

Alma 34:32-35 “Behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed. Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world. For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked.”

“**Dangers of Delay** – Again and Again... the Lord has reminded man so that he could never have excuse. And the burden of the prophetic warning has been that the time to act is now, in this mortal life. One cannot with impunity delay his compliance with God’s commands. Note Amulek’s words, especially those forceful statements involving timing [*in Alma 34:32-35 above*] ...It is true that a merciful Father makes special post-mortal provision for those who do not hear the gospel in this life, but for Latter-day Saints the time is now... Should one not have had the opportunities to hear and understand the gospel in this mortal life, that privilege will be given him hereafter... ‘But woe unto him that has the law given, yea, that has all the commandments of God, like unto us [*Latter-day Saints*], and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth the days of his probation, for awful is his state!’ (2 Nephi 9:27). Thus for us who know but do not comply, the opportunities for certain limitless blessings have an end

when death closes our eyes. ‘And after that you have received this, if you keep not my commandments you cannot be saved in the kingdom of my Father.’ (*D&C 18:46*) ...This is the state of those who knowingly fail to live the commandments in this life. They will bring upon themselves their own hell... ‘Remember that he that persists in his own carnal nature, and goes on in the ways of sin and rebellion against God, remaineth in his fallen state and the devil hath all power over him.’ (*Moses 16:5*). This earth life is the time to repent... As we have seen, one can wait too long to repent. Many of the Nephites did. Of these, Samuel the Lamanite said: ‘...ye have procrastinated the day of your salvation until it is everlastingly too late, and your destruction is made sure.’ (*Helaman 13:38*) ...Let us not suppose that in calling the people to repentance the prophets are concerned only with the more grievous sins such as murder, adultery, stealing, and so on, nor only with those persons who have not accepted the gospel ordinances. All transgressions must be cleansed, all weaknesses must be overcome, before a person can attain perfection and godhood.” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pp. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16)

Spirit World Repentance – “Repent in Mortality – I have referred previously to the significance of this life in the application of repentance but will emphasize it here in relation to the eventual judgment. One cannot delay repentance until the next life, the spirit world, and there prepare properly for the day of judgment... Men and women who live in mortality and who have heard the gospel here have had their day, their seventy years to put their lives in harmony, to perform the ordinances, to repent and to perfect their lives... It is true that repentance is always worth while. But spirit world repentance cannot recompense for that which could and should have been done on earth.” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pg. 313-315)

“Gospel” means “good news.” Is this good news?

Questions? Comments? GospelTruth4U@hotmail.com

MIRACLE OF FORGIVENESS (THE LDS GOSPEL) REFERENCE GUIDE

Moroni 10:32 “Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you.”

“We are invited to ‘come unto Christ, and be perfected in him.’ When we deny ourselves ‘of all ungodliness,’ then and only ‘then is his grace sufficient’ for us (Moroni 10:32).” (*Ensign, LDS Church, October 2006, pg. 53*)

2 Nephi 25:23 “For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.”

“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 fullness of the Lord’s grace and be made worthy to dwell with Him... The prophet Moroni wrote of the grace we receive as we come unto the Savior and obey His teachings: ‘[quote: *Moroni 10:32 see above*]’ ” (True to the Faith, LDS Church, 2004, pg. 77)

“Repentant Life Seeks Perfection - This progress toward eternal life is a matter of achieving perfection. Living all the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exaltation through that perfection which comes by complying with the formula the Lord gave us... being perfect means to triumph over sin. This is a mandate from the Lord. He is just and wise and kind. He would never require anything from his children which was not for their benefit and which was not attainable. Perfection is therefore an achievable goal.” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, Spencer W. Kimball, Deseret, 1969, pg. 208-9)

Alma 11:37 “And I say unto you again that he cannot save them in their sins; for I cannot deny his word, and he hath said that no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore, how can ye be saved, except ye inherit the kingdom of heaven? Therefore, ye cannot be saved in your sins.”

“Note that you cannot be saved in your sins; you cannot receive unconditional salvation simply by declaring your belief in Christ with the understanding that you will inevitably commit sins throughout the rest of your life (see Alma 11:36-37).” (True to the Faith, pg. 151-2)

“There are many people who seem to rely solely on the Lord’s mercy rather than on accomplishing their own repentance. One woman rather flippantly said, ‘The Lord knows my intents and that I’d like to give up my bad habits. He will understand and forgive me.’ But the scriptures will not bear this out... for he cannot save us in our sins, as Amulek explained. (Alma 11:37.)” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pg. 358-9)

1 Nephi 3:7 “And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.”

“Within Your Reach – 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... 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).” (True to the Faith, pg. 53)

Remember... “He would never require anything from his children which was not for their benefit and which was not attainable. Perfection is therefore an achievable goal.” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pg. 209)

Doctrine and Covenants 58:42-43 “Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more. By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and forsake them.”

“**Abandonment of Sin** – And the Lord said: ‘By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—Behold he will... forsake them.’ (D&C 58:43)

The forsaking of sin must be a permanent one. True repentance does not permit making the same mistake again.” (Repentance Brings Forgiveness, by Spencer W. Kimball, LDS Church, 1984, center page of pamphlet, #2.)

“**Trying Is Not Sufficient** – Nor is repentance complete when one merely tries to abandon sin... [see *Army Officer Story*]... To ‘try’ is weak. to ‘do the best I can’ is not strong, We must always do better than we can. This is true in every walk of life.” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pg. 164-165)

Daily Repentance - “Repentance is a thing that cannot be trifled with every day. Daily transgression and daily repentance is not that which is pleasing in the sight of God.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, by Joseph Fielding Smith, Deseret, 1977, pg. 148)

Repentance that Merits Forgiveness – “Alma 13:11-12... indicates an attitude which is basic to the sanctification we should all be seeking, and thus to the repentance which merits forgiveness. It is that the former transgressor must have reached a ‘point of no return’ to sin wherein there is not merely a renunciation but also a deep abhorrence of the sin – where the sin becomes most distasteful to him and where the desire or urge to sin is cleared out of his life.” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pp. 354-55)

Forgiveness – “Heavenly Father has promised forgiveness upon total repentance and meeting all the requirements, but that forgiveness is not granted merely for the asking. There must be works – many works – and an all-out, total surrender, with a great humility and a ‘broken heart and a contrite spirit.’ It

depends upon you whether or not you are forgiven, and when. It could be weeks, it could be years, it could be centuries before that happy day when you have the positive assurance that the Lord has forgiven you. That depends upon your humility, your sincerity, your works, your attitudes.” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pg. 324-25)

Doctrine and Covenants 1:31-33 “For I the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance; Nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven; And he that repents not, from him shall be taken even the light which he has received; for my Spirit shall not always strive with man, saith the Lord of Hosts.”

“The Lord has said that He ‘cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance’ (D&C 1:31). The result of sin is the withdrawal of the Holy Ghost and, in eternity, being unable to dwell in the presence of our Heavenly Father, for ‘no unclean than can dwell with God’ (1 Nephi 10:21).” (True to the Faith, pg. 163)

Doctrine and Covenants 82:7 “And now, verily I say unto you, I, the Lord, will not lay any sin to your charge; go your ways and sin no more; but unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God.”

“**Forgiveness Cancelled on Reversion to Sin** – Old sins return, says the Lord in his modern revelations. Many people either do not know this or they conveniently forget it. ‘Go your ways and sin no more,’ the Lord warned. And again ‘...Unto that soul who sinneth shall the former sins return, saith the Lord your God.’ (D&C 82:7.) ...Those who feel that they can sin and be forgiven and then return to sin and be forgiven again and again must straighten out their thinking. Each previously forgiven sin is added to the new one and the whole gets to be a heavy load. Thus when a man has made up his mind to change his life, there must be no turning back... When one quits, he must quit.” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pg. 169-70)