

2 Nephi 31–33: Doctrine of Christ

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1. What does _____ mean?

Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

2. Where do liars go?

- Wo unto the liar, for he shall be **thrust down to hell**.³⁵ Wo unto the murderer who deliberately killeth, for he shall die.³⁶ Wo unto them who commit whoredoms, for they shall be thrust down to hell.³⁷ Yea, wo unto those that worship idols, for the devil... delighteth in them. (2 Ne 9:34–37)
- The Lord God hath commanded that men should not murder;... lie;... steal;... take the name of the Lord their God in vain;... envy;... have malice;... contend one with another;... commit whoredoms;... for whoso doeth them **shall perish**. (2 Ne 26:32)
- Murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the **lake which burneth with fire and brimstone**: which is the **second death**. (Rev 21:8; D&C 63:17)
- TELESTIAL: These are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie <NIV Rev 22:15 loves and practices falsehood>....¹⁰⁵ These are they who suffer the vengeance of **eternal fire**.¹⁰⁶ These are they who are **cast down to hell** and **suffer the wrath** of Almighty God, until the fulness of times. (D&C 76:103–106)
- Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.¹² And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither ... profane the name of thy God.¹³ Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him (Lev 19:11–13)
- Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. (Mark 10:19)
- If a man or woman shall rob, he or she shall be delivered up unto the law of the land.⁸⁵ And if he or she shall steal, he or she shall be delivered up unto the law of the land.⁸⁶ And if he or she shall lie, he or she shall be delivered up unto the law of the land. (D&C 42:84 - 86)
- They durst not lie... for fear of the law, for liars were punished; ¹⁸ And they durst not steal, for fear of the law, for such were punished; neither durst they rob, nor murder, for he that murdered was punished unto death. (Alma 1:16-18)

3. What is the difference between *faith* and *belief*?

4. What is the opposite of _____?

There “must needs be... an opposition in all things. If not so,... righteousness could not be brought to pass, neither wickedness, neither holiness nor misery, neither good nor bad.” (2 Ne 2:11)

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy ... (D&C 59:5)

Mind	
Heart	
Strength	
Might	

5. What does *language* mean?

The Lord God... speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding. (2 Ne 31:3)

6. What is the “doctrine of Christ” in 2 Nephi 31?

7. What does “endure to the end” mean?

- Endure:
- End: (31:20; 33:4, 9)

8. What does “the words of Christ” mean?

“Feast upon the words of Christ” (2 Ne 31:3)

9. Holy Ghost

- When a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men. (2 Ne 33:1)
- The Holy Ghost... witnesses of the Father and the Son (31:18)
- Boyd K. Packer**: The Holy Ghost speaks with a voice that you feel more than you hear. It is described as a ‘still small voice.’ (Ensign, Nov. 1994, 60)
- The words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. ... The Holy Ghost... will show unto you all things what ye should do. (32:3, 5)
 - Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings. (Al 37:37)
 - Ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul. (2 Ne 32:9)
 - It is not meet that I should command in all things. (D&C 58:26)

10. How does one *harden* his or her *heart*?

“There are many that harden their hearts against the Holy Spirit, that it hath no place in them; wherefore, they cast many things away which are written and esteem them as things of naught.” (2 Ne 33:2)

11. What does *uncircumcised heart* mean?

“Wo unto the uncircumcised of heart” (2 Ne 9:33).

12. Inner and Outer Gospel

The **outer gospel** has to do with general commandments that come through our natural senses (e.g., hearing or reading). Typically, the outer gospel emphasizes what our bodies should or should not do, and what others can observe us doing do (e.g., church attendance, family prayer, tithing). In the outer gospel, there are many commandments. Outer gospel to-do-lists help me find fault with myself or with others for sins of omission.

The **inner gospel** relates to our heart and mind seeking to know and do God’s will, and how we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. In the inner gospel, there is only one commandment: to hear and obey the promptings of the Spirit. (“There is A law ... upon which **ALL** blessings are predicated” D&C 130:20.)

Outer gospel to-do-lists are like restaurant menus. Although we may want to eat everything, we can only eat a few things at each meal. Likewise, there are many good things we could do each day, but we have time to do only a few. Like the Liahona, prayer, promptings, feelings, and circumstances help us decide which of many good things to do today. Some days our promptings may not include anything on the list. Perhaps, this is one reason Christ said, “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (NIV Mt 6:34)

Is the goal to repent of all my sins, or to repent of _____?

	Outer Gospel	Inner Gospel
Goal	Focus on destination (Celestial Kingdom).	Focus on path leading to the destination.
Commandments	Many commandments or laws.	One commandment “There is A law ... upon which ALL blessings are predicated! (D&C 130:20)
Righteousness	Avoid or repent of all possible sins of omission and commission. Make a long “to do” list and complete all of it. This is like trying to eat everything on a restaurant menu at each meal.	Look and follow the Liahona’s directions today. <u>Hear and obey the spirit’s promptings.</u> This is like eating only one thing on the menu and feeling satisfied.
Consequences of Sin	Punishment, pain, suffering	Lack of progress, hunger and thirst
Faith in God	Believe in the existence and nature of God.	Look and follow Liahona today. <u>Hear and obey the spirit’s promptings.</u>
Repentance	Search my past with a magnifying glass to find and then repent of each past sin. Pay for all of my own sins (penance). Self-punishment in the form of guilt trips. Follow <u>yesterday’s</u> promptings.	Look and follow Liahona today. <u>Strive to repent of sinning.</u> Change what I do in the present by learning from the past and planning for the future. Hear and obey <u>today’s</u> promptings.
Purpose of Prayer	To ask for and to express thanks for blessings.	To learn God’s will and to ask for help in doing it. To thank God for blessings I enjoy and for those I don’t enjoy.
Christ	He will punish me harshly for the slightest sin. Ignoring <u>warning signs</u> , and <u>jumping fences</u> will be punished as moral felonies.	He treats my sins and mistakes as learning opportunities. He helps me to clean up my messes and to know the next step from where I am now. Afflictions and problems are blessings in disguise.
How I feel	I expect happiness but find unhappiness.	I find peace and happiness now and in the future.

words, at the last day; and you and I shall stand face to face before his bar; and ye shall know that I have been commanded of him to write these things, notwithstanding my weakness.

14. How does one FEAST on the words of Christ?

Jewish Table Talk: “The Talmud describes in detail the various modes of conduct to be observed at meals. For example persons should engage in a discussion of Torah during the meal so that they will be ‘as though they had eaten at the table of God.’ Furthermore, the table [with 4 corners like the altar] is regarded as a substitute for the altar in the Temple, and therefore, it must be treated with reverence. Before any meal, the hands must be washed pronouncing the appropriate blessing over the washing, after which bread is eaten. The meal is concluded with the Grace after Meals.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*) (Rona, BM 11)

Neal A. Maxwell: We need to feast upon the words of Christ in the scriptures and as these words come to us from living prophets. Just nibbling occasionally will not do. (See 2 Ne 31:20 and 2 Ne 32:3.) Feasting means partaking with relish and delight and savoring—not gorging episodically in heedless hunger, but partaking gratefully, dining with delight, at a sumptuous spread carefully and lovingly prepared ... over the centuries (*Wherefore Ye Must Press Forward*, 28).

15. First and Second Comforter

Joseph: After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter, then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted. When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and election made sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter. ... When any man obtains this last Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time, and even He will manifest the Father unto him, and they will take up their abode with him, and the visions of the heavens will be opened unto him, and the Lord will teach him face to face, and he may have a perfect knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God; and this is the state and place the ancient Saints arrived at when they had such glorious visions—Isaiah, Ezekiel, John upon the Isle of Patmos, St. Paul in the three heavens, and all the Saints who held communion with the general assembly and Church of the First Born. (*TPJS* 149–151)

Nephi: This is the doctrine of Christ, and there will be no more doctrine given until after he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh. And when he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh, the things which he shall say unto you shall ye observe to do. (2 Ne 32:6)

Quotes

Gordon B. Hinckley: With the ever increasing number of converts, we must make an increasingly substantial effort to assist them as they find their way. Every one of them needs three things: a friend, a responsibility, and nurturing with ‘the good word of God’ (Moroni 6:4). It is our duty and opportunity to provide these things. (*Ensign*, May 1997, 47)

13. Nephi’s Challenge (2 Ne 33:10–11)

¹⁰ And now, my beloved brethren, and also Jew, and all ye ends of the earth, hearken unto these words and believe in Christ; and if ye believe not in these words believe in Christ. And if ye shall believe in Christ ye will believe in these words, for they are the words of Christ, and he hath given them unto me; and they teach all men that they should do good.

¹¹ And if they are not the words of Christ, judge ye—for Christ will show unto you, with power and great glory, that they are his