of the Church:

## **REPENTANCE p.132**

### **Elements of Repentance p.134**

#### **Confession p.134**

**ESSENTIAL** to forgiveness is a willingness to disclose fully to your Heavenly Father all that you have done. Serious transgressions, such as violations of the law of chastity, may jeopardize your membership in the Church. Therefore, you need to confess these sins to both the Lord and His representatives in the Church.



### **Abandonment of Sin p.134**

Although confession is an ESSENTIAL element of repentance, it is NOT ENOUGH. The Lord has said, “By this ye may know IF a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and forsake them” (D&C 58:43).

### **Restitution p.135**

You MUST restore as far as possible all that has been damaged by your actions, ... It is not enough to simply try to resist evil or empty your life of sin.

### **Righteous Living p.135**

You MUST fill your life with righteousness and engage in activities that bring spiritual power. ... Full OBEDIENCE brings the complete power of the gospel into your life, including increased strength to overcome your weaknesses. This OBEDIENCE includes actions you might not initially consider part of repentance, such as attending meetings, paying tithing, giving service, and forgiving others. The Lord promised, “He that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven” (D&C 1:32)

### **RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL p.136**

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you can receive blessings that were absent from the earth for almost 2,000 years.

### **RESURRECTION p.139**

At the time of the resurrection, we will “be judged ACCORDING to [our] works. . . . The eternal glory we receive will DEPEND on our FAITHFULNESS.

### **REVELATION p.140**

Prophets are not the only people who can receive revelation. ACCORDING to your FAITHFULNESS, you can receive

revelation to help you with your specific needs, responsibilities, and questions and to help you strengthen your testimony.

... you MUST study it out in your mind; then you MUST ask me IF it be right, and IF it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right” (D&C 9:7–8).

### **SABBATH p.145**

... continue observing the Sabbath. He has promised that IF we OBEY this commandment, we will receive “the fulness of the earth”(see D&C 59:16–20).

### **SALVATION p.151**

#### **Different Meanings of the word “Salvation”**

#### **Salvation from sin p.151**

To be cleansed from sin through the Savior’s Atonement, you MUST exercise faith in Jesus Christ, repent, be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost(see Acts 2:37–38). ... You will not be completely saved from sin until you have finished your life on the earth, having faithfully endured to the end. ... Through the GRACE of God, you can be saved from your sins(see Helaman 5:10–11). To receive this blessing, you MUST exercise faith in Jesus Christ, strive to keep the commandments, forsake sin, and renew your repentance and cleansing through the ordinance of the sacrament.

#### **Being Born Again p.152**

This rebirth is a process that occurs after we have been baptized and have received the gift of the Holy Ghost. It comes as a result of our willingness “to enter into a covenant with our God to do his will, and to be OBEDIENT to his

commandments in all things that he shall command us, all the remainder of our days” (Mosiah 5:5). Then our “hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, [we] are born of him” (Mosiah 5:7). IF you have been baptized and have received the gift of the Holy Ghost, with the covenant to take upon yourself the name of Jesus Christ, you can say that you have been born again. And you can renew that rebirth each Sabbath when you partake of the sacrament.

### **Eternal Life or Exaltation p.153**

To receive this great gift, we MUST do more than repent of our sins and be baptized and confirmed by appropriate priesthood authority. Men MUST receive the Melchizedek Priesthood, and all Church members MUST make and keep sacred covenants in the temple, including eternal marriage.

IF we use the word salvation to mean eternal life, none of us can say that we have been saved in mortality. That glorious gift can come only after the Final Judgment.

### **TEMPLES p.170**

#### **Ordinances for the Living p.170**

p.171 Another temple ordinance is celestial marriage, in which husband and wife are sealed to one another for eternity. A sealing performed in the temple continues forever IF the husband and wife are faithful to the covenants they make.

#### **Worthiness to Enter the Temple p.172**

To enter the temple, you MUST be worthy. You certify your worthiness in two interviews—one with a member of your bishopric or your branch president and another with a member of your stake presidency or the mission president. Your priesthood leaders will keep these interviews private and confidential. In each of the interviews, the priesthood leader will ask you about your personal conduct and

worthiness. You will be asked about your testimony of Heavenly Father and the Atonement of Jesus Christ, and you will be asked whether you support the general and local leaders of the Church. You will be asked to confirm that you are morally clean and that you keep the Word of Wisdom, pay a full tithe, live in harmony with the teachings of the Church, and do not maintain any affiliation or sympathy with apostate groups. IF you give acceptable answers to the questions in the interviews and IF you and your priesthood leaders are satisfied that you are worthy to enter the temple, you will receive a temple recommend. You and your priesthood leaders will sign the recommend, which will allow you to enter the temple for the next two years, AS LONG AS you remain worthy.

#### **Wearing the Temple Garment p.173**

Once you are endowed, you have the blessing of wearing the temple garment throughout your life. You are obligated to wear it ACCORDING to the instructions given in the endowment. Remember that the blessings that are related to this sacred privilege DEPEND on your worthiness and your FAITHFULNESS in keeping temple covenants.

### **TEN COMMANDMENTS p.176**

The Ten Commandments are eternal gospel principles that are necessary for our exaltation. ... The Ten Commandments are a vital part of the gospel. OBEDIENCE to these commandments paves the way for OBEDIENCE to other gospel principles.

### **TESTIMONY p.178**

A testimony is a spiritual witness given by the Holy Ghost. The foundation of a testimony is the knowledge that Heavenly Father lives and loves us; that Jesus Christ lives, that He is the Son of God, and that He carried out the infinite Atonement; that Joseph Smith is the prophet of God who

was called to restore the gospel; that we are led by a living prophet today; and that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Savior's true Church on the earth. With this foundation, a testimony grows to include all principles of the gospel.

### **Obtaining and Strengthening a Testimony P.179**

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you have the sacred opportunity and responsibility to obtain your own testimony. Having obtained a testimony, you have a duty to nurture it throughout your life. Your happiness in this life and throughout eternity **DEPENDS** largely on whether you are "valiant in the testimony of Jesus" (D&C76:79; see also verses 51, 74, 101).

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**Summary Comments:**  
**What happens**  
**WHEN WE ARE**  
**NOT TRUE TO THE FAITH?**  
  
**THERE IS HOPE!**  
  
**READ ON.....**

**How many people do you know who actually live “True to The Faith?” I don’t even know anyone who perfectly, or anywhere near perfectly, keeps even the Ten Commandments!** I know that my obedience and my faith falters and fails often. If my Eternal Life depended on my working through any list of religious obligations I would not make it. Perhaps you have heard it said: “perfection” is not the requirement, but a sincere effort is the objective. That certainly is not what this book says, or how many people interpret and apply the religious standards they follow. In the quoted excerpts of this short booklet we read:

- “must” 38 times - “if” 23 times - “faithful” 16
- “depends” 13 - “endure” 11 - “worthy” 10
- “essential” 5 - “in order to” 5 - “as long as” 3
- “do all you can” 2 - “purify yourself” 2

If my Eternal Life depends on my own faithfulness, endurance, worthiness, purity, and depended on me doing “all I can do,” .....

**I will never make it.**

If you are depending on your sincere efforts to be “True To The Faith,” you won’t make it. To the faith The Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints describes no human being can honestly be perfectly true. And in fact the Bible says you won’t make it. You may strive to do all you can, but there will always be more that you could do.

### **Is our Eternal Life a hopeless pursuit?**

Not according to the Bible. It is true that the Bible says God requires perfection for us to live in His presence. But knowing that we could never achieve perfection ourselves He became one of us so that in His perfections we too may be perfect. Jesus Christ substituted His Life for ours to pay the penalty of our sin. The Bible says that we “died with Him.” And it says “we rise with Him” to newness of LIFE. Jesus Christ is our substitute for our sin, and He is the perfect substitute for our perfection. God offers Forgiveness, New LIFE, Perfection, Eternally, not because of our faithful worthiness and endurance, but because of the Perfect faithfulness and worthiness of our substitute Jesus Christ. Eternal Life (not a celestial godhood we must earn) is a gift God gives by His Grace, for which, with thanksgiving we obey Him. **Please Read and Ponder the following Bible verses carefully.**

**Romans 1:7** To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be SAINTS: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 1:18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the SAINTS,

**John 20:31** but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have LIFE in his name.

**John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal LIFE. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to LIFE.

**Romans 5:10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his LIFE.

**Romans 5:17** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in LIFE through the one man Jesus Christ.

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal LIFE in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the LIFE I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Colossians 3:3,4** For you have died, and your LIFE is hidden with Christ in God. :4 When Christ who is your LIFE appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**2Peter 1:3** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to LIFE and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

**Titus 3:5-7** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**1John 5:11-13** And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal LIFE, and this LIFE is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has LIFE; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have LIFE. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal LIFE.

**Ephesians 1:1-10 ... To the saints** who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight :9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

I welcome your comments and questions. You can study more with me as I ponder the Bible on my website: [trulylds.com](http://trulylds.com).

God Bless you with HIMSELF!!!