

LESSON 3

Avoiding A Faith Crisis

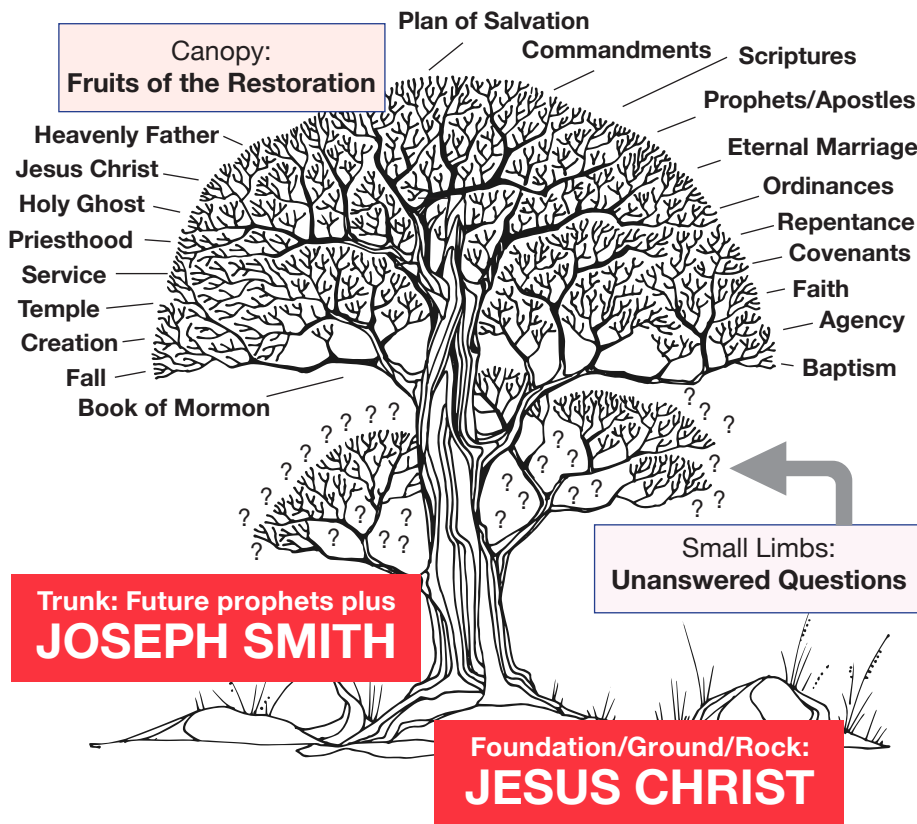
TODAY'S KEY WORD:

Jesus Christ

TODAY'S MAIN POINT:

**Will you build your conversion 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. I don’t share.”

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? Is Christ your foundation?



"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 4

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/policies (the official way things are done)
- Traditions (customs or beliefs from generation to generation)
- Physical facilities (churches, temples, schools, etc.)

GOSPEL: The "doctrine of Christ" includes the commandment to 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. See scriptures in Question 1.

QUESTION 1

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

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?

See Topical Guide: Conversion, Convert

QUESTION 3

See question #4. If any of the things listed in question 4 happened to you, would you still continue to do the following?

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Follow Christ and make Him your foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintain habits to 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, study scriptures, fast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stay temple worthy and attend the temple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Obey the commandments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Give service to others, including ministering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Support the general and local authorities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grow "by study and also by faith" (D&C 88:118) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ask questions, "doubt not, but be believing" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Use reliable sources when seeking answers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Listen to the Spirit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Document when God speaks peace to you |

- | Yes | No | PEOPLE |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel judged or misunderstood by members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You were lied to by church leaders or members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You were hurt by a negative experience at church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You were abused by a member or leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel you are not needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel nobody talks to you at church or cares |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not have any friends in your ward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel you did not fit in with other members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You were offended by a member or leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You see a member who was treated unfairly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Your ministers or bishop rarely visit you |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel shunned because of your political party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel uncomfortable as a single member |

- | Yes | No | POLICIES |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You differ with the church's LGBTQIA+ policies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You cannot reconcile your values with the church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You disagree with the role of women in church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not like how the church is operated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are upset the Church abandoned the BSA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are angry about blacks and the priesthood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not like how the church spends its money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not like church's stance on political issues |

- | Yes | No | RESTORATION |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You learn troubling things about Joseph Smith |
| <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 cannot understand Book of Mormon DNA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You discover disturbing events in church history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel that negative events invalidate the church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You disagree with the current church leadership |

- | Yes | No | COMMANDMENTS |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel the commandments are outdated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You sin and feel unworthy or even shamed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You were called to repentance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You were subject to church discipline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not feel forgiven |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You feel God is punishing 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 cannot attend church for various reasons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are too poor to pay your tithing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You have same-sex attraction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You are not worthy to hold a temple recommend |

- | Yes | No | MISCELLANEOUS |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You do not have a church calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You know you deserve a better church calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Your child is injured at a church-sponsored event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Your spouse does not attend church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You face trials: financial, physical, emotional, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You were not admitted to a church-owned school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You hear of a general authority who left the church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | You discover anti-Church social media or websites |

HOMework

Do the self-assessment on this page. Here is my promise: If you make Jesus Christ your foundation, you will avoid or overcome any faith crisis. And, you will never leave the church, and stop following Jesus Christ because of the issues in question #4.

