

Why the Restoration was Necessary

Lost Understanding about the True
Character of God

Lectures on Faith (Theology)

- Let us here observe, that three things are necessary, in order that any rational and intelligent being may exercise faith in God unto life and salvation.
- 3 First, The idea that he actually exists.
- 4 Secondly, A *correct* idea of his character, perfections and attributes.
- 5 Thirdly, An actual knowledge that the course of life which he is pursuing, is according to his will. For without an acquaintance with these three important facts, the faith of every rational being must be imperfect and unproductive; but with this understanding, it can become perfect and fruitful, abounding in righteousness unto the praise and glory of God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Creedal Christians

God is the Creator: Creation ex nihilo

Ex nihilo is a Latin phrase meaning "out of nothing": as *ex nihilo nihil fit* it means that nothing comes from nothing; as *creatio ex nihilo*, in contrast, it means that God created the cosmos out of nothing

Wikipedia

What Conclusions Follow?

God existed before matter

God is superior to matter

Christ must be same substance as God

Man was created, of matter, by God

God is Creator: Man is Created (Creature)

Created can never become the Creator

Man is of a different species

What is a Christian?

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the *only-begotten* Son of God, the only-begotten from the Father, that is from the substance of the the Father, God from God , light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

Nicene Creed

There is but one living and true God,
everlasting without body, parts, or passions .

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Anglican Thirty-Nine Articles

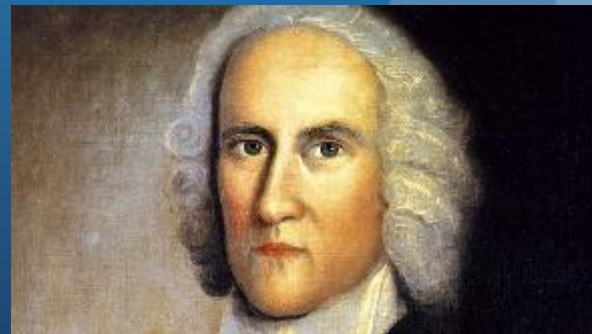
English Toleration Act 1688

Neither this Act nor any Clause Articles or Thing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to give any benefit or advantage to any . . . Person that shall deny in his Preaching or Writing the Doctrine of the Blessed Trinity.

Broken vs Damned

The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in his eyes, than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours. You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince; and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment

Jonathan Edwards 1741



What did Pinocchio Want to be?



What was lost in apostacy?

The True Character of God

I am a Child of God

We are children, not creatures

We are here to learn from experience, become like him

We were whole from the beginning

Character of God

First, That he was God before the world was created, and the same God that he was, after it was created.

Secondly, That he is merciful, and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in goodness, and that he was so from everlasting, and will be to everlasting.

Thirdly, That he changes not, neither is there variableness with him; but that he is the same from everlasting to everlasting, being the same yesterday today and forever; and that his course is one eternal round, without variation.

Fourthly, That he is a God of truth and cannot lie. Our faith can be without wavering. (Lectures on Faith)

Character of God

Fifthly, That he is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that fears God and works righteousness is accepted of him.

Sixthly, That he is love.

An acquaintance with these attributes in the divine character, is essentially necessary, in order that the faith of any rational being can center in him for life and salvation. For if he did not, in the first instance, believe him to be God, that is, the creator and upholder of all things, he could not *center* his faith in him for life and salvation, for fear there should be a greater than he, who would thwart all his plans, and he, like the gods of the heathen, would be unable to fulfill his promises; but seeing he is God over all, from everlasting to everlasting, the creator and upholder of all things, no such fear can exist in the minds of those who put their trust in him, so that in this respect th

Moses gives us the following account in [Exodus, 34:6](#):
"And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed,
The Lord God, the Lord God, merciful and gracious,
long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth."

[Psalms 103:6-8](#): "The Lord executes righteousness and
judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known
his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of
Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to
anger and plenteous in mercy:" [Psalms 103:17-18](#):

"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to
everlasting upon them that fear him, and his
righteousness unto children's children, to such as
keep his covenant, and to those that remember his
commandments to do them."

God of Passion: loves his Children

27 And Enoch beheld ^aangels descending out of heaven, bearing ^btestimony of the Father and Son; and the Holy Ghost fell on many, and they were caught up by the powers of heaven into Zion.

28 And it came to pass that the God of heaven looked upon the ^aresidue of the people, and he wept; and Enoch bore record of it, saying: How is it that the heavens weep, and shed forth their tears as the rain upon the mountains?

Moses 7: 27-28

He once was a man like one of us and . . . God Himself, the Father of us all, once dwelled on an earth the same as Jesus Christ himself did in the flesh.

I saw the Father work out His kingdom with fear and trembling and I am doing the same, *too*. When I get my kingdom, I will give it to the Father and it will add to and exalt His glory. He will take a higher exaltation and I will take His place and I am also exalted, to that He obtains kingdom rolling upon kingdom So that Jesus treads in His tracks as He had gone before and then inherits what God did before.

Joseph Smith
King Follet Discourse

The relationship we have with God places us in a situation to advance in knowledge. He has power to institute laws to instruct the weaker intelligences, that they may be exalted with Himself, so that they might have one glory upon another, and all that knowledge, power, glory, and intelligence, which is requisite in order to save them in the world of spirits.

King Follet Discourse

Becoming Like God

- Latter-day Saints see all people as children of God in a full and complete sense; they consider every person divine in origin, nature, and potential. Each has an eternal core and is “a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents.”¹ Each possesses seeds of divinity and must choose whether to live in harmony or tension with that divinity. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people may “progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny.”² Just as a child can develop the attributes of his or her parents over time, the divine nature that humans inherit can be developed to become like their Heavenly Father’s. (Gospel Topics)

Mother in Heaven

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches that all human beings, male and female, are beloved spirit children of heavenly parents, a Heavenly Father and a Heavenly Mother. This understanding is rooted in scriptural and prophetic teachings about the nature of God, our relationship to Deity, and the godly potential of men and women.¹ The doctrine of a Heavenly Mother is a cherished and distinctive belief among Latter-day Saints.² (Gospel Topics)

Kingdom of Glory vs Hell

Predetermination

Eternal progression

Restoration of Saving Ordinances

“advancement from grade to grade within any kingdom, and from kingdom to kingdom, will be provided for. . . . Eternity is progressive”

James Talmage. Articles of Faith, (First ed.)

NOTE: Please note that the doctrine in the next few slides is not settled and not considered official doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Hyrum said Aug 1st. “those of the Terrestrial Glory either advance to the Celestial or recede to the Telestial or else the moon woould not be a type, [because] it “waxes & Waness.”

Franklin D. Richards, Words of the Prophets

“It is my belief that God will save all of His children that he can, and while, if we live unrighteously here, we shall not go to the other side in the same status, so to speak, as those who lived righteously; nevertheless, the unrighteous will have their chance, and in the eons of the eternities that are to follow, they, too, may climb to the destinies to which they who are righteous and serve God, have climbed.”

J. Reuben Clark.

The brethren direct me to say that the Church has never announced a definite doctrine upon this point. Some of the brethren have held the view that it was possible in the course of progression to advance from one glory to another, invoking the principle of eternal progression; others of the brethren have taken the opposite view. But as stated, the Church has never announced a definite doctrine on this point.

Sincerely your brother, Joseph L Anderson, Secretary
of the First Presidency”

Joseph L. Anderson, Secretary to the First
Presidency in a 1952 letter; and again in 1965.

Exercise of True Faith

How should we understand the Restoration?

Why should that affect all that we do?