

LESSON 3

Avoiding A Faith Crisis

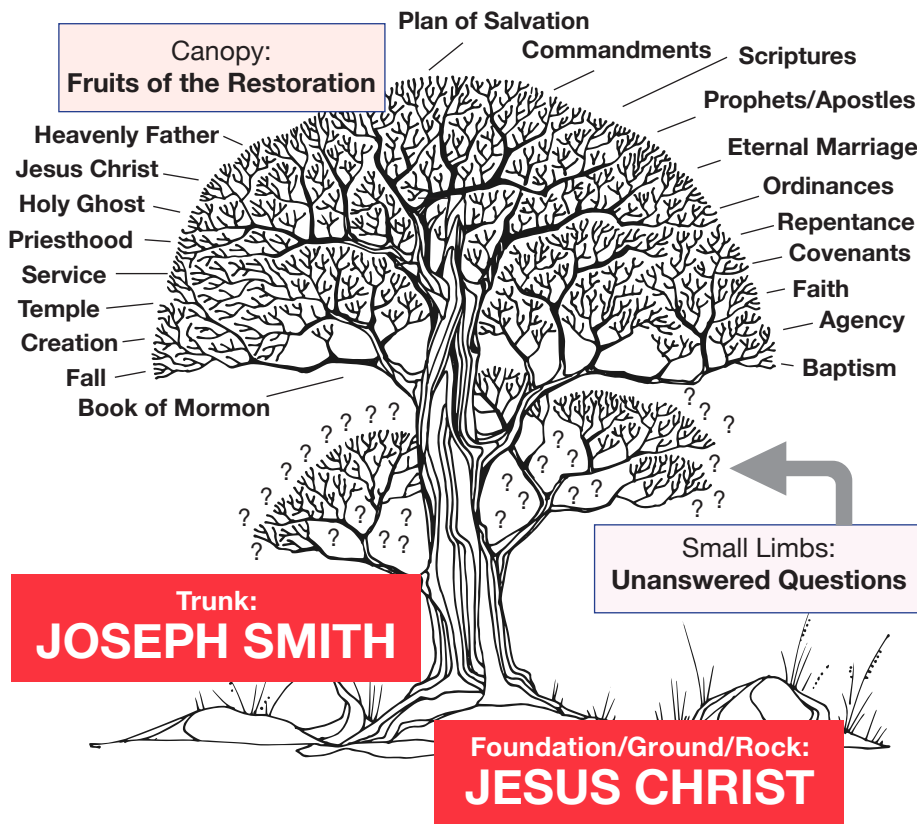
TODAY'S KEY WORD:

Jesus Christ

TODAY'S MAIN POINT:

**Will you build your bedrock on Christ—
a foundation that cannot fall (Hel. 5:12)?**

Jesus must be your rock



WEEKLY Q&A

Answer these questions in your study journal.

1. How do you become converted the doctrine of Christ? (Alma 32)
2. Why should Jesus Christ be your only foundation? (Helaman 5:12)
3. How do you guarantee you will never leave Christ or the Church? (1 Nep. 8:23–24; 1 Nephi 15:24–25; 1 Nephi 31:20–21)
4. What helps you gain “faith unto repentance” (Alma 34:17)?
5. Read Alma 18. What were Lamoni’s feelings at the beginning of the story? How did they change? What feelings must a person have in order to receive the blessings of the gospel?



*“I must confess: I bring
Cheerios and milk to church.”*

QUOTE OF THE DAY



To mission presidents he said: “We have also said much about the inspired summary of our work: ‘teach repentance and baptize converts.’ **But converts to what?** To Jesus Christ our Savior and our Redeemer, to His doctrine, to His restored gospel,

to His authority, to His name. Conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ and His gospel should precede conversion to and membership in His Church. ... Seek conversion to Jesus Christ and His gospel!” (Dallin H. Oaks, “Closing Remarks,” seminar for new mission presidents, June 28, 2017, page 6).

SELF-ASSESSMENT: ARE YOU MORE CONVERTED TO THE CHURCH AS AN INSTITUTION OR THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST?



“I love the gospel of Jesus Christ *and* The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Sometimes we use the terms *gospel* and *Church* interchangeably, but they are not the same. They are, however, exquisitely interconnected, and we need both” (Donald Hallstrom, 4-2021).

QUESTION 3

If any of the following things happened to you, would you still follow the gospel Jesus Christ and stay active in the church?

CHURCH: The “Church” is an institution including...

- Social (people, meeting together, interacting)
- Cultural (ideas, customs, social behavior of the church)
- Historical (past events connected with the church)
- Leadership (general, regional, stake, ward leaders)
- Procedures (the established or official way of doing things)
- Traditional (customs or beliefs from generation to generation)
- Physical facilities (churches, temples, schools, etc.)

GOSPEL: The “doctrine of Christ” includes the commandment that you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, exercise faith in Christ, repent of your sins, be baptized, receive the Spirit and endure to the end. Study the doctrine of Christ here:

- > 2 Nephi 31:2, 10–21
- > 3 Nephi 11:31–41
- > 3 Nephi 27:13–22

Elder Hallstrom said: “I repeat: we need the gospel and the Church. In fact, the purpose of the Church is to help us live the gospel” (Donald L. Hallstrom, April 2021).

QUESTION 1

What is the doctrine / gospel of Christ and why is it more important to you than the Church as a formal institution?

Doctrine: 2 Nephi 31:2, 10–21; 3 Nephi 11:31–41; 3 Nep. 27:13–22

QUESTION 2

What is the difference between (A) being converted to the Church or (B) being converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel judged or misunderstood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not trust church leaders on some issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You disagree with the church’s LGBT stance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You can’t reconcile your values with the church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel yourself drifting away from the church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You stop believing there is only one true church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You see no evidence of the Book of Mormon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not want to conform to church standards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are hurt by a negative church experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You disagree with the role of women in church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not have a church calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel nobody talks to you at church or cares |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel you have no friends in your ward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel you do not fit in with church members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are offended by ward members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are offended by your bishop or leaders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Your spouse does not attend church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Your bishop denounces and leaves the church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You sin and feel unworthy or shamed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are called to repentance by a leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You hear of a General Authority excommunicated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel you were wrongly excommunicated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You see a member who was treated unfairly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You disagree with certain church policies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not like how the church is operated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You hear about something bad in church history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are not admitted to BYU or other schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Your ministers never come see you |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You didn’t, couldn’t, or wouldn’t serve a mission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are unable to attend church (health reasons) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel shunned because of your political party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are upset the Church abandoned the BSA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are upset about blacks and the priesthood |

QUESTION 4

If any of the things listed in question 3 happened to you, would you still do the following?

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Follow Christ and regard Him as your foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stay on the covenant path |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stay active in the Church of Jesus Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attend your sacrament and other meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pray and study your scriptures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stay temple worthy and attend the temple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Obey the commandments: tithing, WofW, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Give service to others including ministering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Support the general and local authorities |

MAIN POINT

If you make Jesus Christ your only foundation (Helaman 5:12; 3 Nephi 11:39-40), you will never leave the church or stop following Christ over the issues in question #3 and you will continue to do the things in question #4.

Let me put it another way: If you stop following Christ and leave the Church for any of the reasons listed in question #3—and if you do not do the things listed in question #4 because of those reasons in #3—I ask you: **Are you more converted to the Savior or something else?**



HOMEWORK

Do the self-assessment on page two of the handout. Answer the four questions. The self-assessment boils down to these questions: Is your conversion centered on Jesus Christ and His doctrine? Or is your conversion based on the church as an institution? Important: if your conversion is based on Jesus Christ, you will never leave the Church. However, if your conversion is based on other things, your conversion foundation is faulty.