

# COME TO KNOW

"Nothing Wavering" — Temples and Priesthood Keys

No. 2.

ARLINGTON TEXAS STAKE

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## A House of God

In 1831, members of the Church arrived, as directed by God, in Kirtland, Ohio. In December of the following year, the faithful Saints were first instructed to build a temple. Joseph Smith prophesied, "This is the word of the Lord to us, and we must, yea, the Lord helping us, we will obey: as on conditions of our obedience, He has promised us great things; yea, *even a visit from the heavens* to honor us with His own presence." (*History of the Church* 1:316-317, italics added)

Despite financial difficulties and outside persecution, the Saints sacrificed and worked for three years to build the first House of God in the latter-days. They dedicated the completed Kirtland Temple in 1836; about 1,000 people were present for the dedication.

On April 3, 1836, Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland Temple and said; *For behold, I have accepted this house, and my name shall be here; and I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house.* (Doctrine and Covenants 110:7)

Joseph's prophecy was fulfilled, and the **restoration** of temples on the earth had begun. The Lord approved of the Kirtland temple and honored the Saints with His presence. When the Saints prioritized the temple in their lives they were blessed beyond measure. **What promises have you seen fulfilled when you have made the temple a priority in your own life?**



The Kirtland Ohio Temple, first of this dispensation

## **Armed with His Power — Prophet Joseph Smith**

And we ask thee, Holy Father, that thy servants may go forth from this house armed with thy power, and that thy name may be upon them, and thy glory be round about them, and thine angels have charge over them; And from this place they may bear exceedingly great and glorious tidings, in truth, unto the ends of the earth, that they may know that this is thy work. (Dedicatory Prayer of Kirtland Temple, Doctrine and Covenants 109:22-23)

## Kirtland – A Period of Schooling

Because of the obedience and sacrifice of the Saints during this time period, the Lord poured out His wisdom upon them as His Church was **restored** to the earth.

### **Outpouring of Revelation**

#### **— President Boyd K. Packer**

"No less than sixty-five of the sections in our current Doctrine and Covenants were received in the Kirtland area, plus ten or eleven others were received in other places during the Kirtland years. They include the revelation on health, known as the Word of Wisdom (section 89), two major revelations on priesthood (sections 84 and 107), several on the temporal welfare of the saints, the glorious truths of the 'Olive Leaf' (section 88), and the magnificent vision of the three degrees of glory (section 76)." (*The Holy Temple*, pg. 128)



Newel K. Whitney Store, location of the School of the Prophets and home to Joseph and Emma Smith

### **Learning the Doctrine**

#### **— President Gordon B. Hinckley**

"The School of the Prophets... was a gathering place of the leading Brethren of the day. It was designed and conducted as a place of training, principally for missionary service. This was a time of outpouring of knowledge from the heavens, when many revelations were received as the foundations of this great work were being laid.

"I commented when I was there that if New York represented the birthplace of the Church, then Ohio represented the period of schooling for the young prophet and his associates." ("Go Forward With Faith," *Ensign*, August 1986)



Room where the School of the Prophets was located in upper room of the Whitney store

### **Outpouring of Revelation**

#### **— Orson Pratt**

"God was there, his angels were there, the Holy Ghost was in the midst of the people, the visions of the Almighty were opened to the minds of the servants of the living God; the veil was taken from the minds of many; they saw the heavens opened; they beheld the angels of God; they heard the voice of the Lord; and they were filled from the crown of their heads to the soles of their feet with the power and inspiration of the Holy Ghost." (Journal of Discourses, 18:132.)

All of the knowledge and doctrine that had been lost or confused after Christ was crucified was being **restored** to the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Just imagine being taught by the powers and hosts of heaven, as Joseph and the early Saints were. **What wisdom and inspiration have you received as you have sought personal schooling from heaven?**

## Keys of the Priesthood

In order for this church to be the true Church of Jesus Christ, it had to possess the authority to act in the name of God, or the holy priesthood. Joseph Smith was given the keys for the **restoration** of Christ's Church, or the right to use this priesthood, by several heavenly messengers throughout his early ministry. These messengers include:

- John the Baptist – Keys of Aaronic Priesthood (JSH 1:68-72)
- Peter, James, John – Keys of Melchizedek Priesthood (D&C 27:12)
- Moses – Keys of the Gathering of Israel (D&C 110:11)
- Elias – Keys of the Dispensation of Gospel of Abraham (D&C 110:12)
- Elijah – Keys of Sealing (D&C 110:13-16)

These Priesthood Keys have been passed down from Joseph's time to ours.

### **The Keys are Here**

#### **— President James E. Faust**

"I say to the Latter-day Saints the keys of the kingdom of God are here, and they are going to stay here, too, until the coming of the Son of Man. Let all Israel understand that. ...they will then rest on the head of another apostle, and another after him, and so continue until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ." ("The Keys That Never Rust," *Ensign*, October 1994)

**How does the knowledge that God's priesthood keys are on the earth today affect your testimony of the restored Church?**

## Turning the Hearts

As a young man, Joseph Smith was told by the Angel Moroni that the earth would be "utterly wasted" without the Keys of Sealing restored by Elijah (JSH 1:39). Because Elijah did come, we have the authority to perform essential temple ordinances for the living and the dead, such as baptisms and the sealing of eternal families. These saving ordinances bind our hearts to our ancestors and their hearts to us (Malachi 4:6). You have the privilege to participate in this great power and work. **How does assisting in temple work build your faith and testimony?**



RETURN OF THE PROPHET ELIJAH IN THE KIRTLAND TEMPLE

## Like a Fire is Burning

At the dedication of the Kirtland Temple, the Saints sang the hymn "The Spirit of God." This became a tradition of the Saints at many other temple dedications as it reflects the feelings of the faithful as they made sacred covenants in the Temple. If we are ready and worthy to participate in temple ordinances, we too can feel "the Spirit of God, like a fire is burning."

**How can you prepare yourself to feel the "The Spirit of God" as described in the first verse of this hymn?**

### **Blessings of the Temple**

#### **— President Thomas S. Monson**

"As we go to the holy house, as we remember the covenants we make therein, we will be able to bear every trial and overcome each temptation. The temple provides purpose for our lives. It brings peace to our souls—not the peace provided by men but the peace promised by the Son of God when He said, 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.'" ("Blessings of the Temple," *Ensign*, October 2010)

# CTK - COME TO KNOW

## Temples and Priesthood Keys

### CTK with Youth Challenges

- Talk with your parents about chores you could do to earn money.
- Do at least one of the following:
- Read D&C 107 received in Kirtland on Priesthood.
- Read D&C 76 received in Kirtland on Heavenly Kingdoms.
- Lead a family home evening discussion on what you have CTK.

### CTK through Personal Progress

Value: Divine Nature

The Angel Moroni told Joseph Smith that without the sealing ordinances of the temple, the earth would be “utterly wasted.” Temples remind us of our divine nature and teach us how to qualify for the blessings Heavenly Father desires to shower upon His children.

Read Isaiah 56:7, Luke 1:22, D&C 38:32, and D&C 110:7-10. List some of the blessings we can receive by serving in the temple. Then read the section entitled “Temple” in the Bible Dictionary. Set a date to attend the temple to perform baptisms for the dead with your family or ward youth group. After your visit to the temple, write in your journal about how you can develop divine qualities by assisting in temple work.

### CTK through Duty to God

- Read the oath and covenant of the priesthood, found in Doctrine and Covenants 84:33-44.
- From page 86 of the Duty to God manual, complete the second example project – the interview with Melchizedek Priesthood holders.
- Add the following question: How does honoring your priesthood help you keep temple covenants?

### November Book of Mormon Reading Chart

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	5
		1 2 Ne 15	2 2 Ne 16	3 2 Ne 17	4 2 Ne 18	5 2 Ne 19
6 2 Ne 20	7 2 Ne 21	8 2 Ne 22	9 2 Ne 23	10 2 Ne 24	11 2 Ne 25	12 2 Ne 26
13 2 Ne 27	14 2 Ne 28	15 2 Ne 29	16 2 Ne 30	17 2 Ne 31	18 2 Ne 32	19 2 Ne 33
20 Jacob 1	21 Jacob 2	22 Jacob 3	23 Jacob 4	24 Jacob 5	25 Jacob 6	26 Jacob 7
27 Enos	28 Jarom	29 Omni	30 Mormon			

### CTK as a Family

- Show your family a copy of your priesthood line of authority - note how it tracks back to Peter, James, and John, or John the Baptist and ultimately Jesus Christ.
- Build a temple out of blocks/Legos (make it difficult to duplicate and write up rebuilding directions ahead of time). Have a child take it apart. Ask another family member to rebuild the same temple without help. Discuss the restoration of the gospel. Attempt to rebuild the temple again, this time providing directions on how to do it. Compare this with the Restoration of the Gospel.

### CTK as Leaders

Help the youth understand the strength that will come into their lives as they make and keep sacred covenants made only in sacred temples. Our stake presidency has taught, “We hope that as you learn about how the Lord performed His work through Joseph Smith and many others of our pioneer forbearers to restore the fullness of the gospel and His church upon the earth, you will feel the Spirit, become more fully converted and unwavering in your testimony and in keeping the covenants you have made.

President Gordon B Hinckley said: “Stories of the beleaguered Saints and of their suffering and death will be repeated again and again... Stories of their rescue need to be repeated again and again. They speak of the very essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ”. Teach the youth our pioneer stories of sacrifices made and covenants kept because of the strength the Saints received from having participated in ordinances in the Kirtland and Nauvoo temples.

Regarding our early pioneers, President Hinckley also said, “I will never get over being thankful to them; I hope you never get over being thankful to them. I hope that we will always remember them... Let us read again, and again, and read to our children or our children’s children, the accounts of those who suffered so much”.



**258 days until Nauvoo**

