

Link to Online Lesson: [“Press Forward with a Steadfastness in Christ”](#)

Class Member Reading: 2 Ne. 31 - 33

2 Ne. 31

I am legitimately excited to go through these chapters together. ☺

1 And now I, Nephi, make an end of my prophesying unto you, my beloved brethren. And I cannot write but a few things, which I know must surely come to pass; neither can I write but a few of the words of my brother Jacob. Hey Nephi, just share less of Isaiah. ;) These chapters are Nephi’s personal farewell. Fascinatingly, the previous verse (30:18, “I make an end of my sayings”) sounds like a farewell, which might suggest Nephi didn’t think he would be able to write more.

2 Wherefore, the things which I have written sufficeth me, save it be a few words which I must speak concerning the doctrine of Christ; wherefore, I shall speak unto you plainly, according to the plainness of my prophesying.

3 For **my soul delighteth in plainness**; for after this manner doth the Lord God work among the children of men. For the Lord God **giveth light unto the understanding**; for he **speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding**. This is one of my all time favorite scriptures. Absolute key to my theological understanding and perspective. God does not speak to us in ways that are perfectly accurate, but rather works within our language and context, using the framework we have so we will understand.

4 Wherefore, I would that ye should remember that I have spoken unto you concerning that prophet which the Lord showed unto me, that should baptize the Lamb of God, which should take away the sins of the world.

5 And now, if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water, to fulfil all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water!

6 And now, I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, wherein the Lamb of God did fulfil all righteousness in being baptized by water?

7 Know ye not that he was holy? But notwithstanding he being holy, he sheweth unto the children of men that, **according to the flesh he**

humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments. **The** **condescension of Christ...** **Personal application:** How can we meet people where they are?

8 Wherefore, after he was baptized with water the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove.

9 And again, it sheweth unto the children of men the straitness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them.

10 And he said unto the children of men: Follow thou me. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus save we shall be willing to **keep the commandments** of the Father?

11 And the Father said: Repent ye, **repent** ye, and **be baptized** in the name of my Beloved Son.

12 And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying: He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, **follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do.** **Important principle, but what a challenging, rewarding ideal for ourselves... to set an example worth following.**

13 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son, with **full purpose of heart**, acting **no hypocrisy** and **no deception** before God, but with **real intent**, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism—yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word, behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the **baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost**; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel. **Authenticity is such a noble goal (though we also need to commit to safety for ourselves and others).** The “baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost” is what sanctifies and transforms us.

14 But, behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying: After ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and can **speak with a new tongue**, yea, even with the tongue of angels, and after

this should deny me, it would have been better for you that ye had not known me. [What is the “tongue of angels”? Speaking under the influence of the Holy Ghost?](#) [2 Ne. 32:3](#) indicates this is what Nephi means.

15 And I heard a voice from the Father, saying: Yea, the words of my Beloved are true and faithful. He that **endureth to the end**, the same shall be saved. [The parallel passage in Matthew 10:22](#) uses the Greek word “hupomenow” which means to remain or “maintain a belief or course of action in the face of opposition”, stand one’s ground. So it is active and engaged.

16 And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he cannot be saved.

17 Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen that your Lord and your Redeemer should do; for, for this cause have they been shown unto me, that ye might know the gate by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost.

18 And then are ye in this **strait and narrow path** which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; and ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by the way ye should receive.

19 And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask if all is done? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far save it were by the word of Christ with **unshaken faith** in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save. [We can rely on Christ’s “merits”](#)

20 Wherefore, ye must press forward with a **steadfastness** in Christ, having a **perfect brightness of hope**, and a **love of God and of all men**. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, **feasting upon the word of Christ**, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. [These are solid salvation traits: strength of character, consistency, discipline; hope, optimism, perspective; love; nourishing self](#)

with true and uplifting principles/sources; and then remaining consistent and firm in these virtues.

21 And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the **doctrine of Christ**, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen.

2 Ne. 32

The coolest thing in this chapter is the progression from scripture to Spirit to God, a how-to manual on preparing for God to visit you: 1) Read the scriptures so you have the Spirit and learn how God works with their children (v. 3); 2) the Spirit will guide and sanctify you, bringing you into alignment with God's will and nature (v. 5); and that process will 3) prepare you to be worthy of God's presence, at which point you should listen to what God says (v. 6).

1 And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts concerning that which ye should do after ye have entered in by the way. But, behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts?

2 Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost?

3 Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost (Like Celestial delegation? So cool. I like the idea of promptings coming via specific angels); wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, **feast upon the words of Christ**; for behold, the words of Christ will **tell you all things what ye should do.**

4 Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.

5 For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will **show** unto you **all things what ye should do.**

6 Behold, 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**.

7 And now I, Nephi, cannot say more; the Spirit stoppeth mine utterance, and I am left to mourn because of the unbelief, and the wickedness, and the ignorance, and the stiffneckedness of men; for they will not search knowledge, nor understand great knowledge, when it is given unto them in plainness, even as plain as word can be.

8 And now, my beloved brethren, I perceive that ye ponder still in your hearts; and it grieveth me that I must speak concerning this thing. For if ye would hearken unto the Spirit which teacheth a man to pray, ye would know that ye must pray; for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray. *I wonder why the Nephites would question the need for prayer?*

9 But behold, I say unto you that ye must **pray always**, and not faint; that 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**. *This and other scriptures (most clearly Alma 34:27, “Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you.”) describe having an “attitude of prayer”, an openness and attunement toward God and well-being, the elements of salvation.*

2 Ne. 33

1 And now I, Nephi, cannot write all the things which were taught among my people; neither am I mighty in writing, like unto speaking; for 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. *What would it have been like to hear Nephi speak? Laman and Lemuel could tell you. ;)*

2 But behold, 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. *Sounds like Nephi’s*

devotion to scripture was not shared by others.

3 But I, Nephi, have written what I have written, and I esteem it as of great worth, and especially unto my people. For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them; and **I cry unto my God in faith**, and I know that he will hear my cry.

4 And I know that the **Lord God will consecrate my prayers for the gain of my people**. And the words which I have written in weakness will be made strong unto them; for it **persuadeth them to do good**; it maketh known unto them of their fathers; and it speaketh of Jesus, and persuadeth them to believe in him, and to endure to the end, which is life eternal. “Persuadeth to do good”. I hope the same can be said of all we do.

5 And it speaketh harshly against sin, according to the plainness of the truth; wherefore, no man will be angry at the words which I have written save he shall be of the spirit of the devil. Sensitive spot for Nephi, not really accurate.

6 I glory in plainness; I glory in truth; I glory in my Jesus, for **he hath redeemed my soul from hell**. The possessive here is so touching.

7 I have **charity** for my people, and **great faith** in Christ that I shall meet many souls spotless at his judgment-seat.

8 I have **charity** for the Jew—I say Jew, because I mean them from whence I came.

9 I also have **charity** for the Gentiles. But behold, for none of these can I **hope** except they shall be reconciled unto Christ, and enter into the narrow gate, and walk in the strait path which leads to life, and continue in the path until the end of the day of probation. Nephi feels great love, but is also realistic. Love and hope and trust... each its own trait.

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**.

Again, worthy target. Also again, Nephi is a bit defensive.

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 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. [More defensiveness. I am touched by the contrast of Moroni’s vulnerability.](#)

12 And I pray the Father in the name of Christ that **many of us, if not all**, may be saved in his kingdom at that great and last day. [It is AMAZING and I think significant that Nephi can say this after his visions of wickedness and destruction. If he has reason for this hope, it is well grounded. There are powerful universalist threads in Mormonism.](#)

13 And now, my beloved brethren, all those who are of the house of Israel, and all ye ends of the earth, I speak unto you as the voice of one crying from the dust: **Farewell** until that great day shall come. [This happens to be my favorite way of saying goodbye, though both goodbye \(God be with ye\) and adieu \(until we meet in the presence of God\) are great.](#)

14 And you that will not **partake of the goodness of God**, and respect the words of the Jews, and also my words, and the words which shall proceed forth out of the mouth of the Lamb of God, behold, I bid you an everlasting farewell, for these words shall condemn you at the last day. [Again, harsh. I love the phrasing “partake of the goodness of God” though.](#)

15 For what I seal on earth, shall be brought against you at the judgment bar; for thus hath the Lord commanded me, and I must obey. Amen.

Additional Reading: [Moroni 7:13–17](#); [Doctrine and Covenants 20:37, 71–74](#).

Moroni 7:13-17

13 But behold, that which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, every thing which inviteth and enticeth to do good, and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God.

14 Wherefore, take heed, my beloved brethren, that ye do not judge that which is evil to be of God, or that which is good and of God to be of the devil.

15 For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a

perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark night.

16 For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God.

17 But whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil; for after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no, not one; neither do his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him.

D&C 20:37, 71-74

37 *And again, by way of commandment to the church concerning the manner of baptism—*All those who humble themselves before God, and desire to be baptized, and come forth with broken hearts and contrite spirits, and witness before the church that they have truly repented of all their sins, and are willing to take upon them the name of Jesus Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end, and truly manifest by their works that they have received of the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of their sins, shall be received by baptism into his church.

....

71 No one can be received into the church of Christ unless he has arrived unto the years of accountability before God, and is capable of repentance.

72 Baptism is to be administered in the following manner unto all those who repent—

73 The person who is called of God and has authority from Jesus Christ to baptize, shall go down into the water with the person who has presented himself or herself for baptism, and shall say, calling him or her by name: Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

74 Then shall he immerse him or her in the water, and come forth again

Hymn: Press Forward Saints (#81)

1. Press forward, Saints, with steadfast faith in Christ,
With hope's bright flame alight in heart and mind,
With love of God and love of all mankind.

[Chorus]

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Press forward, feasting on the word of Christ.
Receive his name, rejoicing in his might.
Come unto God; find everlasting light.

3. Press on, enduring in the ways of Christ.
His love proclaim thru days of mortal strife.
Thus saith our God: "Ye have eternal life!"

Text: Marvin K. Gardner, b. 1952; based on 2 Nephi 31:20. © 1985 IRI

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[2 Nephi 31:20](#)

Engaging Gospel Doctrine: 184

BoM Lesson 11: “Press Forward with a Steadfastness in Christ”

Helaman 3:28-30